

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



Volume 17, No. 12

Published at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

25c Per Year

June, 1947

ALL I NEED TO KNOW

We know not what is expedient,
But we know what is right;
And we never grope in darkness
If we look to heaven for light.

Down deep in the hold of the vessel
The ponderous engine lies,
And faithfully there is the engineer,
His labor faithfully plies.

He knows not the course of the vessel,
He knows not the way it should go;
He minds his simple duty
And keeps the fires aglow.

He knows not whether the billows
The barque may overwhelm;
He knows and obeys the orders
Of the pilot at the helm.

And so in the wearisome journey
Our life is a troubled sea.
I know not the way I am going,
But Jesus will pilot me.

I see not the rocks and the quicksands,
For my sight is dull and dim,
But I know that Christ is my Captain,
And I take my orders from Him.

Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth,
Speak peace to my anxious soul
And help me to feel that all of my ways
Are under thy wise control:

That He who cares for the lily
And heeds the sparrow's fall
Will tenderly lead His loving child—
For He made and loves them all.

And so when weary and baffled,
And I know not which way to go,
I know that He will guide me,
And it is all that I need to know.

—A. DeWard

The Blessed Assurance of Sins Forgiven

The question often arises, can a person know if he is saved before he is dead? Some people declare that we do not know if God will accept us until we have passed out of this life into eternity.

Let us turn to our blessed old Bible and see what God's own Word tells us about the matter. In 1 John 1:8, we read, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." By this we know that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Read Rom. 3:23); but God sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10); or, in other words, Jesus came and carried our sins on himself and gave himself for us, or in our stead, on the cross of Calvary (Rom. 5:6), that by believing on Him we might be delivered from the power of sin and should not perish but have everlasting life.

Then let us go back to 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Here we see it is not enough that we just believe, but also we must confess. This is obedience to God, as in Acts 17:30 we read, "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

Many people say that they believe in God and His Word, but a belief in God and His Word will profit nothing if they do not obey His Word. One must first confess, then believe and obey, not merely to receive forgiveness of sins, but then to continue to obey God's Word and walk in newness of life. In 2 Cor. 4:17, we read, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When we confess and forsake our sins, God forgives them for Christ's sake, and will remember them against us no more, our sins are gone and forgotten and we begin to walk in newness of life. They are forgiven and forgotten by God, just as if we never had committed sin. (Read Heb. 8:12; 10:17).

"For by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Rom. 5:19; also Luke 24:46, 47, "Thus it is written, it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem."

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 John 3:8, 9.

This is not saying that it is impossible to sin after we are born of God; but God has put his law in our hearts and minds (Heb. 8:10), and when confronted by temptations and things that would draw us away from God, that law begins to work in our hearts and minds, telling us to resist the devil and his temptations and to draw nigh to God (Read 1 John 2:1, 2).

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17.

In Ephesians 4:21-25 we are instructed to put off the old man and put on the new man. This is impossible for any man to do in his own will power or strength; therefore God said He would "give unto them a new heart." Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

Now let us turn to 1 John 4:13, where we read, "Hereby we know that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit." Another blessed assurance is found in Rom. 8:16. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." 1 John 3:14. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." 1 John 3:1.

"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life, and now, little children, abide in him: that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." 1 John 2:25, 28, 29. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep His commandments." 1 John 3:3.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5:1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1.

Dear Reader: If you are in doubts about your salvation, get down on your knees before God and ask him to save you from your sins, obey God's own Word by confessing, and then believe Him. God cannot lie. Again, dear reader, we find another promise in Rom. 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Without a shadow of doubt this promise says, that we shall be saved. What clearer or more definite promise than this do

we want? Just trust Him, believe and obey, and the work is done.

Now let me leave these words with you that we find in Heb. 2:3, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" B. C. Heinze

Let No Man Deceive You

"Let no man deceive you with vain words."

Since I was deceived at one time by a modern religion; lovely, of beautiful philosophy, and claiming to be based on divine love and the Bible; I shall endeavor, by the grace of God, to expose a little of this great deception—Modern Christian Science.

The true doctrine of this religion is revealed in Mary Baker Eddy's writings, covered by metaphysical philosophy, "Science of the Mind, and "Mind Over Matter," beautiful words that elevate and uplift the mind, leaving the heart cold. This is a religion of the mind, not of the heart, deceiving millions who receive it as a modern interpretation of the gospel of Christ. And because they loved not the truth, it has become unto them a strong delusion, sent of God that they might believe a lie and be damned (See 2 Thes. 2:11, 12).

Col. 2:8 reads, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Mary Baker Eddy, in *Science and Health* chapter on Science, Theology, and Medicine, writes thus, concerning the Word of God: "A mortal and material sense stole into the divine record, with its own hue darkening to some extent the inspired pages."

Right at the outset we find that Mrs. Eddy denies the divine inspiration of the holy book. In direct contrast to her word, God's Word reads: 2 Tim. 3:16, "ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Also in 2 Peter 1:21, we read, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." See also Deut. 4:2 and Rev. 22:19.

With these Scriptures firmly impressed on our minds, let us quote from *Science and Health*, comparing it with the Bible. Chapter on Atonement and Eucharist: "Whosoever believeth that wrath is righteous or that divinity is appeased by human sufferings does not understand God." Continuing: "One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin." "That God's wrath should be vented upon His beloved Son, is divinity unnatural, such a theory is man-made." She goes on, "The material blood of Jesus was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it was shed on the 'accursed tree' than when it was flowing in His veins as He went daily about His Father's business."

Now let us see what the Bible says: Rom. 5:8, "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more

then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." Read also Jno. 3:16.

Dear ones, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!" 1 Pet. 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin should live unto righteousness: By whose stripes ye were healed."

Dear souls seeking God, this deception may appear as an angel of light and full of love, but examine it closely. It is not of God!

In the chapter *Science of Being*, in Mrs. Eddy's book, we find these words: "ALL SIN is of the flesh. It cannot be spiritual." "Soul changeth not." "There is neither growth, maturity, nor decay in soul."

But in our blessed Word of God, we read, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezek. 18:4. "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" How could one sin in the flesh without defiling the soul? Impossible! "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?"

Again in *Science and Health*, chapter *Objections Answered*, "In common justice, we must admit that God will not punish man for doing what He created man capable of doing."

God's Word, in reply to this reads, 2 Cor. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Also, 2 Thes. 1:7, 8, "When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Concerning our blessed holy Comforter, in *Science and Health* we read (Atonement and Eucharist, 55) "He shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever. This comforter I understand to be divine science."

Thank God, His people did not have to wait until 1875 for the Holy Ghost, for He was given on the day of Pentecost. John 14:26 reads, "But the Comforter WHICH IS THE HOLY GHOST, whom the Father will send in my name," etc.

Finally, Christian Science is a doctrine which requires a deep study and knowledge of philosophy and science of mind to understand. But our Lord teaches us that Christ's doctrine is one of simplicity. Mark 10:15, "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Further, Mary Baker Eddy condemns prayer, replacing it with mind over matter science. She says, "Audible prayer is impressive, it gives momentary solemnity and elevation to thought. But does it produce any lasting benefit? God is not moved by the breath of praise to do more than he has already done."

Contrary to this teaching we KNOW there is power in prayer. We are told to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. In the Word of God and in the testimonies of the saints, we

find a great cloud of witnesses to miraculous answers to prayer. In Acts 4:24, we read that the church LIFTED UP THEIR VOICE with one accord, and when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

May men heed the warnings found in God's word! Col. 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." 1 Tim. 16:20, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science, falsely so-called."

As we see that this doctrine is false and not of God, "Let God be true and every man a liar;" or in other words, shall people's unbelief make the faith of God without effect? We pray that deluded souls will see this deception and turn to God's truth.

—V. L. Wittenborn

Obituaries

George Franklin Johnson was born in Montgomery County, Kans. May 16, 1877; died April 19, 1947; age 69 years, 11 months, and 3 days. He was married to Dovie Higginbotham in 1899, to which union ten children were born.

Funeral services were conducted in the church of God chapel by Bro. Fred Pruitt. Text: Psa. 26:3, "For thy loving kindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth." Interment: cemetery near Logan County line ten miles south of Guthrie, Okla.

C. M. Christman, born June 19, 1885 in Grundy Co., Mo., departed this life April 17, 1947, age 61 yrs. 9, mos., and 28 days. He never married. He was a farmer most of his life, but worked for a railroad company for the past five years. He was caught by rolling cars while at work and suffered a severe injury which caused his death. He leaves a brother and many other relatives to mourn his passing. His body was shipped to Trinidad, Colo. for burial where his mother and father are buried.

He made no profession of religion, but lived an average moral life. Funeral service was conducted at Enid, Okla. by Fred Pruitt. Text: Job 14:1.

Sister Sarah An Frances Ashley, born Dec. 28, 1867 at Shreveport, La., departed this life April 16, 1947. She was married to Josh James in 1885, to which union 3 children were born. Surviving are Mrs. Annie Brooks Bowen of Boley, Okla., Mrs. Mary May of Tulsa, Okla., Mr. Willie James of Kansas City, Mo.

She united with the Missionary Baptist denomination at an early age. She moved to Boley, Okla. in 1907 and there in 1926 she received more spiritual light, in which she was willing to walk. She was fully saved in the church of God. Shortly before she passed away she said to her daughter, "I am saved." The daughter understood her, but asked her to repeat what she said, and again she said, "I am saved." She took her illness patiently as the Lord would have her. She never worried nor complained though she was ill for four years and four months. We loved her but the Lord loved her best. Bereaved are 3 children, 1 sister, 5 grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends. We feel that our loss is heaven's gain. She is not dead, but sleeping. Funeral conducted by Bro. M. Spears. Text: Job 5:26.

"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.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

"Work on, work on, nor doubt, nor fear.
From age to age this voice shall cheer:
Whate'er may die or be forgot,
Work done for God, it dieth NOT."

Editorials

Bro. Egbert Allen and his wife, and Bro. George Stephenson, who have been in the British West Indies doing evangelistic and missionary work, have returned to the States. They have been holding meeting here at Guthrie for the last two weeks, and God has been blessing in the services. A few were saved, and the saints were edified and built up in the faith and strength of God.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

The book, "God's Gracious Dealings" which was out of stock has recently been reprinted. Calls kept coming in for this book and the Lord made us know that it should be kept in stock. We added 32 pages to the book with pictures and testimonies of the new workers in the "Lord's Print Shop" and some others. It would be good for the saints to get a supply of these books and loan them out to friends and others who need encouragement and instruction in the way of life. Quite a few souls have been saved just by reading this book. It gives the experience of our life with God for the past thirty years. Get a supply while they are in stock. They will be postpaid to you for 25 cents each or six books for one dollar. This price is less than the cost of printing them. The printing expenses have increased and the price of paper has doubled, but by the help of the Lord we are enabled to keep sending them out at the same price. We shall be looking for your order.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16.

If one will really believe the gospel from the heart it will work a mighty transformation in his life. Old thoughts and ways will pass away and, behold, all things will become new. He will be translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of his dear Son. His interests and thoughts will be on heavenly things and the perishing things of this world will be of little value to him, only as he can use them to the glory of God. If he retains that heavenly life, he will be continually seeking to lay up his treasures in heaven. He will not be of the world even as Christ and his disciples were not of the world. He will become a peculiar one, zealous of good works.

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Salvation means deliverance from sin. It will turn a sinner into a saint, and as he yields unto God, He will keep him free from sin and ready for heaven.

When I am crushed, as it were, under the very heel of the devil, and tempted to the limit, I believe I am as close to my Father as I am when I feel like shouting.

Temptations to the Christian are what friction is to gold. One brother who was severely tried determined to conquer by divine help, said, "Now, Devil, you rub and I'll shine."

The best way for a saint to get encouragement is to get out and do something for God.

Campmeeting Notices

NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held July 18 to 27, 1947 on the camp grounds at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo., the county seat of Newton County. We extend a hearty welcome to all to attend this national gathering of God's people—a place where you can receive salvation from sin, sanctification, healing, and spiritual food for the soul. The only test of fellowship is the indwelling Spirit of Christ, as the Apostle Paul said, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." The spirits will be tried as commanded in the Word. The saints are endeavoring to continue the restoration of the whole truth to the people as was begun in the early days of this reformation, and the whole truth will destroy division and sectism. Spirits attending the meeting who have knowingly sown discord and fostered divisional elements will be bound by the Spirit and Word of God. God's ministers and saints will have freedom to exercise themselves as the Spirit directs. Come praying and expecting a profitable meeting.

Monark Springs is not a Post Office. Those traveling by bus or train should come to Neosho and take a taxi-cab to the campgrounds.

The new dining hall will be ready for the meeting, and the floor above it will be for the women's sleeping quarters, and the old dining hall in the public park will be for the men. The rent price on tents and canvas cots is not definitely known at present, but is expected to be the same as last year — tents, \$3.50 each, canvas cots 75c each, steel cots \$1.00 each. Bring bedding and straw ticks, and come prepared for very cool nights. Straw will be furnished. If you want a tent and cot, please send your order, with money, direct to Bro. Sam Barton, R. 11, Box 119, Tulsa 15, Okla. by July 10th. He is business manager for the meeting.

Meals will be served at the dining hall, financed by free-will offerings and contributions of groceries, fruits, and vegetables.

Help will be needed to get the grounds and buildings ready just before the meeting, and if you can come, please write Bro. Barton.

Each individual and congregation should have a special fund for the national campmeeting. Please send the offering to Bro. Sam Barton or to the undersigned by July 10th.

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

General Southern, Hammond, La.

The 40th annual campmeeting of the church of God will be held on the general southern campground June 27th to July 6th, inclusive. The ground is located one mile southwest of the Ill. Central depot. The I. C. railroad and Greyhound buses give good transportation into town. From town to the campground take the Greenville (Hammond) city bus, which comes within a few steps of the ground.

We would appreciate any of the saints sending in means and provisions for the meeting, for the meeting is provided for through the free-will offering plan, and the Lord loveth a cheerful giver. Sleeping quarters are furnished on or near the campground. Bring straw ticks, bed linens, and towels. Straw furnished free. We are trusting the Lord to send ministers to preach the full gospel through the anointing of the Holy Ghost, so let

us make this an old-fashioned campmeeting where souls may receive help to soul and body. We send a hearty welcome to all saints and lovers of the truth, but not to trouble-makers. For further information or to send provisions, address Ray Key, Box 370, or Max Williamson, care of P. O., both of Hammond, La.

Kalamazoo, Michigan

The campmeeting of the church of God at Kalamazoo, Michigan will convene from July 4 to 13, 1947. Saints should bring sugar or ration stamps. Anyone who desires to donate campmeeting supplies, such as food, tents, or money, may send them to Bro. Hubert Corteway, 744 Hawley St., Kalamazoo 54, Mich.

Oregon State, Jefferson, Ore.

Lord willing, the Oregon campmeeting will be held this year on the saints' camp ground on Hazel St. in Jefferson, Ore. July 18th to 27th. The chapel and grounds are one and one-half blocks from the bus depot on highway No. 99 through Jefferson. Our home (that God gave us) is one block south of the bus station. Since some who came in the night last year had trouble finding us, we will let our front porch light burn at night, at least during the first part of the meeting. It will be the only porch light in the highway and can be seen from the bus station.

All are welcome. We are praying earnestly that God will direct all saints possible and make ways for them to come. Also we look to God to send whoever of His holy ministers he can use to preach the full and pure gospel. Please, all saints and ministers agree with us that God will hold his hand on his work here and give us wonderful refreshing blessings as we fight the good fight of faith. All pray much, and come who can.

For further information write Sister Emma Busch Scio, Ore. or Noah White, Jefferson, Ore. or the writer at Box 41, Jefferson.

Yours, ready to live or die for the glorious gospel of Christ,
Sam Wilson

Oklahoma State, Guthrie, Okla.

The church of God state campmeeting of Oklahoma will be held at Guthrie, Okla., beginning Friday, Aug. 1st, and will continue ten days. The saints have been making much preparation for the campmeeting and now have completed the pavilion in which we will meet for campmeeting services. This building will be much cooler than a tent and will give more room. The new two story dining hall is across the alley from the pavilion. The upper story will be used for sleeping quarters and the lower for cooking and eating purposes. This building is made modern for the convenience of campers and others who attend the meeting.

We are trusting the Lord to send able ministers here from this state and others to preach the Word and hold the truth of the full gospel before the people. If you are in need of being built up in your soul, come. If you need to be saved and sanctified wholly, come. Or if you need healing for your body, come. All have a hearty welcome.

The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. Those coming should bring straw ticks, pillows, and sheets. Bring sugar or ration stamp.

Midway, Louisiana

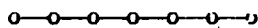
The Midway, La. Campmeeting will be August 15-24. A new dining hall is under construction there.

For information write Willard Esters, Jena, La., or Ruth Murphey, Box 673, Jena, La.

Northwestern Missouri

Lord willing, the campmeeting in northwestern Mo., near Langdon, Atchison County, Missouri will convene from August 15 to 23, 1947. We are trusting the Lord for singers, workers, and ministers to come and help us.

All who come by train, come to Langdon, Mo. by the Burlington Route; and those who come by bus, come to Rockport, Mo. For further information write to Egbert Allen, Langdon, Missouri.



Dover, Okla.

The Lord willing, the Dover campmeeting will be held on the chapel grounds one mile north and two and one-half miles east of Dover, Okla, August 29 to Sept 7th inclusive. Any one who desires to be met at the bus station should be sure to notify us in plenty of time, stating, if possible, what time the bus is due to arrive in Dover. Please don't forget to bring bedding and sugar.

Ulysses Phillips or Henry Caldwell, R. 1, Dover, Okla.



Jumbo, W. Va.

Lord willing, there will be an old fashioned camp meeting at Jumbo, W. Va. beginning August 29, and continuing over two Sundays. This is a new place, and we are preparing to build a dining Hall and bunk house in order to care for all who come. This is farther east than any other campmeeting that we know of, and we believe the Lord would have a permanent camp here. Bring your bedding. Straw will be furnished. The expenses will be cared for by free will offerings. Saint preachers and workers, come if the Lord directs.

The camp is one mile of Route 20 between Buchannon and Webster Springs on Holly River above Dianna. Leave the bus at Jumbo Road. Any one desiring to help in this project, see or write committee: Sister Maud Clifton, Bro. Auvil Gillis, or Alva Gum, R. 1, Webster Springs, W. Va. Come, one and all, and give or get help for soul and body.

—George Peek.



The False and the True Church

From the beginning of time Satan has been warring against God by lying to his saints or his human creation, deceiving and decoying them with vain words making out that God our Creator is a liar, a hard and oppressive Master. He finds fault with God and works on the vanity of man to rob God of his rightful glory. He blinds the hearts and minds of men, causing them to love darkness rather than light, even making many to profess holiness while he rules in them and over them, causing them to be deceived and deceive others.

According to the Scriptures he struck the first hard blow when he contradicted God and lied to Eve in the garden. He approached her in a subtle way and deceived her and she broke God's commandment. At once she became the servant of Satan and gave of the fruit to her husband, and he did eat. By this act of disobedience, they both became the enemies of God and subjects of Satan. Speaking of this, Paul, in the 5th chapter of Romans, said, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death [separation from God] by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

When Satan had succeeded in deceiving Adam and Eve and planting his seed of evil in their hearts, God drove them out of the beautiful and pleasant garden of Eden. At the same time He showed mercy and promised them a Saviour. Paul, in speaking of God's mercy toward fallen man, said, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

John makes this truth exceedingly clear in the 8th verse of the third chapter of 1 John when he says, "He that committeth sin is of the Devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." Satan had got his work in on the human race, had planted his seed of evil in their hearts, but faith in Christ and his atoning work will give the Lord an opportunity to destroy that evil of sin out of the heart, bringing life from heaven into our souls and making us children of God as were our fore-parents before they broke the commandments of God by believing the devil's lies. Faith in Christ and his sacrificial work will bring man back to his Eden state, and he can be in communion with our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

Since Satan sees that man through Christ is made free from sin and his influence, he is working hard to fill the world with false religions to deceive men and keep them into bondage to him that their souls may be damned in the end. Jesus and the apostles, in their writings repeatedly warned against deceivers, wolves in sheep's clothing, false prophets and teachers. Paul gives us a clear description of their deceitful work in the 2 Cor. 11:13. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." He gives much that appears to be light, but mixes enough poison with it to keep the soul dead. "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works."

In this present time I believe I am safe in saying that Satan has a thousand ministers to God's one. They are now very busy holding men and women in darkness and deception. These deceive others. They pass themselves off for the ministers of Christ and teach many right things to deceive the people.

The worst enemies that Jesus had were the ones who made the greatest claim of being God's, and made a big show of religion. They believed in God, (so they said) but rejected his Son and called him an imposter. Today the vast multitudes of religious people claim Jesus Christ as their Saviour but they deny his body the church that is working in the world, free from all human religions and separated

unto God. Though these earthly religious bodies claim Christ as their Saviour, they are anti-Christ, and are deceiving the people. Satan is ever formulating new lies and keeping people in darkness and sin to bring them into the lake of fire and brimstone in the end.

The greater part of the book of Revelation is showing up the difference between the true church and the apostatized church of Satan. It is set forth in symbolical language, and Satan has his ministers to misapply and misinterpret this book of symbols and cause the people to believe all kinds of strange doctrines, keeping them in confusion, error, and separated from the true way.

In Rev 16:12 it is written, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates: and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." This drying up of the Euphrates has been going on for many years and it is coming almost to a climax. The word, "Euphrates" according to Smith's Bible Dictionary, means, "good and abounding." So long as a soul is good and abounding with life from heaven the enemy cannot sow his evil seed in the heart, but when this heavenly flow is dried up, then the spiritual kings of the east sow their Pagan seeds of evil in the soul. In the past forty or fifty years we have seen a vast multitude of saints apostatize and conform to the world and its ways, and the true flow of spiritual life has dried up, throwing them open to all manner of Satan's religious deceptions. While the inhabitants of the earth were in this dried up condition the Revelator saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the Dragon (Paganism), out of the mouth of the Beast (Catholicism), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Protestantism). Notice in the next verse he says, "They are spirits of devil's working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

The kings of the earth are the strong spiritual ones in these three major movements in the world, and these king spirits of the east are deceiving them. They in turn are deceiving and sowing seeds of Paganism in the hearts of the thousands and millions of their subjects, and the Scripture is being fulfilled. This dragon power, which is called the old Serpent, the Devil, and Satan, which was bound (Rev. 20:2) for centuries and centuries (called in Scripture a thousand years) is being loosed for a little season. It is deceiving these spiritual nations as well as literal nations, and pressure will be brought to bear more and more against the true saints of God, which are His body, the church, functioning in the world today, separate from all earthly religions and from the world, a people redeemed from all iniquity, purified unto God, a peculiar people zealous of good works.

This Pagan power is working now under the cloak of Communism in a major form and under different other cloaks as the need arises. The Catholic church declares that it is against Communism, but we find that the Catholic controlled countries are real hot

beds of Communism. Cuba, which is strong Catholic, is at present tottering and ready to fall under the influence of Communism. Mexico is alive with this evil, and Brazil is struggling hard against it and is in a losing game. All the rest of the South American nations are rapidly being overcome by it except Argentina. The United States is rising up against its deadly influence and trying to crush it, but they find that the octopus has his fangs deep in governmental places, and many of their agents are so covered up that it is hard to locate, remove, and extricate their influence.

Communism is not a religious movement, yet the devil is backing it up with an Atheistic and anti-christ spirit, and will use it as a tool to crush and persecute the saints of God, who compose the body of Christ, a people separate from the world and all human religions. The Euphrates-dried-up people will and do readily receive the seeds of this "evil doer" in one form and another, for he has filled the air with his infernal soul-blasting and soul-destroying elements. Much of this as a beginning is done under a cloak of religion in a cunning and crafty way insomuch that the subject hardly realizes what it is being drifted into.

The apostate church and the true church are clearly portrayed in Revelation—the apostate church in the 17th chapter and the true church in the 21st chapter. Both of these institutions, which were in the world, were shown to John. The true church was of heaven and the false church was of earth. John was carried away in the Spirit to a wilderness place to behold the false church; but to see the true church, he was carried away in the spirit to a great and high mountain. The true church in prophecy is often spoken of as a mountain. In Joel 3:17 he speaks of "Zion, my holy mountain." The prophets repeatedly spoke of the church as Mt. Zion.

Wilderness symbolizes a place of sin where many contrary, obnoxious and evil things exist. For instance Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness, and was there tempted of the devil; and it is said where the wild beasts were (Mark 1:13).

This apostate church is making an immense showing in the world today, which appeals to the natural man and is quite satisfying to the fleshly carnal mind. She is shining on the outside and has the appearance of a thing much to be desired, but in that cup, which has the appearance of gold, the Lord has found abomination, filthiness, and fornication. Read Rev. 17:4 to get a good description of "Mystery Babylon the great" (Catholicism), and her harlot daughters (the many sects and other human religions in the world today). A great many of Satan's religious subjects are very polite, soft, and nice in appearance, and make a splendid show of being God's children. Jesus spoke of this kind in his day as being, "Whited sepulchres which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." In Matthew 23:25 we read, "Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess."

Brothers and sisters, it is not everything that puts on a glittering show of being Christ's in this world that is genuine. The only safe place for a soul is to keep hid away with Christ in God, separated from the world in every manner and way and keep clean from all false religions, refusing to sup any of the Babylon wine which is so plentiful, and continue to keep aggressive against Satan and all of his false religions. Remember that often your worst enemies are of your own household, and sometimes your dearest friends become your enemies as they sip of the wine of her fornication and become filled with the "love of money," the "praise of men," and "worldly conformity." The sacred Word of God says, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Matt. 24:4.

Fred Pruitt

—oO—

MY TESTIMONY

Sin will bring one down; this I know from experience. I was a "head-strong" person that never considered what the penalty would be for my wicked ways. I liked to have my own way in almost everything, but I learned the bigger the tree the harder it will fall. Some people get knocked to their knees before they will turn and some get knocked completely down. I was knocked down before I would turn from my ways. I wouldn't advise you to wait until it happens to you because the Lord has many ways to knock us down. I wrote to a friend telling of my downfall in poor health and that I decided to change my ways and seek Christ. In answer to my letter she replied that she was not going to wait until she was knocked down like me before she changed her ways. She probably meant it, but one never knows which way or when the fall is coming. Her's may be different from mine. She may be cut off instantly—and so may you. Why be head-strong like I was? "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."

Now I will tell you how I got saved.

On a Wednesday night just before I retired I went down on my knees in prayer. This prayer was a little different from the prayers I had been praying, for I had been praying and getting right up off my knees and my mind would go right back into the gutter. But on this particular night there was something about my prayer that made me feel wonderful afterward because I meant it from my heart. I asked the Lord to forgive me and let the following day be a turn for the better in my life.

The following day I had an appointment at the hospital. That morning I arrived at the hospital around eight o'clock, and while waiting my turn to see the doctor a young man passed by me, then back and forth several times. Each time he acted like he wanted to talk with me. I knew I had never seen him before. Finally he came over to me and we began to talk. We talked for a few minutes, then he began talking about the Lord and how wonderful He was, how he had been saved, etc. Then he asked me if I had been saved. I told him that I had not, but that I would love to be. He said that his father had a church building and asked if I would like to go there and pray together. I hesitated for a moment, then I accepted. He said he had a car outside that we could go in when my appointment was met. I was a bit shy, nevertheless I went on. As we went through the busy streets of town on the way to his father's building, I began to wonder, for I hardly wanted to go through with it, due to the fact that I was ashamed to pray before

anyone (Can you imagine being ashamed to pray and worship the Lord in prayer?) Then suddenly it came to me what I had asked the Lord in prayer the night before this: "Let the following day be a turn for the better in my life." Then something began to flow through my mind as if someone was talking to me, saying, "Didn't you ask the Lord to let this following day be a turn for the better in your life? This is your chance, but you act like you don't want to follow. Go on."

I began to feel better. We arrived at his father's church house and prayed together. When I retired that night at home, I closed my eyes to go to sleep and in stepped the devil tempting me, saying, "Don't you know you can't leave me now. You have been with me too long. You can't leave me now. Of course, you feel fine now and you mean to do right, but that won't last long. You'll be right back to me. You have repented all right, but you should wait awhile before you are baptized to make sure, and you'll see you have not changed." You see he (the devil) had to admit the truth in order to get me to listen, but in the end he was going to show me where I might make a mistake if I went ahead and was baptized; so I began to wonder—and that is what he wanted me to do.

I went for two or three weeks fighting against the devil with him in full force against me in a nice clever way. But in spite of all his efforts to stop me, I made a decision, by the grace of God, and was baptized. So you see Satan may hinder you, but he can't stop you unless you let him. He knows the material with which he has to deal in the human heart. He knows, for he has studied with fiendish intensity for thousands of years.

The point that I want to bring out here is that I did not need to wait. If I had believed enough and had been baptized that day after I had repented and asked God to forgive me and let the following day be a turn for the better in my life, it would have been just as good as for me to wait the three weeks, for I had repented and asked God to forgive me and He did if I had only believed. It was the devil that made me doubt. We must believe 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Faith plays the chief role in becoming a child of God and living a Christian life. Read Heb. 11th chapter and you will notice the 6th verse says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

If you have not accepted the Lord as your personal Saviour, do it today. Repent, believe, and be baptized. Believe with your heart and confess with your mouth and you shall be saved. Do not let Satan blind your mind, for the blind lead the blind and they both fall into the ditch. You may say, "It's too late now, for I've been so wicked. Besides I am down sick now," or "I am in jail." No matter what you've done or what kind of trouble you are in at the present, the Lord God still loves you and wants to save you. Read Isa. 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool." 2 Cor. 6:2, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

May God bless you and be your guide. —James Moore

Some people would rather pay a preacher \$3,000 a year to smooth hell-fire over than to have a Spirit-filled minister preach the truth.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello Children: Don't you think it is nice to have a corner in the paper all your own? I think so, because I love children, yet Jesus loves you more than anyone on earth—more than your own dear mother and father, and they love you dearly.

Do you remember hearing the story in the Bible when some mothers brought their children to Jesus to bless them? And he took the babies in his arms, put the little ones on his knee and laid his hands on the heads of the older children, and blessed them.

Some older people told the mothers they should not bother Jesus, but Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mark 10:14, 15.

Jesus knew that children's hearts are tender and that they would quickly believe in him and would lead older people to believe in him. He also knew that those children would always remember how he blessed them and the words he said, and when they became men and women they would love him because he loved them. And Jesus wants you to know that he loves you. He wants you to pray to him every night before you go to sleep and tell him that you love him. Ask him to give you a blessing like he gave those children long ago, and if you REALLY pray, you will feel his love coming into your hearts, and you will know that you have his blessing.

One little boy I know really prayed to Jesus. Jesus blessed him and he was very happy. The next day when he came home from school he said he had been happy all day.

Even though Jesus is in heaven, he will bless us here, and we can feel him in our hearts.

Will you pray now and ask Jesus to bless you and help you to be good like he was?

—Aunt Marie

Little children, do not fear

Jesus loves you;

He will fill your hearts with cheer,

He will guide you.

Little children, come to Him,

He will bless you;

With His hand of love He waits

To caress you.

—B. E. Warren

CHRISTIAN COURAGE

Courage is that which helps us to go ahead, to press on and do the things which we know are right. Oh, why is it that people of today do not go as empty vessels to the ever-flowing fountain of Christ and become filled with courage, so that they can step out upon the promises of God and stand firm, and stand alone with Christ if need be?

Christian courage helps us to leave the sneers of the world behind, and press farther on and climb higher.

When a Christian can not do something God wants him to do, it is because of lack of courage, which he needs to receive from the Holy Spirit. Peter had not the courage to stand firm by Christ during his crucifixion; he lacked the courage; but after he received the Holy Spirit he preached with boldness the whole word of the blessed Savior, fearing no one.

Christian courage gives us the power to overcome the temptations that are thrown before us day after day, the strength to conquer even when the king of terrors faces us. It will enable us to leave this world with a smile and to say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

CORRESPONDENCE

To all the dear saints scattered abroad and all the readers of "Faith and Victory, The Evening Light Watchman" greetings in the name of our loving Lord and Saviour, who said, "I AM THE WAY."

With the precious old Book open before us, we have THE WAY right before our eyes, so honest hearts cannot miss the WAY.

I will give you a brief account of my visit to Grand Cayman and Cuba. Bro. and Sister Egbert Allen and I spent almost four months on Grand Cayman Island of the British West Indies. We found some real true saints there and the people there in general are a real intellectual people. Most of them read well, even the children; and all of them have a fair knowledge of the truth. I am sure they have light enough to save them if they will walk in it. May the Lord bless every one of them and give them courage to walk in all the light they have. When I get to the end of the way and we all meet in that bright City, I expect to meet God's faithful little flock from Grand Cayman. Dear ones over there, may God richly bless every one of you, Amen.

Now concerning my trip to Cuba: I had some knowledge of Sister Faith Stewart's work as a missionary in India. I had heard her speak a few times of her work in India and have always had confidence in Sister Stewart. So I felt especially led of the Lord to visit Cuba and see her work. Now I want to tell you this after spending twenty-four days in the children's home she is conducting and visiting the mission work the Lord has enabled her to raise up or establish, I am thoroughly convinced that Sister Stewart is doing a very commendable work.

I spent about two weeks in the children's home she is conducting. She has near eighty children in the home, both boys and girls. The boys' home is on one side, the girls' on the other side and Sister Stewart's home is between them. Many of these children never had a place they could call home. Some of them who were half grown when they came to her home had never known what it was to sleep in a bed.

One boy in particular was taken into the home, given a bath and put to bed at night in a nice clean bed. The little fellow began to laugh. He continued to laugh for some time and they asked him what he was laughing about. He raised his little hand and patted the bed and said, "Bed, bed." It was the first time the little fellow had ever had the privilege of sleeping in a bed.

Beside this children's home, Sister Stewart and workers have established twenty-two missions in different places on the island of Cuba where the truth is being preached. Most of the people in Cuba speak Spanish only. The island as a whole is almost completely dominated by the Roman Catholic church and Communists; so you can see what kind of proposition Sister Stewart is up against. She surely needs the prayers of all the

true saints. So far as I know there is no missionary board backing her. Her support comes through free-will offerings.

Yours for God and lost souls, George W. Stephenson
 O—O—O—O—O—O—O

Ind.—Dear saints, greetings to all,—I feel impressed to write to you to tell how good God is to me, though very unworthy of His grace, yet because of His grace I am encouraged to press on to the end. Each trial and each disappointment brings out more of his love and gives me grace to go on. I am pleased to say that He saves me and gives me victory now. He heals my body and supplies all my needs.

We had a visitor Wednesday and Thursday. Bro. Ray Key was here. We had a wonderful time, as Wed. was prayermeeting night. He went with us and on Thurs. we visited some old saints that could not get out to meeting. We went to Indianapolis Thursday evening and had a good service. Bro. Key stayed there to have services over the week-end. I have been going there once a week for about four months. God is blessing our efforts to live and tell the truth in a way so dear souls can understand it and feel the love of God is near and is for them also; and so they will understand that always God gives us love, grace, and peace with power when we accept it. But if we reject it then all that is left for us is judgment. God bless you all and encourage you to press on. Pray for us. I hope to see you all at the National Campmeeting in July.
 Bro. Wm Pearson

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

Mo.—Dear brothers and sisters,—It is so sweet to trust in Jesus because He is our best friend in time of need. This finds me trusting the Lord. Our house caught on fire and God helped us out. Thank Him for helping us. I want you to pray for my father to get saved before it is too late.
 Miss Mary Reed

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

Okla.—Dear saints, greetings in the name of the dear Lord,—I feel that the Lord would be pleased for me to write my testimony. I am glad I can say I'm still saved and I am glad I found the Lord in time. I've been saved one year now and I'm not in the least discouraged. The Lord has done much for me. He heals my body and my children's bodies, and I give Him all the praise. I want to get closer to the Lord every day and do the things he would have me to. We need to work because this world is in a terrible condition. I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It is much encouragement to me. Pray for me that I will let my light shine and that I will ever keep humble. Your sister, Odever Kelley

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

British West Indies—Dear Editor of the "Faith and Victory,"—It is with joy unspeakable and full of glory that I send in this testimony to the glory of our Lord and Master who has called me out of darkness and has translated me into the kingdom of His dear Son. I do praise the Lord for the solid Rock Christ Jesus that our perfect salvation is grounded and settled upon, for having this glorious experience, we are certain that the gates of destruction will never prevail against us, having this seal, the baptism of the blessed Holy Ghost, the Lord knoweth those that are his.

I do thank God beyond expression for the beloved brethren of America that the dear Lord has sent out across the mighty ocean and through much tribulation to help to preach the pure and unadulterated gospel and to hold it up in all its purity and power of the Holy Ghost. Truly we thank God for Bro. and Sister Allen.

He reminds us of Bro. Paul, a man of God, full of the Spirit and so young in years and such an instrument in the gospel; and dear old Bro. Stephenson, another old faithful Spirit-filled Stephen—men who are willing to lay down their lives for the gospel, who will not lower the standard of the gospel. The church of the living God in this part of the vineyard has been wonderfully blest through them. Many, many precious souls have been brought to the fold, some sanctified, and some healed by power divine. Our hearts have rejoiced together in the power and glory of our risen Saviour, the ground and pillar and chief corner stone of our eternal salvation. But sad to say, the time has come when they must leave us again for their native land in obedience to the call of our Captain who has called them to some other field. Truly our hearts are sad to part with them, but His will must be on earth as it is in heaven; so we can only be submissive to his will. We commit them into the hands of our loving heavenly Father, who, we know, will bless, sustain, heal, and keep them by His almighty power, safe from all harm and danger that may come. Our prayer is for them, and we know what we pray for in faith believing we shall receive. "My grace is sufficient," He saith. We are praying ere long they shall be permitted to return to our little island accompanied by some more of you true Spirit-filled preachers. Our labors are not in vain in the Lord. Our glorious home is awaiting us. Let us then be true and faithful; for, oh, when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be.

Your sister in the holy way, Olga DaCosta

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

La.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I desire to testify to the wonderful power of God. I thank and praise God that we are saved and living for Him. In March I had a severe attack of nose-bleed. My nose bled a long time. My daughter announced dinner. I had been reading my Bible all the morning. My nose bled so I failed to eat and it seemed I had passed out. Daughter walked the floor and prayed to God that I may talk again. I revived in about an hour's time. Someone asked if I wanted a doctor. I told them that I had my doctor, who is God. A few days later I was sitting up feeling some better. My nose started bleeding again and bled from 12 to about 4:30. God did not fail us. Daughter and I held on to God. I lost then consciousness again. Daughter continued to pray and I revived again. I received an anointed handkerchief from Bro. Lewis Williams and other ministers from Hennessey, Okla. We applied it in Jesus' dear name with prayer. I am feeling fine now, praise God. I thank and praise the Lord for his goodness to me. Many many thanks to the dear saints for their prayers. Please continue to pray for us for we mean to press the battle on.
 Effie and Carrie Washington

O—O—O—O—O—O—O

Tulsa, Oklahoma—To the saints scattered abroad,—I greet you in Jesus' dear name. This leaves us not well in body but with a deep determination to go all the way with our Lord.

I feel it would be good to tell you about our trip to Monark Springs camp ground. I (Sister Barton) left Sunday afternoon, April 13th, by train to be there and have cabins cleaned and beds prepared for the workers which we hoped would be there April 15th. Bro. Barton came the 14th after he worked at home that day. He brought Bro. Eldon Rhoades from Guthrie. On Tuesday some of the brethren who live near came over and work started on the dining hall on the 15th. More helpers were needed. Husband tried to hire help but only one man was available. It looked rather dark for a day or

so, then Wednesday Bro. Albert Eck came from Kansas, so then there were two men able to work. All the rest were almost too old to have to help on such heavy work, but we prayed God to give strength. God did work, and the brethren made a good showing the first week. The next week some more brethren from Guthrie came to help and some of the younger brethren a few miles away reported for work. That week they finished the frame work and half of the shingling of the roof. We had to come home to care for home business, but the next weekend Bro. Barton and some of the Tulsa men went back and finished the rest of the shingling. Now we have to lay 4400 feet of flooring, put up screens, hang doors, and do many other small things, but we expect to finish by campmeeting time. We have made a place to sleep above the dining hall for about fifty cots. We can't finish the basement at this time because the plumbing has to be purchased and the underground drains laid, which is a big job and Bro. Barton cannot leave his work long enough to do it this year.

As to the finances, we left home with all that was in the dining hall treasury and felt sure if God wanted it finished He could do more than we naturally would expect, so we were not disappointed for we received several checks while there and hope to have enough to finish if the flooring does not come too high. Thanks to all the dear saints who have done their part in this building project. We pray it is a blessing to all who helped. Pray that we have a good campmeeting and that husband and I have strength to help carry God's work on wherever our hands find work to do. —The Sam Bartons.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Nebr.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the dear saints scattered abroad,—I am praising the dear Lord first of all for salvation from sin. I am like all the isolated saints, don't get to hear any of the Word preached and get very hungry to hear it. I don't go to Old Babylon because there is nothing there for the soul. They are going after the world and the things of the world. "I'm going through, I'm going through, I'll take the Bible way whatever others do; I'm going through with the Lord's despised few; I'm going through, Jesus, I'm going through."

I am sending a very urgent request for prayer. I think I have a cancer in my lip and I ask all the dear saints to fast and pray for me the first Sunday in June. That is the first Lord's day in June. Get under the burden for my healing, dear saints of God. Many of Job's comforters come around saying, "Why don't you do something?" I tell them I am, I'm trusting the dear Lord.

I never go to a doctor nor ask them anything. My trust is in the Lord every day. I can say from the bottom of my heart, "Thy will be done." If I have said or done one thing to the dear saints of God I truly ask your forgiveness. I don't want one thing between me and my God. Praise His holy name. I give the Lord's name glory for taking away pain. The dear Lord knows best. I pray for all the isolated saints. We have our blessed Lord to lean on and can talk and tell Him all of our troubles. I love to read all the good testimonies in the little paper. We truly thank all the good ministers and workers for such good pieces in the paper. If any desire to write me, my address is 1322 Oak St., Fairbury, Nebr.

Your sisteh in the one body for the old time gospel,
Mrs. D. M. Hardman Groathouse

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in the name of Jesus,—I'm so glad I've found the "straight and narrow way." I never want to be in any other way for I want to be

ready at all times to go if the Lord should call me next. Life is uncertain and death is sure, and after death, then eternity either with the Lord and his redeemed or the devil and the lost. It is up to us while on earth to make our choice. Life is so short, only a vapor. But in life we have a chance to experience a few blessings and a small amount of pain and sorrow. When we think we are having heaven here on earth it is only a small portion of what heaven is really like and all of our sorrow and pain and suffering here can never equal the unquenchable fire of torment. It is only a sample so we can make our choice from them. I have tried the sample and now I want the real endless life to be spent with our Saviour. I can hardly wait.

My little girl is only a year old but the enemy has already presented his servants with the subject of bobbed hair for her. If long hair is a woman's glory, then it is the glory of a little girl too, for we are told to bring up a child in the way it should go.

Recently this subject of women wearing long hair came up and a young man who approved of short hair for women said, "Yes, but it is not a shame for a woman to have short hair now." If this be the case there is nothing shameful now for the world has lost its shame. It is not a shame now for people to go naked or about so (I'm sure some of the clothing in which people parade the streets is so brief that the Lord considers them naked.) It is not a shame to suck cigarettes or drink beer or other alcoholic drinks, or to get drunk. Just this last week end I was told of a young girl who got drunk, then went to work and bragged she was drunk. She didn't know anything for three hours. There is no shame for some to take God's name in vain. It is even fashionable to steal salt and pepper shakers, toothpick holders, and spoons from cafes, then brag about it. I was told of a couple on their wedding day who stole the soda glasses from the place where they ate lunch so they could remember their wedding day. I've even heard them brag about it. It is not a shame to commit any sin if one takes the views of the world for its standpoint, but the views of the world are taking souls to hell by the millions because they are taking the world's view of "shame" and not the Bible's view. The Bible says it is a shame for a woman to cut her hair, and drunkards, liars, and thieves shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth forever. How I do wish more people would really study the word "shame." I'm sure that word alone would start most people to thinking and maybe would convict their souls until they would want to be ashamed to do so many things that are not pleasing to our Saviour, the one who shed his life's blood that we might be ashamed of sin. Mrs. Ovie Campbell

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Iowa—Dear saints in Christ—We enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper very much. The testimonies are wonderful.

We were saved not long ago, and praise his name, we are saved from sin and are going through with Jesus. My husband is 22 and I am 20. We do pray for the young people everywhere. Before one is saved it seems as if it would be very hard to live a Christian life, and I do say it isn't easy, because we have found that there aren't many young people who think that they have time for Jesus, but He will surely help you if you ask Him.

It is a time of wickedness. There are many crimes. Oh, how people need the Lord! I am thankful that we found Jesus while we are young and before it is too late.

I want to request prayer for my father. He has high blood pressure and almost had a stroke a few weeks

ago. I know the Lord can heal him, so will you pray for him, and also pray for us that we will live faithful to the end. Yours with Christian love, Mrs. R. W. Bonnett

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Fresno, Calif.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus,—Truly He is very precious to me. He keeps my soul encouraged from day to day to press the battle to the gate. There is here an afflicted child that has been afflicted for quite a long time. The state health officials have been trying to force the parents to turn the child over to them for treatments. The child is afflicted in one leg so that he hops on one foot. He cannot put the other one to the ground. I think the child is about five years old. Please pray that the Lord will undertake. The health department tried a year ago to take charge. They were told that the Lord would heal. They dropped the case for awhile but now they have started again. Please pray earnestly that the Lord will work in this case. We have fasted and prayed that the child will be delivered. We do not have the victory yet and need the saints earnest prayers in his behalf. Sister C. M. Taylor

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Calif.—I am yet saved and encouraged to follow Jesus all the way because He died that I might live. I have been saved about five years and it is getting better all the time. I can realize what danger I was in when I was in sin. Now since the Lord saved me and sanctified my soul I can get some wonderful blessings from the Lord. When I get sick He heals me. I don't intend to ever take any kind of remedy for my healing. I will take Jesus for my healer, for he is able to heal or take me on home, and I'm working for that home. Praise His holy name. I want the saints to pray that the Lord will completely heal me of the complaint which has caused suffering for years. I did not get any help until the Lord saved and sanctified my soul. I got some help then but at times I am still bothered with it. Bro. James W. Smith

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Mo.—To the dear saints, greetings in the dear Lord's name,—I feel that the Lord would be pleased for me to send my testimony telling how He healed me. I slipped and fell hard in the last snow. It hurt me very much. When I worked in the garden or did other hard work my side would become very sore. I wrote to the Faith Pub. House for prayer and put the letter in the box. It didn't have time to get much farther than the first town when the Lord healed me. I worked hard that afternoon, and it did not hurt me. I didn't feel tired and didn't feel as if I had worked at all, and slept good all night. I do praise the dear Lord. The enemy would tell me that I was old and the injury would not heal and my rib would not knit together. I said the Lord can make an old person as one that is young. Praise His dear name, He healed me and gave me strength. The Lord gets all the glory and praise. Mrs. Emma Ritchie.

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The articles listed below are in stock at this office ready to be sent to you.

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THROUGH THE TUNNEL

One afternoon, on my way from one part of a large city to another, I passed through a tunnel of some length. Before reaching the tunnel I had busied myself looking out at the various things to be seen from the car window, but now, this view being shut off, I turned my attention to the various passengers, whom I had hitherto not noticed.

Then I thought, How like life's tunnels this is! Before

we reach them, how we busy ourselves sometimes taking into consideration the doings of others; but it is while passing through tunnels that we have the opportunity of seeing more fully what is on the inside—the doings and the thoughts of our own heart. Then it is that we make discoveries of things inside hitherto unknown, or at least unnoticed; and therefore well enough for us it is that God sometimes takes us through a tunnel. —M. J. H.

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JUDAH'S UNSTEADY COURSE

Sunday, June 1, 1947

Printed Portion2 Kings 19:5-7, 32-37; 20:12-17.

2 Kings 19:5. So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

6. And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the Lord, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

7. Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

32. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it.

33. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the Lord.

34. For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

35. And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

36. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

37. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

2 Kings 20:12. At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

13. And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house nor in all his dominion that Hezekiah shewed them not.

14. Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.

15. And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine

house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them.

16. And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord.

17. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.

Golden Text: For thus saith the Lord, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength. Isa. 30:15

Practical Truth: God can work out his will in the midst of national perils.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lessons for some time have dealt with the northern kingdom, Israel, which consisted of the ten tribes that would not support Rehoboam, Solomon's son, because of his arrogance. After the fall of the northern kingdom, which we studied last Sunday, the scene changes and we shall take up a study of the southern kingdom, called Judah. The part of Judah's history from the time of Rehoboam to Hezekiah is omitted from our lessons, so it might be well for the class to review this in order to properly understand Judah's condition. You will learn from this review that Judah, like Israel, often displeased God by their idolatry, caused mainly by the example of ungodly kings.

Hezekiah, though a son of a wicked father, was an exception, especially during the first part of his reign, and God blessed and prospered him and gave victory over national enemies.

This lesson begins with a brief account of the serious trouble that faced Hezekiah and his kingdom. The king of Assyria, arrogant because of previous military success, felt that he could conquer all he set his heart to conquer, so he sent a letter full of boastful arrogance, threats, blasphemy, and false insinuations to king Hezekiah.

Hezekiah was aware of the strength of the king of Assyria, but he had walked before God in truth and righteousness and had learned that "prayer changes things," so he took the letter to the temple, and there with it open before the Lord, he plead with great earnestness for a nation in distress. God heard his prayer and wrought a miraculous deliverance.

After this deliverance Hezekiah experienced other answers to prayer (Read 2 Chron. 32nd chapter). Then it is written, "Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart." See Isa. 39:1-8 for an account of the visit of these ambassadors.

Hezekiah displeased the Lord in this case. He entered into an unholy intimacy with the worldly-minded ambassadors and leaned to their alliance. He seemed to take pride in showing to them earthly treasures which he had accumulated and there is no record that he even mentioned the Lord who had done so much for him.

Let us learn from this the lesson that: 1. That which seems like great trouble may be God's method of drawing us closer to Him and teaching us the value of prayer. 2. It pays to serve God in times of prosperity that when adversity comes we may flee to God for our refuge and have confidence that He will help. 3. Many souls are ensnared during times of prosperity when there is no special need which drives them to prayer that they know of. 4. It is godly to be friendly toward all men, but a

Christian should not break down that holy gulf that exists between him and unregenerate people to make bosom friends of them.

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RELIGIOUS REFORMS IN JUDAH

Sunday, June 8, 1947

Printed Portion 2 Kings 22:10, 11; 23:1-5, 21.

2 Kings 22:10. And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

11. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

2 Kings 23:1. And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2. And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

3. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

4. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

5. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

21. And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

Golden Text: Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law. Psalm 119:34.

Practical Truth: Reading and obeying the Word of God results in spiritual blessing to individuals and communities.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh succeeded him with a long reign of fifty-five years. It is written of him, "He built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven and served them . . . he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger." Then his son Ammon, who was also wicked, reigned two years. But Ammon's son Josiah "did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." He tore down the images and groves and hired men to repair the breaches of the house of God. While they were repairing it they found the book of the law there. They read it and took it to the king. When he heard it and the judgments of God that were to be meted out to those who broke it, he was in great distress, for he realized that the people of his country had drifted far from what

God had commanded them in His Word. He quickly inquired of a prophetess concerning the nation's fate. She informed him that judgment would be meted out to the country because of their wickedness, but not in Josiah's day because he was tenderhearted and had humbled his heart before the Lord. When Josiah received this word he continued the religious reform described in this lesson. It is written of Josiah, "And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him."

Many valuable lessons can be learned from the example of the young king Josiah. Not many have courage enough to stand out against popular religions to do that which pleases the Lord when the majority of the people have been supporting them for sixty years or more. But God will honor those who honor Him. One righteous person can change the whole course of a nation. If the people of the world today would get their dust-covered Bibles and see how far they are walking from the course which God requires, surely they too would fear and tremble because of judgments which are sure to come.

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JUDAH'S LAST DAYS

Sunday, June 15, 1947

Printed Portion Jer. 36:2, 3, 28-31; 2 Kings 24:1-4.

Jer. 36:2. Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

3. It may be that the house of Judah will hear the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Jer. 36:28. Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

29. And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the Lord; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written herein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?

30. Therefore thus saith the Lord of Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

31. And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity: and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not.

2 Kings 24:1. In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

2. And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

3. Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;

4. And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the Lord would not pardon.

Golden Text: The fear of the Lord longeth days but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. Prov. 10:27

Practical Truth: To disregard warnings by competent people is sheer folly.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The righteous, god-fearing people have always been "the salt of the earth." Judah's captivity had been prophesied of even during Hezekiah's reign, but there was sufficient righteousness to preserve them from that calamity for many years after that. The terrible apostasy during the wicked reign of Manasseh cause the nation's death sentence to be pronounced (the last two verses of our lesson) but execution of this sentence was postponed because of the righteousness of King Josiah. The "salt" of Judah became very scarce after Josiah's death, and the three kings which followed him did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. Destruction soon followed. The Lord had many times warned the people of the doom that would be theirs if they did not turn from their sins. The appeal and final warning in this lesson make us to realize how long-suffering God is toward those who trample His mercies underfoot, and yet make us know that it is not safe to presume upon God's mercy.

God had used Jeremiah to preach to the rulers and people of Judah for several years, but instead of accepting it as being from God, they despised the preaching and persecuted the preacher. Then God tried another method. He instructed Jeremiah to write a summary of his preaching. It caused quite a stir among those who read it, and it was taken to the king and read in his presence. He took his penknife and cut it in pieces and threw it in the fire; but another was written with a direct message to the king.

God's messages through Jeremiah to Judah are typical of His dealings with man in all ages. "It may be" he will "hear" and "return from his evil way that I may forgive." These words convey the same meaning as those found in the New Testament, when Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, spoke of the destruction of the world by fire: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness, but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God longs to show mercy to the sinner, but there comes a time when He calls each individual and each nation for the last time. People accept the word of God now in much the same manner that they did then. They may not literally cut it with a penknife and burn it, yet wrest it and make it of none effect in their lives by putting their private interpretations on it. But regardless of the way it is accepted by man, it remains the same Word of God by which we shall be judged.



THE FALL OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM

Sunday, June 22, 1947

Printed Portion 2 Kings 25:1-12.

2 Kings 25:1. And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.

2. And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

3. And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.

4. And the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees were against the city round about:) and the king went the way toward the plain.

5. And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him.

6. So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him.

7. And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

8. And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem:

9. And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

10. And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about.

11. Now the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away.

12. But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and husbandmen.

Golden Text: Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34.

Practical Truth: Sin persisted in, brings judgment upon the transgressors.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

If the Jews had believed the warnings which God sent through his prophets and had repented and turned from their evil ways, God would have protected Jerusalem as He did when David was king. Or if they had believed God even after they were conquered, they could have escaped many miseries and prevented Jerusalem from being so completely destroyed by submitting to the punishment which God was permitting to come upon them. Jeremiah had warned them that God would not deliver them from the hands of the Babylonians and told them to submit for their own well-being, but they "trusted in lying vanities" and rebelled, which rebellion caused their utter ruin. They were like some Christ-rejecters mentioned in the New Testament: "They received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess. 2:19, 11.

Jerusalem was the political and religious center of Palestine, so when it fell and the temple of God was destroyed their hopes were crushed. This loss is woe-fully mourned by the Jews even to this day. Like rebellious children, they did not realize the value of the Father's care, protection and the inheritance which they would have received from Him until they were sent away from home because of their mis-deeds.

Carnality in people pulls them toward the lusts of the flesh and away from God, and they may even resent others talking to them about God; but when they no longer have the opportunity of enjoying any religious privilege they mourn with pathos the "good old days."

The graces and blessings of God are like the valuable jewel which a man labored hard and long to obtain. Then after he had obtained it he carelessly displayed it in a tempting way to covetous eyes in order to obtain the praise and honor of men. He was warned against such carelessness, but he was so blinded by the desire for praise that he would not heed the warning. When a thief stole the jewel he awakened to his folly and miserably mourned his loss.

One of the New Testament writers warned Christians of the danger of turning back to sin after fleeing from it in obedience to the call of the Lord with these words: "Remember Lot's wife." It would be well for people today who are indulging in every conceivable sin in spite of definite warnings from God's Word and His ministers, to "Remember Jerusalem."

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ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NATION

Sunday, June 29, 1947

Printed PortionPsalm 119:105; Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 6:1-8.

Psalm 119:105. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Isa. 2:2. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it.

3. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 6:1. Hear ye now what the Lord saith; Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

2. Hear ye, O mountains, the Lord's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

3. O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

4. For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5. O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the Lord.

6. Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7. Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil: shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8. He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Golden Text: He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. Isa. 2:3.

Practical Truth: The heritage of Christians from ancient Israel is by no means small.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The two parts of the first verse in our lesson are not two different ways of saying the same thing. The Word of God is a lamp to the feet at night; and it is a light like that of the sun by day. It makes provisions in this way for the whole of life. It is the secret of life's true sunshine; it is the guide when all around is dark. There are millions who possess the Bible, and now and then read, but how many can say seriously, "Thy Word is a lantern unto my feet and a light unto my path?" The answer must be that certain conditions are attached to this guiding and illuminating function of the Bible. To have the pure light of the Gospel we should be diligent to search for those truths, those precepts, those examples, which will directly guide us through life to our eternal home. If the Bible is to do its work we are to be careful to act upon each truth that it teaches us as we learn it. What a lamp is to us in the night or in darkness, the word of God is to us in the journey of life. Life is like a journey in the dark and the Bible is to supply light that is needful for us in such circumstances. Think of this light. In it there is no wavering, no indefiniteness. It is a pure light, a clear light, a steady light and unfailing light. It burns with a luster that never grows dim, and casts a radiance from which nothing is hid. Other lights have flashed and faded; other guides have offered themselves and have been followed; and the blind have led the blind into the ditch, and both have perished; but this light abides as clear, and bright, and beneficent as ever.

Most of the prophecies found in the book of Isaiah have direct reference to Christ and his work in the hearts of men in this present gospel dispensation. The terms, "In that day," and "in the last days" refer to the gospel day. In the passage of Scripture taken from his book the terms "the Lord's house," "mountain of the Lord," the "house of the God of Jacob," "Zion," and "Jerusalem" all refer to the same thing, the church of God.

Consider different ways in which the church of God is like a mountain—compact, strong, high, easy to be seen, etc. Notice, "all nations shall flow unto it." Is this true in the church of God? Are any excluded? Jesus' last commission was, "Go ye into all the world and teach all nations." If you are not being taught "of his ways" and if you are not walking in "His paths," then you have not yet gone UP to the mountain of the Lord. Perhaps you have been content to take up your abode on one of the hills where the commandments of men are taught. The church of God teaches and practices the whole Word.

There is no carnal warfare in Zion. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God."

If you are not doing that which the Lord requires of you, why not? (The last part of our lesson). Can you count the blessings which come from His bountiful hand and then testify against Him, as He asked Israel to do?

Comments by L. Modglin and G. Ray