

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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In The Age of Darkest Night

In the age of darkest night,
When the nations groped for light,
And the star of hope shone dimly in the sky;
Prophets spoke of coming peace,
A star shone in the east
That proclaimed the King of kings was drawing nigh.

From Bethlehem came the news:
Christ is born! King of the Jews;
Then old Herod on his throne did quake and fear.
Quickly he devised a plan
To destroy the Son of man,
But the angel of the Lord was standing near.

Said he to Joseph in a dream,
I will defeat old Herod's scheme;
Take the mother and the child to Egypt land.
In that land there thou shalt stay
Till I bid thee come away.
God will guide thee with his wise unerring hand.

Thus the Christ by matchless might,
Came to be this dark world's light—
Ye who sit in sinful darkness rise and sing;
For the Lord by love divine,
Sent his Son to save mankind,
And to be to them a prophet, priest, and king.

Now his scepter holdeth sway,
And to all who will obey,
Victory through his holy name can now proclaim.
He the one who died to save
And rose triumphant from the grave,
Is the light to guide us to the glory land.

—Ulysses Phillips.

The Christian Attitude

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of

mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body: and be ye thankful." Col. 3:12-15.

We find in the third chapter of Colossians some wonderful, wholesome, and divine instruction given through inspiration by the apostle Paul. This chapter begins with the words, "If ye then be risen with Christ." This gives us to understand that these instructions are addressed to those who are supposed to have been resurrected from a state of sin and disgrace to a new life in Christ Jesus, or who have experienced the new birth, and know something about the transforming power of God at work in the soul. Every one who has received this experience knows that he is a new creature. He knows that he is experiencing a life of peace and happiness that is far superior to anything he has ever before enjoyed. Now he is exhorted to put off everything that pertains to the old life, or the old man, and all his deeds, passions, and vain and carnal dispositions, and to gird up the loins of his mind, to watch, and to put on (or be partaker of) the new man which is after the image of God. He has been instructed that Christ is the predominating spirit and power of his life, or in other words, Christ is his life: for "when Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." The apostle addresses these people as "the elect of God, holy and beloved," and tells them to imbibe the Spirit and disposition of Christ: put on bowels of mercy. As Christ was merciful and moved with compassion, so be ye merciful. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Put on kindness. Instead of being scratchy and crusty, be kind and gentle. Have an humble mind. Do not be highminded or puffed up, filled with egotism and self display. God resists the proud, high, and haughty, but gives grace to the humble. Be meek and longsuffering forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. When Christ is the propelling power of

one's life, he will manifest himself in the disposition and attitude of the individual, "for ye are dead" and Christ is the life. "Christ in you," his love in your heart, suffereth long and is kind; and endures. Now he says, "If any man have a quarrel against any: [the margin says "complaint"] even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Just as Christ forgave you when you came to him with a broken heart, and a contrite spirit, no doubt weeping, with a heavy heart filled with sorrow on account of past sins and grievances committed against a holy and just God, crying, "O Lord, have mercy upon me; please forgive my transgressions and blot out all my sins." He said, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." He also says if we forgive not those who trespass against us; neither shall your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses. In Mark 11:25, 26 we read, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." "And above all these things, put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

Charity is love. It is the love of God. It is God, for God is love, and he that loveth is begotten of God. "As ye have therefore received Christ,"—if ye have put on Christ, no hatred, no malice, no ill will, nor evil concupiscence can remain in the heart of an individual who is clothed with love as with a garment.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body: and be ye thankful." The peace of God is the portion of every heart that is filled with divine love, and the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. And God has called them into one body thru the operation of peace and love.

"And be ye thankful." O, how easy it is for a heart that is filled with love and peace to be lifted up to God in thankfulness—thankful for the great love of God that caused him to give his only Son for their salvation, and for being redeemed by the precious blood, thankful for his grace and presence in this life and for a hope of the reward of the righteous when this fleeting day has passed. Again we are exhorted: "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Amen.

—Ulysses Phillips

Yield Unto God

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee."

All down through the ages God has desired yielded vessels. He has not chosen men and women because of their natural ability nor for their high social standing. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Cor. 1:27.

God talked to Moses out of the burning bush and told him to go to Pharaoh to bring the children of Israel out of bondage. Moses began to make excuses, but God did not excuse him.

He said, "But I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."

But God said, "Who hath made man's mouth? . . . Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." God was not asking for Moses' ability but wanted him to yield and obey him and he would take care of the rest.

Then we read of Samuel who was just a boy when the Lord talked to him in the night. He told Samuel what he would do to Eli's house. At Eli's request he faithfully told him all that the Lord told him. The Lord was with Samuel and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. He was faithful and yielded to the Lord and the Lord could use him as a vessel.

Many others in the Old Testament and in the New Testament yielded to God and God used them as vessels in his service.

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service."

We use pitchers to hold milk or water. The pitcher is no benefit to the body, but rather that which the pitcher contains. The Lord wants to use us as pitchers or vessels. He wants our bodies yielded to him a living sacrifice. Then he can fill us with his Spirit and use us in his own way to bring honor and glory to his name.

May the Lord help each of us to yield ourselves wholly unto the Lord that he may use us to his glory.

—Fern Stubblefield

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God's Wonderful Kindness

I will praise thee with my whole heart,
And sing praises unto thee,
For all thy lovingkindness
Thou showest unto me.

In the day when I cried thou answered,
And gave me strength in my soul—
Yes, great is the glory of the Lord,
Oh, let His praises roll.

Tho' I walk in the midst of trouble,
Thou shalt stretch forth thine hand,
Thou also shall revive me,
And help me, Lord, to stand.

And thou wilt not forsake me,
The works of thine own hand,
But perfect that which concerneth me,
Thy mercy, O Lord, shall stand (Psa. 138).

—Verga McCoy

A Cheerful Giver

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7.

Let us be a giver that God loveth. Let us not give grudgingly and be like the flint that has to be hammered and then you get only chips and sparks; nor give of necessity and be like the sponge that yields only to pressure; but let us be like the honeycomb that just overflows with its own sweetness, just give without even being asked at all. This kind of a giver the Lord loveth. Whether it be money or our service, let us be a cheerful giver. —Rada Watkins

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Ten Kinds of People

1. People who are continually marking the mistakes of the saints, but they themselves never seem to measure to the Word of God.
2. People who say, "The saints are always sick," but fail to see how miserable and sick the world is in sin.
2. People who deride God for wars and bloodshed, but send their own sons into battles.
4. People who easily detect the faults of Peter, but never care to mention their own.
5. People who exalt their religion, but never seem to love the crucified way.
6. People who sing, "I am a child of God," but can never seem to be able to quit sinning.
7. People who serve God on Sunday, and serve the devil the rest of the week.
8. People who claim to have the evidence of the Holy Ghost, but in their lives is the evidence of sin.
9. People who testify how they are willing to die for Christ, but never seem to be able to live for him.
10. People who believe "once in grace, always in grace," and go right on living for the devil.

Salvatore DiDio

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A Refuge for the Righteous

As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Lord shall come. Noah obeyed God and built the ark and Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives went into the ark and were saved. But the other people would give no heed to the message which God sent through Noah. They lived to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, and were drowned in the flood.

When Jesus comes in the clouds, the saints will be caught up from this old wicked world to the home beyond this veil of tears. The ark was a type of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the door, and only by Him can we be saved from the wrath to come. People may enter the door by repenting of their sins, confessing, and believing in the

atoning blood of Christ. When all conditions are met, the Lord takes us in and gives us the experience of the "new birth," or being born of the Spirit. Then we are in the church of God which is Christ's body. There we can remain so long as we keep our trust and faith in the Lord. He will give us power to reign over sin in this life—"I am reigning, sweetly reigning, over all this world of strife; in my blessed loving Saviour, I am reigning in this life." Then when He comes for his church he will take us with him, but the wicked people will be burned and their souls will be doomed to everlasting punishment. They will have no rest day or night. They will pray, but their prayers will be too late.

It is a dangerous doctrine to teach that the Lord will return to earth and reign a thousand years with the wicked for if one is not saved when the Lord returns, it will be forever too late to enter the ark. This truth is taught in the parable of the Ten Virgins in the 25th chapter of Matthew. The Word tells us that when he comes in the clouds of heaven to destroy this world of wickedness it will be done in a moment. The righteous will go to their home on high, and the wicked will be consigned to the flames. The wicked will be like the rich man who called for a drop of water to cool his tongue, but it was not granted him. "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we sow to the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption, but if we sow to the Spirit, we shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Amanda Jones.

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WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT JESUS?

Written by a blind sister Mrs. Claudia Sidener

What would I do without Jesus?

As I sit at home day by day,
I need Him to comfort and help me while here on earth I stay.

What would I do without Jesus?

When I cannot see my way,
He gives me friends to lead me and help me on my way.

What would I do without his Bible?

It tells of his love to me.
It teaches me I should watch and pray and live rejoicing every day.

It also says, When He the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide me into all truth,

And it is the truth that makes us free.

No, I could not do without Jesus and the Bible.

He is all the world to me.

And when through the valley of death I pass,

He has promised me his rod and staff.

And when I have bidden farewell to those I love,

He will take me to my heavenly home above.

There I shall see him face to face,

And praise him for his wonderful saving grace.

And if on earth I must remain blind,

Never again to see,

Yet Jesus is the dearest of all to me.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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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
Phone Number 1523-J

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, 9:20 a. m.; preaching services, 11 a. m.; night services, 7:30 p. m.; Mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.;

"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

At this writing a revival meeting is in progress in the saints' chapel here in Guthrie. Bro. Egbert Allen of north Missouri and Bro. Archie Souder of Shawnee, Oklahoma have been doing the preaching, and the Lord has been using them to bring heart-searching messages for all the saints. Good has already been done and no doubt will increase as the truth enters into the souls of His children and makes them more like Christ with his Spirit manifestations, which will be a reproof to lagging, worldly-minded professors of religion.

In Luke 17:24 we read, "For as the lightning, that shineth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven: so shall also the Son of man be in his day." This Scripture is surely being fulfilled today, for the light of His Word shining more and more to those who are filled with His Spirit and walking in the light, separated from the world and having their bodies presented to the Lord as a living sacrifice.

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In Proverbs 14:14 we have a Scripture that reads like this, "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." In this Scripture is given two ways by which Satan is deceiving souls and keeping them in darkness with intentions of landing them in the lake of fire and brimstone where the worm (the soul) dieth not.

The first thought in this Scripture is that the backslider in heart (not in profession) is filled with his own ways. He may be a professor of religion and a preacher, but being filled with his own ways, he produces his own messages or rehearses some that he has had set down for years and has preached them over and over. He gathers much of his messages from observation and uses his human intellect in his procedures. Generally speaking, he is greatly interested in stressing the doctrine of tithing and telling people about his needs, urging them to give, give. He employs human art to "pep up" the services to make a show of being spiritual, uses much flattery in his talk and preaching, exercises himself much in being a good mixer, and easily falls into compromising methods wherever they will further his influence and temporal interests. Paul expresses it in Phil. 3: 18, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly (selfish, lustful interests) and whose glory is in their shame." They glory in things that are shameful in the sight of God. "Who mind earthly things." They get their rewards in earthly things and know nothing of what it means to bear the cross of Christ, for their life is preeminent and Christ is crucified and laid in the tomb.

When the mob of Jews clamored for the crucifixion of Jesus, they had the choice of releasing either Jesus or Barabbas, who was a murderer and robber. They chose to loose Barabbas and crucify Jesus. The

robber Barabbas well represents the self life of individuals, for it truly is a murderer and robber. Their self life is robbing God of his rightful place and is by influence and manifestations, teaching others to be robbers, reveling in the showy human religions of this world. In all these things does a backslider in heart prove that he is filled with his own ways. It is an exceedingly sad state for any soul, yet we find the world filled up with just such religious spirits working through human beings, deceiving and being deceived.

The thought in the last part of the verse is: A good man that is satisfied with himself. A man that is naturally good and is satisfied with himself is hard to reach with the gospel of Christ, because he is relying on his own goodness to get him through in that day. If he would consider the Scriptures in their true light, he would learn that no man can get to or into heaven by his own righteousness. Christ made this very plain when the rich young ruler came to him and said, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18).

Jesus' answer was, "Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God." The young ruler was looking at the man, the fleshly body as being good, and Jesus gave him to understand that it was God in him that made him good and that it was not the natural man that was good. Our righteousness is only as filthy rags in his sight. Nicodemus, no doubt, was a good man in a natural sense, but Jesus told him plainly, "Ye must be born again." Except a man be born from above and yields to God to retain His life in the soul, he is not good in the sight of God no matter how many good deeds he does nor how many nice prayers he may pray or how eloquent he may preach. It is God living in the soul and having his way in the heart that makes a man good in the sight of God. Jesus said to his disciples, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" Matt. 5:20.

The Pharisees had a high state of righteousness, but would be barred out of heaven because they had not the righteousness of the Lord in the soul. The righteousness of God is the only kind of righteousness that will exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. It is plain to see that no man can rely on his own goodness and make it into heaven. Ye must be born from above and retain that spirit and life from God in the soul if you please him in this life and make it into heaven.

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A great number of subscriptions expire with this issue of "Faith and Victory," because the year is fulfilled for the names received on the "Special Offer" last year. You will find a notice in your paper this time with a blank which will make it convenient for you to renew your subscription if you are one who's subscription expires. We desire that you renew your subscription for another year. The subscription price is only 25 cents for a year, which is one-fourth of what it would be if we were working

on a commercial basis. As this is a faith work and God supplies mostly by free-will offerings, we are enabled to send the gospel out by the printed page and make it practically free to all, so the poor can have the gospel preached to them. God "gave," and Jesus "gave." We are bought back to God, then we "give" as did our Father and elder brother. When he lives in us, we possess his spirit of giving freely to all as He gave. I am persuaded that God does not accept any gift unless it is given freely, absolutely free as unto the Lord. Persuading, begging, and working on human sympathy to obtain money to carry on religious work is not of God, but belongs to worldly "human religion."

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The "Special Offer" which we have sent out for subscriptions in the year of 1948 will expire by the 15th of December, so all who are sending in names and addresses for this offer should have them in to the office by this date (Dec. 15, 1947). We desire to start their subscription the first of the year with the January issue of 1948.

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At different times we have advised those who wished to write articles or testimonies for the "Faith and Victory" paper, to send manuscript in time for it to reach us on or before the 15th of the month previous to the month for which the issue is printed. Again we want to urge you to be prompt about getting your manuscript in on time. Also, please write or print plainly to avoid mistakes, and look up all Scripture references to be sure that you have them written just as they are in the Bible.

Since the ministers' meeting will be held here, beginning December the 15th, it will be necessary for us to get most of the material for the January issue of "Faith and Victory" ready before that time, and, if possible, to print it before that time. In order for us to do this it will be necessary for the writers to send manuscript as soon as possible after you receive this issue. "Faith and Victory" will go into many new homes next year, so we are looking to God to anoint saints to write articles and testimonies that will convict sinners of their need of Him and edify the believers. Will you pray with us, and ask God if he would have you write an article or testimony?

oOo BOOKS

A RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY by C. E. Orr is in stock again. Most of our readers are acquainted with this book, which is a supposed conversation between a man and his wife and pastor concerning truths of the Bible. Recently we have received orders for this book that we could not fill because our supply was exhausted, but now we wish to inform you that it has been printed again and we can fill orders for any amount so long as our supply lasts. Price 15 cents each, eight for \$1.00, or 100 for \$12.00.

CRUMBS OF TRUTH, a book of experiences and exhortations by Marie Pauline Sass, 48 pages, paper bound, price 15 cents each.

SPECIAL OFFER ON LARGE PRINT BIBLE AND NEW TESTAMENT

For Christmas and New Years we are extending to you a special offer on the large print Bible and New Testament described below.

Crystal-Clear Reference Bible with large print. It is especially good for old folks or those with dim eye vision. King James Version. Morocco grained black fabricoid, limp-type binding, semi-flexible with round corners, amber edges, headbands and bookmarkers. The regular price is \$6.00, but we are offering it to you for a limited time at \$5.50, post paid to any address in U.S.A.

Large print New Testament with the Psalms included. Those whose eyes need large print can read it easily. Bound in fine grained water-proof cloth, amber edges. Special price, \$1.50 post paid to any address in U. S. A.

These Bibles and Testaments are in stock and can be sent to you the same day we receive your order.

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Assembly Meeting Notices

California Assembly Meeting

The annual assembly meeting of the church of God will be held at the chapel on the corner of Walnut and Naomi Sts., Los Angeles, Calif. beginning Dec. 26 and lasting ten days. All lovers of the truth are invited.

For further information write to E. E. Forbes, 4250 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

When we collected the manuscript for the November issue of the "Faith and Victory" this Hammond, La. assembly meeting notice was overlooked. The saints at Hammond have sent notices of it to different congregations, and we hope all who planned to attend have learned its date and that the meeting will not be hindered because of our mistake. We are printing this notice in this issue for the benefit of those who may not have learned, as yet, the date of this meeting, as this paper will likely reach most of the subscribers a few days before the meeting begins.—Editor.

Hammond, La. Assembly Meeting

The Hammond, La. Assembly Meeting will begin Wednesday night, Nov. 26th and run through December 7th. We are expecting the Lord to send some of his faithful ministers to help in the meeting. All who come will be cared for. The campground is south of town. Max Williamson, in care of Post Office, Hammond, La.

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Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting

The state assembly meeting of the Church of God at Guthrie, Okla. will begin Friday, December 26, 1947 and last ten days. We request the saints to pray for the success of the meeting. We want Him to be glorified and his church edified and built up.

Send offerings for the support of this assembly meeting to Bro. O. C. Porter, 511 E. Springer, Guthrie, Okla. Please do not send them to Faith Pub. House.

MINISTERS' MEETING NOTICE

The national ministers' meeting to be held at Guthrie, Okla. will begin Dec. 15th and close Sat. the 20th, 1947.

Meals will be served at the dining hall and sleeping rooms will be furnished. Bring bedding. Anyone who desires to help finance this meeting may send offerings

to Faith Pub. House, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla.

Last year the meeting was financed by free-will offerings. The small amount of money which was not needed for food for the ministers was put into the Okla. state fund and used for the assembly meeting, because we had used some of the supplies which had been left in the dining hall for the ministers. But we feel that it would be good this year to use for the ministers only that which is sent in for that purpose and then to keep any amount that may be left over in a separate fund, so we can have some on hands at the beginning of the ministers' meeting next year.

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A BUILDING PROJECT

San Bernardino, Calif.—We have purchased a place here on which to build a place of worship. It is close to a Government Housing Project, and there are a number of children that we feel we could get to come to Sunday School. I feel that the Lord is in our having a place to worship. There are only a few of us here, yet we have saved \$500.00 and paid down on the lots which cost \$900. Now we need money to build. Bro. Fingerle and Bro. Zinn have offered to donate their labor to oversee the building. Also, others have offered their labor.

If any one wants to help us we would appreciate it very much. You could send the money to Bro. or Sister Gus Poulos, 805 Central Ave., Highland, Calif.; or to Sister Marie Miles, 1983 W. Wash., San Bernardino, Calif.

The building is to be in the edge of white, colored, and Mexican section, so all races of people would feel welcome. We have been having services in Sister Poulos' home for nearly two years and the Lord has blessed our coming together. I have taught the little class and have had as high as twenty in my class. I have enjoyed it very much.

—Anna Marie Miles

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Obituaries

Martha Ann Woody was born to Virginia and John Woody April 20, 1891 near Astoria, Wright County, Mo. and departed this life Oct. 16, 1947 at the age of 56 years, 5 months, and 27 days.

She was united in marriage to Waldo E. Burke, Apr. 3, 1909 near Norwood, Mo. To this union four children were born, three of whom are living: Waldorf E. Burke of Roscoe, Calif.; Mrs. Dorothy E. McCobe of Gary, Ind.; and Mrs. Natalie N. Allen of Forest City, Mo. Learia Elzonja preceded her in death at the age of 17 months in Jan. 1915.

Bereaved are: her husband, three children, eight grandchildren, one sister Tanna Gilly of Mtn. Grove, Mo., two brothers, Charley and John Woody of Hartville, Mo., three half brothers, Otto Hull of Selah, Wash., Earl Hull of Mtn. Grove, Mo., and Jesse Hull of Norwood, Mo. and three step sisters.

She gave her heart to the Lord when a young girl, and was baptized in later years. She never joined any denomination because she never felt it needful. In her last years she met the saints and accepted the truth. She was active in gospel singing, and trusted the Lord to the end.

She was a faithful companion at all times, a kind and loving mother, a good and cheerful friend and neighbor. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service was conducted by Bro. Edd Whipple in Forest City, Mo. Text: Rev. 14:13; Psa. 103: 16. Interment in the Oregon, Mo. Cemetery.

Mrs. Willa J. Clark, daughter of Alfred and Emma Gaines McNeill, was born in Hundingdon, Clark County, Tennessee, January 21, 1871, and passed away at her home Oct. 18, 1947 at the age of 76 yrs., 9 mos. 7 days.

She was the eldest of seven children, all of whom and her parents preceded her to the great beyond.

She was educated in the public schools of Topeka, Kans. to which place her parents moved when she was quite young. The next home was established in Okla. in 1889 when the Cheyenne-Arapaho territory was opened to settlement and where her parents staked a claim. For some years she was one of the leading teachers, being employed east of Dover, Okla. At one time she was an active member of the Eastern Star.

On Oct. 25, 1893 she was married to Mr. John H. Clark. She staked a claim when the Cherokee strip was settled. Here she and her husband lived and reared a son and three daughters. Her husband passed away April 6, 1919. In the spring of 1922 she left the farm and moved to her home in Hennessey, Okla.

She was christened in the Presbyterian denomination, and in her early life she heard the Master's voice and accepted Him as her Savior. Not finding the faith of her choice in her new location, she united with the A. M. E. and labored. She constantly sought for a closer walk with Jesus. Later she received light on the church of God and worshipped with the saints to the last.

She has been in poor health for several years, but continued to be active until a few weeks preceding her death when she was stricken.

Bereaved are: Mrs. E. Birdie Smith, John E. Clark, Mrs. Ethel E. Jones, all of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Mrs. Edith R. West of Ponca City, Okla.; five grandsons; three granddaughters; three nephews; four nieces; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Scripture text: 2 Cor. 5:1-9; Rev. 14:13; and 2 Sam. 12:23. Subject: Hope of the Righteous. Funeral service conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams and Sister Ada Davis, pastor, Hennessey, Okla.

PRAYER REQUEST

Word has been received that Alice Campbell of southeast Mo. has suffered the loss of most all household possessions and clothing by fire. She is young in the faith and has recently gone through some severe trials—loss of husband, afflictions, etc. She has three children. Please pray earnestly for her. She is a sister of Loraine Modglin who works at Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla.

— oOo —

Lifted from the Mire of Sin

I want to tell the world what God's grace can do for a boy or girl who has drifted into sin and away from God.

As a boy I was taught to be a Christian by a godly mother, but my father, who wasn't interested in religion or Christianity, caused me to doubt my mother's teachings. I never went to church only during "meeting time." So what I learned about Jesus was soon forgotten.

As I grew into my teen age I completely forgot my mother's teachings and God and turned to sin, worldliness and the things that the devil had to offer.

On Saturday night, June 27, 1936, while in a drunken stupor I accidentally walked into a house where they were having prayer meeting. As the

man read God's Holy Word my eyes were opened to find myself a lost sinner, bound by the fetters and chains of Satan. I was lost in the lust of the world, liquor, wild women, and everything that was for Satan and against God's teaching. I had gotten into such a stupor that I didn't respect anybody. I had been going to church where they had drunken, dancing, gambling men and women for deacons, teachers, and other church workers and I was just as good as they. I was gradually getting worse every day. I took up petty stealing, but as I left that prayer meeting that night I was burdened so I could hardly look into my mother's face. I used to drink away the conviction and I thus drifted along. I tried to kill myself but God sent someone to take the gun away from me. I then tried to poison myself, but as I lifted the glass of bichloride to my lips my mother took it from me.

My so-called friends who had stood by me in my drinking, stealing, and slothful life let me down. They couldn't help me when I went to get money to put back that I had stolen.

There I stood before the world branded a drunkard, robber, and a disgrace to society. I wanted to die. Satan wanted to kill me. But on the 7th day of July, 1936, I came to the conclusion that the only help I could get would come from God. I told God I would confess everything to man that I had done, except one thing—the fact that I was a thief. But He wouldn't do anything for me. As it seemed my life was ebbing away and death was choking me, I confessed my sins to God and promised to tell the world what God can do for a lost soul.

It seemed as if something went through my head and out my feet. Something new filled my soul. I was saved by the marvelous Grace of God.

So, reader, if God can save such a wretch as I and put a shout in my soul, He can do the same for you. Won't you accept Christ as your Saviour before Satan kills you? God bless every reader.

—C. A. Allison

— oOo —

A Solemn Warning The Seriousness of Living this Life

We had nothing to do with our coming into this life, *but we are here*, and we know we are going to leave this earth some time as all those who have gone before have done. And we know that there are only two places for us to go when we depart this life. It will be HEAVEN or HELL.

The Lord lets us choose for ourselves which one will be our eternal abode. So this matter of living and dying is a serious problem that confronts each of us. Which place will you choose for your eternal abode? Jesus said, "Ye *must* be born again." To enter heaven we must be pure and holy.

HEAVEN or HELL, which? Remember, you do the choosing for yourself. Bro. Geo. Stephenson

Cleansed From All Sin

"If we walk in the light [full gospel doctrine] as he [Christ] is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7. There is a belief dominant in apostate religious sects that no professing Christian can experience perfect freedom from all sin, that it is impossible in this wicked world to live without committing sin. I once heard a revivalist who was paid \$200 to conduct a two-weeks tent meeting say, "Now all of you folks who believe you can't live without committing sin, arise to your feet." Everyone, professors and non-professors arose to their feet.

The Bible says, "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" (spiritual birth) 1 John 3:9. Frankly, he hates every form of sin. His love for Jesus Christ and the better and far more worthwhile life of righteousness has such a strong appeal and love deep in his heart that he cannot and will not do an evil act or deed no more than can a loving faithful parent lay violent hands on and slay their own loving children. Because of their hatred of evil and their determination to live true to God, God gives grace so that no opposing element or power can prevail over them. A sincere Bible Christian is one who has sincerely repented of his sins and by the grace of God has ceased from every act that is hostile to God. He abhors sin.

Be governed by that freedom of Christ which frees you from bondage and slavery of Satan, whose motive is to rob your soul of its crown of righteousness and heirship to everlasting peace and glory. The inspired word of God says, "Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:11.

One is deceived who thinks he just must daily do evil. Be honest with yourself and with God your Creator. In James 1:14 we read, "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." No one is compelled to do unrighteous things against his own will power. The Christian martyrs chose torture and death rather than yield to evil powers. Will you allow Satan to put a ring in your nose, so to speak, and lead you about at his will and pleasure?

Many false teachers are declaring that when Jesus comes again he will then deliver you from all sin. Read your Bible carefully, for when the Lord comes again the day of salvation will have come to an end.

"For the rod [power] of the wicked shall not rest [prevail] upon the lot [decision] of the righteous, lest the righteous put forth [yield] their hands unto iniquity" Psalm 125:3. Genuine heart-felt, full salvation destroys any and all desire to sin against God.

Says the skeptic and unbeliever, "I can prove to you by the Bible in 1 John 1:8, 'If we say we have

no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.' " This statement refers only to the natural man in his unregenerate sinful state who possesses a guilty and condemned conscience and has not been made a new creature in Christ Jesus. For convincing proof, read the next verse (1 John 1:9), "If we confess our sins, he [Jesus] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Satan, the arch enemy of God and our number one enemy, who has controlling powers over those possessing an evil nature, is pleased to have professing Christians or church joiners deny the saving power or finished work of Christ, the redemption of the soul by the cleansing power of his blood. It was the purpose of God in sending his only begotten Son to redeem the soul and purge the heart of the sinful nature, thus destroying sin and the desire to commit sin. The Word of God is truth. It says that those who commit sin are the servants of the devil. "Sin you must" is a doctrine of devils instilled into the mental powers of ministers and teachers whom God never called and sent forth to preach the everlasting full gospel.

You who declare no one can be made free from all sin in this life are rated by the Word of God the same as those in dark Catholicism which you so bitterly oppose because of its man-made doctrine of purgatory and of saying mass for those souls who were not set free from all sin in the mortal state. Come out from among them (denominations) and be ye separate, saith the Lord (2 Cor. 6:17). For the eternal welfare of your soul, be honest and sincere. Obey the Word of God by separating yourself from any apostate organization that teaches no one can be free from all sin in this mortal state. Ask yourself why did God make such a supreme sacrifice, of sending His Son here to die, if that sacrifice would accomplish nothing in behalf of the souls of men? His love was so great and his plan of salvation so marvelous that it made the mighty host of heaven to wonder.

John H. Griffith

—o—o—o—o—o—o—

Dear Christian ones, greetings in Jesus' blessed name. I am glad to say I was a wicked sinner but the blessed Lord has made a wonderful change in my life. I was a big smoker, drinker, and blasphemer, but, glory to God, I am free from all those bad habits, glory to his name. And I am trying my best to serve him. I received all your helpful papers. Oh, how I appreciate them even though when I get them they are very old, but that doesn't make any difference. The Word of God can never be too old. Thanks be to God for them. I am a Merchant Marine, but my home is in the West Indies and I am expecting to go home soon, Lord willing. I will be very thankful to get more of those helpful papers. I do not have a great understanding of the Word of God. I read lots but my understanding is very bad. I am asking you dear saints in the Lord to please pray for me, that the Lord will open my dark understanding toward His Word that I may be a saved and sanctified child of God. That's my prayer night and day, so please pray for me. The Lord bless you dear saints. S. A. Haven

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, Children:

Do you know the devil just loves to get our boys and girls in trouble, and when they are in trouble he only laughs at them and never helps them out of it? One thing he tries to get them to do is to hit one another. This isn't very nice, and since we don't like to be hit, let's not hit any one else. I don't believe any of you really want to please the devil, so the next time anyone hits you and the devil tells you to hit back, just tell him you won't do it. Jesus will help us if we pray and ask him.

Our little boys and girls who want to live for Jesus do have trouble at school sometimes. There seems to always be someone ready to start a fight, but there won't be a fight if we don't fight.

A little boy told me that another boy at school kept hitting him. I asked him if he prayed and asked Jesus to make the boy quit hitting him.

He said, "If I hadn't prayed the boy would have hit me more."

Jesus is watching and sends his angels to guard us and care for us. We don't need to be afraid.

In Romans 12:18, 19, we read, "If it is possible as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay saith the Lord."

Jesus wants us to be nice to everyone and be at peace. But if someone wants to be bad and fight, just let them, because the Lord said he would repay them for being bad. If you will always remember this and when you grow up to be men and women you will be blessed because you have learned to let the Lord fight your battles for you, and how to get along with others.

I just pray that Jesus will talk to your dear little hearts and help you to understand how to live for him. Just do something nice to the one who wants to do you wrong and that will cause him to be ashamed that he wronged you. —Aunt Marie

THE "FAITH AND VICTORY"

The "Faith and Victory is very good,
It says for people to do what they should,
To do what the Lord tells you to,
And never to listen to what the devil tells
you.

Let's read the "Faith and Victory,"
And read the Bible more,
And Jesus will bless us
And take us to his shore.

—Alta May Harmon, Guthrie, Okla.
(11 years old)

Mo.—I want to thank the Lord for what he has done for me. He answers my prayers and I thank him. My little sister is getting better, for which I praise him. But please continue to pray for her. She is so tiny.

I also want you dear saints to pray for my sister's

baby who has the rickets. Also pray for my mother. She seems to be sick all the time and I know the Lord can heal her. Your sister in Christ, Mary Louise Reed.

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La.—Dear saints,—Greetings to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:—I am only a child fourteen years old and I've been in bed twelve years, and I am happy. The Lord has kept me all these many years. Just think how you can lay on your back all these years and not have bed sores. Isn't it wonderful how God helps sick children and keeps them from worrying? I've heard many people say that if they were like me they didn't think they could go on. But if they would get their mind on God it would not be so hard. So I pray that God will still get me out of this condition that I may work for him and do his will. I can't turn my head and my left leg is bent under. My right leg is stiff and my fingers are all crippled so I can't write, but somebody is writing this testimony for me.

My favorite song is, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "I Am A Child of God." My favorite Bible verse is, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

Pray for me that I might get out of bed and work for us. I am going to try to attend the winter meeting in Hammond if the Lord is willing. I thank the saints all for what they do for me and for those song books and Bible Story Books and the Bible they gave me. I hope that you all won't forget to pray for me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your brother in Jesus Christ, Theodore Carter.

Correspondence

Mo.—Dear saints of God, Greetings in Jesus dear name,—For some time we have thought of sending our testimony. We thank the Lord we found him when we did. We are now both saved and living a holy life and want to be all he will have us to be.

We were saved at the campmeeting at Langdon, Mo. in 1946. We went to the meeting the last night. The meeting was extended three nights and in that time we heeded the call and found our place among the saints.

For years the Spirit of God had talked to us. We knew we should be saved. "Well, some day I will," would be the answer. We wondered which was the true way. We thank Him we found it. We believe it was through the prayers of the saints around here that God searched us out. There may have been a time when we could have gotten into something else, but God knew where he wanted us. "I have heard thee in a time accepted." 2 Cor. 6:2.

Since we were saved we have had persecutions for trusting the Lord for our healing and for living a holy life for him. (2 Tim. 3:12). Some of our own house have become cold toward us and sinner friends have separated themselves from us. We were told by one that he did not want the religion we had. Yes, we are a peculiar people. Read 1 Peter 2:9. We cannot expect the world to love us, for Christ told us in St. John 15:19, 20 that it would not love us. When we read the third and fourth chapters of Second Timothy, we can certainly see the Bible is being fulfilled. They turned away from the truth and are certainly lovers of their own selves and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

The Lord tells us in Matt 24:37 that it would be as it was in Noah's time just before His coming. God was

forgotten then and is just about left out today. There are not many who are really living for God today, but many have a form of godliness.

We are praying for every true saint of God, that none will lose out with the Lord. They are few and precious today, and will have trials and tribulations to endure before the end comes.

Please pray for us that we will always be faithful to our Lord. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Boulden

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

Mich.—Dear brothers and sisters,—I received the tracts on healing and the card you sent and they are certainly wonderful. Your prayers for the little girl have been answered. The child is better. The pain that was in her arm has left and the swelling gone down, and she will be released from the hospital.

God certainly answered prayer in this case and I certainly praise God and thank him for the healing of the little girl.

I told her I had written to you for prayer for her. She smiled. I told her to pray, and she did. She is only nine years old. She went to sleep and slept soundly all night. We praise God for the blessing that he has bestowed upon us. Mrs. Fred Kunzelman

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Mich.—Dear saints of God everywhere,—Greetings of holy love to you all. I have promised the dear Lord that I would write in my testimony and tell you how wonderfully he has blessed us since the Monark Springs camp meeting.

I have put off writing until my little girl's leg was completely healed so there would be no gainsaying.

When I was still at Monark Springs and near the close of the meeting I had something like a vision or dream about my little girl nine years old getting hurt real bad, and there was a large bloody spot on something white that came up before my face. It bothered me a lot and I couldn't help thinking about it. I prayed and reasoned with God, that nothing would happen to her (for it seemed like she had been fatally hurt to me). On the way home on the bus I could still see that spot before me, it seemed, and I prayed for her much.

When I arrived home I learned that she had been cut very badly on the leg by a broken milk bottle which she dropped and fell on. She had four bad cuts and two very bad ones. They laid open so one could lay a little finger in them. The neighbors had put some kerosene and something else on to stop the extreme bleeding. I believe God stopped the bleeding while I was praying. She could easily have bled to death.

That night she was in very much pain. My husband and I prayed into the night until she could rest. The Lord touched her and she was all right, but she fell again and then she fell again on the cement curb and her leg got stiff and she got sick and had to go to bed. It looked like blood poison had started to set in, and I don't believe I ever was so burdened before. It seemed like she would die because I was determined to trust the Lord, and Clarence my husband was grasping for more faith.

We called the saints from Kalamazoo. They came and prayed for her. She got up and walked, but the burden had not left me and she was still quite bad the next day. I couldn't get away from the looks of the thing and my faith would not press through. I knew I had to pray through, so I went out in our old garage and prayed until I knew I had the victory. She herself kept reproving me for my lack of faith. From that time on it started getting much better. Her fever left and

the red marks left and she started to get around naturally. This last week the last sore completely healed up. A complication of something like impatigo had set in, but God healed the whole thing, praise his name. I did not doubt God at all after I prayed through to victory.

My husband has been healed of a two-year's affliction (thyroid trouble). We praise the Lord for this because the doctors could not help him, and when he fully trusted the Lord he was healed.

The children (I have two, a boy 5 and a girl 9.) have recently been healed of some very bad sores that they caught from some other children. They were something like impatigo but much worse—it seemed to me.

We have been tried on every hand, but God has brought us through it all with all the thanks and praise belonging to him. Our neighbors and friends do not understand our trust in God, but we know from whom our help cometh. Since my husband reconsecrated himself to God in the Kalamazoo campmeeting this year, we are all trusting the Lord for soul and body in our home. It is blessed to trust the Lord.

I want to say just one more thing because this is so lengthy I must close, and that is this: that I think about all of you dear saints that I have met in the campmeetings a lot and my love goes out to you all. I don't get to write to you all because I don't have time, but let this be a message of love to you all. Space will not permit me to tell all the Lord has done for us.

Your sister in the Lord,

Margaret Brant

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La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints in the Lord,—I am still praising the Lord and want to do His will. We can only keep saved by doing His will. He expects us to live holy lives for Him every day of our lives and not just one day a week. I am glad that Jesus did the Father's will and finished the work the Father gave him to do. I am sure you are glad too. When his disciples wanted him to eat at one time, Jesus said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. . . My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work."

The voice of God came down from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." God was well pleased with His Son because he was willing to suffer and die and shed his innocent blood to cover the sins of this lost world. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave the very best that could be found in heaven to redeem poor lost men and women. All that Jesus did, he did it heartily as unto the Father. He knew the Father loved the world and he was willing to suffer and die to save poor lost humanity. Jesus finished his work with a broken heart.

Dear saints, pray that I will live the life and do the will of the Father and walk in the strait and narrow way.

A brother in Christ,

A. A. Wyles

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Kansas—Dear ones at the Faith Publishing House, and all who are interested in the wonderful power of God. Greetings in the dear name of Jesus,—From the depths of our hearts we thank him for his wonderful care and love. We thank him this morning because we can say we stand victorious over the enemy through the grace and mercies of God and the precious saints of God who help to bear the burdens of the ones who are having tests and trials. Only God knows how much we have enjoyed meeting the saints. He has been so good and merciful to us. How will we ever be able to thank him enough? It is so hard to put into words just how we feel. We feel this testimony is what the Lord would have us to write.

One year ago this last August a varicose ulcer started on my left limb just above the ankle, and continued to get larger for eight months before the other one broke through. As we were not with the saints at that time, it seemed the battle was pretty rough, but we were trusting God for the healing that time in spite of so many wanting us to go to the doctor. We felt that it would be putting God to shame if we trusted the weak arm of flesh after he had kept us saved through such discouraging times. The very moment we told the Lord if he wanted us that way it was all right with us, that we were his anyway, all the pain stopped, the swelling left, the secretion stopped, and a few weeks later the scabs fell off, praise His name. Just about thirteen months later the limb broke out with several large ones as well as some smaller ones. The flesh was so bad in the affected area that it seemed the flesh would rot from the bones. Such itching, pain, swelling and running of the sores! It seemed at times we could not bear it. It was at a time that we needed to be up and around, as a meeting was to be in progress shortly here in Coffeyville. This condition became some better as the meeting progressed as we had been anointed and prayed for. Much of the swelling left and I could wear my shoes again. I was better each day until I testified to the Lord's helping me, then the next several days I was worse. The enemy had to try his tool of discouragement.

It has been about one month ago that the Lord told me the work was done and the song "Victory, Victory," flooded my soul. Even since then the signs have remained, but we believed it. An anointed handkerchief was brought to us from Guthrie by some of the dear saints coming this way to give all of us encouragement. The handkerchief was handed us and we felt the healing go through us again, praise His precious holy name! Since Friday (and this is Monday) the one large sore that is left has almost dried up. No human hands have touched this to deliver any medical aid. Just a little olive oil was used to remove the bandage that was sticking. The other smaller sores are completely gone. From the depths of my heart, I thank the good Lord for his saving, keeping grace, and his wonderful healing power. Praise the good Lord, the day of miracles is not passed.

Our daughter Marilyn is still having trouble with her appendix. Each attack is more severe. We were told when she was seven that it had to come out then, but we could not bring ourselves to the place that we were willing for an operation. Now that we know about the healing power of God, since we have been saved, we trust the Lord completely. The Lord has kept her thru this for some time, but we desire complete healing. We ask an interest in your prayers in her behalf.

It is our prayer that everyone will be encouraged to trust God completely.

We have been with the saints since April of this year, and have received real soul food. We praise the Lord for preachers who will hold up the banner of truth for God. To each saint that we met at the campmeetings at Monark Springs and Guthrie, we send our love, and to each saint that we have not met as yet, we send our love; also, to all, keep pressing on to the goal.

Yours in Christian service, Sister Ralph Beisley

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Ohio—Dear brothers and sisters, greetings in the blessed name of Jesus,—I feel led to write my testimony. I am saved and trusting in God for soul and body, determined to go all the way with Jesus, and I know some day he will call for me and say, "Your work on earth is

done, come up higher." I have many loved ones waiting for me in that blessed home on high.

I want all the dear saints to remember us in prayer. I am isolated from the saints and do not get to meet with them for worship very often. I love to read "Faith and Victory" paper. It is pure and it is food to my soul to read how the dear Lord keeps his dear children with victory in their souls. Many papers printed today do not interest a saved person because of so much advertising and other things of the world. Salvation is not of the world. Your sister in Christ, Amanda Jones.

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Oregon—To all the blessed of the Lord, called to be saints, redeemed from the world, greeting in him who does all things for us who believe and obey him.

The Lord gave us a glorious campmeeting last summer. I believe almost all who attended will testify that it was a good time in the Lord. I feel like witnessing that God is still with us and supplying our needs in both soul and body.

On Oct. 27, Bro. D. A. Gibson appeared among us. We did not know he was coming. He arrived Sunday night. We began a meeting Tuesday night and continued over Sunday. Then Bro. Gene Harmon and wife were with us Sunday, and a number of scattered saints came. God surely did bless the brethren in delivering his truth, and we feel all were benefitted.

The enemy of all righteousness is surely working in more ways than ever before to lead souls astray, away from the truth as it is in Christ, the gospel which we have believed and received to the saving of our souls. The pure truth of God which is revealed by his Holy Spirit abiding in our hearts and souls is the only thing that will keep us from being swept away by the error of the wicked.

A dear sister gave a glorious thought in our last meeting last Sunday. She said at one time one of her children was very sick. They fully trusted the Lord. She went in prayer to God, saying, "Lord, if you don't heal this child, if it dies it will bring reproach on the cause." The Lord said to her, "Whose cause is it?" She fell on her face and said, "Dear Saviour, it is yours, and this child is yours, do as it pleases you." And God instantly healed the child.

This work is God's and his hand of power will protect and defend it and every one who will be true and steadfast in the light of truth which he has delivered to us.

Pray for us and the work here, that we humbly obey God our commander. Your brother, loving the gospel with all my heart and soul, willing to suffer and die for him and the truth which purified my soul when I obeyed it. Sam Wilson.

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La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Hope you all are feeling fine and still enjoying working for the Lord. I want to thank you all for the interest you took in having prayer for me. The place on my lip is completely gone. The Lord has wonderfully healed it. I would love to see all of you. Remember me when you pray.

Cora Pecanty

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"FAITH AND VICTORY" YEAR BOOK

It has been our custom for several years to bind eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper together in book form, for the convenience of those who like to keep all back numbers. As in previous years, we shall have this book ready for our readers by Jan. 1, 1948, Lord willing. Price 40 cents each.

Restoration Without Confession

It is understood that the statement has been made, that one who is on back ground in his experience should fix it up with God at home rather than at a public altar, lest he bring reproach upon the church. Is this the proper attitude?

Sin is the rejection of light. This rejection of much light brings great guilt. The backslider, therefore, is the greatest sinner because of his turning away from the greatest light. The man who gets drunk and lands in jail is not the greatest sinner in God's sight.

We expect the sinner, who was never converted, to publicly confess his sins by going to the altar, but what about the greatest sinner? Can the most guilty sinner get back to God privately if it requires a humble public confession from the lesser sinner?

The enemy tells the professor, who has broken fellowship with God, "You must not let the church know your state, for they will lose confidence in you, for you have been professing to be in a good state of grace. Fix it up with God at home privately."

Satan knows that God has said, "If we confess," He will forgive, and that He never forgives unconfessed or hidden sins. These professors, who are backslidden in heart know that their joy is gone.

The vital question is: Can a soul who has been professing a state of grace before the church, and at the same time realized that he was luke-warm and backslidden in heart (for the Spirit is faithful), be restored to fellowship with God, without a confession as public as his profession has been? To knowingly profess falsely is to lie. A soul that lies must confess to the one to whom he has lied just like any other falsehood. Multitudes have attempted to regain fellowship with God, after they had been professing to be saved or sanctified before the church, without acknowledging their false professing, but they have always failed.

Oh, if these defeated souls could only regain the joy and love that once burned in their hearts, but God said "confess," but they are unwilling to do this. They keep their profession, knowing that they are only lukewarm, for fear of bringing reproach on the church or because they think the church will lose confidence in them. Oh, if they could only realize that one happy restored backslider is worth more to God and the church than a thousand lukewarm professors.

If a soul prays through to restoration at home, he must promise God that he will confess. God will use that confession, whether it is to bow at the altar or otherwise, to encourage some other soul who has the same problem to solve. Many settle down to a life of perpetual defeat because they feel they cannot humble themselves and confess.

The Word says, "Confess your faults one to another," (James 2:16).

"Then shall they confess the sin that they have done." (Num. 5:7).

"If my people, which are called by my name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7:14).

"He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11).

Backsliding is a terrible sin and not many are fully restored from it because they will not humble themselves or because of the false teaching regarding restoration. Only those who are willing to pay any price can be restored to fellowship with God. When the Holy Spirit first reveals a leanness of soul, then that saint should hasten to God. Many times the evangelist will make a public test and many will stand up with the others or raise their hands, although they realize they are backslidden in heart, because of the embarrassment it will cause them if they sit (strict honesty before God, today, is unusual), then having made a false public profession they will continue to profess, for when a public stand is made, it is usually continued.

The secret cause of the lukewarm condition among many professing to be God's children can usually be found here—no open confessions!

"As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." Eyes are dry, souls are without travail, joy is gone, and lives are fruitless, because luke-warmness is not confessed. —Sel.

UNSEARCHABLE

Is it possible to fathom
God's knowledge and power?
His ability to heal
And His love for our
Poor souls in despair,
Tho' He numbers our hair?

Oh could we as mortals
Get one glimpse of Him,
How we'd hold tightly His hand
And flee from all sin.

—Erle E. Forbes

"Modern Persuasion" says that Daniel was not really in the lions' den; he had merely eaten too many dill pickles the night before, and had a nightmare as a result—he imagined, he dreamed, he was in a den of lions. What impudent nonsense for man to so treat the sacred Word of God. The righteous still believe the Word of God and receive His protection and care even as Daniel did.

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BIBLE STUDY

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

Material for the last three lessons of the International lessons for Dec. is taken from the book of Revelation. Revelation is a book of symbols and many who have tried to interpret it literally have caused confusion and disorder among religious people. It cannot be properly understood by taking verses from different parts of the book and placing them together, as has been done in the last two lessons. Since it would take too much time and space to discuss these scriptures in their original and proper settings in the book, we are printing other Scriptures to be used in the Sunday Schools for these two Sundays.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, December 7, 1947

Printed Portion Third John 1-14.

3 John 1. The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

2. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

3. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

5. Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

6. Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

7. Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

8. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.

9. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

11. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

12. Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

13. I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

14. But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

Memory Verse: I thank God . . . for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1:3, 5.

Practical Truth: It is the duty and privilege of all of us to be helpers in carrying on God's work.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In previous lessons were proofs of true Christians and brotherly love. In our study today is true Christian fellowship "with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3). There is but one way to obtain this fellowship, and that is to "walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7). This was the proof of fellowship which existed between the elder (John, who was then an old man) and Gaius, "whom I love in the truth."

Someone may ask as did Pilate (John 18:38) "What is truth?" In 1 John 5:6 is the answer, "The Spirit is truth."

Though this letter was written to Gaius, yet it was inspired by the Holy Spirit and is good for all Christians. Do you wonder why the Holy Spirit would inspire one to connect spiritual prosperity with physical health and ma-

terial prosperity? If this were applied to the unsaved they would be poverty stricken and invalids. God often permits them to have health and the things of this world because they have nothing to look forward to beyond this life; but it is true with a saved person that God grants to them the amount of health and material prosperity that he sees is for their good spiritually. Unless our souls are prosperous we will not have wisdom from God to know how to use health and prosperity and they will endanger our souls. When one's soul is prospering, he will use his possessions to advance the cause of Christ.

John had no doubt concerning the soul prosperity of Gaius. Notice the marks of a prosperous soul mentioned here: 1. The truth was in him and he walked in it. The Spirit of Christ was in him, giving him a knowledge of the will of God, and he was willing to obey the truth. It seems that some people have gone far enough with the Lord to have a knowledge of the truth, but have permitted their souls to become blinded because they were either indifferent or rebellious and did not practice it. 2. He walked in the truth in such a way that he had a good report among the brethren who had visited him. They "bore witness to his charity." Others can see Christ in the lives of those whose souls are prospering. 3. He not only received and helped brethren who were strangers to him in the flesh, but he continued to do so in spite of the fact that Diotrephes forbade it. A true Christian will be true to his convictions of right and wrong even though he is set aside for doing it.

The duty of entertaining strangers is of particular importance, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware, and inasmuch as we do it unto one of the Lord's creatures, we do it unto him. Notice, it was for His name's sake that these humble brethren had left their own homes to travel in the land where they were strangers and in need of hospitality from brethren in Christ. They were working for the souls of the Gentiles, and felt it was for the good of the cause not to burden them by taking material support from them. The church today should support Christian brethren, evangelists, and missionaries that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

In verse 9 we have a contrast to the first part of our lesson. This Diotrephes was just opposite to Gaius. He loved to have the preeminence and pratted against the brethren with malicious words.

There is good advice in verse eleven. Consider it well. We are not saved because of good works, but salvation will cause one to do good works and not evil.



LOYALTY UNDER PERSECUTION

Sunday, December 14, 1947

Printed Portion Revelation 2:8-11; 7:9-17.

Rev. 2:8. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9. I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

10. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

9. After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10. And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12. Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14. And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Memory Verse: Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.

Practical Truth: Those who are loyal under persecution will receive a wondrous reward.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Many times people start out in the Christian life with the idea that it is a life of ease, happiness, and beautiful works of benefaction to mankind. Truly it includes these things (all but ease), but Christ stressed another side, a side from which the flesh recoils, and that is a life of suffering. He said those who would not take up the cross and follow him could not be his disciple. The cross brings suffering to the flesh. Though the literal cross brought great suffering to Him, yet that was not the only cross he bore in His earthly life. He had no place to lay his head. He was despised and rejected of men, etc. It is written that He left us an example: "When he was reviled, he reviled not again: when he suffered he threatened not." If He had meant that His followers should always be protected and shielded from suffering, he would not have needed to set the example to teach them how they should act in suffering. The greatest distinction between Christians and other men is that Christians have divine grace to suffer with patience, while others give vent to feelings of hatred, anger, and impatience when they suffer.

There is a deep import in the first part of this message to the church at Smyrna concerning the living Christ. He wants His suffering followers to know that He "is alive" to know their works, to know their tribulations and sufferings, to speak words of comfort and give grace for every time of need, and to reward the loyal ones with everlasting life. When people realize the value of a "crown of life" and what it will mean not to be "hurt of the second death," the persecutions they go through in this life for Jesus' sake will seem like "light afflictions."

Rev. 7:9-17—This Scripture gives us a glimpse of the redeemed after they have endured the sufferings of this life and gained their reward. In comparison to the multitudes that have peopled the earth in all ages, those who lived for Christ have been few; but the few make a great number when they are gathered together in heaven. White robes symbolize the righteousness with which Christ clothes the souls redeemed by His blood. They have been washed and cleansed from their sins. The Word mentions "garments spotted by the flesh" and warns us to hate them (Jude 23). One can never stand before the throne in such a garment. Since we all want to be among the victors clothed in white, let us consider some ways that we might permit our garment to become spotted by the flesh after it has been washed and made white: 1. By murmuring and complaining and becoming impatient in trials. 2. Resorting to the arm of flesh, or taking a "by-path" which deviates a little from the plain truths of God's word, to escape suffering. 3. By permitting discouragement to hinder us from doing our God-given duties. 4. By retaliating or becoming vexed at the one who may have caused the trial, whether purposely or accidentally. Perhaps you can name other ways. Satan will tempt one to yield to some of these evils every time one faces a hard trial, but the Lord will give us grace not to yield if we watch and wait before him in earnest prayer.

Palms is a symbol of victory. Those who wish to be among the number who carry the palms, must be willing to pay the price here in this earth.

"The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
Leads to the place where sorrow is unknown."

—oOo—

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Sunday, December 21, 1947.

Printed PortionIsaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 98:1-4.

Isa. 9:2. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

3. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

5. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.

6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of peace.

7. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Psa. 98:1. O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

2. The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

3. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Memory Verse: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.

Practical Truth: The rule of God and of his Christ is attended with blessings to all who submit thereto.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"The people that walked in darkness [spiritual darkness] have seen a great light." The prophet has reference to the coming of Christ, "who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying, The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matt. 4:16. Another Scripture which proves this was the mission of Christ is found in Luke 1:79, "To give light to them that sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Again Christ's own words tell us, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Every one who has experienced the new birth knows what it means to be in darkness and the shadow of death, but now light has come and we are walking in the glorious light of the gospel. "Arise, shine: for thy light is come." Isa. 60:1.

In the next few verses the battle which Christ came to wage against Satan and all his works of evil is compared and contrasted with the battles of the world, fought with carnal weapons. The weapon in this warfare is the Holy Spirit fire.

"Unto us a Child is born." Here is a prophecy of the Messiah, coming to the world by the natural fleshly birth. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

"Unto us a Son is given." "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son." Jno. 3:16.

"And the government shall be upon His shoulders." "And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut and none shall open." In Matt. 16:18 is a reference to the fulfillment of this prophecy, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Again in Matt. 28:18, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." It is only in Christ that we find the power to reign over sin in this present evil world. His course in this world was to finish the work His Father had given Him to do that he might make his foes (sin and every evil work) his footstool. "He that is begotten of God (born of the Spirit) keepeth himself and that wicked one toucheth him not."

"His name shall be called Wonderful"—something beyond the ordinary. He is wonderful to His people in the care he bestowes upon them, in the abundance of grace he ministers to them, in the perfectness of His sympathy to them, and He places Himself so entirely with his people that they have not a single care, trial, test, or temptation of any sort, but it is as much His as theirs.

We should take counsel of Christ because in him are all the qualities that would cause us to value and seek counsel to be able to live above sin and condemnation. "How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation."

His works are wonderful. "He hath done marvellous things." His words were marvellous. "Never man spake like this man." The great object of our Lord's mission was to save man from sin. "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." "He hath made known his salvation and openly showed His righteousness." He hath proved himself "mighty to save." "He hath remembered His mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel. The house of Israel had long waited for the fulfillment of the promises God had made to them concerning the coming Saviour. To man it would have seemed that God had forgotten his promise, but "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son."

When the Lord saves a soul the joy is so great that words cannot express it. It is joy unspeakable and full of glory, and the soul in which Christ has been born echoes the song which the angels sang when Christ was born into the world: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."



GOD'S ETERNAL RULE

Sunday, December 28, 1947.

Printed Portion Psalm 145:8-21.

Psalm 145:8. The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

9. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

10. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee.

11. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power;

12. To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

13. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

14. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

15. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

16. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

17. The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

18. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

19. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20. The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

21. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Memory Verse: Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. Psalm 145:13.

Practical Truth: God rules over all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Let us consider the words in the 8th verse and find some solid ground for the saying, "God is good to all." The goodness of God is clearly stated. "He is gracious and good to all." He has pity on the suffering; He is full of compassion. Think of your own life. Can you recall many times when He was merciful to you, when you knew you deserved no mercy? How long do you

think this world would last if some man had the power over it that God has, if men would treat him as they treat God? The Lord is long suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Truly, his mercy endureth forever to them that will accept it and hide in it, but those who spurn offered mercy and will not enter his refuge, will be exposed to his wrath. Often we hear the remark, "If God is merciful like you say He is and like the Bible says, He will not send me to hell." He does not send people to hell. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels and God paid a great price to redeem fallen man from the clutches of the devil. But He still permits man to choose whom he will serve. If he chooses to remain in the devil's bondage, then he must needs share his master's final abode, which is the lake of fire.

God has pity for suffering men, patience with sinful men ("The goodness of God leadeth men to repentance."), and pardon for penitent men.

All of God's works manifest his power, his wisdom, and goodness. His greatest work is the work of the new birth in the soul. How could a redeemed soul help but praise Him?

The 11th verse says His saints (born-again people) shall speak of the glory of his kingdom. What is meant by his kingdom?

The mission of Christ to this world was to bind the powers of sin, to deliver men from the kingdom of spiritual darkness and death and translate them into the kingdom of spiritual light and life. Christ rules and reigns in the hearts of these people here in this life, unseen by the world except as His holy life is lived out before them through His people. This is the glorious kingdom which the world cannot see, but His saints see it and talk about it and endeavor to make it known to those in darkness.

Then in one sense all the literal kingdoms of this world are His kingdoms because they are subject to His power and must rise or fall as He commands. He has all power in heaven and in earth, and the inhabitants of this earth will do well to realize and recognize His power, though only a few do. Even His own children are often hindered from having constant victory because of a failure to understand from the depths of their hearts that "God rules over all." They often say it with their lips, but do not believe it to the extent that they can realize that all that comes against them must come by His permission. If they did, it would take the bitterness out of trials. Jesus realized this when he said to Pilate, who had declared he had power to crucify Him, "Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above." Here are other Scriptures which bear out this thought: "Whatsoever the Lord pleaseth, that doeth He, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and all deep places." "He delivereth and rescueth." "He removeth kings and setteth up kings." If God be for us, who can be against us? There are many others, too numerous to mention here. Look for more.

It might help you to guard against the skeptical spirit which at present is damning many souls, if you will make a list of examples recorded in the Scriptures in which God permitted trials and tribulations to come against the righteous, then caused all things to work together for their good. This list would include Job and his afflictions, Daniel in the lions' den, the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace, the crucifixion of Jesus, etc.

Have you experienced trials that at the time seemed so severe you could not understand why God permitted them, but afterward learned that He had taught you a valuable lesson through them?