

FAITH AND VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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The Timely Message

Give us a message that stirs the soul,
That's filled with the Spirit's power;
One that changes the hearts of men,
And meets the need of the hour.

Give us a message of solid truth,
Throbbing with life replete,
Of "milk and wine" from the word of God—
"For what is the chaff to the wheat?"

Give us a message that exalts the Christ,
Makes known his power to save;
That breaks the fetters of sin o'er men,
Sets free the sin-bound slave.

A message that's more than empty words
Is the crying need of the hour:
"For the kingdom of God is not in word,"
But in truth and love and power.

A message that saves men from the world:
From pride and lust and wine;
From pomp, deceit, and selfishness;
Yea, sin of every kind.

A message of gospel unity,
Free from sects and creeds:
A message of "one in Christ" alone,
Is a message the whole world needs.

A message that leads to an "upper room"
Where the soul is endued with power;
And Satan trembling, defeated stands:
Is the vital need of the hour.

—Alvin J. Ellison.

"Unto Him Shall the Gathering Of the People Be"

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Gen. 49: 10.

The word "Sceptre" means royal authority, and a "law-giver" is one formulating laws to govern people; a legislator. These both have long since departed from Judah, and Shiloh, which means the Messiah or Rest-giver, which is Christ our Lord, came over nineteen centuries ago. He has brought soul rest and peace to everyone that is a true believer. The Scripture says, "Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." True believers are gathered by the Spirit of the Father unto Christ (John 6:44) and they will have no other way, for all other foundations are sinking sand. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life; and outside of Him is no eternal life.

Isaiah the prophet, referring to Shiloh, the Messiah, the rest-giver, (Isa. 9:6) says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder." Christ is now the governor of the true children of God. "And his name shall be called, Wonderful [He is certainly a wonderful Saviour and governor to those that love Him, and are willing and obedient servants.] Counsellor [His children look upon Him and know him to be the Almighty God, the ruler of the universe, the omnipotent One. They know no other God but Him. His law to them is above all other laws or powers, spiritual or literal.] The everlasting Father [Truly, he is a father to the fatherless, and to the widow, and to all true believers.] The Prince of Peace." When He comes into our souls he brings peace and good-will toward men. The peace He gives passeth all understanding. He keeps them in perfect peace that have their mind stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). One Scripture says, "When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?" Job 34:29. There is no power or spirit that can make trouble when He giveth quietness and peace,

"The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever." Isaiah 32:17.

The next verse reads: "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." The zeal of the Lord of Hosts is performing this.

The text is: Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." The following verse reads: "Binding his foal [offspring (John 3:7)] unto the vine, and his ass' colt unto the choice vine." Jesus is the true vine, and the choice vine. "He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes."

The Scripture says: "Binding his foal unto the vine." In John's gospel 15:1 Jesus declares himself to be the "true vine." In the following verses He tells us that we, his children who are "born again," are the branches. Thus we see how that we who are born of the Spirit, born from above, are bound to the true Vine and draw our strength and substance, knowledge, and wisdom from Jesus, the true vine, and in this way bear the fruits of the Spirit.

"He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes." The juice of the grape symbolizes the blood of Christ which he shed for us. Isaiah the Prophet, writing about this and the shed blood of Christ which stained his clothes (referring to the crucifixion) also said, "Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the wine press alone; and of the people there was none with me: . . . And their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment." Isa. 63.

It is unto Christ and only Christ that the people are to be gathered. Jesus extends the invitation: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Jesus is the soul rest-giver and none can have the real soul rest until they do come unto Him. He is the true foundation. He is the Stone which the builders, the sects in his day, rejected, and whom the sects today are rejecting. He has now become the head of the corner. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Read Matt. 21:42. Paul, writing about the children of God (household of God), says, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building [not just part of it] fitly framed together [not apart] groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together [together] for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:20, 21, 22.

In 1 Cor. 3:11 it is written: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." The foundation that Jesus has laid is the only foundation that will stand. Though men, thru the aid of Satan, imitate and have foundations of their own, and Satan, thru his religious imps, may have false vines and call them churches; yet, not being the true, they will be burned. All these man-made churches and groups of religious people will not get you into heaven, as their foundations are sandy and their vine is false. They have some doctrines and

teachings that are out of line with the Scriptures and lead astray by attaching you to the world and its religions. God, in all of His Word, has never told you to join anything but the Lord; and you are to make a perpetual covenant with Him. (Jer. 50:5).

David brought out a good thought for us in Psalm 11:1: "In the Lord put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?"

These man-made churches and man-made groups could be termed as a mountain as they lift themselves up as the church, have quite a large following, and are seeking to draw souls to them. David gave all such to understand that his trust was in the Lord and he was amazed at them asking him to flee to their mountains. Mount Zion, the Lord's building, is the only safe place for any soul. In Isa. 2:2 it is written that it shall come to pass in the last days (These are the last days) that the mountain of the Lord's house (those that are gathered unto Christ, Mount Zion) shall be established in the top of the mountains (above all these man-made churches which have a large following and are making a big show of religion in the flesh) and shall be exalted above the hills (these lesser groups and factions are the hills) and all nations (people from all nations) shall flow unto it. Read the next verse also.

These human-organized and man-gathered churches are an exceedingly unsafe place for any soul to be, for they are to be burned and destroyed with an everlasting destruction. We read in John 15:6, "If any man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." If you are being gathered into these humanly organized world religions and other smaller factions and groups, you are subjecting yourself to the awful destructions and burnings in the end.

Let us turn to Rev. 14:18, "And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire [He was given power from God to set fire to things and destroy and to cast willingly-deceived people into the great winepress of the wrath of God (10th v.)] and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe"—ripe for destruction. You will notice that it says, "Gather the clusters of the vine of the earth." The false vines in the world are not of heaven, but of earth; hence the vine of the earth was gathered and in clusters. Men had gathered them together into clusters or bunches, these false religions which are of the earth.

Jesus, who is the true vine, is not of the earth or world. He told the disciples that "Ye are not of the world even as I am not of the world." He told the sect leaders in his day, "Ye are from beneath, I am from above: ye are of this world. I am not of this world" (or earth) John 8:23. We can see by this that those attached to the true vine, which is from above and not of the earth, would not be included in this gathering. The many false vines are of the earth and those with their followers are the ones to

be cast into the great wine press of the wrath of God. Read the 9th and 10th verses of this chapter.

11th verse, "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth [not in that heavenly place where the true vine and his branches are] and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God." In the 20th verse we read about the awful and severe destruction that came upon these false vines and their adherents: "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horses bridles." This was not literal blood, but it is the way God has of bringing to our finite minds the awful slaughter and tormenting struggle of souls that attached themselves to earthly religious bodies and not to the true vine, which is Christ our Lord. It seems that there are not many who are loving the self-denying and crucified way of the Lord, but flow into these religions of the world which promise them an easy way to get to heaven. We are warned in different places by Christ and the apostles to "Let no man deceive you." Jesus says that many will say, "Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Then He tells about false Christs and false prophets which will show great signs and wonders (Matt. 24:23, 24). In Rev. 16: beginning with verse 13, you can read about the three unclean spirits like frogs and how they were spirits of devils working miracles. These spirits are loose in the world today and are deceiving the multitudes.

—Fred Pruitt

What Is Our Calling?

To the beloved saints in light, to the pure, clean, and holy remnant which God in the power of his might and holiness is gleaning out in these last days to show forth his power and glory in the earth till he comes, I write:

In Gal. 1:15, 16, we read, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen: immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood."

My soul is deeply stirred. We all know that God in his mercy gave us our being in this world. In him we live and breathe and have our being. Then He calls us by his grace to be his redeemed children, separated from the world, living for God alone, that he might reveal his Son in us and show by our life of purity the same meekness, quietness, holiness, peace, and righteousness that was possessed by the meek and lowly Son of God. Are we fulfilling the high calling whereunto we are called? If so, we can testify with Paul that the life I now live in the flesh I live by the power of the Son of God; I live, and yet not I but Christ liveth in me. Unless all things are yielded fully to him, we will not be able to show forth that beautiful holy life.

Again we read in Phil. 1:20-24, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body,

whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." I feel assured that God is revealing these deep glorious truths to his saints that we all take heed and by his grace and power live in him that his light will reflect by the holy life he lives in us. Praise God for a privilege of walking with him that we may shew forth his life till he comes.

Pray for me. I desire to not draw one selfish breath, but give all to him.

Your brother and servant of our Lord, Sam Wilson

Love

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another *as I have loved you*. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12-14). And He added, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you," and "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples IF ye have love one to another." In love, God sent his Son to die for us lost sheep who had gone astray. In 1 John 4:11, we hear John saying, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." How can we say that we love God if we don't love our brother? And let us remember this: "Love works no ill." Now let us take some good advice from old St. Peter (1 Pet. 1:22), "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

We find it a wonderful source of comfort when our hearts are knit together in love (Col. 2:2). When love prevails, unity is sure. Nothing can please our loving Lord more than for us to dwell together in unity. It is very essential that we have perfect love that casts out fear. There is no fear in love. Dear brethren, let us love one another with a pure heart fervently, for this is the only way we can have unity.

With love to all, Bro. George Stephenson.

Hid Away

Hid away with Christ my Saviour,
Hid away beneath His wing,
Storm clouds come and hover o'er me,
Then, let me the closer cling.

In the rifted rock I'm resting,
Saviour, let me here abide—
Just a little closer, Jesus,
Walking closely by your side.

Choicest jewels, Christ my Saviour,
In this world of sin and woe,
Resting in His precious bosom—
O, the glory fills my soul.

Hid away with God my Father,
Saviour, in my heart abide.
Help me, Lord, to know thy bidding,
Walking closely by your side.

Alta Mead.

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

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

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. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to

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CAMPMEETING NOTICES

The Church of God National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Neosho, Mo. will begin July 22nd and last ten days. The ministers' meeting will be held there on the 20th and 21st, two days before the campmeeting begins. All ministers are urged to be present.

The Church of God State Campmeeting will be held at Guthrie, Okla. Aug. 5th to 13th. All are invited to come.

Editorials

The printing work is moving along nicely and encouragingly at the "Lord's Print Shop," and the gospel tracts, papers, and booklets are going out to all parts of the country in a steady stream. By the encouraging letters and testimonies which are received here, we know that the living God is working upon souls that read, and many are blessed and encouraged to press on in the narrow way, and others get saved, and many are being healed. It is encouraging to us and all the workers here to know that we can be "workers together with God" in getting the truth to men by the printed page. Our hearts go out in compassion and pity for every soul that is held in darkness and sin by Satan, the enemy of all righteousness, and we long to reach them with the light of the gospel which tells us that the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared, who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light thru believing in Christ our Lord and Saviour.

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At this writing, Feb. 15th, we are encouraged by receiving the freight bill showing that the new Linotype machine was shipped on the 8th of February from New York City. We are praying that the Lord will see that the machine will be brought through without damage, and that the "Lord's Print Shop" will soon be blessed with the use of this machine.

We wish to stir up the pure minds of the saints by way of remembrance that we have promised to pay the cash for this machine and that God has been so good and faithful to his promises that he has supplied the full amount for the machine. We ask you to rejoice with us in His rich and precious dealings. Those who have been led of the Lord and were obedient to send offerings to keep the printing work going will never lose their reward, but will have treasures laid up in heaven. We are giving our whole life in the work of the Lord and all the substance that he puts into our hands is used in the gospel work. I do not want to possess a thing I could not use to the glory of God. Pray for us and the work he has given us to do.

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Recently, one man took the burden upon himself to write us a long letter (withholding his name) to inform us that we were in error by thinking that any one would be lost and that good works had any thing to do with our keeping saved. He claimed that we are saved by grace and nothing else. It is true that we are saved by the grace of God, for in Eph. 2:8, we read, "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast." When we read the tenth verse we learn that "we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath ordained that we should walk in them." According to this Scripture, if we find no godly works following a man's profession, we could rightly judge that he was an unbeliever and lost, and if he should

continue that way, he would be in damnation and eternally lost in destruction. Read John 5:29. In Romans 6:23, we read, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." It is easy to see by these Scriptures that if we live in sin we shall have earned the wages of eternal death; but if we believe in Jesus and receive him into our souls as a gift from God and retain this gift in our souls by doing His good works unto the end, we shall have eternal life.

In Phil. 2:12, we hear the apostle Paul say, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." James, speaking of Abraham's works, said, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." James 2:24. The 26th verse reads: "For as the body without the Spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." The teaching of the Bible throws the responsibility of keeping saved on us even though we are at the beginning saved "by grace through faith." In Hebrews 3:6 we read that we are his "house," (his children) "if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

The sum of the matter is this, if a soul that is saved by grace through faith begins to neglect the gift that is in him and fails to yield to the leadings of the Spirit and do the good works of God, he will grieve the Spirit away and be lost just like any other disobedient sinner that makes no profession. Peter tells us that those who are entangled again and are overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. Read the three last verses of 2 Peter, chapter 2. God is going to bring every work into judgment, together with every secret thing.

We who are saved by grace through faith should fear God and tremble at His Word and not let the devil deceive us by thinking to throw our responsibility upon God and think that we are merely a machine in the hands of God.

In the Old Testament we read of the Israelite people, whose actions and deeds in a literal sense typified or pointed to spiritual Israel of the New Testament. One has said that the "Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed." This statement seems to be true in a large measure.

It seemed that literal Israel was quite prone, as a nation, to backsliding; and when the Lord, through a prophet or king, would clear the land of image worship and other gods, that in a little while these gods and images would be set up again and the people would flock to them. Satan was always on hand to set up his gods and images and decoy or deceive the people away from the true God. In this grace dispensation, Satan knows that the people are too much enlightened to set up images of stone and wood to worship, so he sets up spiritual gods and keeps the other things covered up as much as possible. Every human organization, called a church, is a spiritual god set up to deceive and decoy precious souls away from the

true God. The factions and groups that will not take the crucified way with Christ are gods that have come "newly up" (Deut. 32:17). All have a different Spirit from the Holy Spirit of God, and their subjects are influenced and led into error and delusion for not loving the truth (2 Thess. 2:11, 12). Paul says in 1 Cor. 8:5, 6 that there are gods and lords many, but to us there is but one God.

The devil is very cunning, and many times will set up his gods right among the saints to confuse, mislead, and scatter the lambs and sheep. He often uses a "law god," which is very deceitful and will get many precious souls under its influence. Its adherents hold the truth in unrighteousness and put on a pious false humility, thereby covering up the unrighteous spirit prompting the thing. They are instrumental in doing great damage, turning precious souls against the innocent, speaking evil of the righteous, and keeping souls in darkness as to the true way. Those who are picking and finding fault and working confusion and grief in any of the Lord's congregations of saints are more or less under the influence of this god.

In the tenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul tells us about many things that the Israelite people did in the Old Testament while under the influence of other gods, and in the 11th verse he warns us in the following words: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall."

In Revelation 12:9, 10, we read about the great Dragon power being cast out of his heavenly, exalted place; and it speaks of him being called an old serpent, the Devil and Satan, and mentions him as being an accuser of the brethren. In these days this satanic power in different forms and ways is deceiving the people and accusing the brethren, as he is being loosed a little season before the Judgment Day arrives (Rev. 20:7).

God is allowing his saints here in the earth to have many fiery trials and to get into hard places, at which time the enemy accuses in many lying and deceiving ways. He will try to get God's children to walk by feelings instead of by faith. When they feel bad he will come with the accusation that they are not saved or they would not feel like that; and if God uses them to do some good works for Him, then he will try to exalt them by whispering to their souls that they are special ones of the Lord that He could not get along without. All such should be ignored and resisted as from the devil. We are not saved by feelings, neither by good works, but by the precious atoning blood of Christ. Let feelings run as they will, let works be few or many, it is still our faith in the cleansing blood of the Lamb of God that causes us to have peace with God our Father. Good feelings and good works will be our portion in this life if we will ignore all of the devil's accusations and lying and deceiving ways and continue to be willing and obedient to all the known will of God.

Peter says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." 1 Pet. 4:12. He continues the exhortation, telling us that we should rejoice when we are partakers of Christ's sufferings, and be glad with exceeding joy. He tells us we should rejoice when we are reproached for his name or because we believe in Him and speak his words and do his deeds. We should not resent scoffs, scorns, slanders, and insults from religious professors; but rather pray for them and keep them committed into the hands of our just God. To resist and resent such evils would be making ourselves worthy of better treatment than the Lord received. Peter felt so unworthy that when he was to be crucified he asked that they would crucify him with his head down. He deemed himself unworthy to be treated as the Lord. Most people who resent evil treatment and insults will also receive praise and honor of men.

These are the words of Jesus: "How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honour which cometh from God only?"

Brethren, the only safe way to make it into heaven is to live in harmony with the teachings of the Bible. Bring your life into harmony with the third chapter of Colossians and the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians. If we break the greatest commandment recorded in the Bible, then we are committing the greatest sin that man can commit. Turn to Mark 12:30, 31, and you will find recorded there the two greatest commandments. Every self-righteous man that lives is breaking these two commandments, and every good moral man is breaking them and many professed saints are breaking them. Just think what an awakening there will be at the Judgment Day! People who profess to know God and yet possess and hold to the things of the world which they cannot use to the glory of God, are breaking these commandments. Brethren, we certainly need to keep filled with the divine love of God and retain His Holy Spirit in our hearts to be able to fulfill all the will and pleasure of God, the judge of us all.

Obituaries

Laura Alice Hawks born February 16, 1878 at Pennington Gap, Va., departed this life at the home of her youngest daughter in Mission, Texas, Jan. 10, 1949 at the age of 70 years, 10 months, and 25 days.

She was married to David W. Smyth Feb. 9, 1897 in Tennessee. He preceded her in death June 6, 1948. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Ora Parsons of St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Edith Wall, Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Vivian McClain, Mission, Tex.; eight grandchildren; and one brother, Floyd, of Newport News, Va.

She was saved under the preaching of the old time gospel in Illinois some forty years ago, not one time resorting to the arm of flesh in time of sickness. She was wonderfully healed of blood poisoning and many other cases of sickness. She was not permitted to attend meeting regularly as there was no congregation near her. Many who were saved at the time she was have wandered off into sectism but she was true to the end. Her life was a bed of thorns but the last few years of her life she began to see the fruits of her labors.

Through her faithful life her husband was saved before he departed this life. Just before he took his death bed a dove sat on her head just as it did when Jesus was baptized, to strengthen her for the trials ahead. She took her sick bed with a sore throat which abscessed. She was patient through her illness of one week, not once asking for a doctor or medicine. Many prayers were offered for her, but we wanted the Lord to have His way. She was unconscious much of the time during her illness, yet she smiled much. When the end came she gave one big smile and was carried away by the angels without a struggle. We weep not as those who have no hope. The presence of the Lord was felt so strong we know it is our loss and her gain.

Her body was laid beside her husband in Ill. Jan. 15th. Graveside service was conducted by Bro. Morris A. Childress. 1 Peter 1:3 was read. This was a Scripture she had marked and had used to try to win souls to the Lord.

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Brother E. J. Furman of Modesto, Calif. passed away November 10, 1948 at the age of 78 years. His heart had caused him much trouble for several months. Funeral services were held in Modesto, Calif. with interment at Reedley, Calif. Cemetery.

His wife, Sister Mary Lewis Furman, passed away ten days later on Nov. 20, 1948 shortly after a paralytic stroke, and was buried at Modesto, Calif.

They had conducted religious activities in camp grounds and hospitals for many years, handing out tracts, praying for the sick, or anything they could do for the Lord.

They both leave children and loved ones.

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Ewald Matthesen, better known as Edd Matthesen, was born in Nesse, Germany, November 20, 1864 and went from his home in Moore, Oklahoma to be with Jesus Dec. 23, 1948 at the age of 84 years, 1 month and 3 days.

He came to the U. S. in July, 1880 when he was sixteen years old and made his home for a time in Pekin, Ill. There he met Tene Meier and they were united in marriage on Dec. 20, 1888. To this union were born seven children—George, Elsie, Bernard, Willie, Harry, Linnie, and Frank, all of whom preceded him in death except George who lives in Oklahoma City.

Tene Meier Matthesen passed away Jan. 31, 1903. In the fall of 1904 he married Lena L. Schoffner, who labored faithfully and effectually with him in the ministry until her death, Oct. 10, 1936. Then in 1937 he married Birdie May Howard, who, with his son George and faithful friends, helped to care for him during his last illness.

Brother Matthesen spent ten years in German schools where a required course was an hour's study of the Bible each day. It was this study that began his love for the great Book which grew dearer to him as long as he lived. He was converted at an early age, but drifted away from God. Later he fully surrendered his life to Christ and was faithful to Him the remainder of his long and useful life. He accepted the truth as taught by the church of God in 1900. In 1902 he was called of God to preach the Gospel. He conducted Bible readings and prayer meetings in homes and preached in school houses, halls, and various other places. He and Sister Lena Matthesen were instrumental in raising up congregations at Capitol Hill, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, Bessie, and Moore, Okla. He was pastor at Moore for over 25 years until advanced age made it necessary for him to retire from active church work. Bro. Matthesen practiced what he preached and

had great faith in God. His sole aim in life was to glorify God and win others to Him. During his ministry, his life touched and influenced multitudes of people, and eternity alone will reveal the good that he accomplished; however, he would not want us to eulogize him, but rather give God the glory and exalt the Christ who was all and in all to him. During the closing part of his earthly life, he often talked about heaven and expressed a desire to "depart and be with Christ."

He leaves to cherish his memory his widow, Mrs. Birdie Matthesen of Moore; his son, George Matthesen, of Oklahoma City 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

—Printed by the request of his wife.

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Ostis B. Wilson, son of William and Paralee Wilson, was born Feb. 8, 1870, near Athens, Tenn., and departed this life January 30, 1949 in Los Angeles, Calif., at the age of 78 years, 11 months, and 22 days,

On Jan. 13, 1894 he was united in marriage with Mattie Bolds. To this union eight children were born—5 sons: Arvid, Otto, Ostis, Eldon, and Clifford; and three daughters: Opal, Birdie, and Louie. Otto preceded him in death in August, 1941.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. O. B. Wilson of Shawnee, Okla.; four sons: Arvid E. of Pensacola, Fla., Ostis B., jr. and Eldon M. of Los Angeles, Calif., and Clifford W., Shawnee, Okla.; and three daughters: Mrs. Opal Love, Belleflower, Calif., Mrs. Birdie Macon, Los Angeles, and Mrs. Louie Little, Tuscon, Ariz; Five brothers: Sam, Jefferson, Ore., Dan, Glendale, Calif., Harry, Compton, Calif., Willie and Jack, Ringling, Okla.; seven sisters: Mrs. Bonnie Wells, Pomona, Calif., Mrs. Katherine McAuley, San Diego, Calif., Mrs. Lillie Hodges, Cherryville, Ore., Mrs. Mattie Cox, San Francisco, Calif., Mrs. Malisa Kronig, Belen, N. M., Mrs. Daisy Tyree, Prairie Grove, Ark., and Mrs. Mary Brockman, Lincoln, Ark.; also his step-mother, Mrs. Mary Wilson of Ringling, Okla.; 13 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren.

He was converted to Christ and embraced the truth as taught by the church of God in this evening light reformation on Feb. 8, 1891. Shortly after this he felt the call of God to the ministry of his holy Word. He was obedient to the heavenly calling and launched on a long and, by God's grace, a successful life in the ministry. He was continuously active in this field of labor for about 57 years.

He was a pioneer minister of the church of God in this evening light reformation and labored much in those days when it required much sacrifice and effort to carry on. He was instrumental in establishing some new congregations in the early settling up of western Oklahoma.

He moved to Shawnee in 1918 and remained there until his death. He was pastor of the church of God congregation on S. McKinley St. in Shawnee for about 27 yrs.

His constant prayer for his children, and more especially in his declining months of life was that they might be saved at any cost. These prayers, together with a godly life, a godly example, and a godly influence in their lives, are esteemed by his family to be a very great heritage.

He fought a good fight, kept the faith, finished his course, answered the call of God to a higher habitation, and died in the triumphs of the living faith.

Funeral services were conducted in Glendale, Calif. on Tuesday, Feb. 1, with Bro. I. D. Stover of Pomona, Calif. bringing the message, assisted by Bro. A. E. Harmon and E. M. Zinn. The remains were then taken to Shawnee,

Okla., where funeral services were conducted in the church of God chapel where he had been pastor for so many years, with Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla. bringing the message, assisted by Bro. Fred Pruitt and Bro. Willie Murphey. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Shawnee.

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Donatus Antonio Manze, known by friends as "Uncle Tony," departed this life at the home of his son Leonard in West Plains, Mo., Nov. 16, 1948, age 86 years.

He was a native of Italy and came to the United States while he was a very young man. He had been a resident of Howell County, Mo. since he came there with a railroad construction crew about 1880.

Bro. Manze was in failing health for several months but his condition did not become critical until a few days previous to his death. Besides his son, he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Grace Gundy of Los Angeles, one stepson, Lillburn Stuart, and a step-daughter, Mrs. Fred Lewis.

Although Bro. Manze was a Roman Catholic in early life, he became a member of the church of God by virtue of a spiritual birth after he came to America and lived a consistent active Christian life. His heart was in the work of God and he was an encouragement to others. He found great joy in singing and telling others about the Lord. His last activities in the Lord's service was accompanying Bro. Darius Gibson and Bro. Murphy Allen when they filled their appointments at different congregations in South Missouri. Shortly before his death he told his son that he was ready to go.

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Has Your Offering Been Accepted?

There is one thing that brings real satisfaction to those who toil and labor in the vineyard of the Lord, and that is the knowledge of the fact that their labor and sacrifice has been accepted of the Lord, and that he is pleased with their service; and there is a way that each one can know whether or not his offering or sacrifice has been accepted, just as it was in the beginning of the dispensation of time when Cain and Abel offered up of their substance to the Lord. "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: but unto Cain and his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." Gen. 4:3-5. We understand by these verses that it was given unto each of these men to know whether their offerings were accepted of the Lord or not; and that each one felt satisfied or dissatisfied according to his acceptance or rejection. Cain was wroth and his countenance fell because he was made conscious of the fact that his sacrifice had not been accepted, otherwise his countenance would not have fallen. We shall not at this time go into details of the tragedy that followed, as the purpose of this article is to cause the reader to consider, and to ask himself: Is my offering being accepted by the Lord?

It may be that some are so indifferent that they never stop to think, or to see if what they are doing is accepted by the Lord or rejected by him. Some

may be surprised when I say that there have been thousands and thousands of offerings made to the Lord in a formal way that he has never accepted. There was just something about the sacrifice or service or the one that was offering the same that caused it to be turned down. And sometimes the Lord has made known his displeasure by sending disaster in one form or another upon offenders; as, for instance, the incident that is recorded in Lev. 10:1, 2: "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire there in, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

God is a holy God, and he will not accept a defiled or polluted offering, or anything strange or foreign to His law of order. The offering must be pure, and the motive or purpose of the heart of the one making or offering the gift must be right, or in harmony with the plans of a holy God. He has said, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." And one must be seeking to please God and not self in making his sacrifice.

Let us now notice another man who brought his gift to the Lord with a deceitful heart. I do not think this man had it in his heart to please the Lord, but he was trying to please man and to make a show before them; and in so doing he deceived himself. Col. 3:23 reads, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto man." The Lord is the one that will reward us, and not man. Now concerning the deceitful offering we call your attention to Acts 5:1-6, "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained was it not thine own? and after it was sold was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him." You remember what happened to Sapphira, his wife, and what her fate was by being a party to the affair. God did not accept this offering.

Jesus said in Matt. 6:1, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Jesus instructs us to give, not to be seen of men, but to glorify God. Many are ashamed to do for God and his cause because they cannot make a show like someone else or because their efforts seem to be so feeble. God knows your ability, and he does not require of any one more than they are able to do. But He does require that our sacrifice be prompted by our love to God and our fellowman, and not for a name among men or a show before men, but alone to the glory of God.

We read of an incident in Mark 12:41-44, "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which hath cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." Though her offering was very meagre in comparison with what others had done, that is if it had been measured by dollars and cents, yet it was a great offering in God's sight, for Jesus did not use man's standard of measurement. He measured her gift by the depth of her consecration and the measure of love she had in her heart and the greatness of the desire he saw in her heart to contribute to the cause of God; and it was accepted in his sight.

We read of Hannah, how she prayed unto the Lord with a burdened heart, and the vow she made as she wept in sore distress. She promised (if the Lord would grant her petition) to give her son to the Lord all the days of this life. It pleased the Lord to grant the desire of her heart. She kept her promise as she had purposed in her heart; her offering was accepted.

Now let us turn to Acts 10:1-4: "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently, about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God." etc. Cornelius' offerings were accepted of God, also his prayers, because he had the fear of God upon his heart, and was not performing just to be seen of men.

Many others could be mentioned, but these are enough to let us know that some were accepted, and some were rejected; and the sad part about it is that there were some others who offered unto the Lord and seemed to think their offerings and service had been accepted, and found out later that their efforts and worship were vain so far as God was concerned.

Isaiah tells us of a class of people who fasted for strife and debate, but the Lord said the fast that would be accepted of him was to loose the bands of wickedness, deal bread to the hungry, clothe the naked, let the oppressed go free, and undo heavy burdens. Then he said they should pray and their prayer would be answered. They would cry unto the Lord, and he would say, "Here am I"—a sign of acceptance. Are your services and offerings accepted of God? Are you rendering service with a pure motive? Are your sacrifices and offerings prompted by a love for God and his cause? or are you performing to receive the praise and honor of men? The fear

of God will cause one to seek to please God and gain his favor. The fear of man bringeth a snare, and will cause one to seek to please man. There are many Scriptures that will bear out the truthfulness of this statement. No doubt there are many deeds that would be done that are being left undone because of the lack of the fear of God or the presence of the fear of man. I have reference to deeds that would serve for the advancement of the cause of God and the work of Christ.

It was love that caused God to give his Son. It was love that caused Jesus to give his life. It was the reaction of man's heart to the love of God that caused man to love and serve Him. Service prompted by love and faith in God is the kind that is accepted by him. Has your offering been accepted by Him?

—Ulysses Phillips

—o0o— CHILDREN'S CORNER

Hello, Children:

This morning as I was looking out of my window, watching the rain come down, I saw a little sparrow light on the window sill, then another came. Finally there were four sparrows twittering to each other. They seemed glad to find a place out of the rain. While watching them I thought of what Jesus said about the sparrows in Luke 12:6, 7, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

Jesus wants us to know that he cares for the sparrows, and even as they fly from place to place, or are sold, God never forgets them. So if He watches the sparrows so closely, and since he tells us we are of more value than many sparrows, we should know he will watch over us and care for us. Just think! He has all of our hairs numbered. That is more than you can do, isn't it? Surely Jesus wants us to know he sees everything and cares where we go, what we do and say. I am sure He is very glad when boys and girls do right. Always remember, God sees all.

The other day I visited a penitentiary. That is a place where men or women are put because they insist on doing wrong or have killed someone. I asked the man who showed us around, "In your talking to these men, when do they say was the beginning of their doing wrong?" He told me the greatest majority got into trouble as young as nine and ten years old and were brought up before the courts of the land. That made me think of my boys and girls who read "Children's Corner." I sent up a prayer for you to God that He would keep you from evil and wrong.

Don't you see how important it is that you give Jesus your hearts while very young so He will keep you from wrong? Because when you start doing wrong and following the devil, he leads you little by little until he gets you put behind bars and away from all that is dear to you.

I am so glad for all of you who have given Jesus your hearts. If you happen to make a mistake, face it and fix it up right then.

One boy was playing and throwing rocks and happened to break a large glass in a store. He ran away, and later when asked, he told a lie about it. But someone saw him and told the policemen. The boy got into more trouble. The boy should have gone to the store man and told him that he broke it and that he was sorry and would work for him to help pay for a new glass, and that he would tell his father and mother and they would come to see him. That store man probably would have made it easier for the boy and his trouble would have been shorter.

Remember, it always pays to do right as Jesus taught us to do.

—Aunt Marie

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free;
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

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Dear children in Christ,—I thought I would send in my testimony. I am eight years old and I go to Sunday school every Sunday. I love the Lord and would be glad to hear from any of the children my age. My address is: Miss Linda Pugh, Scott, Ohio, R. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE

Harrogate, Tenn.—I am thirty-four years old and have been sick all my life with stomach and lung trouble. I have suffered much and still suffer. I live away back in the hills and can't go out and talk to people as I would like to. I would love to hear from any good Christian. I don't get much mail. I love to receive good letters. Please remember me in prayer and send me a few tracts to read. Miss Florence Daniel, c. o. P. M. Daniel, R. 1.

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Ohio—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' precious name, It has been a year since I sent in my testimony. Today finds me still on the winning side with victory in my soul. Dear readers, you who are yet unsaved, let me plead with you, "Be ye reconciled to God." Seek the dear Saviour; repent and believe; Jesus will pardon, cleanse, and relieve you of your burden of sin, write your name in the Lamb's Book of Life, and give a joy and peace within your heart that the world cannot give nor take away. Bless His holy name. If you do not turn to Him, how sad it will be. Come now and drink of the water of life freely. I am so glad I have come to this fountain and have obtained eternal life. If you come now with your poor broken heart, Jesus will give you rest and you will be able to say with me: "I have a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me." He will never leave us nor forsake us, but in sorrow he is our comfort.

I would be glad to get letters from any of the saints. Ethel Mohr, Longress St., Van Wert, Ohio.

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Who I was, and what was I?—Once I was a poor lost soul out in the darkness of sin. I had no hope of life or satisfaction down deep in my heart. I wandered alone in the blackest of night, seeking worldly pleasure. Worldly pleasure brought no satisfaction. I was in tune with the devil and his angels. That is the reason no satisfaction came.

The devil is a liar. Darkness prevails with his presence. That is the reason my heart was as black as soot. No hope for a life beyond this short life lies with the things of this world.

How do I feel now?—One day the blessed Jesus came

into my heart to stay. Peace lying buried in my heart will live throughout eternity. The way I'm feeling no mortal tongue can tell.

The gift of love that the blessed Redeemer places in one's heart is very satisfactory. He placed that love in my heart. Now Jesus of Galilee is my solid rock and my bright and morning star. He is the Lily of the Valley and Saviour of lost people. He is the great Physician to those who are afflicted or disabled in any way. I hope and pray that I will never turn my back on the One and only One who loved me enough to die on the tree.

Jesus had many things to bear on the cross, many pains to bear. I am sure the greatest pain that he had to bear was the pain that was in his heart over the lost and dying souls of people. Helen Dyess, La.

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Oklahoma—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. The Lord has wonderfully touched my body. I am not entirely well, but I am looking to the Lord for complete healing. My throat had almost closed. I had my little girl write three letters to the saints in three different places. Just about the time they were received and the saints had prayer my fever went down. Oh, the Lord is wonderful! Why shouldn't we serve Him? I thank the saints for their earnest prayers. May God bless you all is my prayer. Sister Doretha Wortham

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Mo.—Dear ones,—Greetings in His name. We cannot praise the dear Lord enough, he is so good to us. We are having bad weather, but we can praise Him that it is no worse than it is. It is cold to go out to care for what we have, but what we have is the Lord's; he only loans them to us so I won't complain about going out in the cold to care for what belongs to the dear Lord.

I want to thank all the dear ones who helped me to pay for the little garden tractor which helps me in the work I do for the Lord—raising vegetables for the camp meeting. It is a great help to me.

Please remember me in prayer for my afflicted body. I am glad the Lord does not get tired of our coming to Him with our many afflictions. Emma Ritchie

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Mo.—Dear saints everywhere,—I greet you in Jesus' precious name! I am truly thankful the Lord ever saved my soul from sin. This earth no longer offers pleasures that I would exchange salvation for. I am glad that I can still report victory over the devil. Praise God! I have often wanted to write my testimony, but have neglected doing it.

The letters I receive from the young people and the different testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" are a great encouragement to me. I am thankful I have been permitted to meet so many of God's children at the Monark Springs campmeeting. Truly my heart is filled with joy when I think of the next campmeeting, if this wicked world stands that long. I also felt very much blessed at the Chetopa, Kans. meeting.

I am thankful for so many things the Lord has made plain to me. Truly I find Him a present help in time of need. I need your earnest prayers that I might do the Lord's will and be faithful and true to the end. May God bless you all is my prayer. Sister Lois Whipple.

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Okla.—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name,—I feel led by the dear Lord to write my testimony of the great experience I had when I was sanctified.

About a year ago I went to the altar to be sanctified. I was living to all I knew, and thought I was sanctified,

but I did not have enough light on sanctification. I did grow stronger in the Lord. After that I read about other saints who were sanctified and realized I did not have the experience. I started praying to the Lord again to sanctify me. The Lord brought to my mind some tracts which I had put in the dresser drawer. I got the tracts and started reading them. I found one on "Two Works of Grace." I read it aloud to my husband, and it gave me light. My husband said he wanted to read it, so I told him to read it aloud to me. Soon he went into the kitchen to light the fire for me to cook. I was sitting down with the baby. It seemed this question came to me: Will you consecrate your children? I said I would because if I consecrated them the Lord would care for them. Then the question: Will you consecrate your husband? My answer was, yes, if I consecrate him the Lord will care for him. I said, "I will give up everything, even myself." I went into the kitchen to cook and began to tell my husband about it. He began to read the tract to me, but I could not listen because I was getting so happy and began to laugh. I told him I was so happy I didn't know what to do. I was laughing, crying, and rejoicing until my children asked what was wrong with me. My husband looked at me and said he had never seen anyone that happy before. I was so happy it seemed I couldn't stand much more. The Lord showed me that he had sanctified me, and I truly thank Him for it.

I hope this will encourage other young people to continue to seek for sanctification because many think they are when they are not. When you get sanctified you will know it. Pray for my husband. He is seeking for sanctification. And pray for me that I will continue to please God on every line. Your sister, Odever Kelley

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La.—Dear saints,—I am thankful this morning, Feb. 1, 1949, for God's goodness and mercy to me. I am glad God showed me his church back in 1923 or 24. It was just what I was looking for, praise His dear name.

I really love the church of God. It has been much help to me. It brought me out of the darkness of sectism and helped me to see the truth. I am glad that I came out from among the Gospel Trumpet people, and came to the glorious light of the gospel with the peculiar people (1 Pet. 2:9) with no outward adorning, only the love of God. I am glad I am one of them, and I am glad I heeded the Scripture that says, "Come out of her, my people." 2 Cor. 6:17; Isaiah 52:11; Rev. 18:4.

I thank God again and again for his keeping power and for the leading of the Holy Spirit, and for salvation and healing. His service is my sweetest delight. Glory to His precious name! He has wonderfully blessed me in more ways than words can express. I am very thankful for God's love to me; it makes me love everybody.

Dear saints of God everywhere. I love all of you and would like to shake hands with each one of you. May God's richest blessings be with you all. H. C. Miller

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Mo.—Greetings to the saints in Jesus' name,—I promised the dear Lord I would write to you if he would help me through my trials and temptations. I was having battles with the old devil. He is a liar and never did abide in the truth. Praise the Lord, He is a present help in time of trouble. The devil never did like me. He doesn't like any of God's children, neither does he tell the truth about any of us. He cannot keep us from having the victory over him, for the victory is ours through Jesus, if we count it so. Glory to God, I am still saved

and sanctified, praise our God forever more! I do love God and all of his little children. I was glad when the Lord sent ministers to help me when I was praying to be sanctified. Jesus' love now fills my soul. I still need your prayers that I may keep the victory. I am praying that God will keep me in the center of His will.—C. Sell.

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Texas—I am writing these few thoughts, hoping the Lord will make them a blessing to souls:

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

With my spiritual eyes I can see the Eunuch riding along in his chariot, reading and studying about God, and God was beholding him. As Philip walked up, they began to talk about God. Philip asked him if he understood what he read. The Eunuch was humble and wanted to know the truth. He confessed his inability to understand without a teacher, so Philip explained the Scriptures to him. Then came the question: "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip answered, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." The Eunuch met all the conditions of God's Word, so to the question: What doth hinder me from being baptized? the answer was: NOTHING. He was a child of God, born into God's church, and wanted to obey God, as every true child of God does. Jesus had set the example in baptism, so the first step of obedience is water baptism.

We see a far different picture in people today. May I be baptized? Or, What doth hinder me from being baptized? (MUCH!) We will call the church together, the preacher will open the doors of the church, you go shake hands with the preacher, join his church, the members will vote you in, set a date to baptize, and you are still not a full member until you are baptized, etc. Lord pity and have mercy! People who follow the commandments of men are like the prodigal son. God saves their souls, he gives them their portion of goods, but they go off and join a denomination—waste their substance in riotous living and will soon die spiritually except they repent and return to God and the instructions of His Word. May the dear Lord help you to see.—Essie Moore

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Ill.—Dear saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' name,—I have felt for a long time that it would be pleasing to the Lord for me to write my testimony. The Lord has done much for me. He has saved, sanctified, and healed me. For a long time I had been afflicted with a nerve trouble and was unable to get the victory over it. I was unable to work very long at a time, but, praise God, I can truthfully say I am healed. I can do work today that a year ago I could not do at all without being worn out for two or three days afterward.

Last summer while our baby was sick we were fasting and praying for her healing and one night I had a dream or a vision. It seemed that I was in a large block building with no windows in it, but the roof was off. While I was looking around at the walls, the Lord came and stood by me and explained that we who are in the church of God do not need to look to man for healing. That was the reason there were no windows in the house. We just need to look up to God and keep those things out of our way that will obstruct our view. I found that there were some things which did hinder my healing, but when I got them out of the way, God did His work. Praise His dear name. Pride has come in and obstructed the view of many children of God. That was my trouble. I had wrestled

over the question for a long time, but when I got the thing out of my heart that caused me to put it on, it was not hard for me to take it off. And it was not hard for God to heal me either.

I had prayed, "Lord, show me your true church." I was convinced that the movement I was in could not be it even though there are some of God's saints in it, because of the confusion and strife that was going on and is still going on. At one time while I was praying the Lord spoke to me and said, "Where you find my Spirit, there is my church." I was privileged to meet some of the saints, and I just could not be mistaken. I wanted to go to campmeeting and there were campmeetings going on not far from us, but I was working and since I had not been able to work for so long I felt I just had to work instead of attending these meetings; so I did, but I kept praying and wanting to go to campmeeting. One day my boss came to me and told me he would have to lay me off for a few days, and it was right at the time of the Monark Springs campmeeting. I know God planned it that way to show me that I was being led the right way. Praise His dear name!

The Lord has healed us since. Just a few days ago our boy had a cold and he coughed almost day and night. We prayed for him and he has scarcely coughed any since.

I ran a nail into my foot one day. By night it was so sore I could hardly walk on it and never slept one night. My boss advised me to see the doctor, and I probably could have drawn some insurance, but I wanted to trust God, so I did not go to the doctor. My wife prayed for it and it began to get better from that very hour.

We have been through some pretty hard places financially, but the Lord has delivered us out of them all. Every time we go through a trial the way gets brighter. The Lord has a way out of every difficulty. He did not promise to keep us out of the fire, but He does promise to go with us even to the end of the world. Please pray for us. We covet the prayers of God's children.

Your blood-washed brother, Morris A. Childress

Okla.—Greetings to the dear saints and readers in Jesus' dear name—I am still saved and much encouraged to press on to glory. I want to thank the saints for their prayers for me, and for the anointed handkerchief. I thank the Lord for what He has done for me and my little girl, age six. One morning she got up to get ready for school and her face was so swollen one could hardly see her eyes. Also her feet were swollen. My husband said he was going to take her to the doctor, but I talked to the Lord about it. I told Him I was putting all of my trust in Him and did not want my little girl taken to a doctor. I asked Him to heal her so my husband would not take her. The swelling began to leave and by evening we could hardly tell where she was swollen. I cannot thank and praise the Lord enough for what he has done for me and my family.

I need your prayers that I grow stronger and closer to the dear Lord and do every little thing that the Lord wants me to do. Pray earnestly for my husband that he will come back to God before it is too late. Lorene Payne

Calif.—Dear saints of God,—I am a newly saved child of God. I find His Word more precious each day. I am striving to do His will and to make my home up in heaven. I am much encouraged by reading these wonderful testimonies in the "Faith and Victory" paper.

My greatest desire is to be a help to some lost soul. I need the saints prayers that I will always stand true to God.

Mrs. Glenn Forbes

Mo.—To the readers of "Faith and Victory"—Several days ago I was reading in my Bible and a Scripture was very much impressed on my mind, found in Heb. 2:1-3, which reads: "Therefore we OUGHT to give the more EARNEST heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

We find "the word spoken by angels" has reference to the law of Moses. Gal. 3:19 tells us, "the law was ordained by angels."

Paul tells us then if every transgression and disobedience of the old law of Moses was punished (many were even stoned to death) how shall we in this "Gospel Day" escape the judgments of God if we refuse or neglect to obey His Word.

We find many who seem to be rejoicing for the privilege they have had of knowing "the truth," and that the Lord has not permitted them to be deceived in false doctrines of sectism, and each one of us truly has a reason to rejoice and should appreciate these great truths the Lord has taught us; but have we ever thought of the great responsibility which rests upon us by really knowing "the truth"? You know we sit from time to time under the sound of the gospel and admit it is truth, but do we give the EARNEST heed that we should? If not, the truth just slips away from us. We may hear it with our natural ears, but real hearing is obeying. We hear the Word which warns against light talking, idle words, joking, carelessness in prayer and the need of reading the Word, attending services, keeping busy for God, etc. May the Lord keep His fear upon every heart, and may we see to it that we do not neglect our souls. We see by the Word of God we will be sure to meet the judgments and the just punishment of God if we fail to obey His Word. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?

Saints, we have no time for foolishness or wasting the many precious moments the Lord spares us in this short life. Our souls as well as many others are at stake. Many are watching our lives. May we not disappoint them! Jesus says if we know the Lord's will and do it not, we will be beaten with many stripes. May the Lord help us to "take heed." One who loves the truth.

—Mary Whipple

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

Okla.—Greetings in Jesus' name:—I am truly thanking and praising the dear Lord because he was merciful enough to call after me after I had gone astray from him out into the broad way of destruction and despair. The Lord has impressed me to write a little of my experience.

When I was just a girl I was sweetly saved and the Lord wonderfully blessed me and I was able to be of some use in his work; but I got my eyes on the world. As I look back now I am able to think of the 14th chapter of Luke, especially the 20th verse: "I have married a wife, therefore I cannot come." Dear ones, I am not against marriage, but I am fully persuaded it should be in the Lord. We read in the Word: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Surely if the Lord sees we need a husband he can give us one. We do not have to go out of the Lord for any of our needs—not "our wants," but "our needs," thank the Lord.

After the devil had succeeded in getting me away from the Lord and his people, he made me believe that because I was married to a man that did not know the truth I was doomed; but I kept a desire to live for the

Lord and have a saved home and I thank the Lord because he continued to call after me. The devil worked, and through our sins our home was completely broken up and I moved home to my mother's; and I thank the Lord because there were some saints here to help me and pray for me.

The devil still tried to make me believe I could not live for the Lord and worked as hard as he could, but I am surely glad that the devil is a liar and the father of lies; for through much prayer I am really enjoying a close walk with the Lord. After I made my decision as Job of old, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him," the Lord has truly done more for me than I ever expected. The Lord showed me my first duty was to live for him and then do the very best I could to get along with my husband. In the 7th chapter of 1 Cor. I read that if the unbelieving companion be pleased to live with us we are bound to live with them, but if they depart let us remain unmarried or be reconciled to our own companion.

When I made my decision that I was going to live for the Lord whether my husband and I ever lived together or not, He not only brought my husband home, but He saved him for good measure. Truly, dear ones, it pays to live for God. He has done more for me than I can say. I am very sorry I went away from Him and that I stayed so long. By His help and grace I intend to live for Him and work for Him as long as I live here in this world.

Young people, be encouraged to live for the Lord; He can truly supply your every need. Pray for me.

Yours in the one body, Marie (Williams) Adkins

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

Miss.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I was glad to receive the anointed handkerchief. When I would eat in the mornings I would suffer with the upper part of my stomach, which the doctor said was my gall bladder. I would be so sick and nervous and weak I would not feel like doing anything. Since I applied the anointed handkerchief I have not felt that way. I started eating everything, even things the doctor said not to eat. I have a little gas but no sick spells like I had and I have a good appetite all the time and am ready to eat my breakfast. I thank the Lord for your prayers for me. Sister Luella Jacob.

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

Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am still saved and much encouraged to press on. I have been led to write my testimony and tell how the Lord healed me.

In November I became sick with a hurting in my side. I would send for the saints, and after prayer I would feel better for awhile, then the misery would return worse than before. My husband is unsaved so he wanted the doctor to examine me to see what was wrong. I told him the Lord knew all about it, but if he wanted the doctor to examine me I would consent but had it settled to completely trust the Lord for my healing.

The doctor told us that medicine would do me no good, and that I would have to be operated on before I could be well. I told him that I did not take medicine but trusted the Lord for healing. My husband told me if I would not have the operation I would die. I knew he did not know. I told him if I died I would rather die trusting in the Lord than the doctor.

The saints agreed in prayer for me many times, and I would feel better and then get worse. They decided to fast and pray for me. They called the saints in Okla. City and asked them to agree in fasting and prayer.

I felt the healing power when it went through my body. Although I was weak I got out of bed by faith,

and my side has not hurt since. I thank the Lord for his healing power, and thank Him for the prayers that were sent up to Him for me.

I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I start at the first and read all the way through so I will not miss anything in it.

The Lord has wonderfully strengthened me in body and soul. I am growing by the Word and sinking deeper down into the Lord every day. Saints, let us be up and doing; we are living in perilous times. I am sincere about living this life.

Your sister, Laura Alexander

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Greetings in Jesus' precious saving name to the saints in God's kingdom.—We are glad to report victory over the enemy and thank God for life with all its burdens and trials and heartaches as well as for the happy side of a Christian life. Truly we love God and all His creation, even though we much dislike the sins that are so manifested today in the heart and lives of the unsaved, and in some who claim to be the children of God; but "by their fruits ye shall know them." Their actions betray them, they being yet carnal and not spiritual.

In our testimony last month in "Faith and Victory," we requested saints to write us. We received letters from Calif., Texas, Georgia, Maine, and our own state of Ohio. It is a great encouragement to know God has true saints over all this great country, and in the uttermost parts of the earth. We pray God's richest blessings on His children everywhere. We would be glad for words from more of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we are in poor health and do not get out very much. Pray for our bodily healing.

V. Earle and Anna Yantis.

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N. M.—To the saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name.—As I feel impressed to write my testimony in this little "Faith and Victory" paper, I'll try by the help of God, for I know without Him we can do nothing.

I am thanking and praising our dear Lord for the salvation which is given to us through His suffering and death that everyone might be saved, and God is no respecter of persons. I can truly say he is everything he has promised and more, for He is able to do more than we can think or ask of him to do. He is so good to hear prayer in different ways and heal us when we are sick.

Just recently the children had measles and God was so good to hear prayer in their behalf. I cannot thank and praise Him enough for everything he does for all his children. I certainly am not tired of this way, but just desire to live closer to the Lord each day, and be what he would have me to be. I need your prayers. Also pray for my family to be saved. Sister T. T. Doolittle

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Tulsa, Okla., 1013 E. Queen St.—To all the dear saints scattered abroad, and especially those who were so kind to write all those good encouraging letters.—I am taking this way to answer them, for I have arthritis in my hands, so I can hardly write. I want to say I was 80 years old Feb. 5, 1949 and I have been saved over 40 years. I am a convert of Bro. Robinson's labors. I lived in the state of Mississippi at that time, and so often Bro. Robinson would come to stir up our pure minds by way of remembrance. I have trusted God for my healing ever since I got saved. I am now almost helpless, but I am waiting on my Lord. If this is His will, it is my will too, for I expect to trust Him to the end.

May God bless all the dear saints of God, for they are my people. Sister Jane Parker.

Ohio—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name.—I am still saved and much encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. Truly my soul is satisfied in Jesus; He has done so much for me.

Some time ago something began to grow on one of my fingers. Some thought it was a wart. It was very sore. We do not know what it was, but our trust was in God and we knew he was able to heal whatever it was. Truly we are serving a mighty God.

I began to fast and pray and requested prayer, and the dear saints began to fast and pray for me. I obeyed James 5:14, and was anointed and prayed for. About the middle of January the Lord touched the thing on my finger, praise His dear name, and shortly afterward it started to come off. One day as I was about my work it came off. I did not know it was off until later on in the day. Truly I give God the glory and praise for what he has done and is doing for us. How our faith was increased in God. I promised the Lord if he would move the affliction that was on my hand I would testify of His healing power. We mean heaven at any cost. We desire the saints' prayers, for we mean to be true and faithful unto the end. Your sister in Christ, Alberta Bruner.

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Illinois—Greetings to all who read this.—I surely do thank God for his Holy Word and precious name and for giving his only begotten Son, the One who suffered, and bled, and died for us all that we might live a life that would glorify Him. We know we cannot glorify him unless we believe his Word and live it, practice it, and teach it; for 1 John 2:4 reads: "He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." We know that no liar can have a home in heaven.

My first faith for healing was for gall stones. I said that I wanted to be anointed. In a little while I felt very strange, no pain, but I thought I might soon be gone. I asked for my children to be called out of bed and I began to sing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." I said, "I am healed. That is what that means," and I got up. I was churning when the minister came to anoint me. I had one slight attack after that, but I said, "I am healed," and I never had another symptom. Five months ago the Lord healed me of gall bladder trouble. A lady told me what it was and said the doctor said I could not eat onions. I had just been eating them so I quit. I asked the Lord to heal me and used an anointed handkerchief. When I do not feel well I say I am through with medicine and the Lord is my Physician. I have not tasted medicine of any kind for over 38 years. Della Bails.

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We carry in stock boxes of "Everyday Assortment" folders. There are 25 folders with envelopes to match in each box, consisting of folders for cheering a sick friend, sympathy, get-well, greetings to a shut-in, welcome to a new baby, and birthday all beautifully colored designs with suitable verses. You will like these folders. \$1.00 per box, post paid anywhere in the U. S. Assortment No. G3549. Order by number.

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PARABLES OF JESUS (Temperance Lesson)

Sunday, March 6, 1949

Printed Portion Mark 4:1-9; Luke 15:11-14.

Mark 4:1. And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2. And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3. Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4. And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6. But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased, and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred.

9. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 15:11. And he said, A certain man had two sons:

12. And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

Memory Verse: Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7.

Practical Truth: We cannot sow seeds of fleshly lust if we expect to reap eternal life.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our lesson today we have the parable of the Sower. Jesus tells us how different people respond to the Word of God. The Sower is Christ, the seed is the Gospel, the soil is the heart of man. Satan uses every means possible to take the Word out of our hearts, to steal it from us. He came not but for to steal, to kill, and to destroy; then he seeks to harden our hearts with the cares of this world and many other things. Carnality makes the heart critical, which is spiritual hardness. Some have no root in themselves. They die spiritually because of disobedience. "To obey is better than sacrifice." The soul is fed by being obedient to God, or it starves through neglect.

"How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"—neglect to read the Word, to pray, to sacrifice.

Some seed fell among thorns—the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches—and was choked. God has warned that "a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." "The love of money is the root of all evil."—not the money itself. Also the lust of other things, or in other words, anything that comes between us and God will choke the Word out of our hearts. To sow means a harvest, both in this world and in eternity. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Let us remember, God looks for and expects fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc. "Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit." "By their fruits ye shall know them."

—B. Metcalf.

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JESUS' MINISTRY TO HUMAN NEED

Sunday, March 13, 1949

Printed Portion Mark 5:22, 23, 35-42; Luke 7:20-23.

Mark 5:22. And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jarius by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

23. And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay hands on her, that she may be healed: and she shall live.

35. While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead; why troublest thou the Master any further?

36. As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37. And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38. And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39. And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, (I say unto thee,) arise.

42. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Luke 7:20. When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

21. And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

22. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

23. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Memory Verse: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10.

Practical Truth: Christ was and is able and willing to be a present help to anyone in need.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the opening verses of our lesson today we have the account of a man in distress—in dire need of help. He knew where to find help in his anxiety and came to Jesus, beseeching him that he lay hands on his daughter, that she might live. It seemed, however, that he was too late, for the child died e'er Jesus arrived.

When he arrived the unbelievers laughed him to scorn. He put them out and restored the child to life. Jesus put unbelief out from his presence as he exercised the mighty power of God. The miraculous workings of God are too sacred for the taunt and disdain of scorn.

As Jesus proved himself the helper of mankind in distress then, so today he rejoices to relieve those who will come to him with their physical and temporal as well as spiritual needs.

We need only to ask, believing, "For He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." (Psa. 72:12). How wonderful to know that this promise applies to us today! Jesus is moved with compassion just to see the sick and wants to heal them. (Matt. 14:14).

Anchor your faith in Him today, and He will be to you a Healer, Helper, Guide, Companion, and Comforter. "And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power." Col. 2:10. —R. Byers

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SPECIAL TRAINING OF THE TWELVE

Sunday, March 20, 1949

Printed Portion Mark 6:30-32; Luke 11:1-4, 9-13.

Mark 6:30. And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

31. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

32. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

Luke 11:1. And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2. And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3. Give us day by day our daily bread.

4. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

9. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12. Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13. If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Memory Verse: Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Luke 11:10.

Practical Truth: A Christian's training should come directly from the heavenly teacher and from those who are in touch with heaven.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

As we study this lesson which deals with "special training of the twelve," let us receive a lesson that will profit us now.

How did the apostles receive their training?

Schools serve the purpose of increasing head knowledge, but the Lord never intended that men or women should attend colleges, seminaries, etc. to learn how to preach His Word or receive training for any branch of spiritual work. If the training and commission is received from man, then the power and authority can be no greater than weak man can grant; but if one receives training as the apostles did, from the Lord, heaven's power and authority will back his efforts. (When Jesus ascended to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to be the Teacher of His people (John 15:26) and gave us the Bible by which we can try the spirits). When the rulers, elders, and scribes "saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Are you seeking to make the world take knowledge that you have attend a "higher school of learning" or that you have "been with Jesus?"

This lesson gives a very small part of the training of the twelve, but let us notice a few thoughts:

The disciples, whom Jesus had sent out two by two, six parties in all, to preach repentance and remission of sins in Galilee and Judea, had just returned and told Jesus what they had done and taught. It may seem useless to rehearse to the Lord that which we do and teach, since he knows all things, but it is for our spiritual good to do this often, that He may give more instructions. After a successful mission for the Lord, our zeal and enthusiasm may lead us to launch out on another mission without the Lord's directions. At that time He did not send them out immediately, but said, "Come . . . apart . . . and rest awhile." In our lives this would be obeying the instructions in the song: "Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord. Abide in Him always and feed on His word. . . By looking to Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be, Thy friends in thy conduct, His likeness shall see" (part of two stanzas).

As Jesus praying aroused a desire in others to pray, so our praying often causes others to see their need.

There is a religious sect which takes the words: "When ye pray, say:" as meaning they should always use the words of what is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer" when praying and no others. Other scriptures make us to know that Jesus had no intention of confining the disciples (and our) prayers to those words. The Bible records other prayers prayed by them. One apostle wrote: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." And we are instructed to pray for all men every where, for kings and those in authority,

etc. Jesus, in Matt. 6:6, 7 gives instructions for praying, and then said in the 9th verse: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father" etc. In other words, this was an example. The part which says, "Thy kingdom come" was fulfilled on the day of pentecost when the "kingdom of God came with power."

When one asks for the Holy Spirit he must have an earnest desire to receive to the extent that he will make all necessary preparations for His coming. The Holy Spirit will not enter an unclean temple. If you should ASK for a visit from some famous person and expected him to grant the request, you would make many preparations for his coming.

The writer once spoke to a young lady about the Holy Spirit who will enter the heart of a Christian to be his constant Comforter, Teacher, and Guide. The lady professed to be a Christian but she displayed many "marks of the world." She replied in a very flippant unconcerned manner, "I asked the Lord for a revelation, but never did get it." (By "revelation" she meant the Holy Spirit.) Can you guess why God did not send the Holy Spirit into her heart?

—G. Ray

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JESUS AMONG PEOPLE OF OTHER RACES

Sunday, March 27, 1949

Printed Portion Mark 7:24-37

Mark 7:24. And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into a house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

25. For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

26. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

27. But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread and to cast it unto the dogs.

28. And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

29. And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

30. And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

31. And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.

32. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him.

33. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;

34. And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.

35. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.

36. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;

37. And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.

Memory Verse: God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. Acts 10:34, 35.

Practical Truth: Salvation through Christ and the blessings that accompany it are for every nation though they came to the Jew first.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"From thence he arose" has reference to the parts of Galilee where He had been proclaiming the gospel, healing, and performing other miracles. Here his own had rejected and found fault with Him. So with words of warning against their hypocritical teachings and methods, he left them and went to the borders of Tyre and Sidon, a north-land, the inhabitants of which were considered by the Jews as the very scum of uncircumcised aliens.

It is easy to hide Christ from those who reject and do not want Him, but from the seeking soul "he could not be hid." It is written: "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Let us learn from the account of this mother that in seeking God it pays to press through opposition with a faith that will take no denial. Also let us learn a lesson of humility. If this mother had held herself in high esteem, she would not have gained the needed blessing from the Lord, but by being willing to take the attitude of being no better than a dog she was able to find a ray of hope in the Lord's words. Would any master refuse his dog the crumbs? And now if she could only get the crumbs—a small portion of the Lord's blessing—her need would be abundantly supplied!

One of the chief causes for failure to receive blessings from the Lord is a lack of humility. We are instructed by the Word of God not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but in "lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." When a man who is a sinner covers his sins and deceives himself into thinking he is "not so bad," he can not obtain the favor of God. But if he will accept the self-humiliating description which God's Word gives of him, then he can claim the promises there for sinners. He can say, "Yes, Lord: I admit I am a sinner, but thou didst come to seek and to save sinners and thou hast promised that if I will confess my sins and forsake them, thou wilt have mercy and save me from my sins." As the mother's confession brought deliverance to the daughter, this confession, if honest, will bring salvation to the sinner. I say, "if honest," because it seems to be popular to confess being a sinner yet not confess and uncover the sins in an honest manner.

When one feels strong and self-sufficient, then he can gain nothing from God; but if he sees himself as a weak creature of the dust and able to do nothing in himself without God, then God can bless him, because it is written: "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble." "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

Our lesson title suggests that we turn our attention to the fact that the two people who received healing in this lesson were not Jews. Decapolis was another region populated mostly by Gentiles. Jesus did not do much work among Gentile people because it was God's plan for him to go first to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

It would be profitable for the class to find Scriptures which show that God's plan of salvation through Christ was to be and is extended to people of other races.

"Other races" would include us, for we are Gentiles. Seeing then that it is only "by the grace of God" that we have been raised above the station of a dog, let us thank God for His mercy and not think of ourselves as better than other races, but ask God to bless them also.—G. Ray