

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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What Jesus Is to Me

I am satisfied with Jesus,
He is everything to me;
I'll always love and serve him
Wherever I may be.

I heard his call: "Oh, come to me
And I will give you rest;
Take my yoke upon you,
And you'll be fully blessed.

"I am so meek and lowly too,
Your heart shall be my home;
Your restlessness will then be gone,
You never more shall roam.

"My sheep, they hear my voice,
And they always follow me;
Eternal life I give to them,
And lead to victory."

I am so glad I heard His voice
And gave to Him my all;
He shows me how to follow Him,
So I need never fall.

Some day upon the streets of gold,
When I am called above,
I'll meet my Saviour face to face,
Behold the Father's love.

—George W. Stephenson

Eat the Word and Find Deliverance

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart; for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jer. 15:16.

"And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brazen wall; and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee

to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the Lord: and I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible." Jer. 15:20, 21. "For thus hath the Lord spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their face, nor abase himself for the noise of them, so shall the Lord come down to fight for mount Zion and the hill thereof." Isa. 31:4.

"And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken." Isa. 32:3. "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper." Isa. 54:17. "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign to the people; to it shall the Gentiles trust, and his rest shall be glorious." "Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand; and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words." Deut. 32:3. "From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river Arnon, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us; the Lord our God delivered all unto us." Deut. 2.

"Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, a people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak? Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee." Deut. 9:1-4. "The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you." Deut. 1:30. "Sin shall not have dominion over you." Rom. 6:14.

O how beautiful the word of God! The soul that settles it that God is true in the sense that the experience taught in the Word really becomes his, so that he is a living epistle known and read of all men, believes, lives, and obeys the whole truth, has it written in his heart and mind, he will be free from every power of the devil; of a truth he cannot be shaken. He will know that all things do work together for good

to those that love the Lord, and that temptations are a part of his heritage. The word of God is a fortress and a stronghold against all the powers of the enemy. In every possible attack the Word is lifted against the devil in every soul that is in possession of the whole Word, Praise God! Oh, if all would obey, "stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong," how bright would be their hope anchored in the word of God! What confidence they would have in God! We have no refuge but the Word, and why not believe it with all our hearts, and live in the strictest obedience? If you do not, you will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Will to go through; God gives strength to those who turn the battle to the gates. Since God declares that it is impossible for him to lie, and has given us great and precious promises, and sworn by himself to the everlasting covenant, and declares that the devil is a liar and the father of lies, why not live and believe the truth constantly?

It means a great deal to be perfect even as our Father which is in heaven is perfect, yet God means for us to be, or he would not say so; but with this command he expects to give us the grace to live so, and it is our duty to see that we get the grace through obedience of the truth. We are to increase more and more and to abound more and more. Ask yourself, Am I doing this? If not, it is high time that you were moving. "Speak to the people that they go forward."

Do you so obey and trust God that the devil cannot tamper with you? Is every thought brought into obedience to the will of God? Do you do little things forbidden by the Word, and when admonished say, I don't feel condemned? If so, no difference if you do not feel condemned, God's word condemns you, and it is the Word you must meet in the day of judgment. The devil can sear your conscience, but the word of the Lord endureth forever, so see that you obey it rather than the dictates of a subverted mind. You must square up with the Word or be shaken out, for God is shaking both the heavens and earth as he promised.

On the other hand, with a clear soul, do you resist every accusation of the devil? It is an insult in the face of Almighty God to get under the devil's accusing power and crushing forces of hell when we are living in the truth; and we cannot stay in the Word and allow Satan to do this, for we are commanded to resist the devil, and if we do not we become a transgressor. Of course, we know he is the accuser of the brethren, but we are not to get bound under accusations by him, or have our spiritual vision blurred; but we are constantly to hold the Word against every accusation he would bring, and not to accept it, and if he is persistent, you be persistent also, and resist him steadfastly in the faith, and know the word of God makes him flee, no difference how many lies he presents in regard to being around yet. Try the spirits whether they be of God. God will not dispute his own word.

We are to live so that we are always ready to give a reason of the hope that is within us, and be so free from every power of Satan that under no trying circumstances, or oppressing force, we will speak

an impatient word, or give an impatient glance, or make an impatient move, but are to live just as Jesus Christ would live under the same circumstances, and all will be real gentleness and sweetness through the hottest test. —J. M. N.

The "If" in Your Life

"Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." And He could have been there; He was not far away. He knew all about it, and He let him die. It was very hard for that woman. She loved Him though, and fell down at His feet when she said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Then you know she wept.

I have come to think that there is an "IF" in every life. The person may not tell it; but it is there. It is something that God could have made different, if he had chosen, because he has all power; and yet he has allowed the "IF" to be there.

The "IF" in your life may be in your circumstances, or in your make-up, or in your mental nature. How many say, "If I were not as I am;" or "If my circumstances had been different!" If! If! If!

Come to the Lord Jesus with your "IF," and let him say to you what he said to Mary. He met her "if" with his "if." "Said I not unto thee that, IF thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" The glory of God is to come out of the "If" in your life. There are terrible "IFs" in some lives.

There are some who long ago believed fully in the Lord Jesus, and took the opportunity of the "IF" in their lives, and turned the stream in the direction of usefulness. Perhaps you have almost forgotten the "IF" in your life. If so, it will be profitable for you to look at it a little while and see how wonderful was the stream from the source of your "IF."

One woman said, "For what I have suffered, one hundred women shall be relieved." Oh, when the books are opened and we can see it all—when we can see what we cried over when we said, "Oh, anything but that!" and see then the "glory" from the "IF" in life!

There are many people who are losing their opportunities of usefulness for God by not saying, "I will, by the grace of God, win victory out of defeat because of the "IF" in my life, or because of the "IF" in my being.

A woman once said to me, "If my family were not as they are—my husband is so against anything that is truly Christian; my children would all make sport of me if I attempted anything in the way of peculiar devotion to God. Oh, if you knew my circumstances!" With an impulse that I was so glad of afterward, I said to her, "Never mind your husband;" never mind your children; take God for your circumstances, and put Him in between you and your husband; put God in between you and your children." She caught the idea, and exclaimed, "I will do it."

Later she told me, "Next morning when I went down to breakfast, there was my husband; and he almost always found fault at breakfast, about something. I looked at him and thought, 'It does not make

any difference what he says, I have God between him and me.' That woman lived to be a power in her family, and turned them to the Lord. Do not be thinking of your "IF."

IF I were this, IF I were that, IF I had talents I would do—IF! IF! IF! Oh, listen to Christ's IF. "IF thou canst believe, all things are possible." IF we can believe, it is a very wonderful thing. Faith carries a whole life with it. "IF"—do you know how often you say it or think it? Will you not take the other way and hear Him say his "IF"? Only believe!

It was Paul's desire to preach Christ at Rome, the center of civilization. Finally he went to Rome, but was chained to an uncongenial companion and shut up in that hired house. He did not say "IF I could only be free, I could do something for the Lord." He preached to those who came and he wrote letters from Rome! Have you sent any letters from your Rome? Have you sent any letters out from your "IF?" Have you said, "Because I lack, there must be very many others who lack along this line. And so I will go right along this line, and I must triumph!" Consider the possibilities and say, "Nothing has ever come to me, and nothing has ever gone from me, that I shall not be better for God by it." Face the "IF" in your life; and standing in the presence of Christ, say, "If thou hadst chosen, it could have been different; but thou didst not. Now thou art saying to me, 'IF thou canst believe, all things are possible'; and I step out on the possibilities for time and the possibilities for eternity." "For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?" Deut. 4:7. Selected.

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Do You Recognize Modernism?

Modernism, with its false teachings, is hard to detect at times. It is not so much what the modernist says, as what he does not say that causes the damage. Some of its advocates will take one line of false teaching, and some another. Here are a few points which will help to detect it:

Modernists have always objected to the doctrine of the total depravity of the human spirit, and as a result have never caught the true vision of redemption's cure.

There is something false and underground about modernism that continues to conceal itself until forced by the light and truth of God to own up to its real name.

Modernism is Satan's counterfeit in religion, and possesses some good, for many religious people will not follow a leader who has nothing but hoofs and horn.

Modernism has power to bring on a mental awakening religiously, but head-born religions do not deal with the depth of pride, sin, and hell in the depraved heart.

The root of modernism is the self-life—the carnal nature, the "old man of sin"—which has a wonderful capacity for education, refinement, and self-control.

Modernism has always had a beautiful side of religion to present, but has had nothing to say about the reproach and suffering that are connected with dealing with sin.

The religion of the modernist involves no offense of the cross and incurs no hostility from the world, as does the salvation that offers a perfect cure for sin.

Few Christian people have sufficient discernment to detect the poison in the teaching of the modernist, because of the smoothness of his words and the social gospel that he presents.

The modernist does not offer the only definite cure for the malady of the human race, which is sin in the heart.

Modernism reserves the right to discriminate and select its own Bible teachings which shall best further its cause, whether God is glorified or dishonored.

Modernism in the holiness movement is hard to detect, because of its graciousness, kind words, comfortable teachings, and professed love for the Bible.

Modernism has a bent to develop the intellectual instead of the spiritual, unconscious of the fact that this is only a strengthening and building up of the carnal mind.

When a religious person has given himself wholly to modernistic thinking, he feels perfectly clear and is at ease, though his soul is hell-bound. —J. O. E.

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Snow on the Altar

Our gospel tent was still standing in January, as we had no place to store it. A heavy snow had fallen. It was three and one-half feet deep, and a part of the tent was down. I went inside the part still standing. There was the long altar in good condition, but it was cold in the tent and it looked very empty and still in there.

As I looked at that altar where quite a few had knelt a few weeks before, I noticed a little snow that had sifted down from a ventilator on to one end of the altar. And as I pushed up on the roof of the tent, more snow came down on the altar. SNOW ON THE ALTAR! What a thought!

I stood there looking intently at the altar with snow on it, while thoughts ran through my mind. Snow on the altar! What a condition!

This condition exists everywhere today in most churches, so-called, spiritually speaking—no fire in the pulpit; no fire in the pews; no fire around the altar nor on it; hence a cold, fireless, snow- and ice-bound altar, if any altar at all. What a condition! In many cases the altar is not used. It is stored out in the back somewhere or hauled off to a junk pile. What would Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet," do and say, if he were to visit such places today. He exclaimed at one time, "Mine eyes do fail with tears."

When there is fire in the pulpit and around the altar, then there will be souls kneeling at the altar seeking God and finding peace that passeth understanding. Lord, help us to keep the snow off the altar and get fire thereon, amen. —Chas. Clifton

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-Page Holiness Monthly

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

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

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.

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

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.

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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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Marie Miles Editor, assisted by others.

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies.

40¢ per year in quantities of five or more to one address. (Pay by the quarter if you desire.)

Editorials

There will be no "Faith and Victory" paper printed and sent forth for the month of August; but, as usual, the "Bible Study Lessons" will be printed and mailed to all who are on the list for Sunday school rolls, and to any others who will notify us that they want the lessons. The workers here at the office will be busy for the Lord in other places, and some will be attending camp meetings. I am expecting to attend several of the camp meetings this summer; and also have some other meetings to hold. We all have placed ourselves in the hands of God as a living sacrifice for him to use for his glory and pleasure, and mean by his grace and help to keep up the good fight of faith until life is done and we can hear those words from the lips of the Saviour, "Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

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At this writing, the campmeeting at Hennessey, Okla. is in progress, and the Lord is blessing in the services. Quite a number of the saints from the Guthrie congregation have been attending. The first Sunday of the campmeeting the saints and others came in from different places and the new tabernacle was filled up even with extra seats being brought in for use. The Word went forth with much anointing upon the ministers and upon the listeners. Surely God will be saving souls in this meeting.

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Bro. Egbert Allen has his gospel tent pitched at Eldorado Springs, Mo. where the Lord has burdened him for a meeting, which will begin June 7th. Bro. and sister Ray plan to go and help in the meeting as the Lord may lead. If the Lord helps me to get the printing work here in shape, I plan to help in this tent meeting. We are anxious to see souls saved and shall take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to get the gospel to men by the printed page, and by publicly declaring it, for we know, as Paul stated, that the gospel is "The power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

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The apostle Paul wrote to Titus (chapter one, first few verses) concerning the hope of eternal life, which, he said, "God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." The contents of the Holy Bible is God's word to man, and its teachings are absolute truth because God who gave it cannot lie. He is the creator of all things and upholds them by his omnipotent power. Men ought to fear him who rules the universe above all else and believe all of his word, seeking grace and strength from Him daily to live pleasing in his sight. It certainly ought to be a pleasure for us created beings to believe and live by the rules of him who cannot lie and has power to keep us free from sin if we choose him and his ways all the time.

In Matt. 28:18, Jesus the Son of God says, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." This is why God spoke to the three disciples when on the mount of transfiguration, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matt,

17:5. In Heb. 12:25, we are warned again, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh, for if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven."

Paul says to us in Heb. 3:1, "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Let us consider this man Christ Jesus in the light of God's Word. Turn with me to Heb. 7:25, and let us read: "Wherefore he (Christ) is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him (Christ), seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."

Now let us read some from the fourth chapter of Hebrews, beginning at the 13th verse, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him (Christ) with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." It is written: "He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." 1 Peter 2:22. God, who cannot lie, says in his word to man, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Brethren, the Lord wants us to have all confidence in Him and come to him with all boldness or with implicit faith and ask him for what we stand in need of. Make God a living reality to your soul.

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In Phil. 2:20, 21, we read, "For I have no man like minded who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things that are Jesus Christ's." This statement which Paul made concerning those ministers under his observation presents to us a sad state of affairs.

How true this statement is today of many professed ministers of Jesus Christ, for we find many who seem to be more anxious about a good salary or how much finances they will receive from a meeting than they are concerned about souls getting a genuine Bible experience of salvation. Not only do we find many in this condition, but they also love to be honored of men. By receiving titles such as, Rev., D. D., LL. D., etc., they receive honor one of another, and in all these things they seek their own and not the things which are Jesus Christ's. It seems, notwithstanding all the clear teaching we have in the sacred Word of the cunning working of Satan and of his crafty ways of deceiving souls, that many fall right into his traps and snares, backslide in heart and go right on being filled with their own ways (Prov. 14:14), fulfilling the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 6:8), and will reap destruction even as others that have no hope.

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We are praying for all of our readers, and do

desire that you each and every one keep in the love of God, for Paul tells us that this is the "More Excellent way." We hope to see many of you in the camp meetings this summer. Camp meeting is a good place for your souls to be refreshed from heaven's store house. It is also good for saints to meet together in heavenly fellowship and to enjoy the clean association of the saints in light, pray together, and sing spiritual songs, making melody in their hearts together unto the Lord. In Malachi 3:16 we read, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, that thought upon his name."

Paul instructs us (Heb. 10) not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is, but to exhort one another so much the more as we see the day approaching. It is a good thing for the saints in light to assemble themselves together and to testify of the great things that God is doing, as we are told in his word: "Declare his doings among the people." Let the ministers exalt the name of Jesus Christ, and all the others say AMEN. In the twelfth chapter of Isaiah it is written: "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee." There are none more free than the saints in light, those who are cut loose from this old world and its binding influences. They surely have a right to shout and sing the high praises of God, who is doing great and mighty things among them. The true children of God find Jesus to be the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Dear readers, we expect to greet you again with a September "Faith and Victory" paper. In the mean time, let us watch and be sober and pray one for another.

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Blue Mirror-Text Mottoes

These mirrors with beautiful Scripture texts have a bluish color. You will be pleased with them. They make a gift that your friend will be delighted with.

Some are square and some are oval in shape, fixed to hang on your wall. The prices range from 85 cents up to \$2 each depending on the size. We have them in stock at the Printing Office and can send them to you on return mail. Your friends will be sure to want some when they see yours.

The prices are .85, \$1.25, \$1.70, and \$2.00 Order today while the stock lasts.

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Obituaries

Mrs. Arvilla Belle Gonzalez was born February 9, 1867 in Missouri and departed this life June 10, 1950 at her home at the age of 83 years, 4 months and 1 day. She was united in marriage to Leander Thomas Ruckman in 1893 in Missouri. To this union were born six children, her husband and four children preceding her in death. She was united in marriage to A. Gonzalez May 12, 1912 near McCloud, Oklahoma.

She is survived by her husband, A. Gonzalez of the home; two sons, Fred Ruckman and Oscar Ruckman of

El Reno, Okla.; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Sister Gonzalez had lived in Shawnee since 1914. She had formerly lived nine miles north of McLoud. She was a member of the congregation of the Church of God on South McKinley St. in Shawnee, Okla.

Funeral services were held June 12 at the Roesch Bros. Chapel in Shawnee conducted by Bro. George Stephenson and Bro. Archie Souders. Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery.

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James Elis Morris was born February 14, 1869 in Montgomery County, Ohio and departed this life May 27, 1950 at his home near Neosho, Missouri at the age 81 years, 3 months and 13 days.

He was united in marriage to Clara M. Russell February 25, 1900. To this union were born six children, his wife and three children preceded him in death. He is survived by one son, Arthor Morris of Montrose, Colo., and two daughters, Mrs. Ethel Estes of Benton Harbor, Michigan and Mrs. Lena Haydon of Chicago, Illinois. Later he was united in marriage to Mrs. Grace Rhoades April 12, 1942, she and four step children also survive.

For fifty-two years he served God and always loved the truth. Just before he died he said, "I am looking to Jesus," and passed away with no struggle at all.

Funeral services were held at the saints' chapel at Neosho, Mo. Bro. Sam Barton and Fred Pruitt officiating. Text, Ecclesiastes 12:14, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

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Mrs. Dora Mixon was born August 27, 1863 and departed this life May 18, 1950 at the age 87 years, 8 months, 22 days. She was united in marriage to Preston Mixon February 1888. To this union was born one son, Ernest Mixon. Her husband and three grandchildren preceded her in death. She leaves one son, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren and one brother, Levie Joiner of Hammond, La, many other relatives, and friends. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

When first converted she joined the Baptist Church, but in later years she heard the gospel in all its fullness and came out with the saints and remained in the faith until the end.

Funeral services were conducted by L. L. Perry assisted by Sis. Lottie Joiner and Sis. Katherine Key. Text used, the latter clause of Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet thy God." Rom. 14:12.

She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Joiner Cemetery.

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By the help of the Lord, the prayers and means of the saints we have been enabled to put a tombstone up at father and mother Winn's graves in the Summit View Cemetery, one mile north of Guthrie, Okla. It is not so large but is nice and serves as a marker. We had this inscription carved on the stone: "They have fought a good fight, they have kept the faith." Their graves are in the north-east part of the cemetery, just north of a medium sized catalpa tree.

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Sister Ruth Murphey of Jena, La. hereby expresses her appreciation to all who contributed means for her car. She has purchased a good used car and only has \$300.00 as a balance to be paid. Keep praying for her.

PRAYER REQUEST

Brother Bert Steel desires the saints to earnestly remember him in prayer. He is badly afflicted.

Campmeeting Notices

Following is a list of the church of God campmeetings which, Lord willing, will convene in the summer of 1950, their dates, locations, etc. Meals will be served at all the camp meetings as the Lord supplies through free-will offerings of money, vegetables, fruit (canned and fresh) and other needed supplies, which may be sent to the address given with each notice, or taken directly to the campmeeting when you go. Saints should cooperate with your presence, labor, and prayers. Pray that God will direct His true ministers so that the ministerial needs of each meeting will be supplied and the full gospel be preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and that souls will be saved and sanctified, and bodies healed.

DOVER, OKLAHOMA. Date, September 1-10. Location of camp ground, 1 mile north, 2½ miles east of Dover. Bring your blankets. It may be cool at night. For further information, write Henry Caldwell or Leroy McCray, Dover, Okla.

—Ulysses Phillips

GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA State Campmeeting. Date: August 4-13. Location: In the block of 6th St. and W. Warner. Sleeping quarters for women above the new dining hall, and for men in old dining hall. Bring sheets and towels. Address: O. C. Porter, 511 E. Springer.

BOLEY, OKLAHOMA. Date: August 18-27. Location: north of school house. Bring bedding and straw ticks. Straw furnished. Address: C. A. Wallace, Boley, or M. J. Phillips, Box 294, Boley, Okla.

MIDWAY, LOUISIANA. Date: August 18-27. Location: One mile west of Jena, La. (Midway is not a Post Office). Bus transportation to Jena. Cab service to camp ground or call 828F12. Address: Willard Esters, Box 757, Jena, La. or Ruth Murphey, Box 824, Jena, La.

JUMBO, WEST VIRGINIA. Date: Aug. 25 to Sept. 3rd. Location: 3 miles above Diana off Route 20, between Buckhannon and Webster Springs. This is a pioneer field so you should go prepared to care for yourself as much as possible, but Bro. Peek sends word that they expect to have room to "feed and bunk all who come." Bring pillows and covers if possible. Let all whom God can use, come; and all who needs help, come. Address: Sister Maud Clifton, Webster Springs, R. 2, or George Peek, Camden on Gauley, W. Va.

THE NATIONAL CAMPMEETING AND MINISTERS' MEETING

The national campmeeting of the church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 21st to 30th, inclusive, 1950, on the camp ground at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, the county seat of Newton County. The national ministers' meeting will be held July 31st and Aug. 1st, two days following the camp meeting, and all the ministers should remember these dates and be present.

A cordial invitation is extended to every honest soul to attend this camp meeting where you may receive help for your soul and body and enjoy the rich fellowship with the true saints of God.

Monark Springs is not a Post Office nor a rail

road station. Those traveling by bus or train should come to Neosho and take a taxi to the camp ground, or phone some of the saints through the Monark Springs grocery store to come after you. Highways 71 and 60 pass through Neosho, and all-weather roads lead to the camp ground.

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

The tents will rent for \$5.00 each, and steel cots \$1.00 each (including a mattress as long as they last). Individuals desiring quarters in the dormitories, the price is \$2.50 for cot and space. Let none stay away from the meeting who are unable to pay. Quarters will be provided. Please bring bedding and straw ticks and come prepared for very cool nights. Straw will be furnished.

If you want a tent and cot, please send your order, with money, direct to Sam Barton, 2264 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa 15, Okla. by July 10th. Bro. and Sister Barton are the business managers.

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

Each individual and congregation should make an offering to the national campmeeting. Please send it to Bro. Barton, or the undersigned by July 10th.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-treas.

1116 W. Washington, Guthrie, Okla.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' new camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (a suburb of Los Angeles) August 18-27.

We urge upon all saints throughout this section of the country to attend this meeting and also we expect a number from back east to be with us. If you feel a need of help from God in either soul or body we urge you to come expecting God to help you.

God is working among the people these days and doing all that our faith takes in and may we all seek Him for an increase of faith that we may see greater things and receive more from Him. Let us all be praying that victory will be given to the saints in this meeting and for great success for God.

It will be to your advantage as well as ours to get your order in for equipment (tents and cots, etc.) as soon as possible as we may have to have a number of new tents made up in order to get tents that will pass the inspection for flame proofing with the Fire Prevention Bureau as is required in this section.

The tents are 14 feet square and will accommodate 4 people nicely. They rent for \$8.25. Steel cots rent for \$.75 and pads for them rent for \$1.50 making \$2.25 for the cot and pad. Ordinarily a family wants a whole tent to themselves while individuals find it more economical to share a tent with other individuals. Please state when sending in your order whether you want a whole tent or just space in a tent with others. We would like to have your order as soon as possible for estimate purposes but it will be all right if we re-

ceive the money by the 14th of August.

Directions: If driving follow 99 highway to Osborn about one-half mile to the camp ground. If coming by bus or train you may get off at San Fernando if coming from the north and catch the Asbury Rapid Transit Line bus with a "G" on the front of it headed for Los Angeles. It will take you right to the front entrance of the camp ground. If you come into L. A. you may catch the Asbury Rapid Transit bus with the "G" on the front anywhere north of 8th St. on Spring St. going north and get off at the camp ground. Spring St. is 2 blocks west of the Greyhound bus depot in L. A. and the Asbury bus depot in San Fernando is just across the street from the Greyhound bus depot. If you will notify us someone will pick you up at the station.

Address your correspondence to O. B. Wilson, 42541/2 Perlita Ave., Los Angeles (39) Calif., I. D. Stover, 611 E. 10th St., Pomona, Calif., Erle E. Forbes, 12304 Osborn Place, Pacoima, Calif. or J. P. Sims, 11111 Compton Ave., Los Angeles, California.

Will be seeing you at the camp meeting, Lord willing.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Colo.—Dear Bros. and Sisters,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am so thankful to the dear Lord for so many things, above all things for salvation and his precious love and care. I want to tell how he spared the lives of my husband (who is unsaved) and myself just yesterday when lightning struck our little mountain cabin. We had come up the day before for a few days rest and fishing. About noon a storm came up and it rained and blew and then a regular mountain thunder storm began. I used to be afraid of lightning but some how I felt so safe and unafraid. We were at the table eating our dinner. I remarked about how hard it was raining and how snug it was in our little cabin. We had several loud crashes of thunder and the lightning seemed to be getting worse. Then all at once a terrible crash hit us and for a few seconds all I was aware of was the terrible noise all around me. I knew the lightning had struck us and then something seemed to hit my head and it seemed as though things were falling down over me.

I fully expected to die and I remember looking to the Lord and wondering if all was well between us. I didn't have time to pray but I felt no fear. The terrible noise and the ringing in my head seemed to stun me and then my mind began to clear. I looked toward the chair where my husband had been sitting. He wasn't there and I wondered if he had been knocked down. As I turned around to look for him I saw him standing by the window fighting the fire as the curtains were in flames. Then I left the cabin and went next door for help. He said he told me to go outside but I didn't hear him. They got the fire out with little damage but the lightning had struck three sides of the cabin, all but the side where we sat eating our dinner. It came in three places in the floor from different directions. Cooking utensils, food, glass, pictures and wood and splinters were all over the place. One large picture was shattered and glass was right where I sat. It tore through the two windows, tearing the casings away and burned holes in clothes hanging

near. It split a rock outside almost the size of a tub, hit two trees and tore a hole in the roof. When it was all over the beds, tables and floors were covered with broken glass and such a mess I never saw. But today all is in order again and now as never before I realize how much we need to depend on the Lord. Here I was feeling so safe and secure because we were inside, all snug and I thought safe. Only the mercy of the dear Lord that spared our lives. If I had been standing at the table where I had been ten minutes before I would have been right in the path where the lightning passed through three ways.

I am especially thankful that my husband's life was spared as he is unsaved. Let us earnestly pray for the unsaved that God will be merciful a little longer and in some way save their precious souls. I have been going through tests and trials lately that at times seemed almost more than I could bear but I am thankful for even trials as they draw us closer to the Lord. It pays to be ready at all times as we may not have time to get ready when we are called into eternity.

I thank all the dear saints who have been praying for us and earnestly desire your prayers that the Lord will save my husband and children some way and keep me faithful to him. Your sister in Christ, Lucy Phebus.

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Ohio—Dear Saints in Christ,—Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I am saved, sanctified, healed and kept by the precious power of God. I am requesting prayer again for my niece, Dorothy Clemons. Her digestive organs do not operate properly, her teeth give her trouble and her side pains her so terrible at times she can hardly stand it. All of you please pray that God touch her body and heal her of all her ailments.

Your sister in Christ,

Elnora Ayers.

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Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt—I feel led of the Lord to write my testimony of how the dear Lord healed my awful afflicted body. I was very sick and felt that the dear Lord was through with me here. I wasn't the least bit afraid, I was willing for the Lord to have his way with me. I said have your way Lord, I don't expect to see another spring. The dear Lord full of mercy healed my body and made me able to work. What a mighty God we serve.

Sis. Emma Ritchie.

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Do Your Duty

"And let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12:12. We find in this scripture it is our duty to obey God in every respect. But we find some people professing to be straight with God and free from all sin, and their children going headlong in sin with very little parental restraint, if any at all. Dear ones, in the name of Jesus who has redeemed us from all sin, let us see that we perform our God-given duty toward our children; for it will be a sad scene in the last day to see our children go to torment because we did not do our duty toward them. And if we neglect our duty, we shall have to spend eternity in torment with them. We know disobedience is sin. Father has commanded us in his word, Prov. 22:6, "Train up a child in the way

he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." This does not mean to wait until the child is loaded down with sin, then begin to teach it, but it means to begin at an early age, just as soon as the child begins to notice everything. And dear parents, let our commands be full of love and gentleness toward the children, and may Father help us to always know where our children are and what they are doing.

We find in Prov 23:14, "Thou shalt beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from hell." To the world, this instruction is obsolete or out of date; but no child of God can lightly esteem God's instructions to follow the trend of the world, even though it makes one and his children a spectacle or gazing stock unto the world. This instruction is to be followed in a godly manner. Some parents do not seem to see the need of correcting their children until the children irritate them to the extent that their carnality is stirred, and when correction is given at such times it is not for the child's profit, but it is only a giving vent to the carnal nature in the parent. Some use their hand and slap the child in the face or on the head, often with ungodly threats, such as, "If you do not behave yourself I will skin you alive," or "I will beat you within an inch of your life." Now, dear ones, these expressions ought not to be used, and this slapping is of the devil. Let us train our children according to the word of God, not provoking them to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Then we will have a happy home.

If our children have become unruly, oh, may God help us to have them on our mind continually and pray earnestly for them, that they will be saved. For Jesus said in his word, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done." John 15:7.

I have met fathers professing to be sanctified, and letting their children go to bed without prayer or hearing the Word read. They say they do this that they may keep peace in the family. Jesus said, "Suppose ye that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you nay, but rather divisions." Luke 12:51. Now, dear ones, God help us to see when we do this, we compromise with the devil. The Word teaches us that it is sin to compromise. It is the duty of every parent to sacrifice some time every day and talk with the children about Jesus and how he loves them. When both parents are saved, of course, the children can be handled to an advantage, but if there is only one of the parents saved, God holds us to do our duty, always holding Jesus up before them. Dear ones, if we have been neglecting our duty in this line, may God help us to take the little ones to heart. Amen. —J. E. R.

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Our hearts are lifted up
In thankfulness today,
To Him who guides our feet,
Along life's rugged way.

—Harvey Johnson.

Young People's Section

A Word To Young Saints

I feel led of the Lord to give a word of warning to the young people among God's little ones. In traveling around among them, I notice a great deal of mingling with worldliness in a way commonly called courting. "Oh," you say, "there is no harm in a little thing like that." Remember it is the little foxes that spoil the vines. When we were sanctified, we were called out from the world. Jesus says, "Ye are not of the world." John 15:19. Again, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:16. If we are called out of the world, we should not do as the world does. Be not conformed to this world. Rom. 12:2. In courting sinners, room is given for worldly conversation; such as jesting, foolishness, etc. I notice it is prevalent among the young saints, which is a violation of Eph. 5:4. Now, dear ones, these things ought not to be. Read 1 John 2:15. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

How can we fall in love with sinners, without disobeying this commandment? "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Eph. 5:11. "Oh, there are no saved young people that would make desirable companions," is often the cry. Then if you value your soul, you will be content to remain single, because we must measure to the word of God. We find in 2 Tim. 2:22, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 1 Thess. 5:22. "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Keeping company with sinners will very often lead to a marriage of saint and sinner, which is contrary to the word of God. "She is at liberty to be married to whom she will, ONLY IN THE LORD." 1 Cor. 7:9. Sinners are not in the Lord, so we have no authority to intermarry with them. "Wherefore come out from among them [unbelievers] and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and I will receive you." 2 Cor. 6:17. I notice when there is a mingling with the world, all spirituality dies out of our meetings. Young people professing to be saints, look forward to meeting time as an opportunity to chat with worldlings instead of worshiping God.

Some young saints who would not start a courtship with the unsaved, will flirt away their spirituality among themselves. This should not be. There is nothing wrong with the desire for a companion; but Christ and his work should come first. If He really has the first place in the heart, you will go to meetings to worship Him and not to have your mind occupied with thoughts of love-making, writing notes, etc. If you put Christ first, it is reasonable to believe that He will be mindful of you and help work out your life problems much more satisfactory than you could.

The companionship of other young people should be counted as a blessing, but not sought for above spiritual benefits which come from hearing of the word and worshiping God in song and prayer.

You may say, "But many of the older saints met their companions at meetings." That is true, and we hope when you meet your companion, you meet him or her at a meeting rather than at some worldly gathering; but when you meet him (or her) you still need to value the Giver more highly than the gift, and still obey the Word of God and "be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. . . give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee." 1 Tim. 4:12-14.

We wish to speak a word of warning to young married couples also. Do you know that you can become so engrossed in your affections for each other that you can lose your vision of eternal things? Marriage is no excuse for anyone to take themselves off the altar for sacrifice or service to the Master. You should still consider others, and not disgust on-lookers with your display of love-making in public. Sel.

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Okla.—Dear Young People,—It encourages me to know that I'm not the only young person who is striving to enter heavens portals by the straight and narrow way. I don't want to do anything that would hinder others or keep me from reaching my heavenly home. We all know that we are not going this way just to benefit ourselves, but that we may show others the way to have the rich blessings of salvation. I am thankful to be saved and enjoying God's wonderful blessings.

In Psalms 55:22 it says to "Cast thy burden upon the Lord." It is wonderful how the Lord helps us to bear our burdens and lifts them completely when he sees fit. A traveler carrying a heavy load would soon become weak and perhaps die if he couldn't lay his load down and rest awhile. So it is with us, if Jesus wouldn't come to our rescue we would soon be weak and discouraged and would probably lose our experience of salvation. We are glad we can cast our burdens on him and be encouraged by his wondrous words of truth. He really is a friend in time of need.

I am looking forward to the camp meetings this summer. They always encourage me so much. I want to see all of the saints that can come. I know the Lord will bless and souls will be saved. I am looking forward to meeting new young people and to be with ones I already know. Pray for me that I'll stand true 'till he comes to get us and take us to our heavenly home.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Doris Busbee.

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La.—Dear Young Saints,—I am glad that I can still report victory in my soul over the opposing powers of the devil. Seems like he has tried in many ways lately to hinder my progress in the Lord. But it encourages me to know the devil is after me. If I didn't have any trials or persecutions then I know I had better move up because we're getting on dangerous ground. The devil won't

bother us as long as we do as he pleases. As soon as we move out for God we might as well expect opposition.

I have felt impressed to write my testimony for some time but I just kept putting it off. This morning I got up early and started to another town about 60 miles away, looking for a job. I was almost to my destination when I happened to notice I was almost out of gas. I noticed again and I had left every bit of my money at home. So I just had to start home by faith. I have noticed sometime when we aren't living quite as close to the Lord as we ought to, that when a trial comes when we really need the Lord, that a feeling of guilt comes when we ask the Lord to do us a favor when we haven't been doing much for him all along. It pays us to keep close to the Lord when things seem to be going along smoothly as well as when in trial. I trusted the Lord to bring me home. I would think I almost had faith to believe he would when I would glance down at the gas guage. Then down would go my faith. Finally I took it a little at a time. I would get faith enough to believe he would let me get to the next town. I would make it there all right. Then I would start for the next town. When my gas guage says empty it really means it. When it got about to that place I just had to know it would be the Lord working if I made it home so I promised if he would bring me home I would write my testimony. He not only brought me home but I went on to a service station. This may seem like a small thing to some folks but it surely did show the power of the Lord to me.

It means much for us to live close to the Lord. If we please him he surely will not let us down in time of need. If the Lord wants us to do something for him (no matter how small or great it may be) then if we keep putting it off we had better watch out because he might let something happen to us to bring us down to the place we will gladly do his will. Pray for me that I will always put the Lord first in my life. With Christian Love, Dale Doolittle.

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Mo.—Dear Saints of God,—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I find this way grows sweeter every day. I thank the dear Lord for saving my soul and showing me this Bible way. I love this precious truth and want to be found doing the will of the Father at all times. I thank the Lord for his healing power. He has healed me many times, for which I give him all the praise. The devil works hard to get people discouraged, but when we look to Jesus, the devil has to flee. I'm thankful we can put our trust in Jesus and he will direct our path (Prov. 3:5, 6). I need your prayers that I will be faithful and true. A sister in Christ, Mrs. Lenard Marler.

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Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?

By Ostis B. Wilson

(Conclusion)

Ezekiel 28:13-18

This scripture speaks of the "anointed Cherub" that had been in the "Eden of God" and was "perfect in thy ways" from the time he was created until "iniquity was found in thee," etc. and the proponets of the doctrine that the devil was one time a bright angel in heaven apply this to the devil himself. But a little closer look at these verses will prove clearly that such could not be a proper interpretation.

The subject under discussion in these verses is

introduced in verse 12. "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, etc."

Here is a reference to the king of Tyrus. The king of Tyrus was, without question, a man and not a spirit such as the devil is. He was a very considerable and accomplished man above other men or kings. The courts of Tyre, with its kings, had for a long time been famous. There is nothing here to even indicate that this might or even could mean satan.

It is said in verse 13, "Thou hast been in the Eden of God." Eden stands as a symbol of the paradise of God where man had everything that was good and was master of it all and had dominion over all. But that position was given to man of God. So was the position, good situation and dominion of the king of Tyrus given him of God because God's Word says that he gives the kingdoms of men to whomsoever he will. Daniel 4:17.

"Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth, etc." Verse 14. After God had deposed man from his dominion in the garden of Eden he placed a cherubim at the gate to guard it lest man should return and eat of the tree of life and live forever, etc. Gen. 3:22-24. This cherub stands as a symbol of guardianship or protector of sacred and precious things. God put him there for that purpose. The king of Tyrus considered himself to be as a guardian angel to his people to cover and protect them. God intended government and rulers for this purpose. This should be the real duty of anointed kings and when they observe this rule strictly God blesses and owns them. The advancement and position of kings and rulers is from God. He said: "I have set thee so." Verse 14.

Verse 15 says: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Therefore the day of his creation would be the day he was created or made or set up or anointed as king and ascended the throne. At the time God set him over this kingdom he prospered in all his ways and all went well with him until iniquity was found in him. That is, he became lifted up in his heart with pride and this sin that was the downfall of our fore parents in Eden (pride) proved to be his overthrow.

This is made plain in verse 17 which says: "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness,—." His heart was lifted up against God because of pride on account of his very great position so God decreed his overthrow just as he did in the case of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and others. His wisdom was corrupted by reason of his brightness. That is, he was such a bright luminary among men and in the political or governmental world that he became really a fool in glorying and thus his wisdom that brought him to this position was corrupted.

As for the devil or satan having ever been a good or upright person I say he surely was not. In 1 John 3:8 the apostle declares without reservation that "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the BEGINNING." And in John 8:44 Jesus said: "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the

lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the BEGINNING, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him."

Both of these scriptures refer to what the devil was in the BEGINNING. One said he sinned from the BEGINNING and the other said he was a murderer from the BEGINNING. If one wants to go on back of the BEGINNING where the sacred record begins and speculate on what might have been there before the beginning I do not consider it safe or profitable to do so.

The divinely, inspired sacred record going all the way back to the beginning says he was a sinner and a murderer then and abode not in the truth. Some may object at this point that he was in the truth at one time but did not abide in the truth but the other statements of this verse in connection with this statement rather carries out the thought that he never did abide in the truth—was never in the truth at all.

Now let us look at Rev. 20: 1-3. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Here we have the binding of the dragon for a thousand years, etc. Note; it says he laid hold on The DRAGON. It is the DRAGON under consideration. This dragon is identical with the great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns of Rev. 12. The terms describing him or his nature (that is: "Serpent," "Devil" and "Satan") have already been explained in the comments of the dragon in Rev. 12.

These verses are identical with the 12th chapter of Rev. and the binding of the dragon and casting him down into the pit is identical with him being cast out of heaven or his high, exalted position in the hearts and minds of the people in the religious world.

The angel which came down from heaven properly represents Christ, (Michael, the Arch-angel) and he says in Rev. 1:18 that he has the key of hell and of death. It would also properly represent the whole ministry of the early church who worked in such close contact with Christ through the spirit and in such unison with each other that they properly stand together as one unified body that could be represented by one angel. The chain in his hand is the unbreakable chain of truth which exposes every false thing.

The works of the devil and all his false doctrines and religions can only live in darkness because he is the ruler of the darkness of this world. Truth is light. Light dispels darkness. When the darkness is dispelled and the evil works of darkness and the devil are exposed they have no power to operate any more hence it is said this false system of religion (the dragon) was bound.

The Dragon (Paganism, heathenism, idolatrous worship) was overthrown and bound through the earnest, faithful work of the early church in getting

the soul-enlightening truth to the world. Truth in the hands of Michael and his angels (Christ and his ministers) prevailed. The glorious triumphs of the early church continued until about 270 A. D. when the overthrow of the dragon power in a general sense seemed to be complete. However; about this time there began a decline in spirituality among the children of God which opened the way for a great apostasy and the falling away which finally led to the establishment of the Papal system about 530 A. D.

When the devil saw his first agent of deception was defeated and cast down he just quickly changed his clothes, so to speak, and took on a Christian garb in the Papal system rather than the heathen garb he wore in the Pagan system and continued right on with his work of deception and spiritual destruction but by means of a different agent. Note, it was the dragon (the system) and not the devil himself which was bound, cast out, etc. for the devil continued his work right on in the beast of Rev. 13 and he is the dominating spirit of Papalism as well as Paganism.

The Papacy was given power to continue 42 months. Rev. 13:5. Counting 30 days to the month this would be 1260 days. Prophetic time was reckoned on the basis of a day for a year which would give us 1260 years that the Papacy was to continue.

Reckoning from the time set by most of the church fathers and historians for the beginning of the spiritual decline (270 A. D.) and continuing on ahead to the time of the Martin Luther Reformation when the power of the Papacy was broken (1530 A. D.) we have exactly 1260 years. However, if we reckon from the time of the complete establishment of the Papal system in Rome (530 A. D.) (The decline was more or less gradual and the Catholic Hierarchy was not fully established immediately but over a period of about 260 years.) and continue ahead from that date to the time of the Martin Luther Reformation (1530 A. D.) we have exactly 1000 years which was the time the dragon was to be bound.

This does not mean that the Martin Luther Reformation was a revival of Paganism but through it the Papacy as a supreme religious power was broken and the devil thus exposed again in his work of deception revived the old dragon or Pagan system and this began to be manifest soon after the Luther Reformation in the forms of Spiritualism, Christian Science, Free Masonary, and many others and it has been increasing all the time, and it appears now that it may reach its grand climax in the communistic powers that are spreading so fast over the earth at this time.

If we understand that there have been three major systems of false religion in the earth, Paganism, Papalism and Protestantism in that order and operating one at a time and the spirit of the devil predominant in all of them changing from one to another as the power of each was broken by the power of God and his truth and that now in the last days they are all three operating in the world at the same time, all of these different things will not be hard to understand.

Now for a brief reference to verse 4 of Rev. 20. "—And I saw the SOULS of them that were BE—

HEADED for the witness of Jesus—and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Note, it was not people upon this earth at all that is referred to here but the souls of them that had been beheaded (the martyrs of Jesus) in paradise. This was the company that “loved not their lives unto the death.” Rev. 12:11. This is the same thing referred to in Rev. 12:5 which says: “And her child was caught up to God and to his throne.”

This was that glorious company of converts who were not accounted worthy to live because of their faith in Christ but were persecuted unto death but as they were put to death down here their souls ascended up to God. The victorious reign of the church, God's people, down here was cut off because they were not allowed to live here during that time so the scene shifts from earth to paradise where they did live on and reigned with Christ during the thousand years of the dark ages (530 A. D. to 1530 A. D.) when the Papacy reigned supreme and the dragon was bound.

The thousand years does not measure their reign at all. It did not end at that time. They are still living and reigning with Christ in paradise and will continue to live and reign with him eternally in heaven. But with the coming of the Luther Reformation the truth of justification by Faith in God was restored and salvation work on a general scale began again and the people of God, his church, was again restored to that victorious, triumphant life upon the earth so the scene shifts back down here where the work of salvation is being carried on and just leaves this grand company to continue their reign with Christ in Paradise. End.

Prayer

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thess. 5:17. There are times of secret prayer when the heart communes with God, and then there are times when we should lift up our voices to God in prayer, supplication, intercession, and giving of thanks. There is cause for alarm when the temporal things of this life so take up the time and attention of a saint that his mind is occupied to the extent that he can go long periods of time without communion with God. When Adam and Eve were pure in heart, God could talk with them, but there came a time when “they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord amongst the trees of the garden.” When one is saved, his heart is the garden of the Lord, and the Lord loves to walk and commune there. If he calls and we are otherwise occupied, surely it must be that something is wrong and we are not filling the purpose for which he has saved us. Prayer is communing with God, so if you have ceased communing with him, you have ceased to pray, even if you do kneel and say words which you think you are directing to the Heavenly Father in Jesus' name.

Luke says, (18:1) “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought ALWAYS to pray

and not to faint.” We believe this scripture implies that if we fail to pray as we ought we will faint. Then when we see people becoming discouraged and becoming faint-hearted in the way of the cross, we can conclude that they have failed to “ALWAYS pray.” Many people who profess salvation, even in this evening light, do not seem to notice, or at least to heed this and many other scriptures teaching on the same line. The cause of so much leanness and formality, and so little power among some of the professed children of God, is a lack of prayer. We are told to pray for all men everywhere, and especially in these days when “perilous times” have come, we should pray for the ministers and household of faith. Many feel free to criticise the ministers, and especially their pastor, yet have very little time to pray for him. A pastor is likely to fail and is sure to be handicapped unless he has the earnest prayers of his congregation backing him (or her). God is sure to show the different members of the congregation how they can work in harmony with the pastor if they really pray.

One of the essentials to a happy, triumphant, Christian life is prayer. We could trace many errors to a lack of prayer, such as rushing into things without asking the guidance of God's spirit. He has told us that “if any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God.” Sometimes people would like to know the mind of God in a certain matter, but they have it so figured out in their own minds that they do not give God a chance to let his mind be known in the matter even after they ask him. Sometimes there is a nervous anxiety and a feeling that God is waiting too long to answer and the thing must be worked out “right now,” and the result is the wrong move without the guidance of the Lord. The Lord will answer in time, but sometimes our time is not his time. Frequently we hear the remark from some children of God, “I never thought of its being any harm,” or “I hadn't looked at it in that way before,” when prayer before the deed was done would have prevented the error. “Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.”

The psalmist wrote, “Evening and morning and at noon will I pray, and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice.” Ps. 55:17. It is a good thing, when possible, to have a time for prayer. I have found that it is the enemy's delight to crowd things in upon one to do to get him to put off prayer until the body is tired and then the devil magnifies that tired feeling and makes it very difficult to pray, and sometimes succeeds in getting the tired one to defer prayer. We can never pray too much if the prayer is of faith and earnestly directed to God. Sometimes the enemy succeeds in getting one into the habit of doubting and his prayers are more prayers of doubt than prayers of faith. At such times it may be well to commune with God in song and praise.

The excuse is often made, “I cannot make an able prayer,” and such people depend upon others to do their praying for them. Little things that should be taken to God in prayer by the individual are given in as requests for others to pray for. Then if the

answer doesn't come, others get the blame and discouragement is the result. It is no wonder some people are lean in their souls and never have the victory. God will accept no excuse from one of his children for not praying. Do the best you can and ask God to help you to pray. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and Jesus was a willing teacher. Surely, he will teach you to pray. We have the promise, "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." Rom. 8:26. It is the devil who does not want you to pray because he knows it is a Christian's source of strength. It is said that he flees when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees. If you have a voice and can talk to earthly parents and friends, you can talk to God. Pray to God without thinking what the listeners think of "your" prayer. Others may criticize and the devil will tell you that you made a failure, but if you have done your best to pray to God, "the Father which seeth in secret will reward you openly." The Lord looks at the heart and not at the beautiful words that the prayer says.

In many congregations we notice that it is left up to two or three or four individuals to do the praying. This condition can never result in an active congregation for the Lord where all members are supposed to be "lively stones." And it is very deplorable, yet true, that in some places the preacher must do all the praying or there is none done. If this is the condition where you meet with others for the purpose of worshipping God in spirit and in truth, awake, and be ashamed to profess to be God's child until you at least make an effort to get the victory along this line! If we are workers for God as we should be, we should not wait and wait, thinking someone else should pray because they can pray better than we, but each one fill our own place in the body. If you are where God wants you to be He will want YOU to pray some time. Let us never think we have done enough for God. The devil is at work in this line as well as others. It is very easy to wait on someone else, but in the day of judgment we shall be weighed in the balances and found wanting. (Daniel 5:27). —G. Ray

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Having Faith

There are many people constantly seeking favors of God for healing of their bodies, or for this thing or that, and never seem to receive much, if any benefit from their frequent applications for divine favor. Generally their principal trouble lies in their faith,—or no faith,—as the case may be. And too often the works are neglected that are to go hand in hand with faith, such as laying aside things that are a hindrance to spiritual progress. In case of sickness it too often happens that the wrong kind of works are applied with faith, to help the Lord along with the case; using medicine and drugs instead of removing every hindering cause of spiritual progress. We are the ones who need the help at such times, and not the Lord; so let

us see to it that the right kind of works go with our faith. God will answer according to our faith, as we walk in the light and obey his word.

In the case of the lame man (Acts 14:8-10) we find he had faith to be healed. In another place we read that Jesus "seeing their faith" healed the sick.

Some get the wrong idea of faith, and wait for some wonderful manifestation of power to take place in order to have faith. They look upon faith as some monstrous thing, when Jesus says, if we only have faith as a grain of mustard seed, we can remove mountains. You know that is very small, but is something bearing much fruit from a little seed, dependent entirely upon surrounding circumstances for its development and yielding of fruit.

Faith in God, then, is just believing God, and making use of his Word, "doubting nothing." As the little seed is planted in the ground before it will bear fruit, so must we be in Christ, and be enclosed round about with the walls of salvation. And as we live in that way, nourished with the dews of heavenly grace, even though our lot may be cast among wicked people, our surroundings are walls of salvation and we can keep hid away in Him.

Having now obtained the faith of Jesus, we have access to the throne of grace to present our petitions to our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our mediator, knowing that the many promises of his Word are for us. We also find that he not only desires to grant us the desires of our hearts, but is abundantly able to do so. 1 Cor. 10:13. He not only came to destroy all sin out of our hearts (1 Jno. 1:9), but also to heal all our diseases (Psa. 103:3).

The first thing required, is to see that all sins are forgiven NOW, and the "body of sin" destroyed, leaving the soul pure and holy in the sight of God—sanctified.

The little seed of faith, as it were, is now planted in good soil, where it can expand without limit, bearing—faith—"much fruit." When it lays hold upon a promise of the Word, "doubting nothing," the result will be a fulfillment of that promise. Faith and works go together (Jas. 2:17). The outward life must be in harmony with the Word; the motive for calling upon God must be for his glory, and not for a selfish purpose, lest in such a case we find that we have asked amiss (Jas. 4:3).

The one who lives hid away in the secret of his presence, does not desire that which would be displeasing to the Lord, but desires to please him in all things, and do that which would glorify his name.

Our diseases do not glorify God, but it is through the healing of them that he is glorified; and if we come to him with the proper motive in view, with an unwavering faith in his Word, the answer will be forth-coming, and the work done accordingly. Do not come to him expecting to become famous on account of your healing, nor a noted instrument in the hands of the Lord, but only as a humble servant, sitting at the Master's feet, ready to do his bidding.

When you realize that you can take God at his word, let there be an examination also to see if you

are humble enough to give God all the glory, and so that he can trust you with an answer to your prayer, then you can rely upon his Word, and trust him for an answer to be performed according to his will as he has promised. —E. B.

Humility

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is for me to have no trouble; never to be fretted or vexed or irritated or sore disappointed. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and be at peace as in a deep sea of calmness when all around and above is trouble. It is the fruit of the Lord Jesus Christ's redemptive work on Calvary's cross, manifest in those of His own who are definitely subjected to the Holy Spirit. —Sel.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.15; Lesson Cards 6¢ per set. "The Beautiful Way," which contains comments for the International Sunday school lessons, suitable for different ages of children, 15¢ a quarter for single subscriptions, 10¢ per set in quantities of five or more to one address.

JACOB, A MAN OF STRIKING CONTRASTS

July 2, 1950

Printed Portion.....Genesis 35:1-7, 9-12.

Gen. 35:1. And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

2. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

3. And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

4. And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears: and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

5. And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob,

6. So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is Bethel, he and all the people that were with him.

7. And he built there an altar, and called the place El-bethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of the brother.

9. And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him.

10. And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

11. And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

12. And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

Memory Verse: And when Abram was ninety years old and nine the Lord appeared to Abram and said unto him, I am Almighty God. Walk before me and be thou perfect. Genesis 17:1.

Practical Truth: People who follow Jesus are outstanding. They are different.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In today's lesson we are to study about the father of the twelve patriarchs, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel after he had wrestled all night with an angel. Jacob wrestled all night in prayer and at the breaking of day the angel said, Let me go for the day breaketh and Jacob said, I will not let thee go except thou bless me. The angel then said, What is thy name and he said Jacob. The word Jacob means supplanter as we remember that Jacob caught his brother Esau in a close place when he was starving and he offered him a mess of pottage for his birthright. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage and it was said of Esau that he despised his birthright. By being crafty Jacob managed to get the blessing which should have gone to Esau so the name Jacob meant supplanter.

Yes, Jacob was a man of contrast. He was outstanding and different. Things worked out in his life according to God's plans. Read Gen. 25:21-23, also Malachi 1:1, 2 and Rom. 9:13. Jacob was a type of Christ or the dispensation of grace. We too who are saved are people of contrast. For it is recorded in the Bible that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.

MOSES, WHO LED HIS PEOPLE TO GOD

July 9, 1950

Printed Portion.....Exodus 19:16-25; 35:4-5,21.

Exo. 19:16. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

17. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

18. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire, and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

19. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

20. And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount: and Moses went up.

21. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze, and many of them perish.

22. And let the priests also, which come near to the Lord, sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them.

23. And Moses said unto the Lord, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.

24. And the Lord said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the Lord, lest he break forth upon them.

25. So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

35:4. And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying,

5. Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver and brass,

21. And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments.

Memory Verse: And Moses verily was faithful in all his house as a servant for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after. Heb. 3:5.

Practical Truth: We must be meek and humble if we would be God's faithful servant.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It is wonderful how God can use a man who has given himself, soul and body into the hands of the Lord to be used as he sees fit. It is wonderful how the Lord works out his plans. Moses was born for the express purpose of leading God's people out of the bondage of Egypt. He was born at a time when all of the boy babies of the Hebrews were being destroyed but God miraculously protected Moses and preserved him for the purpose for which he was born. Read this beautiful story in the second chapter of Exodus how God arranged things so that this little baby boy was adopted by the king's daughter and was taught in all the ways of the Egyptian people in preparation for the big job God had for him. It is said of Moses that he was faithful in that which God had appointed him. When Moses inquired of God how he should know, God said, My presence shall go with thee. Moses was faithful in all that God appointed him. It was a big job. Will we be faithful in the little things God gives us to do?

In a sense we who are true Christians are all leaders. God has appointed us our place in life. No man lives to himself and no man dies to himself. Our lives are influencing people either for good or bad so let us make straight paths for our feet lest that which is lame be turned out of the way. We should study the lives of these great men of God and profit by their faithfulness. God told Moses, I will raise up a prophet (Jesus) from among their brethren like unto thee. Deut. 18:17, 18; Acts 3:22. In Numbers 12:3 we read, And the man, Moses was very meek above all men that were upon the face of the earth.

RUTH, A SYMBOL OF FAMILY LOYALTY

July 16, 1950

Printed Portion.....Ruth 1:8, 14-22.

Ruth 1:8. And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

14. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15. And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to

return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

18. When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

19. So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20. And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

22. So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Memory Verse: Many daughters have done virtuously but thou excellest them all. Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord she shall be praised. Pro. 31:29, 30.

Practical Truth: To read the precious old Bible and conform our lives to its teaching is the sure way to heaven.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We have one of the most beautiful lessons to be found in the old testament as we read the book of Ruth. How little did Ruth realize what her wise choice would mean to her through all of her life, then to have a book by her name in the Holy Writ and to be an ancestress of Jesus. No where can we find a more beautiful picture of family loyalty than we find in the book of Ruth. Her life corresponds exactly with the devotional reading for today's lesson. But we must give honor to whom honor is due.

The secret of it all was that Ruth had found the true God, the people of God and her life blended in with them perfectly. When Ruth told Naomi her mother in law, "thy people shall be my people and thy God my God," she made a choice for eternity. Thus proving the words of Solomon true; For love is strong as death.

These beautiful lessons of love and devotion were recorded in Holy Writ for our examples and we will all be wise if we will read them and profit by them. Nothing is more beautiful than the family loyalty that is portrayed here in the book of Ruth and the 31st chapter of Proverbs. We will do well to speak of these two as examples of the perfect woman and what she means to the home.

SAMUEL, THE UPRIGHT JUDGE

July 23, 1950

Printed Portion.....I Samuel 7:3-6, 15-16; 12:1-5.

I Sam. 7:3. And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

4. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.

5. And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.

6. And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

7:15. And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

16. And he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places.

12:1. And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

2. And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

3. Behold, here I am: witness against me before the Lord, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.

4. And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

5. And he said unto them, The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

Memory Verse: For this child I prayed and the Lord hath given me my petition which I ask of him. Therefore also have I lent him to the Lord: as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. I Sam. 1:27, 28.

Practical Truth: It is good for us to pattern after good examples.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

To get the picture of today's lesson fixed clearly in our minds we must go back to the beginning. Here we see Hannah, Samuel's mother on her knees earnestly praying that God would give her a son and she promised the Lord she would give him back to him so the son was given according to her request. She kept him until he was weaned, then she took this sweet little son to the temple and gave him back to the Lord from whence he came. We read in the 2nd chapter of 1st Samuel that though Samuel was just a child he ministered before the Lord. Samuel was the last one of the line of judges which lasted from B. C. 1426 to B. C. 1096 at which time Saul was given by God to be king over his people. When we read the Bible account of the life of Samuel we will surely come to the conclusion that he was a man of God and an upright judge.

We will find much profit in the study of the life of these great men and women of God and then pattern after their lives looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. If we will live as God has left these noble examples for us in his holy word we won't have much trouble conforming our lives to the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. After all is said and done we know that Christ is our example. We must love him if we would enter heaven.

DAVID, A KING WHO HONORED GOD

July 30, 1950

Printed Portion.....2 Samuel 7:1-6, 17-22.

2 Sam. 7:1. And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest round about from all his enemies;

2. That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

3. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the Lord is with thee.

4. And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying,

5. Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

6. Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

17. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

18. Then went king David in, and sat before the Lord, and he said, Who am I, O Lord God? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

19. And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord God; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord God?

20. And what can David say more unto thee, for thou, Lord God, knowest thy servant.

21. For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know them.

22. Wherefore thou art great, O Lord God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

Memory Verse: Unto thee, O Lord do I lift up my soul. Psalm 25:1.

Practical Truth: God appreciates us when we honor him in all we do or say.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We read in the Bible that David was a man after God's own heart. This no doubt was because David was always ready and willing to acknowledge his wrong and ask forgiveness. No doubt he thoughtlessly did some things that were bad. But David had the fear of God in his heart. In the early part of his life after God had him anointed to be king over Israel and while Saul was still alive David behaved himself wisely.

When King Saul was doing his best to kill David he refused to raise his hand against Saul. For Saul was still holding his throne and exercising himself as king. David refused to do him harm because he counted him God's anointed. Different times Saul fell into the hands of David and he refused to harm him. David knew that God would move his deadly enemy out of the way in his own good time. No doubt but that the way David behaved himself was what made him a man after God's heart. Many of the beautiful Psalms that David wrote showed his love for God. We hear him say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," and how God led him in paths of righteousness and was with him as he went through the valley of the shadow of death, then set a table for him in the presence of his enemies. Then God anointed his head with oil and his cup run over. He gave vent to his feeling by praises to God declaring that goodness and mercy would follow him all the days of his life so he would dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

G. S.