

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Does Jesus Live At Your House?

"Does Jesus live at your home?" I heard a child once ask.
Her little brow was furrowed as she struggled with a task.
"He used to live at our house with Mamma and Daddy, too,
But now He is gone away somewhere—I don't know what to do."
"For Daddy is not the same today, and Mamma laughs no more.
They never bother much with me; they say I'm 'just a bore.'
But it didn't used to be this way with Jesus in our home,
For every night my Daddy came, when all my curls were combed,
And helped me say my bedtime prayers, and Mamma helped me, too,
And then they smiled and tucked me in, but now they never do.
Could you tell me where Jesus is? for everything seems black—
We want Him in our home again, we want Him to come back!
And when He comes we'll keep Him, for we truly need Him so.
If Jesus lives at your house, oh, don't ever let Him go!"
The child then turned and left me, while I pursued my way
And thought of many homefires that could be bright today.
"Does Jesus live at your house?" How much those words pretend.
Yea, on that question's answer, our hopes, our ALL depend!

—Selected.

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Food For Thought

God, the Deity, the Trinity, or the Godhead consists of three, and yet the three are one and work together absolutely harmoniously. Webster says the word **Trinity** means "the union of three persons or hypostases as to individuality." From the above de-

finition, we conclude that the Godhead consists of three: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When one of the Trinity is working, it could be truthfully said that God is working, because they all work in complete harmony. One cannot work contrary to the other. This is why it is written that Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh. And when the Holy Spirit convicts a soul of sin, it is said, God is working, for the Holy Spirit is doing His office work. Before Christ came as a Saviour there was very little said or known of Jesus or the Holy Spirit only in prophetic language. But the people believed in God, and also the angels. Jesus has brought to light the completeness of the Godhead, and all must be recognized in their proper places as God working, as the three are one and move in perfect harmony. You cannot have one without the other, for all have their place to fulfill in our complete salvation. God the Father comes first in all the work that saves the soul of man. The beginning of our salvation comes from God. "God gave his only begotten Son." John 3:16. The Son obeyed the commandment of the Father and laid down his life as a blood sacrifice in redeeming our souls back to God. Jesus promised the Comforter (John 14:26) which is the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit, and also honored God by speaking of Him as "The Promise of the Father" Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4.

In Acts 20:28 the three persons of the Godhead are mentioned. First the minister (or overseer) is instructed to take heed unto himself and then over "all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseer." In this we see the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) honored in his place. Then: "To feed the Church of God." Here the Father is honored in His place. Then, "Which He has purchased with his own blood." Jesus, being the Son of God, has purchased the church with his own blood, and yet God gave His Son, and through the gift of the blood of his only begotten Son the church is purchased, and it is only right that the church should be called the church of God. When this is done, all three of the Godhead are recognized in their respected places in bringing the church into existence.

Just before Christ left this world through crucifixion, he prayed earnestly (17th chapter of St. John)

that his disciples be kept in the Father's name. He said while he was with them he kept them in the Father's name. Read it in the 11th and 12th verses. To honor one of the members of the Godhead above God the Father would be dishonoring God, and such could be carried to an extent as to become idol worshipping. In 1 Cor. 3:11, the apostle Paul places them in their right places when speaking of the man being the head of the wife, and Christ the head of man, and God the head of Christ. God has loved his Son and given him great power and authority. In John 3:35 he said, "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life." In Eph. 1:20, in speaking of the things that He wrought in Christ, it is written: "He raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places."

Verse 22: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Even though God has done this, yet he is still the head of Christ. According to Heb. 4:14, Christ is our High Priest before God the Father. In Col. 3:1 we are told, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God." In Heb. 7:25 we read, "Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him [God is head] 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."

When Stephen was being stoned to death he looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Brethren, we should give God supreme honor, and honor Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit in their respective places; for God, the Great "I AM" is head of all things, even head of what he has given Christ to be head and governor over. The three are one and they never work independent nor contrary one to the other. When one moves, they all sanction and move as one body, God being the Almighty One, the Omnipotent, the Omnipresent, and Omniscient ONE, from whose face, some day, the heavens and earth will flee away (Rev. 20:11). Hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For GOD will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14.

—Fred Pruitt.

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One Thing Is Needful

"But one thing is needful." These are the words of Jesus spoken in the midst of a busy day for two women (Luke 10:38-42). These women had a visitor. Martha was very busy. She was glad to have Jesus come to her home and she wanted to fix the very best for him. She hurried here and there in making great preparation for a great meal to serve to Jesus. But on the other hand, we find that Mary her sister also was glad to see Jesus and to have him in her home.

But she forgot all about the time and that it was the time of day that people are supposed to eat. She only saw Jesus, her beloved Jesus, the One who could say such wonderful words that went down to the very depths of her soul. And she felt strength come into her heart and life as she followed the words that he spoke, as she listened to the deep precious truths fall from the lips of the life-giver. The things around her seemed to fade away, she was so wrapped up in the words that gave eternal life.

No doubt Martha carefully and tactfully asked her to come and help her, but Mary did not hear. Then, no doubt, she came right out with it strongly, "Mary, come and help me get the meal ready." But Mary did not give heed. She wanted to hear just a few more words. Her soul reached out for more of God and to know of his ways. Finally Martha came to Jesus, her guest. She threw away all courtesy and tact. She bluntly asked Jesus, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me."

Then Jesus answered her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but **one thing is needful**: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Let us search our hearts and lives. Are we a Martha or are we a Mary? May we think soberly and seriously about this. It means eternal life to the soul or it means eternal damnation. Just as surely as we let the "cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things" (Mark 4:19) enter in, it will choke out the word of God, the life of Christ, the righteousness of God that comes down from above into our hearts, and we will become unfruitful. We will lose our souls. Let us remember the words of Jesus, "**One thing is needful.**"

The enemy will try to tell you that you are going too far when you become so wrapped up in religion. He will say, "You don't need to take it so seriously, just have a little salvation." Of course, he will say, "You want to give a little time and try to get to meeting part of the time, but don't go too deep in it; you won't enjoy life." Oh, these are lies right from the pit of hell. He wants to rob you of life eternal through carelessness. Jesus said, "**One thing is needful.**" That is to sit at the feet of Jesus to become so filled with him that the things of this life will really and truly come second in every sense of the word; that we will say with Job: "I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Can we say that today? Then "ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:3. Oh, a safe place to be: "Hid with Christ in God." Then, and only then, can we receive the rich blessings from the hand of the Lord and can "count it all joy when we fall into divers temptation; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2, 3.

May the Lord bless each reader and cause you to know and act like it that only "one thing is needful," and that is to sit at the feet of Jesus. The troubles and storms of life will come, but they will not affect us because we are safe in Jesus. —Mrs. Marie Miles.

Lord, Save Us, We Perish

Matthew 8:25

There is a picture which is worthy of serious meditation. A cross is standing on a rock in mid ocean. The waves are beating upon that rock. A woman is reaching up to the cross and holding to it with all her strength.

The rock represents Christ; the cross, the saving grace of God; the water, waves and wind represent the storms and temptations of this life. The woman represents a soul that has found the Saviour through repentance and faith and is determined to cling to Him and fight the good fight of faith unto the end. Temptations and trials that come to the woman are the devil's inducements to attract her attention and get her to loosen her hold and lose faith in God's power to keep her in readiness for heaven and eternal glory. She is safe so long as she clings to the cross, for the Saviour said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5; and, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Let us consider some of the ways that the devil works to get the woman (a soul) to loosen her hold on the cross. He cannot do it by force, for the Lord is greater than he, and so long as she keeps her eyes on Him he will keep her in perfect peace and rejoicing firm unto the end. He cannot frighten her away for Jesus has said, "Be not afraid, 'Tis I." He consoles her with the promise that He has all power in heaven and in earth. Satan's only chance is to attract her in some way to get her eyes off Jesus, the Rock, by getting her to look at the waves and storms around her or to entice her by the things of this world through fleshly lusts and pride of life.

Since trials and persecutions only cause her to tighten her grip, he tries to attract her by making her think she is holding tighter than she needs to. "You'll become old before your time by putting so much of your strength and effort into your grip on the cross—no harm in this; no harm in that," he chants, as first one little enticement and then another is offered her. But that did not succeed with this woman. She was not to be fooled that way.

Determined to accomplish his purpose, he sends admiring friends to praise and flatter her. "What will they think," he asks, "if you turn down their attentions just to keep such a firm grip on the cross?" But to such temptations, she answers: "There's no thirsting for life's pleasures, nor adorning rich and gay, For I've found a richer treasure, One that fadeth not away." Then the devil tries insincerity, but she still refuses to be beguiled. He casts about in his mind to think of some way to get her to quit her firm hold on the cross. He sends another woman along in a boat (gossip) who tells a tale about a neighbor that is not so. The woman listens to that tale for a little time; but she takes notice that she is losing her firm hold on the cross, so she is determined not to let any thing hinder her in her consecration to God. She is made to realize that she must guard her position more than that. As she is so determined to hang on, the

devil sends along a ship with all kinds of gaiety on it. On that ship can be found such things as "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." "No," she says, "I will not go aboard that ship, no matter how long I stay here, for that would not let me 'inherit the kingdom of God.'" (Gal. 5:19-21). "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." verses 24, 25.

Finally another ship comes along. Oh, what a beautiful ship! It is laden only with things which agree perfectly with the fruits of the Spirit which she came in possession of while clinging to the cross—"Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal 5:22, 23). The Pilot on this ship is concerned about such people who have the determination to cling to the cross to the end. He lets down the life boat to her, and she gladly accepts her release to be with her Pilot (Saviour) forevermore. —C. H. Weir

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Man Eats, Wears Less;

Smokes, Drinks More

The editor of a New York paper wrote the following: "The world's population is increasing faster than food production and about 75 per cent of the people of the world are eating less and wearing less than they did before World War II, according to United States agricultural experts. And yet more land is being used to grow tobacco, and grain and fruit to be turned into booze. It seems that man would rather be doped and drunk than fed and clothed."

This is somewhat like the Bible description of man before the flood: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great upon the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. . . The earth was also corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." Genesis 6:5, 6, 11, 12.

Jesus gave us a sign by which we could know that His second coming and the destruction of the world is nigh at hand: "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37.

CHANGE OF ALL-DAY MEETING DATE

The saints, whose meeting house is located about five miles north of Sapulpa, Okla. on the old Highway No. 66, have changed the date of their all-day meeting from the 5th Sunday to the 4th Sunday of each month. They extend a welcome to all to come and be with them on each 4th Sunday, also other meeting days, as the Lord may lead. —Bro. Charles Smith, pastor

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to

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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¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

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NOTICE

On February 10th we are requesting that the saints fast and pray for the following prayer requests.

Pray earnestly for sister Eva Penner's little girl of Fairview, Okla. who is seriously afflicted.

Sister E. A. Smelcer of Knoxville, Tenn. desires special prayer for spiritual needs.

Editorials

We greet our readers again in the name of the Holy Child Jesus and pray God's blessings to be upon you and all your interests.

We are moving right along now in this New Year of 1952 and we are looking to God to make us a greater blessing to humanity in this year than any previous year. We are looking to God to make the contents of "Faith and Victory" a much greater blessing than ever before. We are praying and expecting God to give heaven-born messages that will feed the souls of the saints to strengthen and make them able to overcome the enemy by keeping on the whole armour and skillfully using the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit so that Christ will shine forth from each soldier of the cross to the glory of God the Father, and also to the building up and building together of all the saints in light.

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The State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie has gone down on record as one among the best assemblies ever held at this place. The meeting started off in a good spiritual way and ended in a blessed and precious way. It was noted for the refreshing heavenly spirit that prevailed throughout the entire meeting. There were fifteen or twenty ministers present from different states and it was exceedingly pleasant to sit and see God choose and move the minister into the pulpit to whom He had given a message, and then see the power and demonstration of the Spirit at work, pouring out good wholesome Bible truth. The Lord appeared to give great freedom in the ministering of the Word, and the saints rejoiced again and again as he poured out his Spirit. The heavenly anointing was rich and very edifying to all the redeemed. Some souls were saved and quite a number testified to the healing of their bodies. One dear sister in the Lord who has been in the way for years and has attended meetings far and wide declared in her testimony that she had never been in such a good meeting. That could be true, but generally the last meeting that folks have been in, if it is really good, seems to them to be the very best meeting. It was quite a common thing in the meeting to hear the saints speaking of such a good meeting and the rich anointing and soul food that was sent down from heaven to our souls through His ministering servants.

Some of the young ministers were used in this meeting in a very precious way, and it rejoices our hearts to see this, for we older ones will be dropping off and God will have able ministers to carry the work right on until the last trumpet sounds and time shall be no more.

The attendance was good. In fact, the building would not seat the crowds until a large number of chairs were brought in, which filled up all the space.

In the business meeting much time was taken up discussing the building of a larger meeting house to accomodate the increasing crowds.

Some precious souls are clearing themselves from the compromising movement and coming out in the clear truth, separating from the world and all of its

showy religion and settling down in the solid truth of the Word in a true holiness manner. We are really expecting God to do greater things in this year as the saints in light settle down into God more and more. The word of God says, "But the path of the just is as a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18.

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There is a text of Scripture in Proverbs 23: 23, which reads thus, "Buy the truth and sell it not." Isaiah 55:1 tells us that we can buy the rich spiritual things of heaven but without money and without price.

The true riches of heaven, this great salvation that comes to us through Christ and his blood sacrifice, cannot be bought with silver and gold, but it can be purchased by selling all that one has, forsaking the world and all sin and following in the footsteps of Jesus. In the third verse of this chapter, he says to the sinner (unsaved man or woman), "Incline your ear and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live, and I [God] will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."

This Scripture is equivalent to what Jesus says in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Then we think of the everlasting covenant that he will make with us, and we turn to Hebrews 8:10, which speaks plainly of the covenant: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days [talking about believers in Christ] saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." In the 6th chapter of 2 Corinthians He tells us just what we must do to get in a place so he can be a God unto us. Beginning at the 14th verse, we read, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Oh, that people would obey the Word of God and have His blessings upon them! People tie themselves up with infidels and unbelievers in all these secret orders, lodges, unions, sect man-made churches (which are gateways to hell and destruction) insurance companies, burial companies, cater to the worldly dress and put on adornments and do many other things of the world, and thereby are disobedient and shut themselves off from the true riches. Ofttimes, after some people find the Lord in repentance they sell the truth by joining up with some of these things of the

world in face-forward rebellion against what God has told them to do. When we come out of these things, God expects us to stay out so He can be a real God and Father unto us, and in the end get us into Heaven.

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Obituaries

Sister Nettie Lorain, daughter of Bro. and Sister George Harmon, born Jan. 25, 1882, departed this life to be with the Lord November 17, 1951, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Verta Berry in Norwalk, Calif. Her husband preceded her in death, June 27, 1945.

She leaves behind four daughters: Mrs. Dorris Tolin of Grants Pass, Ore., Mrs. Verta Berry, Norwalk, Calif., Mrs. Holis George and Mrs. Hazel Prairie both of O'Bryon, Oreg.; 14 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Ivy Dell King of Lynnwood, Calif.; 2 brothers, John and Gene Harmon of Glendale, Calif.

Sister Nettie sought the Lord and yielded her life to Him at an early age and her life has been an encouragement and inspiration to many along the way.

Her illness was short, and she was happy and surrendered to the will of the Lord to go or stay. Her presence will be greatly missed among us, but her good influence will live on and on.

Funeral services were conducted in Glendale, Calif. by Opal B. Wilson, assisted by Laverne Manuel and Nellie Poulos.

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Lulu V. Baucom was born April 16, 1877 in Huntington, Tenn. In 1880 she moved with her parents to Topeka, Kansas where she remained till 1895, and from there with her parents she moved to Dover, Okla.

She was united in marriage to Andrew Ross December 31, 1903. To this union three children were born: Fannie, Mary Charleston, and Eldridge, all of whom preceded her in death.

She professed a hope in Christ at an early age and was a member of the Church of God. She had the confidence of God's people in her home community to the end.

She passed away at her home in Dover, Okla. Jan. 10, 1952 at the age of seventy-four years and nine months. She is survived by her husband, Andrew Ross, and three grandchildren, Odell, Marian, and Darlene, all of the home address, and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral by Bro. Ulysses Phillips assisted by Bro. Manly Spears. Texts: Psa. 116:15 and Rev. 14:13. Interment in Burns' Cemetery.

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Brother Martin (Mike) Zinsel, was born October 6, 1871, and passed to his reward January 2, 1952, aged 80 years, 2 months and 26 days.

He got saved among the saints 30 or more years ago under brother Frank Williamson's ministry here at Hammond, La., at a time when he was seriously ill and in answer to prayer the Lord healed him which led him to salvation. He lived in New Orleans many years of this time but after retiring from active work he moved to Hammond where he was numbered with the saints, attending services regularly 10 years or more. We enjoyed his fellowship, and his faithfulness to the Lord was an inspiration to us. We greatly miss his presence and his testimonies but we feel heaven has gained another precious saint. He trusted the Lord for healing all these years and he died praising the Lord. The Lord seemed so near and real to him in his passing, which greatly touched hearts of those present with him through this

time. He took sick in the morning of January 1, and by the next morning at 10:10 a. m. he was gone to his eternal rest. Several of the saints were with him at this time, also some of the neighbors. He leaves to mourn his departure one brother, John Zinsel of New Orleans, La. and several nieces and a nephew, besides the saints, friends, and neighbors.

Funeral services were conducted by the ministers here and Oak Grove congregation. Scripture reading, Psalm 116:15; 1 Thess. 4:13, and others. His body was laid to rest in the saints' cemetery at Oak Grove, a few miles out of Loranger, La. to await the resurrection of his body in the last day. Praise God!

—Sister Katherine Key.

New Song Book—*Evening Light Songs*



The new song book entitled *Evening Light Songs* has been reprinted. You may send your order now. This book contains most of the familiar songs from the "Select Hymns" book, and some choice songs from other sources. It contains 480 pages, shaped notes, cloth bound. These books have stronger bindings than the first ones that were printed, but we offer them to you at a lower price because the printing expense has been less.

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We Need To Keep Alert

There is a need for all of God's children to be stirred about walking and living in the light of Truth, and for all His dear Holy-Ghost-filled ones to be busy. We who know the truth and do it not are in danger. We do not believe in denominationalism, but if we sit idly and be at ease in Zion, the enemy will take advantage. Many are asleep, but, sad to see, so few to teach and preach and live truth before them it seems. God will bless every honest effort that is put forth in His name.

I still believe in HOME and FOREIGN missions. We read of the need everywhere, and every nation that forgets God will go down. A dear old German brother made a trip to his native country, came back and told the saints what he witnessed in Germany a number of years ago. And we know what happened. But God has dear saints there, and they are having a great revival over there. They are in poverty. The pastors have no cars, so are hindered much, but are all showing their humbleness of heart and are doing their best. We hear the call from various places. Must we not listen to the "Macedonian Call"? We see time closing in, and much is required of all who know and to whom much has been given.

I can truly say with the poet: "I have found it Lord in Thee" that everlasting store for soul and

body, thine to be. How can I wish for more? No one congregation can keep everything going, but every one must feel he must do his part. We must cooperate and work together. We are too easily satisfied, and find ourselves languishing—in plain words, lazy—and fail to get the great vision of the lost.

There are souls who need the touch of His tender hand. Some have seemed to think that because we are few in number, it proves it is the right way. But when God gets His Holy Ghost fire in our souls, there will be more doers of the word. I heard the statement several years ago that there are not many sanctified, consecrated to suffer and labor for Jesus.

My prayer is, Lord, help me to arise and shine. Let His Holy fire fall on me. Will you be agreed for and with me? How many will agree in all I have written? It is high time that we who know will DO.

A sister in the one body, Jessie Holloman

Salvation And Keeping

That each individual has a part to do in the salvation of their souls and the keeping of their souls unto eternal life is plainly taught in the Word of God.

Some will flatly deny this, and say there is nothing we can do to save ourselves or to keep ourselves. And very truly salvation is not by works any more than Namaan was cleansed of his leprosy by dipping himself seven times in the River Jordan. See 2 Kings 5. But when he obeyed the voice of the prophet and went down into the river and dipped himself seven times as the prophet commanded, he was cleansed of his leprosy. It was not merely the dipping, but the obedience that brought the cleansing. So neither is it the keeping of the commandments of God alone that saves the soul, but it is God's power working in behalf of the obedient soul. For there is a fountain opened in the house of David for sin and for uncleanness, and Jesus bids us come, wash, and be clean. This fountain is the blood of Jesus that flowed from his precious side when the soldiers pierced his side and his blood flowed out. O, the blood, the precious blood of Jesus cleanseth!

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" Acts 4:12. Jesus says: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

Jesus said to certain Jews, "Ye will not come to me that ye might have life." John 5:40. Only they that come to Him receive this rest. His command is to repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ, and Except ye repent, ye shall perish (Luke 13).

Peter, when answering the inquirers question on the day of Pentecost (What must we do?) said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you." He did not say, "There is nothing you can do." But of course it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that saves. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. But if we believe on him from the heart, we will believe his Word and will be obedient, repent, turn from all our sins, call upon him for mercy, then he abundantly pardons, blots out all

our sins, and remembers them against us no more. Heb. 8:12; 10:17.

IS THERE ANYTHING TO DO TO KEEP SAVED?

Having come to Jesus and called upon him to save us, and he has freely forgiven all our sins and our names are written on the Lamb's book of life, are we safe and secure?

Let the word of God answer. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you which ye also have received, and wherein ye stand, by which also ye are saved [eternally] if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." 1 Cor. 15:12.

Reading up to this part of Paul's writing to the church at Corinth, we learn many things he had taught them to do and not to do. And now he says, "If ye keep in memory what I preached unto you." And we are admonished to be not forgetful hearers of the Word, but doers. See James 2nd chapter.

And Jesus saith, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."

And "He that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them is likened to a wise man that built his house upon a rock," and it could not be moved by the storms, for it was founded upon a rock.

And again he said, "Not everyone that saith, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21.

"Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine: continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." 1 Tim. 4:16.

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye have heard." Col. 1:23.

So you see, dear ones, it is the ones that continue to obey the truth of God's Word to us that will gain heaven—they that endure unto the end. Matt. 24:13.

—Cora Brant

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Sanctification Is Not A Growth In Grace

Here is where multiplied thousands fall into error: they have confounded two separate and distinct things. By insisting that perfect holiness and growth in grace are the same, they have made the work of man and the work of God identical.

It is a very grave error. It is more than grave—it is calamitous. So long as ministers believe and suppose that sanctification is a gradual growth in grace, so long will God's people be kept out of the blessing of a holy heart. How Satan smiles when he sees justified folks seeking perfect holiness in a direction and on a plane where it can never be found! He is not the least alarmed so long as God's people look to themselves or to time or to growth, or to any thing but the blood of Christ for perfect holiness. While Christians thus wander about, he assumes a still easier attitude or position on his throne, and continues to smile.

That entire sanctification is not growth in grace appears from several facts or considerations.

First, the words themselves. They are entirely dif-

ferent. One is *agiasmos*; the other, *auxanete de en chariti*. This fact alone should convince.

Again, the meaning of the words are different. If they meant the same, why should the Spirit use different words? One means holiness; the other does not. One refers to a state; the other to a growth. One refers to a removal; the other to an addition. One signifies a death; the other a life. One is an impartation; the other an expansion and development. One takes away uncleanness and impurity; the other is the growth of purity. One refers to a completed work; and the other to an indefinite progress.

And now, lest the two expressions be misunderstood, we amplify by saying that the complete work referred to is the death of the inbred sin or depravity caused by the fall of our foreparents. Paul states in Romans 5:12, "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"; and that the indefinite progress is the growing holier all the days of the sanctified life; that sanctification is purity, but growth in grace is the maturing of purity.

It is a striking fact in connection with Christian testimony that all the people who really had the experience of perfect holiness testify that they obtained it instantaneously, by faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus. Sanctification is not a growth in grace, nor is it obtained by growth in grace.

The crowning proof that perfect holiness is not growth in grace appears from the Word of God. The Bible establishes the fact by teaching plainly that entire sanctification is an instantaneous work. It also confirms the thought and places it beyond all peradventure by a distinct recognition of the two works, and by specific commands relative to them. No one can read them without being impressed. For when the Bible speaks of the duty of growth it turns to man and says, "Grow in grace" 2 Pet. 3:18. Read also 2 Peter 1:4 where he speaks of the divine nature which is the result of a sanctified state, and then in the following verses he speaks of what man is to do when in that state by adding to his sanctified or divine nature. First, when it speaks of sanctification, it looks to God and says, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; . . . Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it" 1 Thess. 5:23, 24. Then again in Jude the first verse it speaks of being sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ and called. God sanctifies us by His Spirit, applying the cleansing blood, and the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost comes in to abide.

Sanctification is a doctrine. It is as much so as repentance, faith, and regeneration. The word is a distinct word, has a distinct and peculiar meaning, and refers to something not found in repentance, faith, or regeneration; and that something is perfect holiness. By the clear way in which it is urged in the scriptures, we can see that sanctification is a doctrine in itself, recognized as such by man and taught as such by God.

Sanctification is the work of God. The Bible says, "The blood cleanses" 1 John 1:7; "The altar [Christ] makes holy" Heb. 10:10 and 10:14; and still

again, "The God of peace sanctify you wholly" 1 Thess. 5:23. In another place Christ prays to the Father to "sanctify" his disciples (John 17:17). In still other places the expression used in description of the blessing of perfect holiness is: "The baptism of the Holy Ghost" Acts 2:12; "the anointing and sealing of the Holy Ghost" Eph. 1:13, 14; and the "renewing of the Holy Ghost" Titus 3:5.

There are many others, but these suffice to show that while all the persons of the Trinity are accredited with the work, yet no other being but God is recognized as the Accomplisher.

Still again, by this constant recognition of God in the Bible as the Sanctifier, we are shown that sanctification is not a man's work, and that, as a consequence, it cannot be growth in grace, which is always made incumbent as a duty upon man. Conviction is the work of God in the soul of a believing penitent, sanctification, or perfect holiness, is the work of God in the soul of a Christian believer; redemption is the final work of God upon the bodies of the saints, both living and dead when Christ comes and the judgment sets. 1 Thess. 4:15. Also read 1 Cor. 15:51-55. In full view of these distinct and separate operations of the power of God, Paul says, "Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" 1 Cor. 1:30.

The very position of these words show the separateness and distinctiveness of the work. Christ's command also substantiates the idea. This command was to the disciples to tarry until they obtained not simply a blessing that would disappear in a day, but a work that would transform them into totally different men. Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8.

Some claim that regeneration has done everything for them. Christ's blood, they say, has made them perfectly pure and holy at conversion, and all that is needed now is time for development and a steady growth in grace. This claim cannot be true with such a great array of scriptures against such a claim. To get such an idea, one would have to misapply the scriptures, using those that belong to the work of sanctification or baptism of the Spirit, thereby deceiving their own souls and those that hear them.

The work of cleansing in sanctification is to utterly destroy the work of Satan or depravity in the heart and infill you with the Holy Spirit, exalting your affections to a supreme love for God and his will. This depravity in the regenerated soul is called by different names in the Bible: "The body of sin," "the law of sin and death," "the flesh," "the carnal mind," the "old man." Call it by what name you will, this is the thing that is destroyed in sanctification, and that is not destroyed in regeneration. Regeneration gives one power over it; sanctification kills it. Sanctification is a cleansing and a purification. The instrument is baptism of fire. On the day of Pentecost the tongues of fire sat upon each of them, signifying the cleansing power of the blood upon the soul for the incoming of the Holy Ghost to take complete and final possession, leading and guiding them into all truth and giving them power to witness for God in every nation.

—Copied and arranged.

A Church Member or A Christian

Are you a real Christian or just a church member? God's Word is the answer. Men's opinions and ideas will not suffice in the day of Judgment, neither will they give the proper answer today.

A Christian is a CHRIST-LIKE person. The meaning of the word Christian is "Christ-like." Dear reader, are you living like Christ, today? If not, you have no right to claim the name "Christian." St. John 3:3 reads: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." After a person is born of the Spirit, it is easy to live a Christ-like life.

In Ezekiel's prophecy of the new birth, we read, (36:27) "I will put my spirit within you and CAUSE you to walk in my statutes" (footsteps of Jesus).

Today there are thousands of people who belong to some man-made church, are members in good standing, attend regular services and pay their money to them, yet do not live Christ-like lives. Such people are deceived by the cunning craftiness of the devil and are away from God. Not only are they away from God now, but they will also hear the awful words at the day of Judgment: "DEPART FROM ME, I NEVER KNEW YOU."

It takes more than merely being a church member to be a Christian. Christ is our example, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" 1 Peter 2:22. A christian does not sin. Many, no doubt, will question this writing, but we have the Word of God to back us, and also the Spirit of God to help us rightly divide the word of truth. Many people just take certain parts of the Scripture and wrest them to fit their evil deeds. James 1:21, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." To be a Christian, we must receive God's Word into our hearts and obey it. We state again, a Christian does not sin. 1 John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin: for his seed remaineth in him and he CANNOT SIN because he is born of God." That seed is the word of God.

Dear reader, are you a Christian? Have you been born again? Do you commit sin? These are questions which only you can answer. Be honest with yourself and with God. You are going to meet Jesus some day, and he will pronounce your eternal destiny. A church member who sins does not belong to the church which Jesus built. Acts 2:47, "And God added to the church daily such as should be saved"—saved from sin, dear reader. Do not be led to torment by the false prophets of our day. If the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch.

God has a church today. It is free from sin. Jesus purchased it with his own blood. The membership is recorded in heaven. God keeps the books. Dear reader, you can become a member of this church by giving your heart to God.

—David Madden

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The selfrighteous blame others for the evil the devil makes them do.

Young People's Section

He Cares For Me

When I was small, God cared for me,
All was as peaceful as could be.
From fears within and fears without,
He shielded me without a doubt.

He shielded me when I was small,
Then delivered me from them all.
When I was grown, His promise dear
Said, "Perfect love casts out all fear."

For perfect love I then applied,
And now, praise God, I'm sanctified.
My blessed Lord abides within
Since He took away my every sin.

When I was small, He cared for me,
And now His own I'll ever be.
I'll work, I'll pray, I'll sing His praise;
I'll live for Him thru all my days.

And when it comes my time to die
I know I'll have a home on high.
I'll rest upon His promise mild,
For He careth for His trusting child.
—Mrs. Harvey Johnson.

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Mo.—Dear young saints,—Greetings in the name of our dear Lord. The Lord has done so much for me. It would be impossible to do anything without God. He is a great helper at all times.

I want to thank the Lord for healing my body of a disease called Pneumonia. I was sick about ten days, but I truly thank the Lord it wasn't any longer. I was just thinking that everything from the Lord was good, and everything from the devil was bad. The devil puts the afflictions on us and the Lord delivers. Pray for me that I'll do what the Lord would have me to do.

Christian love, Leon Sorrell.

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La.—Dear saints,—Tonight I am enjoying the wonderful companionship of my Lord and Saviour. Three days ago if the Lord had chosen to take me out of this world I would not have been ready to go to see his wonderful face, but I am now. Hallelujah! I feel that God would have me give my testimony.

About four weeks ago I picked up a small untamed kitten which bit me. The kitten was sickly and the place became infected. It looked bad for awhile. I realized then that my life could be snatched out at a moments notice and I wasn't ready. Before this, brother Cecil Carver had spoken to me about my life and how I should know the Lord. When the kitten bit me I remembered these things. I had sort of drifted along and I suddenly realized that the Lord did care for me. I promised the Lord that I would try to live for him if he would heal my finger. He took me at my word and healed the bite. Praise the blessed Lord. After the bite healed I felt I had

a Saviour but the devil was working in so many ways until I wasn't quite ready to give my all for him. Last Sunday I made one last and final decision to live as he would have me to live.

I hope my story will help some one to be stronger in the Lord. I desire your prayers for myself and for my unsaved parents. I also want you to remember my aunt (sister Ruth Murphey) who has not been well. Pray that I'll live for the Lord always.

Your newborn sister in Christ, Mary Mariney.

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Okla.—Dear young saints,—Greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. It has been some time since I sent my testimony in to the paper, but I'm thankful to say that I'm still saved and encouraged to live for God.

Truly I'm thankful for the privilege of living to see the close of another year and the beginning of a new one. None of us know what the New Year holds for us. As I listened to the sounding of guns and whistles welcoming the New Year in, I thought of a message delivered by brother Willie Murphey at Guthrie about three years ago, I believe. The message was on the subject "Eternity." He used an hour glass in delivering that message, likening the sand in the bottom section of the hour glass to the number of years of an individual's life, which has already passed, and the sand in the top section, which was slowly passing, was likened to those years one has yet to live. Only our eternal God knows the number of years left. As I thought of this message and the solemn song we sang that night, "Eternity," I applied the message to myself. Only God knows how many more years I have left and how I desire God to help me to live each day in this new year as though it were my last.

During the past few months I haven't been able to meet with the saints as I desired, due to weakness of my body but God has ever been near me in his precious word. In his word he said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20. "For which cause we faint not; but though the outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 2 Cor. 4:16. It is an encouraging thought to me to know that God's supply of grace never runs out but each day he has a new supply for each and every soul. And since I have such a precious God, my decision is to press on, forgetting the past, realizing that footsteps of the past can never be retraced but as we look forward to our blessed Redeemer in the future, he will always guide our footsteps lest we falter.

God has taught me many precious lessons during the past year and I humbly ask your prayers that I always live up to them, keeping hid in Christ.

Yours in Christ, Frances Chandler.

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Calif.—Greetings to the young people and all the saints scattered abroad,—I'm so glad this day that I can write to you in the name of Jesus, and also testify that Jesus is reigning within my heart and life and that the joys of salvation are flooding my soul today. There is nothing that can give such joy to a soul.

I met many of you this last summer at the camp meetings. I have been praying for you. I trust that you have kept true and encouraged to fight the good fight of faith. If you have not been praying as much as you should, promise God right now that "I'm going to be

stirred to greater diligence before him." And start putting God first in everything. The devil is at work but God has power over the devil and as we draw close to God he gives us power over the devil. The closer we come to the Lord, the greater power we receive. Let's be a power house for God to work through against the devil!

A few months ago we invited the young people from the other congregations around here to come and meet with us here in Pomona, the first Friday evening in every month. Last Friday was the third meeting we have had. The young people and juniors came from Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and the congregation out at the camp grounds in Pacoima. We appreciated the interest the older saints have by bringing them in their cars. We will continue to have these meetings and we trust that you prayer warriors will mark it on your calendar and start praying early in the week before our meeting that the Lord will bless in a mighty way.

Our last meeting was greatly blessed of the Lord. The presence of the Lord was felt. Conviction came down. Two got saved in the meeting and another one woke up their mother and grandmother after going home that night and asked for prayer to get saved. The ones that were saved are stirred to a closer walk. Sister Opal Wilson was telling me the girl that was saved from their congregation gave a wonderful testimony. The Lord just blessed their hearts in listening to it. The boy that was saved that lives here in our congregation gave a wonderful testimony and even told of a victory over the devil already. We all rejoiced greatly with tears of gladness. His mother told me things were different around the house. It's a wonderful thing to receive salvation. Old things pass away and all things become new; the word of God tells us. We want to ask the saints and young people everywhere to remember this coming meeting, and that He will continue to bless our young people. Also remember the young people's meeting in Bakersfield. They are going to have Saturday afternoon and night services and Sunday services this coming fourth Sunday. May God richly bless them is my prayer. Mrs. Marie Miles.

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Brother Louie Marler of Senath, Mo. and sister Evodna Thurman were united in holy matrimony on December 23, 1951. Sister Evodna was a worker here in the "Lord's Print Shop" for nearly five years, but the last few years has been living in Dallas, Texas. They will make their home at or near Senath, Mo.

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Brother Troy Meek and sister Wilma Melot were united in holy matrimony on January 13th at Shawnee, Okla., the bride's home. The ceremony was performed in the saints' chapel by sister O. B. Wilson. Brother Troy is a young minister of the Guthrie, Okla. congregation. They will make their home in Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Walk While Ye Have the Light Lest Darkness Come Upon You

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light believe in light that ye may be the children of the light. These things spake Jesus and departed, and did hide himself from them." John 12:35, 36. Jesus

spoke these words of warning to those of his followers while he walked in this time world. They witnessed the mighty miracles he performed. One said, "The world is gone after him." Some believed, but many rejected to walk in the light. So it is today. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Many love darkness rather than light.

The many campmeetings are past with all the good rich Word of truth and light. For a sober pause, ask yourself the question: Have I accepted light? Am I walking in the light of the truths that I heard?

Light simply means instruction, information, or the Word of God made plain by the Holy Spirit. To walk in light is putting into practice the information that is given.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light." Eph. 5:8. It behooves every one to watch and pray much in order to accept light and walk in it. When light first came, what carefulness it brought. There were no non-essentials in His Word. One dare not walk behind light. Christ becomes "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense even to them who stumble at the word, being disobedient. Whereunto also they were appointed." 1 Pet. 2:8. When the Word of God goes forth teaching people how to live free from sin, how to be sanctified, how to trust the Lord for the healing of the body, how to adorn the doctrine in dress, in conversation, in the home and with children, and how the home should represent the Church of God, and many other precepts in the pages of Holy Writ, failing to walk in this will surely bring darkness and stumbling.

The time is here already when everyone must walk in all the light they have or they will not be able to stand up for the truth of God's word.

You who are pressing hard to walk in the light of God, take new courage. You who have once tasted the love of God, remember, he is full of mercy. He wills that none be lost and cast into outer darkness. Renew your covenant with Him. "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people: But the Lord shall arise upon thee and his glory shall be seen upon thee." Isa. 60:1, 2.

—E. V. Phillips

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Live Free From Sin

Yes, we must live free from sin in this world to get to heaven. Listen, dear readers (Romans 6:22), "Now being made free from sin and become servants to God." So as it takes being made free from sin to become servants to God, it takes staying free from sin to remain servants to God. He says, "In Him is no sin." so we must live free from sin in this world to be servants of God. You cannot sin and be in God.

Praise God, I am glad to be saved and living for Jesus who died that we might live. Yes, thank God, we must live free from sin in this world to live for Jesus.

—Sister S. Griffin.

1952 NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The Lord willing, the National campmeeting of the Church of God will be held on the camp ground at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo., July 18 to 27, 1952. This will be the 14th consecutive annual national gathering of God's people at Monark Springs, Mo.—a meeting for all the saints from all the states of the Union. The holding of this meeting on a national level is especially intended to promote and encourage Christian unity and harmony among God's people, and for which Jesus prayed in his last prayer for the believers.

The saints who meet to worship God at this national campmeeting represent the "evening light" movement which, according to Divine plan, came forth about 70 years ago, restoring the full gospel in all its simplicity and purity to the world, and preaching the blessed unity of God's people separate from sectism, and calling for every true believer to come out of all the creeds of men where they had been scattered in the "dark and cloudy" day. This body of believers down through the years have consistently taught and practiced the truth that was revealed to them in the pioneer days, and are still "contending for the faith [doctrine] that was once delivered to the saints" in the morning of the gospel day.

A hearty welcome is extended to every honest soul and lover of the truth, regardless of what your past affiliation has been. Here you will find no bond of union but the love of God and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ, which is a spirit of humility and submissiveness to all the leadings of the Holy Spirit. Notwithstanding all false reports to the contrary, there will be no man-rule, nor committies, to interfere with the Holy Ghost anointing for service in the worship of God.

At the last campmeeting, Bro. Barton, who has faithfully served as business manager for several years, asked to be relieved of this duty, agreeing to assist and co-operate with the individual whom the saints would choose to take over this responsibility. Accordingly, Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas was chosen and accepted this place of service. Seeing the size of the undertaking, he has asked the prayers and cooperation of all the saints. We are confident that he will do his best, and let each one of us help him wherever we can.

Several saints desire to lease lots on the campground on which to build cabins. Since all available lots have been leased, it will be a matter of contacting those who have leases they want to sell. If you want to sell your lease, write to the undersigned at once.

In recent years the attendance has been so large that the present facilities for living quarters have been quite crowded. More ground is needed and more tents, cabins, and dormitories—all of which means a call for greater financial contribution from all those who have the cause of God at heart. Let none stay away; the Lord will provide.

This being a national campmeeting, let all the saints from all sections of the country feel that you have a special part in this meeting, not only to help with your prayers and presence, but also with the financial and temporal needs, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Do you believe it? Have you tried it and found it true?

You may send your free-will offering for the campmeeting to the undersigned, and the Lord will add to you a blessing.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secy-Treas.

1116 W. Washington, Guthrie, Okla.

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"Obedience is better than sacrifice."

CORRESPONDENCE

Ore.—Dear saints,—I send greetings to all in Jesus' dear name. I feel the Lord would have me to send in my testimony. The Lord is so near and dear to me. I praise him this morning for full and free salvation. It is the most precious thing that mortal man ever possessed. It gives us peace and quietness in our soul that nothing else can give and that the world knows nothing about. I praise the Lord for giving me a heart that had a desire to live for him. The Lord is so good to me. He is my all in all.

We (my daughter and I) just got home from California where we attended two good meetings, one at Orland and one in Los Angeles. We heard the word preached with anointing. It does my soul good to be in meeting with the saints. Oh, I love the children of God and enjoy being with them. The Lord surely was with us and blessed us in those meetings. I love to hear the word preached in power. It is food for my soul. The Lord wonderfully manifested himself to me in making me to know he wanted me to go. I was like Gideon, I asked for a sign and He gave me one but then I decided maybe I wouldn't go. The Lord let me get so lame I could hardly walk and I was sick two nights and a day. Before morning the last night I said, "now Lord if you want me to go, heal my leg." He healed it almost immediately. I got up in the morning and began to get ready. I didn't have any more trouble with my leg. Several other things I asked him to work out too, so I would know he wanted me to go and he worked it all out for me. Praise his dear name. Pray for me that I ever be true to the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

Emma Busch.

Pa.—Dear saints,—I enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It is very helpful. On December 12, 1945 I fell and broke my hip at the socket. They took me to the hospital after I fell to find out for sure what was wrong. I had to wait awhile before they were ready to take the X-rays. It came to me that the Lord would heal. I kept saying that to myself, "the Lord will heal, the Lord will heal." They let me come home and told me to be quiet. I let it go a couple of weeks and then began to think something would have to be done. I had some saints to anoint and pray for me. I felt something move at the socket just as soon as they started praying for me. I did not realize until the next morning that I was healed when the good Lord told me to get up and walk. Praise the Lord I have been walking ever since. I have other troubles now that I wish you would take to the Lord in prayer. I read of so many in the "Faith and Victory" paper that have been healed, through prayer. Mrs. H.

Mo.—To the dear saints scattered abroad,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I believe it will be to the glory of God for me to write my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper as I told the Lord if he would heal me, I would tell it through the paper. The last part of September or the first part of October something grew out on my face. One morning when I got up there was a small pimple about a quarter of an inch just below the mole on my right cheek. It grew out long but no larger around. It was white next to my face but darker on the end.

I went to Murphy Allen's the 18th of October and they took me on to Mt. Vernon to see my sister. This growth was about a quarter of an inch long at that time. They all saw it, also brother Darius Gibson and Esther saw it. I asked brother Gibson, brother and sister Allen to be agreed with me in prayer that the Lord would take it off. It continued to grow until it was about one-half inch long. I was very careful not to bruise it because I

did not know what it might turn out to be. I thought it probably came from the mole, as I had gotten the mole hurt some time before. It was severely cut, then swelled and turned darker but now it has gone down to its natural size. The growth wasn't sore—just looked pink and kept getting longer. I went to God in earnest prayer and asked him to take it off. I prayed until I believed He would. I told him that it wasn't natural, it didn't belong there, it was in my way, and I did not want it there. I asked him to kill the life of it and cause it to come off. I told him that I knew at his word it would go. I don't remember what all I said but it began to dry up, then came off in the night. I never knew when, but the next morning it was gone, and how glad I was. I praised Him over and over and do yet. It was the last of November when it came off. We can't tell where it was by looking at my face. Praise the dear Lord forever! I trust this may encourage some one else to hold on to the Lord for all things. There is nothing too hard for our God to do and He is faithful that promised. A sister, Lizzie Harper.

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Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I feel much encouraged in the Lord, and thought I'd write my recent experience, which I hope will encourage others.

On Monday, December 3rd, I helped my husband burn brush out of a fence row. I never once thought of poison ivy or oak, as everything looked dead. But Tuesday morning I knew I was taking one or the other. Tuesday night we went to prayer meeting and my face was beginning to break out. Wednesday morning it was swelling and breaking out more and more. By this time I knew I had poison oak. (I used to have it quite often and it would last so long, even though I doped it with everything I knew of.) This was a very severe trial to me. It was my first attack since I'd been saved. The devil kept reminding me how bad it always got before. But the dear Lord reminded me about other afflictions that He had brought me through. They were always lighter and healed so much quicker than when I trusted in man. So I had a great battle that day. By Thursday morning it was swelling so bad and was so much worse I knew I couldn't go on battling. I had to commit it to the Lord. But it seemed like I was too weak to commit it alone, so I knelt down and asked the Lord to help me commit it to him. He came to my rescue and it was all settled that morning, live, die, sink, or swim, Lord, I'll trust you. It was in my eyes awful bad, and by Thursday night my left eye was swollen shut and my right eye was open just enough so I could see to get around. That didn't move me. I had it settled to trust God even if it got all over me. (It did break out on both arms and legs.) The precious Saviour touched me Thursday night because Friday morning both eyes were about half open. My face was swollen worse, but I knew it was better because it didn't burn so bad. That day I went to Bible Study. On the way I saw three people that didn't know me, my face was so swollen. The swelling started leaving while at Bible Study and continued going down as fast as it came. Praise the Lord!

By Tuesday night I was able to go back to prayer meeting with my face back to normal. There were still some scales on my face, but the poison was dead. All praise and honor goes to the blessed Lord. I never had poison oak to leave me so quick in my life and I've had it many times.

We do have such a kind heavenly Father, whose promises are all true. I kept standing on the promise that He wouldn't put more upon us than we can bear, and will with the temptation make a way of escape that we'll

be able to bear it. Dear ones, take courage. If your load is heavy, commit it to the Lord and remember, His way is best for you even though you may not be able to understand it now. Just patiently let God lead you through it and you'll soon see it was good for you. I wouldn't take anything for my hard experiences, because they have brought the Lord so close to me. May God bless and encourage you all. Your sister in Christ, Mildred McIntosh.

o-o-o-o-o

Ala.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I feel led to tell some of the things the dear Lord has done for me. He saved me from a life of sin and gave me light on the one true church, which I truly thank and praise the Lord for. Man has many so-called churches. Oh, how it makes my heart sad to see people deceived, walking in darkness and calling it light. There is just one true way, the Bible way. I am so glad to be in this one true way.

The Lord has done so much for me this year. I fell the last day of January. I could not get up without help. I walked up the hill to the house. At first I thought I had broken my right knee but just bruised it I guess. Oh, how it did hurt. It swelled and turned blue looking near half-way to the knee. Some thought I ought to have a doctor but I knew the dear Lord had all power. He could and would heal me. He had healed me so many times in the past of many different afflictions. I had my trust in the dear Lord. If we trust in the Lord he will give us the desire of our heart. He healed my husband's eye. A knot was coming on the eye lid. I wrote to a brother for prayer and an anointed cloth. The dear Lord wonderfully healed his eye and healed me too. I can get around so much better than I did at first. I feel better and can work some. Praise the good Lord for his mercy unto me. I mean to go right on until the crown is won.

Saints, pray for us here at this place. We don't have a minister here but we have our Sunday School every Sunday. We have our whole trust in the Lord and mean to gain heaven at any cost. We have many trials but Jesus is our refuge and strength. I thank the Lord for his people. I look forward to getting the "Faith and Victory" paper every month. It is food for my soul. I truly thank all the saints every where for their prayers. Continue to pray for me that I be all the Lord would have me to be in this life, so when he comes in the clouds I will be ready to rise and meet him in the air and forever be with the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

Lillie Hood.

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints,—Holy Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am sending in my testimony. Today finds me still saved and much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. The Lord has wonderfully blessed me. I think about how he cared for us during the wreck. Since the Lord spared my life, I mean to do more for him every day. I mean to do more for him this year than ever before in life. A lady said to me, "I guess you all won't go off any more to meeting will you since the wreck?" I told her, "I am going until the Lord calls me." I don't mean to be slothful on any line. I mean to ever press on for the Lord.

I want to ask all the saints to remember my brother-in-law in prayer. He has a lot of confidence in husband and me. Ever since the wreck he has asked us to pray for him that he might stop his habits. We earnestly prayed for him. He told us that he don't have a habit of tobacco of any kind. I want you all to earnestly pray that the Lord will get hold of his heart and save him through and through. Pray that we may continue to be a light for him. I often talk to him about the Lord. He seems to

be interested in what we say so you all pray much for me. I mean to go to heaven. Pray for my unsaved children.
Your sister, Mattie Ligons.

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Wichita, Kans.—We are very thankful to be in the family of God, and for the deep spiritual blessings the Lord is pouring into our hearts day by day. The Lord is forming and compacting his image into my soul.

The Lord permitted a few of God's saints to come by in December for meeting. Brother O. C. Porter of Guthrie, Okla. met with us on Monday and Tuesday night. Brother I. C. Chandler, brother Ira Stover and wife were with us the rest of the week. This flooded our souls and many held up their hands for prayer. One sought the Lord for help during the meeting and renewed his covenant. All felt that the meeting closed too soon and sorrowfully submitted to the brother's departure but the meeting is still going on in our hearts. We desire your prayers that we may be the light God is calling for in these last days.

God is still supplying and helping us along on the building. In this we are thankful. Lewis Williams.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the dear Lord. I am alone at the age of 83 and I am praising the dear Lord for healing me. I have had trouble with a choking in my chest not far from my stomach. It seemed as if there was a growth there. There was something that would stop my food from going on down if I would forget to wait until the bite before was down. It would stop at times and froth and water would fill my throat and mouth, and if I was thirsty and took several swallows I would have to wait until it had run down before I could take any more. I have been bothered for years at times but not so bad as I have been lately. I didn't write for prayer but the Lord knew I was trusting him. He is my helper in time of trouble. It seemed that I would choke to death at times. It would be so long before the choking would stop but praise his wonderful name he healed me. He has all the praise. Emma Ritchie.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." Psalm 23:1-3. I thank God for this wonderful Psalm. It has been a blessing to me so many times.

This morning after reading the New Year's first "Faith and Victory" with all the good testimonies, (and I love to read the testimonies, they are always a blessing to me, and all the other good articles therein.) I felt like a still voice told me "Where is your testimony? What have you to be thankful for?" Indeed I have much to be thankful for although I can not name each one—what all the good Lord has done for me, for he has done so much. I thank him for his great love, and for Jesus Christ, whom he sent into this world, and the greatest of all he was the Lamb of God. We read in St. John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." I am so glad that he has taken away my sins, and I can freely say I am his child. Yes, it is wonderful to be a child of God and trust in the Lord. My desire is to live closer to the Lord from day to day, and I know God will give us grace to do so, if we obey his word.

My prayer is, "Oh my God, help me from day to day, as long as thou givest me breath in my mortal body, to live for thee, and to do thy will. Help me to be a blessing to others, that my life, my talk and deeds be so that others

may see, that I am a child of God. Oh my Lord give me victory over all trials and temptations, over sin and all unrighteousness. Help me to be just that, that thou would have me to be. In this world of sin, there are so many temptations. My Lord help others that have trials and temptations. Bless thy ministers and servants that preach thy gospel, that many sinners may hear thy word and be saved." Please pray for me and for my husband. We are not so well in body. May God bless you all is my prayer.
Mrs. E. Ewald.

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What Is 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 or disappointed. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. 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 redemption works on Calvary's Cross, manifest in those of his own who are definitely subjected to the Holy Spirit.—Sel.

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AN OLD BOOK WANTED

Your editor of the "Faith and Victory" paper desires the book written by D. S. Warner entitled, "Bible Proofs of a Second Work of Grace." If any of our readers possess this book, will you send it to us at Faith Publishing House? We desire to read it and will return it if you want it returned or will pay you for it if you wish to sell it.

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THE MUNCIE, INDIANA CAMPGROUND

For some time the saints have felt the need of a campground in the East where the pure gospel could be preached in Holy-Spirit-controlled campmeetings without compromise or fanaticism. After the good campmeeting at Muncie, Indiana last summer, many were of the opinion that it would be a good place for a campground, but their small chapel and crowded quarters, while large enough for their small congregation, was not suitable for a campmeeting.

The saints there moved, by faith, and bought an acre of ground in another part of town, and they rejoiced because of the working of the Lord in their behalf. But the enemy is never satisfied to let the work of God go on unhindered. The little flock there are not discouraged, but they do desire the earnest prayers and cooperation of other saints in behalf of this work, for the burden of it seems at present greater than they can bear. They had hoped to sell the old building to help on the new, but have not yet been able to. Pray that God will work this out. He can make a way where there is no way. Progress on the new building is being hindered because of lack of laborers and finances, but they have the walls up and part of the roof and sub-floor on. Campmeeting time will soon be here again, so the "Kings business requires haste."

If you leave the Lord's work for others to do, others will receive the reward.

Are We "Of All Men Most Miserable"?

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Cor. 15:19.

For some time I have wondered about this verse, feeling within my own soul that any persecutions that could come upon me could not make me "of all men most miserable" so long as I had my Lord, even if this life were all I had promise of. The joy of the Lord far surpasses all persecutions or sorrows of any kind in my experience with the Lord. I felt that if my life were thus joyful, Paul, being much deeper in the Lord than I, must have known much more of the joys of the Lord even though his persecutions were greater. I feel that a few days ago, while meditating on this verse and reading it with my husband, the Lord gave me the answer.

Please read 1 Cor. 15:12-20. Here Paul is teaching the certainty of the resurrection. He points out that all our hope of salvation rests on the resurrection. If there is no resurrection, Christ is dead, because he was crucified and cannot be alive unless he was resurrected. Therefore, if Christ be dead, whom we say is alive, we preach a lie. If Christ be dead, whom we trust for deliverance and healing, we can neither be delivered nor healed. We have no one to help us through persecutions. Therefore we are "of all men most miserable;" not because there is no heaven to deliver us out of our miseries, but because there is no living Christ (whom we think there is) to give us joy in time of sorrow and deliverance in time of persecution. Therefore if an unfounded hope of Christ is all we have in this life, we are "of all men most miserable." No persecutions the true Christian can have can be great enough to make him miserable because the joy of salvation is much greater. Isaiah the twelfth chapter tells us of the joys of salvation, not commanding us to be joyful, but telling us "in that day" it shall be. Verse three states, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Paul, himself, in Acts 20:22-24 speaks of the bonds and afflictions which awaited him, and says, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Also in Phil. 3:3 and 4:4-7, and 11-13, he speaks of the joys of salvation. James 1:2, 3 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the tryings of your faith worketh patience." 1 Peter 3:14 and 4:14 tell us to rejoice in persecutions. 1 Tim. 6:6 tells us that "godliness with contentment is great gain." This does not look like our hope of heaven is all that lifts our minds above the persecutions, but rather the peace of God and the knowledge that persecutions bring us nearer the Lord.

In St. John 20:1-15 we see the disciples and Mary very sad because their Lord was dead and because they could not find what had become of him. In verses 16-18 we see the joy that the risen Christ brings to Mary. In John 21:1-3 we find the disciples with nothing to do but go fishing to rest their worried

minds. In verses 4-6 we see the power of the risen Lord in supplying the fishes after they could not catch any all night. And in verses 7-13 we see the joy the disciples had in being with the risen Saviour. Then in St. John 20:19 we see the disciples in a room with the door shut for fear of the Jews. And in Acts 2:36 we see Peter stand boldly before these same Jews and tell them that they "have taken, and with wicked hands have crucified and slain" Jesus. Here we see the boldness that the resurrected Christ gives us.

Therefore it is the fact that Christ is resurrected rather than our future resurrection that keeps us from being "of all men most miserable."

—Mrs. Harvey Johnson.

RESOLUTION

(Written by Fanny Crosby at Eight Years of Age)

"Oh, what a happy soul am I
Although I cannot see.
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.
How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't—
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot and I won't."

Jesus was in agony (Luke 22:44) that I might be of good comfort (2 Cor. 13:11).

Jesus was in darkness (Matt. 27:45) that I may be in the light of the Lord (John 12:46).

Jesus was despised (Isa. 53:3) that I might be exalted (Rev. 3:21).

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BIBLE STUDY

Notice—Primary Picture Roll \$1.35, Lesson cards 7c each.

A PHARISEE AND A REPENTANT WOMAN

February 3, 1952

Printed Portion.....Luke 7:36-50.

Luke 7:36. And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38. And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have

somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master say on.

41. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43. Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon. Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46. My head with oil thou didst not anoint but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50. And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Memory Verse: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

Practical Truth: Jesus is ready to forgive even great sinners if they truly repent.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus is a friend to all men. His love extends to the worst of sinners too. "There is no difference: for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Rom. 3:22-23. This Pharisee was what is termed in these days, a good moral man but the woman was termed an outcast. But both classes were sinners before a holy and righteous God. The Pharisee did not realize his need as did the woman whom he criticized. The Pharisee did not show a loving, attitude, nor a broken and contrite spirit as the woman did and Jesus answered his thoughts by showing the difference to him between the humility of the woman and his own self righteousness. Humility is recommended all through the Bible. Jesus himself was humble. So this woman, who was looked down upon showed a love for the Lord but the other showed intolerance instead. Since she was saved the Lord had forgiven her sins she should have a place in the body of Christ without the suspicion of others. Gal. 6:1 says, "Considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

"Hallelujah! hallelujah! my soul is now free!

For the precious blood of Jesus cleanseth even me." And it keeps us clean as we yield to him. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another." Mal. 3:16. When the outcast gets saved, they desire that fellowship with the saints too.

THE DECISIONS OF TWO RICH MEN

February 10, 1952

Printed Portion.....Luke 18:18-23; 19:1-10.

Luke 18:18. And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19. And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is God.

20. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

19:1. And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

2. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

3. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature,

4. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

5. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

6. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

9. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

10. For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost.

Memory Verse: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matt. 7:13-14.

Practical Truth: Crucial decisions, in obedience or disobedience to Christ, may determine the character of our whole future for good or ill.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exo. 20:3. "And covetousness, which is idolatry." Col. 3:5. Jesus, who knows the hearts of all men, John 2:25, told this rich young ruler just what he needed to "Inherit eternal life." Anything in this world that has our affections instead of placing them on things above is idolatry. Jesus, in Luke 16:11 speaks of the "True riches." To find Jesus is to find the true riches. This rich young ruler did not value the Saviour's offer, so he turned away from the one who "Loved him."

The head tax collector at Jericho was looked down upon by the elite of that day, but his desire to see Jesus who he was, made him attempt something unusual by climbing a tree. The same Jesus who saw where he was, can see us where we are. When Jesus told him to come down from that tree, he was so glad to do it that the record says, "He made haste, and received him joyfully." The rest of them were showing contempt and murmured about him being a sinner but he had "Seen the Lord." John 20:25. He had his reward for he kept seeking to see Jesus until he found him. That rule still holds good to them who are in earnest in seeking after the Lord. Jer. 29:13. The rich young ruler with a good reputation turned away from the PEARL of great price, but the rich, despised tax collector "Received him joyfully."

THE FAMILY AT BETHANY

February 17, 1952

Printed Portion.....Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-5, 24-27.

Luke 10:38. Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42. But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

John 11:1. Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

3. Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

4. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

5. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

24. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27. She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Memory Verse: She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. John 11:27.

Practical Truth: We may and should use our homes to glorify Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are many different kinds of homes but the home where the Lord reigns is the only ideal home. Jesus was welcome at the home in Bethany. His talk to the mistress of the home showed a concern for her soul in that she was "Careful and troubled about many things." The literal Greek has it that he told Martha, a few things were all that were necessary. That would give her time to sit at Jesus' feet and learn of him, as Mary, her sister was doing. According to John 11:27 she too must have time for Jesus for it says "I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

When Jesus reigns in the home day by day there will develop tact, usefulness, patience, courtesy, consistency, meekness, longsuffering, charity, courage, and each will "Esteem another better than themselves." "By love serve one another." Gal. 5:13. The spiritual side of the home is sadly lacking in these modern times. You, who are slack in your home, will you not put forth extra effort to "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness?" Psalms 29:2. It pays big dividends to serve the Lord.

PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

February 24, 1952

Printed Portion.....Mark 9:2; 10:35-40; Acts 4:13, 18-20.

Mark 9:2. And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

10:35. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

36. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

37. They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

38. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

39. And they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:

40. But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

Acts 4:13. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

18. And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Memory Verse: We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20.

Practical Truth: People who live close to the Master will enjoy sacred experiences that others do not.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

What a wonderful privilege these three disciples had, who were the first to be called by Jesus, thus giving them more time to prepare for the work of the kingdom of God. The scriptures given in our lesson show them to be chosen leaders right from the beginning. These three were at different times chosen to be alone with Jesus, especially in the garden just before the crucifixion when Jesus wanted their cooperation in prayer and sympathy. They went to sleep and did not understand the great agony that Christ was suffering. They were willing in spirit but the flesh was weak. When Jesus calls any of us to do a work for him, he will qualify us for that special duty as he did these three. He will lead us day by day until we are ready to be bold before the world as Peter and John were before the Jewish Sanhedrin after the day of Pentecost. The two made a mistake in asking special privilege to sit, one on the right hand and the other on the left, but the all-wise Master corrected them. He also will correct us when we need it for he already knows what is best for us, that he will guide us in his humble ways by the leading of the Holy Spirit. All the dross in our character can be purged out by the Holy Spirit fire as we yield to him.

C. W.