

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Don't Carry the Burden of Tomorrow

God broke our years into hours and days,
That hour by hour, and day by day,
Just going on a little way,
We might be able, all along
To keep quite strong.

Should all the weight of life be laid
Across the shoulders at just one place
And the future, rife with woe and struggle,
Meet us face to face:
We could not go;
Our feet would stop, and so
God lays a little on us every day.

And never, I believe, in all life's way,
Will burdens bear so deep,
Or pathway lie so steep,
But we can go, if, by God's power
We only bear the burden of the hour.

—Selected.

A Woman Clothed With the Sun

Rev. 12:1

What was John permitted to see in the vision?
And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; (or
sign) a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon
under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve
stars (verse 1).

What was this woman? The Church of God, the
bride of Christ in her primitive glory, purity, and
unity, clothed with the divine graces of Jesus Christ,
the knowledge of salvation (Rom. 7:4; Eph. 5:23-33).
She was clothed with the sun. What does this signify?
Jesus Christ the Sun of righteousness, the light and
glory of the church. She was clothed with his purity
and power. What does the moon under her feet re-
present? The Old Mosaic law being passed away and
Christ's divine law set up instead. What is meant by
the crown on her head? She is reigning through grace
over sin and the world. What did the twelve stars of
her crown signify? The twelve apostles of the Lamb.

She being with child; what was her condition?
And she being with child cried, travelling in birth and

pained to be delivered (verse 2). What does this sig-
nify? The object of the union of Christ and his church
is to bring forth fruit unto God (Rom. 7:4). The
church travails in pain and labours to bring sons and
daughters unto God. The early church laboured for
the salvation of the world. The purpose of God's
kingdom or church on earth was to save men and wom-
en from their sins and to unite them with Christ and
the Father. We are born into the church through the
blood of Christ. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves,
and to the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath
made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which
he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).
Rom. 3:25). Is the church married to Christ? She
is, or else we would be bastards and not legitimate
children (Eph. 5:23-33; 1 John 3:1). What did the
woman bring forth? And she brought forth a man
child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron
(Rev. 12:5). Thou shalt break them with a rod of
iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's
vessel (Psa. 2:9; Rev. 2:26, 27). Does the man child,
which the church brought forth, refer to Christ? No.
Christ is not a child of the church. He is its founder.
He purchased it, the church, with his own blood. She
is his wife (Acts 20:28; Heb. 9:14). What was this
man child which the church brought forth? A host
of Christians born suddenly. "Before she travailed she
brought forth: before her pain came, she was delivered
of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who
hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to
bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at
once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth
her children" (Isa. 66:7, 8). A nation of children born
at once signify a man child. When was this fulfilled?
In the early church. On the day of Pentecost three
thousand were born in the family in one day (Acts
2:41). It has been said, it was but a few days until
a nation of children were brought forth. At an early
date the church at Antioch numbered about one hun-
dred thousand. Is there any other Scripture to prove
the church is termed a man? For he is our peace, who
hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle
wall of partition between us (Jew and Gentile), for to
make in himself of twain one new man, so making
peace (Eph 2:14, 16). The Jews and Gentiles recon-
ciled in one body are termed one new man. The apos-

tate church is termed the man of sin, so the mighty host brought forth by the primitive church is called a man child.

What did John see next? And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads (Rev. 12:3). What was this dragon? Pagan Rome. It was a dragon power. What were the seven heads? The seven supreme forms of government which Rome had. What were the ten horns of the dragon? The ten kingdoms which grew out of the Roman Empire. What did this dragon do? And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth; and the dragon stood before the woman (the church) which was ready to be delivered, for to devour the child as soon as it was born (verse 4). What is meant by the tail of the dragon? The latter end of his reign. What is meant by his casting down of the stars? Stars sometimes signify God's people. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). The twelve sons of Jacob were seen in a vision as stars (Gen. 37:9). Casting down the stars doubtless referred to those who loved this present world and gave up the faith rather than to endure the severe persecutions of the Pagan power. Rome was ready to devour every man and woman born into Christianity. While Rome was slaying the Christians by the thousands, what became of them? Her child was caught up unto God and to his throne (verse 5). These souls of the martyrs ascended to paradise and continued to reign with Christ. What did the woman do next? And the woman fled into the wilderness where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days (verse 6). What does the wilderness signify? A place of obscurity, which was the condition of the church during the great apostasy. How long was she to remain in the wilderness? A thousand two hundred and three score days. How long is that? 1260 years, counting a day for a year (Num. 14:34). I have appointed thee each day for a year (Ezek. 4:6). We are told that the church went into apostasy about A. D. 270. Counting forward 1260 years brings us to 1530, the time of the Reformation, when the church came out in clearer light.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (verse 7).

What do we understand by war in heaven? John, while in the Spirit saw in a vision what was to take place on the earth in reality. "After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne" (Rev. 4:1, 2).

—A. R. Hightower

The bigger things in life
Some of us can never do;

But I'm happy in knowing
The little things God takes note of, too.

—oOo—

A Vessel

I was reminded of a poem I heard once and was impressed to write a few thoughts on it. A master went into his garden one day to enjoy the flowers and noticed some lilies drooping their heads. He at once set forth to do something about it. Seeing an empty vessel by his side, he took it to the fountain and filled it with water and poured it on the lilies. Several times he refilled the vessel and poured water on the lilies. Then he began to see them lift their heads. At first the Master saw the need. Then he saw the empty vessel, and realizing this was what he had need of, he at once put it to use.

God may see a person in need, possibly discouraged, sick, tested, or afflicted, whom He is concerned about, but he needs an empty vessel (you or me) to fill to take encouragement to them. If our vessel is empty of selfishness, pride or egotism, and cares of this life, etc., so He can fill us with compassion, love, and concern for them; then we can be meet for the Master's use. As He filled the vessel with water from the fountain, so we must be filled with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, mercy, godliness, brotherly-kindness, charity, and all that goes to make up a perfect Christian life which comes forth from the fountain of God that flows down from the throne of God. But our vessel must be empty of everything that is not like God before he can use us, before he can fill us with his work. Pray for me that I may keep where the Master can use me.

The words of the following song brings out this subject very clearly:

"I am only an earthen vessel,
That Jesus may use as he will;
Whether much I may do in his vineyard,
Or small be the place that I fill."

This earthen vessel in the garden no doubt took up a very small space compared to the size of the garden. But it was empty, and ready for use.

"I am only an earthen vessel,
But cleansed by the Master's dear hand;
He has placed me just where he can use me,
And ready for service I stand."

Truly I can say with the writer that God has placed me just where he can use me, and my heart says amen to his will.

"I am only an earthen vessel,
All excellence is of the Lord;
For alone I am worthless and empty,
And nothing of profit afford."

"I am only an earthen vessel,
The graces within are not mine;
For the love and the power and glory,
Belong to the Saviour divine."

When we submit to God's will, then he can fill us with these graces divine according as we have need. The Lord may call us to visit a shut-in or write a let-

ter to encourage them; but just because they do not lift their heads at first, we may have to continue the second or third time; but keep on till they are revived and their heads are lifted up. Be not weary in well doing. Keep close to the Master and empty and meet for His use, is my prayer for all God's children.

—Flossie Atha.

The Approaching Day

In the latter part of the 25th verse of the 10th chapter of Hebrews, we have these words: "Exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." That the coming of the Lord is near, we know, by the signs He has given us; but just how near we know not, neither the angels of heaven, but the Father only (Matt. 24:36).

"Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, [His promise to come again] as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:8, 9.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:16, 17.

The Gospel is the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16.

It hath pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Cor. 1:21) so that is why time is prolonged—for the Gospel to be preached to all the world. God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman [God] waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8.

Since the beginning of this Gospel dispensation, it has been called by Bible writers "the last time." See Heb. 1:2; Gal. 4:4; Gen. 4:9, 10; 1 John 2:2, 18.

When the Gospel was preached by Christ and the early Apostles and disciples to all the then-known world (Col. 1:6, 23) it was the early rain of grace. Since the dark ages, when the church was hidden from view of the people in general, she has again come to light and the Gospel is again being preached in all its fulness (the whole Word of God), as it was by Christ and the early disciples. This is the latter rain of grace. God's people are being called to unity, to come out of all places where they have been scattered during the dark and cloudy day, and to be one in Christ Jesus. And when the Gospel is preached to all the world, then shall the end come (Matt. 24:14).

We see the day approaching; let us admonish one another. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44.

—Cora Brant.

Come Unto Me

Come unto me, ye weary,
I hear my Savior say;
Take my yoke upon you,
Walk in the narrow way.

Ye that are heavy hearted,
Bow low down at my feet;
I'll share each care and sorrow;
Your joy shall be complete.

I trod the way before you,
And heavy crosses bore,
I died your soul to ransom—
How could you ask for more?

So press the battle forward,
The fight will not be long;
You'll meet your loved ones over there
Amid the blood-washed throng.

You'll have a blest pavilion,
An house not made with hands,
Eternal in the heavens,
Over in that glory land.

You'll join the happy angels
And gather round God's throne
To sing a victory chorus
In that fair and happy home.
—Sister Wiggins.

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Set Your Souls At Rest

Sinners, why don't you repent,
And set your souls at rest?
For you'll never be content,
Until you have confessed.

For Jesus is coming back again,
And then 'twill be too late
For you to turn away from sin,
And enter the golden gate.

If you're wise, you'll do it now,
While you have the chance;
For you're not really living now—
You're only in a trance.

Give up all the worldly things
And join this Christian band;
For you will be well repaid
Over in that other land.

You don't have to dance and drink
To find your happiness;
So come and seek the Lord just now
And set your souls at rest.

—Vera Crawford.

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

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

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920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
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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.

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Editorials

The Bible, the holy Word of God, is a wonderful book; it is marvelously written, compiled and put together by a Master-mind, far superior to any human intellect, and can come from no other source than the great "I AM," the God of all created things, who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient.

Human beings at their best are indeed exceedingly weak creatures and are wholly dependent upon God for existence, whether they will acknowledge it or own up to the fact, it stands that way today and will be verified and proved to be true to all at the great Judgment Day. The more man sees and acknowledges the greatness of God; the less value he will place upon earthly things which are to perish with the using, and the more meek and lowly he should become, losing the conceit and all self-esteem, and his affections and praise will be unto Him who has opened his eyes and given him understanding of the truth as it is in Jesus—the One who has completed a blood sacrifice on Calvary's cross and appeased the wrath of God which was upon us, as sinners, bringing us back into the fold of God, freeing us from sin, making us innocent and beloved children of God. Hence we become the "church of God," the "family of God," the "body of Christ," which is now in the world but not of the world—a family whom he has purchased with his own blood, an uncondemned family living without sin among a professing and non-professing sinning people. What a wonderful thought and truth it is to realize that God has cleansed souls from all sin and lifted them up on a plain of holiness with himself; for we are his offspring, spiritually speaking, and his children are like Him. The Bible says that Christ was manifested to take away our sins; "and in Him is no sin." 1 John 3:5. There are no sinners in Christ, his church, his family, and his body is made up of those whose sins are washed away by his blood, and only those who retain a sinless experience are in his family. All people who commit sin, whether professors or non-professors, are not and cannot be in the family of God, nor any part of the body of Christ, which he has purchased with his own blood.

Any preacher that will sow discord among the children of God, pulling some of His children away after him (or her), thus making division, is committing sin in the sight of God, and will have to give an account for this in the Judgment Day when all will have to stand before the omnipotent One and give an account to Him for their own personal deeds done in the body. Oh, how men ought to fear and tremble before God and be sure that they are being led of His Spirit, for the apostle John declared even in his day that many false prophets had gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). Any man who holds up to the people anything less than a life free from sin is not of God, and will not do to follow nor receive of his teachings, for to speak plainly about the matter as Paul did about false teachers in his day, "They are the enemies of the cross of Christ." Phil. 3:18.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us keep a love in our hearts for the truth, the crucified way, lest

we be led astray by some of the many deceivers in the world.

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

It is written that David was a man after God's own heart and he was greatly beloved of God; yet he had many enemies and was in many trials and afflictions, and his soul longed and hungered for that heart-cleansing which we enjoy today through Christ. In Psalm 84:2, we read, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah."

Turning to Psalm 102, we again read of his soul's condition when humbled down in afflictions: "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth. My heart is smitten and withereth like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. By the reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert. I watch and am as a sparrow alone upon an house top. Mine enemies reproach me all the day."

Dropping down to the 16th verse, we read again, "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He shall regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the generations to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord."

We read in the 12th chapter of Isaiah how that praises should come forth from God's children in this gospel day in which we live. There are only six verses in this chapter, and, beloved, our lives should harmonize with this prophecy, for we make up Zion of God in the world today. In the last verse it says, "Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy one of Israel in the midst of thee." In the fifth chapter of Romans where Paul teaches us of complete salvation, we read beginning at the 3rd verse: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." In this day of grace we should look to the Lord and have a joy and even rejoicing in our souls even in troubles and afflictions, for as Paul has said, "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved [when we die] we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Let us rejoice for the glory which is waiting us when the Spirit is parted from this decaying body. In Philippians 3:21 we read what Paul says concerning our inheritance, "Who shall change our vile body [In the original Greek it reads, "body of humiliation," which would mean decaying body] that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to

subdue all things unto himself."

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

In the Bible there are many comparisons made, parables, symbols, metaphors, and analogies used in order to convey to the spiritually-minded and "born-again" children the true holiness doctrines of the Bible in order to keep them steadfast unmoveable and abounding in the will and ways of God. Those who get settled and grounded in the true doctrines will not be blown about by the different winds of doctrine.

In the Word of God His ministers are referred to as oxen because, like the ox, they have heavy loads to pull. They are yoked up with the Lord and look to Him to make the going easy, and when things get slow and hard to move, they look to the Lord to hold the load and they move on as he moves on. They are also symbolized as an ass, or donkey as they are called today. The donkey is a very humble and lowly animal. He is sure-footed and has long ears. The true ministers of God are humble and lowly in heart; they make sure their steps. Their ears are spiritually long and they hear things from heaven.

His children are also symbolized by different kinds of birds. Those who are false and wrong in heart are symbolized by hawks, owls, buzzards, and other hateful birds. In the Song of Solomon, he refers to the children of God as a dove (6:9), "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her." The dove is a symbol of gentleness and innocence. It is defenseless, faithful to its mate, and home-loving. The dove was also used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit that rested upon Jesus when he came up out of the water after being baptized.

God's children are also symbolized as lambs and sheep because of their gentle and innocent ways. Jesus was called the Lamb of God. He is our example. On the other hand, a goat represents a professor without God in his soul even though he may be extremely religious and stand high in the esteem of the world as a Doctor of Divinity and receives much flattery and praise of men; yet being without the true spirit of God in his soul, he is only a goat although he may lead many souls in his goat way and also fool some of the innocent ones at times.

I have just learned from a brother who works in a large packing plant that they use an old big goat to lead the sheep to the slaughter pen. The sheep cannot be driven into the slaughter pen, but this old long-haired goat is trained to lead the sheep. They will follow him, and when he gets them to the place where they cannot get back, the old goat slips slyly away from them, and they are taken on to be slaughtered. When I heard this, I wondered how many are following goat leaders today in a spiritual sense. We find some today who are bringing in different and strange doctrines and getting some to follow them. If they get you separated from the children of God, your soul could, in that way, easily be slaughtered. It is safe to follow Christ and him only and remain in the body of the Lord as a cleansed and clean vessel in his hand, having fellowship with the Father and all of his blood-bought children. Hear his voice and follow him, as

he will not lead you to slaughter, but to the glory world to live with God forever.

There are no doubt some of God's children who are following goat leaders and other false prophets, for we find the voice of God in the 18th chapter of Revelation is calling them out and away from such places. The second verse of this chapter reads thus: "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

Babylon the great would include all of these religious denominations that teach a "sin-you-must" doctrine and encourage worldly fellowship in various ways, and also these movements that claim holiness and hold the truth in unrighteousness and have contrary doctrines that separate them from the true holiness people of God. In the 4th verse the voice of Scripture says, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partaker of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."

These Scriptures are a solemn warning to all that are estranged from the saints of God, the true holiness people. Beloved, clear yourself from all man-made institutions and from all religions that cater to the world in any way, and those that have imbibed strange doctrines that separate themselves from God's holy remnant. In time you will very likely awake to the fact that you are following a goat with sheep's clothing on. There is danger of being slaughtered before you are aroused and fully awake. Escape for your life, for they hold many souls in there for the burning. Remember, there are no bargains in salvation, for all have to pay the same price and keep it paid if they make heaven their home. We read of the merchant man that was hunting for goodly pearls, and when he found one pearl (Christ) of great price he went and sold all and bought the pearl of great price. Let us keep sold out to God and our affections on things above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Let our life be hid with Christ in God that when he appears we shall also appear with him in glory. Col. 3:1-5.

Yield To God

In my window I have two African violets, one is pink and the other is purple. They are blooming now and are very beautiful. I like to look at the pretty little flowers; but I have to keep turning the pots around, because the little flowers always turn their faces toward the light and sun. One morning as I sat meditating on the Word of God, I looked at the pretty little blossoms. Some were turned again toward the light. And the thought came to me of how willing and even determined they were to yield to the drawing power of the light and sun. There was no pulling back in them.

Then the thought came to me in my meditations of how we, too, should be determined to yield to the light of God and to the "SUN of righteousness" that is spoken of in Malachi 4:2. It reads like this: "But

unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

As we yield ourselves to God and are determined to keep yielded to the Sun (Jesus) of righteousness, we shall, as the prophet says, "go forth and grow up." In 2 Peter 3:18 we find the Word tells us to, "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We can only do this as we yield to God. Not just yield a little, but yield ourselves, our will, our possessions, our all, completely without one reserve. Even if the devil works hard to try to turn us away from the Sun of righteousness, away from holiness, away from the drawing power of God, let us be just as determined to yield to God and turn toward Him. And as we look to the light and yield to the light; that light from heaven is reflected in us and others will see that reflection and be drawn to Jesus.

God will draw every one unto him who will let Him. It lies within us to decide to yield to God. Some one may say, "Well, the devil just won't let me come close to the Lord and keeps me from yielding to God." But I say, as I heard one preacher say, that we blame too much on the devil. It is not the devil that keeps you away altogether; it is you. Jesus says, "Come unto me." Now it is up to you to come. He is drawing you and wants you; but you must begin to seek after Him and come with all your heart. In James 4:8 it says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." As we yield to God, he will draw close to us.

—M. Miles.

Obituaries

In memory of our dear mother and grandmother Lizzie Newton, who was called to her reward four years ago, May 25, 1950 at her home in Tulsa, Okla.

She was united in marriage to Flex Newton, who passed away Oct. 6, 1933. To this union thirteen children were born; six preceded her in death.

Living are three sons, Fletcher, Dewey, and Alex Newton; four daughters, Alice Whittington, Essie Parrish, Gertrude Conley, and Katie Jackson; three grandchildren whom she reared—Elizabeth Freeman, Geneva Norling, and Josephine Newton; 86 grandchildren, about 73 great-grandchildren.

She heard and accepted the truth of the church of God about thirty-one years and was faithful to the end. She cared for the sick, helped the needy, and her home was an open door to the saints and sinners. She showed much love to everyone and is greatly missed by many.

There lies our dear mother,

The one who loved us so;

Her love was next to God's love,

Much more than we could know.

She's one who loved the whole family,

The three generations,—she was four—

A heart of love for everyone

With a home an open door.

We miss you very much, dear mother;

For you, we did our best;

But our dear Lord of glory

Has taken you home to rest.

—Geneva Newton Norling.

Sis. Adilissia Hartgray, the daughter of Tom and Claricy Russel was born Sept. 1, 1887 at Paris, Texas and departed this life Mar. 31, 1954 at the age of 66 years, 6 months, and one day. She was married November 23rd, 1912 to Edward Hartgray at Paris, Texas. Three years later they moved to Tulsa, Okla. There in 1918, she heard the truth taught by the ministers of the church of God, and accepted it and was saved.

In 1923 she, with her husband, moved to San Diego, Calif. where they made their home until 1944. They then moved to Bakersfield, where she resided until the Lord called her from labor to reward.

The passing of our dear Sister Hartgray is grievous to us all. We realize God knows what is best. We all surely will miss her, as she has been with our congregation for the past ten years.

Funeral services were conducted at the saints' chapel by Bro. I. C. Chandler, assisted by Bro. T. T. Holden of San Diego. Text: Job 19:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:19-20, 40-44; 1 Thess. 13. She was laid to rest in the Union Cemetery here in Bakersfield. —Hazel Blackwell.

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Joseph Monroe Joiner, born Sept. 17, 1891, died April 1, 1954. He was married to Miss Martha Ellen Bennett April 11, 1915, to which union 10 children were born, one of whom preceded him in death. He leaves behind his wife, three sons—Willard, Donald, and Leslie; six daughters—Mrs. Clemens Myers, Mrs. Herman Faust, Mrs. Delas Faust, Mrs. Iverson Efferson, Mrs. Ambrose DeWolf, and Mrs. Ansel Faust; 15 grandchildren; 5 sisters and one brother; numerous other relatives and friends. His mother, Sister Minnie Joiner, passed away just last Sept.

Joe seemed to always love the truth, though he didn't live a saved life all the time; but he found the Lord precious to his soul and returned to the fold not many days before his death, which came rather sudden, and those who were with him told how peaceful his passing was one morning in his home after he called the saints in to pray for him. Funeral conducted by the writer. Texts: 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 14:13. Burial in the Oak Grove (Saints') Cemetery, near Loranger, La. —Katherine Key.

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Sister Minnie Luella (Williamson) Narretta was born Aug. 9, 1915, passed away April 11, 1954, daughter of Bro. and Sister Oscar Williamson, who live a few miles out of Loranger, La. She was married to Hattan Narretto Oct. 22, 1933, to which union four children were born. She leaves behind her husband, two sons—Kermie (19), Wayne (13); and two little girls—Wilda (past 5), and Regina (past 3); parents; two brothers and 7 sisters: viz., LeRoy and Merrill Williamson, Mrs. Angus Flynn, Mrs. Jim Manuel, Mrs. O. D. Flynn, Mrs. Howard Savage, Mrs. Monroe James, Mrs. Gerald Harmon, and Mrs. Russell James.

She got saved around fifteen years ago and lived a sweet humble life. Humility seemed to be an outstanding characteristic in her life. Her suffering was great during the last several months of her life, which she bore with great patience and seemed so willing for the Lord to have his way in her life. He relieved her numbers of times in answer to prayer, but did not see fit to heal her, but wanted her himself to add to the other jewels of heaven; for indeed "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." When the end loomed in sight, she conversed with her folks and the saints about her leaving them soon, which all seemed so precious. She lay near our hearts, but we say amen to God's will. She is now where only bliss and happiness is known—no heart-

aches, no sorrows, no pain, parting nor death. Funeral conducted by the writer assisted by Bro. L. L. Perry. Texts: 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Luke 23:43; Luke 16:22; Prov. 31:10-31. Burial in the Oak Grove (Saints') Cemetery.

—Katherine Key.

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Mrs. Bertha K. Pinkerton was born Dec. 2, 1892 and passed to her reward on April 14, 1954 at the age of 61 years. Sister Pinkerton was united in marriage to E. B. Pinkerton, Sept. 19, 1914. To this union five children were born. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, E. B. Pinkerton who is pastor at High Hill church of God; one daughter, Mrs. Clifford Ackman of Carlsbad, N. M.; two sons, Charles and Dale Pinkerton of Neelys Landing. Two children preceded her in death. She leaves two sisters; thirteen grandchildren and many friends and loved ones.

Sister Pinkerton was born into the church of God some years ago and lived a true Christian life. She was a faithful child of God. She was a true devoted wife and faithful and loving mother and a friend to everyone. She was patient in her years of illness. In her last nine days here on earth her suffering was severe, but the blessed Lord saw fit to give her relief through prayer different times and we want to thank Bro. Murphy Allen and daughters from Mansfield, Mo. for their help in many ways, and also the dear saints at Gale, Ill. who stood by us so faithfully. Sister Pinkerton stood true to her God through all hard blows and persecutions in life and there is a crown laid up for her in heaven. Our grief is her joy.

Funeral services were held by Bro. Murphy Allen, and her body was laid to rest in Church Cemetery.

—Mrs. H. Rumfeet.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Arkansas City, Kans.—I want all the saints to pray for me, that I may get some relief from a severe affliction.

—Mrs. Rose Burley.

Please pray for a man at Mansfield, Mo. who needs much help in soul and body. He seems to seek the Lord earnestly for help and gets temporary help, but it seems he can't believe for real deliverance. Be earnestly agreed with us that he will get the needed help for soul and body.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. Murphy Allen

Memphis, Tenn.—Dear saints everywhere in Jesus' blessed name.—I have been sick and afflicted since March and carrying a heavy burden. This morning while I lay in bed a thought came to me: Why suffer when you have the saints to help you? So I am asking the saints of God everywhere to help me. The Lord has done many things for me. I am much better. Pray that I may be completely healed of my affliction. Pray for my entire family, especially my two daughters.

The Lord is good to me and I want to do whatever He wants me to do. Your sister, Quida Bivens.

TENT MEETING NOTICE

A tent meeting of the church of God at Hoffman, Oklahoma will begin in June, Lord willing. We feel our insufficiency to support a camp meeting this year; therefore we are planning to have meeting of nights, beginning June 11th through June 20th.

For further information write Bro. W. W. Crawley, Route 4, Box 142, Okemah, Oklahoma; or Bro. Andrew Ligions, Gen. Del., Hoffman, Okla.

—Bro. W. W. Crawley, Pastor.

Sanctification

Taken from "Christian Conduct; or Walks With God"

By C. E. Orr.

It is our purpose in this booklet to write mainly upon the manner of a Christian's life, but we thought it well to set before the reader as briefly as possible the plan of redemption, or how we came into possession of the perfect fulness of the Christian experience. Now it is sure we must be born again. See John 3:1-7. But we do unmistakably find by searching the Scriptures that this is not all. The disciples as they journeyed with the Saviour before his death enjoyed the experience of the new birth. We shall prove this by a few texts. In Matt. 16:15, 16 Jesus is asking the disciples whom they believed him to be, and Peter making reply said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Again in John 6:69, Peter speaking to the Saviour said, "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." Now by reading 1 John 5:1 we find what such believing effects. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

From this we can safely conclude that the disciples were regenerated at the time they thus confessed their faith in Christ. Now I know we are in awful times of peril and deception, but it is perfectly safe to take the plain statements of God's Word. It is thought by some that none enjoyed the power of regeneration until after the resurrection, but we learn that he gave those who believed on him power to become the sons of God before his crucifixion: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:11-13. The disciples believed on him: they received him and consequently were born of God. Jesus speaks to the seventy of their names being written in heaven. Luke 10:20. They were preaching the gospel, healing the sick, casting out devils, etc., and surely they were sons of God by the new birth.

But we obviously find yet an element in their nature discordant with the nature of their Savior. It is in the plan of redemption that we be restored to the image or nature of God. Christ came in the nature of God, and we in the fulness of his salvation are partakers of his nature; i. e., we are of a like nature with him: "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." Luke 6:40. Not in outward life only shall we be like Jesus, but in our very nature: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." 1 John 4:17. From this text we learn that it is not only in heaven that we shall in our nature be like Jesus but like him in this world. We are to be perfect in love as he is. For proof of this we shall quote Matt. 5:48: "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." By reading a few above verses we find there is a perfection of love, and such a per-

fection can only result from a Christ-like nature. In the fulness of salvation we are as merciful in our nature as God is merciful: "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Luke 6:36. We are holy like him: "Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Pet. 1:16. We are to be righteous as he: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he [God] is righteous." 1 John 3:7. We are to be pure as our Savior: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:3. We as Christians are to be one as Christ and God are one: "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them: that they may be one, even as we are one." John 17:22. From the above texts we unmistakably learn that Christians in the "utmost salvation" are holy, righteous, and pure in their nature as God is. They are as perfect in love and merciful in their nature as he is. They are naturally one even as the Father and the Son are one.

We have heretofore by a few texts positively proved that the disciples during the ministry of Christ were converted, regenerated, or born again. Now we will as positively prove by their actions or manner of life that there was an element in their nature unlike their Master. In reading Mark 9:33, 34, we find the Savior rebuking the disciples because they had disputed among themselves, who should be greatest. Here we discover an element of pride or love of pre-eminence in the nature of the disciples, which is not found in the nature of Christ. In Mark 10:37, we read where the two sons of Zebedee asked the Savior to grant them the privilege of sitting the one on his right hand and the other on his left in his glory. By the answer he made them as recorded in verse 40, the disciples understood him to make them promise of such positions, and in verse 41 we learn the ten were much displeased with James and John. Here we plainly discover an element of envy or jealousy in their nature. Thus they are found to be unlike their Savior in nature.

In reading the account of the betrayal in John 18, we see manifest an element of resentment and resistance when Peter with his sword smote off the high priest's servant's ear. Jesus commanded him to put up his sword. Elsewhere it is said that Jesus touched the wounded ear and healed it. Peter inflicted the wound; Jesus healed it. We see the dissimilarity in the natures of Peter and Jesus. The Savior, desiring the disciples to be restored to the divine nature, prays the Father to sanctify them: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17. While the disciples were only regenerated, we discover an element of division in their nature, resulting in disputings as to who should be the greatest, and envyings and jealousies, consequently they were not one; but in reading John 17:17-22, we find that the experience of sanctification makes them one. In Heb. 2:11, we are taught that sanctification makes all one. When was this element of division destroyed or cleansed from the nature of the disciples? We answer: At the reception of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In Acts 4:31, 32, it is said that all that were filled with the

Holy Spirit were of one heart and one soul, consequently the experience of sanctification destroys all elements of division.

Paul rebuked the brethren for this same element of division that was found in the disciples before their sanctification. They were in Christ, but they had yet a carnal or fallen nature. In Acts 8, reading from verse 5, we have the account of Philip preaching Christ to the Samaritans. There were many lame and palsied healed, and evil spirits cast out. There was great joy in that city. In verse 12 it is said the people believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, and were baptized, both men and women. Verse 14 says that when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John down there, who, when they were come, they prayed for them, and laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Here we find full salvation obtained by the people of the city of Samaria in the same manner the apostles obtained it. They first received the word of God: they believed, and were baptized and were unquestionably regenerated, and like the apostles subsequently received the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 10 there is recorded how God wonderfully accomplished the sanctification of Cornelius and his family. We find him a devout man and one that feared God and prayed to him always. His prayers and almsgiving came up as a memorial before God. How beautiful! Surely he was a Christian. He enjoyed the blessed experience of pardon, but not the glorious experience of sanctification; therefore, he was directed by an angel to call for one Simon who would tell him what to do. I would advise the reader to read the whole of this chapter. Toward the close of the chapter you will read where as Peter preached to them that the Holy Ghost fell on them.

Thus we find that Cornelius and his family were fully saved in the same manner as the apostles and the people of Samaria. Some may be asking what was accomplished in these Gentiles when they received the Holy Spirit. We have already learned that he destroyed the elements of division and made all one. This is because he cleanses or purifies the nature or heart and consequently destroys all elements in opposition to the nature of Christ. We shall give one text to prove that the Holy Spirit purifies the heart: "And God, which knoweth the heart, bare them [Gentiles] witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us [Jews]; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Acts 15:8, 9. With this one text all anti-cleansing theories fall to the ground.

In all the New Testament examples we find that men and women were first regenerated and subsequently made pure in heart by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. This is the most natural and commonsense plan of restoring fallen man to his creative purity. Because of Adam's transgression, sin entered into the world and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned. Rom. 5:12. All have sinned. That is, all are sinful in their nature.

This is proven by a saying of the Psalmist: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Ps. 51:5. The apostle Paul says he was by nature a child of wrath, even as others. Eph. 2:3. He not only says he was a child of wrath in his nature, but that others are also.

MEETING REPORTS

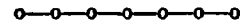
Greetings to the saints at large:

The meeting in Green Pastures has come and gone. The Lord gave us a good meeting and some souls were added to the church, for which we thank and praise the Lord. We had a very good attendance. Saints were there from Tulsa, Okmulgee, Hoffman, Bristow, Boley, Dover, Guthrie, Okla. City, Shawnee; and Bro. Chandler and Bro. Bud Gaines and wife and Sister Francisco from Bakersfield, California were in the first part of the meeting. We regret very much that they had to leave before the meeting was over; but the good Lord sent some more ministers who preached the Word of God in its fulness.

Pray much for the work in Green Pastures.

Yours for the full truth,

J. T. Johnson.



The Jefferson, Oregon revival closed on Tuesday night, April 25th. It lasted about ten days. Bro. Huskey began it a few days before I got there. The meeting was much encouragement to the saints. A few sought the Lord for help. There had been some friction over the false doctrines; but we believe the condition was greatly improved, and we trust such will soon be removed. Let us pray for the campmeeting, which will soon convene there and that God will send the ministers whom He wants at that camp meeting. Those who know, told us the condition was greatly improved.

Yours for lost souls,

—E. M. Zinn.

The Lord has blessed us again with another good week-end Young People's Meeting, which was April 23rd to 25th. The Lord wonderfully blessed in each of the services. It will be long remembered in our hearts for the good we received. We had very good attendance in each of the services, on the Sunday the house was filled to its capacity. Many young saints from different congregations were here with us, also several of the older saints. Eight sought the Lord for the help they needed in various ways.

The Lord blessed Bro. Calvin Hobbs of San Bernardino, Bro. Everett Pierro and Bro. Clarence Hattley from Stockton and also some of the older ministers: Sis. Polk and Sis. Bessie Gordon. We heard some wonderful messages, which were very encouraging. One in particular which stays with me is one Bro. Hobbs preached on "Being Led By the Spirit."

On Sunday evening I took sick with a severe headache. I couldn't stay in the service, it was so severe. But after being anointed and prayed for, the Lord wonderfully blessed and I got to be in the last part of the service, which I was very thankful for. I can say for a fact: the Lord is a present help in every time of need.

We desire the saints' everywhere to pray for us here that we keep on the forward move. We have our regular Young People's Meeting each Friday night and each fourth Sunday, the 2:30 services. We appreciate each and everyone, young and old, to come and be with us.

—Hazel Blackwell.

The congregation of Enid, Okla. are rejoicing in the Lord for the good meeting held from April 25th to May 2nd. The visitation of the Holy Spirit was truly present in the giving out of the Word. Several ministers and workers were present from different congregations and states—Calif., Kansas, and Oklahoma.

We truly thank the dear Lord that around ten or more souls sought the Lord for their souls' need, some for salvation, sanctification, healing of body, and other spiritual needs.

Please pray for the work of the Lord here that it may continue to grow. We feel the need of the dear Lord burdening a minister to pastor here. We are always glad to have any of the home ministers come to be with us any Sunday except the 1st Sunday. On each 1st Sunday we have all day meeting and dinner on the ground with Bro. Pruitt present. If any minister out of the state would be passing through, our meeting place is located 212 N. 5th St. Contact any time Bro. John Richard Sisk, 133 E. Ohio, Phone 6250; or Sister Jessie Douglas, 219 E. Wabash, Phone 6540-W. Sister Jessie Douglas, minister.

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Campmeeting Notices

Jefferson, Oregon

The Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting will be held, Lord willing, on the saints' grounds on Hazel St., one block south and a half block east of the bus depot in Jefferson, June 18-28. Jefferson is nine miles north of Albany and 16 miles south of Salem.

All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to come and will receive a hearty welcome. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual with meals served free in the dining hall. All are welcome. The Lord has always provided the needful things to care for all who come and we urge all who can to come. There are a number of cabins on the grounds and all will be cared for and made as comfortable as possible. Those who can should bring bedding as the nights are cool. Sleeping quarters will be provided in homes near grounds for the more aged saints. This meeting is especially for those in the North West, and we urge all isolated saints to plan now to come. Come praying and looking to the Lord for a good meeting. We are expecting the Lord to send Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing who will preach the whole truth and clearly give out the full gospel of Christ to the people. Those needing help in soul or body should attend this meeting. All are cordially invited.

For further information write to Bro. Harry Davis, P. O. Box 547, Stayton, Ore., Sister Emma Busch, Scio, Ore. or Bro. Noah White, Jefferson, Ore. Those attending the meeting can have mail sent in care of Sam Wilson, P. O. Box 41, Jefferson, Ore. and get it any time.

Yours in His service, Bro. and Sister Stover.

Hammond, Louisiana

The 47th annual campmeeting of the Church of God will be held June 25th to July 4th inclusive, on the saints' Southern Camp ground in the south-west part of the town of Hammond, La., just off White St.; and on the dead end of the street running west from the "Red Top" filling station on the New Orleans highway, No. 51. Each year these meetings have been run on the free-will offering plan, and any of the saints or lovers of the truth in the south wishing to help with money or provisions may send to names and addresses given below. Meals and sleeping quarters will be provided without charge for all who come, as God provides. Those living near, please bring your

bed linens, pillows, and towels. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of his choosing who will preach the Word without fear or favor as the Holy Spirit directs. All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to attend. Ray Key, 705 White St., Max Williamson, 803 White St. Hammond, La.

Midway (Jena), Louisiana

Date: July 8-18.

Location: One mile west of Jena, four blocks south off Highway No. 84.

For information write to Ernest Mitchell R. 1, Trout, La. or Ruth Murphey Box 824, Jena, La.

Green Pastures, Oklahoma

The Green Pastures Campmeeting of the church of God begins July 9th and continues through July 18th. All are invited to come and be with us. We are looking for God to send ministers who will preach the full gospel. This meeting will be run on the free will offering plan. Those driving through from the west, follow Highway 62 east from Okla. City to Hill Top, turn north and go one mile. Those coming from the east follow Highway 62 to one-half mile west of Nacoma Park to Hill Top, turn north one-half mile. Those who come by train or bus to Oklahoma City, notify Sister Irma Allen 1018 S. W. 5th, Oklahoma City, phone RE64847 for more particulars about the meeting, write to Bro. J. T. Johnson, Spencer, Okla., R. 1, Box 174; or Bro. E. W. Sanders, R. 2, Box 39, Spencer Okla. Bring bed linens and covers. Cots and mattresses will be furnished. Bro. E. W. Sanders, Pastor.

NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The Lord willing, the National Campmeeting of the church of God will be held on the saints' camp grounds at Monark Springs (Neosho, Mo.) July 23 to August 1st, inclusive. Monark Springs, which is located five miles east of Neosho, on highway No. 86, is not a railroad station nor bus stop, so those coming by train or bus will find it necessary to come to Neosho, then call the Monark Springs store for someone to come get them. Watch for highway markers leading to camp grounds.

To all the saints and lovers of the truth, a hearty welcome is extended to attend this gathering together of God's people. If you have a desire to attend the meeting and can possibly get there COME and the Lord will take care of other needs whether they be spiritual, financial, or physical. Plan now to attend. Meals will be served in the dining hall and the meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan, except as in years past the tents will rent for \$5.00 each, the cots and pads \$1.00 each, space and cot in dormitory will be \$2.50 each. It will be greatly appreciated if tent orders be sent in early, so if we have to engage additional tents from the tent and awning company, we can place our order in time to be assured of getting them.

Come prepared for cool nights, for if it rains during the meeting, you will find it real cool. Additional wraps will be needed. Those of us living near should bring our bedding if possible. At the present time the tabernacle is being enlarged to take care of the increasing attendance, so plan to come.

The Lord will send His Spirit-filled ministers to preach His Word, and we will look earnestly to Him to guide and direct in all that is said and done. Pray for the meeting.

For further information concerning the meeting, write to Bros. Albert Eck, Bartlett, Kans. R. 1; Sam Barton, 2240 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, Okla.; L. D. Pruitt, 1116 W. Washington, Guthrie, Okla., or the undersigned.

If any one wants a cabin unit for this campmeeting, June 10th is the dead line for receiving your order. The sizes and costs are as follows: 8 x 12 is \$129.60; 10 x 12 is \$162.00; and 12 x 12 is \$194.40. Send your order with cash to the undersigned by the ABOVE DATE.

Yours in His service,

Ralph M. Beisly, Rte. 5, Coffeyville, Kans.

Guthrie, Oklahoma

Date: August 6th to 15th.

Location: 600 block West Warner Ave.

For information write O. C. Porter, R. 5, Guthrie.

We, the saints at Guthrie, extend a hearty welcome to saints and lovers of the truth everywhere. We hope you will pray and ask the Lord if He wants you to come.

See the next (July) issue of "Faith and Victory" for more detailed information concerning the meeting.

Myrtle, Missouri

The campmeeting of the church of God begins August 20th and will continue through August 29th. All are invited to come.

The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. Bring pillows, sheets, and covers. Beds, cots, ticks, and straw will be furnished as long as they last.

We are looking to the Lord for ministers of His choosing. If you need help in soul or body, come to this meeting.

For further information write to Bro. S. E. Abbott, Thayer, Mo., or A. J. Sorrell and wife, Myrtle, Mo.

Bakersfield, California

The campmeeting of the church of God at Bakersfield, Calif. begins August 13, 1954 and continues through Aug. 22nd. All are invited to come. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. The meeting house is located on the corner of Brown and Virginia St. Virginia St. is the same as 4th St. Those coming from the north traveling on Highway No. 99, turn left on 4th St. which is one-half mile south of California St. Continue east to So. Brown St., which is about one mile to the church house. Those coming from the south on Highway No. 99, turn right on 4th St. which is one-half mile north of Brundage Lane—continue east to So. Brown. We want all to come who can. We will be prepared to care for everyone.

We will advise all coming from out of the state to come prepared to attend the State Campmeeting, which begins eight days after the Bakersfield meeting ends.

For further information, write Francis Blackwell, 301 Monticello Ave., phone 3-2731; J. A. Harris, 615 Haley St., phone 3-3805; E. V. Gaines, 326 Augusta, phone 3-1181; Manuel Francisco, 109 Milham Dr., ph. 3-5782.

—I C. Chandler, pastor.

California State Campmeeting

Date: August 27 to September 5th, 1954.

Location: 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles.

O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

So. Charleston, W. Va.

The Church of God campmeeting will be held at the chapel in So. Charleston, located at 1006 F St., two blocks north from Maine Highway 60, running east and west through city, July 9th-18th. Plenty of parking space for cars and trailers near the chapel, kitchen and dining hall in rear of chapel. We are looking to our God to give us another wonderful meeting, as He has in the past. We invite all to come—the sinner to be saved, sick to be healed, and the saved to be sanctified. Truly we are serving a mighty God. There will be sleeping quarters for all who can come. We are praying the Lord to burden the hearts of his true ministers to come to preach the whole truth of God's Word without fear or favor. This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan, as usual. We urge all to come. Come praying and looking to our Lord for a precious Spirit-filled meeting again this year. For further information write Bro. and Sis. T. L. Spaur, 151½ 10th Ave., So. Charleston, W. Va., phone 4-5539; or Elizabeth Flowers, 105½ 10th Ave. phone 4-8130.

Dover, Oklahoma

The Lord willing, the Dover Campmeeting will be held Sept. 3rd to Sept. 12th, 1954. The campground is one mile north and two and one-half miles east of Dover. Anyone desiring to be met at the bus station, notify us in plenty of time, tell us the hour your bus will arrive at Dover. Dover is on Highway 81. Bring your blankets. Cool nights are expected. Pray for the meeting.

Ulysses Phillips and Henry Caldwell, R. 1, Dover.

CORRESPONDENCE

Calif.—Dear young saints,—I thank the Lord that I'm saved and sanctified, and this evening I'm much encouraged to live for the Lord. I have thought about writing my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper ever since I've been saved. The testimonies have been encouraging to me, especially from the young saints.

The devil cheats me many times in my testimony, but I can live the life and also try to write it. I am young in the Lord, also in age. I have been saved for approximately one year. I have had many tests and trials, but the Lord wonderfully blesses me. I thank the Lord for the willingness in my heart to stay saved no matter how hard the tests or trials may seem. The joys and blessings are more wonderful than I can find word to express.

I would like to tell something about the time I spent in the army. I am hoping that others of the soldiers that were over seas will find the Lord before too late.

I was in the 24th Inf. Regt. Combat Bat. 25th Div. I spent 11 months and 22 days over seas, and some of that time was on the front line. Through my mother's and the saints' prayers I came through many dangers. Sometimes it seemed that all hope for my life was lost, but the Lord made ways for me to escape. Saints, I have been in a place where escape seemed impossible. Oh, how I prayed and asked the Lord to spare my life. I promised Him that I would live for him the rest of my life. I know we read in the Bible where the Lord performed many miracles. Saints, as I got through crying and praying to the Lord, he wonderfully opened the way for me. I know the Lord answers our prayers when we are earnest and seek him. I made him that promise and it was about 18 months before I got saved.

As I mentioned about seeking him, I showed the Lord

that I was fully dependent on him to save my life by throwing away my pistol, the only thing I had for protection. Then the Lord sent a spotter plane over the place where I was. I hobbled (I was injured) out of my hiding place and he saw me and sent some tanks to pick up some other fellows and me. I am still thanking the Lord for giving me another lease on life because I was unprepared to die.

If any soldier should read this, who is not saved, please let the Lord be your Savior. Sometimes we can get into places where we won't have time to pray, so let us seek the Lord while all is well with us.

I want the young and old saints to pray that the Lord will continue to bless our young people's meetings here.

Your brother, James Challough Randle.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ky.—Dear saints,—I promised the Lord I would write my testimony to the paper, of his healing my son of a serious attack of asthma and cold. My son has never suffered such an attack since the Lord healed him that night when he was a young baby. I will always be thankful for what the Lord has done for us.

Pray for my family and me, that we will keep Jesus as our Savior and live for him from day to day.

One who loves God, Wilma Horsley.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Tenn.—Dear saints:—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to try to say what the Lord means to me today and every day since I have been living for him. He means everything to me. I love him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. Praise the Lord.

I get a blessing out of reading the "Faith and Victory" paper, a blessing I can't hold. The testimonies are wonderful.

I can say the Lord has blessed me in many ways. I had a breaking out almost all over the left side of my face. I trusted the Lord for the healing and he dried it up. Then I said the Lord could heal my face and he could give me strength in my eyes, so I pulled off my glasses that I wore while at my work. Praise His holy name. The Lord has strengthened my body. I used to be so weak in body.

I have an affliction in my body. I believed the Lord did heal but for some reason it came back. I want you dear saints to agree with me in prayer that He will heal this affliction for his glory.

My desire is to be a soul winner for Jesus.

A sister in Christ, Mrs. Charles Clayton.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' name. This morning I am encouraged to press the battle on. My soul has been richly blessed by reading some of the testimonies and I realize more than ever how they can be a source of blessing and help to others.

I want to tell how the Lord blessed me last week. About noon on Friday I discovered a swelling on my neck which was painful. I believed it to be mumps as I had never had them as a child and had been exposed several times during the month before this. I began to look earnestly to the Lord about it, knowing the Lord could heal it immediately, but wasn't sure if that would be best. I desired to be immune from it in the future. I asked the Lord if he wanted me to put in for healing then to remove the soreness. Later I lay down and took a nap. When I got up the swelling was partly gone and the soreness was gone. I began to claim healing and by the next afternoon had victory. It was with great joy that I walked to Sunday School the next morning realiz-

ing that had it not been for God's healing touch I would have had to stay at home.

The victory didn't come without some battling, but when God has witnessed to our hearts, we can stand against every symptom that Satan may bring. Even after God had given the victory Satan would bring a symptom now and then. I knew God had healed me and stood firm and resisted the devil. After God has definitely healed our bodies the devil would like to make us doubt it by bringing back the old symptoms of the illness. If he can get us to lay down the shield of faith he may bring it back on us. I'm so thankful that "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

Pray for me. I am still trusting the Lord for victory over deafness. I am sure he will be faithful in granting me healing for this.

Your sister in Christ,

Fern Stubblefield.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints,—I have been saved now about 33 years. The Lord has been so good to me in that time. He has healed me of cancer on the neck. About four years ago at California camp meeting I was anointed for cancer on the back of my neck, that was terribly bad for months. After prayer I felt the hurting going down my shoulder and back, from the cancer, and leave me. I told the saints that God had cured me. I went home and the hurting came back. I told God to rebuke the devil as God did cure me. I told God over and over that he healed me. Then I began having hemorrhage. I still held on to God and told him I was healed. I believe God did heal me at camp meeting on Friday. On the following week I had hemorrhaged all week. I would just wash it with soap and water and keep a dry cloth on it. One Saturday after a week, it came to me to look in the mirror and there it was hanging down on my back, a black thing as big as my nose. I just went about the house saying that God cured me. My unsaved husband took the cancer and burned it. It was a mole on my neck in the first place, but hair and clothes pulling on it for about 59 years made a cancer. My husband told people it was a miracle. I awoke one morning and looked at a picture my husband had that said, "God never fails," then I went about the house singing, "Count your blessings one by one." I stopped and said how could I count my blessings, they were so many. We just can't count our many blessings.

My husband is not saved and has cancer: my mother is an invalid for many years: my son drinks since the war, and I have had a lot to do and go through, but God has surely been with me. My husband has been sick about sixteen years and under the doctor's care. My mother has had many strokes and I've taken care of her for about fifteen years. She got saved from watching me. Now she is about ninety years old. She has a stroke sometimes, but God always takes care of her and brings her out. She is childish and I have her to care for, but God always helps me.

I took the flu last Saturday morning. I could not stand on my feet and could only lie on my right side. I was very sick with my head and vomited. I tried to get my husband to call the saints as I had to take care of him and Mother and do my house work that day. About 10 o'clock in the morning, Husband called a saint. By 10:30 I got on my feet and that was the beginning of my healing. I did all my work and took care of my sick people. This is Sunday and I am feeling wonderful. It is a mighty God that we serve.

Pray for my boy. Yours in Christ, Bertha Lindberg.

La.—Dear saints:—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I promised the Lord some time ago that if He would heal my little niece I would testify through the little paper. On the 17th of December I got my sister's little three year old girl to keep for a while as my sister was sick. A couple days later we had to go to town. The child had some cold and this was a very cold, windy day, but I wrapped her good and kept her warm and thought she would be all right. That night she had some fever and her breathing became hard. I got afraid she was taking pneumonia. Since she was another's child in our care, Husband and I became very burdened and in earnest prayer for her. I promised if the Lord would heal her I would write the testimony. The next day she was well. Thank the Lord. God took my sister home to heaven on April 11th and I still have the little girl.

On December 20th, the day the child was healed, I struck my right arm against a heater pipe and slightly burned a small place. The next day it began to get red around the little burned place and puss began to collect. The sore continued to grow till it was an ugly thick scabbed thing about the size of a silver dollar. I thought, "when the Lord heals this, I'll write my promised testimony and include it." But three pimples came out around the sore and they began to grow into ugly sores. After about two and a half or three months the first sore and one of the smaller ones healed. The devil said, "You can't testify that the Lord healed that sore. It ran its course and just got well." I thought that was right for quite a while, but I realize the devil is a liar and the Lord did heal, for they could yet be on my arm as the other two small sores kept growing and are not well yet. They ran together and made a big sore about three and a half inches in diameter. It has more than half covered the scar where the first one was. About a third of the scab has come off in the past couple weeks and that side of the sore seems to be healing slowly, but the other side is yet growing. I'm thanking the Lord for what he has done and asking for the prayers of the saints that it will be completely healed. The devil tried to worry me with the thought that it had become a cancer and that the Lord wasn't going to heal it, but I believe He is. I desire your prayers that I will be faithful to the Lord and then I know He will be faithful in his promise to me.

Mrs. A. E. Flynn.

o-o-o-o-o

III.—Dear Brother Pruitt and all the saints,—I feel inspired of the Lord to write to you about the protecting hand of God. Although I'm alone, I'm not alone. Praise His name. My heart is made to rejoice about how the Lord is leading his children these days if we will but only listen to the small voice and keep ourselves all upon the altar. It is surprising what will be the results. I so appreciate being permitted to live in a land where we have freedom in serving Jesus, our personal Savior and Keeper. Praise His name forever. Truly we are living in perilous times when people are disinterested in salvation. I am glad the Lord not only lends a listening ear to our cry, but also provides a way for our escape when the enemy assails us and tries to throw us off track in running this race from the cross to the crown. I love to serve Jesus. He is my all in all. Without Him there is nothing. When the sun refuses to shine and Jesus returns for his bride, it will be too late to ask for help. I want to ever be found faithful and keep humble before Him, my Creator, my Savior, my all in all. He truly is the loveliness of 10,000, he's the fairest to my soul. I

want to be accounted worthy of entering into that rest.

Pray for me that I will ever be up and doing. God has been blessing me in working for Him through personal visits in homes, praying for the sick and obtaining subscriptions for the "Faith and Victory." Pray that I'll continue to be permitted to be able to send in more, because this is truly a clean, wholesome piece of literature to prepare and help fit one for that home above.

I would appreciate prayer for my nerves and my health in general. I truly love the Lord with all my heart, mind, and strength.

Yours in Christ,

Sister Lola V. Chase.

o-o-o-o-o

Miss.—Greetings to all the dear saints,—I feel led to write my testimony to the paper and tell you some of the good things God has done for me. He saves me and keeps me saved and sanctified wholly, for this I praise Him most.

In March I had flu very bad. I called some saints to pray for me. They anointed me and prayed for God to heal my body. He healed the flu and also healed my gall bladder trouble. I cannot praise him enough. I hope and pray this will be to the glory of God and to the good of some poor soul.

I ask an interest in your prayers for me and mine.

God bless you,

Hattie Legg,

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear saints,—I thank the Lord for victory in my soul over all the powers of darkness. He has been so good to me, and has been a help in every time of need. We all have trials of some kind. I have found a lesson in every trial to be more careful how we walk, talk, and live before the Lord. When we keep our hearts tender and let the Lord have his way he will always work all things out for our good and to his glory.

We are saved by faith, healed by faith, and kept by faith. Without faith we cannot please the Lord. We are to rejoice when anyone speaks evil of us, casts our name out as evil, and falsely accuses us. We are to rejoice because our names are written in heaven. Jesus was evil spoken of, misunderstood, and falsely accused and he never murmured or complained, he always looked to God for his help. He didn't take his troubles to man. We are to be like him. He is our example and wants us to follow him. Man will fail us and get us into trouble. I thank the Lord for his love and tender mercies.

Love in Jesus,

Lucy Lizar.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This finds me saved and encouraged to live for the Lord in a true and acceptable way. I surely want to always live a life that will be pleasing to Him.

I desire the prayers of all Christian people that I will always do the will of God.

Christian love to all,

Joe Earl Sorrell.

o-o-o-o-o

Ill.—Dear saints,—This leaves me in fine spiritual condition. I have had some great victories through the inspiration of his blessed Word. The Lord has healed and delivered me. This is a difficult city in which to promote divine healing.

I would like for you to unite in prayer for my grandson. He has a small pimple on the side of his nose. We are trusting the Lord to remove this. We feel we can soon thank and praise the Lord for answering our prayers.

Pray that my household and I will ever be faithful to witness for Jesus.

Your blood washed brother,

Edgar Hawk.

Oklahoma.—Greetings to the saints in Jesus' name. I am writing to let you all know that I am still saved and sanctified and mean to go all the way with the Lord. I feel led to write a few words to let the saints know what the Lord is doing for me. He has been my doctor for 33 years, and I am so glad He healed me without medicine. He will heal every kind of disease.

As saints, the Lord wants us to obey all the Bible. He said for us to dress modest, and some are not obeying the Word. Some dresses are being worn too short, and some are wearing veils on their hats. When I got saved, Mother Winn told us these things were not right and we obeyed the teaching and measured up; but today there is a slackness on this line. We should be very careful that we are living to please Him, then when we get sick we will be in touch with the Lord and he will heal us. Sometimes when people do not get healing all at once, they are quick to say that someone is not right; but the trouble may be in the individual. We ought to pray more and talk less. There are many afflictions among us, and we ought to all get under the burden about it, fast and pray. I know the Lord has work for us all to do.

I am glad I am free and living for my Lord. I want all the saints to pray for my children that they will get saved. My husband and I have been saved for about thirty-three years.

Your sister in the Lord.

o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma.—Dear saints and friends,—I am greeting you this morning in much love in the unity of the Spirit. Let us be people of God this year more than we ever did before. God is our witness that I write this exhortation with much love. I am going all the way with Jesus and mean to stop no shorter than heaven. Let this year be a year of jubilee with the saints since the saints are coming together with much love and unity of the Spirit. Pray that our camp-meetings will be more wonderful than ever before; that sinners will get saved and saints draw closer to God; and the ministers see to it that they be on fire for the Lord. People in different places are starving for the truth. See to it that we all help the ministers. Let us not buy things we do not need, but put the money to use for the Lord and at that day we'll all receive a great crown. It must be the Lord giving me these words to tell you all. I am working now to receive a great prize at the end. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ,

Lizzie Jordan.

Bostic, N. C.—Dear brothers and sisters in our Lord and Saviour,—I am making a request of you all who read this paper. I have a neighbor who has arthritis and a dislocated hip. She cannot stand up to work. She sits down to cook or wash dishes. She is a childless widow. Her brother lives with her. His hands are deformed. He can't do much work. For this reason they are in real need of something to eat and wear. They are near 60, not old enough to draw the old age pension. God would bless if you could spare anything to help these needy ones. They live one mile from the mail box, so address your mail to me and I will see that they get anything that you send. Your sister in Christ, Minnie McSwain, R. 2, Bostic, N. C.

PRAYER REQUEST

La.—Pray for my hearing and eyes, I can hardly see. I am still saved and want to go all the way with my Lord.
Alice Scruggs.

FALSE ACCUSERS

Each community has always contained one or more persons who meddle in the affairs of others and breed strife and ill will. The Bible speaks of them as fools and strongly censures them. 1 Thess. 4:11; 2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 1 Peter 4:14, 15; Rev. 12:10; Titus 2:3; 2 Tim. 3:3; Matt. 5:11; Matt. 27:12; Luke 33:14; Rom. 2:15; Luke 11:54; and Mark 3:2.

I am thankful I am a child of God. I desire the prayers of the saints that I will always live and do his will. If there ever was a time of sifting it is now. We surely have to watch the tricks or wiles, of the devil. The devil is surely cunning and on his job at all times. In these days false preachers even come into our homes trying to deceive us and not standing for the truth. I thank the Lord I am still standing for the truth.

—Oro Futch.

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BIBLE STUDY

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AMOS CONDEMNS SOCIAL INJUSTICE

June 6, 1954

Printed Portion:..... Amos 7:10-17; 8:4-8a.

Amos 7:10. Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

11. For thus saith Amos, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

12. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

13. But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

14. Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit:

15. And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

16. Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac.

17. Therefore thus saith the Lord; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.

Amos 8:4. Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,

5. Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

6. That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

7. The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

8. Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein?

Memory Verse: Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you. Amos 5:14.

Practical Truth: Persistent wrongdoing ends in judgment.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Amos had a peculiar work to do for God. He was sent to another part of the land of Canaan to bring God's plumbline of righteousness against a people who were very religious but were turned from the ways of God. A God-fearing man was needed to show Israel their sins and their corrupt dealings with one another and especially to show the decay of their spiritual life before God. Their conscience needed to be probed by the Holy Spirit.

As in our day Amos was told to leave town and go back where he came from as he was not wanted around therefore they were satisfied with their own ways and "at ease in Zion" so Amos pronounced a woe upon them. How quickly Amaziah resented the message God gave Amos. Those who want to remain in sin object to God's messengers. But Amos told Amaziah that he had not followed the work as a prophet, neither was he a prophet's son but a herdsman, and a gatherer of fruit. But the Lord had called him and said unto him, "Go, prophesy unto my people, Israel." So the call of God made Amos a prophet indeed. Now you listen Amaziah, you have those here that "Swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fall" and dishonest in your business, but God Almighty sees.

AMOS DENOUNCES INTEMPERANCE

(TEMPERANCE LESSON)

June 13, 1954

Printed Portion:.....Amos 2:11-12; 4:1-2; 6:1-7.

Amos 2:11. And I raised up of your sons for prophets,

and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the Lord.

12. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not.

Amos 4:1. Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Lying, and let us drink.

2. The Lord God hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.

6:1. Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came.

2. Pass ye unto Calneh, and see: and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

3. Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

4. That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

5. That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

6. That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

7. Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed.

Memory Verse: Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness. Romans 13:13.

Practical Truth: Intemperance is a curse in any nation and in any age.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Even though Amos was not wanted, he is still giving his message to such people—cheaters, revelers, worldly musicians, loafers, and ones who are at ease in Zion, not being burdened for the affliction of others, eating the lambs out of the flock, oppressing the poor, then saying to their masters "Bring, and let us drink." Even the Nazarites are given wine to drink which was against the law of God (Num. 6:2, 3). Their drinking was from large bowls because the more they drank the more they wanted. This is their picture as God saw them and gave to Amos the correct view of what was taking place before their eyes. If man by his inventions can by television give the very expression of face and voice, surely God will bring to judgment even the "thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). Surely this nation was sinning against light for they certainly knew better but they wanted their own way and showed that they did by not listening to God's prophet. America also has very much light and many know the Bible that are still following their pernicious ways and now that the women are drinking, too, they are following the women of Amos' time, who called them "kine of Bashan." There was a time here in America when the women had modesty and chastity but with many of them it is now gone.

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HOSEA PLEADS WITH ISRAEL

.. June 20, 1954

Printed Portion:.....Hosea 6.
Hosea 6:1. Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for

he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4. O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

5. Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

6. For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

7. But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

8. Gilcad is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

9. And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

10. I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

11. Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.

Memory Verse: I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6.

Practical Truth: Pardon is available for those who will genuinely repent.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our practical truth speaks of genuine repentance which was the main thing that was needed and God who chastises for sin, will bring healing to those who do repent. According to the seventh verse they did not repent. The word repentance means more than just turning from sin. The sinner also returns to God in faith and surrenders to him with all the heart. The third verse puts it this way, "then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord." God desires mercy and the knowledge of him more than all sacrifice or burnt offerings. The people here show some concern for their souls' welfare but it does not have a lasting effect on them. Those in Rev. 3:17 were of the same class, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" The next verse tells such, I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment (see Isa. 61:10), that thou mayest be clothed." The garment of salvation and the robe of righteousness are good durable clothing that will last through all eternity. God expects his people to worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).

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JUDGMENT COMES TO ISRAEL

June 27, 1954

Printed Portion:.....2 Kings 17:5-14, 18.

2 Kings 17:5. Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years.

6. In the ninth year of Hosea the king of Assyria took

Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Goza, and in the cities of the Medes.

7. For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,

8. And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

9. And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

10. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree:

11. And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the Lord carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger:

12. For they served idols, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

13. Yet the Lord testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments, and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.

14. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the Lord their God.

2 Kings 17:18. Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

Memory Verse: The ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein. Hosea 14:9.

Practical Truth: The judgments of God may be delayed but they come at last.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The prophets of God had told many, many times of the judgment of God and for many years God had showed mercy and extended time that the nation might have the privilege to stay in their land but here we have their removal. He had said, "Turn ye, turn ye; why will ye die," but they wilfully reject God's pleadings with them and disobey and persist in unbelief until what else can God do?

Here God outlines the reasons why he must reject them as a nation: 1. Disobedience, "Sinned against the Lord their God." 2. Idolatry, "Walked in the statutes of the heathen." 3. Depravity, "The children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the Lord their God." 4. Provoked God to anger, "Wrought wicked things." 5. "They would not hear, did not believe in the Lord their God." For all this the Lord was very angry and removed them. Surely righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a curse to any people.

"O, soul, be afraid, thou shalt reckon with God, And pass 'neath the scourge of his wrathful rod; Thy heart torn with anguish shall hear at the last, The day of his grace is past. The day of his grace is past. The day of grace is past. How sad when he'll say "Depart ye for aye," When the day of his grace is past." (page 389 in "Evening Light Songs").