

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Gleaning

Oh, glean the highways and hedges,
Leave ye not a sinner there
Who would gladly follow Jesus
And dwell in His loving care.

I mean in the highways and hedges,
In the haunts of sickness and sin,
I mean in the places of misery—
Oh! who will this work begin?

Some feel they should come to the churches
To cast off their lives of sin;
Others believe the Bible teaches,
The gleaners should gather them in.

Oh, for a consecration
And a willingness within,
To go in the by-way places
And gather the erring ones in.
—Ethel K. Miles.

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"The Lord Looketh on the Heart"

". . . For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7. "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:13. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose HEART IS PERFECT toward him." 2 Chron. 16:9. "If I regard iniquity in MY HEART, the Lord will not hear me." Psa. 66:18.

From the foregoing scriptures that the Lord has given we can see that God can look right down into our hearts. He can see into the depths of our heart and He knows the motives that are behind every act or word. Nothing is hidden from him. He knows if a kind deed is done by us because our hearts are full of love to the Lord or whether there is a motive or thought of doing that kind deed to bring some praise or honor to ourselves. Others looking on cannot see

the heart, and they may say that surely that person is a wonderful child of God to do such a wonderful deed of kindness. But just what is behind it? God wants us to see ourselves as He sees us. Check the motive. Is the motive right? If it isn't, we shall not receive a blessing from the Lord. Our kind deed will be lost in the sight of God, and if we continue in such a way, we will come to the place where we will be regarding iniquity in our hearts and "the Lord will not hear us." He only is ready to help those "whose HEART IS PERFECT toward him."

For instance, if the Lord impresses us to give of our money to His cause, we should seek him and let him guide us and then leave the results to the Lord. I heard of one person giving some money to a minister and then criticizing the way he used the money. I am persuaded that person's motive from the heart was not right. He did not give it as unto the Lord, but gave it to man. If he had given it to God, he would not have been troubled about how it was used; but would have left that between that minister and his God, and let the minister give an account of it. I believe the person missed a blessing. God looks on the heart. He loves a cheerful giver and will bless that one who from the heart gives it to the Lord.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 140:23, 24.

Just what is our motive for every thing we do? Do we go to someone and tell them we are so burdened about a certain person and want them to pray about it and then tell something we feel that certain person did that was wrong? Was the motive in telling it really because we are burdened? If so, we should have gone to the person. That is what the Bible tells us to do. Of course, there are times when we need to go to some minister for instructions in knowing what to do about some things. Again we need to check our motive. We still have the Bible to read, and it plainly says, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." Matt. 18:15. If all would observe this, it would truly save a lot of trouble. If we do not observe it, the Lord will not hear us because we regard iniquity in

our heart. The dictionary says that regard means to consider; to heed; to respect. In James 4:17 we read, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." If we go on and do not do what we know to do, it will become sin to us. Oh, dear ones, this is a close life. We need not try to play religion. To be acceptable with God, this religion must be as the Bible teaches. It must be "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father." Our motives must be pure. God sees all things. He looks on the heart. Let everything that is done be done with a pure motive. We must be honest with ourselves before God or we shall never make it in. "Whether therefore we eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31. Man looking on may not think you are doing that, but you know, and God knows. We stand or fall before God. He is the one we are to please.

Now the devil may present thoughts to accuse us when our motives are pure, but we are to resist the devil and bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:5. The mind is the gateway to the heart. As soon as a thought appears that is wrong, we cast it out and do not let it get into the heart. That is the reason the word tells us to "Keep the heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. —Mrs. Marie Miles

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"Buy the Truth and Sell It Not"

Proverbs 23:23

As I was lying down resting a few days ago, this admonition suddenly flashed into my mind. As I had repeated this truth many times, I arose and searched my Bible to see where it was found. We go from strength to strength and from glory to glory here.

I was converted quite young and had gone on for years without having any knowledge whatever of the benefit of sanctification. Finally, when teaching my Sunday school class, God in His goodness revealed Acts 2:38, 39. This surely gave me a hungering and thirsting to possess this experience, which was promised to all believers. Now surely I had new light and naturally went to my pastor, supposing he could explain the way more perfectly; but to my surprise he discouraged me. I explained how I had received the light directly from heaven, therefore felt I could not be denied. After all, is it any wonder the apostles were commanded to tarry in that upper room until they were endued with this Holy Ghost power? They could not have helped other poor souls had they not received it themselves. As for myself, I stood on the battle ground altogether too often and too long, having only obtained justification. Although I am wonderfully glad and thankful that I did not buy that truth and sell it, yet I needed to move on and keep moving on until our work is finished here.

After searching my Bible and reading and praying and coming in contact with a few who understood, I have great reason to praise and thank God that I came in possession of that which was promised in Acts 2:38, 39.

Please allow me to say just here that after enjoying this blessing for years, by the cunning craftiness of a minister holding special services, I discerned trickery which could have spelled failure to me. I think of Paul's words: Yea, what carefulness it wrought in me; yea, what clearing of ourselves, etc. It pays to live so close to heaven that we can buy a truth and sell it not even when a danger signal is unexpectedly hoisted.

I would make mention next of the beautiful doctrine of "Divine Healing," which I cherish and have practiced for quite a number of years. Romans 12:1 appeals to me, also verse 2. I want "to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." "The just shall live by faith." It pays to trust and stand on the promises though it may require all the faith we can muster at times. But I am sure it is pleasing to God when we have appropriated these truths, to sell them not. His word is forever settled in heaven and He will not deny himself.

I always enjoy (Ezek. 47) the vision of Holy Waters, where in every measurement greater depth was experienced until eventually they were found waters to swim in, to the extent the Christian walks out in the holy waters of divine truths. To that extent will be found in Christ a satisfying portion and the REST promised to children of God will truly be obtained. This holy way takes us away from the shore and lands us out deeper and deeper into the ocean of divine love where fruits of mercy, justice, patience, humility—in fact, all fruits found in the realm of spiritual Canaan are manifest. This, in the estimation of the world, makes us a "peculiar people (zealous of good works)." Therefore the Christian suffers persecutions of different kinds, being misunderstood; but regardless of all these unpleasant experiences, it means a continual looking up and pressing. As saints, we put our hands to the plough of divine healing and do not look back. It means many times a genuine proving and testing of discipleship, walking in all the light that shines in our pathway. God is faithful who hath promised and will provide grace every step of the way.

A wonderful salvation is this, and truly we find it more wonderful as we adorn these precious truths and faithfully walk therein. I ask then, is it not wise to follow advice given by Solomon of old, "Buy the truth and sell it not"? Yes, by all means.

Next, I would inquire as to the church question. Have the scales been removed from our eyes, and do we behold the beautiful Church of God? a church for whom Christ died and for which he is going to call when he comes in the air? What a meeting of the redeemed! What a rejoicing when Jesus meets his pure and spotless Bride and escorts her to mansions prepared. What a presentation to the Father and holy angels of a Bride without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish. According to St. John 17:23, Jesus in his last petition prayed that they may "be made perfect in one, that the world may know that thou hast sent me and loved them as thou hast loved me." Oh, how wonderful, one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

"one God and Father of us all who is above all, through all and in you all." Just imagine the songs of the Redeemed who have made themselves ready by being washed in the Blood of the Lamb. On the contrary, what a lamentation to those who have neglected to have on the wedding garment.

After the tradition of its being almost necessary to join some denomination, it means in some cases persecution and scorn to move out on God's plan, as it severs ties, which wounds the heart. Nevertheless afterward we prove "obedience is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams (1 Sam. 15: 22). I declare in regard to the church also, it is good to "buy the truth and sell it not." In these last days much is preached on Christ setting up His Kingdom on earth and a thousand year reign, etc. I praise God, according to His Word, His Kingdom comes without observation and is within us. It is a kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. And providing we commit ourselves and submit entirely to Christ we have the blessed experience of Jesus reigning in our hearts NOW, and can prove that hymn in the "Evening Light Songs"; "'Tis a kingdom of peace, it is reigning within; It shall ever increase in my soul. We possess it right here when He saves from all sin, And 'twill last while the ages shall roll."

Recently I attended a few meetings where the people believe in a manifestation of tongues as a witness of the Holy Ghost Baptism. I desire to think and say with Paul, that chosen vessel of God, "What carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves; yea, what indignation; yea, what fear; yea, what vehement desire; yea, what zeal; yea, what revenge. In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." Yes, I believe as saints, we need to be clear in these different teachings. We need to let the Holy Spirit witness to our hearts, as the Spirit and Word will agree. When the Books are opened at the judgment, we will want above all things to have measured to the truths written therein and not have accepted anything that would have had a tendency to lead astray. "Let Jesus lead, He knows the way." In so doing we will have bought the truth and sold it not.

May God richly bless all His faithful ones is my prayer.

Laura Bowman

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A Timely Warning

They Kept Back Part Of The Price

Dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, you can see without any trouble what incident I am referring to in the Bible. You will remember how the saints in the early morning church sold their houses and lands and brought the money received for them and laid it at the apostles' feet to be used to feed the poor saints. But Ananias and Sapphira sold their land and kept back a part of the price and left the impression that they were giving all. But Peter discerned the deception and questioned them about it. They said they had given all of it, but Peter said, "Ananias, thou hast not lied to man

but to God." Ananias fell down dead. His wife came in later and when Peter questioned her, she also lied about it. She, too, fell down dead (Acts 5:1-10).

No doubt some folks fail to get a good experience when they come to an altar because they keep back part of the price. A full and complete confession must be made, and we must ask forgiveness. In Prov. 28:13 we read these words of warning: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." God cannot and will not forgive if we do not confess our sins.

1 John 1:9 reads, "If we confess our sins He [God] is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." You cannot do wrong and get by; for "Be sure your sin will find you out." We must confess our sins and forsake them or they will stand between us and our eternal reward in the day of judgment. 1 Timothy 5:24 reads: "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before, to judgment; and some men they follow after." If we fail to confess our sins and wrong doings, while we are in this life, then we will surely meet them at the judgment and they will stand between us and our eternal reward. Jesus said, "If you die in your sins, whither I go ye cannot come." Read Isa. 28:14-20.

When we have done someone wrong, there is only one way to make it right. Just say, "Brother, I have done you wrong; forgive me." I know some who have done a brother or sister wrong but they never say a thing about making it right. Remember that time doesn't erase anything. Confess and forsake your sins and wrong doings, then they are out of the way forever.

Now in conclusion: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14. Read Eccl. 11:14. It is true that salvation is free, for it is the gift of God; but we will have to give up all the world to obtain this wonderful salvation. If your salvation didn't cost you anything, it isn't worth anything. When the man seeking goodly pearls found the Pearl of great price, he sold ALL he had and bought it.

With lots of love to all, Bro. George Stephenson

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NATIONAL CAMPMEETING GROUND PURCHASED

The Lord has answered prayer and provided an acre or more of urgently needed additional ground for the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. The neighbor on the east consented to sell us this parcel of ground for \$600 and the transaction was completed on Sept. 10. This new land joins our present campground on the northeast and will provide the necessary space for erecting the proposed modern restrooms, showers, washrooms and storage. The actual construction work should get started this autumn, and everyone can help with this worthy project by sending a liberal offering as soon as possible to Bro. Ralph Beisly, Rt. 5, Coffeyville, Kansas. Let us all cooperate in this work of the Lord and He will bless you abundantly.

—L. D. Pruitt, Sec.-Treas.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

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

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

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

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone Number 1479

THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

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

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies.

40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a year. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

NOTICE

To the saints abroad:—We now inform you that we are on the air broadcasting a thirty-minute service over station KBYE, Oklahoma City, 3:30 p. m. each Sunday. We desire your prayerful support. Should any wish to contribute financially to this end, mail all correspondence to the Church of God, P. O. Box 6515, Okla. City 17, Okla.
Bro. Otis Hill, Treasurer

Editorials

At the time of this writing, the office force is very busy printing a book and setting type for the October "Faith and Victory," besides the other regular office work. It is a pleasure to be busy for the Lord and in behalf of precious souls.

It is nearing Christmas time again, and on page seven in this issue of the paper you will find a list of articles which we have in stock. We are inserting them early because it will be a good thing for those who desire Christmas Folders and other articles to order them soon in order to avoid having your order tied up in congested mail a week or so before Christmas.

It has been quite a question with us of late whether to put out the "Three Months" offer, as we usually do, for the reason that it makes such a great extra amount of work for the office force at this time of the year. We have been praying much about the matter, and now it seems certain that the Lord wants the offer to be extended to the readers this year also. We are making the "offer" for two months instead of three months, and that will lessen the work some. You will find an envelope inserted in your paper with spaces arranged for ten "two-month subscriptions" to be written therein. Place a one dollar bill in with the names, and choose one of the listed premiums, making it plain to us which one you desire. You will find the list of premiums from which to choose on page seven of this paper. This offer will expire on December 10th, 1955. The January and February papers will be sent to these names.

Recently we had a letter from one of our readers asking us if God heard a sinner's prayer? In Romans 2:4 we read that the goodness of God leadeth men to repentance. We believe that God will hear a sinner's prayer wherein it would lead them to repentance. We have a testimony in this paper of a woman at Neosho, Mo. whom many of the saints are acquainted with. She was able to find a hundred dollars which business men were offering to the finder. I have written her a letter, telling her that the goodness of God leads men to repentance. The Lord knows the hearts of people, and in every way that he can show His goodness to them which would cause them to look to Him, His work. Two years before I was saved and my profession at all, the Lord healed me of a bad sickness. The doctor said he had given me enough strychnine to kill a hundred men, the pain and suffering was so great. While in this condition and not expecting to live, I sought the Lord and said to Him, down in my heart but not audibly, "Lord, if you will get me out of this bad condition, I will try to do better." The Lord took every pain from my body, and the sickness left, but left my limbs so drawn that I could not walk straight for nearly a year. Since being saved, I can look back over my life and see many times that God showed His goodness to me. And I believe that many saved people can do that, even though at the time they did not realize it was God working.

It is God's pleasure and business to show His goodness and love to men; and it is the business of Satan to blind them and keep them from seeing His love and goodness to them. Many a child of God has failed to get the good to their souls in trials, afflictions, and persecutions because Satan made them discouraged or caused them to find fault with the instrument God was using instead of loving His ways of dealing with them and getting the good to their souls which he had designed. God has it written in His sacred Word, and it cannot be changed, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28.

Obituaries

It pleased our Lord, who is Lord over life and death, to take His child, Brother Reinhart Priem, unto Himself the 30th day of June, 1955, at the age of 85 years, three months, and twelve days. Brother Priem was born in Germany March 18, 1870. His first wife, Minnie, went on before Feb. 22, 1951. Bro. Priem took Sister Katie Schlitter to wife, and she was a real comfort unto him.

Besides his wife, there are three sisters, several nieces and nephews and many friends. We pray that they may be comforted and blessed by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The funeral service was in Elkhart, Ind., his home, conducted by Bro. Fischer of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Brother Priem was blest with good health all of his life and his greatest pleasure was to serve the Lord and tell others. He was born into the Church of God by a spiritual birth many years ago, and was very zealous in his endeavors to extend the gospel of salvation to others.

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Sadie Elizabeth Harmon was born at Franklin, Pa. March 12, 1861, and departed this life August 20, 1955 at Pacoima, Calif., at the age of 94 years, 5 mos. and 8 days.

Dates are not available, but in early life she was united in marriage to Mr. Sorensen and lived happily in this union until the death of her beloved husband.

Later she was united in marriage to Bro. C. E. Orr, who was a minister in the Church of God, and was his faithful companion and co-laborer in the gospel until God called Bro. Orr from labor to reward in 1933. Through this marriage she was the step-mother of Bro. Orr's three daughters, Birdie, Lena Bell, and Ethel; and his son, Victor.

In 1937 she was united in marriage to Bro. G. E. Harmon, who was also a minister in the Church of God, and served faithfully by his side over a large area in the work of the Lord until Bro. Harmon's death in 1944. Through this marriage she was the step-mother of Bro. Harmon's two daughters, Iva and Nettie; and two sons, Eugene and John. She was the beloved mother of Laura Rothlisberg of Miles, Washington.

Though Sister Harmon was never a pulpit preacher, yet she was a very notable worker in the gospel and a real partner in the gospel to two of our ministers, and we feel she is worthy of just as much consideration and respect as any of our ministers. It is neither elaborate nor superfluous to say that she was a very notable person with an excellent spirit and one of unusual courage and faith in her God. Her service to God was the paramount thing in her life, and she was more regular than most others in her attendance at church services. She was often rolled in in a wheel chair during the last months she was able to attend meetings, and at other times she was tottery and had to be supported by others to walk,

but she felt she must be at service every time she was able at all.

She learned to a deeper degree than many that the way to serve God was to serve her fellows, and she gave herself to that, whole heartedly living for others. Her motto was expressed in the following verse, which was often repeated in our services in her testimonies:

"Others, Lord; yes others; Let this my motto be:

Help me to live for others, That I might live like thee."

I feel that the obituary would not be complete without including Mother Harmon's special message which was also often repeated in our services and also in her sick room when anyone new came to visit her.

She said she was desiring greatly to know why she was being spared to such an advanced age, and one morning the Lord awakened her very early and said to her: "I am letting you linger here that you may tell everyone, 'Ye must be born again.'"

This is a message that needs to be much emphasized in this age of formal, superficial and human religion, and let us all take it up and hold it more earnestly before the people than ever before.

Sister Harmon gave her heart to God at the early age of twelve years and lived for Him and trusted in Him the remainder of her life.

Funeral services were conducted in the Scovern Mortuary in Glendale, Calif. on Tuesday afternoon, August 23, 1955 by O. B. Wilson, assisted by Opal Wilson and Lavern Manuel. Songs were by Bro. and Sister Stover, Sylvia Forbes, and Ila Stice. The text was chosen by Mother Harmon herself and given to Bro. Wilson some five or six years ago—"Blessed and holy is he who hath part in the first resurrection" Rev. 20:5. Burial was in Grandview Cemetery in Glendale, Calif.

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My husband, William Maurer, passed very suddenly August 14th. He was in his usual health, ate a hearty breakfast, shaved, and brought two buckets of water. He sat down and said, "I don't feel very well, my head hurts." I told him to lie down awhile, which he did. In about three minutes I heard a choking sound. I jumped and came to him, but he was gone. It leaves me very sad and lonely, but he has gone to be with Jesus whom he loved so dearly.

William Sherman Maurer, born in Lindsey, Ohio on November 21, 1865 passed away August 14, 1955. He was a farmer by occupation and a member of the Church of God. He had resided in Ellwood City, Pa. since 1947.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Armstrong Maurer; the following children, Mrs. Lillie Griese, Shields, Mich.; Mrs. Charles W. Krepps Sr., Ellwood City; Mrs. Harvey E. Hazen, Portersville; 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and one sister. He had one deceased daughter, Mrs. John Myers, Midland, Mich.

Funeral services were held at Merrill, Mich. and Interment was in La Porte Cemetery, Merrill, Mich.

PRAYER REQUEST

Pray earnestly that the Lord will send someone to help me get the gospel to a place of evil resort about fifty miles from here. Also pray the Lord will overrule in some trouble here in this place. I also have an unspoken request that I ask every saint to pray earnestly for.

Mary J. Jones, Rt. 4, Hartsville, S. C.

ALL DAY SERVICES

The saints at Sapulpa congregation plan to have all day services, Sunday, October 30, 1955 at the chapel located 2½ miles north of Sapulpa on old Highway 66, and one-half mile north of Frankhoma Pottery plant on the east side of the highway. All the saints and lovers of the

old time truth are invited to come and spend the day with us. We will have a basket dinner on the grounds also.

Pastor, Richard Madden

JEFFERSON, OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Lord willing, the assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held this year on the saints' camp ground at Jefferson, Oregon on Hazel St., November 11th through the 20th. All saints and lovers of the truth are invited to attend. All are welcome. All will be cared for. We desire the earnest prayers of all saints for the meeting, that God will direct Spirit-filled ministers who love, believe, and preach the pure gospel, and that He will open ways for all to come together in His name to give honor and praise to Him.

Those coming on Highway 99E watch for Jefferson junction sign. Should any come by rail, come either to Albany or Salem and on to Jefferson by bus, or notify some saint and they will meet you at the R. R. station. Have mail sent to Jefferson, Box 87.

For further information write: Noah White, Rt. 1, Jefferson, Oregon; Harry Davis, Rt. 1, Aumsville, Oregon, or Emma Busch, Rt. 2, Scio, Oregon.

MEETING NOTICE

After a long period of waiting to get the chapel moved back, also the parsonage at Springfield, Mo., on account of widening the street, we had our first meeting in it Sunday, Sept. 11th. We thank the dear Lord that we can have services here again even though there is much to be done yet.

We plan to have a few nights meeting beginning on Wednesday night, Sept. 28th till over Sunday with all day meeting on Sunday, which will be the first Sunday in October. All are invited. —Bro. and Sister John Wilson

CAMP MEETING REPORTS

The campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo. this year was said to have been the best meeting ever held here. A number were at the altar seeking salvation, some sanctification, and bodies were healed. The Lord blessed in preaching the Word. The preaching of the Word was precious to some that were hungry for the truth. A number were baptized. The saints left the camp ground encouraged in their souls to live for God.

The saints here at Myrtle wish to say that we all appreciate your help, kindness, and love shown in the interest of the meeting, which made it a blessing to all. The free-will offering was enough to take care of all the expense of the meeting and some over to apply on the building that has been started on the ground to have more room for the kitchen and dining room. We ask the saints to pray that this building will be finished to where it can be used next year for the campmeeting, Lord willing.

—Saints at Myrtle.

Dover, Oklahoma,—Dear saints and lovers of the truth, and all others who may read these lines,—We want to give a condensed report of the campmeeting that was held here at Dover on the chapel grounds this year. It was fifty years ago when a little band of gospel workers came into this community and held the first campmeeting of the Church of God in this place. This company was composed of Bro. and Sister George Winn (known as mother and father Winn), Sister Wm. Dent, Sister Lambert, Bro. T. T. Holden, Sister Emma Holden, and Sister Martha Shaw. At that time the truth was preached in a clear distinct manner. Several souls were saved; eight were baptized. So the work of the Lord was started here at Dover.

This year the meeting began Friday morning at 10:00 a. m., Sept. 2nd. The opening song was, "We have met today on the old camp ground." The Lord was present in every service. First message: "Every purpose is established by counsel. . . without counsel purposes are disappointed." Prov. 18:20; Prov. 15:22. Sept. 3rd, 7:45, Wise counsel to the youth by Lewis Williams. On Sunday morning at the 11:00 o'clock service, the Lord used Bro. Fred Pruitt in delivering a soul-stirring and faith-inspiring message on prayer. At the 2:30 service Bro. Z. Francisco was used of the Lord to give a message from the parable of the vineyard workers. The Lord needs workers. Bro. Lewis Williams was impressed at the 7:45 service to give an appeal to the unsaved. This was a solemn message. The Lord saw fit to use Bro. Hill Monday morning to speak to the saints on the line of being conquerors (Rom. 8:37), and also at the 2:30 service Bro. O. Hill was again used of the Lord to talk directly to the sanctified ones concerning the power that has been given to every one who has received the Holy Ghost. Some are still talking about the encouragement they received in these services. Tuesday at 10:30, A message of encouragement to the aged by Sister Francisco—a timely message. At the 2:30 service Bro. W. W. Crawley preached about a know-so salvation—1 Jno. 3:14, and related texts. 7:45, Bro. Francisco: "Prepare for the Coming of the Lord" Matt. 25:1—the Ten Virgins. Wednesday 10:30, Bro. Roosevelt Weldon: "What God did for me through prayer." 7:45, Bro. Zedo Francisco: "Ye must be born again"—a pointed message. Thursday, 10:30, "The Word of God," a message of hope by Sister Jones of Green Pastures. At the evening service Bro. Francisco preached on the necessity of hearing and obeying the words of Jesus. Friday was a day of prayer and fasting. At the 10:30 service Bro. Crawley preached, followed by an earnest and burning exhortation by Bro. O. C. Porter for an outreaching endeavor for the unity of the people of God according to Jesus' prayer. Saturday 2:30, Bro. Manly Spears was inspired to bring a message on brotherly love—Heb. 13:1, and related texts. The ordinance of Feet Washing and the Lord's Supper was observed at 5:00 p. m. A happy number participated in these services. At the evening service Bro. Lewis Williams brought the message from Matt. 16:13-19, The Church. Sunday a. m. services Bro. Z. Francisco felt led of the Lord to bring a message on "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him." The Mount of Transfiguration. The last message of the meeting was delivered by Bro. Calvin Hobbs of Riverside, Calif. Text: Eph. 6:10, "Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

We give this report with joy, believing that the Lord is pleased with the same. There are not many being saved these days. There were only two or three seekers at the altar beside those who came for physical help. One child claimed forgiveness of sins. One woman followed the Lord in baptism. Bro. M. Spears did the baptizing. This was a good soul stirring and inspiring meeting. The needs were well supplied through the liberality of the saints and friends, including some of the neighbors. We are still encouraged to press on. The light has been shining in this community for fifty years. That is not quite half as long as the Lord waited on the people in the days of Noah. Pray for us that we be faithful to the end. Our time of labor will soon be ended.

—Ulysses Phillips and Henry Caldwell.

BAKERSFIELD, AND PACOIMA, CALIFORNIA

The Bakersfield, Calif. campmeeting has come and gone and is now only a memory of a good campmeeting. This meeting was quite well attended. There were several

out of state visitors. Some ministers from Oklahoma City were present to preach the Word of God. The preaching was thorough and definite. A good many souls sought the Lord for various helps and the unity of the Spirit certainly was good, and the fruits of unity became complete later on. Some who had been somewhat estranged got cleared up, with much rejoicing. The ordinances of the Lord's House were observed with much joy, proving, "If ye know these things, happy are you if ye do them."

At the close of the meeting the following ministers were ordained to the ministry: Sisters Katherine Williams of Oakland, Calif., and Marion Polk of Fresno, Calif.; and Brothers E. V. Gaines of Bakersfield, and Clarence Hatley of Los Angeles.

The Pacoima Campmeeting convened, as was announced, but with much labor to get things in order, as much had to be done. But by working late at night, all things were ready to begin the campmeeting. The attendance was good and the preaching was extra good. Messages were soul stirring. A large number sought the Lord for help of different kinds. It is estimated that there were about forty ministers—some from Oklahoma, La., and different places besides the local ministry. Our souls were enriched by hearing and doing the truth. Many sick folks were prayed for and numbers received a divine touch of God's healing power.

My personal opinion concerning this campmeeting is that it was one of the best we have had here, with unity of Spirit, anointing in preaching, and a hearty response to the preaching by the listeners. There was much rejoicing during the services. —E. M. Zinn

NOTICE

The congregation at Green Pastures, Okla. is contemplating on building a pavilion for the summer campmeetings. They expect to begin work on it in April, 1956. They will appreciate any help the Lord may send in the way of material, laborers, or finance. —E. W. Sanders, Rt. 2, Box 39, Spencer, Okla.

Special Two Months Offer

Unfold the enclosed self-addressed envelope and you will find spaces marked off for ten names and addresses of friends and neighbors whom you want to receive the "Faith and Victory" paper for two months, beginning with the January issue. Write the names and addresses on lines prepared, enclose a dollar bill, check, or postal money order, write name of premium desired in blank, then fold the envelope back as it was, stamp and seal. This offer will expire on December 10, 1955. Send in the names as soon as you can. This liberal offer is made possible by free-will offerings of the saints.

PREMIUMS OFFERED:—Take your choice of one of the seven premiums offered below for sending in the ten two-month subscriptions. Please send postage stamps to cover cost of mailing premium, if convenient. Write name of premium you select inside of enclosed envelope.

Sketches of My Life and Some Bible Truths, by Lottie Joiner. This book will hold your interest as it teaches you the ways of the Lord. 132 pages.

The Hidden Life by C. E. Orr, 111 pages. Good soul food; also **A Great Sacrifice** by Fred Pruitt, 29 pages.

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We have in stock the most commonly used Bibles and Testaments:

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"Touching Incidents", a children's book of true stories with many pictures, 135 pages; cloth bound book is \$1.00 each, and paper bound books are 50 cents each.

Mottoes with choice Bible verses and attractive design, some on wood and some on glass. Prices from \$1.00 up to \$3.50.

Calendars are now in stock for 1956. Size 9 by 16 inches. They are called the "Christian Home" calendars, very similar to the ones we formerly handled, but the pictures are more saintly and price some less. They are wall calendars with a Scripture text for every day in the year. Each 35 cents; three calendars \$1.00; 12 calendars \$3.50; 25 calendars \$7.00; 50 calendars \$12.50.

Above articles are all post paid to any address in the U. S.

Are You Born From Above?

In Psalm 39:3 we find these words, "While I was musing, the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue."

The subject before us is of great importance to every child of God, and to believe the truth set forth will enrich your soul and make you stronger in the Lord and in the Church of the Living God. It will help to so establish you in God as a member of his body, the church, that his rich graces and truth will flow from heaven into your soul and out to those with whom you come in contact to the edifying of the body of Christ and the gathering together unto Him all the redeemed of the earth, as it will no longer be "I," but "Christ."

In the third chapter of John and the third verse Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." In the margin readings it says, "or Born from above."

Let us go back to the prophets of God and see what they have to say on the subject, and bring the truth on down to us at this present time, and we shall be able to get a better meaning and understanding of what it really means to be born again or from above.

In Deut. 32:1, we read, "Give ear O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth." It would not be sound speech to say that the literal heavens or the literal earth could hear; but by reading the remainder of the chapter you can readily see that he was addressing this to Israel his people whom he had called out of Egyptian bondage and was referring to them as heaven and earth. They were under the old covenant which constituted the old order of things which were to pass away. At that time they had a tabernacle built patterned according to God's own words where God met with them. That was a heavenly place, and they lived in earthly bodies, which could be termed earth; therefore it was not unreasonable for him to address them as heaven and earth when he asked them to hear his words.

Turning to the 16th chapter of 1 Chronicles, it would be good for you to read this chapter down to the 37th verse. In the 23rd verse it says, "Sing unto the Lord, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation." Surely he meant for his people to sing, and not the literal earth. In the 31st verse he says, "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The Lord reigneth." Here he refers to his people as heaven and earth, for the literal heavens could not be glad nor the literal earth rejoice, but his people could be glad and his people could rejoice, and they could tell the people, "The Lord reigneth."

So we see that the old Jewish economy or literal Israel was referred to as heaven and earth which passed away at the coming of Jesus, and the new order of things was ushered in. Jesus, in speaking of Jerusalem, which represented the old order of things, said in Matt. 23:38, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Because the Jews rejected Christ, God ceased to meet with them in their tabernacle which had been a heavenly place to them.

Turning to the 65th chapter of Isaiah, we find that after God had admonished Israel for their rebellion and iniquity, he records in the 17th verse: "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, or come into mind." He will not recognize the old order of things any more. The new Jerusalem will be different, established on better promises. Those under the law had much weeping and sorrow of heart, as they had sin in them which caused them to do evil continually; but Jesus gives power over that when one is born from above, and rejoicing takes the place of weeping. The law and the old order of things do not belong to us when we are born from above and are settled in the new heavens and the new earth, which is his body, the church. Jesus said that men do not put new wine into old bottles, but new wine must be put in new bottles and both are preserved.

6th verse, "But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in

that which I create: for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying." He winds up this chapter by saying, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord." Surely we who have been born again, or born from above, constitute His holy mountain, Mount Zion, the church of the first born, the heavenly Jerusalem, Heb. 12:22, 23.

In Revelation 21:2, we read, "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

This holy city, new Jerusalem, which John saw coming down from God out of heaven was a revelation of the work of Jesus when he began to preach the kingdom of God, saying, "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. When he began to preach the gospel of the kingdom and teach the new covenant doctrines, many began to believe and were born again, or born from above, and miracles were performed both by Jesus and the twelve apostles. Also there were seventy who were born again, justified, and the Spirit of truth was with them, whom God sent out to preach the kingdom and do miracles. All this power, grace, and salvation and healing work came down from God out of heaven into the hearts of men, and they who possessed it constituted the holy city, the new Jerusalem, which John saw spiritually descend from God out of heaven. They became as a bride adorned for her husband. In Matt. 9:15 Jesus acknowledges that he is the Bridegroom. When we are born from above, we become married to Christ in a spiritual sense. Read Rom. 7:3.

In the 3rd verse we read, "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh, and the spirit of truth was with all the family of God, the ones born from above. Fourth verse: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"—The sinner woman who came to Jesus weeping, and washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head, lost all of those tears when Jesus forgave her sins. (This is the kind of tears spoken of in Rev. 21:4). And she was born from above, for Jesus said unto her, "Go in peace, thy faith hath saved thee." Read about it in the latter part of the 7th chapter of Luke. "And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things [the old order] are passed away." In John 11:26 the Lord says, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Those that in this world believe in the Lord to the saving of the soul will never die if they continue faithful and hold their confidence of the hope firm unto the end.

In Rev. 21:9 something else comes to view concerning the kingdom of God the church, and it reads

thus: "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." Here we have a spiritual scene of the Holy Spirit descending from God into the hearts of the one hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost when the kingdom of God came with power and the church of God was set up and began to function in the world. It is termed the Bride, the Lamb's wife and the holy Jerusalem. When this took place there was a mighty stir in the city of Jerusalem as we read in the first part of the 2nd chapter of Acts. It says, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind." You notice it was from heaven. "and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance. This great out-pouring of the Spirit was also prophesied by Malachi in the third chapter which reads thus: "Behold I will send my messenger [John the Baptist] and he shall prepare the way before me: And the Lord [not John the Baptist] whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in." On the day of Pentecost the Lord came into the hearts of the disciples who were consecrating themselves to the Lord as His House (Hebrews 3:6), His Temple (2 Cor. 6:16), His Sanctuary or Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2), waiting for the "Promise of the Father," in the form of the Holy Spirit, and the church of God was set up and began to function in the world. Mighty signs and wonders were done in the name of the holy child Jesus. Zion began to travail, and she brought forth sons and daughters. Three thousand were converted, or born from above, in one day, and the Scripture was fulfilled in Isaiah, "Who hath heard such things? 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." The above is a prophecy of what took place when the holy Jerusalem descended out of heaven from God and the one hundred and twenty began to function in the world as the kingdom of God, the church of God, and a nation of holy people was born in one day.

—Fred Pruitt.

Correspondence

Calif.—Dear Young People,—We are much encouraged in the Lord and thank Him for His love and goodness to us. Dear ones, let us keep encouraged to live for the Lord; this is truly a dark world we are living in and souls are looking for "light" (Matt. 5:16).

I would like to testify to God's healing power. Recently I had a very sore place in my ear and also in my hair. It was very trying because it would be irritated when I'd brush my hair. It would run and then dry up and leave a crusty surface which would in turn itch. Then if I should scratch, bump, or irritate it in any way, it

would run this watery fluid again. It really was a trial to me. But after much prayer and seeking the Lord, I am happy to say that both places are healing. Isn't it wonderful what the Lord can and WILL do for those who trust Him?

Pray for me as I continue to serve Him.

—Alberta (Abbott) Cook

o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—To all of God's Saints and Readers of this paper, Greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I feel that the Lord wants me to tell of an experience of mine in that it might help show how easily it is to be deceived by Satan, and why we must look to God's Word only to lead us.

If there are those that are in deep distress and confused as I was by Satan's powers, may this testimony help them to see more clearly the truths of God's Word.

A few years ago I joined a sect church (denomination) and was satisfied until a certain party in a Pentecostal belief showed me that after salvation we must also be baptized by the Holy Ghost. And having the desire to go all the way for God, I went down to the altar and received the Devil's deception for sanctification. However even then my soul wasn't satisfied with the "peace that passeth all understanding," and I felt out of place among those people. Later on I went to a service they held and felt that I ought to get up and leave, and should not even be there. Soon, I just stopped going to church services altogether.

But thanks to God's love and abundant grace, and the unceasing prayers of His dear saints for me, now I have that "peace that passeth all understanding" down deep in my soul; being completely saved and sanctified and possessing an unspeakable joy. Praise the Lord, my God, my all in all.

Remember me in your prayers that I might live true to God at any cost and be completely in His will. Also remember my unsaved loved ones.

A sister deeply determined to live for Christ.

—Mona Lee Barton.

o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear sisters and brethren scattered far and near, Greetings in the dear and blessed name of Jesus—I am still encouraged and determined to press my way into heaven at any cost. I am thanking and praising God tonight for what He has done for me and what He means to me in this life. I thank and praise Him most of all for the blessings of saving and sanctifying my soul, that I can live a life that is without spot or blemish in this old sinful wicked world.

My heart's desire is to live a Christ-like life and be an example in conversation, actions, and dress, so that when I feel it is the Lord's will for me to talk to someone about these things and the way we have to live, act, and dress in order to go to heaven I won't have to wait until I can measure up or until I can let my dress down a little longer or fix my dress a little higher in the neck; but the Lord wants us to stay measured up and be an example for Him and ready to speak for Him wherever we go or wherever we may be at all times, no matter how bad the devil may try to make us feel. I find the best way to whip the devil when he is trying to make us hide and feel ashamed of being dressed in modesty is just to let where the people can see how you are dressed and let them see you aren't ashamed to dress in a way that is pleasing to God. (You don't have to go out of your way to do this, for the Lord will help you to be an example). Oh, you feel so good and lifted up in your soul! I am thankful I am not ashamed to live for God. Sometimes I feel that I do not do enough witnessing for Him. The Lord help us as His children (brothers, too) to do all we

can for Him; and don't be ashamed to just dress plain and with our skirts long and large enough, and our dress necks high enough and buy material that will be thick enough to cover our bodies and will be pleasing to God. If we will buy our hose and material thick enough that we wouldn't be ashamed to offer them to Jesus if He were here on earth with us, that will please the Lord. Let us be careful to please God and not our family in the way we dress, act, and make conversation. We can't be in agreement with this world and be in agreement with God. We have to serve one master. We cannot serve God and the devil and go to heaven.

I am thanking the Lord how He helps me in the trials of this life. I was going through such a trial about a month ago. I had been in fasting and prayer from Tuesday until Thursday. I told the Lord if He would bring me through victoriously for Him I would send in my testimony. On Thursday morning I went to my aunt's to help cook dinner and up in the morning I went in the room there and down on my knees, believing God was going to be moved to help me. He came to my rescue right there and flooded my soul. I was so happy I began to cry and sing, "Whether I live or die" I knew I was the Lord's and He had answered my prayer. The enemy said to me several times, "You are too weak in body to do without food for any time." I knew the Lord would take care of that, too. When I'd feel hungry or weak I'd go to the Lord in prayer for grace and strength to hold out as long as He saw fit. He would give me strength, and I would not even feel hungry. What a mighty God we serve! I'd say, "Whether I live or die," I know God knows best for me.

I want to live in such a way and so close to God that whatever time of the day or night He calls for me I'll be ready. Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. This is a wonderful life to live. We realize that the world can't understand. They have to be born again as Jesus tells us in His precious and sacred Word. Thank God again for salvation.

People say, "I believe God can do all things; nothing is impossible with Him." But where are the works? Faith without works is dead and won't amount to anything. Please call on God and be saved and let your works prove you are born again.

I know I am living for the Lord and am willing for Him to have His way in my heart and in my life. I ask all those who know the worth of prayer to pray for me. I love the Lord and love to serve Him. I love to go to meeting, prayer meeting and Sunday School. Even though there are three or four of us, I feel like I've been in meeting with a house full when we have our little service. He says, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name I'll be in the midst." This is a real precious promise to me.

My address is R. 3, Box 44, Osyka, Miss., if any of the saints feel led to write to me. I love to receive letters from the children of God.

One who loves God and loves to serve Him,

Mrs. Lorene Hilbun

o-o-o-o-o

Mich.—Dear saints everywhere in the precious name of Jesus,—With God's help I send in my testimony about the extraction of my teeth. With the Word and Sister Corteway's testimony about her's, I was led to believe God could help in my case. I went to the same dentist. I can surely witness to the world that never in all my forty-seven years have I had such a wonderful experience. It was miraculous how He cared for me. God wants us to lean heavy upon Him. He wanted me to prove Him. We had been asking God to send down His mighty power,

and He surely did manifest it unto us this last week end in a mighty way. Little Ruthy Wilkins took awful sick while out at Sister Sneed's as we were caring for the children. She cried and screamed with pain. We kept on praying for her. Little Ruthy called on God to help her. God came on the scene and touched her immediately. Grandpa and Grandma came; she was anointed and prayed for; we all prayed and rebuked the enemy and got the victory. Before going to bed she was healed, well and happy again.

I need the prayers of the saints that I always prove faithful. The children's father also needs earnest prayer that he will see the need for repentance. I want to be a clean vessel that God might use to his glory, and be an example for my unsaved ones.

Irene Grover.

o-o-o-o-o

Kansas—Dear young saints,—Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour. Today finds me much encouraged to go all the way with Him. I feel impressed to write my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" and tell what the Lord has done for me.

It is a requirement here in Kansas that each student have at least one year of Physical Education. I had determined in my heart that by the grace of God I would not wear the Gymn clothes, as so much of the playing is done outside, and I just didn't feel that God would be pleased with me wearing those clothes out in public. We prayed about it for some time, asking God to work it all out. When the time came to enroll, God had gone before me and prepared the hearts of all concerned. The teachers and superintendent were very considerate and it has worked out so that I won't even have to take that course. Praise His holy name!

Young people, when we turn everything over to God, He will work things out for our good and His glory.

Pray for me that I will ever be the child God wants me to be.

La Verna Eck.

o-o-o-o-o

Tenn.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. It has been a long time since I sent in my testimony for my blessed Redeemer. Praise His dear name, I have joy in my soul this morning, serving the Lord.

I can't find words to explain how good He has been to me and my family. He has been so wonderful to my baby since she has been here. She is 7½ months old now and is the picture of health. She has never been really sick. One time she had a high fever and I had her anointed and prayed for and she has never had any more fever that I knew of, praise His dear name! She is getting along fine cutting her teeth. By the help of God, I mean to rear her in the fear of God. I dedicated her to Him; that is the reason He has blessed her so. I need more faith in God, so pray that I'll never fail Him. God has been more than a conqueror for me through a trial. There would be times when I would feel like I couldn't go on nor could I go back. I am ashamed to say that it seemed I couldn't go on for Jesus. Then a thought came to me: Why turn from God, a real friend, because of what someone else did? Oh, how I did weep and pray to God. I knew it was the devil trying his very best to get me to forsake Jesus. Today finds me still on the battlefield for my blessed Saviour who bled and died for me, who really paid a price for us all.

The enemy hindered my going to the campmeeting this year; but praise God, He made a way for me to go to the Monark Springs meeting last year, at which meeting I received help for my soul. It is so wonderful to meet the real saints of God who will not lower the standard.

The "Faith and Victory" paper is food for my soul. Sister Margaret Dundas' testimony did me good. You

don't hear much said about bobbed hair and curls. I could not say I was a child of God and I would be ashamed if I cut and curled my hair or wore any jewelry, rings, beads, bracelets, necklaces, etc., which God's Word does condemn. Neither could I wear these real thin nylon dresses, waists, nor skirts, which does not become saints. Oh, how we need to get our spiritual eyes opened. Pray for me that I will live like Jesus wants me to with all the world shut out. One who loves truth, —N. Clayton.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

Mo.—Greetings to the saints abroad:—I desire to tell to the glory of the Lord of His dealings with me. I recently drove Mom's car from Tulsa to Neosho, and as I started home I had some trouble in starting it, thereby flooding somewhat. The car had been sitting all week in the hot sunshine without being driven. After I had driven several miles I noticed that the accelerator gave forth a swooshing sound whenever the car picked up speed.

I was taking a new way home and there were not any filling stations around. I decided not to stop to investigate as I wouldn't have known what to do had there been anything seriously wrong. As the noise did not become worse I contemplated about stopping, but again decided against it when approaching the next town. I could not remember whether the car made that sound the last time I had driven it or not.

I proceeded within eight miles of Neosho where I decided to stop and have water put in the radiator, as it sounded dry and the gas fumes were so I could hardly breathe. When the man raised the hood he gave a low whistle. Another asked if I knew that the air filter was off. I replied, "No," and looked at the motor. On the fender there was a stream of gas and the next day we looked on the inside and the rubber mat was spotted with gas. The men discovered that the settling bulb was cracked and the gas was running out. They turned to me expectingly, "What am I supposed to say?" I was quite speechless and didn't know exactly what was expected of me. One man said, "It all depends on the language you use." I immediately thought of the song, "If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore."

I know that it was the goodness of the Lord that the motor wasn't burning or had exploded. The man that was working on it said, "You were lucky that it didn't catch fire." I replied, "No, it was the blessings of the Lord." There was a little silence and then the other man said, "I'd still say you were lucky."

After I left the filling station one could not hear the sound when the car was speeded up. I surely do thank the Lord for His watch and protection over me.

Your sister in Christ, Vesta Nadine Severs

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

Greetings to all the saints:—I want to testify for the Lord. I have been quite afflicted for some time with rheumatism in my legs and back, could hardly get up and down. My children wanted me to go to a doctor. I told the Lord if he would heal me I would give the Lord the money that I would have to pay the doctor. The next morning I was so much better. Praise the Lord who is the great Healer of all diseases. I do love Him and want to live closely and do more for Him. I want your prayers that I may be completely healed. I am out here alone and have some fierce battles to fight, but I find the Lord a present help in every time of need. —O. K. Myers

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

Ky.—Greetings in Jesus' name,—I am writing you to let you know how I do enjoy reading the little paper, "Faith and Victory." I really love it. I have been reading it for about fifteen or twenty years. It has blessed my

soul. I had saved them and was planning on making a scrap book out of them, but my house burned and nearly everything we had. We didn't save much more than just a few clothes. It caught from a coal oil stove. The Lord was with me in all of our trouble and I surely thank God for it. I love the Lord and want to live for Him. I am asking you all to pray for me and pray that my husband and children will be saved. I know God hears and answers prayer. Pray that my faith will grow stronger so I'll be able to believe God for my loved ones, and that I will hold out to the end. Mrs. Mae Sizemore.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—

Mo.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus' precious name—Truly I do love the Lord this morning, and my desire is to be faithful and fill my place in the body of Christ. Oh, how needful it is to keep faithful and not get out of place.

First I want to do as I promised by telling of God's goodness to me on my trip to Monark Springs campmeeting. I felt definitely impressed to go, although I knew I would have to make the trip by myself with four little children. But we are serving a mighty God, so after much prayer I put it in His hands and started. About 35 miles or so from home the brakes went out on my car. I had fluid put in and started on, but they would not work right, just stayed soft and I would have to pump them three times at least to stop. Oh, how I was praying and then promised to testify if God would help. Things were no better, but God gave me grace to rebuke the devil, and then I began to sing, "Oh, be still thou soul of mine," and the rest of that verse. Then I began to sing, "Yes, dear Lord, I will be still; I will trust Thee ever." Praise the Lord, he put the words in my mouth, for just a little while later I was telling of it and could not remember the words. The Lord still hadn't undertaken with the brakes, but I was encouraged some, but still was in the battle. The enemy can paint terrible pictures. But I went on, feeling I needed more encouragement. I stopped at Bro. Murphey Allen's. I told him I thought it was the work of the devil. He checked my brakes and although still soft, no cause for such, so rebuking the devil, I went on. And, praise the Lord, the closer to the campgrounds I got, the tighter the brakes. When I started home I had a full pedal, and we still have good brakes. Praise the dear Lord! Truly it is wonderful how the Lord will bless us.

Too, I feel I should tell of how the devil will try us and how we should tarry before God until we are sure of every move. Since the Myrtle campmeeting I have had a heavy burden at times concerning preaching the gospel. I felt I was too weak and little for such a task. But this morning it was so heavy I went into earnest prayer about it, determined to wait until all was clear. Oh, how I was burdened for the right leading and not to be deceived. In 1 John 4:1 it says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God . . ." The only way to try a spirit is by the Word. So after praying I left it in God's hands and continued my work. After awhile I sat down and picked up my Bible. It fell open to Prov. 25:6, 7, "Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men. For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither, than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen." Verse 14, "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain." Praise the Lord for helping me to try the spirit that was working against me. For if we are not called of God then we receive a false gift and thus it will avail nothing. Surely my heart's desire is to stay lowly at the feet of Jesus and always be watchful and prayerful and try the spirits whether they be of God. When they are, measure; and when not, rebuke. For the enemy

will do all he can to lead astray. But I thank God that his sheep's clothing will not deceive us if we will look to God to reveal this truth to us. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ,

Lavern Moles

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

Hennessey, Okla.—To the dear saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—This morning finds me yet saved from all sin—yes, sanctified and with victory over the devil and all of his impositions, and happy in the Lord. This morning early this song came to me (No. 130) "Press the Battle on. Forward, forward is the battle cry, onward, onward to our home on high; We will conquer for the Lord or die." Chorus—"Strengthened by the mighty power of heaven, We shall conquer, we shall conquer, Till the raging foe afar is driven, Press the Battle on." That means God is on our side, a captain who never lost a battle and never will. Get your eyes off man, put your eyes and hands, yes, and your whole being on Jesus. "Oh, thou who died on Calvary to save my soul and make me free, I'll consecrate my life to thee, My Saviour and my God." Time is short; our life on earth will soon be gone. No more chance to come back to work. Use your time and talents for God. Live, sing, shout, and preach for God. Just be sure that God calls you and go forward for Him. Live and abide in him and he will never leave you alone. He will come to your rescue in time.

I have been passing through some trials, seemingly pressed on every hand. Before I get through one another comes. As I was ironing, I was meditating. The Lord said, "Get up, you don't have time." He said, "I'll take that in my hands; you go forward to battle." [God's children should never let trials get them down.] Oh, my heart overflows with joy to know that He sees His little ones, and He cares. Oh, to know when God speaks! Yes, when my Saviour talks to me it is sweet. I want to always stay where God can talk.

The campmeetings are now over so far as I know. The campmeeting in Hennessey was wonderful. God blessed in every meeting. In the early prayer meetings the sweet Spirit would shower down on His little flock. God manifested power in healing and sending forth His Word. God has added two more to the congregation. It makes us feel like working on, and others are looking this way. Pray that we be soul winners for God.

Your sister in one body,

Ada B. Davis.

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Mich.—Dear friends in Christ,—I just want to tell you what happened the latter part of August in our back yard. We needed a well and we got it by one of God's miracles. The drillers put thirty feet of pipe down without drilling at all, but the last pipes had to be drilled a little, not much. And in three hours God gave us a flowing well that flows continually. Isn't He just wonderful! You see, we requested prayer, and they prayed with us and God answered our prayer in three hours—a miracle, wonderful cool water from heaven. Is it any wonder we are happy, and I know you will be when you read it. Bless His holy name forever! I knelt right at the well and thanked Him for it, and I told the men that God gave us this well for we prayed for it.

I wrote you some time ago and requested prayer for my head, and praise God, the trouble is nearly gone. Thank Him again, and God bless all of you, and may many souls be saved and know God like we do. Every time I take a drink I thank Him for it. Keep us on your prayer list.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Colegrove.

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

Okla.—Dear saints of God,—Greetings to you in Jesus' precious name. Some time ago I sent in my testimony, and since then I have really been blessed. I have received

many encouraging tracts and letters. Oh, how I thank God for the blessings. I want to say, too, that I am encouraged more to go on for the Lord than ever before. Here in my home I have Sunday school every Sunday. I don't usually have anyone but children, but I thank God for them. I promised God I would do my duty if He would write my name on the Book of Life.

From time to time when I can get the material to do so, I make flowers for sick rooms and for those who are shut in. Dear ones, there is not very much that I can do, but what I can do I do it in Jesus' name. As I make flowers I pray for God to bless each one so that they will be a blessing to someone. Oh, I do know that it is better to give than to receive. I am poor in this world's wealth. Silver and gold have I none, but what I have I will freely give to those who are in need. I thank God for all of my brothers and sisters in the Lord, and for each one of your prayers, because they have brought me from a very long ways.

Dear saints, I have a girl twelve years old and she is suffering from a knot that has come under her arm. When it pains, her head begins to hurt terribly. I am asking each one of you saints to pray for her that the Lord will heal her. I know He is able because He healed this same girl of epileptic spells, kidney trouble, and asthma. Truly I thank God for His healing power. I have six children here in my home, and we trust God for healing them all. I thank God for everything. It encourages me to read the "Faith and Victory" paper, especially the testimonies. May God bless you all, is my prayer.

—Lue Anna Patterson.

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

Calif.—Dear saints of God, Greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name.—I am yet saved and much encouraged to press on for God. These past few months I have gone through some very severe tests and trials. It seemed as if the enemy has tried every way possible to make me give up salvation. The Lord has wonderfully blessed and given me the victory. I thank the Lord for salvation. I truly desire your prayers that I'll continue to be an example for God. A Sister in Christ, Irene Andrews.

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

Okla.—Dear saints,—Today still finds me rejoicing in the Lord. I want to be holy as He is holy.

It seems that the devil has many ways of trying to rob some time of the Lord's for himself. He tries to make me think that my 40-hr. job a week is my only obligation. But glory to God, the other 128 hours are the Lord's too. I am glad for the courage I have to be stubborn to Satan's ways and the willingness to do God's will.

I live with 165 girls in the Y. W. C. A. and work for a large company. I desire the saints to pray for me that I may stay low at the feet of Jesus, so the Lord can use me to his glory.

I would like to hear from all the young saints, also share tracts with them. Address: Y. W. C. A., Okla. City.

Pray for my body too. Yours in Christian love,

Miss Minnie "Penny" Penner.

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

Mo.—Bro. Pruitt and staff—Just a little note I thought might interest you. A few of the business places sponsored a Treasure Hunt of 100 silver dollars. It went on for several weeks, but I was too ill to feel like going. The other day Allyson and I went out and I made a promise if I found it I would give ten per cent of it to the Lord's work, and Allyson and I found it shortly after I said this, after looking only a short while. It was in a coffee can entirely covered and we walked directly to the spot as if we knew exactly where it was and started digging directly over the can. It just seemed I was supposed to find it.

Not one dollar of it will be spent foolishly and I know you can use this for your office or your help. I know the Lord must have had a hand in it as hundreds searched every day for it and we only looked twice. It was the strangest feeling, we walked across the road and into a field (all we knew it was inside the city limits) and I just walked toward it without any effort and directly to it.

—A. Severs

Since receiving the above testimony and writing of the editorials, we have received word that she has gotten saved. Truly the goodness of God leads men to repentance.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear young saints,—Greetings of love in Jesus' name. Today finds me encouraged to live for the Lord. I am thankful that the Lord spared my life while in sin and talked to my heart until I gave my heart and life to Him. It has been quite some time since I have sent in my testimony, but the Lord has blessed me and kept me encouraged to live for Him. I have found Him a present help in every time of need.

During campmeeting I was very frail in body. I was anointed and prayed for. I did not feel much better for a few days, but after campmeeting I had much work to do and the Lord blessed me and gave me strength to my body to do the work. Also the other day we had washed. I wasn't feeling very well that day, so after washing I lay down for an hour or two. I was supposed to help my aunt wash that evening because she wasn't able to do it herself. Before I left to go help her I told the Lord it was very needful that I go as she needed the clothes washed and that I'd promised to go and that I was expecting Him to touch my body or give me the strength to suffer and work too. When I got through praying I felt worse, but I went on by faith. I helped with the washing and then came home and did some more work at home.

Pray for me that I may so live that I may cause others to think about Christ.

Eva L. Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—I feel impressed to write my testimony through the paper as many of the saints know of the condition I was in this spring and summer. I am normal again, and give the Lord all the praise and glory. As the song says, "I can't praise Him enough for what He has done for me."

I won't be able to write the details of what I passed through, but will give a few sketches.

I lost my husband March 26th, and I guess only those who have had the experience know what it means to give up your companion. I think it was in December that I noticed his health beginning to fail and in January I could see he was going down fast, losing weight. His condition was of a nature that it began to work on my nerves. I have an affliction on my body that is nerve-wrecking, and it with his condition almost caused a nervous collapse before the relatives and saints knew anything about us. When it got where it seemed I had to have some help, I let the folks know of our troubles and they began to come to our assistance. They prayed for us and I got help right away. But my husband's condition got worse and my nerves gave down again. It seemed I got excited and the devil imposed on me, coming against me with accusations, doubts, and fears so strong that I felt like I had no faith. I can see and realize now that I was being controlled by feeling. It seemed I became helpless and powerless. I am not able to tell just how the enemy pictured out things to me. I felt like I was in the middle of the ocean or a sage with no way out. I knew God had power to do any thing; but it seemed I couldn't get ahold of anything and hold it. It was so distressing that it caused a pressure on top of my head and it felt like my mind became sick or something affected it. I couldn't hold anything on my

mind. I am not just able to express how it felt, but it was an awful feeling.

I got to where I could hardly pray and I slept very little. Sometimes I felt like I could not stand it another day. I stayed in that condition most of the time until about the middle of July. It seemed like I would get some help at different times, but I couldn't hold my grounds, and would be back in the same condition. Sometimes the devil made it look so dark I just didn't know what was going to happen next. It seemed like one night I had such an awful feeling. I believe the devil was trying to kill me. He would bring such feelings on me and then say if I was saved I wouldn't have such feelings. He tortured me like that day and night till the Lord said it was enough. Oh, what a mighty God we serve—One that knows us altogether. People may not understand us at times, but the Lord does, and knows how to help us out of trouble. It seemed like when I first began to gain some grounds I thought God knew what was in my heart before I got like this and He would judge right.

The saints did all they could to help me. My condition made it hard on those who cared for me. I realized it was hard on them, but it seemed I was powerless to help myself. I got some help at the Hammond Campmeeting. During the meeting I didn't know where I would go after the meeting nor what I was going to do. At that time I felt like I could not stay at home by myself and the saints felt like home would be the best place for me—and it was. They had been praying so earnestly for someone to stay with me. I learned about the end of the meeting that a nurse was going to stay with me a few days. My youngest son brought me home on Monday, July 4th. He cleaned the house for me and I felt just about normal that day. I went to church services that night and felt good until I awoke some time in the night and it seemed like the devil jumped on me again. But I don't think I ever got as bad as I had been before. The lady had to leave a little sooner than she expected, then I wondered who would stay with me after she left. God provided a young girl. She was just sixteen. At first I thought she was so young and a stranger (from Kansas) and I didn't know if she would be the right one or not. But surely it proved out that she was the right one. She was so sweet. She stayed with me about six weeks. She left on Friday, and Sunday I went and spent a week with my oldest son who lives in New Orleans. He and his family brought me home the following Sunday and I have been staying alone. I give the Lord all the praise. I just can't thank Him enough for the way He worked for me. I am encouraged to go all the way with Him and trust Him for both soul and body. By His help and grace I want to die in the faith. I feel what I passed through was good for me. I see the need of pressing harder against the powers of Satan. He surely is coming against us all in these last days. While I was sick that Scripture came to me, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Psalm 23. My husband told me when he first became ill and had a weak spell and thought he was going that the Lord would take care of me. What he said and that Scripture is a comfort to me now. Surely the Lord knows how to take care of those that put their trust in Him. Bless His holy name! I guess those that have had a nervous break down know something about what I passed through. I had a nervous break down several years ago and the Lord brought me through, but it seems like I really was worse this time in some ways.

I want to thank all the dear saints everywhere that prayed so earnestly for me and held me up to the throne of God. I would think in my condition sometimes, that surely God wouldn't let all those prayers go unanswered.

Some dear sisters who came into my room during the Hammond Campmeeting were a great encouragement to me. I also want to thank everyone who sent letters and get well cards before my husband passed away, and those who sent letters and sympathy cards. All were so nice. I have looked them all over since I got well and the good verses gave me new courage. I wanted to put a little in the paper before now to thank the different ones, but I wasn't able to write.

I desire prayer for some burdens on my heart, and for the affliction which I mentioned. I know the Lord hears and answers prayer in His way and time. We are surely living in the last days of time and we need each others prayers. May the Lord help us all to be ready when our time comes to go is my earnest prayer.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. L. L. Perry

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Praises To Our Saviour

I love to praise my Saviour
For all He does for me;
He shed His precious life blood,
From sin to set me free.

In trials He's my refuge,
To my heart He's very dear;
And in times of trouble,
I know He's always near.

But sometimes when I'm suffering,
I almost lose all sight
Of my dear Redeemer,
And His healing might.

But praise His name forever!
He never, never fails;
For when I have afflictions,
It's His tender touch that heals.

So, saints, let's be encouraged,
And keep our eyes above;
And praise His name forever,
For His undying love.

—Viva LaCroix.

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"Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best"—Sel.

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BIBLE STUDY

Primary picture roll is \$1.35, Lesson cards 9c

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

October 2, 1955.

Printed Portion: Luke 2:1-14.

Luke 2:1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and the lineage of David.

5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Memory Selection: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10.

Practical Truth: God sent his Son into the world when conditions were favorable for accepting and proclaiming the gospel.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Paul makes it very plain why "Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (I Tim. 1:15). Many, many times in the Old Testament it was told what would come to pass and what Jesus would do when he came, And "when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son" (Gal. 4:4). The fact that what was told he would do when he came and the outcome being just as prophesied makes it that many are convinced that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. At the time when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Jews, worshiped the one true God. They were scattered all through the known world and had their synagogues where the teaching was concerning the coming Messiah. So that many were ready to listen to the gospel when Jesus came. How well every thing fitted together at the time of his birth. The taxing made Joseph and Mary to be at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

The slaying of all the children of Bethlehem was another prophecy fulfilled (Matt. 2:18; Jer. 31:15). The announcement made by the angel of the Lord to the shepherds, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). All of this evidence was given for us. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Eph. 3:17).

THE BOYHOOD OF JESUS

October 9, 1955

Printed Portion: Luke 2:41-52.

Luke 2:41. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Memory Selection: Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52.

Practical Truth: Though Jesus was the Son of God, in his youth Jesus developed mentally and physically.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus was our example that we "Should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). As a boy he became interested in his Father's business. As a man, he spoke what his Father gave him to speak. "And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." (John 12:49, 50) So when Jesus said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business" (v. 49). He must have known then of his work and something of why he came into the world. His talk with those in the temple, "Sitting in the midst of the doctors" (v. 46), show his fidelity to his Father at a tender age.

We have no way of knowing how much he laid aside when he came from his home in glory but he must have left much, for it says he increased in wisdom (v. 52), and that "He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor" (2 Cor. 8:9) "that ye through his poverty might be rich." So we do know that he laid aside enough that he really became a man who was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). All the way through the life of Jesus, from the time when he was a boy until his death, we find him obedient. Jesus' obedience extends all the way even to the death of the cross (Phil. 2:8).

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

October 16, 1955

Printed Portion: Luke 3:2b-8a, 15:22.

Luke 3:2b. The word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3. And he came into the all the country about Jor-

dan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

4. As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

7. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8. Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance.

Luke 3:15. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

17. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

18. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

19. But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

20. Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened.

22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Memory Selection: Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. Luke 3:22.

Practical Truth: To prepare the way for the Lord's coming one must repent of sin.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

So many in these days are seeking education in the schools of learning but not so with John the Baptist. His training was in the wilderness with the best teacher that could possibly be. He communed with God and was told by his teacher in advance how he would know with certainty the Son of God. (John 1:32-34)

The words of Isaiah 40:3-4 tells of mountains being made low and the crooked shall be made straight, rough places plain, and this was John the Baptist's work to make ready and "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isa. 40:3). Truly that WAS John's mission as a forerunner of Christ, for the hearts of men are as a desert without God. They were of sin and John said for them to repent. There were only a few: Joseph and Anna and Simeon, and a few like them that were really in expectation of the coming of the Christ and the others were at a very low ebb in a moral and spiritual sense. The leaders were a "Generation of vipers" and John told them so to their face (v. 7). Notice how bold John was in his mission when he told Herod he had no right to his brother's wife and got put in prison for it. The Lord help us to have the approval of God.

STRUGGLE IN THE WILDERNESS

October 23, 1955

Printed Portion: Luke 4:1-15.

Luke 4:1. And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

2. Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

3. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

5. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10. For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11. And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

12. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

13. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

14. And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

Memory Selection: Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Practical Truth: Jesus met and mastered temptations, and so may we.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

Truly temptation calls for an effort and is usually in a wilderness experience which calls out all of our resistance against it. Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matt. 26:41). Directly after Jesus was baptized he was led of the Spirit into the wilderness and while there he was tempted of the devil (v. 1, 2). Since Jesus has paved the way before us, we do well to consider his way of meeting temptation. At his baptism God called him his beloved Son (Matt. 3:17), and Satan said "IF" thou be the Son of God. We do well to notice that "IF" for that could give us a doubt as to whether we still belong to God as his child.

Are you God's child? Do you KNOW that? If you know positively that you are, then you can expect God's protection when the test is on. Notice the answer Jesus gave, "That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (v. 3). So in our temptation we also can use the word of God in answer to the devil's lies, for he wants us to compromise. The old devil still gets people to serve him. He knows what God has said that we are to worship God, therefore he will use all tactics to win our rights away from us. A determined effort, prayer, Bible reading will produce results.

JESUS PROCLAIMS HIS MISSION

October 30, 1955

Printed Portion: Luke 4:16-24; 28-30.

Luke 4:16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23. And he said unto them. Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physican, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24. And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Luke 4:28. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29. And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30. But he passing through the midst of them went his way.

Memory Selection: 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. St. John 1:12.

Practical Truth: Christ is still able to accomplish in our lives the things he came to earth to do.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." That was Jesus' own testimony. Any child of God who follows in the footsteps of Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21) has the same testimony. Praise God. The fact remains that all of God's people have the Spirit of God to help them in all things of life and the joy and peace and contentment in the soul that surpasses all the things of this world. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). That is a fact too. Our outflow shows what we are. Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matt. 12:35). That is a fact too.

Here was Jesus preaching deliverance to the captives in his own town where he was brought up, but they took offense because he had not done as they thought he ought to do. That is still the reason why some are not wanted in their own community. Since Jesus was the best man on earth and he was refused, may we not expect the same in our sphere where we live, no matter how well that we follow his example. The Lord is still good to all but not all will accept his wonderful goodness except for selfish interests. Sad indeed. C. W.