

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Teach Me

Teach me, Lord, thy holy way,
Teach me, Lord, just how to pray,
Teach me, Lord, just what to say,
And all Thy Word to obey.

Help me, Lord, the humble way,
That I some soul may help to save,
Help me spread this gospel truth
Ere this body lies in the grave.

Help me to live a holy life
Amid this world of sin and strife,
Give me grace from heaven, Lord,
To be in the church—Thy holy wife.

Bless all your saints everywhere,
Answer all their earnest prayers;
Put your arms about each one,
And keep us near thy loving Son.

Give us strength from heaven to endure
The things we meet from day to day;
Help us to lean on thy strong arm,
And never from thee turn away.

—Effie Miller.

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The Corrupt Tree

On the third limb of the Corrupt Tree we will write "uncleanness." It is found in Gal. 5:19, the catalog of sins. Notice in the twenty-first verse it says, "they that do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." In the light of this solemn warning it behooves us to search out the meaning of these words and measure our lives accordingly.

The dictionary says that uncleanness means morally impure, foul, filthy, unchaste, obscene. The Bible also says, "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1 Thess. 4:7). The Bible also speaks about those who "walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness" (2 Pet. 2:10). That which is in our hearts will come out in our lives. In Matt. 7:17-21, where it speaks of the good tree and the corrupt tree, it says that "by their fruits ye shall know them." When we see uncleanness manifested we know that

that person needs to be washed in the precious blood of Jesus and made clean. Zechariah saw through the Spirit that cleansing that we can enjoy today. He said, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened in the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness" (Zech. 13:1). By confessing our sins and forsaking them we can find peace and pardon at the feet of Jesus. It is then we can bring forth good fruit.

Those who are unclean will feed on what we call, "dirty jokes." They look at the plan God has made, which is pure and holy in replenishing the earth, as impure. They feed their impure, lustful minds on those things. How sad it is that God's holy plan has thus been treated in such a manner. Your telling of a dirty joke as one writer says, "hangs vulgar pictures on the inner chambers of the imaginations of others, from which they cannot escape." Surely God wants to clean up those whose minds are thus corrupted. It will show on a person's face who indulges in those things. If the devil has caught you in his trap, don't be discouraged, for deliverance is for you, through Jesus. May the Lord help our young people to not slip into this trap. Keep a rebuke against these things. When I was young and in high school I let this kind of student know that I did not care to listen to dirty jokes. My girl friends would remind a new girl, who came in our presence, that I did not want to hear them. We are living in a world where the devil causes people to be bold to go ahead, but we need not enter in with them.

In Rom. 1:24 we find where "God gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves." Verse 26 says, "God gave them up unto vile affections." There comes a time when people, who continually indulge in these things are allowed to go on in their wickedness. Flee to the Lord for deliverance before you go any deeper in sin.

Apostle Paul gives good instructions in Rom. 6:19, "... for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness." The 22nd and 23rd verses read, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye

have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

We are to think on pure, lovely, and virtuous things. (Phil. 4:1) "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." (Titus 1:15)

Remember the Corrupt Tree. It brings forth evil fruit and will be "hewn down and cast into the fire."

—Mrs. A. Marie Miles

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Outstanding Scriptures on the Two Works of Grace or Cleansing

We find in 1 Thess. 4:3-4, these words written for our learning, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel [body] in sanctification and honour." In Acts 5:32, we learn that God gives the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him. In the first verse of Jude's letter we read that he wrote to those who were sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ and called. In the Bible the work of sanctification is referred to as receiving the Spirit of Truth in the heart. (John 14:17). In the 26th verse it is referred to as the Comforter and also the Holy Ghost. In Matt. 5:8 it is referred to as a pure heart, for the Scripture reads thus, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." It is also referred to as perfect holiness of heart. (1 John 4:12).

The Tabernacle which Moses built in the wilderness prefigured or typified the work of Christ in our hearts today. God made it plain to Moses that he was to build the tabernacle according to the pattern that was shown to him while in the mount. In this tabernacle there were two parts. One part was called the Holy place and the other the Most Holy place. The Priests went into the Holy place and ministered before the Lord, but only the High Priest was allowed to go into the Most Holy place and that once a year, but not without first offering up blood sacrifices for his sins and the sins of the people. In this you see that blood was used before entering either place, which denotes cleansing. Thus we see that the blood shed at the brazen altar typifies our justification today, and that the blood sacrifice offered before entering in the Most Holy place typifies our sanctification or Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We read about the building of this tabernacle in the 26th chapter of Exodus. In the 33rd verse we read where they put up the veil or curtain and it was used to divide the Holy place from the Most Holy. As there was blood used prior to entering either the Holy place or the Most Holy place, it typifies the cleansing we receive in the first work when all our transgressions are forgiven and we have peace with God through the shed blood of Christ, and also that we are cleansed in the second work of grace from the carnal nature imparted to all men by the fall of the first Adam. "Wherefore Jesus

also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." (Heb. 13:12).

In order to be made Most Holy we need to be cleansed from all the effects of the fall which brought death upon the human race. That there is a need of this cleansing is clearly taught in the Bible. We read in Genesis 8:21 where God said: "The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." Turn to the 51st chapter of Psalms and we will read what David said concerning his condition and was lamenting about it and said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." They could not be cleansed from that fallen nature before Christ came and made the supreme sacrifice and David realized this fact and cried out in his grieved soul and said in the fifth verse, "Behold, I was shapened in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." This teaching is so plain that the child has that carnal or fallen nature in it when it is born, that none need to doubt this truth. The apostle Paul in the 5th chapter of Romans says in the 12th verse, "Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." The child often displays that carnal nature many times before it can even talk. Paul found such persons at Corinth, for in the third chapter beginning at the first verse, we read that he could not speak unto them as spiritual but as ones that were carnal or babes in Christ. He goes on and tells us the reason they were carnal: they had strife and divisions among them. They needed the second work of cleansing applied to destroy the carnal nature or the effects of the fall.

The scriptures in the New Testament make it very plain that man needs the cleansing in the second work of grace. If you will read the 17th chapter of John you will see that Christ knew that His disciples needed it and He prayed that they might be sanctified and he was consecrating or sanctifying Himself, setting Himself apart to go to the cross and die to bring about the cleansing or sanctifying of His disciples, and not only for them, but He said, "for all them that believe on me through their word." In the 14th chapter of John the two works are taught very clearly. In the 15th verse we read, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Quite often in the scriptures before the second work of grace is brought up you will notice justified folks are exhorted to do this or that to be holy and ready for the second work of cleansing which is instantaneous and definite. He says, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive [unsaved folks cannot receive the Spirit of truth; they must first be holy in a justified state] because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; for he [the Spirit of truth imparted to them in a justified state] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." On the day of Pentecost the Spirit of truth came into the disciples, for it is recorded in Acts 2:2-4, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing

mighty wind, 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." The cloven tongues of fire sitting upon each of them typified the cleansing as the Holy Ghost came into their hearts. It was all one operation.

In Romans the fifth chapter and the first two verses we have the two works clearly taught. The first verse tells us that we are justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The second verse says that we also have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. When cleansed and infilled with the Holy Spirit one is made strong and can stand with God in the trials and tests of life much better and with greater joy than in the justified state.

In the 12th chapter of Romans we have the second work spoken of and how to obtain it. In the first verse we find that the apostle said, "I BESEECH you therefore brethren, [they were already brethren, were justified] by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, [you must be free from condemnation in a justified state before presenting yourself for sanctification] acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." The two works are plainly taught in this scripture. This teaching also harmonizes with what Jesus taught in Luke the 13th chapter and the 45th verse. The merchant was seeking goodly pearls and when he found one pearl of great price he went and sold all that he had and bought that pearl. Finding the pearl, which represented Christ, would denote his justification, but when he went and sold all that he had, it represented a surrender and a giving up and in this he bought the pearl of great price—possessed Christ in his heart.

Another clear testimony of the two works is recorded in Ephesians the first chapter and the 13th and 14th verses. We first hear the word of truth and believe to the forgiving of all our sins and then after we have believed we are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. In other words, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts and is a witness that we are God's possession, which brings the hope of glory in the soul. The Spirit dwelling in us is a witness that we will have a redemption of this body at His coming. By His Spirit living in us we become His purchased possession. He has purchased and cleansed us with His blood and now He possesses us and lives in us, which gives joy, righteousness, peace and power to obey Him.

In the first chapter of 1 John we find John writing to children that were justified and needed to be cleansed or sanctified wholly. In the 4th verse he says, "And these things I write unto you that your joy may be full." They had joy in a justified state, but John wanted them to be sanctified so their joy would be full or complete. In the 7th verse he says, "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we

have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin." In this he teaches justified folks to walk in the light, or in other words, obey all that they know to be His truth and then they will be ready to be cleansed from the sin, unrighteousness or carnality left in the soul by the effects of that fall. The next verse makes it clear that there is a sin to be cleansed from, for he says, "If we say that we have no sin, [to be cleansed from] we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." In the next verse he brings out the two works clearly and it reads thus, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." First He forgives us of our sins and we have peace with God through Christ and He cleanses from all unrighteousness—from all the unrighteousness left in our souls from the effects of the fall of Adam.

In the fifth chapter of 1 Thessalonians is another definite scripture that teaches the two works of grace. After giving an exhortation to justified children—how to live and walk in the truth—he brings them to the truth of sanctification, and the scripture reads as follows, "Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The next verse reads thus: "Faithful is he that calleth you who also will do it." God who has given the justified soul peace through Christ will now sanctify you wholly if you will make the consecration and surrender to Him as clay in the potter's hand.

Cornelius was a devout man and a just man, a Gentile, and was in favor with God in a justified state, but he needed something more to complete his salvation, and Peter was sent to him and immediately he perceived that he was a saved man and said in Acts 10:34 and 35, "I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." In rehearsing the matter to the other apostles and elders, Peter says in the 7th, 8th and 9th verses of the 15th chapter of Acts "that the Gentiles by his mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**" In these scriptures Peter definitely testifies that the hearts are made pure or cleansed when the Holy Ghost is given.

Brethren, let us earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints on the day of Pentecost, for on that day they were given faith to receive the cleansing, the infilling of the Holy Ghost or Spirit. This doctrine is the truth of His word and we should be afraid to trample it under our feet and fix up some other way to get to heaven. We grow up to sanctification but not into it, for sanctification is an instantaneous definite work wrought in the heart by faith in the blood and the working power of the Holy Spirit.

—Fred Pruitt.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-Page Holiness Monthly**

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

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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. Co-operation 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.

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Editorials

The work of printing the Gospel at Faith Publishing House is going along very nicely under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the workers are like busy bees in their respective work departments. The Lord sends good helpers in the printing work, for which we are very thankful.

The Lord is supplying abundantly with testimonies and articles for the paper and it is not possible for us to print all of them, as space in the paper will not permit it; however, we are thankful for the manuscript and will use what we can of it as the Holy Spirit directs. If your article or testimony does not appear in the paper, just remember that we are doing the very best we can about the matter and it may appear later. If not, just kindly leave it all in the hands of God and do not allow the enemy to get you discouraged for God loves you. Manuscript sent in should be typewritten or in very plain hand writing if possible. They should be written on one side of the sheet. It takes time to correct articles and testimonies.

Those who order tracts or send in subscriptions should have them on a separate sheet of paper from your letter, especially if you have much to write. Where the articles ordered are mixed up in a lengthy letter, some of them are apt to be missed in filling the order.

The Faith Publishing House work was incorporated in the interest of the church of God as a non-profit religious work in February, 1954, and is exempt from taxation and also is eligible to receive free-will offerings, which are deductible on income tax reports. Those sending in offerings and desire a receipt showing that it was given to a recognized non-profit religious incorporation can have the same by the asking for it.

* * * *

The words hate and anger are used in the Bible in two different ways. To hate anyone with a thought or motive of doing evil to them, or as the saying is, "getting even with them" is wrong and sinful in the sight of God, but just to merely hate the evil ways and doings of others and refrain from being a partaker with them, would not be wrong. In Psalms we have a scripture which reads thus, "I hate every false way." When Jesus was here he looked around about him on those who would not believe, it is said, "with anger," not with a thought of being evil-affected, but it was a righteous indignation at their unbelief. There is such a thing as a righteous anger and a righteous hatred which does not come under the head of sin in the sight of God.

Light and knowledge rates our responsibility before God; therefore, in the 17th verse of the 4th chapter of James we read, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." Many of the scribes and lawyers did not have sin imputed to them of God until they had seen the miracles that Jesus did and heard his New Covenant teachings. This truth is brought out very clearly in the latter part of the 15th chapter of John's gospel. Paul, in

speaking of the Gentiles who knew not the law, said that God also dealt with them insomuch "their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another." (Rom. 2:15). By this scripture we see that the heathen that never heard of Christ and this wonderful salvation will also be judged by God the Father in a righteous way.

One that sins against God with knowledge of His will is a criminal and the act will damn the soul unless heart repentance takes place, for godly sorrow worketh repentance. Those who claim to be saved and go on sinning more or less every day are deceived and will never get into heaven in that state. Any minister that teaches that a Christian cannot live free from sin in this life is a deceiver and shows a greater faith in Satan than in God. It is written in the first chapter of Luke and the 74th verse thus, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." This scripture leaves no day in which to commit sin.

Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (John 8:34). A servant of sin is far from being a saved soul. You cannot be a servant of sin and of God at the same time. You cannot serve two masters. You are either under the power and influence of Satan or God. If we would believe what holiness opposers teach, we would have to acknowledge that God has no true children in this world. The Holy Scriptures teach us that, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." (1 John 3:9). "Whosoever is born of God sinneth not." (1 John 5:18). "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." 1 John 3:6. Therefore to believe that one can not live without sinning is to believe that no one is born again. In the 3rd chapter of John and the 3rd verse we read, "Except a man be born again [from above], he cannot see the Kingdom of God." In 1 Cor. 12:13 we read, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." Without being born again no one could be in the spiritual body of Christ, and therefore no one would be caught up to meet the Lord in the air at His coming. Paul says in Romans 8:9, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Friends, let us believe God's Word and measure to it.

Obituaries

Bro. S. W. Middleton of El Dorado Springs, Mo. passed to his reward at the age of 84 years. Bro. Middleton made his home in El Dorado Springs for many years. His wife preceded him in death in 1948.

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Bertha Cox of St. Louis, Mo.; two sons, Floyd Middleton of Nevada, Mo. and John Middleton of Los Angeles, Calif.; and two grand children.

Bro. Middleton had been saved for many years and was zealous in obeying the commandments of God. His goldy life will linger long in the minds and hearts of friends and relatives.

The remains were laid to rest in the Oakton Cemetery near Lamar, Mo. Bro. Fred Pruitt of Guthrie, Okla. officiated in the service. Text: "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season" (Job 5:26).

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Martha Adeline Daniels was born in Arkansas May 1, 1870 and passed from this life March 4, 1957 at the age of 86 years, 10 months and 3 days. She was united in marriage to John Daniels July 3, 1887. To this union six children were born.

Her husband and one son, Thomas Daniels, preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her passing four sons; W. C. Daniels, James F. Daniels, V. F. Daniels of Orland, Calif., and E. C. Daniels of Neosho, Mo.; one daughter, Ada Leach of Orland, Calif.; 20 grand children, 36 great-grand children, many saints, relatives and friends.

Grandma Daniels gave her heart to the Lord when she was a young girl and always stood for the truth. Funeral services by Bro. Olson. Text: Job 14:14.

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Campmeeting Dates

Jefferson, Ore., June 21 — 30

Hammond, La., June 28 — July 7

National C. M. (Monark Springs) Neosho, Mo.

July 19 — 28

Okla. State, Guthrie, Okla., Aug. 2 — 11

Bakersfield, Calif., Aug. 2 — 11

Myrtle, Mo. Aug. 16 — 24

Calif. State (Pacoma) Aug. 23 — Sept. 1

Dover, Okla. Aug. 30 — Sept. 8

Charleston W. Virginia, Date set later

AKRON, OHIO CAMPMEETING

The saints in Akron, Ohio will hold their Annual Campmeeting beginning June 27th and ending July 7th the Lord willing. Everyone is invited. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan.

For further information write to Bro. and Sis. Robert Jones, 676 Ardella Ave., Akron 6, Ohio or to Dorothy Jackson, 474 Ardella Ave., Akron 6, Ohio.

HENNESSEY OKLA. CAMPMEETING

The Hennessey Campmeeting will begin May 30th and continue through June 9th (the Lord willing). The meeting will follow the free will offering plan. All that can please bring your sheets and come praying that God will save souls.

For further information write Bro. Thomas Davis or Sis. Willa J. Williams, Hennessey, Okla.

ALL-DAY MEETING NEAR MANSFIELD, MO.

There will be all-day meeting (the Lord willing) in the little Chapel on Bro. and Sis. Ed Tombleson's place about 13 miles northwest of Mansfield, Mo., May 12th. We plan to have Ordinance meeting in the afternoon.

Please pray much for the meeting that the Lord will bless. All come that can.

—Murphy Allen and Darius Gibson.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING AT SAN BERNARDINO

The Annual Young People's meeting at San Bernardino, Calif. will be held May 11th and 12th (Lord willing) with afternoon and night services on Saturday and all-day services on Sunday.

A cordial welcome is extended to all, especially to the young people. The chapel is located at 978 W. 9th St., San Bernardino, Calif. For further information contact: Bro. Edward Davenport, 1240 Orange St., San Bernardino, Calif. Phone Turner 55-333.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Dear Saints:—Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am still saved, sanctified and very much encouraged to press on for the Lord. I am requesting prayer for Mrs. Mae Buffington in Georgia. She is badly afflicted with a cancer. She has written for me and all the saints to please pray for her. She is an isolated saint.

In Christian love, Frances Blackwell.

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Will every saint please pray earnestly for the Lord to spare this place from a certain trouble. I desire the Lord to give me complete victory in all spiritual matters. This is a weighty matter that the Lord alone can manage. Please get under the burden with me and pray most earnestly for this.

A sister in Christ, Mary J. Jones.

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'TIS SWEET TO KNOW

'TIS sweet to know as here I stay
That with my soul God has His way.
O what a blessing! the joy it brings
When His blessed assurance within me rings.

'TIS sweet to know when I do a task
That I am doing what the Saviour did ask.
It brings such rejoicing, no time to repine;
I do it with pleasure, the blessings are mine.

'TIS sweet to know I'm doing His will
While the Father and Son abide in me still;
And His Spirit can show me and teach me to live,
While all of my talents to Jesus I'll give.

'TIS sweet to know in the heavens above
That my name is written and sealed with His love;
That He watches o'er me and cares for His own;
He'll never forsake me nor leave me alone.

WHEN life is thru and my work here is done,
My harvest is over and the battle is won,
'Tis sweet to know that He's waiting for me;
I'll be with Him ever in eternity.

—Leslie Busbee

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The New Jerusalem

The twenty-first chapter of Revelation gives us a beautiful description of the new Jerusalem, which many have supposed to represent heaven, while others have thought it represented a literal city to descend from heaven by and by; but after carefully examining the character of this city as described by the Revelator, I am confirmed in my belief that John saw in a heavenly metaphor our blessed New Testament church in which blood-washed saints worship the Father in the gospel age.

He calls the heavenly Jerusalem the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev. 21:9. The Lamb is Christ. John 1:29. The heavenly Jerusalem is therefore the wife of Christ. This is a striking proof that it is a metaphoric description of the New Testament church, because there is nothing else mentioned in the New Testament unto which Christ is said to be married. But is his marriage with the church already consummated? If we can prove that it is, that will unquestionably locate the holy Jerusalem in the present dispensation. I shall at once appeal to the testimony of the New Testament. As early as the time of John the Baptist Christ must have possessed a bride; because that prophet when speaking of Him says, "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom." —John 3:29. Jesus professed himself to be a bridegroom. "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bride-chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast." —Matt. 9:15. If Christ was already during the incarnation a bridegroom, he was even at that early date married.

But who was the bride? "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." —Eph. 5:23. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." —Ver. 24. "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." —Ver. 25. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." —Verses 28-30. "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." —Verses 31, 32. In these verses Paul places the church in the same relation to Christ that the wife stands to the husband. As a true husband, Christ is the head of the church, his wife, and the church is subject to Him. He loves her, even to give his life for her. He nourisheth and cherisheth her, and she is of one body, flesh, and bone with him. Herein is fulfilled perfectly the holy marriage relation as set forth by our Savior in the gospels. Lest we should misunderstand him, the apostle in verse 32 states directly that what he has been setting forth in regard to the relation that exists between husband and wife has been spoken concerning Christ and the church. So there is no doubt that the marriage of the church unto Christ is already consummated, and she is now his bride, and must therefore be the heavenly Jerusalem that John describes in Revelation.

In Rom. 7:4 Paul again speaks of the church as having been married unto Christ. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." We shall not in

the face of such plain scriptures question the fact that the marriage of the church unto Christ has already taken place. But let us again look at the Revelator's description of Christ's bride. He tells us that the wall of the city had twelve foundations and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Rev. 21:14. Since the twelve apostles are the foundations in God's church, should we not consider this another striking proof that the church is the heavenly Jerusalem John saw?

The walls of this heavenly city described in verses 12, 16-18 must be the very walls Isaiah spoke of when he prophesied saying, "In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for wall and bulwarks." — Isa. 26:1. "Thou shalt call thy walls salvation, and thy gates praise." — Isa. 60:18. The prophet could not have had reference in these prophecies to the walls of literal Jerusalem. But since in the New Testament spiritual Jerusalem salvation from sin is obtained and men within her walls are kept pure in God's sight, her walls must be the very fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies.

The Revelator further tells us that the heavenly Jerusalem has gates on all sides: it has three gates on the east, and three on the west, three on the north, and three on the south side of the city. This signifies the abundant entrance into the church of God. As the city is a spiritual city, the walls are spiritual walls and the gates spiritual gates; and they signify that men from every condition in life can be redeemed and enter directly into the spiritual house of God in the new Jerusalem. These gates we are told shall not be shut at all by day, and we are told that there shall be no night in this city. Ver. 25. This signifies the continual opportunity for salvation that is offered unto the people in the Christian dispensation.

Verse 27 tells us that "there shall in no wise enter into this heavenly Jerusalem anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." This corresponds with Isaiah's prophecy of the New Testament church in Isa. 26:2— "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." Only those who have their names recorded in the Lamb's book of life can dwell within the new Jerusalem, as this book is the record of the New Testament church. Heb. 12:23. We have in this another striking proof that the new Jerusalem is the church of God.

In verse 18 the Revelator tells us that the wall of the city was built of jasper, and the city itself of pure gold like unto clear glass. In this metaphor the purity of the New Testament church is beautifully represented.

The Lamb of God, we are told in verse 23, was the light of this city. The Lamb is the light in the church of God; therefore, we consider this another proof that the church is the heavenly Jerusalem.

In the twenty-second chapter the Revelator describes the pure river of water of life flowing through this heavenly Jerusalem, which proceeds out of the

throne of God and of the Lamb. All spiritual people can readily see in this a beautiful description of God's fountain of salvation unto which we have access by faith in Christ.

The tree of life is said to be growing in this river and on each of its banks. Ver. 2. In Rev. 2:7 all that overcome are promised access to this tree of life, which, it is there stated, stands in the midst of the paradise of God. This figure is derived from the fact that the tree of life stood in the original paradise in which Adam and Eve dwelt. They were prohibited from eating of the fruit of that tree after the fall. But now in Christ we again partake of that tree of life in a spiritual sense; for Christ is our tree of life. The leaves of this tree, we are told, are for the healing of the nations. Rev. 22:2. It would be ridiculous to say that the healing that comes from the leaves of this tree of life is reserved until after the Savior's second advent, for the world will cease to be divided into nations at that time. In this we have a striking proof that we have access to the heavenly Jerusalem in the present dispensation, and we have healing not only for our souls from sin, but also for our bodies from disease and sickness.

The location of Christ's second advent at the close of John's description of the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 22:7) is another proof that we have access to this glorious city in this dispensation.

The wiping away of all tears from the eyes is understood by all those who possess the true joys of salvation.

The saying that there shall be no more death in this heavenly Jerusalem is fulfilled unto us in the present dispensation; because it is written that Christ "hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Tim. 1:10. It is spiritual death to which the Revelator referred when he said there should be no death in the heavenly Jerusalem, and it is spiritual death in sin that Christ has abolished. He has given us in its stead that glorious spiritual life within our souls that enables us to live a sublime and holy life in this world. Surely we can see by this time that the heavenly Jerusalem appeared at the beginning of the present dispensation, and is the habitation of all those who dwell in the church of God. —From "The Better Testament"

Editor's Note: The above article was copied from the book entitled, "The Better Testament" written in 1899 by Wm. G. Schell, a pioneer minister in the reformation and associate with D. S. Warner. He was the minister that officiated at Bro. D. S. Warner's funeral in 1895. In 1893 he wrote the book entitled, "Biblical Trace of the Church." He also wrote a book entitled, "The Ordinances of the New Testament." Later he was called to be general overseer of the Gospel Trumpet Co. while at Moundsville, W. Va. The truths set forth in the above article should not be lightly considered. I firmly believe if the saints will receive and abide in it, this truth will have a strong tendency to keep them free from depending on their human intellect and will act as a bar against compromise and human organization. The majority of the symbolic teaching of Revelation refers to the true Biblical Church and the apostatized Church, the latter referred to as Babylon the great, the Mother of Harlots, (Rev.

17:1-4), which are here upon the earth. There are a few places where it speaks of heaven where God is; but many places refer to the ecclesiastical heaven where the battle is raging as righteousness against evil working spirits in religious matters.

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Testimonies

Minn.—Dear saints:—I want to thank my God and Saviour for His mercy to me in my suffering last summer with that awful typhoid fever. I was low but my trust was in my God and Saviour. I was not afraid. I knew my Lord was with me in it all. Oh! His precious promises were so dear to me. I want to thank all the dear saints for their prayers. I appreciate your interest in my behalf in time of need.

Yours in Christ,

E. J. Kirchner.

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Ohio.—Dear saints: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I want to thank the Lord tonight for His tender mercies and love to me. Also for His healing power. For a couple of years four toes on my left foot had been numb. The numbness started in my big toe, and before I realized it, I had a bad infected ingrown toe nail. Proud flesh began to grow on the side of the toe. It was tender and bled for around four or five month but my trust was in the Lord. I just talked to Him about it; also requested prayer from many of the saints, and after my request was put in the "Faith and Victory" paper it began to amend from then on. I want to say tonight that I have a well toe. Where the sore and proud flesh was there is only a dry piece of skin now. The enemy tried to tempt me with turpentine, iodine, etc. but I remember of reading in the Bible where "Asa was diseased in his feet until his disease was exceeding great; yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians. And Asa slept with his fathers and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign." (2 Chron. 16:12, 13). I am glad for the privilege of trusting God.

It has been twenty three years this month since I've tasted or used medicine, and I find that the Lord has surely been good to us, and the little congregation here, to bless and heal bodies.

We have all-day meeting the second Sunday in the month. We had the privilege of having Bro. Murphy Allen and Bro. Jerry Quave with us this month in a couple of night's services. Pray for us here, that we may live the kind of life that the Lord will be pleased with. After all, it's the life that we live that will count in that day.

In Christian love,

Verga McCoy.

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Kans.—Greetings of much love to all the dear saints of God.—I am truly thankful I can still say I am a child of God. I wouldn't trade salvation for the world or anything therein. The enemy brought some very discouraging things before me a month or two ago, but thank God He helped me through them and settled me deeper in the things of God. "Each step of the way just takes me closer home."

I received my release from therapy the latter part of February, so now I am completely released from the hospital. I was supposed to have gone until spring. Praise God He saw fit to deliver me from there before the set time. As you all know it was a great trial to Mother and Daddy for me to be taken away from them and to be placed in such an ungody place as the mental

hospital. But they have deepened down so much in those three years. I could never thank God enough for delivering me so completely.

It surely pays for each of us to always have a possession rather than a profession. The latter is the reason the Lord allowed so much to come upon me so I could be straightened out in the end though it took about three years. The Lord works in mighty and mysterious ways so we must never question Him who knows best. I want each one of you to know I appreciate more than I can say the prayers you have sent up in my behalf. May God richly bless each one of you is my prayer.

Pray that I will grow deeper in the things of God and that I stay at the place where the Lord can use me to His glory.

Love and prayers,

Dorothy Jean Harmon.

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Okla.—Dear saints of God: Greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name.—Today finds us still saved and pressing on for the Lord. Truly I'm striving to be all the Lord would have me to be in this life.

We surely want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the saints both far and near for their prayers in behalf of our little daughter. The Lord surely came to our rescue in a time of need. I believe we were all in an agreement on a Thursday and the Lord came to our rescue then. The child became better and has continued to improve. She is getting along fine. The only time that she becomes upset is when she gets extremely tired. We surely thank the Lord for it all for we trusted Him wholly.

We would like to express special thanks also to Bro. and Sis. Murl Eddens and Sis. Catherine Williams of Okla. City who were so faithful and precious to come and spend most of the night many times with us. The Lord was always merciful and came to our rescue each time prayer was offered.

I learned many lessons through my experience. The most precious one being "How dependent I am upon God." I thank the Lord for it. I desire your prayers that I'll continue seeking for a closer walk with Him and be all he would have me to be.

Yours in Christ,

Frances Chandler.

— o o o o —

Calif.—Dear young saints:—I feel impressed to let you know how the Lord is blessing us in Bakersfield. The Lord talked to my heart about meeting with the young saints. I wanted to know what he would have me to do. I told the young saints to pray that the Lord would make it known. The Lord woke me up Monday night about 3 o'clock and made me restless. I got up and knelt beside my bed and began to pray. I went back to bed and the Lord began talking to my heart. He said we needed strength and power. We thank the Lord for hastening the good news. It was Sunday night when I told the young saints to pray and he answered prayer Monday night. I feel impressed to give the Scriptures: Isaiah 51:7-11; Psa. 46:1-7; 27:1-4; 5:8-11; 65:6, 7; Luke 9:43-50; 1 Pet. 1:5-7.

Your sister in Christ,

Zephyr Weldon.

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Wisc.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings to all in the blessed name of Jesus.—The dear Lord is our shield and guide in all our undertakings. He is so wonderful in answering prayer, we feel we should give Him a few words of praise in your little paper which is so dear to us.

We are sending a little money to be used where-soever it is needed. We only wish we could send a lot more. We know that you do need help to send out the truth and we want to do all we can to help.

We do appreciate the "Faith and Victory" very much. It is a wonderful paper and we agree with you in all that it contains. We have been saved for many years. We thank God for all that he has done for us. Please pray for us that we will forever serve the Lord in the way He wants us to. We have been so burdened for lost sinners. How hard it is to get a soul on the right road for there is so much sinfulness to attract the minds of the people these days; thru television with its advertisements for cigarettes, beer, etc.

Please pray for our family that they will all be saved. We have three unsaved sons and daughters-in-law, also five grand children. They need our prayers.

May God's richest blessings be yours and all those in your print shop.

In Christian love,

Arthur and Matilda Klatt.

Ore.—Dear saints:—I feel it would be to the glory of God to send my testimony in to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am saved, sanctified and kept by the power of God. I am trusting Him for soul and body. Oh, what joy and sweet peace it brings to one who lives a clean life before the dear Lord. It brings real faith in God. In St. John 5:3 it says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." In Matt. 28:19 we read, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." My heart says amen to all the Word of God for His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Thank the dear Lord for the precious Word of God. We are having some good meetings. We are praying for a good camp-meeting this summer at Jefferson.

Your sister in Christ,

Lydia Ridgway.

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Okla.—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.—Today I can truly say I am saved and encouraged to live for Jesus at all times. I mean to look up to Him at all times for He is good and merciful to us. I want to tell of his goodness unto me, and how he wonderfully healed my body. My blood pressure was low and it kept me weak in strength. I asked the saints to pray for me. The Lord wonderfully touched my body. To him I give all the glory and praise. Thanks be to God.

I want to tell how the Lord took care of us on the night of April 2, 1957. It began to rain and the storm grew worse. I had 50 little chickens in a house in my back yard. I thought the water was going to get them. I began to pray asking the Lord to take care of my chickens and also us. When I went to bed the thought came to me that we are in a world of trouble, but the Lord is always near.

My baby woke up and I could not get him to go back to sleep. I looked out the door and the water was rising all the time. My house was surrounded with water; even dashing across the north corner of my front porch. I woke up my two older boys and called some of my neighbors across the street from me. I told one of the boys, "I guess my chicks are drowned." The devil tried to make me get in the water to see, but I kept trusting in God. I didn't lose any chickens, and the water didn't come in my house. To God I give all the praise and glory.

Your sister,

J. M. Jordan.

Tex.—Dear Ones: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name.—I'm so glad and thankful today for the plan of salvation. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable." Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift! Tongue can't tell, neither can pen write the things that God has done for His precious children. We want to thank God for all the saints' gifts of love and prayers. Truly God is all-merciful and all-wise. Thank God! Dear children of God stay encouraged. Don't lower the standard in anyway. Lift up the blood stained gift of love—the most precious thing ever. We love you all and thank you for your prayers and everything. If I don't answer the letters I owe, just pray for me. We are encouraged to press on for God. May God bless each one.

Yours in Christ,

Sis. Essie Moore.

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Mo.—Dear saints: Greetings of love.—I'm so thankful for what the Lord means to me. He is my helper in all kinds of sicknesses and in the discouraging things the devil brings before me. The Lord has done wonderful things for me since I last wrote.

In the summer of 1955 I began suffering with my right side. A doctor told me I had a tumor and would have to be operated on for it. I prayed and asked the saints to pray. My side hurt so, and the tumor began growing very fast. One Sunday I was at Myrtle, Mo. for meeting and while there I was anointed and prayed for. The Lord answered prayer and touched my body right while they were praying. My side never did hurt me any more. Soon the tumor was gone. Praise the Lord! I've often thanked the Lord for what He has done for me.

Last fall I began to feel bad. I felt so badly I couldn't do much work. I was anointed and prayed for different times. The Lord would hear and answer prayer. I'd feel better, but then get worse again. I thought I had cancer or ulcers. The devil would often try to make me think cancer was so terrible. (It is.) I knew the Lord could heal me if it was His will.

Sometimes I'd wonder why the Lord didn't heal me, but knowing God's way was best, I was willing to suffer. I learned many lessons through this suffering. At times I suffered so that it seemed I couldn't stand it. I'd pray and ask the Lord for help, and He always helped me. I lost weight and got where I couldn't do my work. I went to St. Louis where my husband (Arla) worked. I stayed there with him until time for the Assembly Meeting at Guthrie. I wanted to go to the meeting, but I knew God would have to give me strength if I went. I wrote to different saints for prayer. I seemed to get better. I was so thankful. The week I was to go I got worse than I had ever been. Still I felt I should go. I went by faith and not by sight. I suffered most all the way out there. We got there Sunday morning. Some ministers came out and prayed for me. I suffered so and was very nervous! The Lord heard prayer and I slept some. I was able to be in services Sunday night, but still suffered much at times. On Thursday I was anointed and prayed for; still wasn't healed. Thursday night the minister preached on healing. I did all I knew to do. I felt the Lord had really healed me, so I decided to go forward and claim the victory over this suffering. I did, but that night I went to bed and suffered more than ever. I still said, "In Jesus' name, victory is mine." The next day I felt better and on through the remainder of the meeting. Now I feel the Lord has healed me. I'm like the blind man in St.

John 9:25. I don't know for sure it was cancer, but this I do know that I suffered terribly, and now I am healed. Praise the Lord forever!

I thank all the saints for their earnest prayers and a wonderful Saviour for healing me. I'm at home doing my work. The devil has tried to bring suffering on me again and to make me think I wasn't healed. I told him Jesus had healed me and victory was mine. The hurting soon stopped.

I need your prayers that I'll stay true to the Lord and do His will at all times. I have loved ones I'd like to see saved, also some unspoken requests I'd like for the saints to remember in prayer.

Your sister in Christ, Edith Robinson.

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Kans.—Dear saints:—This morning finds us saved, sanctified and kept by the power of God, amidst all troubles, evils and oppressing spirits. God keeps his children pure and spotless from all sin.

We attended some meetings in Anthony, Kansas when Bro. and Sister Abbott were there, and later Bro. Preston was here in Wichita a few nights. These meetings were an encouragement to our souls.

We had a few nights' meeting in Topeka with some saints with whom the Lord got us in contact through Sister Mary Fisher who has come out clear with the true saints and is doing her best to glean out all the honest hearts of men and women to the one fold of God. This is God's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Several others there do not see as clear as we see, but they have a love for the truth, and I believe God is going to bring all of His sheep into one fold. A Sister Washington has also come out and taken her stand with the saints of God. The Word says, I will send fishers and hunters to fish and hunt them out where they have been scattered in the cloudy day. I believe the sun is shining bright. Our souls are rejoicing because our names are enrolled in heaven. "My sheep hear my voice; a stranger they will not follow." It will cost you to follow Jesus, to give up this or that, and will lead you down through the valley of humility. The Lord will replace these things with something far better than you ever had before. God is wanting people to draw eternal things from heaven to enable them to stand the judgment test.

I never had a push off for the truth in any way. I was so glad when God saved me that I was willing to give up anything in my life.

Jude 20 and 21 reads, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God." The devil is stirred to tear down, rend asunder, act and talk against unity, but God wants us to build up ourselves against all these things. How are we going to do this? By beating ourselves under, taking down stiff stands, laying aside all malice, envy, strife, jealousy and guile, and letting the Lord have first place in our lives. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

The more you surrender to have the unity of the faith the firmer it will tie the knot to keep it. I believe God's Word is true that fasting and prayer will build you up and put power in your soul to live this holy life. Love the Word and search the Scriptures, for in them you will find eternal life. Many things the Word does not name out, but there is a true principle involved that will cover these things, and uncover the points where the devil likes to hide.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trem-

bling." I don't want to leave any sheep bleating or an ox lowing when God's eye looks down on me. I want everything slain as He commanded. When we have finished our course we want to have another building not made with hands eternal in the heavens. Pray for us.

—Lewis Williams.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Dear Sister Marie,—I have read your article on fornication and I surely appreciated it. I feel impressed to write a little on that subject. The devil is working hard through this thing to trip young men and women these days. He surely has a hold on a lot of people.

Adultery and fornication are two subjects that people seem to be ashamed to talk about. They are works of the flesh. I surely believe the devil needs to be exposed and more said on these subjects. If a boy or girl is not completely dead to the flesh he or she surely should go to a minister or someone and confide in them and get help on this line.

I wish young people could only realize what they are doing when they fail to get saved and let the devil get them trapped in these things. God says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." If we sow to the flesh, "we shall of the flesh reap corruption." People take this Scripture much too lightly. Surely, it is truth that we reap what we sow. If we get trapped in adultery and fornication before we are saved, the devil uses those things to try to drag our souls into hell after we are saved. Young people ought to take heed to these things. I wish I could tell the young people and impress it upon their minds in a way they wouldn't forget.

I was deep in sin when the Lord saw fit to save me. I was in adultery and had come to the place where I was really reaping what I had sown. Thank God He cleansed me from those things. I can see where it would have been better had I never known those things. The devil will use those things to try us and try to discourage us after we are saved. If people would only realize the awfulness of it before it is too late.

The devil would like to steal the love of God out of my heart, but please pray for me that I will live saved as long as I am in this life. I think sometimes it would be better to go on and be with the Lord than to have to live in this world and be tempted and tried. Please pray for me that the devil won't dim my vision of what the good things are and the most worthwhile things. The only good things in life are the blessings the Lord bestows upon us. The devil would have us to lose sight of these things. Thank God for Christain people like you. I have a daughter who is looking to me for an example and what a great disaster it would be if I should fail her. Surely there is a responsibility upon me and the devil is working hard against me. Pray that I go forth with courage and be more than a conqueror.

With sisterly love,

—W.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Dear saints,—I am still encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord. I want to tell what the Lord did for me. Ps. 34:19 says, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." I took very ill. I couldn't hear or talk very well, and had a pain in my right arm when I moved it up and down. I also had a bad cold. I prayed myself, then I was anointed and prayed for. I thank the Lord for touching my body, and I thank all the saints for their prayers.

A lady gave me a lemon to take for my ailments, but I didn't use it nor the olive oil another lady told me

to use in my ears. I didn't do anything but look to the Lord to heal me. After the Lord touched my body I made some lemonade for some children and myself.

It seemed to me that the Lord had surely left me, but He gave me some verses—Job 23:8-10. Then He gave me another verse, 1 Peter 5:10, "After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you." Then I knew the Lord was helping me. The song, page 174, came to me: "In the heated furnace, Father let me stay, precious gold refining, purge the dross away, . ." Then another song came to me—page 217. I thank the Lord for how He helped me. The Lord healed my ears, blessed my cold and my arms. Pray for me and my unsaved husband.

Your sister in Christ,

—Fletcher Johnson.

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Mo.—Dear saints of God, Greetings in the name of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,—Today finds me still saved and fighting the battle on by the Lord's help. I thank the Lord for salvation and for His healing power. I want to tell what the Lord has done for me. On Wednesday night I was awakened with much trouble on my mind. I thought I was lost and bound for hell. I told my husband how I felt and he said, "Why did you tell me the Lord took that blister off your eye? Why did He do that if you are lost?" I said nothing but I did begin to study. I couldn't pray. I lay there in a deep study and finally tears filled my eyes and I began to ask the Lord what was wrong. I had never felt like that before. Then old Satan came up in front of me. I said, "Lord, if it is Satan, take him away." I could pray then, so I began to call on God and it wasn't long until I was shouting. I told the Lord I was depending on Him, and that I would trust Him no matter what the cost would be. I was so happy. I began to pray then, for sanctification. I claimed the Holy Ghost, and although I didn't know too much about this work, the Lord surely did bless my soul. Praise His Holy name!

Saints, will you earnestly pray for me. I am the only one around here (that I know of) that believes this holy way. I thank the Lord for taking the blister off my eye, and helping my shoulders to get better. They still hurt some, but I'm looking to the Lord for complete healing and an increase in my faith. I pray that the Lord will bless you saints in the publishing work.

—Eathel Hill.

o-o-o-o-o

N. C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I have served the Lord for many years. He has always come to my rescue. His service is sweeter every day. The Lord has a reward for His children if we are faithful to the end. We have been down in the valley many times, but we know from whom all blessings flow. Yesterday I was sent a dollar by a brother in Guthrie that I had never heard of before. It was through the asking of my heavenly Father. I love to publish the goodness of my Father. Jesus said that we are His witnesses.

May the dear Lord bless the work there.

Your Brother,

—John B. Smith.

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Mo.—Dear saints of God, Greetings in the sweetest name I know,—I think of the song, "Oh, how I love Jesus." I love Him this morning with all my heart. He has done so much for us, we can never begin to thank Him enough. We have found Him a present help in every time of need. We have gone through some very hard trials the past couple of months, but the dear Lord has been very dear

and near. We have learned many precious lessons, but just count those trials stepping stones. As many of you know, Mother Sell has been very sick and her children took her to the hospital. She was there eleven days, then we brought her home. She was so happy to get home. The doctor says he can do no more for her. She has hardening of the arteries, and suffers so badly with her feet that we ask your earnest prayers that the dear Lord will ease it. We don't feel like asking Him to heal her, for we feel this sickness is unto death.

About two weeks ago on Saturday morning, Mother was suffering terribly with her feet. Our daughter called the doctor and told him how she was, and asked him what it was. He said he thought it was dry gangrene setting in and said that there was nothing he could do. He said her suffering was going to be intense, and that all we could do was to make her as comfortable as possible and bear it with her. It was about an hour from then that Bro. and Sis. Barton came along, and they felt very burdened about her foot. They had prayer and we all agreed with them that the Lord would relieve her suffering and thank the dear Lord, He did. It was a week before her foot hurt any more. I knew God had done that for Mother, for no man had anything to do with her foot.

I thank the dear Lord for the strength He has given me to care for Mother Sell. I know without His help I couldn't have kept going. I also want to thank Him for the grace and calmness He gave me through my trials. The enemy would try to discourage me, but I would just go earnestly to God in prayer and He would take all my fears away and bring such a sweet calmness over me. Dear ones, let's don't let the old enemy discourage us. A verse of the song, "I'm going on," keeps coming to my mind this morning. It is No. 223 in the Evening Light song book, the 2nd verse: "Should opposition come, should foes obstruct my way, should persecution's fires be lit, as in the ancient day; with Jesus by my side, His peace within my soul, no matter if the battle's hot, I mean to win the goal." Dear ones, that is my decision this morning. I mean, by the help and grace of God, to go on. There's nothing in this old, sinful world to turn back to. We tried the road of sin and found nothing that would satisfy our souls until we turned to Jesus. Then He took our load of sin and saved us. Praise His dear name!

I want to testify how the Lord healed me last night of flu (I suppose). I went to bed at 7 p. m. chilling and aching all over, my head hurting so very badly and I had a high fever. I was very sick. I began to wonder how husband would care for me and Mother, as it takes lots of care for her. Husband prayed for me and I got a little relief, but then I got worse again. As husband had gone to sleep, I just began to pray and ask God to burden some one to pray for us. I knew Husband was tired out. About midnight my fever went down and I felt much better. Husband awoke and said, "Honey, you don't have any fever." We knew the dear Lord had answered prayer. Early this morning Bro. Vada McMillan called and asked how we were. He said they had been burdened for us and had just prayed until they felt victory had come. He said they just didn't intend to quit until victory came. Thank God for His dear saints. We thank them for their prayers and the dear ones that brought in food, and also the dear little sister that has come and ironed for me. May the dear Lord bless every one of you richly. We need your prayers that we keep humble and low at Jesus' feet. We feel so unworthy of all His goodness to us.

Your sister in Christ,

—Mrs. Ralph Sell.

The Wages of Sin Is Death

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17). The Apostle Paul was writing to the Corinthian brethren. We are new creatures in Christ Jesus. Our sins are forgiven. We are through with the old life; our spirit has been awakened. We were once dead; but now we live. Things that once didn't seem so bad, now have become exceeding sinful. We are as one that slept.

It is characteristic of a child to be like the father and mother (the church). If we are like Christ we are called Christians. Christian—to be Christ-like. Christ bore all things, suffered all things. He was beaten. At birth he had no nice clean bed to lie in. He was scorned, which is one of the worst things that can ever happen to a man—to have no one pay attention to him, and show no love or respect. Bro. Paul was speaking of a changed man, a different acting man, a Christ-like man or woman. The Bible oft times speaks of man but means both man and woman. A sinful man reaches out after things to satisfy the flesh, worldly pleasures, worldly dress, anything opposite a humble and a contrite spirit. The things we once loved we now hate. Different people like different things. It takes different things to satisfy each individual. The love of money is the root of all evil. (1 Tim. 6:10). Some people like to hoard up money, to be a miser. We read in the papers where aged people die and before passing they tell about hiding their money. They even do without sufficient food so as to save money. They forget to remember the widows and orphans, the minister who travels here and there, his family—forgetting to do good while they have a chance. They neglect their precious souls which is the most important thing we possess. Some like to spend money very carelessly. We have the prodigal son as an example on this. He asked for his share of the inheritance, had a big time, but finally there came a day of reckoning for him and he longed to return to his father, who was wise and good. He was not turned away. Some like entertainments, sports, theaters, dancing, etc. Whatever we like, if it is contrary to the word of God, it is sinful—not pleasing to God. In our old life we found this to be true. Some like fine clothes; spend much money on them. Some like to wear men's clothing because it is a fad or style or because it is less bothersome, they say. (Deut. 22:5). "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." (Isaiah 55:2). Spending money for that which is not bread—meaning the necessities of life. Some spend several dollars for articles made of gold. The Bible speaks against the wearing of gold. (1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3).

In Exodus, the Israelites took their golden articles and made a golden calf for worship, which displeased God very much. Moses commanded it to be

burned, ground into powder, mixed with water, and the children of Israel to drink of it. Gold has its place in the world, but not to be worn by the children of God.

Some like strong drink, which causes all sorts of trouble—wrecked homes, wrecked lives, etc. Some just like to sip—which brings on habit and has the appearance of evil. (1 Thess. 5:22). Drink brings on sin which is a reproach to any people. (Prov. 10:34; 1 Cor. 10:31). Can we say this "the blood of Jesus Christ redeems us from all sin?" (1 John 1:3, 5, 7).

Heaven is a Holy place; sin excludes us from it. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," etc. (1 Cor. 6:9-10). "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like." (Gal. 5:19-21). "The wages of sin is death." (Rom. 6:28).

Love the Lord and you will hate evil. (Ps. 97:10). If we know that we should do good and doeth it not, we are like the man who built his house on the sand. (Matt. 26: 27). If we have been born again, made a new creature, we need to walk in the light as God gives it, or the light in us will become darkness. We have now become a new creature—a child of God. Let's stay that way. Sin separates us from God. It grieves the Lord when we do wrong, the same as it grieves parents when children disobey or do wrong. The only way we can leave the old life behind is to remember what He has done for us, and keep a desire to do right in our hearts. Pray without ceasing. Do not reach back after things to satisfy self and the lusts of the flesh. Let's remember to keep the first love in our hearts. If we don't, God will remove the candlestick and we will have to repent and do our first works over. Amen. —Mrs. Amos Porter.

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Who Will Go for Jesus

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2). Truly this is a needy time, and this should be the prayer of every saint, every day, for surely the labourers are few. There are many places today which are suffering for the lack of ministerial help. I feel burdened to urge all of God's ministers to arise and be doing. I firmly believe that God has allowed this great epidemic to come upon the camp of the saints to cause us to be more concerned about the things of God.

The song says, "There's a cross for every one." Truly, the work of the Lord is not just a side line, but a full time job. When we go to camp meeting and take the ministers' picture, we find there are many who are eager to get in the picture, but when

the camp meetings are over, where do they go? Some maybe are not heard of very much until another camp meeting; maybe just go back home and settle down to a comfortable life. It is not God's will that some be at ease and others burdened. It is the duty of the church to carry this gospel to the world. In Acts the 6th chapter, the Grecians were murmuring because their widows were neglected. The disciples said it was not reason for them to leave the word of God and serve tables, but to look them out others, who were filled with the Holy Ghost to take care of that business, and they would give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministering of God's word. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (2 Tim. 2:4).

Dear brethren, there are too many who are mixed up with the affairs of this life. When Jesus called the disciples, they left their jobs and followed him. There are too many excuses being offered. If we do not obey God we are going to be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Paul said he cleared himself from the blood of all men. Let us ask ourselves the question, "Have we cleared ourselves?"

In some congregations there are a number of ministers, just feeding themselves. In Ezekiel 34 we read, "Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, **neither have ye sought that which was lost.**" How do we all feel when we read this Scripture? Are we justified? Have we done our duty? Do we feel clear before God? It's going to be an awful thing to have a woe pronounced upon us, for not obeying God. What are we going to do with all these different calls coming in from different directions wanting meetings? One woman said she had been trying to get a minister to come for a long time, but as no one came she had about lost confidence in the ministry. Brethren, where are we? It will be terrible to have all this blood upon us in the Judgment Day. We had better get busy if we intend to go to heaven. The man that buried his talent was cast into outer darkness, and we are going to have the same pronounced upon us if we bury our talent.

Brethren, the challenge is before us, and God is not going to take **NO** for an answer.

How are you going to feel if someone points their finger at you and says, "If you would have brought me the truth, I would not have been lost." I am stirred to give my very life for Jesus and lost souls.

There is also a great duty laying upon the laity. If you are not called to go, God expects you to help send someone else. If you don't help to send others, you are going to be just as guilty as the man that is called and fails to go. If people don't wake up to this fact, God is going to send greater persecutions, like He did at Jerusalem. Wouldn't it be much

better for us to volunteer than for God to send judgment upon us?

Yours, with a great burden upon my heart for lost souls,
—Murphy Allen.

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ENDLESS VOWS

I will be true to God alone
And make my heart his loving throne.
He'll never leave me I am sure;
He'll reign within me, keep me pure.

I will be careful to obey
The living Word from day to day;
I'll walk the path that he has trod,
I'll be his son, He'll be my God.

I have forsaken all evil deeds,
I'll trust in Him who knows my needs.
He will supply—I need not fear,
I'm satisfied when he is near.

When all my life on earth is o'er,
When time shall be no more—
My soul has reached the highest ground,
I'll then receive my glorious CROWN.

—Donald W. Sharp.

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The Family of God

The Family of God is the sweetest Family on earth. Praise God, I am in this Family. We are in the world but not of the world. We are born into this Family through the blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, it makes the Family a loving Family. We love one another because we are born of God and God is love. Through Him our love is made perfect. (1 John 4:7). "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of of God, and knoweth God." When we have been cleansed and redeemed from all sin, every desire of sin taken out of our hearts, washed and made whiter than snow, then we know we are in the Family.

Our Family knows each other because we are our heavenly Father's children. God puts His Spirit within us and causes us to walk by the same rule and obey the same thing, which is the Word of God. It works in all alike, thereby making us one in Christ Jesus: one in mind, in spirit, in doctrine, in faith and love.

You can recognize this Family by its behavior. In it there is no backbiting, nor biting back, no hatred, envy, strife, malice, division, or confusion. (Gal. 5:19-21). These things are not in the Family of God because the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all unrighteousness.

We sing a song about "The All Cleansing Fountain." What a precious fountain! Even the vilest sinner may be made whiter than snow. This Family is without spot or wrinkle. Oh, how we love to keep our pathway clear, as we walk daily in the heavenly way.

God's Family feels each other's cares. When one member suffers the whole Family suffers. We depend on the Lord for everything we need. In our tests and trials of life we depend on Him to carry us through and supply our needed strength and grace. We trust Him for the healing of our bodies. By obeying His Word, everything works out to His glory and our good.

I am reminded of the tests God brought His Family through this last year. He saw fit to bring it about for the good of the Family. He wanted His Family to be more sincere, to draw closer to Him, and to one another, and to have more of a burden for one another. God's children suffered great afflictions. God knew what was needed, and what way He wanted the Family to suffer. It put a stir in our hearts. The Family began calling on God for one another asking Him for strength, grace, healing, and faith and victory to go through the many tests and false reports. The Lord stood by and brought the Family out victoriously, in order that the world could see what a mighty God we are serving.

Think of the Hebrew children and how they went through fire and persecution, and Daniel in the lion's den. The Lord was with His dear children. True, He is just the same today, thank the Lord! He said He would never leave us nor forsake us if we will trust and obey Him. It has been proved that God's way is best at all times. God saw fit to step in the home of Bro. and Sis. Allen and take one home to glory. We, the Family felt that it was God's will. The enemy got busy with wrong reports, but thank the Lord, Bro. and Sis. Allen stood firm and true.

The Family was calling on God with sincerity of heart and He did bless. At that time quite a few in the Family suffered almost death, both old and young. The enemy was busy looking for many to die, but the Family continued in earnest prayer—"Oh, dear Lord don't let another one pass." God heard the Family's prayers. He looked down upon His dear Family with tender compassion and mercy, blessed and raised the sick up.

There were quite a number sick in our congregation. Bro. Barton was very sick when my sister and I left for the Bakersfield, Calif. campmeeting in August. We had planned to go out to see him before we left, but didn't get there. We felt very bad about it, and even more so when the news reached us that he was continually growing worse. We began praying along the way for the Lord to touch and heal his body. The thought came to me that he might pass before we got back and sadness came over us. We began to pray earnestly with confidence in our dear Savior that He does still answer prayer. Then He spoke to me with great consolating words, "He was living when you left and will be living when you get back." I thanked the dear Lord. When we returned he was still very weak in body but the Lord had wonderfully blessed.

Bro. Leron West and two of the children were sick. Bro. and Sis. Hardman's daughter, Doris, also was sick. The Lord wonderfully healed and brought

them through victoriously. We remember also that Sis. Davis of Hennessey, Sis. Anna Marie's son, and Bro. Archie's son and many others were seriously sick. (I don't remember all the names.)

God's Family was pleading and crying unto Him in their behalf. Praise God, he undertook and blessed them all. I find it is so sweet to trust in God. He is our all in all.

Let us, the Family of God keep watchful and prayerful. Let us keep sincere before Him at all times, and keep the real love of God in our hearts that we may ever remain in this precious Family. Live in a way and manner that more will be added to this Family. Truly, I mean to live and die in the Family of God. Pray much for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Sis. Carrie Woods.

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Gossip is like mud thrown against a clean wall; it may not stick, but it leaves a mark.

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BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll will be \$1.50; cards 10 cents per set.

GOD'S JUDGMENT AND GRACE

May 5, 1957

Printed Portion:Gen. 1:27-28; 6:5-8, 8:20-22.

Gen. 1:27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen. 6:5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Gen. 8:20. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Memory Verse: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:7.

Practical Truth: Though man has sinned grievously, God has graciously made promises, sufficient to meet our needs; and his promises are dependable whether a sign is given as a token of his covenant or not.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In reading the topic of our lesson the Holy Spirit brought a text to my mind found in Psa. 89:14. "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before thy face." God from his throne looked upon the world and saw the great wickedness. God also saw a righteous man. Through this righteous man God spoke to the wicked people and warned them of the flood that was coming to destroy them. God sent His mercy before judgment fell upon them. They rejected His mercy and were destroyed. Mercy and grace were shown to Sodom and Gomorrah before they were destroyed. Through God's Son, Jesus Christ, mercy is shown and given to the world today. Those who reject will be "cast into the lake of fire," therefore receiving the judgment of God. It is up to us today to choose God's offered mercy for we will not be destroyed until we turn it down.

Noah offered a sacrifice to the Lord and God was very pleased. God said he would not curse the ground again for man's sake because the "imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." Only through Christ, who is the Ark of God today, can we be saved from that sin principle planted in our hearts from the fall of Adam and Eve. "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Heb. 10:10.

ABRAHAM AND HIS GOD

May 12, 1957

Printed Portion:..... Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-9.

Gen. 12:1. Now the Lord had said unto Abraham, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2. And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

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

2. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4. As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

9. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Memory Verse: Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach my thy paths. Psa. 25:4.

Practical Truth: People who in faith obey God will receive their reward.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Abraham was the father of the Jewish people. Through him all the "families of the earth would be blessed." How could this be? Years later through Jesus, the Saviour that was born. "Christ hath redeemed us . . . that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Gal. 3:14). "And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29).

Abraham left all and obeyed God. He was a stranger and foreigner in the land of Canaan. Today, God is calling people to work for Him. We are glad that we see a few who are willing to leave all to obey Him. If you aren't called to go, I know you are called to send someone else. By so doing you have a part in the great harvest of souls. Let us see to it that we keep our all in God's hands. God does not require one to sacrifice more than another, even if the sacrifice is in a different way.

God let Abraham's consecration be tested: his call, the delay of Isaac's birth and then the command to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. That is the reason he is called "faithful" Abraham (Gal. 3:9). Can "faithful" be put in front of our name? If so, we are among the blessed of God.

ABRAHAM'S PRAYER

May 19, 1957

Printed Portion: Gen. 18:20-33; 19:29.

Gen 18:20. And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21. I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

22. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

23. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24. Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for fifty righteous that are therein?

25. That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26. And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

27. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes:

28. Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

33. And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Gen. 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

Memory Verse: Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations. Psalm 82:8.

Practical Truth: Intercessory prayer may still be the means of averting tragedies from the righteous and of bringing blessing to souls.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the previous verses to our lesson we read about the celestial visitors that came to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, at Hebron. They renewed the declaration given Abraham by God that Sarah would have a son. Then as they were leaving, after being entertained royally by Abraham, they informed him concerning the destruction of those cities because of the wickedness there. At once, Abraham thought of Lot, his family and the people there. His heart was touched greatly and he prayed with earnestness and persistence that the cities be spared. How great was his care for Lot, even though Lot had chosen the best land when the quarrel arose between his herdsmen and Abrahams' and they had separated. He pressed his case until he felt he had asked the limit. His soul longed for another chance to be given to the wicked of that city as well as sparing the righteous a little longer.

There are two thoughts in this lesson that stand out to me. One is the great love Abraham had for the wicked and the way he plead for them. Hell fire is awaiting the wicked of today. Are we pleading for them? Is our love as great as Abraham's? The second thought is the topic of our lesson. Abraham was a man that cared. It mattered so much to him if others suffered. Does it to us? It will help them if we can let them know we care. Just a word, a smile, a letter, a phone call helps so much. Let us ask the Lord to help us to be able to let others know how much we care because I know that care is in the heart of every child of God.

ISAAC, THE PEACEMAKER

May 26, 1957

Printed Portion: Gen. 26:17-29.

Gen. 26:17. And Isaac departed thence, and pitched his tent in the valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

18. And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them.

19. And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

20. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.

21. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah.

22. And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

23. And he went up from thence to Beer-sheba.

24. And the Lord appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

25. And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there: and there Issac's servants digged a well.

26. Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar, and Ahuzzath one of his friends, and Phicol the chief captain of his army.

27. And Isaac said unto them, Wherefore come ye to me, seeing ye hate me, and have sent me away from you?

28. And they said, We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee;

29. That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the Lord.

Memory Verse: Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matt. 5:9.

Practical Truth: It is worthwhile to make sacrifices, if necessary, in order to live in peace.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

What a wonderful example we have in our lesson today of a person practicing peace. I believe Isaac was practicing the exhortation given to us by the Apostle Paul in Rom. 12:18. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Isaac was not living under the "grace dispensation," as we are today, yet God gave him grace to practice peace under very trying circumstances, didn't he? Are we practicing peace today as Isaac did? How much better for one to make some sacrifices than to have trouble! The Lord gave me a Scripture in a very trying time that helped me to know what to do. It is found in I Cor. 6:7, "Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" It is better to suffer wrong than to cause more trouble. God will take care of all things in due time.

Many examples have been left for us by those who love the Lord in making peace. I'm sure each child of God who reads this has had similiar experiences if you have lived for the Lord very long. Let us continue to die out to self and strive for peace. It pays!

I read that in one home the story of Isaac's conduct served as an example. When the children started to quarrel the mother would say, "Dig another well." They knew what she meant. Sometimes the children would say that to each other. We can dig another well by returning good for evil or ignoring some provocative words and deeds. —Mrs. Marie Miles.

When Jesus saved my soul from sin,
And put the love of God within;
He took away that worldly desire
And put within this holy fire. L. Busbee