

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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What Do You See At Christmas?

What do you see at Christmas time?
What things are dwelling in your mind?
Do earthly visions come your way,
Concealing Christ on Christmas Day?

Some see a table that's well spread
With turkey, ham, and buttered bread—
No thoughts of thanking God above
For His amazing, wondrous love.

Some see a decorated tree,
A lifeless form of vanity,
A custom of the heathen band (Jer. 10:1-5).
Still practised in our native land.

Some seem to see a Santa Claus—
A lying scheme the devil caused
To blind poor souls that they can't see
A Saviour born to set them free.

What do I see at Christmas time?
Some may ask, what's on my mind?
I see God's endless, matchless love,
A priceless gift sent from above.

I no more see Christ as a child,
A little form so sweet and mild,
But a King of beauty now I see,
'That was born to die for you and me.

O Christmas Day! How sweet the thought!
A wondrous blessing thou hast brought.
With Christ, my soul now has a part,
He's ever reigning in my heart.

—Donald W. Sharp.

“Smite the Shepherd,
And the Sheep shall be scattered.”

The above title is found in the 7th verse of the 13th chapter of Zechariah and it is a prophecy of Christ being smitten by the evil-hearted men and his followers being scattered.

To smite anything would mean to ill-treat, to bruise, to wound, or to slay. All down through the ages God has allowed His people and others to be smitten in different ways and manners that good might come forth from the smiting as they exercised themselves in a godly manner through the smiting.

When Moses was in the wilderness with over a million people with him and an enormous amount of cattle, sheep, and oxen, and there was no water and all were dying for thirst, God told Moses to smite the rock. Water ran out of the flinty rock like a river, and quenched the thirst of the millions. Smite and bruise a flower and the sweet odor will fill the air all around. God has told us in His Word, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Things that are smitten will give forth what is in them whether it be good or bad. Smite a man that is filled with wickedness and there will come out cursing and bitterness. If a carnal professor of religion is smitten there will come out retaliation, fault-finding and scorn.

Smite a saint of God and it will bring out, “Praise the Lord,” or the returning of good for evil. God does not allow His saints to be smitten without a good purpose in it; and He will go with them through the trials and furnaces of life. When the three Hebrew children were humiliated, bound, and thrown into the literal fiery furnace, the King saw the form of the fourth in there with them and His likeness was as the Son of God. God brought them out without a smell of fire on their garments and the King proclaimed and made a decree of injury to anyone that would speak against their God. By their willingness to be smitten the King was made to believe in the true God. Much good came out of the smiting.

When God allowed Satan to smite Job, destroying all of his property and slaying his children, smiting him with sore boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head, and three miserable comforters accused him of doing evil, Job, through it all, held his integrity in God and sinned not. After the smiting was over, God stayed the hand of Satan and gave Job back more than ever and blessed his latter end more than the beginning. Just consider what a river of water and soul food has been flowing from the rec-

ord of Job's furnace of affliction. The saints all down through the ages when in trials and troubles turn to the book of Job and get comfort as the Spirit reveals truth to them and they realize the long suffering and patience of Job. They take new courage and yield more fully to the good hand of God working in them.

It is recorded in history that when Pollycarp was being burned at the stake the blaze of fire circled out from his body and his body shone like silver and gold and not as one being burned and charred.

Bunyan, in the book of Pilgrim's Progress, relates that he saw a fire leaping up beside the wall and a man who represented Satan standing there throwing water on it, and the more he poured, the higher the flame leaped and the hotter it became. Then he saw another man on the other side who represented the Lord pouring oil on the fire. Satan wants to make it easy on the flesh so lusts will flourish and the holy fire in the soul die, but the Lord wants to see your self life and flesh crucified and the holy fire burning in your soul, that good might issue out and others be blessed.

The Lord said to the men of the church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:16) that they were luke warm and because of that He would spue them out of his mouth. Nevertheless, He gave them counsel as to how they could get in favor with God and said, "Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich [have the true riches]." He said the shame of their nakedness then would not appear, and in obeying Him their eyes would receive eyesalve and they could then see spiritual things and live. If these men had become willing to go into trials and furnaces with the Lord, they could have lived and been in favor with God. The furnaces would have destroyed the selfish ease in which they were indulging, and they could have been clothed with new garments of the Lord's righteousness and others would have been saved through their faithfulness. In their self-righteous condition their converts would have no real spirit and life from heaven in their souls. The Lord told the rich young ruler what he should do to have eternal life but he went away sorrowful for he loved his riches and the honor of men rather than to bear the cross and wear a crown that would never fade away. It seems that today most people have self-righteousness and many preachers hold up for self to live. They cry, "Release Barabas, but let Christ be crucified." Paul makes us know that such preachers are "the enemies of the cross of Christ: . . . whose God is their belly [fleshly lusts], and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." Read about it in the latter part of the 3rd chapter of Philipians.

In the 17th verse Paul told them to "be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." He is surely a good example for anyone to follow if he wants to kill his selfish life and have eternal life flowing from heaven in his soul. Just think of the self-denying ways and hardships he endured, and said, "I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of

the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Col. 1:24). He was scourged, beaten, striped, and smitten time after time as an example for us to be willing to go through the trials and afflictions of this life, that we may win a crown in the end as he did. The record of his days is like a river of water to thirsty souls and his writings feed the souls of men as the Spirit works with the truth and turns it into spiritual food for pilgrims in this world.

In the first verse of the 12th chapter of Romans, Paul makes it quite plain what it means to be dead to self and alive unto God for he says in part, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We would surely have to die to our selfish interests and make Him first in every thing if we obey this Scripture. Paul teaches the same thing in Galatians 2:20 when he says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Jesus voices the same truth in Luke 9:24 when he says, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." In 1 Thess. 5:23, we read, "I pray God your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." He further says, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Spirit, soul, and body is all there is to a man, and if all were preserved blameless the self life would necessarily have to be dead and, in its stead, the life of Christ living in the soul.

Now we come to the great shepherd that was smitten—the Lord Jesus Christ who bore our sins in his own body on the tree—the one who was reviled and reviled not, the one who suffered and threatened not, but willingly committed himself to Him (God) who judgeth righteously. Let us turn to the 53rd chapter of Isaiah and see what he prophesies of Christ. Beginning at the 3rd verse let us read, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." This is a true word picture of the treatment that Jesus received at the hands of evil men who professed to be the Lord's people and to believe in God. Just think how the people smote Jesus, mocked him, spit on him, reviled him, scourged him, lied on him, led him away to be crucified, hung him up between thieves and robbers as though he were the worst of sinners, and gave him gall to drink. As he gave up the ghost he said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He was taken down from the cross and put in a sepulcher, and a great stone was rolled against it to close up the mouth. It was sealed with the governor's seal and brave men were set to watch

to see that no one stole the body away. On the third morning the Almighty God sent his angel down, who broke the governor's seal and rolled away the stone. The brave soldiers fell down as dead men and the Son of God came forth a living Christ, never to die again. He was smitten and died the death of the cursed, for it is written in II Cor. 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Although he was smitten and abused in this life and slain as though he were a criminal, yet after he ascended up to heaven a river of water of life began to flow from heaven into the souls of men and it is flowing today. All who will plunge into that fountain can have their sins all washed away and have His peace and righteousness in their souls, which brings joy and comfort in this life as a hope of glory in the soul. Jesus said in John 7:37, 38, and 39, "In that last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." This was to take place after his resurrection and his ascension to the Father. In Rev. 22:1, 2 we read, "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life [Christ is the tree of life], which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves [doctrines] of the tree were for the healing of the nations [There will be no distinction of nations in heaven where the redeemed are in eternity]." In the 17th verse we read, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." —Fred Pruitt.

The Corrupt Tree

Sin can never enter heaven. Only the pure and holy shall ever enter those portals of glory. We must be without spot or blemish to ever be able to meet our Lord and Savior in peace. People today are saying that no one can live by the Bible. It is true that a person cannot live by the Bible unless he is "born again." There is that bent toward evil within people, brought about through the fall of Adam, that makes it hard for them to resist evil of every form; therefore some of the fruit from the corrupt tree is being assimilated by all, except those who are born of the Spirit.

"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:18-20). That which is manifested out in the lives of people shows us what kind of tree they are of. If we see divine love, kindness, long-suffering, understanding, forgiveness, and other good fruits, we know they are born of the Spirit of

God. But if we see evil fruits being manifested, we know that person is of the wrong spirit. The spirit of the devil is at work in the world today and God's children need to be watchful and prayerful or they will be influenced by the spirit of the devil. The devil will put temptations before God's children and present thoughts to them. But these things will not get into your heart and no evil fruit will be produced if you resist them. But if you entertain evil thoughts about others and yield to temptations, you will become influenced and those things will take a hold of you and cause you to act in a way that is very displeasing to the Lord. If you continue to yield to the lust, the Bible says, "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth death" (James 1:15).

On the ninth limb of the corrupt tree let us write "emulations," which is one of the works of the flesh recorded in Gal. 5:19-21. The dictionary says emulation means "to strive to equal or excel with a view to outdo; ambitious or envious rivalry." This fruit is being manifested in the world today at an alarming rate. One place where it is in great evidence is at the big ball games. It is not only being manifested by the players but also by thousands who are on the sidelines. I was told that a man was standing out in front of others, rooting loudly and long for his side, which was winning. Another man, who was for the other side, became very angry because he was being out done. He picked up a baseball bat, walked over and hit the man in the head. The blow killed him. Thus emulation brought on murder.

It has been told that a firm in a certain town desired to secure a good player who was on the High School team of another town, for their home-town team. The firm offered the father of the good player a good job so they would move and the boy would be on their team. Surely this is envious rivalry.

Some people will go deeply in debt to keep up with their neighbors. This often causes ill feelings between neighbors and much tongue slander.

Some girls are not satisfied unless their clothes are better than others and of the latest styles. This is emulation—one trying to outdo the others with whom they associate.

Some can never have a good word for others whom they see the Lord is blessing because they feel they are being left out. This condition sometimes causes them to get ahead of the Lord and get into trouble because they want to outdo others. The Bible says, "Let each esteem others better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3). May the Lord help each one of us to guard against the tricks of the enemy. God is our helper, and we can have victory over all the powers of the devil. Praise the Lord! —Mrs. Marie Miles.

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WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Sister Ralph Beisly of Coffeyville, Kan., who passed away suddenly this morning, Nov. 19th, after this edition had gone to press. As a faithful servant of God, she will be greatly missed by the saints everywhere. God alone knows best, but our loss is keenly felt.

—Editor and Co-workers

"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.

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. 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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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Editorials

Since the three months subscription offer was sent out in the November paper, the lists have been coming in quite freely. We are thankful to God for the interest the readers are taking in getting the gospel to men by the printed page. We look for many souls to get saved through this effort and a lot of souls to be encouraged to walk in light and truth.

People read more in the winter months and it is a good time to sow the Gospel seed. We did not have enough envelopes with three months lists for ten names and addresses, so we shall be pleased if those of you who did not receive envelopes in your paper will write the ten names plainly and the name of the premium you choose and send them with a dollar. The premium will be sent to you promptly and your names listed for three months. May the blessing of God rest upon each and every one who shows interest in the work of the Lord.

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The Sadducees, Pharisees, and the majority of the religious men in the world when Jesus was here treated him shamefully, and had no place for him in their religious building, for it is written, "The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner" (Matt. 21:42). Spiritually speaking they blew their noses on him and looked upon him with scorn and contempt, and were glad when he was put to death. I wonder if any of our readers have been treated that way by spiritual leaders in this day and time? It is said of Jesus that he was led as a lamb to the slaughter and opened not his mouth. The smiting, shame, and slaying that was heaped upon our Saviour caused the water of life to flow freely out to all nations of the world. When he went into the garden that night before the crucifixion, his soul was heavy nigh unto death. He stayed there kneeling in prayer, saying, "Not my will, but thine," until he gained the victory over the crucifixion.

Peter had declared that he would never leave him even if all men would forsake him. So also said all the other disciples. But Jesus had said in the 26th chapter of Matt. and the 31st verse, "All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad." When they came with swords and staves to take Jesus that night, and Judas betrayed him with a kiss, Jesus said, "Friend, wherefore art thou come?" Peter, who was walking in very dim light, looked upon them as his enemies, and drew his sword and cut off a servant's ear. But Jesus reproved him and told him to put up the sword. Jesus could very truthfully call Judas a friend in one sense because he was aiding him in carrying out his mission given of the Father, for Jesus was to be numbered with the transgressors, crucified and slain. Any one that does you a wrong and in that way aids you in carrying out God's will for you in life, could be classed as a friend (Zech. 13:6); for we know that all things work out for our good if we keep loving the Lord and his ways, which are exceedingly higher than ours.

I think of how Stephen was smitten with stones until he died and when in this dying condition he asked the Father not to lay that sin to their charge. They were his friends in helping him to get off to glory. After he was smitten, it is written in Acts 8:1, "And at that time there was great persecution against the church at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad." In the 4th verse we read that they went everywhere, preaching the word. Thus we see by the smiting of Stephen the word was scattered out to many souls, and men and women heard and believed who otherwise may never have heard the Word, enabling them to be saved.

I have just been reading the "Pilgrim's Progress" and I see where John Bunyan was put in the Bedford, England jail twelve times for no other reason but that he would preach the gospel. He was smitten and rejected of men and counted as the scum of the world, but out of his smiting we have the book, "Pilgrim's Progress," which has had a sale almost equal to the Bible. It has been translated into more than seventy different languages and has been water and bread to thirsty and hungry souls. The water of life has been flowing from this book for the past 250 years and will continue to be food and water for the souls of men until the angel stands with one foot on the land and the other on the sea and declares that time shall be no more. When Jesus was here he was the just suffering for the unjust, but since he is gone now, we, who are dead to the world, sanctified wholly, and crucified with Christ are the just suffering for the unjust that souls might be brought unto God.

Obituaries

Melvin Francis Doolittle, the son of Francis and Mabel Doolittle, was born November 9, 1925 at Texico, New Mexico and departed this life October 30, 1957 at the age of 31 years, 11 months, and 21 days. He was united in marriage to Patsy Taylor August 19, 1946. To this union were born three children.

Bro. Melvin was a dear good brother and was greatly loved by us all. His cheerful smiles we all will miss. His death was a shock to us all but God does all things well. He has gone to a better place, sweetly resting awaiting the resurrection when God will come and gather all his redeemed home.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Patsy; three children: Melvin Dale, Sherril and Nelson; his parents; two brothers: Dale of Loranger, La. and Glen of Calif.; three sisters: Ruby Williamson of Webb City, Mo., Nelda Sorrell of Springfield, Mo., and Edith Doolittle of Los Angeles, Calif.; also he leaves his grandmother Doolittle whom he thought so much of, many other relatives, saints and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Sis. Lottie Joiner, assisted by Bro. and Sis. Ray Key in the Oak Grove Chapel near Loranger, La.

Celia Baskerville was born in Brooksville, Miss. December 11, 1894 and departed this life October 16, 1957 at the age of 62 years, 10 months, and 5 days. In 1919 she married Willie D. Perry who preceded her in death. To this union one son was born.

She accepted the truth as taught by the ministers of the Church of God. Many prayers were offered in her behalf but God saw fit to call her hence. She will be greatly missed.

She leaves to mourn her passing her mother, Mrs. Mary Baskerville of the home address; one son, Quenton Perry; two sisters: Mrs. Whitney of Fay, Okla., Miss Harriett Ella Baskerville of Brooksville, Miss.; three brothers: Lucius of Watonga, Okla., Nick of Brooksville, Miss., and John of Bakersfield, Calif.; many other relatives, saints, and friends.

The sermon was conducted by Bro. U. Phillips. Text: Psa. 116:15. The interment was in the Emanuel Cemetery near Watonga.

Bro. Grover Martin of Anderson, Ind. passed away on Oct. 3, 1957, age 72 years. He had been a worker in the Gospel Trumpet Company for many years and was foreman in the bindery department. In recent years he met with the saints of God who had not compromised and found fellowship in Christ with them. He was known and loved by the saints of God in the evening light. He remained true to his convictions to the last.

When I was informed that he was sick and had become more seriously ill, I felt burdened to visit him and in harmony with this conviction I boarded the train and went to Anderson, but he had passed away the evening before we arrived. However we had the opportunity to visit his brother, George Martin, who is in bed sick, and paralyzed on one side. He seemed to be perfectly resigned to the will of God and we had a good conversation with him on the workings of God. He gave me some good information about past conditions and the gradual coming in of the worldly compromise as he too had worked in the printing plant for the last forty years or more and was in a place to have first hand knowledge of matters and conditions. We ask the saints every where to pray for Bro. George Martin as he is standing and living in full fellowship with the saints of God in spite of all the pressure that is brought against him by others in dim light. —F. P.

Joe Fryson, son of George and Hattie Fryson, was born March 3, 1887 at Fulton, Arkansas, and departed this life October 15, 1957 at the age of 70 years, 7 months, and 12 days. As a young man he was employed at saw-mill work at Jena and Alexandria, La.

He was married July 16, 1923 to Mrs. Gertie Ward. No children were born to this union. They made their home at Good Pine, La. until 1946 when they moved to Alexandria where he resided until his death.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Gertie Fryson; one stepson; Emile Ward of New Orleans; one foster son, Raymond at home; two brothers, M. A. Jefferson of Marshall, Texas, and Pink Fryson of Washington, Ark.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Sam Barton and Bro. Lewis Williams.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We receive many requests for prayer for the saints' unsaved children. Let us pray very earnestly for them.

Calif.—Pray for me. I have different afflictions, including heart trouble and dropsy. Amalie P. Siu.

Bro. H. C. Erdman of New York requests the prayers of all the saints for his afflicted body.

Please remember Sis. Montress of Kentucky in prayer for a severe affliction on her body. She is unable to lie down to sleep without smothering. She also has pains in her head, eyes and stomach. She is fasting

and earnestly seeking God for her healing. She wants to carry on the work God has laid on her to do. She distributes clothing to the needy.

Bro. Pat Cole of Granby, Mo. is suffering from a rupture which is very painful at times. He does not find anything to hinder his healing as he lives a clean life before God.

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints,—I am asking all the saints everywhere to continue to pray for me that this goiter will be removed from my neck, and for the healing of my body. The goiter seems to me to be getting smaller. I yet have faith to believe that God will completely take it away. I am anxious to testify about it. May God bless all of you.

Yours in Christ,

Hazel Brown

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These wall calendars are ten inches wide by sixteen inches long, with a beautiful colored picture for each month and Scripture verses for each day. They are good to have in your home and make lovely presents.

Prices, post paid:

One calendar,	\$.35
Three calendars	1.00
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We have in stock the book entitled, "Pilgrim's Progress" written by John Bunyan of Bedford, England. He was arrested and put in jail twelve times for no other reason only that he would preach the gospel. He lived 250 years ago. This book has had sale almost equal to the Bible and has been translated into more than seventy different languages. It is cloth bound and illustrated, and contains 338 pages. Price, \$2.50 postpaid to you.

Cruden's Complete Concordance, has 783 pages and is cloth bound. Price, \$4.00. Either one of these books would make your friend a valuable Christmas present.

The World Bible, a convenient sized Bible has reference and concordance, nice clear print, and fine Morocco binding. Just the Bible for Gospel workers and ministers. It is priced at \$11.00 postpaid to you.

We have another Bible with reference and concordance priced at \$6.75. A large print Bible with reference is \$7.00. Large print Testaments are \$2.25, and pocket sized Testaments are \$2.00 each. A nice illustrated Bible for children is \$3.00.

Meeting Notices

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held at the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. (a suburb of Los Angeles) beginning December 27 and continuing through January 5, 1958 if the Lord wills. Any coming from out of town who do not know the location may phone EMpire 9-3608 for directions when you arrive in Los Angeles or San Fernando. Those coming by train or bus may phone the above number when you arrive and we will pick you up at the station.

We are expecting the same visitations from God and manifestations of His power and workings of His divine Spirit and grace at this meeting as have been in former years. We invite all to come and share in the benefits.

All who can, please bring your own bedding (blankets, sheet, etc.).

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the Assembly Meeting. Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will convene, the Lord willing, December 20 through 29 at the chapel at 6th and Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma. We are expecting another good meeting and trust that the Lord will bless, as in times past. Ministers will be present to expound the Word of God on various lines. We welcome all to attend as many of these services as possible. The meeting will run on free-will offering basis.

Send your offerings and provisions to M. A. Davis, Treasurer, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Okla. O. C. Porter, Pastor.

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Meeting Report

REPORT FROM JORDANTOWN, VA.

NOTICE: A small chapel is now erected at Jordantown, Va. by the saints in truth, at Goodview, Va. There will be meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30 and Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. each Sunday.

The first service was held October 24, at 7:30 p. m. by Bro. D. A. Gibson from Seymour, Mo. Help us pray that God will soon send him back. He brought us an inspiring and encouraging message from the Word of God. Much of God's holy and pure Word was referred to and read. Bible proof was given that only the pure and clean in heart and life (those fully measured to every word of God) will be able to gain entrance into the family of God (which is now in heaven and earth) to inherit life everlasting and perfect peace with God their creator for all eternity. Matt. 4:4.

Every hungry soul saved or unsaved, professor or nonprofessor, church-member or nonchurch-member who desire to be fed on the pure word from heaven, the whole truth of God's Word, is welcome. With the help of God in fear and trembling nothing but the truth of God will be preached by Holy Ghost appointed men of God. None of man's doctrines, creeds or ways will be tolerated or taught; only the pure Bible doctrines. "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such things [Gal. 5:21] do ye" Mark 7:7, 13. Jesus said, "Hearken [hear and do] unto

Me every one of you." Mark 7:14. We love the truth because Jesus our Saviour (present King and example) died to give us this truth. He was the truth (John 14:6). We love to live in it and have it (Him) live in us. It set me free. Praise God forever!

We regret to say that for reasons beyond our control we are unable to finish the chapel building at the present time. We are trusting the Lord to work soon. We have temporary roof, windows and door. We need better roof, windows, and benches. We praise and thank God for supplying as He has and we know He knows best. Like Hezekiah of old we are confident that we are holding before God a clean, measured up and consecrated life and thus we leave all in His hands to work His good will.

We want to thank everyone of the saints who sent in means from far and near to help. This is God's building and is to be used solely to His glory and edification of all. We are asking all saints everywhere to pray for us. We need a good Holy Ghost pastor to help us here. This is a fertile field. With the help of God I will do all I can but I feel like Amos that I am only a herdsman or farmer with no natural abilities or qualifications. I do believe God wants me to put out His holy truth as best I can. Amos 7:11-16. Pray for me. We also wish to extend our thanks to all the unsaved who have given so much of their time, money and materials to help build this place of worship. We extend a welcome to you to come and hear the truth which sets men free. We love to have the parents send their children. We teach no sect or denominational doctrines or creeds or false doctrines, only the pure holy Word of God.

Any saints traveling near Roanoke, Va. are invited to come and spend a night in our home which the Lord has so graciously provided and blessed. We are located at the present time on Morgan Mills Road. It is a good graveled road, number 755 east of Roanoke. We are off route 24 about seven tenths of a mile, just turn off about 4 miles east of Stewartville. The chapel is off the main highway one tenth mile on Old Bore Auger Road at Jordantown at West's store. Perfect love and fellowship is held for every true blood washed, saved child of God who loves the truth and faith which was once (without change) delivered to the saints as first taught by Jesus and His disciples and apostles in the early morning church which Jesus built and paid for with His own blood. Acts 20:28.

Our headquarters and our names are in heaven. God is the only one who can write our names down and God is the only one who can blot our names out. Heb. 12:23, Psa. 87:5, 6, Luke 10:20, 2 Cor. 3:3, Ex. 32:33, Deut. 9:14, Deut. 29:20. We are in no way affiliated with any organization in this earth, governed by men, neither do we follow any man or group of men. "He whom the Son sets free is free indeed only use not that liberty for an occasion to the flesh." John 8:36, Gal. 4:26, 31, Gal. 5:1, 1 Peter 2:16. Neither shew we honor or preference one above another. John 5:44. God's Word it is true. If you love God and have an intense desire to worship Him in spirit and truth and complete freedom of the Holy Spirit, with joy unspeakable, visit the little new unfinished chapel.

Yours in Christ, Bro. and Sis. Ralph R. Halladay,
in care of A. C. Hall, Morgan Mill Road No. 755, Goodview, Virginia.

PROVERB

Good tools will make a good gardener a better gardener; so the Good Book would make a good man a better man. —E. E. F.

Beware of False Science

It seems good to us, and by inspired passages in the sacred Scriptures, to write on a subject undesirable to the natural man. We want to expose the workings of Satan through this so-called science. We are living in the 20th century of time loaded with sin, nakedness, fleshly appetites, and now the world is going mad after worldly intellect and scientific ideas.

We have been burdened of late to warn against the theory that "we will someday fly to unknown worlds." For years the world of science has dreamed of breaking through the skies to explore the heavens above. They say now, that it will only be a matter of time. Oh, dear saints, give no heed to such fables and imaginations of men! This is just another trick of the enemy to draw the hearts and minds of people from the Word of God, and to wander after the world. My heart goes out to our young people today; for they will hereafter be continually in contact with false science. Meanwhile the beautiful life of prayer and meditations of God through His Word will disappear if a check is not held against it.

The building of the tower, whose top was to reach unto heaven, never was completed. God saw their wicked work, and knew that "nothing would be restrained from them which they imagined to do" Gen. 11:6. So the Lord confounded them and they ceased their building into the sky.

The material these builders were using consisted of brick for stone, and slime for mortar, Gen. 11:3. Such weak, useless material could never pave the way to heaven. Slime never has, and never will be able to carry souls into the beautiful paradise of God. The materials of our modern day scientists are no better than that which was used in the building of the tower of Babel. I say that the branch of science today is only a part of the city of Babylon that will soon go up into smoke.

If the devil is working scientific ideas in your mind, I beg you with all the persuasion of God, who loves you, to turn away from it. Search out God's Word and see in it that God requires of you nothing short of a holy life.

In Psalms 106:29 we read: "Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them." Again in Psalms 104:8, 9 it says, "They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth." Proper thought here is that man's physical abiding is limited to the earth, which the Lord founded. When we die, we cannot pass over into eternity in these fleshly bodies; neither will people who have died in the past, ever turn again to cover the earth.

Also, we are thinking of the thought that God has set a bound, and limited man's physical existence to this earth only. Acts 17:26 makes it clearer to me than ever for it says, "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, [no other planet mentioned] and hath deter-

mined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation."

Let us beware of false science, dear saints, and may we be nourished up in the words of faith and good doctrine whereunto we have attained.

God bless you, Brother S. D.

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OUR PRECIOUS CHILDREN (Continued)

Two extreme ideas of how to bring up children have been taught. The first which we wish to discuss is the "No restraint" idea. They tell us to give our children complete freedom in developing their characters. Give them the liberty to choose what they want to do and say. This plan might work if there were no devil, and if mankind were still in the perfect state in which they were created. But we must face facts as they are. Mankind took a terrible tumble from that high state, and since then, is born with a sinful nature. Psalms 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." If this sinful nature is given full sway it will predominate our children's lives. Children that are not guided by gentle hands and spirits fall an easy prey to every evil habit, and are headed for the reformatory and a devil's hell, if not rescued by the love of God.

The other extreme idea is the "Strait-jacket" theory. Rule your child's every wish and whim; do not let him have a say in anything: you are the boss, lord and master; he must bow to your control; cause him to fear and obey you because of that fear. This theory is cruel, and to be avoided as much as the other.

Our children are individuals. They have feelings, desires and ambitions that they want to develop, and if rightly guided they will grow into manhood and womanhood and be a credit to the family, Church, and to the community in which they live. While the child is young and tender, pliable in your hands as clay, mold the little life little by little; bend the twig in the way you would have it go. Guide wisely, instead of forcing conformity upon him. It is the individual child's inherent needs, not our set notion of what he should be, which determines how we should guide him. Your child may have talents that you do not possess. As soon as possible, let him make decisions for himself. If your previous training has been successful, his decision will be for the best. If your child can be made to understand what evils the picture show, television, and like amusements lead to, it will help him to want to avoid them.

One of the most fundamental causes of delinquency has been found to be the lack of close confidential relations between the parent and the growing child. Have quiet individual talks with your children. The child wants to talk about the things that concern him most. Put yourself in the child's place; try to see things from his viewpoint.

Be sure that you get your love to the child in such a way that he will have no doubt of it, and will be assured that you are deeply interested in his needs. This will help the child to feel secure and that he is

wanted in the home. Parents should never air out their differences in the presence of the children—quarreling brings a feeling of insecurity to their little minds. Love should never enslave. Do not say to your child: "If you love Mother you will obey her," or, "If you do this I will love you more." Your child wants to be loved because he is yours. Do not hold the idea before him that he has to gain your love. Do not use fear. Never tell the child that the "bugger man" will get him. Do not sleep with the lights turned on. Teach the children to not be afraid of the dark. As soon as possible get the truth to him that God is in the darkness as well as in the light. --H. P. H.

— To be continued —

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Threescore Years and Ten

As we journey through our lifetime,
Full of joy and pain,
Full of crying and of laughter—
Sunshine after rain—
We can help the ones about us,
Cheer our fellow men;
Such a time for loving service—
Threescore years and ten.

Gone the freshness and the vigor
Of the morn of life,
Gone the youthful zeal and ardor
For the battle's strife.
But, instead of youth's ambition,
Steadfast now and then,
Now a character unshaken—
Threescore years and ten.

Many years of sad experience,
Many years of joy;
Finding, in the Saviour's presence,
Peace without alloy.
Looking to reward in heaven,
Far beyond our ken,
After years of life and labor—
Threescore years and ten.

Blessed promise in the Bible—
"Evening shall be light"—
For the presence of the Saviour
Makes the pathway bright.
Better time than youth or manhood,
Sweeter time, for then
Years have brought a rich experience—
Threescore years and ten.

Years to learn of Christ, the Saviour,
Years to watch and pray,
Fighting sin and helping others,
Trusting, day by day.
So this span of life is given
To the sons of men,
Time to fit the soul for heaven—
Threescore years and ten.

—Minnie Embree Parker.

Testimonies

Utah—Dear Sis. Marie and all, Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name.—We were happy to get your letter today, and to know you had our burden before the Lord too. I am happy to report that the Lord has healed Julia in a very spectacular way, and our confidence in God is surely stronger for the test. He kept the children well through all the meeting in Calif. and the trip home. As soon as we got home, they seemed to go right back into their old "rut" again. Julia especially had a sore throat, fever, no appetite, etc, just like she had been off and on for a year. It truly was discouraging to look upon it with the natural eyes. I can not seem to explain just how great her loss of appetite was, but Jack and I concluded that if God did not undertake for her, He surely was going to take her. I do not know what kept her alive. She had a very sore throat. I know it must have hurt her to swallow and she was so feverish too. It seemed she must have some food. I would fix her many different things to tempt her to eat. I admit it finally almost got me down too. We had prayed and prayed, fasted, and written here and there for prayer, and I knew that we had obeyed God's Word. One night a message came to me that I had heard Bro. Ostis Wilson preach a long time ago. It was about the Israelites marching around the walls seven times. They were doing all God told them to do and then they shouted; and the walls fell. So he made the remark, "If you can't pray them out of the way, just SHOUT them out of the way." So I told Jack, "We have done all the Lord said to do, so let us shout the VICTORY." So we praised God, and thanked Him because we knew He had heard our prayers. Through the night when she would cough, I would say to myself, "Praise God." Then, in the night she called me, and I went in to her, and she was very hot with fever, I still said, "Praise God." The devil was not going to discourage me any more over her condition. I was not looking at the things which were seen, but the things unseen. I gave her a drink of water, and went back to bed, still praising God. The next morning she was WELL. Her fever was gone. She ate a light breakfast. Her old sparkle that I had not seen for months was back. I never saw such a complete change in a child overnight. But I say we never got the victory until we shouted it. This has certainly taught me a good lesson. Bro. Chandler says he has learned to rejoice when he FALLS into temptation. We have things to learn, do not we?

Now that you have prayed with us, we ask you to rejoice with us. That is Scripture too you know. "Rejoice with them that rejoice." Must add here, that day I prayed with Julia, and asked her if she would like to be saved, and she asked God to forgive her, and then to heal her body. The Lord did. Brenda was sick also, but not so bad. She had a cold, but God has healed her too. With Love, Alberta and Jack Cook

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Kansas—Dear Sis. Marie and all.—I surely am thankful today for salvation. It means so much to me to have a true Friend who knows and understands all our burdens and trials. I have a deep determination within my soul to go all the way with God and do only that which pleases Him. I realize I have not long to stay on this earth to make up for all the past life of sin when I was tossed about by the enemy of our souls. I must hurry and do all I can through the help of God while there is yet time.

I have found through experience that when we neglect our prayer life and fail to meditate as we should upon the Word of God the devil is then able to jump right on us; then the devil really gives us a time! Before I found the sanctification my soul needed, I was going through such a time as that. It seemed like I went from one severe trouble right into another. But, oh, the sweet peace and joy I found then! That joy and power is still within my soul today and I intend to keep it there. There is a great blessing for all who pray with their whole hearts and not just words only.

I can't thank the dear Lord enough for the way He healed Alta Mae, Mother, and I recently of the Asiatic flu. We suffered with it until we would ask the Lord to relieve us of pain. We are also thankful that He protected Daddy, Bob, and Carol from the flu so they could continue to work and go to school.

We need your earnest prayers that we stay within the center of God's will at all times. Our desire is to ever draw closer to Him and to live in such a way that Jesus can be seen through us and none of self.

Much Christian love, Dorothy Jean Harmon.

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Oklahoma—Dear Saints of God,—Today I am much encouraged in the ways of the Lord. He certainly is my all in all! A few days ago I promised the Lord I would testify in the "Faith and Victory" paper if he would touch and heal my body. I was very sick with the flu. It seemed to me I never felt worse in my life. I had a severe headache, pains all through my body, and was suffering with the asthma. I asked Mother and Dad to pray for me that evening and ever since then I felt a gradual improvement. I feel much better now and I believe in another day or two I will be completely well.

I am so thankful we have someone we can put our trust in for the healing of our bodies. Pray for me that I will ever be true to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Erona Classen

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Mich.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and workers, Greetings to each of you in the precious name of Jesus.—For some time the Lord has been talking to me about writing my testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper. I hope and pray my testimony will do others as much good as the testimonies I read in the paper has done for me.

Between fifty and sixty years ago, the Lord saved me from my sins. About six months later I consecrated for sanctification, and the Holy Spirit came into my heart and burnt out all that adamic sin.

Jesus also has been my physician for fifty or sixty years. My afflictions have been many, but out of them all the Lord has delivered me. I am now 86 years old, and through all of these years, I have had no desire to backslide or to drink in with false doctrines. The Truth that saved me from my sins sixty years ago, is the same Bible Truth that stands today. God's Word never changes. Since my husband died 16 years ago, I have lived all alone, and yet, I was not alone, for Jesus was with me and He still is with me today. If I would try to count the many blessings the Lord bestows upon me from day to day, I could not enumerate them all.

I desire all your prayers that our dear heavenly Father will keep me true to the end. When the call comes for me to come up higher, I hope I can hear the voice of Jesus say to me, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

May God richly bless you one and all.

Your sister in Christ,

Margaret Wright.

Okla.—Dear saints of God, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.—This morning finds me still saved and encouraged to go the Bible way. I feel impressed to send my testimony as I haven't done so for some time. I promised the Lord I would tell of His goodness to us, how He healed us of the flu.

In obedience to James 5:15, we called for the elders of the church. The Lord really blessed our bodies and encouraged our souls. Many of the dear saints came in and prayed for us and did our work when we were not able. We were all sick at the same time and had high fever. Sunday, Nov. 27 quite a number of saints came to see us, some from out of town. I was in bed and very weak. They sang and had prayer, then sang another song entitled, "Take Up Your Bed and Walk." I felt so well, just like I was not sick. After they went to the car I got up and said, "I'm not going back to bed." After awhile the enemy tried to bring the weakness back. I felt so bad it seemed. I went into the bedroom and prayed and the Lord gave me the victory. I did not even sit down, but went into the kitchen to prepare my husband's lunch for the next day. Each time the weakness would come, I would say, "Lord, you are my strength." Praise the Lord for his goodness unto us. Some of the saints had told me not to let the devil make me think the fever would come back. With these encouraging words we kept the victory. Your sister in Christ, Earnestine Jordon.

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Ind.—To the dear saints,—Again I want to write and thank each of you for your interest and prayers for my brother for whom I requested prayer. My sister who lives in the City and my niece visited in the southern part of the state and another sister there wrote me about my brother, saying he could not get well. He could not eat nor rest. My sister said, "If you want to see your brother alive again, you had better go right away and prepare, for you will go to the funeral." I fell on my knees and began pleading with the Lord; then another sister and I agreed in prayer for him. I also sent a request for the saints there to pray on fast day.

I wrote you how he was eating and resting and had been to my sister's who lives back of him. This morning my sister in Princeton called my sister here in Ft. Wayne by telephone and said my brother had been carrying in coal. This is a miracle. What a mighty God we serve! How thankful I am that God has a people in these days who will stand for truth and hold on to their faith and are walking in the old paths and getting their prayers through. God bless you dear ones. I am praying for you.

I wish I lived in Guthrie. I get so hungry for Holy Ghost preaching—the real. There is so much that is part truth and mostly false teaching, yet it is called Holy Ghost preaching. Maybe that is all the light some have, but since the Lord has given me light three years ago that preaching cannot satisfy my soul when I know so much of it is false. In literature and tracts I read of those who do not feel the need of going to services or prayer-meeting. I feel the need and want to go. I had an invitation to go to a congregation that the Lord had called me out of, but I could not go for the Lord had given me light on things they taught that are wrong. They believe in a Millennial Reign, do not see Feet Washing, and fellowship people who are divorced and remarried.

My encouragement comes through good books, tracts, and the "Faith and Victory" paper. God bless you in your work. Christian love, Mrs. Ione Strebig.

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Okla.—Dear saints all over the world,—Greetings in the name of the Lord. Today finds me saved, sanctified, and satisfied in this glorious way.

I have a request before the Lord that I have been praying for for some time. As I lay on my bed this morning, searching my life to see if there was anything that I needed to do that I had not done, which would hinder my prayers, the Lord brought to my mind the fact that I had promised to write my testimony of how my baby was gloriously healed of whooping cough when he was three months old.

He took a severe cold and we soon found it to be whooping cough. After each feeding he would have severe coughing spells that would take his breath away. Having lost one baby at the age of four months, my husband became very much disturbed. Being weak of faith, he called a doctor. He named it croupe and had us get a vaporiser and make a croupe tent to put the baby under with steam indirectly on him, causing perspiration. Removing the tent to change the baby caused him to become severely ill with a cold. The cough grew worse, almost developing into pneumonia. Friends and neighbors offered remedies, many of which were used. Nothing seemed to help until we fully submitted him into God's hands. Many times he would cough until he was completely out of breath and limp. One evening it seemed like all hope was gone. The saints had prayed for him many times. Each time he would get relief. One evening he lost his breath and it seemed that he was gone. We called on God earnestly for him and the Lord wonderfully answered prayed and raised him up.

Psalms 105:1 tells us, "O give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people." I testified to His healing the baby many times in our home congregation, but had not written the testimony to make known His deeds among the people everywhere. I ask an interest in the prayers of the saints everywhere for my request. I love the Lord and walk with Him daily and enjoy walking in his precious way. Many trials come like a rushing flood, but I am like a great swimmer that swims the ocean. The water may come up to my neck, but I am determined to keep my head above the waves. Though tossed and driven, I mean to land safely on the other shore. Theresa Wright.

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Okla.—To all the saints scattered abroad, Greetings in Jesus' dear name.—I feel led to write a testimony. I promised the Lord if He would heal me of my complaint I would send my testimony for the paper. Truly the dear Lord healed. I had been bothered several months with acid indigestion. The last time I was anointed and prayed for, I was wonderfully healed. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The dear Lord has also blessed me in other things. I try to do what little I can for the Lord by sending out tracts in and out of the state to the shut-ins. I have done this for several years. Some have written telling me they appreciated the tracts I sent them. I am still saved and desire your prayers for my unsaved children.

Sister S. Williams.

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La.—Dear precious Saints,—Praise, honor and glory be to Jesus our Saviour. I am so grateful to the Lord for saving my soul from sin, and for cleaning me up and permitting me to be one of His children. I feel so small and so unworthy. God has done many wonderful things for me. Today, if I know my heart I feel that I am ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill, ready for service lowly or great, ready to do His will.

I praise the Lord for His great healing power and for what He had done for me. For years I suffered with my eyes. I decided a long time ago that I would trust the Lord to heal them. Even though I suffered long,

I kept that one desire to fully trust the Lord. The Lord surely was with me and undertook in a wonderful way. After I had worked at a sewing factory for about a year I suffered from dizziness and headaches. It was so bad that I let different ones persuade me to go and get my eyes checked. I decided that maybe I am getting older and sewing is such a strain on my eyes that I had better get some glasses. I went to see an eye doctor. (He seemed to really know his business and seemed to be an honest man.) He checked my eyes very carefully. He took a small light and looked at my eye balls a long time and then made some more tests. He said, "Lady, your eyes are perfectly healthy." He said there is no trace of disease about them of any kind and "You surely do not need glasses. You can see perfectly." Praise the Lord he did that perfect work for me.

I have learned lately that I have a nerve condition in my face together with very poor circulation of my blood stream which caused the sick headaches and dizzy spells. All my life my blood circulation has been poor. The last two weeks I have suffered untold pain and misery from it. I was in such a condition Tuesday night I thought my veins had collapsed. My face and back were numb and my hands and arms hurt me so badly. For several hours there did not seem to be any blood in my right hand, arm and shoulder. I went to work but could not work. Wednesday evening I called for special prayer. The saints were much concerned and prayed earnestly. Thursday I went to work feeling fine. Usually by evening I get so tired but all through that evening I felt very well and fully able to work and enjoy it. I also have something wrong with my back. The suffering I have gone through with has been undescrivable and another affliction has developed, so all together I have been very uncomfortable, yet not discouraged. The way the Lord healed my eyes is enough to encourage me that the Lord is hearing prayer for these other afflictions. Several of the dear saints were in agreement today for my healing. They anointed me and laid on hands and prayed for me. The Lord heard prayer and I believe the work is done.

Yes, the Lord did heal me. Many days have passed since the first part of this testimony. I have been healed. My back is perfectly well and I have been feeling wonderful. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Yes, as I count my blessings they are more than I can number. I have even noted so many small things lately that the Lord has done for me.

Dear people, you do not have to be down under great afflictions. Our God is a mighty God. Oh, there is something for you to do also! You must be walking in all the light you have. You must lay aside everything that might hinder your faith. Laying aside as you get light will inspire faith. Ephesians 6:13-16 reads: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day. And having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Yes, when we draw near unto God with a pure heart, pray all we know to pray, give up all we know to give up, make right all our wrongs, and fully commit our way to the Lord, throw ourselves at His mercy, saying, "Lord, I have done all I know to do. Will you help me now?" Surely your prayer will reach God's great loving heart and your faith will bring victory. I

desire the saints' prayers that I will always keep close to the Lord. I do want to make heaven my home.

With Christian love,

Gladys S. Cashio

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La.—Dear Saints everywhere,—This finds me very much encouraged to live for the Lord. Though I started and failed many times to live for God, I know I am now saved and sanctified and I want the prayers of the saints that I will always stay in God's order. I love this way very much and want to always let my light shine wherever God wants me.

I promised long ago that I would testify for the Lord if He would heal my foot. I had some kind of disease on my foot. I think it was athlete's foot and I had it for about five years. It was really a torture much of the time. I prayed often for it and requested prayer many, many times for it. For some reason, God did not see fit to heal me then. Not long ago it became so bad that I felt I could stand it no longer. I prayed and told God that if He did not see fit to heal me, I would still trust Him and would not use anything on it but if He could see fit to heal me, I would surely testify to his goodness. Then about a week ago, I realized it had not bothered me for quite sometime. Surely I give God all the praise for the wonderful work He did on my foot. God has healed me many times, and I know I can always trust Him for my healing, whatever He sees fit to let come my way.

I desire the prayers of God's children everywhere that I will stay very close to the Lord and let Him have His way with me.

Christian love,

Billie Cashio

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Calif.—Dear Saints of God, Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus.—I do thank the dear Lord for salvation. I am so glad that a little over five years ago at Monark Springs Campmeeting the dear Lord spoke peace to my soul. I am glad the Lord ever saw fit to reach down His hand for me and pick me up out of that pit of sin I was in, roll away that burden of sin and put peace and joy in my heart. Surely we have found him a present help in every time of need. I have found it Lord in thee. My desire is to get closer to the dear Lord. I have no desire to go back into the things of the world. My determination is to go all the way.

My heart has been so burdened lately for the ones in sin. Think of how our Lord prayed in Gethsemane and His sweat was as great drops of blood, and then how He bled and died on the cross that you and I might be saved. Oh, dear ones, will you turn away the invitation to follow the Saviour? We see so many going on as if they were going to live here always, making no preparations to leave here. Oh, dear friends, that call is coming for you one of these days. How will it be with your soul? You are going to spend eternity somewhere. What would it profit us if we gain the whole world and then lose our soul? Dear ones, time is swiftly passing by and life is so uncertain but death is sure. It is coming to everyone, and it may come sooner than we think. Today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may never come. Jesus said to be ready for in an hour that ye think not the Son of Man cometh. Dear unsaved soul, whoever you may be, Jesus loves you and stands with out stretched arms begging you to come. I think of a song I have heard that says, "I am so glad salvation's free to all who will receive it." I was glad that the news was brought to me when I was lost and sad. Praise

his dear name, I can proclaim that truly I believe it for I am now his child, I know, and I am glad.

Yours in Christ,

Vena Sell.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear Saints,—“Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.” “For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.” I am thanking the Lord today for being saved, and for His never failing promises.

God in His infinite power and mercy wonderfully healed me some few weeks ago of heart trouble. I am so happy and grateful to the Lord until I must spread it abroad. During this affliction I was sorely oppressed with the enemy; especially after my father passed with the same affliction. It seemed like I was going to die in spite of all. I wanted the Lord to heal me because I wanted to work for Him. I would gain hopes for a while and then seemingly sink back again. I was fasting, praying, reading very hard and pleading his promises. I wrote to some other saints for prayer also. I want to thank each one of you for holding me up before the Lord.

It seemed as though my heart was loose in me. It seemed to drop over when I would lie on my right side. When I stooped down it would bother me. Other times it would ache around it.

There was a time when I could not remember very many Scriptures but when I was going through this affliction I learned a number of them. I had to fight the devil with the Word of God. It seemed so big, that it seemed hard to claim healing for this heart trouble. It was not hard for the Lord though, “Behold, I am Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?” I was in my room one day and I was thinking of how I had fasted and prayed, along with others, when the thought came to me of what my father once said to me, “When are you going to believe?” Right then I reached out by faith and claimed healing in the name of Jesus. Thank God, He did the work. I shall praise him forever. A perfect job was done.

Among the many wonderful promises, I found this one that is found in Psalms 118:17, “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.” I said to myself, “I’m not going to die either, but I’ll live and declare the works of the Lord.” I have been going in some homes praying for the sick and God has been blessing me.

I desire the sincere prayers of all the saints that I might live a beautiful life of salvation, adorn the doctrine and make attractive the way, that others will want to walk in this beautiful way of love. “Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Yours in Christ,

Annie Stills

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints, Greetings in Jesus’ dear name,—Today finds me yet saved and much encouraged to press on for God. I have had many hard things to go through, but I am more determined to make heaven my home. I want to thank every one for the love they showed to me after my husband had passed. I can not express my thanks for everything you have done for me.

I am asking the saints to pray much for me. I am quite weak in my body. I do not know whether

I will be able to hold a job or not but I mean to trust God unto the end. I expect to leave to go to work, so I am asking every saint to pray much for me. I want to be able to attend some meetings if it is the Lord’s will for me to go.

I was out in the cotton field when I became awfully sick. I was so dizzy that I could not see. The Lord helped me make it back to bed. Truly the Lord wonderfully blessed me. My brother asked me to take a remedy. I told him my trust was in God. I had never taken a remedy or dose of medicine in my life. I was going to trust the Lord. I was very sick for a few minutes. I began to wonder whom I could send for. I thought about Bro. Spears but Oklahoma City was eighty or ninety miles away. While I was lying there praying, the Lord healed me instantly. What a mighty God we serve. Saints, let us stay true to God. We never know when we are going to be away from the saints and we will need God and need Him badly. I did, and God came to my rescue at once. I mean to ever stay in touch with God. He is always a present help in time of need. Some people say you do not have to go to church. They say one can serve God at home. The Bible says fail not to assemble yourselves together. My greatest desire is to be in service for God.

I have a little article I want everyone to read. I had it put in the paper before. I feel impressed to write it again. I want to do what God wants me to do. It may be a source of encouragement to someone. May the Lord bless these few remarks.

Your sister in Christ,

Mattie Lignons.

Don’ts for Quick Relief of the Human Race

Don’t stay away from church services.

Don’t run with bad company. It is better to be alone.

Don’t lie, it will hurt somebody.

Don’t complain, just do your part.

Don’t fuss about what the other fellows are doing, get on the job and stay.

Don’t fret, because the sinner does not believe in you, just get out of his way.

Don’t stay at home and say, “This old church is dead.” Examine yourself.

Don’t tattle or let others tattle to you. The fellow who brings the message will certainly carry one back.

Don’t say the church can run without money. God’s business is bigger than yours.

Don’t be selfish.

Don’t feel more important than you really are.

Don’t curse the preacher. Examine yourself and pray.

Don’t look for faults in other people. If you do you will certainly overlook your own.

Mattie Lignons

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear Saints of God,—I am saved and encouraged to press on for Jesus. I know the reward is at the end of the race. This is the first time for me to write my testimony in the “Faith and Victory” paper. I promised the Lord in August if He would heal me I would write my testimony for the paper. God healed me instantly. I was awfully sick for three days, getting worse every day. I had four children to care for. They all are small. The oldest one is seven. I wrote a note and sent the oldest boy to a neighbor’s house. A sweet lady friend of mine came who went after Bro. Sanders and Sis. Jones. I was so sick I would almost faint. When the saints came and anointed me and prayed, it was about two o’clock. God instantly healed me and gave me strength at the same time. By four o’clock I had cleaned

a four room house and cooked my husband's supper. To God I give all the praise. The Lord has worked out so many problems for me. He heals my children and also my husband who got hurt in May. He stayed in the hospital three days with a dislocated shoulder. He came home in two or three days. The first night and day at home he suffered awfully. Then the next day about the middle of the day he said the pain stopped all at once. He has not suffered much since. In four week's time he was back to work and has been working ever since. Although he is not saved, God really has been merciful to him. My prayer is to live and be all in this life He would have me to be. Please pray for my family.

Your sister in the Lord, Teylee Tillman.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Saints,—I surely do thank the dear Lord for His many blessings and what He has done for us the past three or four weeks. God has blessed us in soul and body. We surely thank all the dear saints for all their prayers. They have all meant so much to me. Please keep us on your prayer list. We were reading in Psa. the 37th chapter. It is so good. Please remember Sis. Martin in prayer. She wants prayer for her eyes. They are giving her lots of trouble and she can hardly see out of them. Please remember our unsaved children.

With Christian love, Sis. H. A. Decoq

o-o-o-o-o

Ore.—Dear Saints, Greetings to all the saints everywhere.—We thank the Lord for salvation and the continuing presence of the Lord. We thank the Lord for the blessings he has bestowed on us through the past year. We have seen the Lord working in so many ways that we can not tell it all. Through working at the Faith Publishing House, the Lord has given us a secular trade in the printing business. This is a blessing of the Lord because I would not know how I could provide for my household.

We knew we could not provide for our needs with the job I had, so we prayed about the matter. We knew we needed another house as well as a job. We paid a down payment on a house in Salem. Near the first of May a printer in Albany called at least a dozen times to find us. Since we did not know if this was the Lord's will, we prayed for the Lord to show us if it was. He did! Oh, praise the dear Lord! He knows how to provide work for us. Since coming back to Oregon we have not been out of work one day. We do not know how we could meet our expenses if it had not been for this job. Not only that, but the Lord has blessed us with a sweet baby boy, Ronald Eugene. The Lord healed the baby of an ingrown toenail with no assistance by man.

However, immediately following the blessings, the trials came. I have learned how to resist the enemy more than before. We as servants of the Most High must get into heavenly places like Paul did to receive things of the Lord. The Lord has blessed us spiritually as well as materially. I remember in my past life how the Lord had to try to keep up with me instead of my following Jesus. Many people believe that zeal is everything, but since we have profited by these mistakes we do not have to put our foot forward. We have gone mostly on calls and not have tried to burst our way through. The saints at Orland, Calif. wanted us to go down there for their all-day meeting, the fifth Sunday of September. I heard that Bro. Zinn was there. When we arrived we found that he had gone to meet other obligations. The Lord blessed in a mighty way. We felt so free and the saints there were so wonderful. Truly, we followed the Lord. Seeing

how few laborers He has in His vineyard, has strengthened us spiritually. We see the need greater than ever before. We need more qualified workers to go into the harvest fields. If some of the saints could come up to this area for awhile and see how busy His workers are, I believe it would stir up our inward minds to see that the work goes forward.

Yours in Christ, Bro. and Sis. Gerald Davis.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Saints,—It has been some time since I have written through the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am glad to report that I am still encouraged to live for the Lord. There are many trials and tests in this life but our Lord has grace sufficient for every one. It is needful in these last days to be ready to meet the Lord and live up to all the light he shines on our pathway. I am so thankful I was brought up in this true way and have Christian parents to teach me. Our desire is to rear our little boy right and teach him the ways of the Lord. We are thankful for the healing power of God. Our little boy has been sick lately and we trusted him in the hands of the Lord and did not have any desire or thought to go to man. The Lord did not fail us but heard our prayers and touched him.

We surely want to live closer and show our appreciation to the Lord for his love and mercy to us.

With Christian love, Carol (Allen) Sorrell

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The 26th Psalm

I really do not feel like attempting to write to the saints as a teacher or instructor; and yet that is just the place the Holy Spirit laid on my heart to fill, many years ago. However, I do feel like speaking to professing Christians everywhere in this manner: let us read and study the 26th Psalm together and see what wonderful truth we can gain therefrom.

"Oh!" some of you say, "isn't that the Psalm where the psalmist is so confident of his integrity? And was it right for him to have so high an opinion of himself? We also remember reading about his life, and the wicked things he did."

Allowing all you say is true, yet let us remember also that David was a man that repented and cleared things with his Lord and became a man after God's own heart.

This Psalm, like the 23rd Psalm, was written after he was all clear with both God and men and his life was in line with the Holy Commandments of his day. Hence, he could say with perfect assurance: "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity." That walk being his daily walk after his life was clear, he could further say, "I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide." It is wonderful to live where we do not slide.

What kind of an experience did David have that enabled him to speak thus? He had the Law and the Prophets and a deep soul revelation of the coming Messiah. On these his confidence rested. He could say to the Lord, "Judge me." Can we, like David, say, "Judge me"? Can we?

If we can, we are dwelling in a good place. Not only was he willing to be judged, but also invited the examination of the Lord. He even went further and

requested the Lord to prove him. Do we desire to be examined and proved by the Lord? If we can submit to such a test, we are coming to the place where we can begin to move forward and do something for the Lord and His precious cause in the earth. There is a great call for consecrated workers. Who will respond?

There will be more in the future written on the 26th Psalm, the Lord willing.

Your shut-in sister,

Ethel K. Miles

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Dear Sinner Friend, Stop, Look, Listen

When you read this in the "Faith and Victory" paper, I hope you will decide to turn to the Lord and let Him dispose of all your sins just as these few lines will show you. Listen to these gracious words found in God's Holy Word: (Micah 7:18, 19) "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us: He will subdue our iniquities: and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

—Bro. G. W. Stephenson

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA

I will cast in the depths of the fathomless sea,
All thy sins and transgressions whatever they be;
Tho' they mount up to heaven, tho' they sink down to hell,
They shall sink in the depths, and above them shall swell
All my waves of forgiveness, so mighty and free;
I will cast all thy sins in the depths of the sea.

In the depths, in the depths, where the storm cannot come,
Where its faint echo falls like a musical hum,
Where no mortal can enter, thy faults to deride,
For above them forever flows love's mighty tide.
Of their sepulchres vast, I, thy God, hold the key,
And I bury them there, in the depths of the sea.

In the deep, silent depths, far away from the shore,
Where they never may rise up to trouble thee more,
Where no far-reaching tide, with its pitiless sweep
May stir the dark waves of forgetfulness deep—
I have buried them there, where no mortal may see,
I have cast all thy sins in the depths of the sea. —Sel.

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BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50; Lesson cards, 10c

BOLDNESS IN CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

December 1, 1957

Printed PortionPhilippians 1:1-2, 12-21

1. Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2. Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

12. But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13. So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14. And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16. The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17. But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I herein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20. According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

21. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Memory Verse: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phil. 1:21.

Practical Truth: Witnessing for Christ should be a feature of every Christian life.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our next four lessons will be parts of the letter written to the church at Philippi. Timothy had joined Paul in Rome, and no doubt he wrote it. This letter was sent by the messenger whom the church had sent to take Paul a love gift.

Paul is a wonderful example to us of Christian bold witnessing. Paul did not lament the fact that he was in bonds. With a guard by his side, he was able to preach to all unhampered and was not troubled by mob violence. His boldness encouraged the brethren to be more bold to speak for Christ.

Effective witnessing for Christ does not require a college degree. In fact, those who may have some knowledge will lean more on that than on God if they are not careful. The first thing is to know Christ as our personal Saviour and be filled with divine love. Our lives will then be motivated by Christ. Our conversation will be about the "lover of our soul." That life lived for Christ and words spoken with boldness from a heart filled with love will be very effective.

After Paul's life was changed by salvation, he told King Agrippa and others, "I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great. . . . I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except for these bonds." (Acts 26:29). Has Christ been so enthroned in our hearts that we wish others were as we are, except for some outward circumstance? If we know Christ in this manner, we can be bold to witness and say, "To me to live is Christ."

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WHAT CHRIST MEANS TO A CHRISTIAN

December 8, 1957

Printed PortionPhilippians 3:4-14, 20-21.

Phil. 3:4. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more;

5. Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

20. For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Memory Verse: I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. Phil. 3:8.

Practical Truth: Victory over sin and peace within will attend an adequate knowledge of Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul had everything of which any Jew at that time would have been proud. His station in the Jewish economy was of the highest, and if divine favor could have been based on this, Paul was highly favored. But we hear Paul saying, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." The comforts and honors afforded in this life were sacrificed for Christ. This was not a forced sacrifice, but he willingly gave up all that he through faith might know the "power of His resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings." This did not mean the power which brought Christ from the grave, but the power that is given to us through His risen life to have victory over the flesh and the devil, and create in us that quickening assurance of a life beyond the grave. Praise the Lord! Paul had not attained unto the glorious condition of the righteous after they have been raised to a life of everlasting bliss, but he was pressing toward that goal, forgetting those things which are behind. If anything in the past that has been forgiven would be brought up to hinder us on our upward race toward heaven, we should resist it. God has forgiven and we want to count it as gone.

Christ has grace for each one to "press." If we are pressing and not drawing back, we are on victory's side by faith, and some day our "vile" bodies will be changed like unto His glorious body. What a blessed thought!

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LIVING WITH CHRISTIAN JOY

December 15, 1957

Printed Portion Philippians 4:1-13.

Phil. 4:1. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

2. I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3. And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlaborers, whose names are in the book of life.

4. Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9. Those things, which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

10. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Memory Verse: My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19.

Practical Truth: Joy in the Lord should be a characteristic of every Christian life.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson today contains Scriptures that are precious to every child of God. Oh, the joy, peace, and contentment that fills the heart of the born-again person is beyond description. The consciousness of the presence of the Lord being with us at all times causes us to rest and trust when we face the trying things in life. Only the child of God understands what we are talking about. We may experience a degree of joy because of earthly comforts and achievements, but the joy the Lord gives when His love fills the soul is surely on a very much higher plane.

Paul has listed a number of things for us to think on. These things will bring peace to the soul. The Scripture says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3). If our peace has been disturbed, let us check back and see what has been in our minds. What have we been thinking about? Has it been the things Paul advises us to think about?

"I have learned . . . to be content" (verse 11). What a wonderful lesson to learn. Paul knew what it meant to abound, to be full, and to be hungry. He could be honored without being puffed up because he cast the honor on Christ. He could be abased and persecuted and keep contented because he cast it all on Jesus. This keeps joy in the soul—a pattern for all of us.

THE WONDER OF THE INCARNATION

December 22, 1957

Printed Portion Philippians 2:1-11

1. If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels of mercies,

2. Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Memory Verse: When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Gal. 4:4-5.

Practical Truth: Because of the willingness of the Son of God to become a man and die for us, he is worthy of our highest honor forever.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At this time of the year there is much celebration. But how sad it is to think it is all done in the name of Jesus, yet almost all of it brings dishonor to His precious name. Instead of Christ being exalted, it is Santa Claus, which is a myth. Instead of the mind being brought to the precious babe that was born in a manger, it is centered on the lighted, decorated tree, and other attractions. Some look forward to celebrating Christmas by getting drunk. May the Lord help the people of this country who are going far from God.

How our hearts should bow in humble adoration to Jesus, the one who had enjoyed the glorious life with His Father from all eternity, yet was willing to leave that beautiful home and come here to die on the cross to redeem us back to God. The angels rejoiced and gave praises to God for the "unspeakable gift" given to us.

If we do not bow and worship the Lord today, some day we will bow before Him and every tongue will confess Him to be the Saviour of the world. If we do not confess Him here, we will when we see Him coming in the clouds; but it will be too late then. He will come then to be our judge and not our Saviour. Oh, dear ones, have you sent your sins on before to judgment? If not, they will be there to condemn you in that day.

BROTHERS THROUGH CHRIST

December 29, 1957

Printed Portion: Philemon verses 1-16.

Philemon 1. Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

2. And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

3. Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,

5. Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

6. That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

7. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

8. Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

9. Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

10. I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11. Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

12. Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

13. Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

14. But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

15. For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

16. Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

Memory Verse: Above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. Colossians 3:14.

Practical Truth: Those who have been born of God are brothers, whatever their race or status in life may be.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of Philemon is a letter that Paul wrote with his own hand to Philemon who had received Christ through Paul's labors. This letter was taken to Philemon by Onesimus, a run away slave. In this letter Paul pleads with Philemon to release Onesimus and to treat him as a brother. Since Philemon has shared this letter to others we are sure he obeyed Paul's instructions.

At the time this letter was written, slavery was a deeply rooted institution. All this time the church was injecting into this practice a care and concern for servants that they should be treated as brothers. Through this, slavery has been practically abolished throughout the world, for which we do thank the Lord. We can not get to heaven with prejudice in our hearts. If we do not get rid of it here we will never live with the God of heaven who loves every soul in the world: the rich and poor, the low or high, regardless of color or race.

Christian fellowship cannot be manufactured by man. To be brothers in Christ and feel the blending of the spirit of Christ within our souls, we must have brotherly love given of God. We must each have the spirit of Christ dwelling within us and we will naturally flow together.

—Mrs. Marie Miles