

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant

At evening time
it shall be light.
—ZECHARIAH 14:7

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS
IN THE WORLD.
—PHILIPPIANS 2:15

JESUS
SAVES

Unto Him shall
the gathering of
the people be.
—GENESIS 49:10

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A New Year Comes

*A New Year comes to us again,
But only today is ours.
We know not what the year shall bring
With all its quickening powers.*

*Some will not live the whole year through,
But shall be called to go,
And answer for the deeds they do
In this old world below.*

*But if the Lord, in His sweet will,
Should spare us here to stay,
Wait not for years the task to fill,
But go to work today!*

*Say not, "Four months, and then the grain
I'll garner in the bin."
Lift up your eyes, now is the time
To thrust the sickle in.*

*So let us work on through this New Year
To bring our loved ones home.
We can not rest, nor be at ease,
As on in sin they roam.*

*Lord, give us grace, and wisdom, too,
A few more souls to win;
Before this year's work shall be through
May they be garnered in.*

—Ulysses Phillips

Provide Things Honest

By John D. Jess

Is genuine honesty a lost virtue among Christians? Some of us, dealing daily with professed believers, are beginning to wonder if it is.

A business man (a professing Christian) promises his services on a certain day and at a certain time. The appointed hour passes without his appearance. A week later—still waiting. Our phone call to him brings this casual explanation: "Sorry. I got tied up."

A Christian promises to meet us at 5 o'clock. At 5:30, still "no show." Finally he appears at 5:45 and laughingly says, "Got stuck in traffic."

A Christian friend borrows a book, promising to return it "as soon as I've read it." Several months (and hints from us) later the book is returned, but with no apparent compunction on the part of the borrower for having stretched his promise.

A professing Christian borrows some money from us. "I will give it back payday," he promises. Weeks pass—no word, no money. After prolonged urging the money is returned, but the borrower makes it plain he considers you a real "Scrooge" for having pressed him.

Are these people aware that their word cannot be depended upon, and that they are bordering on or are liars and crooks? If so, one would never surmise it from their flippant, unconcerned attitude.

Why this abominable laxity, this forthright murder of the truth by members of the household of faith? Have we actually lived to see the day when Christian conscience is dead—when a Christian's word means no more, or even less, than that of a heathen? Do we look almost in vain today for assurance in the word of Christians?

Please look long and soberly at these Scriptural admonitions:

Romans 13:13: "Let us walk honestly, as in the day. . . ."

2 Cor. 8:21: "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

2 Cor. 13:7: "I pray God that ye do no evil . . . that ye should do that which is honest."

Phil. 4:8: "Whatsoever things are honest, [etc.] . . . think on these things."

1 Thess. 4:12: "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without."

1 Tim. 2:2: "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Heb. 13:8: "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly."

In consideration of these commands, what excuse can be found for laxity in such matters among God's people?

The child of God should be fanatically and incurably honest! His word should be his bond — his promise a notarized oath of fulfillment. His honor and honesty should be guarded and preserved at all costs. A Christian, fulfilling his spiritual obligations to the utmost, would sooner part with his tongue than knowingly give the wrong impression or carelessly fail to keep a pledge.

If Christians were universally conscientious in such matters, a Credit Bureau for the establishment of their financial responsibility would be needless. A Christian, as careful to keep his word as to detect faults in the lives of others, would contribute immeasurably toward making the name "Christian" synonymous with flawless dependability. As matters now stand, we shamefacedly admit that the name means virtually nothing in the world's estimation.

It is related that Abraham Lincoln once entertained a political friend in the parlor of his Springfield home. The guest sighted Lincoln's small son peering timidly around the door of an adjoining room and beckoned the child to come and sit on his lap. The shy lad at first refused, but was finally persuaded by the promise of a watch charm the visitor wore.

As the guest prepared to leave, Mr. Lincoln reminded him of his promise. The man laughed and replied, "Oh, I wasn't serious about the charm. Actually, it's a highly cherished keepsake. I wouldn't think of parting with it."

Abraham Lincoln said, "Then, sir, I will thank you never to set foot in my home again. I don't want my son to remember his father as having entertained liars!"

Sheepishly, the man surrendered the promised watch charm.

How many Christians are guilty of making hasty and ill-advised promises which they do not keep? The Word of God commends the man who "swaureth to his own hurt, and changeth not." (Psa. 15:4).

How about the so-called "little" things—such as the time you received more change at the cashier's counter than you had coming. Of course the mistake wasn't discovered until you arrived home, and then it was "too late" to make the correction. But would it have been "too late" had you been short-changed?

It is not the amount that matters. Whether pennies or dollars, it is sin to have in your possession that which is not yours and was not given to you. In Eph. 4:2 we are admonished to "steal no more;" therefore we can hardly expect divine blessings with dishonesty on our conscience.

When there is cause for doubt concerning rightful ownership, the Christian should be quick to give the other party the benefit of the doubt. If he (the other party) deliberately falsifies his claim, leave the judgment to God, remembering Rom. 12:19: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."

A glaring, all-too-common sin among professing Christians is that of carelessness in relation to the paying of debts.

In the days of my pastorates I was often made heartsick by the comments of local merchants concerning the lack of financial responsibility among church members. Some frankly said they could not attend church with any benefit to themselves because of the presence of "pious" church members who had owed them sums of money for years and had made no effort to pay. While I grant this was a lame excuse for absenting one's self from the house of God, nevertheless I challenge you to satisfactorily explain a Christian (?) "dead-beat" to an unsaved man!

I was told early in my ministry that clergymen were the second poorest credit risk in the professional field. Then and there I determined that, by the grace of God, I would become a notable exception to that rule. And my Heavenly Father, who delights in honesty, rewarded that determination by making it possible for me to maintain an A-1 credit rating through the years. While I cannot say I have been able to observe, to the letter, "Owe no man anything" (Rom. 13:8), I have nonetheless been spared the humiliation of ever being turned down on an application for credit.

There are times when the Christian finds himself saddled with expenses over which he has no control, such as unforeseen sickness, accidents, repairs, etc. Sometimes such obligations extend beyond one's ability to pay in a lump sum, but the Christian must by all means pay "at" such obligations. It is both surprising and comforting to note how patient and congenial a creditor can be if he knows he is doing business with a thoroughly honest and conscientious individual. Under no circumstances allow a creditor of yours to go weeks without hearing from you, or without receiving a regular payment from you. He should be able to determine the day of the week—even set his watch—by your payment. It is always possible to work out a mutually agreeable system of payment between debtor and creditor when honesty and conscientiousness is observed.

A Christian who is a "poor risk" not only brings dishonor upon himself, but upon the name of the Lord also.

I know of Christians who have thumb-worn their Bibles at such passages as, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31); "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28); "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19), etc.—BUT—how many Bibles are thumb-worn at Romans 12:17: "Provide things HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN"?

The Christian life is not merely a negative existence—a refraining from certain things. The world is concerned about what our gospel has done FOR US, and will do for it. In other words, it isn't so much what we stand for as what we actually are.

Abraham Lincoln was so honest and upright in all of his words and deeds that he received the name "Honest Abe."

This Gospel of The Kingdom

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14. This gospel of the kingdom is "the everlasting gospel." Rev. 14:6. The word, "everlasting" is used here to set forth the lasting effect the whole gospel has upon the believers; and not so much upon the durability of the Word. For we are told that, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. "My words," would be words of Jesus, or the Word of God.

The gospel that Jesus preached has a lasting effect upon the believers; they become rooted and grounded in the truth. "This gospel of the kingdom" is not the gospel of confusion that has gone to all nations. Has the confused, misleading gospel, mixed with doctrines, traditions, ideas, and opinions of men, that is being preached in all nations brought its hearers into a settled experience of faith, where they know without a shadow of a doubt that they are saved from sin? Or has this confused preaching deceived the people?

We have evidence on every hand that the gospel that has been promulgated in every nation has left more or less confusion in every nook and corner of the earth. The same gospel that is preached in every city and hamlet of this country, is the gospel that has gone to all nations, and it has the same effect upon the peoples of every country, village, and isle where it has gone, as it has had upon the people of this United States of America.

Is this confused, so called gospel, the everlasting gospel that was preached by our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles? The apostle Paul speaks of "another gospel," then he follows with the statement, "which is not another," Gal. 1:6-9. "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."

2 Cor. 3:6, "For the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance." 1 Thess. 1:5. "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." 1 John 5:6. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4:6. The first ministers that were sent out by Jesus were told to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. The gospel that is to go unto all nations before His coming, must be carried by ministers that are endued with power from on high. God has never changed His plan of salvation: that is to save lost men. The bare Word without the Spirit is not the gospel of the Lord Jesus, and not the gospel that must be preached to all nations before the end comes.

We have all been more or less at ease in Zion consoling ourselves with the thought, "This gospel of the kingdom has been preached unto all nations." Brethren, this same thought would have hindered the

apostles; how much zeal do you suppose that they would have had, had they entertained the thought (that we have been giving place to), "The gospel has gone to all the world?" No doubt, but this is a clever trick of Satan.

The apostles had a one-fold message, but we today have a two-fold message: the preaching of the full gospel to save a lost world, and to sound the warning, "Come out of her my people," for "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen."

The commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel, was renewed in the evening of this gospel day, Rev. 14:6-8. The angels of verses six and eight represent the preachers of this last reformation, setting forth two phases of the work of this reformation. The angel of verse six had the gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The angel of the eighth verse cried out, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen."

Why was this commission renewed? Because the saving gospel in all its fullness was lost in the dark and cloudy day of catholicism and protestantism.

Awake, awake oh, Zion, for the gospel of the kingdom has not gone into all the world, anointed by the Holy Spirit of God. We have a tremendous task to fulfill before His coming.

Yours in Him,

—H. P. Huskey.

Let The Children Answer

God's message is so plain that even "the way-faring man though a fool" need not err therein.

Every little child who can read and write has a mind developed enough to easily understand "the way of the Lord." The folly of humanity is the rejection of THE PLAIN STATEMENTS of Jesus, and the substitution of the complicated and bewildering constructions that carnal men have placed upon the Word of God.

Avoiding the babel of confusion, consider the simplicity of three LITTLE WORDS in four passages of Scripture taken from the New Testament. These LITTLE phrases with LITTLE WORDS all begin with the article "THE." Let any person with child-like faith answer the following questions: How many ENEMIES are left after THE LAST ENEMY? A thousand would be the wrong answer. A little child would answer, none. That is correct. Next question: How many days after THE LAST DAY? Don't hedge—just answer the question. Of course it is foolish to say that there could be any days after THE LAST DAY, but many people deny the end of time. "There should be time no longer." (Rev. 10:6)

One more simple little question: When the world comes to the time of THE LAST ENEMY, (1 Cor. 15:26); THE LAST TRUMP, (1 Cor. 15:51, 52); and THE LAST DAY, (John 6:39); will that be The END? (See Matt. 24:3)

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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.

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The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Mansur. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor
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EDITORIALS

By reading the Scriptures we find the proof that we who are born again, born from above, and have experienced the new birth are, by faith, the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through his "Seed" which is Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Genesis 12:3 the Lord said unto Abraham, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." All the families of the earth would include all the Gentile nations along with the Jewish nation. In Genesis 22:17, 18 we read what the Lord said to Abraham again, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my voice." Not just the Jewish nation was to be blessed, but all nations. The Jewish nation was Abraham's literal seed who received the Law of Moses which, Paul says, acted as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ who was the promised Savior of all mankind. As Isaac was a child of promise, so we who are born from above are the children of God through the promised Saviour. Literally speaking, there was nothing that you did that caused you to be born into the world. You had no choice in the matter, even as Isaac had nothing to say about his coming into the world. He was a child promised of God. The parents were both past the age of bearing children. Isaac's coming into this world was the work of God.

With all your trying and efforts put forth, you cannot save your soul. But when a soul humbles himself before God in godly sorrow and repents of his sins and iniquities, and his heart is broken up and in a contrite condition, then God shows pity and mercy upon that soul and causes him to be born from above and a new life comes into his being from God and the old things pass away. (2 Cor. 5:17). His law of self-righteousness is done away, for Christ has fulfilled the law and the prophets, and we are no longer under any manner of schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, for we have already come into personal contact with Him.

It was not any righteous act or deed that you did that caused God to save your soul, but it was the righteous act and deed that Christ performed that saves you. He gave His life's blood on Calvary's cross as an atonement for your sins. Your salvation is all the work of God. Therefore no saved man or woman has any right to receive any praise or honor from men for any good deed or deeds that the Lord may use them in doing. It would be robbing God to receive any praise or honor from mankind or from the spirits of the devil who want men to be worshipped, praised and honored.

Listen to what Paul says in Gal. 3:16, 17 and 18: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise."

Turn with me to the third chapter of Philippians and let us read the words of a man who had an exceedingly great experience in doing the law and then in Christ, for he says in part, in the 9th verse, "And be found in him [Christ] 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." Brethren, it is God that saves us; it is God that keeps us saved. Our part is to let go and let God work in and through us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. To God be all the glory! We are all the children of Abraham by faith (Gal. 3:7), and we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26). Christ was the promised seed through whom and by whom all nations were to be blessed.

In Gal. 4:28 we read, "Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the spirit, even so it is now." We read in the 9th chapter of Romans where it is written, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Ishmael, who was born of the bondwoman, was not to be an heir with Isaac who was born of the free woman (Gal. 4:30), of whose seed we are. Ishmael and Esau represent men and women who are of the flesh and know nothing of what it means to have an experimental knowledge of being born from above. God hates the works of the flesh.

The Jews rejected Christ and therefore they became Ishmaels and Esaus in a spiritual sense. Their works were hated of God. They persecuted Christ and His followers and the wrath of God was upon them. Read the last verse in the 3rd chapter of John's gospel, "... He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Anyone who rejects Christ and is not born from above could be called an "Esau" in a spiritual sense. According to the scripture they persecute, tantalize and make it hard for those who are born from above and live in the Spirit of Christ. Some wives have to live with Esaus, spiritually speaking, and vice versa.

They say that there are 16,000,000 Jews in the world today who could be termed the literal seed of Abraham. However, in the 7th chapter of Revelation and the 9th verse, John saw a "great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." Abraham's seed was to be as the dust of the earth that no man could number.

Dear reader, you can be among that number in

that great Judgment day if you will, in godly sorrow for your sins, repent and call upon God for mercy, believing in the blood of Christ as an atonement for all your sins and look to Him for grace and power to live a holy life before Him every day. His peace will fill your soul and His Spirit will witness to your spirit that you are a child of God. You can be Abraham's seed through the promised Seed, which is Christ our Lord.

In Hebrews 11:6 we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." This is the day of salvation. Let your heart be tendered toward God and His beloved Son who gave Himself a ransom for your soul.

You need not continue to be a spiritual Esau with the wrath of God abiding upon you, but you can be born from above and be made free with all faithful children of God and Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Our salvation dates back to Abraham who lived over four hundred years before the Law of Moses was given. The law has nothing to do with our salvation, only as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, the promised Seed of Abraham.

We are not saved from sin by water baptism, for the Apostle Peter makes it plain in 1 Peter 3:21 that it is a like figure of salvation. It gives us a good conscience toward God that we are dead to the world, that our past life is buried and Christ has been resurrected and made alive in our hearts.

We are not saved because we wear no outward adornments in our dress. They are some of the old things that were buried, together with all the worldly fashions, along with the law that acted as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.

Elsewhere in this paper you will find advertised the *Faith and Victory* year book for 1959, which means that the eleven issues of the 1959 *Faith and Victory* papers are bound together in book form with a good paper cover on them. This 1959 book contains the March issue which has the "True Biblical Church of God" pictured out in its fullness. Of this church Jesus said, "The gates of hell [man-made churches] shall never prevail against IT." This issue also has the "Imaginary Church of God" pictured with some preachers trying to hold it up to keep it from being torn to pieces. These pictures and the comments along with it were greatly enjoyed by many of our readers. Some had never seen the church brought out in such clear light by the pictures and the reading matter accompanying them. Any spiritually minded person reading this article and looking at the pictures and comparing the truth brought by the scriptures quoted need never be in darkness as to what the true Church of God consists of as a body of people in this world. So many received light and knowledge as to what the true church is that we would like to pass this truth on to thousands of souls that they may become established in the Church of which Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall never prevail against IT."

The *Faith and Victory* year book is advertised on page seven of this paper. Do not fail to order one for yourself and some for your friends. It will make a nice gift.

I HAVE SEEN HELL

By Lorne F. Fox

Some people do not believe that hell is real, but I do. I believe it, first, because the Bible emphatically teaches that there is a place called hell; and second, because of a tremendous, miraculous experience which God brought to my heart and which I cannot deny.

As I lay prostrate on my back for over three hours one afternoon, the Lord gave me a vision. It shook and stirred me to the very depths of my being. God permitted me to see some of the glories of heaven, and then He allowed me to see some of the horrors and awfulness of hell.

I did not die—I want that clearly understood. I simply fell into a trance, as the apostle Peter did (Acts 10:10). I am not a person given to dreams and visions, but that day God portrayed the awful reality of hell before my mind in such a way that I never can forget it.

I saw pictured before me the soul of an unsaved man going into eternity, at the time of his physical death. That soul left its mortal tabernacle, the earthly body, and moved out of the sick room and into space. It began to descend. Down, down, down it went into the lower regions, and everything grew dark. Soon it was so totally black one could not see an inch away from his eyes, though he had the keenest of eyesight. But still the motion or sensation of descending continued, and after a while there began to appear, faintly at first, weird, fantastic lights and shadows. It was like a flickering fire light which gradually grew brighter and brighter.

The atmosphere, which had been warm, suddenly became stifling hot and almost unbearable, and the descent ceased for a little time. From the lower regions there ascended a weird-looking creature that had been sent evidently to guide that lost soul on the remainder of its journey to the lower realms. Together the lost soul and the strange creature continued the descent; and at a short distance I was permitted, in vision, to descend and watch again.

Far below us things began to take on definite shape by this time. There appeared far below a great glowing orb. That was the source of the flickering firelight I had seen. It became larger and larger as we came nearer, until ultimately it was so huge, a person couldn't begin to see around it. All one could see was a small portion lying within his vision. I want to say this: that huge orb was covered with flames of literal fire—no, I think I would be more accurate if I said liquid fire, for that is as it appeared. Tongues of liquid fire covered every portion of that orb and licked to the tongue of flame at its top. Finally the descent ceased as we came right up against this great orb, or close to it. There was evidence of a fierce struggle for a moment or two be-

tween that lost soul and the weird conductor that had come for him. Then suddenly, with a wild shriek, that soul was plummeted headlong into that wall of flame. Then everything was silent except for the licking of the flames of fire.

Suddenly a wierd sensation passed over me. A messenger sent from the Lord stood by my side and said, "Be not afraid. I have been sent of the Lord to sustain and strengthen you." Then that weird, strange sensation passed through my very being and suddenly I felt myself plummeted headlong through that fire. It did not burn or hurt. In an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, I found myself in another realm. It was like being in another world. And in that world I heard the shrieks and groans of souls by countless thousands. I heard ironical, sarcastic laughter. I heard weeping and wailing. I heard cries and curses. Instinctively, before my heavenly conductor told me, I knew I was in the regions of the lost, the place that we speak of as hell. Let me pause long enough to say this: I believe in real hell fire because the Bible says it is real, and also because I've seen it. I know that it exists. Not only will the souls of lost men and women be tormented eternally by unquenchable fire, but they will also be tormented by the sins and vices that caused them to be lost. For I discovered, as my angelic conductor led me through the various caverns and corridors, that hell was divided into sections.

Over yonder I saw the greatest gambling games that could ever be imagined. I shuddered. There were devices of gambling which I am sure have never been perpetrated on the face of this earth. There were great piles of gold and silver and precious gems, and these lost souls were gambling with them. They gambled furiously. Every time they touched the devices, every time they touched the money, it burned, and they drew back; and yet some irresistible force drove them to gamble again. They loathed it, they hated it, they wanted to get away from it, but they couldn't. They were held to the spot as by some magnetic force.

Not long ago, when we were traveling to Boise, Idaho, I had a strange experience. We read signs all along the highway advertising a certain gambling place in Reno, Nevada. We stopped in Reno for just a few moments and I said, "I want to go in that gambling place and see just what goes on." It was evening time. We stepped inside and walked through some of the corridors. Hundreds of people were engaged in gambling of every shape and form. Suddenly my blood-chilled. I turned to my wife and said, "Oh, please, let's get out of here. I've seen this place before, and I don't want to stay around it." We went outdoors and it was so good to get a breath of fresh air again. I had seen something just like that, only worse, in the realms of the lost!

In another section of hell I saw an eternal dancing party going on. As I came close and looked into the faces of those lost souls, my heart pitied them with a great pity, for they were so utterly, abjectly weary and tired. They pleaded and said, "Oh, can't

we stop for just a moment?" But there was no stopping. The eternal dance went on and on, just like some great churning caldron. I believe that when people really get saved the Lord will take the desire for worldly amusements out of their hearts. However, I will say that the modern dance hall is one of the devil's biggest trap doors leading directly to hell.

In another place an eternal drinking party was going on. I have witnessed some scenes of drunken debauchery in this life that have been hideous, but nothing to compare with the wild, drunken orgies that go on eternally in hell. And they can't stop it, friends. That thing that took them to hell torments them continually throughout all eternity.

In another place in hell I saw the rankest, rawest form of fear that ever existed. We have never seen anything like it on the face of this earth. Every time there was a cry, a shriek, a groan, or any other sound—any time the crackling of the flames of hell could be heard—these poor, abjectly fearful people darted back into the shadows, trembling, horrified. And I saw more people in that classification than in all the other classifications combined! These, the messenger who was with me said, were the millions of people who were too fearful to publicly and openly confess Jesus Christ. Their fears had taken them to hell—fear of their families, fear of their parents, fear of wife or husband, fear of friends or business colleagues, fear of this or that. There they were, lost, filled with an abject fear that tantalized them, as the flames of hell burned endlessly on.

Last of all, you may be shocked when I tell you that I witnessed a form of religion in hell. The music that went with it was enough to make a man tear his hair. You talk about minor music, but you never heard anything like this. It was the worst kind of funeral dirge that grinds into the very bones, and into the very marrow inside the bones. Religion! No worship of God, but a form of religion. And as I looked at these multitudes I was told by my messenger that these were they who once had a form of religion but who denied the power of the gospel and of the blood of Jesus as their way of salvation.

Friend, only the blood of Jesus applied by faith to the heart can save a man or woman from being eternally lost. People in hell were screaming for release everywhere, but there was no help, for they had ignored the Blood which alone has power to save. None escaped; that wall of fire that covered the great sphere seemed to be an eternal barrier through which a lost soul could never again pass once it had penetrated the flames at the time of physical death.

Oh, I wish I had the power to make hell as real to you, my friends, as God made it to me. I would give anything if I could help you to realize how awful it is. It is ten thousand times more horrible than I can describe. Are you saved and on your way to heaven? Or are you bound for hell?

If you have not accepted Christ as your personal Savior, please do it this very hour. Tomorrow may be too late. God is calling you! He has said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," but He is

striving with you now. I beg you, from the depths of my heart, turn to the Lord while you have the desire and opportunity. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found." I have seen hell. I don't want you to see it!

(Editor's note)—The above vision was, no doubt, given of God for the purpose of stirring the hearts of men to keep clear of the world and its allurements lest they go to such a place as described above. In that horrible place no doubt there will be church members looking at television without any power to change while they burn and their conscience upbraids them for being so foolish as to let anything like that cause them to miss heaven and its comforts. Oh, that men and women would take warning while they have the opportunity! No doubt but what Jesus looks upon those television tails sticking up from the homes of those who claim to be His children as a curse and a disgrace to His cause among men. Let us not harden our hearts against the truth and be lost. In Matt. 7:14 Jesus says, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." You can be one of the few if you will sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh. (Gal. 6:7, 8).

GET YOUR 1959 YEAR BOOK NOW!

The 1959 issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper are now bound in book form. Your copy is ready to be mailed to you. The price is 60 cents per copy, postpaid to you. The 1958 issue and the 1959 issue will both be mailed to you for \$1.00, or two of either one for \$1.00.

Obituaries

Charles W. Carter was born in Tennessee on Feb. 3, 1875, and passed from mortal life on Nov. 24, 1959 at Salem, Ore. In 1901 he was married to Catherine Mathews and to this union were born a son, Maynard, and two daughters, Waneta, and Wenona.

Bro. Carter was saved about 1903 among the saints and was later called into the gospel ministry which he actively followed as much as possible until his death. We feel God has added stars to his crown for his faithful labors in the gospel vineyard.

In 1912 he moved to Oregon and spent the remainder of his life in the Willamette Valley, in or near Salem. On Nov. 19th, he was stricken with a stroke and only a few times afterward rallied from a coma. On Nov. 23rd, when I spoke of Jesus' love, he opened his eyes, smiled, and held his hand up as his last testimony.

He is survived by his widow, Catherine, one daughter, Wenona, of Salem, a sister, Mrs. Marie Claire, Orland, Calif., four grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Albert Nielsen with burial at Independence, Ore. Text: Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Sister Matilda Moore was born in Sept. of 1865 in Old Creek Nation, the daughter of Jack and Sarah Moore. She was united in marriage to Gilbert Hampton and to this union twelve children were born, six of whom preceded her in death.

In 1953 she moved to Oklahoma City to make her home with her daughter, Ophelia Lefford. At this time she was united with the Church of God where she accepted the whole truth of the Bible as taught by the ministers of the Church of God and lived it until the end came.

God blessed Sister Matilda with a long, beautiful Christian life. She was a good friend and neighbor to all who knew her. She departed this life Dec. 3, 1959 at the age of 94 years.

She leaves to mourn her homegoing six children: one daughter, Mrs. Ophelia Lefford; five sons: O. C., Oscar, Obell, Odie, and Othrie Hampton; twenty grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, eight great-great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Sermon by Ulysses Phillips, Bro. E. Sanders and others assisting. Burial was made in Chilesville Cemetery near Boley, Okla.

May God comfort the bereaved is our prayer.

Cordelia Ruth Jones was born December 21, 1890, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was the daughter of John Dennis and Lucinda Nice Phillips. She was the youngest of twelve children. In 1906 she was united in marriage to James Agustus Jones. To this union 13 children were born, three of which preceded her in death.

In 1908 she was converted in the Church of God and lived an exemplary life until she departed this life, Nov. 13, 1959, at 1:23 p.m. She was called to the ministry in 1916 and labored in this capacity for over 40 years. In 1929 she felt called to pastor the present Ninth Avenue Church of God. Among her duties in the ministerial field she was an able evangelist and was successful in establishing Churches throughout the country. Her favorite saying was, "God keeps the record."

She leaves to mourn their loss, her husband, James A. Jones, five daughters, five sons, 31 grandchildren, one great grandchild, two neices, one nephew, and a host of saints and friends. 1 Thess. 4:13-14, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

CARD OF APPRECIATION

We would like to extend our appreciation to all the saints, relatives, and friends for their expressions of kindness in the passing of our mother, Cordelia Ruth Jones. We would like to especially thank Sister Armilda Abbott who came and ministered unto Mother the week prior to her passing. May God richly bless her.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

We want to thank all the dear saints that prayed for Bro. Clifford Lindner while he was so ill and was in need of prayer and help from God. May God bless each one. Also we want to thank those who came down to anoint him and kept holding him up before God in prayer and also helped with the work here. We don't know what we would have done without them. Thank God for the saints and thank God for His healing power.

Bro. Clifford still needs your prayers that God will finish healing him and give him strength.

—Sister Marie and Bro. Clifford Lindner and Verlie, Nokomis, Fla.

Dear friends, my only living aunt, Mrs. Eugenia Dawsey, of Hattiesburg, Miss., who has been like a mother to me, is extremely ill with heart trouble. I would like for the saints to pray that God will relieve her of present pain and spare her life until I may visit her one more time and talk to her about her soul.

—Mrs. Irma Warner.

S. C.—I am trying to live a Christian life, and praying at all times for my son, William Freeman, who is drunkard but has a wife and three poor little children. Please pray for him—everybody who reads this. I believe Christ is coming soon so do pray for my dear son.

—Mrs. Minnie Prister.

NOTICES

I have felt burdened for some time to write some of the things the dear Lord has done for me, so now we have just off the press, "My Life's Story and Healings," price 50 cents each. Anyone desiring one or more of these books may obtain them by addressing me at 7691 So. Central Ave., Highland, Calif., or the Faith Publishing House.

—Sister Nellie Poulos.

1960 Christian Home Calendars, one copy, 40c; 3 for \$1.10; 12 for \$4.00; 25 for \$7.50; 50 for \$13.75, postpaid

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FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Guthrie, Oklahoma

Meeting Reports

WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING REPORT

The Lord gave us a good meeting with Bro. Phillips of Dover, and Bro. Charles Smith of Sapulpa, Okla. being used of the Lord to bring the truth. The saints were encouraged and the Church was edified. Two souls were saved and many helped.

We are much in need of a dining hall and desire your prayers that the Lord will provide for us. This can be used for Sunday school and also for dining room when we are having meeting. We desire to have this before we have another meeting if the Lord wills.

—Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt, Wichita, Kansas.

REPORT OF THE OKEENE, OKLAHOMA MEETING

Once again the Okeene meeting has come and gone, leaving us still rejoicing over the many good messages that were sent by the Holy Spirit. Bro. Chandler, his wife,

and ten children were here with us through all ten days of the meeting. Our hearts were made to rejoice many times.

Much good was done in this meeting. We have had many meetings down through the years, but never have we been able to get into some of the homes in the community until this time. We had a little service in one home. In another there was a woman who was very ill and asked to be prayed for. She was anointed with oil and then testified that she felt the touch of the Lord. She gave a nice testimony. We were very welcome in these homes. We are praising God for all the encouragement this brings to us. We feel this will bring fruit in the future.

Our prayer was for the Lord to especially bless the last day of the meeting. Many saints gathered here from every direction and were in sweet fellowship. Our hearts rejoiced to see the interest and such great love. Some of the following were here: Bro. and Sister Kelly, Sister Odessa Johnson, and many faithful lay-workers from Wichita, Kansas; Bro. Phillips from Dover, Sister Davis of Hennessey, Sister Penner of Fairview, and many faithful workers from Guthrie Okla.; and Sister Velma Smith from Hayward, Calif. We do praise God for all. Two testified of getting saved. Some were healed. Bro. Chandler brought us two wonderful messages Sunday, which made us feel like going on and seeing heaven for ourselves.

Now we thank every one of you dear ones who prayed for our meeting here at Okeene and we ask you to continue to pray God to keep us saved and encouraged to press the battle on. This is our desire: to live for him who died for us.

Your sister in His service, —Sister Alberta Droke.

THE CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMPMEEETING

The 23rd annual National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the campground at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo., beginning July 22nd and closing July 31, 1960. Plan to attend this national gathering of God's people. Further information will appear in later issues.

—L. D. Pruitt, Secretary

Testimonies

S. C.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints at the Faith Publishing House,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am writing to let you hear from me again. I am still reading and enjoying the "Faith and Victory" paper. It has helped in lots of things concerning Christian living. Praise His dear name for it. Best of all, I can thank God I have come out from all man-rule creeds and doctrines, and am standing for Jesus. I feel like it will not be too long until Jesus will come for His faithful few saints that are standing up for the whole truth of the Bible.

I thank God today I am not looking upon temporal things, but upon things eternal. I thank the Lord and look more upon my mansion in heaven than I do upon my home here on earth because my heart is set on my home in glory. Do you desire a closer walk with God? Then draw near to Him. Do you desire to gain heaven? Then have a heart full of purpose and determination. The Apostle said, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded." Phil. 3:13-15.

My friends, God wants His dear saints that are living here now to let their light shine and lift up Jesus, that it will draw all men unto Him. I am afraid there are too

many people who have their minds set on this world's goods so strongly till they will not see Jesus when He comes. My dear Christian friend, let's be found standing up for the whole truth till Jesus comes.

We just closed a ten day's meeting near Holly Hill which started Nov. 15. All the saints hated to see it close for it was one of the best meetings we have had in years. Bro. Abbott and his wife surely did preach the clean gospel. The saints rejoiced through the meetings, and some of them were drawn closer to God. It brought such a blessing to my heart, but I cannot tell it all. My cup of joy ran over. Praise the Lord. There were a few saved.

If you who read the "Faith and Victory" paper desire to have a good clean preacher, get in touch with Bro. S. E. Abbott and his dear wife, and I am sure they will bring nothing but the clean Word of God. We are, by faith, looking forward to seeing them again. We would also be happy to have any of God's anointed to come and preach for us at any time, but we will not accept anything but the whole truth. Bros. Gibson and Murphy Allen were the first to come down in this part of the country. They preached the full gospel.

Bro. Pruitt and saints, we need your prayers.

Your saved brother in Christ, —Eddie Driggers.

—:::—

Calif.—Dear Sister Anna Marie,—I woke up this morning with a praise in my heart to the Lord for His goodness and mercy to me. Surely the Lord has been gracious and I am thankful every day to the Lord for His blessings.

Several weeks ago on Saturday evening I took a severe pain in my side. I prayed and the Lord eased it for a while but it finally was so distressing that I called Sister La Vern Manuel to come pray for me. She came over immediately and had prayer and the Lord heard and answered prayer, praise His dear name! Sister Manuel returned home and I settled down for the night and told her I felt that I would be all right. That same suffering came back on me again so I called her and told her I'd like her to call my brother, Paul Lawson and his wife Glenna, for really, I knew if the Lord didn't do something definite for me that I might not see another day. I was alone in the house and felt that I should not stay alone this time. They came over right away and also Sister Manuel came again. We had prayer. I was calling on the Lord every moment, for I was in intense pain. One of the saints had gone to get Sister Laura Conkle to stay with me. I was so restless I could not get into a position that I'd be still one minute, but just groaned and called on the Lord. When all agreed in prayed I soon got some relief and we knew the Lord had heard and answered prayer again. Praise the Lord.

Christian love,

— Connie Lawson.

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Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Sister Marie,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to send my testimony in for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I had a bad eye infection and was in much pain. I had to stay in a dark room three days. Then we called Guthrie on Sunday for prayer. The pain was gone on Monday. My eye is all cleared up now. Praise His dear name. He is so good to us if we only trust him.

He has healed me of many other things. I had arthritis of the spine before I got saved. But the dear Lord has healed me of that too. He is not only our Saviour, but also our great physician. Praise his dear name.

I want to thank all you dear saints there at Guthrie

that prayed for me. We surely do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It was through it we found the truth and got to go to the Campmeeting at Monark Springs and Guthrie where we got to meet the saints. Truly we do thank the Lord for all his dear people.

Pray for me that I will always stay true to Him and do His will at all times.

Your Brother in Christ, —Rufus Morton.

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Greetings to God's chosen people, in Jesus' dear name,—I wish to thank each one and tell you that God heard and answered prayer for me during the Guthrie Campmeeting. I was very sick and near unto death, suffering very much. My nerves collapsed and my back was out of joint and had been for several years. Dear Mother Bowers and Bro. Lowell Bowers came and anointed me and prayed and I felt my back go in place. From then until now I have not had a pain in my back. Thank God for his great love and kindness and mercy to us.

I would not have a doctor when I was ill and in two weeks I was up and able to work some with the strength God gave me. God has said, "According to your faith, be it unto you," and I find it so and pray that God will strengthen our faith to endure to the end and serve our dear Master.

I am very nervous and have arthritis in my arms. I believe the dear Lord will heal me. Pray for me that I will be watching and ready. My prayer is for each one of God's saints.

—Sister Doris Bowers.

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Ark.—Dear Brother and Sister Pruitt,—I want to send my thanks to the saints for praying for me. I love the Lord and want to live closer and do His will more every day. Pray that I may be faithful in this world and be ready when he calls me home.

I am much better with my kidney trouble. I thank God for answering prayer. I want to ask all of you to pray for my husband and son who are still out in sin.

I get much help from the "Faith and Victory" paper especially the good testimonies. May God richly bless you each one in your work at the printing office.

A sister in Christ Jesus, —Daisy Van Brunt.

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Tenn.—Dear Readers of "Faith and Victory"—Greetings to all the holy brethren in Christ Jesus. I have a testimony that won't keep because of what the Lord has done for me. I trust that this will be an encouragement to someone else. Even if it is not, it will be good for my soul. I hardly know where to start since the Lord has been so very gracious to me and has done so very much. He has heard my prayers and supplications. A week ago my little girl and I started out in our car and were going pretty fast. Just before I got to a large curve after going down a long hill I endeavored to put on my brakes to slow up to go around the curve and found I had no brakes at all. I thought the best thing to do would be to run into a tree rather than to turn over going around that curve. I just knew we would be killed if the dear Lord didn't take care so I just called to Jesus to help us, and He really did, bless His dear name. My little girl only received a cut lip and her nose bled some, and she vomited some. I only received a cut on my right knee, a cut lip, and some of my gum broken off of my false plate, and a bruise on my left arm. Some of the tree roots were rooted up and the car was damaged badly, but our lives were spared to be a witness for Jesus.

I went to the doctor to have my knee sewed up so

it wouldn't pull apart while walking on it. One doctor said he wouldn't take care of it if I didn't let him do it his way. He wanted to give medical treatments. I told him I believed in divine healing so I thanked him and my two sisters helped me back to the car. We went to another doctor and he also told me he wanted to do it the best way, and that I needed a penicillin shot, for the cut would cause trouble, being in a joint. He said there ought not be a Faith like ours. So I thanked him and came on back. I pushed the cut place together as well as I could and someone helped me bandage it up. It has been over a week now and the great Physician is doing a perfect job. I'm well pleased and do praise His name for giving me grace to trust him. Someone suggested I have my little girl examined to see if she was hurt inwardly, but I felt like we both would be well taken care of without man's help. Today, she is just fine. All praise is due His name. He has healed us many times and supplied our needs out of unseen treasures.

I desire the prayers of all the dear saints that the Lord will help me to always and for ever trust Him for soul and body and that Jesus may be lifted up in this life and work out every one of my problems for my good and His glory. Dear ones in the Lord, keep pressing on. It won't be long until the battle will be over and victory will be won. A blood-washed sister—Mrs. Charles Clayton

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La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I love the Lord with all my heart. He is so good to me, blessing me each day. I thank him for the long life he has given me. I will be 88 the 19th of Dec. I can still work some and go to Sunday school and meeting every Sunday and enjoy it.

Pray for me that I may live true to the Lord and my desire is to make heaven my home.

Your sister in Christ, —Annie Tooley.

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S. C.—Dear saints of God,—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. It is a glorious opportunity to send my first testimony. I am saved and free from all man-made rules, praise His name. It's wonderful to be able to have such a wonderful Saviour that will keep us from all evil. There is only ONE true church. I am glad I am born into this great family of God and am an heir to His kingdom.

We certainly are in the last of days. 2 Tim. 3:1 says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come:" that men will love pleasure more than they love God. But, thank the Lord, by his help I mean to stand for my Saviour.

We just closed a wonderful revival. Thank the Lord for sending Bro. and Sister Abbott this way. There was not much altar work but thank the Lord every child of God was spiritually revived.

Pray for me that I ever be close to the Lord and will ever be what he would have me be.

Yours for the saving of lost souls, —O. Neal Pratt.

o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints,—I am praising the Lord this afternoon for His love and mercy shown to us and His many blessings. Truly the Lord is good to us. I had promised Him if He would heal me in my body I would testify to it through the "Faith and Victory." I had had an ear infection for several months and also other ailments in my body. Today, so far as I know, I am perfectly well in every way. To God I give all the praise. I do appreciate it so much.

May the Lord bless all of you there. Pray for me that I always live for the Lord and do His will.
Christian love to all,
—Vera Myers.

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Ky.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints at Guthrie,—I greet you all in the name of our loving Saviour and Lord today, for He is so precious to my soul. He is the One who takes care of us from day to day and furnishes all our needs. He is my Shepherd, I shall not want. I think of how good he has been to us so long, and One we can go to in time of sadness and all things. I do love Him with all of my heart and don't want to do anything that would be displeasing to His holy name. I need your prayers that the Lord will always keep me in the center of his precious will and closer to Him each day.

If any of you saints come this way at any time, stop and visit. Pray that the Lord will send someone this way to preach the Word of God. So many are being deceived today and wrest the Scriptures around to fit their own belief and not to please the Lord. I enjoy reading the booklets, tracts and "Faith and Victory". They are food to my soul.

With Christian love, your sister, Mrs. J. T. Roberts.

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Okla.—Dear saints,—I send greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am saved today and much encouraged to go the Bible way.

I have been very sick with flu, but the Lord came to my rescue, touched my body, and healed me. All through this affliction my trust was in the Lord, soul and body. The Lord raised me off my bed of affliction without rubbing, smelling, or tasting of medicine.

I am His child and mean never to go back on Him. If I hadn't had the Lord with me I wouldn't have been here today. He has done great things for me soul and body. Praise the Lord. I love Him with all my heart and I hate sin. I don't want to have anything to do with sin: Rom. 6:12, 20-22, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Praise the Lord He is my Saviour forever.
Your sister in Christ,
—Lizzie B. Jordan.

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Colo.—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, Greetings. I feel that God would have me tell of His blessings to me. He saves and keeps me by His power and I'm determined to live for Him. Last year I made many trips during the holidays and in the weeks following through cold and snow and icy roads because of the illness and death of my sister. We are thankful that she accepted Christ as her Saviour just seventeen days before her death. How merciful God was to her and to us!

We had colds and flu afterward, and I suffered with pain in my right arm for months. In May I wanted to go to Dallas, Texas to visit my brother. Although God had healed me of the flu, I knew I must have better use of my arm so that I could help myself off and on the bus. I wrote to Bro. Pruitt for prayer and God relieved me of that pain, and though the vein in that arm still looks bad it doesn't hurt any more, praise God. I went on the bus

so I could visit my nieces and nephew, and do some missionary work of distributing tracts and papers. Riding on the bus was very difficult for me as it was crowded much of the way. When I arrived at Dallas I could scarcely walk. God used a dear sister in Christ to help me. I returned on the train. For many months my lower limbs felt as if they were bowed and I could only get around slowly, but God was good to me and now I am much better.

A week ago my brother had to move and I was much burdened about it as he is crippled and all alone. As I was praying early in the morning and wondering if I should go and help him, the Spirit of the Lord said to me, "I took care of him when you didn't even know where he was." Then I prayed that he might not have a roommate who would hinder him spiritually and a still small voice reminded me how some have been saved and kept even in prison. Thank God, then the heavy burden lifted, for I knew that God was undertaking for him. After a few days I received his letter saying that he had moved and thought he would like his new home. He had told the sister that God would help him. What a wonderful God we have who loves to help us even in difficult times.

I am learning to trust Him more and drawing closer to Him. I am thankful that God sent my nephew to meet my brother and me in Dallas. He hopes to visit him when he goes to Dallas sometimes. God works in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform.

Please pray for us,
—Eunice Coral Johnson.

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Mich.—Dear friends of the Faith and Victory paper,—I surely do enjoy the paper very much. I thank you good people for praying for me. The Lord has answered your prayers, for He has made a way for me to get to meeting. But please pray also for my husband. He is drinking quite a lot and surely needs prayer. My son is out of work and unsaved. Do pray for him and my daughter. They need to be saved. Pray that I will hear from my sister.

God recently healed my body. Four different doctors told me I was suffering from gall bladder trouble, but my pastor and Bro. Mossman came and prayed for me. My daughter had taken me to be examined. It was not that I doubted God, but that people would believe.

Pray for me that I will always stay in the center of God's will at all times.

A sister in the Lord,
—Mrs. Carrie Southard.

Publish The Gospel

"And the gospel must first be published among all nations." Mark 13:10.

A tract with a gospel message will not return void if it is read. You can disagree with a tract but when you pick it up it still reads the same. You might just throw it out the window in disgust and trust the wind to blow it far away but you cannot erase the words from your mind that you read, unless you reject God's Spirit that is dealing with you. Then the wind might blow it down the street and someone else will pick it up. We hear from many who tell us they found a tract on the street or beside the road. Some have written they found the paper or tract in a house they moved into or at a filling station, or in a hospital. Of course those that wrote spoke of them being a blessing or the means of their salvation. But think

of the thousands who have not let us know. God in heaven has that record.

Some have written they received the paper for several months before they read it but when they did they were blessed by its contents. A heading, when glanced at, can be used to bring conviction or serious thoughts. We need to get the literature to as many as possible.

We receive hundreds of letters from Africa and letters from places nearly all over the world of those who appreciate the literature. Let us be busy for God. With all the addresses you can get to send a paper to, God is able to work. We thank God for those who are faithful to send in the subscriptions for those in prison and in need. God wants this truth published all over the world.

A refugee woman who had got over the border into Hong-Kong but had lost track of her husband, suffered so much that she was in despair, and determined to commit suicide. She decided to go to a quiet place called Lai Chee Kok. While she was waiting for the bus someone handed her a tract. She read it on the bus. It was all about "after death, the judgment," and etc. She was simply petrified. "If I take my life, I shall be worse off afterwards than I am now. Oh, what shall I do?" God dealt with her, and she gave Him her heart and was happy in knowing her new-found friend. Later, while walking down the road, she saw a man ahead of her. She said to herself, "I seem to know that man in front." She called to him and when he turned around it was her husband. She told him of her Saviour and they both are serving the Lord together.

Let us be stirred to get the gospel out through the printed page. We do thank God for those who hand out hundreds of papers monthly and thousands of tracts. But are you doing your part? We are printing the paper and tracts with a small charge, but it is mostly cared for by the free-will offerings of those who have a burden to get the gospel out. Many are surprised at the small subscription price. We thank God for what He is making possible for us to do and will continue to do as He supplies. So let us be workers together and hand out the gospel or mail it as the Lord opens up the way. "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.
—Mrs. Marie Miles

The Church — Universal and Local

In the New Testament the English word *church* is translated from the Greek word *ecclesia*, which means "to call out." Therefore, the "*ecclesia* of God" or church of God is simply the "called out," family of God—called out of sin and redeemed by the blood of Christ to be a lighthouse to the world. The word *ecclesia* appears about 114 times in the New Testament.

Generally speaking, the New Testament application of the word *ecclesia* has two meanings: the local congregation of saints in a given place; and the universal body of believers.

The Universal Church

In order to visibly express that unity for which Christ prayed, as recorded in John 17, a clear understanding of the basic nature of the church is needed. The denominational concept of the church will never produce the unity for which our Lord so earnestly prayed.

The church is "the body of Christ." All who have been saved from sin are members of Christ's body. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into ONE body" (1 Cor. 12:13). "And gave him [Christ] to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:22-23). "He is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18). "Now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him." (1 Cor. 12:18). "So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Rom. 12:5). All true Christians are members of that one body of Christ—the church.

The church is the family of God. It is that "whole family in heaven and earth" who bear the name and share the nature of their heavenly Father. All who are "born again" (John 3:3), born of the Spirit are members of that family.

The purpose of God's redemptive plan is to bring us into right relation with Himself and with one another. Therefore, the church is the visible expression of that fellowship. Such it is, and such it was when Christ built His church. To be in fellowship with God is to be in fellowship with all who are in fellowship with Him. In knowing Christ, we want others to know Him.

The church is the "city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven." (Rev. 3:12)—"the true sanctuary which the Lord pitched and not man." (Heb. 8:2).

The Local Church

In most places in the New Testament where the word *ecclesia* is used the reference is to the local congregation. This is understood from the fact that many of the New Testament books were letters addressed to certain local congregations of the church to meet the needs of those congregations.

The local church is a part of the whole, universal church. The local church is a visible manifestation of the universal church in a particular locality or area. A local congregation is made up of all those who in any given place are joined to Christ and to one another by the ties of spiritual experience, who meet together for worship, edification, fellowship, instruction, and who work together for the extension of God's kingdom and the saving of a lost world. Membership in the universal church, or being "born again," is essential to membership in the local church. A true Christian is a member of the entire church of God, the whole family of God anywhere and everywhere. He will find a spiritual oneness and feel at home in any and all local congregations of the church.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

SALVATION

Salvation vitally concerns every human being, for unless an experience of Salvation is obtained while in this present life, all is lost. Salvation is found in and obtained from God. The prophet Isaiah declares, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2. "Jesus" placed its profits and value far above all the treasures of this world. He said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36, 37. There is no time as good as the present time to seek God for his great Salvation. We have no assurance of any more time today. Now is the day of Salvation. "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2. Jesus verifies the need and importance of Salvation by saying, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Matt. 6:33. Where shall we seek for the true knowledge of Salvation but in the book called the Holy Bible? We know men wrote it but God inspired it. The writers themselves did not claim to be the authors of the messages they delivered, but as the Apostle Peter writes, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1:21. No one can evade or bypass the written word of God without paying a penalty for disobedience or gross neglect, for in Paul's letter to the Hebrews we read, "How shall we escape if we neglect, so great salvation" — "and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward." Heb. 2:2.

The word of God is given to mankind to enlighten them in the way of righteousness that they, by a life of right living, can gain a great reward and may have the understanding opened to a true knowledge of Salvation. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14. Salvation is the most important subject in the world. It should concern every one of us, for without it our souls will be lost through a never-ending eternity. All anyone can hope to receive for a life of sin is death, "for the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)—spiritual and eternal death.

Praise God, there is deliverance through Jesus Christ. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:2. Yes, Salvation is through Christ. We fear there are many ashamed of the gospel of Christ. If you will believe the gospel you will find it to be the power of God unto Salvation. This is what

the Apostle Paul has said: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; . . . as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom. 1:16, 17. "For ye are bought with a price." 1 Cor. 6:20. Jesus paid a great price for our Salvation. He suffered and gave his blood for the redemption of our souls as stated in Paul's letter to the Hebrews: "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Heb. 9:12. The Salvation that Jesus secured for us is "in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." All that receive this kind of Salvation know they have it "to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins." Luke 1:75, 77. The voice of God sounds out clear and positive to the unsaved to turn from their evil way. SIN IS WICKED. David says "Salvation is far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes." Psalm 119:155. Ezekiel confirms this truth and writes, "Say unto them, 'As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways: for why will ye die, O house of Israel.'" Ezek. 33:11.

There is one of two things man can do: receive or reject God's offer of Salvation. If he rejects, eternal loss; if he receives, it will be eternal bliss. An invitation is given to all. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. John 7:37. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Rev. 3:20. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." John 5:40. Salvation is now a possibility to all them who will seek for it the Bible way. We read in the book of Isaiah, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6, 7.

—Thomas J. Bowers.

Effect of Cigarette Smoking

"You smoke thirty cigarettes a day?"

"Yes, on the average."

"You don't blame them for your run down condition?"

"Not in the least. I blame my hard work."

The physician shook his head. He smiled in a vexed way. Then he took a leech out of a glass jar.

"Let me show you something," he said. "Bare your arm."

The cigarette smoker bared his pale arm and the doctor laid the lean black leech upon it. The leech fell to work busily. Its body began to swell. Then all of a sudden a kind of a shudder convulsed it and it fell to the floor dead.

"That's what your blood did to that leech," said the physician. He took up the little corpse between his finger and thumb. "Look at it," he said. "Quite dead, you see. You poisoned it."

"I guess it wasn't a healthy leech in the first place," said the cigarette smoker sullenly.

"Wasn't healthy, eh? Well, we'll try again." And the physician slapped two leeches on the young man's thin arm.

"If they both die," said the patient, "I'll swear off—or at least I'll cut down my daily allowance from thirty to ten."

Even as he spoke the smaller leech shivered and dropped on his knee dead, and a moment later the larger one fell beside it.

"This is ghastly," said the young man; "I am worse than the pestilence to these leeches."

"It is the empyreumatic oil in your blood," said the medical man. "All cigarette smokers have it."

"Doctor," said the young man, regarding the three dead leeches thoughtfully, "I believe you're right."

—New Zealand Outlook.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7.

"Wherefore do you spend your money for that which is not bread?" Isa. 55:2.

"Prepare to meet thy God." Amos 4:12.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

January 3, 1960

LAUNCHING OUT ON A WORLD MISSION

Printed Portion.....Acts 13:1-4, 13-14, 44-49.

1. Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

13. Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

14. But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

44. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

45. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have

been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

49. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Memory Verse: Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations. Luke 24:47.

Practical Truth: Planting the gospel in new fields is difficult work, but it is part of God's plan.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God's people at every place should have a missionary spirit. Our lesson gives us an example of certain prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch fasting and praying before the Lord about the gospel being sent to others. The Holy Spirit was the leader in planning who was to go on this first missionary tour. We do not find others there jealous about the ones God had chosen, but they backed them by laying hands upon them after fasting and prayer. Oh, if we cannot go we need to back those who will go or who are free to work for God in any capacity they may have. How often the burden has been made heavier for those who go because of those who are jealous of them instead of being behind them with their prayers and help otherwise. The devil will work if he can.

Our lesson brings out how in the city of Antioch in Pisidia (not the Antioch in Syria) that the Jews were filled with envy and caused much trouble for Paul and Barnabas because multitudes of the Gentiles came to hear the Word of God. It seems they should have been glad, but the devil blinds the eyes of people. The missionaries became bold and plainly told the Jews that the Word of God came to them first but they had put it from them, and now God had burdened them for the Gentiles. The Gentiles were glad to receive the Word of God.

January 10, 1960

STRENGTHENING NEW CHURCHES

Printed Portion.....Acts 14:19-28

19. And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

20. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

23. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

24. And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

25. And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:

26. And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

27. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

28. And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Memory Verse: The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. 2 Thess. 3:5.

Practical Truth: When new converts are made, follow-up work designed to build them up in the faith is highly important.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson last Sunday opened with a picture of a fasting, praying church which had awakened to the needs of the whole world at that time. Our lesson today closes with these missionaries, whom the Holy Spirit had sent forth, rehearsing to the church of what God had done. I am sure there was much rejoicing in the church of Antioch as they listened to this report. They had a part in it because they had backed the missionaries.

Paul had much to tell. Not only had God wonderfully worked but it came to pass through the willingness of Paul and Barnabas to suffer. In Lystra God used Paul in the healing of the man who had been crippled from birth. This so amazed the people that they instantly thought gods had come down in the likeness of men. They wanted to do obeisance to them but the missionaries cried out against it. Later some Jews came and stirred up this same people against them and they stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city. While the disciples gathered around him God touched him and he arose and went back into the city. This shows how people's minds can be changed. Paul did not let the honor or dishonor stop his work for God.

Paul sensed the importance of follow-up work when converts were made, lest after all he should have labored in vain. Surely such work is needed today.

January 17, 1960

THE GOSPEL VERSUS LEGALISM

Printed Portion.....Acts 15:1-2, 12-21.

1. And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

12. Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

13. And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

14. Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

15. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

16. After this I will return, and will build again the

tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

17. That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

18. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

19. Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:

20. But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

21. For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Memory Verse: A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ. Gal. 2:16.

Practical Truth: We are not under obligation to observe the Mosaic ceremonies, but we are under obligation to obey the commands of Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul and Barnabas labored in the church of Antioch for a while after their return from their first missionary tour. Some Jewish Christians from Judea disturbed the peace of the church by strongly advocating the keeping of some traditional ideas of the law of Moses. Paul and Barnabas rightly felt it would hamper the progress of the Gentile church over the world, yet the Jews felt Paul or no one had a right to repeal the sign of God's everlasting covenant with his people. (Gen. 17:13).

After much discussion it became apparent that the only way to settle it was to take the question to the apostles in Jerusalem. Several were appointed to go and there private and public discussions were held. (Gal. 2; Acts 15). In the public discussion Peter arose and recounted his experience with Cornelius and the Gentiles in his house—how they received the Holy Spirit and yet they were uncircumcised. Paul and Barnabas also told the same thing.

James, the Lord's brother who seemed to be the pastor, summed up what had been said and it was brought to a decision. Notice that it was James, not Peter whom the Roman Catholics consider the first pope, that made the decision. God wants his people to settle their differences, not by bitter talk but by a charitable means and patience. The Holy Spirit is able to work with those who have an open mind and have love toward others to bring unity of thought on God's word.

January 24, 1960

THE CONVERTING POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Printed Portion.....Acts 16:13-15, 25-34

13. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

25. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30. And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31. And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Memory Verse: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Acts 16:31.

Practical Truth: When people believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and are saved, their lives are changed.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul and Silas left Antioch on the second missionary tour. They did the largest amount of pioneer missionary work and established the largest number of churches on this trip. But it was done through much suffering and sacrifice. The best things cost the most. Our salvation cost heaven its best. Salvation costs us all of our self.

The definite leadings of the Holy Spirit recorded in the first part of the sixteenth chapter is very impressive. God will lead His children today if they will live close to Him, and keep dead to self.

Notice the words in our lesson, "Whose heart the Lord opened." The gospel changes our lives. Paul's life was changed, his heart opened and a new heart of flesh was given. The stony heart was taken out. Paul asserts that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Rom. 1:16. Because he believed this, he was willing to suffer to carry the gospel to the world of his day. Do we believe it that strong?

In the last part of our lesson we do not hear Paul and Silas moaning and groaning in prison, but we read of them praising the Lord and praying. Through this God caused the jailer to be saved. Only through suffering was this done. God will use every person who will let him. I'm afraid there are not very many willing to go all the way with the Lord. May God help the so-called Christian today.

January 31, 1960

RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

Printed Portion.....Acts 17:10-12, 22-26, 29-31.

10. And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

22. Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

23. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

24. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25. Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26. And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

29. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Memory Verse: Walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. 1 Thess. 2:12.

Practical Truth: People who have opportunity to know about God and the way of salvation should give earnest heed to His messages.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are not held accountable how people receive the gospel but we are held accountable if we do not take it to them. We find in the labors of Paul some received it gladly and searched the scriptures daily with a readiness of mind. Yet at other places they rejected the gospel and would not receive it. The gospel is a "savor of death unto death or a savor of life unto life." (2 Cor. 3:15-16). When we take the gospel and it is accepted, it brings life, but if it is rejected it brings death.

Notice that Paul taught in the 25th verse that God is "not worshipped with men's hands." We feel that mechanical musical instruments should not be used in the house of worship. God wants heart worship and not hand worship. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. Some say that David used instruments in his worship. But later the prophet condemned that use. In Amos 6:5 the prophet says, in condemning the wickedness of the backslidden people, they "chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David." We do not find anywhere in the New Testament where mechanical musical instruments were ever used in the church. People today are worshipping the unknown God. It does not save from sin, nor fill with the Holy Spirit, nor heal the bodies of those who worship it. A form has taken the place of the Holy Spirit. Let us watch and let the Holy Spirit have the leadership, individually and collectively.

—Sister Marie Miles