

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Spotless Bride of Christ

She stands above this world of strife
With garments pure and white,
In beauty fair of endless life:
A grand and glorious sight.
A golden city on a hill,
Her grace cannot be hid,
She shineth forth the earth to fill
While seasons dark amid.

No artist skilled with talent rare,
Nor engineers so wise
Can trace an equal to compare:
This Monarch of the skies!
Her opened gates reveal the grace
Her God hath freely giv'n,
Her language reaches every race
And nation under heav'n.

She sends her call across the skies
In words of flaming light:
"O sinful man, seek pardon! rise
And flee the works of night!"
Her mouth sends forth in wisdom fair
The law of kindness true;
With love Her light in meekness rare
Proclaims it ever new.

Perceiving that her grace is good,
Her light doth ever shine
Of friendship, faith, and brotherhood:
These virtues so divine.
She'll stand while in the raging storm
And all her grace retain,
She rests securely on the Arm
Of strength and true domain.

And when beneath the flaming skies
This earth will pass away,
This One in victory shall rise
And hail eternal day.
And through the years of ceaseless age
With Him who bought Her charm,
With His eternal heritage
She'll rest secure from harm.

—Leslie Busbee.

Baptism

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:13-17.

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11.

"When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee." John 4:1-3.

"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:16-20.

I believe the foregoing scriptures are familiar to most Bible readers, and that it is not necessary to try to prove that baptism is a Bible doctrine; however, I understand that there are some that are called anti-ordinance people about us who do not believe that we are obligated to practice any of the ordinances, such as feet-washing, baptism, or the Lord's supper. But with those who do believe that water baptism should

be observed according to the command of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, there exists a difference of opinion as to which mode should be used in administering this rite. I do not mean by this statement that the Bible teaches different modes of baptism, but there are at least four modes that are practiced by different religious bodies: dipping, pouring, sprinkling, and the forward dip, or with the face downward. As baptism symbolizes a death and burial, as stated in Romans the 6th chapter, 4th verse, it is easy to see that immersion is the proper, and scriptural mode to use. This is also evidenced by the fact that the ones baptized came up out of the water, (or watery grave), which also symbolized a resurrection, walking in a new life, or following Christ. Rom. 6: 4th and 5th verses.

Water baptism does not cleanse the soul, or wash away one's sins, as some teach, but is, according to 1 Peter 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.)" There is only one element that can wash away sins. We read in Rev. 1:5c, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." 1 Peter 1:18, 19. But someone will say, "Did not Ananias tell Paul to arise and be baptized, and wash away his sins?" Let us read on, "Calling on the name of the Lord." Paul never did give water baptism credit for taking away his sins. He said in Eph. 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." The command is to "preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." That does away with infant baptism, for infants are not capable of believing. I find no scriptural reference where infants were baptized; neither where they were commanded to be baptized.

The Bible teaches that there were two baptisms: namely, the baptism of John and the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. To be qualified as a candidate for John's baptism one was required to show forth evidence of repentance. "Then went out to him [John] Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." Matt. 3:5, 6. "After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized." John 3:22, 23. It is evident to any unbiased mind that there was a difference in the ceremonies used in the performance of these baptisms, but we do know that John preached the baptism of repentance, Acts 13:24. As the forerunner of Jesus, John did not, and neither was he commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and

of the Holy Ghost. His was the baptism of repentance. It is evident that the disciples of Jesus were commanded to, and did baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, as recorded in Matt. 28:19. If this were not so, it would have been vague for Paul to ask the disciples at Ephesus, "Unto what then were you baptized?" When they, in this answer to his question: "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" replied, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." After Paul's explanation, the 5th verse of the 19th chapter of Acts says "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus," but it does not give the ceremony in detail or in its fulness.

The baptism of John was unto repentance; the baptism of Jesus was according to faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 8:36b, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" 37, "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38b, "And they went down, both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." 39a, "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip."

(abridged to conserve space.) —Ulysses Phillips.

The Trinity

God, the Diety, the Trinity, or the Godhead consists of three, yet the three are one and work together absolutely harmoniously. Webster says the word **Trinity** means "the union of three persons or hypostases as to individuality." From the above definition, we conclude that the Godhead consists of three: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When one of the Trinity is working, it could be truthfully said that God is working, because they all work in complete harmony. One cannot work contrary to the other. This is why it is written that Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh. And when the Holy Spirit convicts a soul of sin, it is said, God is working, for the Holy Spirit is doing His office work. In Ephesians 4:6, we read, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Before Christ came as a Saviour there was very little said or known of Jesus or the Holy Spirit only in prophetic language. But the people believed in God, and also the angels. Jesus has brought to light the completeness of the Godhead, and all must be recognized in their proper places as God working, as the three are one and move in perfect harmony. You cannot have one without the other, for all have their place to fulfill in our complete salvation. God the Father comes first in all the work that saves the soul of man. The beginning of our salvation comes from God. "God gave his only begotten Son." John 3:16. The Son obeyed the commandment of the Father and laid down his life as a blood sacrifice in redeeming our souls back to God. Jesus promised the Comforter (John 14:26) which is the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit, and also honored God by speaking of Him as "The Promise of the Father" Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4.

In Acts 20:28 the three persons of the Godhead are mentioned. First the minister (or overseer) is instructed to take heed unto himself and then over "all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseer." In this we see the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) honored in his place. Then: "To feed the Church of God." Here the Father is honored in His place. Then, "Which He hath purchased with his own blood." Jesus, being the Son of God, has purchased the church with his own blood, yet God gave His Son, and through the gift of the blood of his only begotten Son the church is purchased, and it is only right that the church should be called the church of God. When this is done, all three of the Godhead are recognized in their respective places in bringing the church into existence.

Just before Christ left this world through crucifixion, he prayed earnestly (17th chapter of St. John) that his disciples be kept in the Father's name. He said while he was with them he kept them in the Father's name. Read it in the 11th and 12th verses.

To designate any religious body of people in a general sense by any other name than the Church of God would actually be denying Jesus the right of having his earnest prayer answered. Any person who is born from above and has his sins cleansed away by the blood of Christ should never accept any other name for the Church but the Church of God and thus honor the Son as having his prayer answered.

The Apostle Paul in most of his references to the Church called it the Church of God. Sometimes he referred to it as the Church of Christ or the family of God or the household of faith and mentioned it as the Body of Christ, but the predominant name given the Church was "the Church of God." This wording also honored Christ as having his prayer answered. In Eph. 3:14, 15, the Apostle Paul honors God the Father by saying the whole family in heaven and earth is named after Him. This should be a biblically established fact and foundation for any soul that loves the Lord.

To honor one of the members of the Godhead above God the Father would be dishonoring God, and such could be carried to an extent as to become idol worship. In 1 Cor. 3:11, the Apostle Paul places them in their right places when speaking of the man being the head of the wife, and Christ the head of man, and God the head of Christ. God has loved his Son and given him great power and authority. In John 3:35 he said, "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life." In Eph. 1:20, in speaking of the things that He wrought in Christ, it is written: "He raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places."

Verse 22: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Even though God has done this, yet he is still the head of Christ. According to Heb. 4:14, Christ is our High Priest before God the Father. In Col. 3:1 we are told, "If ye then be risen with

Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God." In Heb. 7:25 we read, "Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him [God is head] seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens."

When Stephen was being stoned to death he looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Since Jesus has made a blood sacrifice for the sins of all men; ALL must come unto God by Him. Ye cannot reject Christ as our Saviour and yet have God the Father.

Brethren, we should give God supreme honor, and honor Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit in their respective places; for God, the Great "I AM" is head of all things, even head of what he has given Christ to be head and governor over. The three are one and they never work independent nor contrary one to the other. When one moves, they all sanction and move as one body, God being the Almighty One, the Omnipotent, the Omnipresent, and Omniscient ONE, from whose face, some day, the heavens and earth will flee away (Rev. 20:11). Hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For GOD will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14.

—Fred Pruitt.

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To The Precious Aged Saints

It is precious indeed to our hearts to see the dear old saints still on the battlefield for our Lord.

There are also some that are feeble and afflicted, but God has not forgotten you. "For my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Isn't that a glorious promise?

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to your heirs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

Perhaps your children and others have forsaken you and you feel so alone, but just remember your heavenly Father is watching over you. He is the unchanging God. He has the same power to preserve you in old age as He had when you were a youth.

"... I am God, and there is none like me." "Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

Wonderful promises!! Sometimes parents forsake their children when they are very small, but our God will not forget us. What a Saviour.

"Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high." May the Lord continue to bless and keep each one of you. Pray for me.

—A. Stills

"Give not from the top of your purse, but from the bottom of your heart."

"FAITH AND VICTORY"**16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

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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

In Matt. 7:13, 14, and 15, Jesus made some statements to which every one ought to take heed, for the way one travels in this world is the way his end will be. He makes us know in these verses that each one of us is going to be held responsible for his own conduct in life and not for what others do. He says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." First, he tells us to enter in at the strait gate. The word is spelled "strait" which means a difficult way. This strait way is hard for many to find, for the natural man is generally proud. Although he endeavors to keep that hid, yet it is there just the same. Many persons desire to find the Lord, yet they really do not find him. They make me think of a few turkeys put in a pen which was made of high netting wire. The two hen turkeys found a weak place and crawled under the fence. The old gobbler raced up and down the fence with his head up high, wanting to find the way out, but was to high-headed to find the low spot under the fence. Most people are really too proud to humble their souls down before God and confess and make their wrongs right in order to find the Lord and thus they never enter in at the strait gate.

In the eleventh chapter of Matthew and the 29th verse Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." You notice he says, "For I am meek and lowly in heart." Very few in comparison with the many, ever find their way down to a meek and lowly state where they can really find the Lord. In order to keep walking with the Lord after you have found him you must do as Paul says in Col. 2:5, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."

You have to humble down low in confession and repentance to find Jesus, and then you will have to continue to walk in his meek and lowly ways. God is no respecter of persons. The poor, the rich, middle classes, and the mighty all have to come the same way, and it surely is a difficult way. To keep from really humbling down most people will accept the devil's lies and join a church and in that way help to ward off conviction and some of them become great workers in the church, yet never enter in at the strait gate. Poor deluded souls!

In Matt. 7:15 it says, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Why did Jesus make a statement like this? For the very purpose of warning you against the many false ways that are around and about you on every hand who make the way easy for you and thereby keep you from entering in at the strait gate. Satan is quite clever in keeping souls

from entering in at the strait gate. He is glad for you to make a profession, but he surely does not want you to humble down in godly sorrow and repentance with confession and restoring the pledge, cleaning up your back life as far as you are able.

Jesus found a lot of the people in the same state as we find them today. Let us quote some of his teachings on the subject in the 11th chapter of Matt. beginning at the 20th verse, "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of Judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shall be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of Judgment, than for thee." After speaking in this way of the proud-hearted people who would not humble down in repentance and enter in at the strait gate he began to pray unto the Father and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." The most of the people today are wise and prudent in worldly wisdom and think they know how to get to heaven and they follow along with all the easy ways that men have made for them, but never get down to a meek and lowly state where they can enter in at the strait gate. These professors often tell the ones on the strait and narrow way that they ought to get broad-minded and not remain in a strait jacket. They are ignorant of the fact that the strait, narrow way brings great freedom and liberty. In John the 8th chapter and the 32nd verse Jesus spoke to some of the professors of his day and said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." But they said that they were Abraham's seed and were never under bondage to any man. Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." He told them again in the 36th verse, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." These wise and prudent and broad-minded professors today have not entered in at the strait gate. There are some of them that did enter in but as they traveled along they became so wise and broad-minded that they slipped off onto the broad way that leads to destruction.

Brothers and sisters, may God help us not to let the Word of God slip and forget what manner of folks we are, but let us walk the meek and lowly way in this life with Jesus and be a babe as far as the wisdom of this world is concerned, but grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth and become and continue to be alive in the things of God. Enter in at the strait gate and continue to walk therein. This is the only safe way that will lead us to heaven and to God.

With this March issue of the Faith and Victory paper, all the subscriptions listed under the special three-months' offer will expire. We shall be pleased for you to subscribe for the paper for a whole year for the small price of 35c, or better still, send a dollar bill and get the paper for three years. We are inserting a subscription blank in each paper to make it convenient for you to subscribe. Please do not neglect your soul, for it is of more importance than all you could possibly do for your body. The body will go back to dust but your soul will live on some where. May your soul live on in heaven with God. You will have to keep sowing to the Spirit if it does. Send in your subscription now while you have it on your mind, lest you neglect the most important thing in life. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. Enter ye in at the strait gate. God reveals things unto the meek and humble that the worldly wise and prudent never know. Be like the hen turkeys, and get low and meek and find your way out to Christ.

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The foreign missionary work by the printed page is increasing. On the 25th of January we received 220 letters from dark Africa calling and begging for New Testaments, Bibles, and literature. The Lord has enabled us to supply every one with a Testament and some literature. We thank God for those who are interested in getting the Testaments and literature to them. We never know how many souls will be saved through this effort. While we do not get that many letters every day, we do get some along all the time that are being supplied. It is a pleasure to do work for the Lord in behalf of precious souls.

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I have just received word from Mrs. Grace Gregg of Burnside, Pa., that her husband, Kay Gregg, passed away on Nov. 7th, 1959. She said he was ready to go. He had worked at the barber trade in Burnside for 52 years. Sister Gregg's maiden name was Grace Wetzel, being a daughter of J. Edward Wetzel, one of the old-time saints. When in evangelistic work years ago we stayed in their home. I think quite a few of our readers remember them.

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There have been some changes made in the office force in the last few months. Sister Cassie Irvin, who has been a faithful worker in the print shop home for nearly four years, felt that the Lord wanted her to care for her mother, Sister Marler of Senath, Mo., who has not been well. Sister Viola Atnip felt her duty also to help in a financial way. She had been here for five years and was very efficient. We miss them both. Sister Lillian Meek has taken over the house work and Sister Berniece Eck has taken Viola's place in the office and stencil room. The work is moving along nicely and we are pleased to see how smoothly and nicely the Lord takes care of His printing work. May the blessing of God continue upon Sister Cassie and her daughter, Viola, as they love and honor Him who died for all. Pray that Sister Marler will soon be well again.

Some Sound Biblical Doctrine

We have believed and taught that a saint of God, a saved man, will be just as honest and upright in dealing with his enemy or one that opposes him, as with his friend or one that agrees with him. We believe and teach this same truth today. One thing we find hard to do is to teach the Word in its fulness and yet please those who have wrong conceptions of the truth; and in trying to show up the truth by the Scripture we often are accused by them as using the Word wrongfully. Lately, one who believes in stressing water salvation has called us in question about a scripture we quoted in part to save space, but failed to show that it was only in part. This Scripture was in a gospel tract we had written, printed, and circulated entitled, "Water Baptism." The verse of scripture in question is found in Acts 2:38, and is found on the second page of this tract. While the Lord does not condemn us over the matter, yet we feel clear to quote all the verse. Looking at it from this one's point of view we should have quoted the whole verse.

This same Peter who spoke these words was also present and the speaker when the Gentiles, Cornelius and his household, were saved, and the meaning of the scripture in Acts 2:38 is brought out in action by Peter in the last part of the tenth chapter of Acts. It is written beginning with the 44th verse, "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God." After these Gentile converts were filled with the Holy Ghost and were magnifying the Lord, (were truly and fully saved,) Peter said, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" In other words, he says that this is the way he was saved and those who had come with him. "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." Peter wanted to fulfill his teaching in 1 Peter 3:21 which reads as follows, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Jesus was resurrected in their souls and Peter wanted them to be baptized to show that they had a good conscience and were clear before God.

As Christ died and went into the literal grave and was resurrected bodily to live forever, so also these Gentiles had died to sin and the world and were resurrected with a new life from heaven to live for God. Thus in water baptism one goes down into the watery grave which shows that he has died to sin and the world and he is brought up out of the watery grave as Christ was resurrected literally and lives forever, so the one is to walk in the New Life. Paul brings out this truth plainly in the first part of the 6th chapter of Romans. Those who have a wrong understand-

ing of the Scriptures wrest them from their proper meaning to their own and others' destruction.

For the sake of those who misunderstood the scripture and thereby failed to rightly divide them we have set up the type for the full verse in Acts 2:38. In the tract entitled, "Seven Men Went Singing Into Heaven," we have changed the next to the last verse, taking it out and setting type to replace it with the first verse in Romans 5. The former verse was quoted which I did not know was done until my attention was called to the matter. We welcome, friendly upbuilding criticism.

When we, by the Scriptures, show up the wrong of stressing water for salvation, we do it because of a burden for souls who are deceived in that way. We know whereof we speak because we, at one time, were affiliated with such people, were baptized in water by their minister, and had no change of heart whatsoever. Yet they counted me a good member of the church. But as time went on, I was honest enough to see my lost condition and own up to it and in that state I was in condition by faith in God to have godly sorrow and repentance, and was gloriously saved from all sin and a new life from heaven began to live in my soul and is with me yet today. Thank God for a real born again experience from heaven! After being born again I was then baptized.

We have kin folks in that persuasion who are void of salvation but are depending on their water salvation to save them, living in sin all the time and deceived by deceived preachers. How sad! These preachers tell them that they cannot expect to live free from sin in this life and a statement like that contradicts the Word of God, for in Luke, the first chapter and the 74th and 75th verses we read, "That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life." Also in the 12th chapter of Hebrews and the 14th verse we read, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." When people have the wrong understanding of some important scripture, they will also, in trying to prove their point, give wrong interpretations of other scriptures and lead souls astray.

For instance, these people that put the stress on water for salvation do not believe that one can live free from sin in this life and they use the seventh chapter of Romans to drag the sainted Apostle Paul down in the mire of sin with them by saying and teaching that Paul was a saved man, yet in a sinful condition (as he wrote in the seventh chapter of Romans.) If God could enlighten them on this scripture He would reveal the fact to them that Paul was telling of how he felt when in sin under the law. He goes on to say that he was carnal, sold under sin. This is just exactly what an unsaved man is; and later he says, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" No saved man is wretched. In the eighth chapter Paul tells of his experience after he has found Christ and is saved.

How sad to think that we have men that pass

themselves off to be ministers of God and are so greatly deceived and are deceiving others by the thousands, causing them to be lost eternally. There are some scriptures in the 11th chapter of second Corinthians which Paul has written, and they give us some understanding about some preachers as it reads thus: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

In the second chapter of Titus and the 11th verse we read, "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." You notice it says right here in this present world we are to live righteously and godly. To be righteous and godly one would have to live free from sin. It seems to me that honest souls who love the Lord would look to Him for grace to live righteously and godly and measure their lives to the Holy Word instead of hunting for scriptures which tell of some who lived in sin and defile themselves with them. Did you not know when you tell a man that he cannot expect to live free from sin in this life that you are giving the devil credit of having more power than God? God tells his children to live righteously and godly in this present world; but they are told they cannot expect to do that. Teaching of this kind is just the same as telling that the devil will cause people to sin and God cannot keep him from it.

As I said before, when folks get the wrong understanding on some prominent scripture they will find themselves wrong on many others. A lot of these people who stress water salvation have also received the wrong understanding as to the proper name of the Church. Many of them call themselves the Church of Christ when the majority of the scriptures in the New Testament which refer to the Church call it the "Church of God." In Acts the 20th chapter and the 28th verse we read, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." If Paul had believed in putting the stress on water baptism as some do today, he would have written it in this manner: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of Christ which he hath purchased with water. I thank God that he did not write it that way, but used the name, Church of God, which is most generally used in the New Testament to designate the name of his true disciples. When men use the name, Church of Christ, as the only name for the Church, they deny the right of Jesus having his prayer answered which he so earnestly prayed in the 17th chapter of John in the 11th and 12th verses. In these verses we find that he prayed earnestly that the Father would keep

them in his name and said, "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: ..." In designating the Church of Christ as the right and only name surely Jesus is denied the right of having his earnest prayer answered. I thank God that his prayer was answered and the true disciples of the Lord are today called by the Father's name: Church of God or Family of God.

Many of those who put the stress on water for salvation ignore the teaching and example which Jesus gives us in the 13th chapter of John's gospel where he washed the disciples' feet and said unto them in the 14th and 15th verses, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. [The word "ought" has the meaning of duty-bound.] For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you." When this ordinance is observed by hearts made free from sin, it increases happiness, quietness, and assurance in the soul as Jesus has said in the 17th verse, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

—Fred Pruitt.

---:--- *Obituaries*

Sister Blanche Allen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith, was born Sept. 11, 1872 at Wynnewood, Okla. and departed this life Nov. 2, 1959 at the age of 87 yrs.

In 1894 she was united in holy matrimony to Manuel Block who preceded her in death. In later years she married Mr. Allen who preceded her in death.

In her early life she professed a hope in Christ. After coming to Bakersfield, Calif. in 1941 she heard the truth taught by the ministers of the Church of God. She readily accepted it and was saved. Mother Allen was faithful to attend services with her three little granddaughters and to testify of the goodness of the Lord unto her. She would often sing the song, "If It Wasn't for the Lord, What Would I Do?"

Later in life, being feeble and becoming blind, she didn't have a chance to attend services regularly as she desired, but when she did attend she would rejoice greatly in the Lord and be an encouragement to the saints.

She leaves to mourn her passing: two daughters, Geneva Keyes, Bakersfield, Calif., Rena O'Conner, Los Angeles, Calif.; one son, Stillwell Block, Marysville, Calif.; two brothers, Zack Smith, Wynnewood, Oklahoma, Louie Smith, Pauls Valley, Okla.; 25 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and a host of cousins, relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Saints' Chapel at Bakersfield, and conducted by Bros. Johnny Johnson, L. E. Gaines and Z. E. Francisco.

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Edith Gibson, Parrill, Solid was born November 7, 1909 in Christian County, Missouri and departed this life January 11, 1960 at the age of 50 years, 2 months and 4 days, the only daughter of Samuel and Minnie Gibson.

She was united in marriage to William Parrill and to this union one daughter, Eleanor, was born. Bro. Parrill preceded her in death in September, 1953, and later she was married to Bro. Herman Solid in November, 1954.

She became acquainted with the Church of God doctrines at a very young age in life. She will be missed by her many friends, and the vacant spot in the home

left by her death will be one of sorrow, but for the memories, God is so kind to have provided help to heal the deep sorrow.

She is survived by her husband, Herman, one daughter, Eleanor, one step-daughter, Cora Solid; nine brothers, Eli, Ira, Roy, Asa, Silas, Darius, Paul, Noah and Ezra Gibson, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral and interment was held in Springfield, Mo. Officiating in the service was Charles R. Smith.

Religious But Not Saved

Satan is determined to make the world religious, but keep them from being saved. One of the principle methods he is using is the modern theory "Accept Christ," join a Church and be baptized without confessing and forsaking sin.

There must be true repentance, which is being sorry for sin. Forsake all sin, then seek His forgiveness, and turn to Him with a full and complete surrender of our lives. When the Lord sees that we are really penitent, He will come into our lives and give us new desires and help us to have victory over all sin.

The Lord commanded that repentance be preached in His name among all nations. Luke 24:47. His disciples went out and preached that men should repent. Mark 6:12. The early Church preached repentance, but the modern Church doesn't.

To accept this modern theory that is being offered to day "Accept Christ," join a Church and be baptized, without confessing and forsaking sin, makes one just an unregenerated religious person whose life is not changed and he will be doomed for eternal destruction.

The churches today are filled with these unregenerated people who have accepted this easy way. The Lord spoke of this condition that would exist in the last days. He said the people would not endure sound doctrine and would heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and would preach to them an easy way.

The modern preacher is anxious to offer this easy way to the people, because it brings him no criticism, makes him more popular and brings him worldly gain. People want it this way also, because they love their sins and don't want to give them up.

Unless you confess and forsake your sins and turn to the Lord you will spend your eternity in Hell.

It is no wonder the Lord said, strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life everlasting and few there be that find it.

Suppose someone were to offer me \$1,000 for every soul I might try to win to Christ. Would I endeavor to lead any more souls to Christ than I am doing now? Is it possible that I would attempt to do for money, even at the risk of blunders or ridicule what I hesitate to do, or shrink from doing now, in obedience to God's command? Is my love of money stronger than my love for God or for souls? How feeble then my love to God. Perhaps this explains why I am not a soul winner.

NOTICES

TENTS FOR NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

In the December issue of this publication Bro. Richard Madden, pastor at Sapulpa, Okla., notified the saints of the need of additional camp tents for the National Campmeeting which will be held, Lord willing, in July 22 to 31, 1960 at Monark Springs (Neosho), Mo. Bro. Ralph Beisly, the campmeeting business manager to whom the contributions were to be sent, informs us that a few congregations and saints have responded financially to this need. He has compared various tent prices and finds that Sears, Roebuck Co. is the most reasonable on account of a special sale which ends Feb. 29. A tent approximately the size of 10 x 12 feet with poles sells for \$35.29 and one 12 x 14 feet for about \$43.00. In order to take advantage of these sale prices Bro. Beisly has, on the advice and counsel of other saints, placed an order for six of the 10 x 12 tents and five of the larger ones, which will cost a total of about \$425.00. The congregations who have not yet responded may send the amount to cover the cost of a tent direct to Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas, and you will have additional treasures laid up in heaven. —L. D. Pruitt, Secretary of Nat'l Camp.

ADD THESE TO YOUR LIBRARY

A booklet, entitled "Trust in God," is offered by the author at half price while they last. This 62-page, paper bound booklet gives the personal experience of how God healed the writer of cancer, and also sets forth the Bible teaching of the unity of God's people. You may secure a copy by sending 25 cents to the author, Mrs. H. R. Grauke, Box 133, Pearsall, Texas.

We have a new 28-page booklet off the press called, "Ask What I shall Give Thee." It is written by Ada Scanlan. It is yours for 10c.

NEOSHO, MO., ALL-DAY MEETINGS

The saints of Neosho, Mo., thought it would be good to have all-day meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month as long as the Lord directs. All true ministers of God are heartily welcome to come and be with us.

—Sister Artie Bowers.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., MEETING

Our annual meeting of the Church of God at 800 N. E. Third Street in Oklahoma City, will begin March 4th, 1960 and will continue through March 13th, if it be the Lord's will. We would like for every saint to pray that the meeting will be a great help to saints and sinners. For further information call or write Bro. Isaac Williams at 712 N. Nebraska, Oklahoma City, Okla., Phone CE. 5-9854.

SERVICES AT ROLLA, MISSOURI

There will be all-day services every second Sunday of each month at the K. P. Hall, 7th and Rolla Streets, Rolla, Mo. Lunch will be served at noon. We invite the saints every where to attend these services and pray God to send able ministers among us that the pure gospel will go forth and souls will be fed.

—Bro. and Sister Ernest Engle.

"To put alcohol into the system is like putting sand in the bearings of an engine." —Thomas Edison.

SPRING MEETING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

The spring meeting at the Church of God in Boley will convene, Lord willing, April 15th, to 24th. We are looking to the Lord to send workers that he can use at this place. —Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Box 109, Boley, Okla.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for a burden that I have that no one seems to understand. I need wisdom to choose wisely in all matters of life. —God's child.

Pa.—To all the saints at Guthrie and everywhere, I wish you would pray for my healing. I am very deaf and can't hear the sermons at meeting and I have other ailments. I thank you all.

Yours in Christian love, —Boyd M. King.

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BIBLES, BOOKS AND CARDS

Egermeier's Bible Story Book, 640 pages	\$ 3.95
Egermeier's Bible Picture ABC Book, clothbound....	1.95
Cruden's Complete Concordance, 200,000 references	4.00
Smith's Bible Dictionary, 818 pages	3.50
Fox's Book of Martyrs	3.00
The Pilgrim's Progress	2.50
World Bible, approx. 5 x 7, gift boxed, No. 1121C....	11.50
World Bible, approx. 5 x 8, No. 1129C	7.50
National Bible, approx. 6 x 9, large print, No. 451....	7.25
Pocket New Testaments.....Values from \$1.75 to \$3.00	
Birthday, Get-Well, All-Occasion, Sympathy Cards....	\$1.00
1959 Beautiful Way Year Books	1.00
1959 Faith and Victory Year Books60
Evening Light Song Book, 496 pages—\$1.50, 15c postage	

Order from Faith Pub. House, Box 713, Guthrie, Okla.

Testimonies

Calif.—Dear saints,—While working one day on the job I noticed a little slip of paper. Written on it were words to be memorized and repeated daily to ward off the evil spirits of the day. I did not really understand this, so copied it and thought I would keep it when a voice within asked me the question, "Would you carry that around; would you use that?" I felt a little puzzled. Then the Spirit of the Lord began to talk to my heart to remind me of what a wonderful privilege we have in Him as saints of God, and we did not need such. While others are studying from men's books, memorizing and practising words of speech that men thought up, we possess the Spirit of God who, thank the Lord, teaches us and brings to our memory things that we need at the time of need.

As I sit here in God's presence, I feel so thankful to know Him. I just praise Him in my heart. I'm so grateful for salvation. I know each day I am living on his mercy and love. I thank God for the Church, and that He called me out of sin and set my feet in the pathway of righteousness. He has taken my heart for His dwelling place. I realize this is a narrow way. Matt. 5:14 says, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Dear saints, whether we make it into His eternal heavenly home depends on our life and our light in this world, for whatever life we live will be seen by the world whether we want it to or not. We are known by our fruit, or our life, or our light.

Just think, there are many people who honestly do not know any better than to study up on the Spirit of the Lord. They do not know about the grace and power of God or that there is a people walking with God daily with

victory over sin. They are doing all they know, for they haven't seen, but God wants to use us to show them. We are instruments to be used as He sees fit, whether in sickness, or in health, in plenty, or in little. We must glorify God. We are to lift Him up in the oppression as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, John 3:14. I have thought back, of some suffering of the saints and how humbly and quietly they took it. There were times while in sin that I did not understand why or how they did it. But God is teaching me. John 3:17 says, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." He had life and knew that sin-bound souls would need and want it, so He lived. His life and His work cause people to be concerned and look up to ask Him questions about His power, and how He can do things. So it is with us. As we are led by the Spirit in complete obedience He will cause people who look on our lives to want to know how we live a victorious life. Then God can draw that soul unto Himself.

I can see more clearly God's plan and I truly thank Him. I can understand better His dealings in my life. It gives me more of a determination to go all the way with Him and to be more willing to bear my cross that I may be drawn closer to Him and to appreciate more the Spirit of God that keeps me from the evils of the world, for I am in the world, but not of the world.

Sister Arceal Johnson.

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Wisc.—Greetings to all the dear saints everywhere,—I am sending a testimony which I think will help others to put all their trust in God.

Our son who makes his home with us has a television. We have received a lot of criticism against us for letting him have it in our home. Some well-meaning saints advised us to turn him out with his television. But we thought that unwise, as we have been praying for the salvation of his soul. So we just took it to the Lord in prayer that He should lead and guide us in all things. We just let our son know we didn't approve of having it in our living room and did it with kindness, so we didn't hurt his feelings. Of his own accord, he decided to take it up to his room. We are praying that he will some day move it out entirely as we are still praying for the salvation of his soul. Please pray for him too.

Many years ago I was ruptured and never was healed, but last year I got serious with the Lord. I wanted to be healed. Then I was completely healed. But about two weeks ago I was ruptured over again, lifting on a pig we had butchered and which I was preparing for meat to put in the deep freeze. On Sunday morning we were getting ready to drive 26 miles to Stanley for services when I had such severe pains in my side I couldn't straighten up. I came into the house and lay on the davenport and wife anointed me and we did a lot of praying, praying the prayer of faith that I might be healed. I waited a while before getting up and when I did the lump was all gone and the pains also. I was healed instantly and have been feeling wonderful ever since. I have been thanking and praising the dear Lord for complete healing once again.

What a mighty God we serve. If people would only rely on God for their troubles, things would be taken care of in such a wonderful way. There is nothing impossible for Him to do. Yes, we love the Lord our God with all our hearts. We are still feasting on the campmeetings the Lord permitted us to take in last summer at Monark Springs, Mo., and Guthrie, Okla.

Much love to all the dear saints,

—Bro. and Sister Arthur Klatt.

Kans.—Dear saints,—I feel like writing my testimony. The Lord is so good and I feel we owe our whole life to Him. We desire to live closely and humbly before Him that we might glorify Him and adorn the way of salvation that others will desire it also.

The Lord is blessing us saints here at Coffeyville, and we feel we are being drawn closer to God and settling deeper down into the blessed truths of God's Holy Word.

We are very thankful for the precious souls the Lord has brought out of Babylon in the last year. They are so happy for their deliverance out of bondage, their freedom in worship, and the love and fellowship with the saints. Truly, they are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. Praise the Lord!

It is not always easy for souls to take their stand for the truth, but God gives grace and makes the way. One brother that came out of Babylon last year had to suffer the loss of his place of worship which he had put much labor on and money into. Many of his friends turned against him, falsely accusing him, and even threatened him, but God gave grace and love that he can freely forgive them. God is blessing him much in preaching the Word and sounding the alarm, "Come out of her my people." We appreciate the saints here and their zeal to work for God.

We are living in the last days in which the Lord is gleaning every honest soul out of these sects and creeds that have divided and scattered God's children. In Isaiah 17:6-8 we read, "Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two or three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four or five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the Lord God of Israel. At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images."

We know there have been different ones that have made great sacrifices to build up what they thought was right and when light shined, showing them how their work was not on the Rock, but only aiding in scattering God's people, the devil has tempted them to hold on to what their fingers have made and their hands have built. When you get your eyes off these things and get them on your Maker the Holy One of Israel, you can say with Peter, "Lo, we have left all, and followed thee." Then Jesus said that there is no man that left all things "who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."

Dear soul, if you are on some of the byways, let me encourage you to come God's way. It is the only way to be happy. Paul suffered the loss of all things that He might win Christ. May the Lord bless you is my prayer.

Your blood-washed sister, —Margaret Eck.



Ill.—Dear friends and saints of the Church of God.—I'm writing to thank all of you for the many times you had prayer for me and my family. In spite of all the illness and trials, God has been good to us. As you probably know, I am Mrs. Sam Barton's sister and live in Illinois. Many of you I have not met. Several years ago we attended several campmeetings at Monark Springs. Many times since I've been ill. We called my sister and they would have prayer for me.

Just recently our daughter, Phyllis, was very sick with a high fever. As always, when things looked dark and I felt so worried, I called my sister and asked that they have prayer for Phyllis. Just talking to her seemed

to lift the fear from me. In a very short time her temperature started going down. I do thank our merciful Father for what He has done for us.

I also want to thank all of God's people for what they have done for us, and too, my dear sister for the love and encouragement she has always had for me. We enjoy the Faith and Victory. Thank you for sending it. God bless and keep you all is my prayer. Keep praying for us.

Love to all,

—Mrs. Ed (Vera) Barnes.



Calif.—Dear sisters and brothers in Christ our Lord,—I am writing an experience I had on Jan. 13, 1960. It was concerning being obedient unto the voice of the good Lord. Although this isn't the first experience I've had since I've been following the Lord, yet this time it seemed like a more compelling voice than ever before. God spoke to me, telling me to fast on Wednesday. My day off was Thursday, so Satan said to me in a pretended mild, sweet tone, "If I were you, I would wait until Thursday, your day off." You see, Satan tried to make me think that was helping me. He knew that I knew I had a hard day's work before me on Wednesday, and thought that I would be willing to agree with him and not fast on Wednesday like the Lord had commanded me to do. He also knew what was going to take place on Wednesday night just as God did, but I didn't know. But by striving to do the will of God, and staying close by His loving side, I heard Him say, "Fast tomorrow," which, dear loving ones, I did.

My dear Saviour showed me plainly why he warned me to fast that special day. I had in my possession, two hundred thirty-six dollars. I dropped my billfold as I got out of the car to go to the store that night, and if it had not been for the good Lord I would have drug it out with my feet. But the Lord just guided my feet so that I would not drag it out. While I was doing my shopping my son gave a man's car a push with the car. When I started to check out of the store I missed my billfold. I went where I left my son parked, but he was gone. When he came back to the store I asked him if he had seen my billfold. He had not seen it, but when I opened the door of the car and felt around on the floor my billfold just dropped off in my hand. Right then and there my mind was directed to what God had warned me to do and I praised God. I also thought about how Satan tried to hinder me from obeying God so I would not get a better experience out of serving and obeying God.

So you dear saints of God pray earnestly for me that I will always stay down at the dear Saviour's feet where I can hear His faintest whisper. I have told this experience to the glory and honor of God, and I pray the dear Saviour that whosoever reads these few words will see what it means to serve and obey a God like the one I have told about, a God who spoke to my heart. I am a member of God's Church, and Bro. Trotter is my pastor.

Your sister in the Lord, —Lizzie Reynolds (better known as Lizzie Ramey.)

A Sinner's Plea

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the saints everywhere,—I want to thank all the saints far and near for their wonderful prayers that were sent up for me when death rang at my door, May 13, 1959. I have been hearing the gospel preached for over forty years but the old devil has got me bound down so tight. I desire the prayers of the saints everywhere to pray that the Lord will take my mind off of the world and let me shoulder the cross and follow Jesus all the way.

I was operated on May 13, 1959 Thursday, Friday at two a. m. three doctors and three nurses came to my

bed and looked at me and went out shaking their heads. They left me in a dark room. They came back a little before day. The Lord had spared my life and I was singing, "How Great Thou Art." Thank the good Lord. The doctors and nurses were shocked. I know that the Bible says that the day you hear my voice, harden not your heart. However, as I looked over my past life I realized I would have a long way to go to make it in to heaven.

I have been in different churches, but I know that there is but one church and that is the Church of God. I have a wonderful mother and I have an outstanding sister living a Christian life here in the home before me. Mother is 86 years young and is still able to go to the house of the Lord. I know that the saints prayed for her when her mind got so weak. Those who came to pray for her were Bro. Manley Spears and wife, Bro. Malone, Sister Jones, and Bro. McMillian. They are all at rest, waiting on their reward. Mother is still able to walk around in the home here and read the Bible. Thank the Lord.

I have much to be thankful for. I am now able to walk all over the house. I have a plastic right hip bone in my hip, however the Lord has spared me to walk again.

Last November we had as guests in our home Bro. and Sister Phillips, and Sister Annie Bell Allen. The old devil tried to get me to go to the beer parlor. However, I thought how the saints had prayed for me as far as Akron, Ohio, so I stayed and prepared a buffet dinner and they enjoyed it. Also they had a wonderful time in the Lord.

I want the saints to pray that I may get salvation and go pay the people that I owe. I have a long way to go to make it in. Also pray that the Lord will heal my hip so I can go back to work. I desire the prayers of the saints everywhere that I might be in that number when the saints go marching in.

—John B. Robinson.

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Oklahoma.—To the dear saints scattered abroad everywhere,—Holy greetings in Jesus' dear name. This morning I am saved and pressing on in the name of Jesus. I am still praising the Lord for all of His goodness to me. I had a terrible fall during the month of last September. I didn't think I would ever be able to walk again, but praise the Lord He raised me up. In about four weeks I was able to get up and do my house work, thank the good Lord!

I still have arthritis. I am looking to the Lord to heal that so please pray for me that His Holy will be done. I am able to do my work yet. I surely thank the saints and friends for their prayers and encouragements while I was sick. May the Lord bless every one is my prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Callie B. Owens.

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Mo.—Dear saints and readers of the Faith and Victory, Greetings of love to you all. Once my little boy got sick in the night. He was breathing very hard. We prayed for him and I told the Lord if he would heal him I would write and tell others in the Faith and Victory paper. We called on some of the saints for prayer and prayed for him again, and by the time they left he was breathing naturally. Sister Gibson and I felt like it was a miracle. We surely give God all the praise as we were not trusting in man's power. I truly thank God for the many times he has healed in my family and worked out problems for us. I want to trust him more. I have other problems and trials I would like all the saints to pray about. I thank the Lord for all the saints. They mean so much to me. Please pray for me and my family and all my unsaved loved ones.

With love to all,

—Mrs. Verba Holdt.

Ohio—Dear sister Marie and all the saints at Faith Publishing House,—Greetings of love to all of you in the precious name of Jesus. I hope all are well and encouraged to press on and go all the way with Jesus at any cost. I realize we are serving a mighty God and One that is a present help in every time of need. I often wonder what would I do without the Lord to guide me, without One that I can depend on that is sure in all his promises, One that will never leave us nor forsake us. I want to be faithful in all the Lord gives me to do. The little things are just as important as the big things. I feel I am one of the least of God's little ones. When we trust God with all our hearts and acknowledge to Him that He knows best, then wait until He makes His will clear. We can please Him, and in doing so, save ourselves much grief and sorrow. St. Luke 12:4, 5, "And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

Rom. 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and brideth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James 2:10, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." There are many false prophets and teachers. Some are right in among God's people, working iniquity and sowing discord among the brethren. They have caused many to be deceived and leave the truth. Some have gone into false doctrines and some back into sin.

Jesus says, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. Jesus' own brethren did not believe on him: "Neither did his brethren believe in him. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." John 7:5, 7. Psalm 111:10, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

—Sister Lucy Lizar.

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

Oklahoma.—Greetings to the saints through the Faith and Victory paper. We want to thank you for your prayers for our little granddaughter. For some reason there was a delay made in entering her in the hospital, but on Jan. 8 the children began to consider the time. Even at the very last it was so hard for them to make up their minds. Prayer was offered to block the way, but it seemed the doctor made all things ready and called for them to bring her. It was with a heavy heart our dear daughter-in-law went. The father also had a heavy heart, but he had to work. There was much prayer offered for them.

The baby was put in traction at once, and it was said that it would take two weeks or more to pull the leg down two inches, but God was on the job and the muscle relaxed in four days. The fifth morning the bone was set in its socket and a cast was put on which only took 45 minutes. God be praised! The doctor said it was the easiest hip joint he ever had to get in place. Then Mona Lee told him how we had prayed for that to happen, and the doctor said, "Thanks to all." Then God didn't let her get sick at her stomach like some do. After four more days she was allowed to come home. She had sleepless nights, but God undertook in that. She is able to sit in a chair made for by her father. She can scoot around some on the floor.

The cast has to be changed in six weeks so do help us

pray that all goes well. She is doing nicely. She wanted to go to meeting so they took her today. May God bless one and all in our battle of faith.

I want to add my testimony. I'm still in the pressing line for God. I find each day it takes courage anew to keep up on the good fight of faith. I want to thank the dear ones that have responded in means toward a new supply of stoves for Monark Campmeeting cooking. Just after the Faith and Victory paper came out I received a letter which twin sisters sent saying they were giving me a stove, so I was very happy. But the Lord said, "Guthrie lost their stove, so how about your stove?" So I took it to God in prayer. I knew the assembly meeting was to be in a few short weeks and their stove had been in the flood, so I wrote the sisters about the Lord's dealings. They were willing to let God have his way. So it was used during the assembly meeting.

I felt God had stoves some place in storage, and by faith I still see a way through. A few days later I received five dollars from a farmer couple in Kansas to be put on a new stove, so by faith I looked at a nice two-oven stove. It was so expensive, but then I thought, "Is anything too good for the Lord's service?" Then I thought how soiled the stoves get while cooking such a lot of food, but again I said, "It's for the service of God." It was a beautiful stove. Then my mind went back to 1945 when we bought a new stove, which has served ever since in the care-taker's home, then during campmeeting, and is still to be depended on. However God works it out, I shall be happy in His good service. Pray for me that I be able to help once more at Monark.

—Sister Barton.

Kans.—Greetings to the dear saints of God everywhere,—Today I am praising the dear Lord for placing me in the strait and narrow way—and I am persuaded that there is no other way where man can be saved, freed from sin and condemnation—with joy-bells of gladness continuously ringing in my soul.

As a young woman I enjoyed this blessed truth and freedom from fear and despair, but the pleasures and cares of this old dark world robbed me of this satisfying peace and contentment and connected me with creeds. But always after a season there would be an aching void with depressed feelings. I then began to wonder what was wrong. I discussed the condition with different creeds and each time was given a soothing answer which only left me more wretched than before. Then, thank the Lord, one day in early November Brother Willie Peete of Arizona passed through Arkansas City and by chance I had the opportunity to talk to him. He told of the true children of God at Wichita. I went up and tried to find the precious saints of God, but failed and was told by a member of the Church of God in Christ to come on over and worship with them; that holiness only meant good morals and if any one had such I surely did. But my reply was that good morals would not let me see Jesus' face in peace. A few days later a letter came from Brother Peete giving me the correct address and also the same day a call came from Brother and Sister Williams. The following day they and others of God's children came to my house for cottage prayer meeting. There the dear Lord looked on me with pity and compassion, redeemed me from my sins, which were so many, and today I am running for my life to let the world know that there is something within me that bringeth joy the world can never give and there are songs of joy and gladness singing forever in my soul. Praise His name forever!

Pray for me that I may ever look to Him who died for

me and ever keep myself lost in the center of His will, for He has done so much for me.

Yours in Jesus' blood, —Mae Belle Jennings.

o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in the name of the Lord. I am still saved and sanctified and living to all the light I know. Several years ago I was in a very nervous condition, but the Lord has healed me! He helps me to get a good night's sleep and when I was so nervous I could not sleep much. I thank the Lord for blessing me to have someone to stay with me all of the time. I thank all the saints for their prayers. I thank the Lord that I can cast my burdens all on Him.

Pray for me. Your sister in the old time way,

—Corine Robinson.

o-o-o-o-o

La.—Greetings to all,—I am reminded this afternoon that we seldom thank God as we should for the many blessings that are daily bestowed upon us. I thank Him for how He has sustained me. I thank all who have prayed for me. We need the prayers of others for comfort and help in life's problems, so pray for me.

Yours for Christ, —Gladys Harper.

o-o-o-o-o

Ky.—Dear sisters in Christ,—I am a different person writing you this morning. I got your letter Thursday. I began fasting and praying and between twelve and one o'clock Friday I prayed through. It seemed like the windows of heaven just opened up, praise His Holy name. No more doubting! I know He heard my prayer and took me back. I am so glad there are people today who will help to bear other people's burdens. Mine was more than I could bear. I had been praying for over a year night and day, but it just seemed like I was praying up against a stone wall. But praise God the wall has been broken down, and I have been rejoicing ever since.

We have been having cottage prayer meetings twice a week. I have not missed one of them, but I had never enjoyed them as I did Saturday night. I want to be sanctified. I also haven't been sick or nervous since God heard my cry. I was really hungry for Christ. Do remember me in your prayers and may God bless you. Pray that my husband will soon find work. He has been off from work about five weeks now.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Clarence Price.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Greetings of love to all the dear saints of God. I would like to testify to the glory of God for what great things He has done for me.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." I am so glad for the never failing promises of God. I wanted to get a job as a school secretary. I knew that only God could open the door for me. I had applied before, but they did not accept me. They wrote me a letter that there had been two openings and I had not been considered for either of them. They didn't interview me for them, and even took my name off the eligible list. This surely did hurt me. God gave me two promises from his Word. I believe one of them was the above scripture. I think I gave up hopes for the job. It seemed that things were just against me, but God was on my side. A false report had been turned in on my record to the Civil Service for one thing, and they had never had a colored school secretary in the history of the schools in this city. I am so glad that with God there is no respect of persons.

A school teacher told me that there was going to be an opening in one of the schools soon. She told me to call the Assistant Principal, and as God would have it, I

knew the man. The Lord really had to help me to exercise faith to see about getting this job. I called Civil Service and was told to write them a letter. I did this on a Thursday. I asked the saints to pray with me. On that Monday and Tuesday we were fasting and praying. The Civil Service Department called and told me that my name had been certified as one to be interviewed for the job. How my heart did rejoice in the Lord. She told me to call the school board. I called Bro. Jones to pray with me before I called the board. We agreed in prayer. I called and the lady sent me the next day out to see the Principal of the school. Oh, how I praised God and prayed. I told the Lord, "Lord, that's my job." "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." I asked God to give me favor in their sight. "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." I praised the Lord for the favor he gave me before everyone.

The lady from the school board called my boss and God made her testify and give me an excellent recommendation. The wife of Joseph's master lied on him, but God brought him out. A week ago today they called me to come down to the school board. I called Sister Zenola to pray. I went praying and believing. They hired me for the job. All honor and glory to God through his beloved Son, Jesus. I said God would have to do it, and he did. Praise His great name. I thought I was getting a cut in salary, but instead I will be making more. I have promised the Lord that I would send something each month to Faith and Victory.

To you that have problems that seem impossible, tell God about it and He surely will fix it. Pray for me.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Annie Stills

o-o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I feel like I should send in my testimony. I haven't been saved very long, (a week before Christmas) although I have been saved before but backslid. I'm so glad that the Lord saw fit to save my soul again. I lost my little niece in November a week before Thanksgiving. The Lord had been working on me but some little things or some one would say something to me about the Lord and I would go deeper in sin. But the day my little niece died the Lord took my cigarettes away and, praise His dear name, I haven't wanted one since.

When my husband would go to meeting (Coffeyville, Kans.) I would either go to my mother's or cousin's and stay until he came home. But one night I stayed at home and went to bed, but I couldn't sleep or rest. It seemed like I could see my little niece in one corner of the room and our little boy in the other. I knew that I just had to get saved. Oh, I'm so thankful that I did. I don't ever want to turn back. I want to go right on living for the Lord and walk closer to Him. He has done so much for me, healing me a number of times and also my family. So pray for me that I will be humble and do what the Lord wants me to do. May the good Lord bless each and every one of His children.

Your sister in the Lord, —Geraldine Woods.

o-o-o-o-o-o

S. Carolina.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you, all the workers at the print shop, and all the saints scattered abroad everywhere. I love all of you and hope some day to meet at least some of you.

I think the Faith and Victory is the grandest paper printed. Each month I can hardly wait until I get it. I usually read it through before I sleep. I lend them to

people and sometimes I don't get them back. I read them over and over. I wish more of the saints would send in their testimonies.

The book Bro. Pruitt wrote, "God's Gracious Dealings," is wonderful. I have just finished reading it carefully. I wish every body could read that book.

I love the Lord with all my heart and shall trust him until the end. He is more to me than all the world. The people all around me seem so worldly. All they talk about is the worldly things that happen, but all I think of is the world to come, and I want my friends to be ready to meet the Lord.

Saints, pray for me that I will grow stronger in the Lord day by day, and at last we shall meet in heaven to dwell forever.

Your Sister in Christ, —Mrs. T. P. Barber

o-o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma.—Dear saints everywhere,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am praising Him for salvation that saves and keeps me from sin. Last April I was stricken with a light stroke. My daughter sent for Sister Jones and Bro. Sanders, our pastor. They prayed and the Lord touched and healed me. Another saint and minister came in and prayed too. I promised the Lord I would write my testimony but I failed to do so. Please pray for me that I will do what the Lord tells me to do and not put it off.

Saints, I know the Lord will heal because he healed me. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise His holy name. I have a request for prayer. It is said I have ulcers in my stomach. Please, saints, everywhere, pray that the Lord will completely heal me. I am looking for my healing.

Your sister, —Della Harris.

o-o-o-o-o-o

Ore.—Dear saints of God everywhere,—I am happy to testify again to the goodness of God to me. He is so good to his children. I had a spot on my hand that looked like a large blood blister under the skin, and it was very painful and getting larger. Also I had an injured thumb that I suffered with, so I told the Lord if He would heal them I would testify for Him.

I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord wonderfully healed me, praise the Lord. I can't thank Him enough for His love and mercy to me. I love the Lord more every day and it is my desire to do His will at all times, and in whatever way He would have me to. Pray for me that I will always say, "Thy will, Lord, not mine be done."

Your sister in Christ, —Margaret Olson.

A Timely Warning

Many, many young girls complain that their mothers are too strict and "old-fashioned." They do not see why they are always being questioned in detail as to the places they are going and who will be there.

We use the following letter just as it came to us, for the benefit of those girls. All of them will feel, no doubt, that what happened to this girl couldn't possibly happen to them—but it can.

"I am 17 years old, and I thought I was pretty smart," writes this broken-hearted girl. "I have no father, but I have a good mother.

"One night I lied to her and told her I was going to a certain place with a girl friend. We went to a party instead. I had a few drinks. I am not used to drinking. I got into trouble. My mother is

heartbroken. She had warned me so many times not to keep bad company or to drink. But the crowd did it and I wanted to do it, too.

"She warned me many times not to keep bad company, but I told her she was old-fashioned. Thank God she is going to stand by me in this terrible tragedy.

"For God's sake, tell the teen-agers to listen to their parents. They know best and love them.

"I would work my fingers to the bone, I would do anything, to be able to go back to that night and really be going to the place I said I was going instead of where I went.

"It was supposed to be a nice party, but it was the drinking. This is the terrible part. I do not even know who the boy is.

"If only I had listened to my mother. Lots of this juvenile delinquency is because we have to have our own way and will not listen to our mothers, and it always ends in tragedy. I know this because I see the way other girls act."

The True Way

There're many ways that men may trod,
But, oh, how sad and dark that way!
They never lead the soul to God,
Though seems their path so bright and gay;
But, oh, how sad a fate!

While Jesus walked this darkened earth,
He took a strait and narrow way;
For years I did not know its worth,
How others walked its freedom way:
The way that Jesus brought to birth,
It was for you and me.

Ah! as I sought it here and there
Its blessed grace I did not find;
Formality, man-rule and care:
How Satan darkened all their mind!

For several years I took a way
That seemed so true and right to me;
But on I went, so sad to say,
I'd failed the narrow way to see.
But one glad day a sweet voice clear
Spoke: "Closer come, my child, to me."
But Satan whispered in my ear,
"That way, it is too hard for thee."

The sweet voice answered, "O, my child,
This is the way to joys unknown:
Walk in this way," in tones so mild,
My fears all vanished and are gone!

So now I look to Christ who said,
"I am the way, the truth, the life."
To friends farewell, the price I paid,
Who seemed so dear while in the strife.

But far above their lofty look
And earthly joys of pleasure free,
The way my blessed Saviour took:
It is a sweeter way for me.

—Clarence Fry (Arranged by L. Busbee)

USED SONGBOOKS FOR SALE

A congregation has about 40 almost new "Select Hymns No. 2" songbooks for sale. Anyone interested should write at once to Mrs. H. French Wilson, Rt. 3, Powassan, Ontario, Canada.

Selections From John Wesley

Let not regard for any man induce you to betray the truth of God.

Let modesty appear in all your words and actions. Beware of judging people to be either right or wrong by your own feelings.

I dare no more fret than curse or swear.

Keep at the utmost distance from religious gossiping.

There is a dignity in simplicity which is not disagreeable to those of highest rank.

Truth and falsehood are often divided by an almost imperceptible line.

The great point of all is a heart and life entirely devoted to God.

BIBLE STUDY

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

March 6, 1960

GOD'S HELP IS SURE

Printed Portion Acts 23:6-11, 16-24

6. But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

7. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided.

8. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

9. And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

10. And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.

11. And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

16. And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17. Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

18. So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

19. Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

20. And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

21. But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22. So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

23. And he called unto him two centurions, saying, Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and horsemen threescore and ten, and spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the night;

24. And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on, and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.

Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1.

Practical Truth: In providing protection and help, God can bring things to pass in ways that we would never anticipate.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the first part of our lesson Paul used a little clever question to divide the council so the attention would be diverted from him. This dissension reveals the gulf between the Sadducees, who controlled the temple, and the Pharisees who had the greater influence over the people. But in spite of his seemingly clever statement he was in great danger of his life since the multitude was divided.

God comforted Paul that night, making him know he would be with him in his testimony in Jerusalem as well as in Rome where he later was taken. I'm sure this strengthened him in faith when he heard of the plot on his life by forty men. He knew God would give him favor with the chief captain, which came to pass.

The eye of the Lord is upon all those who love and serve Him with their whole heart. No wonder Paul has said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31.) He has proved God's protecting care through many hard places. Take courage, children of God, and trust your heavenly Father. Just know deep in your very soul that God will stand by you and be a present help in time of need. We want to rest calmly in our souls and "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 26:10.

March 13, 1960

BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS

Printed Portion Acts 26:1, 19-32

1. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

19. Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20. But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

21. For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

22. Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying

none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

23. That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

24. And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

25. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

26. For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

27. King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

29. And Paul said, 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 these bonds.

30. And when he had thus spoken, the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

31. And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32. Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

Memory Selection: God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7.

Practical Truth: In witnessing before rulers or people of prominence, we may have confidence and boldness such as comes from God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Before our lesson we are told about two addresses which Paul made while a prisoner in Caesarea. After making one defense before Felix (a Gentile whose third wife was a Jewess,) God convicted Felix of his sins when Paul talked to him about justice, self-control, and the future judgment. (Acts 24:25) But like most sinners today he put off the gospel appeal until "a convenient season" which never came. Two years passed by holding Paul in prison, yet with many liberties. Then Felix was displaced by Nero with Porcius Festus. He then decided to dispose of Paul's case. Festus desired to set Paul at liberty after hearing him but the Jews objected. He then suggested he be taken back to Jerusalem to be judged, but Paul knew what that meant so he used his privilege as a Roman citizen and appealed to Caesar in Rome. About this time Agrippa came down to welcome Festus and since Agrippa was a Jew, Festus decided to let him hear Paul and help him to know what charges to write to Caesar when Paul was sent to Rome.

Our lesson is part of that address made to Agrippa. The address was made in a dignified manner, yet fervent and simple. He gave account of his past life and his conversion, also his commission. Then he went on to tell how he had been faithful to his divine commission. This speech came from his heart. The Holy Spirit was there to help him. When we are called to give an account of our deeds, let us earnestly and sincerely speak from the heart the truth and our true convictions. God's Spirit will be there to convict the hearers.

March 20, 1960

PAUL'S VOYAGE TO ROME

Printed Portion Acts 27:1, 21-26; 28:1-3, 11-14

Acts 27:1. And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

21. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

22. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

23. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

24. Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

25. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

26. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island.

28:1. And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita.

2. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

3. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

11. And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux.

12. And landing at Syracuse, we tarried there three days.

13. And from thence we fetched a compass, and came to Rhegium: and after one day the south wind blew, and we came the next day to Puteoli:

14. Where we found brethren, and were desired to tarry with them seven days: and so we went toward Rome.

Memory Verse: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Phil. 4:13.

Practical Truth: Real faith in God will help to give us courage in any situation in life.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

I hope that you have read Acts 27:1 to 28:15. This is a very interesting account of the voyage of Paul and surely a precious account of how God protected all on the ship.

Luke wrote this account and since it is in such detail it is certain that he went along with Paul on this voyage. The best authorities say it also is written according to known facts.

There are three words in our lesson that is very precious to every child of God. Paul said, "I believe God." Oh, do we believe God when troubles are rolling high on every side? Do we believe God is able to bring us through them and out with victory? Paul was in a great storm. They had lightened the ship, yet it tossed to and fro. Many days passed and they neither saw the sun nor stars. Yet Paul said, "I believe God." The twelfth, thirteenth day passed, and Paul still believed God. The fourteenth day came and they were close to land. But this was not all. Paul still believed God when the ship was broken apart and some in their excitement wanted to kill the prisoners. God spared Paul and took him safely to Rome. Let us always see God greater than the trouble, comforting us and giving us rest.

March 27, 1960

CHAINED BUT NOT SILENT

Printed Portion Acts 28:16-24, 30-31

16. And when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him.

17. And it came to pass, that after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

18. Who, when they had examined me, would have let me go, because there was no cause of death in me.

19. But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.

20. For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

21. And they said unto him, We neither received letters out of Judaea concerning thee, neither any of the brethren that came shewed or spake any harm of thee.

22. But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

23. And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

24. And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

30. And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

31. Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Memory Verse: In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Rom. 8:37.

Practical Truth: Even a prisoner in chains may witness effectively for Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

I like the topic of our lesson, "Chained, but not Silent." Paul did not bemoan his fate and settle down with old man depression, refusing to use what outlets that were around him to witness for Jesus. By him exalting Jesus to everyone who came to see him, the news soon spread until it affected the household of Caesar. (Phil. 3:22).

Paul was blessed by being spared from the ill treatment of mobs and opposers while being confined to a house with a guard. He could preach as long as he wanted to and as often as he chose. As it had been in the past, "Persecutions awaited him in every city." Rome was a central city of the then-known world. Many coming and going heard the Word and took it home with them, thus the gospel of Jesus Christ was spread.

If changes, sickness, or opposition seem to close our door of usefulness, let us pray God to help us see another door opening for us. Yield not to gloomy despair. Day always comes after night. Even if the winter of troubles go from frost to ice, then snow and even deeper snow, remember the spring will soon come. Rejoice in the hope God has given you. Be faithful to smile while you wait and hope. Yield to God and not to the circumstances. Have faith in God.

—Anna Marie Miles.