

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 30, No. 7

38th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

February, 1961

In The Secret Place

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalms 91:1).

Deep within the secret chamber,
Where unhallowed feet ne'er trod,
There is life's most blissful moment,
Closeted alone with God.

In the secret place with Jesus,
Nestling 'neath His shelt'ring wings,
In the rapture of my spirit
I behold eternal things.

With earth fading from my vision,
There comes bursting on my sight,
Far away bright golden glories
In a silv'ry sea of light.

Tree of life in fullest fruitage
By the pure and crystal sea,
'Neath its wide and spreading branches
Is a home prepared for me.

In the evening's silent glowing,
Closeted with God in prayer,
To my inmost soul comes flowing
Heavenly music on the air.

Hark! O soul of mine, and listen,
Hear the anthems sweetly roll,
Angels singing songs of praises
To the Lover of my soul.

You may have the halls of pleasure,
Works of art, and music rare,
Let me hear the voice of Jesus,
In the secret place of prayer.

—C. E. Orr

The Heart of Man

Turning to Jeremiah 17:9 we read, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

It is a foregone conclusion that no one can know the heart of man except the Lord Himself, because it is too movable and deceitful for one to understand. Therefore, the 10th verse reads, "I, the Lord, search the heart; I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

We conclude that the hearts of men are so corrupt and deceitful that even a man himself does not know the condition of his own heart unless it has been revealed to him by the Word and Spirit of God. The searchlight of divine truth must pierce the darkness and gloom that surrounds that wicked heart before one can really see himself as he is. Therefore we, through Holy Writ, hear David cry out in his prayer to God, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalms 139:23, 24.

When the Lord tries the heart, He does a perfect work. He is a master inspector; nothing escapes His notice. He sees the least spot of imperfection, and knows what the future development of that thing will be if it is not eradicated. That little spot of ill will, of pride, of jealousy, of lustfulness and unfaithfulness, of whatever degree or nature the thing might be, God sees and knows it altogether. "For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7b.

Dear reader, if you really want to know the true condition of your heart, commit yourself to divine inspection, and just be honest with your own self. Let the light of God's eternal truth shine in your heart, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any crea-

ture that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12-13. By the help and grace of God you can know your heart. And when your true condition has been revealed to you, it is up to you to do something about it. "For if any man be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." James 1:23-24.

Your outward deeds and manifestations provide an index to your heart. I am not speaking of that muscular organ about the size of one's fist that pumps the blood through the body. I am speaking of that central, inner consciousness, the center of affection that feels, loves, hates and desires—that part of man that the wise man spoke of when he said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. I am speaking of that part that Jesus was talking about when He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and when He said, "From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." Mark 7:21-22. All these evil things come out of the treasure of a wicked or hard heart. If these things, or any one of them, issue from your life, you are a wicked person. Your heart is not right with God. Your life is crooked, and you need to go down on your knees before God and ask Him to give you a new heart, ask Him to take away your stony heart, and give you a heart of flesh, a heart that can be impressed by the Spirit of God, a tender heart that can feel the love of God. Call on Him and cry out, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Get right with God. If your heart is not right, you cannot live right. Turning over a new leaf will not do, because the new leaf will soon be as spotted and blurred as the old one if you fail to get a new heart.

"O for a heart to serve my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me.

"A heart resigned, submissive, meek—
Before my great Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak—
Where Jesus reigns alone.

"A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right, and pure and good—
A copy, Lord, of Thine."

If one longs for such a heart as depicted by the poet, his desires can be fulfilled. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6b. "But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy

God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." Deut. 4:29.

God is a heart specialist. A broken spirit and a contrite heart He will not despise. He can heal the broken heart, and make the dumb heart sing for joy. He delights in giving new hearts to those who earnestly and humbly seek for them. Is thy heart right with God?
—Ulysses Phillips

The New Testament Church

By F. G. Smith

The New Testament sets forth the truth respecting the church as clearly as it does any other subject. The introduction is found in the words of Jesus, "I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18).

There has been much discussion relative to the meaning of "rock" in this text, some affirming that the word means the revelation mentioned in verse 17; others that it means Peter himself; still others that it means Christ. But this point is immaterial: for we know that through divine revelation the church was established; that Peter, together with the other apostles, was a foundation-stone in that church; and that Christ himself is declared to be the "chief corner stone." So even admitting that the church was built on Peter, the Word shows that Peter was not special in this sense, for it was "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone." Eph. 2:20. In John's apocalyptic vision the foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem contained "the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." (Rev. 21:14).

"I will build my church," says Christ. Over and over again men have affirmed that Christ did not organize a church, but left this part of the work for men to arrange in accordance with their ideas and inclinations. But this text clearly represents Christ as a church-builder, and, furthermore, shows that it is an exclusive church — "I will build my church." Laying aside all the biased opinions of men on the subject, let us appeal directly to the Word of God and see what it teaches concerning the church.

The Church in Type

The church of God is often referred to as the house of God, his spiritual dwelling-place on earth. In Old Testament times the house of God was an earthly structure: first the tabernacle, constructed in the wilderness (Exod. 25:8); afterwards the temple at Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:10). When the first house, or tabernacle, was completed, God manifested himself in it, on the occasion of its dedication, in such a glorious manner that "Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation because . . . the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle." (Exod. 40:35). So also at the dedication of Solomon's temple, "the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord." (1 Kings 8:11).

Now, while such was the house of God in that dispensation, the prophets clearly predicted the coming of the Messiah, and said that he should build another house of God. Jeremiah refers to him as "a righteous Branch and a King . . . and this is his name . . . THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Jer. 23:5, 6). There is no mistaking the personage here referred to. And Zechariah says, "Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne." (Zeph. 6:12, 13). In fulfillment of these many prophecies, Christ says, "I will build my church."

The writer of the Book of Hebrews affirms that the Old Testament house of God was "a figure for the time then present," pointing forward to and meeting its antitype in "a greater and more perfect tabernacle" introduced by Christ and dedicated by his own blood. (Heb. 9:1-14). Paul distinctly states that the "house of God . . . is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15); while Peter just as distinctly affirms that it is a spiritual institution, composed of spiritual people: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5). Yea, all of God's redeemed saints are a "building fitly framed together, which groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye are also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Eph. 2:20-22).

The transfers of God's sanction and approval from the Old Testament house to the New Testament house took place at the death of Christ, when all the rites, ceremonies, and appointments of the former ended. Just before this occurrence, Jesus, weeping over the sad condition of rebellious Jerusalem, said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." (Matt. 23:38). Having promised to build his own church, he cried, as he hung on the cross of Calvary, "It is finished." Immediately "the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." (Matt. 27:51), and God forsook the old house, nevermore to dwell in temples made with hands. A few days later the infant church, his future earthly house or temple, being fully prepared and set in order, was dedicated by the marvelous Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. How perfectly this fulfilled, in an antitypical sense, what occurred at the dedication of the former temple! And when this organization and dedication of the church took place, "the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls . . . and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:41, 47). So the church was built and dedicated, and souls were added to it. Praise the Lord!

It Is The Body of Christ

"And hath put all things under his [Christ] 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." (Eph. 1:22, 23). Christ is the head of this body. "And he is the head of the body, the church . . . that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." (Col. 1:18). "For his body's sake, which is the church." (verse 24). Christ is head of but one body. "There is one body." (Eph. 4:4). In these texts the church and the body are used interchangeably, referring to one and the same thing. The body of which Christ is the head is the church that he built; yea, "the church of God which he purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28).

This is the only church taught in the New Testament. We can find out exactly what constitutes this church by reading the Bible statements about what constitutes the body of Christ, which only is the church. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we [true Bible Christians], being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Rom. 12:4, 5). The universal body of true believers constitutes the church for which Christ died. You can not have salvation, can not be a member of Christ, without being thereby a member of the body of Christ; for "now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." (1 Cor. 12:18). Inversely, it is impossible to be a member of the body of Christ without being a member of Christ himself. —Taken from "What the Bible Teaches," 1914 edition

REPORT OF SAINTS' HOME AT SHAWNEE, OKLA.

To the dear saints scattered abroad:

We want to take another opportunity to give the Lord thanks for all He is bestowing on us for both soul and body. We have our decision made to spend and be spent for the service of the Lord. Remember us in prayer.

We felt it well to give a report on the advancing of the plan for the home for the aged, neglected and handicapped saints. We appreciate how God is blessing and we are sure that every need will be met and this project can soon be in operation. Up to the present time we have received \$2,460.00. We have found a five acre tract of land at the edge of Shawnee, Okla. that has all the city utilities available, including sewer line. The land is on a black-topped street. There is a small 3-room house on the acreage and the selling price is \$5,000.00. Several of the brethren have seen the tract of land and they all seem to feel it is a good location and investment.

Three active trustees have been appointed: Brothers W. C. McMakin, Shawnee, Okla., Stanley Lounds, Okla. City, Okla., and Charles R. Smith, Shawnee, Okla. We are seeking the Lord for two or four honorary trustees to be appointed. These will hold the ownership of the property. At any time that one should die or become spiritually disqualified, there will be a replacement made so that this work will be perpetual. This home will be incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit charitable organization. We have decided to call it The Golden Rule Home.

We would be glad if funds could be available to begin the construction of the home early this spring. Each one listen to God and do as He would have you do, and we are sure this need can be met. You may write for further information and/or send your offerings to The Golden Rule Home or Charles R. Smith, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

—Charles Smith

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

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

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 15th of the month prior to the month of issue.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, three months	\$.10
Single copy, one year	\$.35
Single copy, three years	\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year.....	\$1.00
Roll of 12 papers to one address, one year.....	\$3.00
Roll of 16 papers to one address, one year.....	\$4.00
Roll of 20 papers to one address, one year.....	\$5.00
Roll of 25 papers to one address, one year.....	\$6.00
Roll of 30 papers to one address, one year.....	\$7.00
Roll of 50 papers to one address, one yr.....	\$10.00
Roll of 100 papers, one address, one year.....	\$20.00
Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way", per year.....	60c
Five sets or more to one address, each set per year	40c

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 sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word.

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

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

The Faith Publishing House is incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious organization.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
Phone No. BUtler 2-1479

The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor
417 N. 13th, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUtler 2-3244

Editorials

It seems good to us to be able to write a short report of the Church of God assembly meeting held here at Guthrie during the Christmas holidays. Some of the saints began to arrive before the time scheduled for the meeting to begin. The services started off with a message of good, sound scriptural encouragement. The attendance was good all through the meeting and the interest was outstanding indeed. The preaching of the Word went forth under the power and demonstration of the Spirit as God chose and put in the pulpit the minister to whom He had given a message for that particular time. Some were getting saved, sanctified and physically healed all along through the meeting.

On the last Sunday morning of the meeting, Bro. Ira Stover, who is the pastor at Guthrie, had a diagram on the board portraying the everlasting arms and hands of God underneath and holding up the Western Hemisphere, with the picture of a dove representing the Holy Spirit which came upon Jesus when He was baptized, and a picture of the open Bible to all men. The preaching was with much anointing as he used scriptures to show the need of all saved souls to go on to perfection, receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost as the disciples did on the day of Pentecost. God caused the truth to sink down into hearts and many were praising the Lord. When the altar call was made, the Holy Spirit convicted so many that they flocked to the altar amid the loud praises and shouts of the saints of God. The glory of God filled the house and souls kept coming and getting saved, and others sanctified, until it was 1:30 p.m. before the altar service was over.

It seemed that the Lord made this Assembly meeting one among the best in years, as the good sound truth went forth from service to service and day by day. The preaching of His Word was like a hammer that breaketh the rock to pieces — therefore hearts were broken up and melted down before God. We can truly say that Jesus Christ had the preeminence in the meeting. The power of God was so great that the enemy was afraid to peep or mutter and kept concealed and hid in a general sense. A few times he stuck his neck out a little too far and got his head bumped, and so drew it back into his shell like a turtle, while the saints kept on rejoicing.

The oneness and unity among the saints was quite noticeable, and heavenly fellowship was sweet to the spiritual taste. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." The love of God was surely manifested throughout the entire meeting.

Brothers and sisters, come and meet with us again as God makes it possible.

God, our heavenly Father, had two sons. Adam, his first son, was His created son, for he was made out of the earth and God breathed the breath or spirit of life into him and he became a living soul—in the image of God the Father. Gen. 1:27. His second Son was named Jesus and was made a quickening Spirit and was termed “the Lord from heaven.” The first Adam was His created son and the second Adam (Jesus) was His only begotten Son.

His created son, Adam, and his wife broke the commandment that God had given to them and thereby marred and blackened the image of God in their souls. In so doing, it caused sin and death to be passed upon all men. Spiritual death was the consequence. We read in Rom. 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” According to scripture this sin that marred and brought death to Adam’s soul has been transmitted to his seed and to his posterity all down through the ages past, and today there is only one cure for this sin—that is the application of the innocent blood of the second Adam which is Christ. When John saw Jesus coming he said, “Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” This sinful nature that was transmitted to us through the fall of Adam is what causes men to commit sin today. Let Christ—the second Adam, Son of God—destroy it out of your soul and then you can live free from sin. Bless God forever!

Let me refer you to witnesses from the Word of God who make it plain that the sin that passed upon all men is what causes men to commit sin and come into condemnation before God. We read in the 4th chapter of Genesis that Adam had two sons. One was named Abel and the other Cain. Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain was a tiller of the ground. In process of time they both brought a sacrifice unto the Lord—Abel of his sheep and Cain of the fruit of the ground. God had respect unto Abel’s offering, but had no respect unto Cain’s offering. It reads that Cain was wroth or angry about the matter, and jealously raged in his soul. When he was in the field with Abel he rose up against him with anger and slew his brother. Why did he slay his brother? Let the Word of God settle the question. In 1 John 3:12 we read in part, “. . . because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.” What did God say to Cain when he was wroth and his countenance fallen? He said unto him, “If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.” In the scriptures our bodies are referred to as the house or temple of God. Read 1 Cor. 6:19 and 2 Cor. 5:1. Your heart is the seat of your affection, and your mouth could be termed the door whereby curse words issue out and the whole body gets in motion to do evil deeds. God said to Cain, “Sin lieth at the door.” You can be at the door of a house wanting in or you can be at the door of a house wanting out. Abel, being righteous, had looked to God and kept that sin under control, and his works were righteous, but Cain had allowed that sin to come out of the door and his works were evil. That sin

that passed upon all men is ever ready and at the door to show itself in evil deeds, and the only cure for that sin is faith in the blood of Christ which will cleanse it from your very being and make you able to live free from sin in this world all the days of your life. It will keep you free from any hate in your heart toward your worst enemy. Hate in man’s heart is what causes one to murder and abuse his fellowman. Thank God for freedom in Christ, the second Son of God who is the Lord from heaven.

The apostle Peter tells us what the baptism of the Holy Ghost did for them and will do for you in Acts 15:8, 9, “And God which knoweth the hearts, bear them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” To purify the heart would mean to cleanse it from that sin, that unrighteous nature, that passed upon all men through Adam’s fall.

In Psalms 51:2 we read, “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.” Sin in the singular number has reference to that sin that passed upon all men through Adam’s fall. The transgressions would mean the sins that he had committed because of that sin at the door of his heart. John brings out the same thought in 1 John 1:9 which reads: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins [actual transgressions], and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” That sin that passed upon all men is an unrighteous element that needs to be cleansed from us by the blood of Jesus.

Listen what David says in Psalms 51:5, “Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” See how definite and clear David has made it that the sin nature is passed upon all people when they are born into this world.

In the 7th chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul tells about that sin that dwelt in him before he was saved. He gives a clear and definite testimony of what sin did for him before he was saved through Christ. Let us read the 14th verse, “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal sold under sin.” To be carnal and sold under sin is exactly what an unsaved man is like. In this 7th chapter of Romans Paul tells us of his condition when he was unsaved and living under the law of Moses. When Adam transgressed and broke the commandment of God he sold all of us into sin and spiritual death, and it takes the innocent blood of the second Adam, the only begotten Son of God, to pay the debt by shedding His blood which, if applied by active faith, will destroy that sin and make us innocent and free from sin before God, the Father.

The Apostle Paul further testified: “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.” In the 17th verse he says, “Now it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” That sin had also passed upon him and he testified of it being there. In the 20th verse he repeats it again, “Now if I do that I would not,

it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." After writing more about his miserable condition while that sin was in his heart, he cries out in the agony of his soul and says in the 24th verse, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body [sin] of this death?" Some preachers teach that in the 7th chapter of Romans Paul was telling of his experience when saved as a Christian man. If that be so, then all Christians would be "wretched." We know that such a statement is false, for all Christians are happy, filled with joy and contentment, which is just the opposite of being wretched.

In the 8th chapter the Apostle Paul testifies of his condition when that sin is taken away and he is saved through Christ, which reads thus: "There is therefore now [since he has been saved through the Lord Jesus Christ] no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." It is made plain that Jesus—the second Adam, the only begotten Son of God—has effected a complete cure by His blood from all the ill and blight which the first created son, Adam, got us into when he, by disobedience, caused that sin and death to be passed upon all men. Read 2 Tim. 1:10.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

God in His love and mercy for souls has so increased the output of the gospel truth from the Faith Publishing House that the office, wrapping and mailing rooms are far too small and inadequate to care for the increased work to be done. Therefore, we have a clearness from God to start the building of an additional room, size 20 by 22 feet. At present we have the cement footing or foundation poured for the new room. A brother in the Lord who is a carpenter and does concrete block laying has offered his help freely in constructing this building as soon as the weather is favorable for this type of work. He will also need some help in this work which we trust the Lord to supply. We desire the prayers and co-operation of our readers in adding this needed room, and for the advancement of the gospel work in general.

"The Lord's Print Shop" is a faith work, which means that it is not underwritten, supported or sponsored by any one individual or group. More of the literature, consisting of papers, tracts, booklets and books, is sent out free of charge than otherwise.

The Lord made it clear to me in the beginning of this work nearly forty years ago that those employed in the print shop and other related work should have a burden for souls and for getting the gospel truth to every creature by the printed page; that they should be willing to sacrifice the commercial wages and be satisfied with smaller allowances as the Lord supplies. All that your editor receives from this work is a house to live in and what we eat and wear. When I pass from this world I will have no money or real estate of any kind to leave behind. All is in the Faith Publishing House which is perpetually incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious corporation—an auxiliary to

the Church of God. It is all fixed in writing that the work will be carried on after I am gone just as it has been—on a sacrificial basis.

The Lord has made it clear to me to leave the Faith Publishing House and its operation in the hands of my daughter, Anna Marie Miles, and son, Lawrence D. Pruitt, as they are consecrated to God's service and have a definite burden to get the gospel to the world by the printed page. They have been laboring together with the Lord and me in the printing work for several years and understand how it is to be carried on for the Lord.

God is so blessing the truth to the souls of men through the literature that we receive letter after letter telling how greatly the Lord has blessed them by the truth which is going forth. We give God all the praise, for He alone is worthy of praise and honor.

Dear readers, pray for us, as we have many problems to face in a faith work like this. We surely do want to lay up our treasures in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal. Matt. 6:19, 20 and 21.

Prayer Requests

Virginia—Dear Saints: Greeting in the precious name of Jesus.

Last July I sprained my back and I was helpless. Oh, how I suffered! One Saturday morning while I was in my daughter's home I was talking to the Lord. I said, "Lord, you have taken care of me 46 years and I am still going to trust you. Now, Lord, I am your child; you can do what you will with me. I am ready to die or live. Now, Lord, I have suffered so much and I know you can help me." He let one hard pain hit me in my back, then from one side to the other, and the misery went down in my leg and left me. Praise God, He healed my back!

Saints, I have a large tumor the size of an egg on the left side of my head behind my ear, and it seems to be an eating cancer. Oh, it is terrible. I had two bad bleeding spells with it. It seemed I would bleed to death with the last spell. Sister Faudree called the saints at Guthrie and at Seymour, Mo. for prayer and God heard and answered. It hasn't bled since. Saints everywhere, please pray earnestly for me. I need your prayers. The prayers of the righteous availeth much. James 6:16.

Yours in one Body, —Sister Laura Powell

I have a serious problem and burden for which I would like to request prayer. I know that God is able and He is my only hope. Pray that God will undertake in this problem if it is His will, and above all, help me to be humble and faithful to Him.

Your brother in Christ, —Albert Green

Obituary

Sister Lorena Blanchette was born in Beaumont, Tex., April 30, 1874. She departed this life October 24, 1960, at the age of 86.

She joined a church in Beaumont at an early age. In 1925 she came to Akron, Ohio, and later fully gave her heart to God. She was a faithful child of God unto the end, being confined to her bed most of the time dur-

ing her illness of about five years. She has gone to receive her crown.

She leaves to mourn her passing — one daughter, Mrs. Turner, two grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, two sisters and friends.

Bro. H. S. Chaney conducted the funeral. Text: Matt. 24:44—"Be ye also ready." She was laid to rest in the Glendale Cemetery.

Meeting Reports

Dear saints everywhere and workers at Faith Publishing House:

We have neglected to send in a report of the Assembly meeting which was held here at Hammond, La. in November, 1960, and that is the main purpose of this letter.

We feel that the Assembly meeting was a real success. Several of God's ministers from out of the state were present to bring forth the Word which was needed at that time. The Spirit of God was present throughout the services. The meeting was well attended, and the house was filled to capacity at most morning and night services. There was fine cooperation and fellowship displayed among God's people, and we believe that most everyone received a blessing in their soul.

The ordinances of God's house were observed on Friday afternoon, which was very precious.

Toward the last of the meeting a few children came to the altar and were saved. The last day on Sunday afternoon there was a breakthrough—the altar bench was filled with seekers. Some were saved, and others who were needing help came through with victory in their souls. The good that was accomplished has both been seen and felt since the meeting. All in all the meeting ended with victory for the Lord and defeat for the devil.

Pray for us and the continued success of the work of the Lord here in Louisiana. —M. F. Williamson

The annual California state assembly meeting at Pa-coima is in the past. It commenced Dec. 23rd and ended Jan. 1st. The weather was very favorable, with no rain and plenty of sunshine, but cool enough for a little fire in the buildings.

The attendance was about as usual. The interest was exceptionally good. We had two visiting ministers with us from Oklahoma who were used of God. There was much good preaching throughout the meeting. Several were at the altar for help of different kinds—some for salvation, some for sanctification, and some for healing. The last night of the meeting seemed to be the very best. There were deeper consecrations, and altogether the people seemed more melted and the Holy Spirit moved sweetly and mightily among us. Praise His great and holy name! There were twelve at the altar on the last night, and the saints were shouting the victory over all the power of the devil.

Four were baptized in the watery grave to rise to walk in newness of life. May the dear Lord keep His nail-pierced hands upon all to help them to be true to their covenant with Him. Eighty-four partook of the ordinances of the Lord's house, with love flowing from heart to heart. The Word of the Lord was preached and the very essence of the truth so drenched our hearts and souls that we could reach out and get what our hearts longed for.

Let us live so that the coming year may be more profitable to us and more glorifying to our God. Your brother washed in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,

—E. M. Zinn

THE CHRISTIAN HOME CALENDAR FOR 1961, 9½ by 16 inches, with rich, full color pictures and daily Bible verses.

Single copy, 40c—3 for \$1.10, postpaid

BIBLES, BOOKS AND CARDS

Egermeier's Bible Story Book, 640 pages	\$ 3.95
Bible Story A. B. C. Book, clothbound.....	1.00
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, con., ref., No. 1121C	11.75
World Bible, approx. 5 x 8, con., ref., No. 1129C	7.50
World Bible, red-letter, con., approx. 5 x 7, No. 230C ..	3.25
National Bible, approx. 6 x 9, large print, No. 451....	7.25
Pocket New Testaments	Values from \$1.40 to 3.00
Birthday, Get-Well, All-Occasion, Sympathy Cards....	\$1.00
1959 Faith and Victory Year Book (limited supply)60
1960 Faith and Victory Year Book60
1960 Beautiful Way Year Book	1.00
Evening Light Song Book, 496 pages—\$1.50, 15c postage	

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

TESTIMONIES

Calif.—Dear saints: I feel that I should write my testimony for the paper. This leaves me saved, sanctified and satisfied with God's dealings with me. I am happy in the Lord's service.

Some time ago I was so afflicted that I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would tell it. So I must do my best so others will know the Lord is still in the healing business. One morning my little granddaughter and I started out of the house to go to Sunday school. In doing so, I sprained my ankle. I mentioned that I had hurt my ankle, so I stopped for a minute and put my head on a chair, and it got better. We went on, and I stayed for Sunday school and church. I came home and was invited out for dinner as it was my birthday. After dinner I said to my daughter-in-law that my ankle was surely getting sore. We came home, and in less than thirty minutes I could not walk, so I called for prayer. Bro. and Sister Hsukey came to see me, and they prayed again. But I was not able to go to services that night. When my grand daughter got ready to go home, she was sad because I couldn't walk. She said, "Grandma, do you want me to pray for you?" and I said, "Yes." She got down on her knees by the stool my foot was on, put her little hand on my foot and said, "Dear Jesus, do heal my grandma's foot so she can walk," and before I went to bed I could walk without help. Praise His name!

Some time after that, I was suffering with dizzy headaches and sore throat. When I would ask for prayer I would get better, and then I would get worse, so I would call for prayer again. The words came to me, "Call and I will answer." I knew the Lord would not fail me. So I called for prayer and was anointed, then the healing came. Praise His holy name!

Pray for me, for I want to do His will.

—Alpha Daniels

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

Tenn.—Dear Ones everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I am glad that God has given me His Spirit. I am worshipping Him in truth and in spirit, instead of being led by the spirit of the world. My heart is so sad to see the condition of the hearts of the multitudes of

people today—idol worship. It causes my heart to cry out to God for help so I can help some one to know God and the truth of His Word. I want to be wise in the Lord's eyes. In Proverbs 11:30 we read, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

The Lord has healed me of a very bad stomach disorder. I just had to send in my testimony to tell every one. It was too good to keep to myself, and I will never get through thanking Him for it. He is so good to His people. I do thank Him for His love to us all. Let us continue to trust in Him until He takes us home to be with Him forever.

Your blood-washed sister, —Nora Clayton

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus.

I want to testify how the Lord did heal me in the campmeeting at Hennessey, Okla. this year, and I have been on the go for Him. Now the devil is trying to bring the affliction back on me. Dear saints, please pray for me. I mean to go through for Jesus. Love to all the saints. Your servant,

—Nancy Jones

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I want to thank you and Sister Marie for your prayers in my behalf. I was awfully sick. Bro. Albert Green's case of being poisoned on food was almost like my case. I had one of the saints to phone you. As soon as you had time to pray, the Lord touched my body, and I want to thank you for your prayers.

About one year ago I was deathly sick. I had my son to phone you. Shortly after he phoned I went to sleep and slept two hours. When I awoke I was well. May the Lord bless all of you.

Since my dear wife passed away I have lived alone. I will be 83 years of age in March, 1961. My children want me to sell my place and come to live with them. Remember me in your prayers.

Your Brother in the Lord, —W. A. Hughes

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie and workers: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. It is so comforting to know that the dear Lord is near us at all times.

One day when I was dressing our baby, I had to leave the room for something. I had left the safety pins at the foot of the crib. I was in a hurry when leaving the baby's room and didn't think to move the pins. When I returned to Irwin I found him playing with the open pins but he didn't have even a scratch from them. I immediately took care of the pins and then went on my knees in prayer to God with a grateful heart that He had so wonderfully protected my baby through my carelessness. Since then we are more careful not to leave things like that in his reach.

I am so thankful for the way the dear Lord fills my cup from time to time and keeps me in the one strait and narrow way. At any cost, I want to make heaven my home. I am thankful tonight for salvation. Truly, it is the most precious possession we can own. We must guard it with all diligence. Pray for me and my family.

Christian love, —Beverly Wattenbarger

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings to you in Jesus' precious name. I am so happy to report to you that the dear Lord has heard and answered prayer. I am feeling so well and happy; just a little stiffness in my shoulders that, I am sure, will go away soon.

At times I felt so alone and far from the saints. I guess I felt sorry for myself with this trouble with my

shoulder. I found the saints were just a few minutes away by phone, and the Lord was with me all the time. I have had more time to read my Bible lately, and more time to pray and think of God's goodness to me. It has been a busy time lately which takes too much time from Bible reading. God knows how to humble us so we will have more time for Him.

I had an encouraging letter from Sister Vera Forbes. You know, yours and Vera's voice sound alike on the phone. The Forbes' are kind and gentle, with understanding for others' needs. She sent me a little tract, "Golden Bells of Liberty," written by you.

Sister Marie, after talking to you on the phone, I told my husband that I knew God would heal me after the saints prayed. All the pain left me and I could lie on my right shoulder without it hurting.

Remember me in prayer that I will keep a revival in my soul. Thank all of you for your prayers.

God bless you.

Sister Lucille Allen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers in the Master's vineyard: Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Savior. I thank you for your co-operation.

Please continue to pray for me in my afflictions, for I want to be a living testimony of the divine healing power of God. Also, that my son, Dale, will be healed of thyroid trouble and chronic colitis which cause him to be nervous. Also for Mallie Fields whose liver and gall bladder have completely stopped functioning.

We pray for you and all the workers in the harvest field. Please use this small offering in any way you see fit. I only wish I could give thousands. It would be very little for Him who has done so much for me.

The following is a song which the Lord has given me:

Thou art the stream of life, my Savior.

Let me drink so deep of Thee,

That I may have to give to others,

And show to them their souls' great need.

(Chorus)

Be Thou my portion daily, Savior.

Never let me go astray,

But ever walking close beside Thee,

That I may show the world Thy way.

Help me teach others more about Thee—

By holy living day by day;

By not one thought showing dishonor,

Lest I cause some to go astray.

Let me never feel exalted,

But keeping low down at Thy feet;

In humble service ever follow—

The way to heaven is so sweet.

Help me, Jesus, Savior, Keeper,

To be a friend as Thou hast been,

To show the world in sinful pleasure,

It never pays to live in sin.

—A. F. Baldridge

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings to you in Jesus' dear name. I felt the leading of the Lord to write my testimony.

I do thank and praise the good Lord for what He is to me—how He is blessing me in soul, body and mind. I thank Him for this wonderful salvation, for the victory He gives and keeps me saved each day—encouraged to follow the Lord all the way. I mean to wear that crown He has offered to me. I do praise Him for His mercy

and loving kindness to me. Psalms 34:1-2, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praises shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord. The humble shall hear thereof and be glad."

I mean to let my light shine that the people may see how to come to God. The church is the light of the world; a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. I thank the dear Lord for saving me from the worldly adornments, its fashions and styles. As true saints of the Most High God, we cannot wear every style or fashion that comes out. We don't want to conform to the sinful world. If we look like the world, we are no help to them. The Word instructs us to dress in modest apparel. If we say we are saved and sanctified, let us prove by our dress and conduct that we are dead to the world. Once I was a young woman and the Lord saved me. There is just one salvation—one standard—for young and old alike. There is but one true way—the Bible way. Read 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Peter 3:3, 4; Titus 2:3, 4. The aged women should teach the young women.

Ministers, stand for the whole truth. Blow the gospel trumpet, brother, over land and sea. Lift up your voices together. Cry aloud and spare not; lift them together like a trumpet in Zion. This world is lost. Our children—saints' children—are lost. We are holding you up in our prayers.

Pray for our unsaved children.

Your sister in the one Body, —Victoria Chaney

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and all the saints at the Faith Publishing House: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

I want to tell about the dear Lord healing my body. I was sick for about three months. I wrote to you saints at the publishing house for prayer. I told the Lord if He would heal my body I would send in my testimony. Praise the dear Lord, He gave me complete healing. Oh, it really does pay to trust God. He says in His Word, "I am thy God that healeth thee." He also said that He would never leave us, nor forsake us.

I want to thank you saints at Guthrie and at Neosho, Mo. for your prayers. May God richly bless each one of you. Your Bro. in the Lord, —H. A. Decocq

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

Ohio—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

I feel led to testify of a miracle God wrought in behalf of my baby boy this last summer. He accidentally cut his fingers on his left hand very badly on a rip saw that is used to rip lumber. The saw chewed the two fingers next to his little finger almost off. I wasn't at home at the time. My husband brought him home. He had lost so much blood that when I saw his fingers I had to look beyond the fingers, because with my natural eye it was impossible. I knew God would need to come, and come quickly. Thank God, He did not fail me. I got down and began to pray for God to please have mercy, and God stopped the bleeding. He began to have chills and fever. I prayed again and sent for the saints. We all agreed in prayer. Bro. Robert Jones anointed him and he said his hand quit hurting. He went to sleep. The next day we changed the cloth on the hand and the cut wasn't laying open as before. God had closed the gash. What a mighty God we serve! Those who saw God's mighty work were made to marvel.

When we need God in a hurry He will come in a hurry. I have seven children and God has healed them many, many times. I know God to be a present help in time of trouble. One of his fingers is a little stiff and

hurts at times. Saints, agree with me for complete healing. I believe in living a devoted life so we can get our prayers through at any time.

I desire your prayers for my loved ones that they may come to God before too late.

Your Sister in one Body, —Mrs. Zenola R. Knight

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I am still trusting the Lord for soul and body. The Lord saved me a long time ago, and I have been trusting Him for my healing since 1904. I love the Lord and my desire is to trust in Him as long as I live. Pray for me that God will give me more grace to stand every trial and test that comes to try me.

On the 6th of this month (January) I had a birthday—80 years of age. I am weak in body but the Lord knows all about it.

Pray for my son in Chicago. He was home at Christmas but I have not heard from him since he returned.

I am sending you a little offering—use it to the glory of God.

One that loves the Lord, —Lizzie Randles

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

Calif.—Dear saints and readers of Faith and Victory: In Jesus' dear name I want to testify to the glory of God. I am so thankful that Jesus is my dear loving Savior—He saves me from sin. He is my good Shepherd—He leadeth me daily in the paths of righteousness. He is my great Physician. He heals my body as well as my soul. Yes, He is my all in all. Praise His name!

Last September my right hand and arm were very badly crushed in a washing machine wringer. It tore a strip of skin down to the tendons across my wrist. The place was more than an inch wide and four inches long. I was in terrific pain. It was bleeding badly, and the shock was severe, too. My husband called in some of the saints as Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson were in Mexico at the time. They prayed the prayer of faith and instantly God stopped the pain. (I had no more pain all the time it was healing.) He took away the nervous shock and the bleeding almost stopped. It was such a bad, ragged tear so deep down to the tendons that we decided it best to have it sewed. When the doctor saw it, he said it was too bad a tear for him to do, that we would have to call a specialist. After it was fixed up the doctor wanted to write prescriptions of pills for pain, infection, etc., but I told him, no, that I would trust God for the healing, and that I only wanted him to sew it up.

Later, after the stitches were out, the skin on the muscle part of my arm that had been so badly crushed, had turned dark, or shiny black as if it had been burned, and was 2½ by 3 inches in size. The doctor said it was very bad and I needed plastic surgery. I told him that I was one of those people who believed in prayer, and that we had trusted God for nearly 47 years for ourselves and for our children while they were under our care, and I would still trust Him to heal it all. He said it would take at least three months and then maybe there would be an ulcer. Then with a smile and very kindly he said, "Well then you will have to do a LOT of praying."

God had so wonderfully answered prayer at first that I expected it all to be healed speedily, but for some reason He didn't see best to give complete victory that easy, and permitted me to have battles and my faith put to a test. The devil painted dark pictures, but day after day my Bible would open to precious promises and such assuring and comforting scriptures. One morning about 4 o'clock the Lord assured me I would have new skin on my arm. Twice it got so bad that it looked like it was

about to turn into the predicted ulcer, but my dear Jesus gave the healing touch, and the new skin began to grow.

The seventh week my son went to see the doctor and told him I had all new skin except a very small place, and he said, "It is miraculous." Praise the Lord! It really is a miracle. Now I have almost normal use of my hand and arm. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name . . . and forget not all His benefits." Psa. 103:1, 2.

Don't be afraid to trust our great God—He will take you through.

I received more than fifty "get well" cards with notes of encouragement and saying they were praying — and that meant so much to me. I want to thank each one and pray God to bless you.

Your sister in Christ, —Vera M. Forbes

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

Kansas—Dear saints: We have been favored by the Lord in a way for which we have prayed for some time. Since last summer we have sought Him to permit us to be free to work for His sake and not have to serve time for the draft or Selective Service in C.O. work. When we moved to Anthony, Kansas to help with the Church here, we moved by faith, believing that the Lord would work it out. He surely has. Just recently we received our notice from the Draft Board that we are classified IV-D which is the classification for a minister. We know that it was God who answered prayer and worked. We are encouraged to trust Him for each circumstance of our life, knowing that His ways are best. Thank you each one for your prayers on our behalf. Pray for us here.

Yours for His sake, —Leslie and Sylvia Busbee

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

Illinois—To all the beloved saints of God there and scattered abroad, we send our love and greetings:

We want to thank each one who has been praying for us. We want you to know that God keeps us by His might and Spirit. He is ever present to comfort and strengthen us in soul, mind and body so we can press on up the way of holiness. Truly we could never bear or endure all the hard things of life if Jesus did not abide with us.

My father has just recovered from bronchitis, light pneumonia in one lung and a bowel obstruction. It surely seemed that the Lord would call him from this life, but he is better again. We are able to say amen to God's will and know if He finds a cause to keep him here longer, it must be a good cause. It is for our good, for He constantly seeks for the good of each child. My prayer is, "Lord, make me in Thy image AT ANY COST."

Especially precious was the presence of God the past few mornings. Then it came to my mind how the saints were gathering together for the special meetings the last few days of this year, and how I longed to be there with them. I have been earnestly praying that this year shall be a year like the saints have not yet known because of the mighty working of God in the life of each one.

It is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance. (Rom. 2:4). I am pleading with God to pour out such godly sorrow and repentance upon the people that they will lose every desire for sin, and will hunger after God until they find Him. "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psa. 34:18. Sinners must yield to God's Holy Spirit as He strives to bring them to genuine repentance so they may be born into the kingdom of God.

God will yield to the prayers of the saints as they plead for the mercies of God for the lost. It seems there is little hope for the sinners unless the saints are bowed

down with a burden for them. It is unfair to condemn them if they have never heard the pure truth. Please pray for those I have been reaching.

My only sister has been very ill in the hospital. She is home now. I wish God would burden some one to go see her. She does need spiritual light and help. She says she is saved, but she does not bear evidence of salvation. She lives in Ferguson, Missouri. If you are interested in going, write to me in care of Faith Pub. House.

In His love, —Sister Ada Scanlan

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

Oklahoma—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

Pray a special prayer for me that I will go through a test with victory that I am now passing through. I know if I trust in the Lord and obey His Word I can go through this test. I know He is the Creator of all things. This year I would like very much to do more for the Lord.

I truly thank the Lord for the birth of Christ and that He was willing to die on the cross for the ungodly. I am praising the Lord for One I can call upon any time, day or night, and He will hear and answer. He says He will never leave us, nor forsake us. I thank the Lord how He healed our oldest boy twice of an affliction during the summer. I thank the Lord for how He blessed us in 1960.

Also, I have an unspoken request for prayer. Pray that I will run this Christian race faithfully unto the end so that I can receive my crown.

Your brother, —Alonzo Jordon

The Point of No Return

As we were on our way home from the Pacoima, Calif. Assembly meeting, I was thinking about the good services we had and sermons we heard, thanking the Lord for those who gave their hearts to Him. Then on the other hand, it was sad to think of those who were once saved, then went back in sin, but did not get saved in the meeting. So many need the Lord.

Then I thought about a sermon we heard at the campmeeting on "Eternity." People do not seem to realize what eternity means — an endless eternity. Folks will not be in eternity for only a few years, a hundred years or a thousand years, but endless—no measurement of time in eternity.

Then I thought of the day we went through the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. As all were at the entrance of the cave waiting for the guide to take us through, he gave a lecture on the caverns and the points of interest on the route. At one place he said, "This is what we call the 'point of no return.' When you get down in the cave to this point, there is no turning back. You have to go on through, and at the end you will be taken up and out on an elevator."

Dear lost souls, eternity is endless—the 'point of no return.' There will be no elevator to take you out. You will be lost forever in eternal darkness. "Seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him when He is near!"

I thank the dear Lord that He ever saw fit to save my soul. I want to live true to Him. I want to make heaven my home and do what I can to help others to go there, too. Pray for us.

—Sister Royal Taylor

Is There Iniquity in My Tongue?

(Job 6:30)

As we all enter this new year, how careful we all should be to please the Lord, and guard our lives continually, and take every opportunity to do good and help our brothers and sisters to be strong, not wounding or crushing a soul in any way. It is human nature to feel proud when we conquer with our tongue, when we can get the last word, and put to silence those who oppose us. But this does not please God.

Solomon says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Yes, we can speak words of comfort and strength to our brother, or we can speak words that will crush, bruise and kill. No wonder David said, "I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my tongue." We are told of a people whose tongue is as a sharp sword and they whet their tongue like a sword and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words. Yes, that kind of words could no doubt stop the mouths of our enemies, but James tells us that such a tongue "setteth on fire the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell." On the other hand, the wise man said, "The tongue of the wise is health."

We are instructed in God's Word, "To keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." It takes God in the heart to be able to control our tongue. We may desire ever so much to keep our tongue, but without the power of God, we are helpless, for the Word says, "The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." Again Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." If we have bitterness, jealousy, ill-will, or an unforgiving spirit toward our brother hid away in our heart, our tongue is sure to speak it out. But if our hearts are clean and we have nothing but love and good will toward all men, even for our enemies, our words will be seasoned with salt (the preserving Spirit of God) that it will minister grace to the hearers.

Many dear souls who have been held in bondage of Babylon are so sick and tired of the strife of tongues. People are always backbiting against each other and running each other down. When they find us as God's people, loving one another and speaking well of our brothers and sisters, it convinces them that this is the Bible way. But how sad it makes us feel some times when some one unwise gets around those for whom we have labored in prayer and tears before God for years to get them out of division, and then the unwise one speaks to these precious, innocent souls unkindly of some brother or sister only because he or she has become offended and failed to forgive as Jesus forgives—never to remember it again—and he has carried a hurt feeling until bitterness has sprung up, and he just has to talk it out. Oh, dear ones, is there iniquity in our tongues?

Isaiah said, "The Lord hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary."

The question is asked, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" One of the answers is, "He that backbiteth not with his tongue."

May the Lord help us all, ministers and saints alike, to be watchful of our words that there may be no iniquity in our tongues.

Your saved Sister,

—Margaret Eck

Withered Branches

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:7.

For an illustration we will use the name Mr. B to bring out truths that are happening to souls every day. Mr. B feels the convicting spirit of the Lord dealing with his soul. He begins to see his need of a different life. He is tired of sin and has become convinced that there is no real satisfaction in sin for his innermost being. He finds that the pleasures of a sinful life last only a little while and are gone. He longs for something that will give him continual peace and pleasure. He yields to the Spirit of the Lord that works through God's ministering servants and the Word of God. Mr. B sees the love of Jesus and how He died on the cross for his sins. With tears of confession and repentance Mr. B. accepts the innocent blood of Christ as a covering for his sins. Oh, the joy from heaven that floods his soul! Even though the devil, who is the tempter of every soul, tries to make him believe his sins are not gone, he again and again reminds the devil that the Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. . . ." 1 John 1:9. Bro. B (we will call him brother now, for truly he is our brother in Christ) knows that he had confessed his sins with godly sorrow, and that they were all forgiven, not to be remembered again. The Bible says, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jer. 31:34. Bro. B is taught by the Word of God that only those sins that he might commit after this time will keep him out of heaven. The minister reads him the scripture, "The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." 2 Chron. 15:2. By this scripture we know that a person can fall from grace.

The 15th chapter of John tells us how Bro. B is connected to the vine which is Christ. Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can nothing." John 15:5. This vine, which is Christ, has its roots in heaven. All the graces needed by Bro. B comes down through the vine, which is Christ, from heaven into Bro. B's soul, because he is connected to the true vine. What a blessed privilege to be connected to heaven! Bro. B had yielded his all to God and the Holy Spirit had come in with cleansing power. He enjoyed the bless-

ing of a second definite work of grace in his heart.

Now there are some earthly vines in the world whose members are branches to their organization. But they are dead vines and do not have any spiritual life in them because their roots are not in heaven but are in this world. These vines have to depend upon the wisdom of man and their private interpretations of the Bible because they do not have the Holy Spirit to reveal the real truths of God's Word to them. They have a form of godliness but deny the power of God. Since the Holy Spirit does not operate in their services, they have to substitute programs, musical instrument entertainment, and fine church buildings with soft pews in order to get the people to attend.

Since they do not have the Spirit of God and have the spirit of the world, they look upon Bro. B as a strange person. One says to the other, "Did you notice how Mr. B talked? Why, he says we can't go to the shows and be saved. And he talked about being happy all the time and that he is living a sinless life." The other replied, "Why, yes, I heard him even say that he thought it was wrong to smoke a cigarette and drink coffee. He said something about his body being God's temple and that he wasn't to defile it. I feel that he is going too far." And so sectism took notice to the change in Bro. B. They were not pleased and decided to see if they couldn't win him over to them, as he seemed to be a good worker and they thought it would build them up to have him.

Bro. B went on serving the Lord with loving carefulness. Bro. B was praying and obeying all the words of Jesus. The union of abiding in Christ was sweet. His joy was full and the love of God flooded his very soul.

Now months have passed. Bro. B was very busy at his temporal work. His mind was so occupied that he didn't have as much time as formerly to pray and read God's Word. Just as the body will go down if it doesn't have proper food, so will the soul. His soul began to lose some of its joy and happiness. At times he would see he wasn't taking time to draw strength from the vine, which is Christ, and he would strive to do better, yet he continued to become slack. Soon he did not heed the warnings of the Spirit and therefore he lost power. After a while he began to see things in his brethren that he had not seen before because of the loss of the love of God in his heart. He found fault with them. His mind became troubled. If a brother made a mistake, he counted it as a sin. Bro. B got his eyes off Jesus and on things around him. His soul began to wither. The messages that went forth didn't stir him as they used to. Soon, when the Spirit would strive with him and make him know he was slipping and should wake up, he said, "Oh, what is the use?" The devil then told him that he was trying to live too strict anyway, and that he didn't have to live that way. His sectish friends told him that he wasn't having any fun. Finally he agreed with them and just gave up the whole thing because he wasn't willing to keep up with the

will of God. He became a withered branch and was cut off from the vine. Oh, how sad!

Mr. B went on for months in this condition. One day he was in an accident. He became stirred about how easy he could have been taken into eternity without hope in God. About that time a popular sect church was holding a big revival. He attended and heard a part of God's Word given out. He joined up with them instead of Christ, and confessed that he had formerly tried to live too strict. Because of his losing a love for all the truth it happened to this **withered branch**, Mr. B, what the Bible says will happen to those who do not love the truth. In 2 Thess. 10-12 we read in part, "... because they received not the love for the truth that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusions, that they should believe a lie; that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." How sad for this to happen to any soul!

Dead reader, the Bible says that people who have been saved and are branches in the true vine can be cut off. If they do not abide in Christ alone by keeping His commandments, they become withered and dead branches, cut off, and men (sectism) gather them to themselves under a delusion which will finally terminate in the eternal fires of hell. This matter is serious with eternal consequences, and it should stir every one to be watchful, prayerful and careful that he keeps abiding in the true vine which is Christ, who is the Head of the body, the Church.

The Bible says, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matt. 6:23. When a soul begins to lose love for the truth and walks back of light, the devil has a delusion to offer him. God permits this to come because the person does not keep abiding in Christ, the true vine. The choice is within us, because God will not forsake us if we will not forsake Him. —Mrs. Marie Miles

Greater Things For God

To do greater things for God we must first get a vision of greater things. The inventor first has a vision of the object which he wishes to build before he begins the actual work of bringing it about. A wider vision than of things pertaining to the kingdom of God will naturally increase our activities.

There is a certain mountain in this country of India from whose height we can look into five countries at a time. Before us lies Tibet with its huge walls of snow and ice, the highest mountains in the world; nearer are the valleys of Sikkim, Nepal, and Blutan, while to the south the plains of Bengal spread like a panorama before us. Upon my first visit to this spot, I cannot describe the inspiration, the awe, the yearnings which my heart experienced. A thousand Buddhist temples with their ten thousand priests chanting their doleful dirges, prayer bells ringing as a death knell to the Christless millions hid away among those fair hills and valleys; the eternal dark-

ness which envelopes them only to be pierced by that glory which raised up Jesus from the dead,—all these and more merged into one long wail which has risen from those plains for the last four thousand years, caused a feeling never to be forgotten by me. This, however, is only an illustration of a spiritual truth. As by climbing that one mountain, the natural vision is so widened, so there is a spiritual mountain to which all have access from whence all the kingdoms and nations of the world become merged into one great family, all with one eternal destiny before them. All are redeemed by the same precious blood, but not all are enlightened. Oh, how dark are some places on this dark map!

As we rise higher in the mount of prayer we rise above all boundaries and all distinctions. One writer who was deeply taught of God said, "The man who rises in God, by being brought into harmony with the divine nature, cannot be restricted by the limitation of name or country." He has a spirit which encompasses the world. Still another says, "One feeling, with the manifestation of the Father to the soul, is that of vastness. The spiritual landscape stretch away into illimitable fields of verdure and beauty, the heart expands round and round the world, and mantles all nations and kindreds with loving prayer, and sweet compassionate missionary zeal." A fervent missionary zeal is usually a good indication of spirituality, and visa versa.

Some people's vision is very narrow. "God bless me, my wife, our son John, his wife, us four, and no more," but such a selfish spirit and the Spirit of God cannot abide in the same heart. Others get a vision of their neighborhood; this is better, for how few there are at this time who even care for the sick and troubled ones just at their doors. Still others enlarge their borders inasmuch as to interest themselves in their own country, yet when it comes to taking a flight across the ocean, their love is found to have a broken wing. These dear souls may have a measure of the Spirit, but they have not come to the viewpoint on the mount of God where they have a spirit and vision which beholds the needs of the world. This place can only be reached through a life of humble prayer and devotion to God, but all may attain to it. The farmer at the plow, the mother with her busy cares, the teacher, the office worker, can all ascend up and, from the viewpoint of the Father, view the hungry multitudes.

From this place the soul may catch a glimpse of regions from the dark forests of Siberia to the golden borders of the Sudan, from the isles of the Pacific around to Gibraltar, from "Greenland's icy mountains" right down across the darkness of priest-ridden South America.

If you want to do greater things for God, get close enough to Him that you can hear His great heart throbs for this lost world. If you will do this, you will come forth from your closet of prayer determined to do all that lies in your power for Him.

People may at times and by different methods be induced to give of their means to missions—yes,

give of their surplus, and go on about as cold and indifferent to the cause as ever; but when they have seen the vision of the great cause of God, they will share their very life—their all. Their gold will be sent forth accompanied by fervent loving prayer that will be effectual in pulling down the strongholds of Satan, undoing the heavy burdens, and letting the oppressed go free. If every reader could in some way be induced or persuaded to spend ten minutes every day in fervent prayer for missions, and keep praying, I know that salvation would flow down like rivers, the chains of Satan would be broken, many more sick would be healed by the power of God, and the multitudes brought to the knowledge of the truth.

—Lottie L. Jarvis

Are You Using Your Time for God?

In Matthew 12:36, we read what Jesus taught the people. "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." How do you spend your idle time? Speaking of idle time, I have reference to the time that you are free from your daily duties to do as you please. Some choose to watch T.V. and some choose to visit and gossip with a friend. You may choose a true story, a funny book or wild west magazine and many other things you can choose to pass the time of day. God has taught me a lesson in this and I do thank Him for it because I do want to get closer to Him. The way I work I have to sleep the morning part of the day and after mid-day lunch I have about one and a half hours free to do as I like. One day I turned the radio on and lay down on the bed to rest before going to work. I did not want to go to sleep, so I thought I would listen to the radio a little to pass the time away. I happened to turn on a continued story, like they play from day to day, and I listened to it. Naturally, I wanted to hear it the next day. Later, I listened to another and then another, until I had the full one and a half hours taken up. I listened to them a few days and, naturally, each day called for the next day. You might say there is no harm in listening to a radio program and I would have to agree with you to a certain extent, but this is where God taught me the lesson. It was not the program altogether, but it was the time that I was spending and filling my mind with things that are no good.

In the work I do, there is no one to talk to, so I just work and think. One night, as I was working, I tried to think about Jesus, his love and what He had done for me and what I could do and needed to do that God would be pleased with. Every time God would bring something to my mind and I would start meditating on it, the devil would push one of those actors on the radio program right up in the front part of my mind and say, "How do you think this one will come out tomorrow?" or "Do you think so and so will come out alive?" There were several times that night that God would get my attention and the devil would put the radio program right up between me and God. I made up my mind that night I would not listen to

those programs any more, and I have kept that promise. Friends, anything that will fill your mind to where you cannot think godly thoughts, that is getting between you and God. You had better be careful. God is good, but we will have to give an account of the idle time and idle words here on earth. If we don't train our minds to think, our tongue to talk godly things here on earth, how could we expect to get to heaven? Even if we could get to heaven what would we talk and think about up there? This world is a dressing room for the world to come and we are either dressing up with the robe of righteousness to go to heaven or with the spots of sin to go to hell.

The next day, when I was free and alone, I chose the Bible instead of the radio program. I got my Bible and lay down on the bed as before. Instead of listening to the radio I read and studied the Bible. I talked to God in prayer and He wonderfully blessed me for making this change. I feel so much better. I want to get closer to Him and get more of the mind of Jesus Christ in my thinking each day.

We read in 1 Peter 1:17, "If ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." If we call on God and expect Him to hear us we must be careful how we spend our time here on earth. We must fear Him enough to keep our life clean and our minds clear enough that He can talk to us any time.

Friends, what I have been talking about is private devotion to God and if we are a child of God we belong to Him, time, work or play. He can stop the time He is giving us at any moment. Suppose He stopped your time while you were at some worldly amusement. I don't think this world of sin will stand much longer and I want to be spending my time for Jesus and walking with Him when He comes.

Read 2 Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 16 to 18. In verse 16 it says, "Ye are the temple of the living God." 1 Corinthians 3:17 reads like this: "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Now, it is plain enough to see that God created us and placed us here for a dwelling place for Him. There are so many that keep the temple of God, that is in their possession, defiled with drink, smoke, bad talk, reading, looking and listening to the wrong things until God will not dwell in them. In the beginning man was placed in the garden so God would have someone to walk and talk with. He gave man the freedom of choice, to choose good or evil. The devil came along and caused the man and woman to disobey and sin against God. They were driven from the garden, for God could not associate with sin. Then, Jesus came and shed His blood. He died on the cross that we might be brought back to the place where God could walk with us, but we still have the choice to make. If we choose to keep our minds filled with worldly things instead of studying the Bible, putting some good in our minds, and praying and talking to God, He will not walk with us. God will not agree with anything unclean.

Friends, we have been writing about idle or spare time. Stop and think a minute. If we give God our spare time, we are not sacrificing one thing except that which we are better off without. Jesus gave up his home in heaven and came and spent his time here. He suffered even more than we can think and bled and died on the cross, just for you and me. Now, if we will give God some time in private devotion and seek his leadership for our entire life, doing as He tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:17 "touching not the unclean thing" He will receive us. The 18th verse says, "I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." It is a wonderful privilege to be a son of God, recognizing Him as a Father and Jesus as an elder Brother. Oh, what a pleasure it is to know his Spirit is right with you at all times.

—Albert Green

"Most of life's shadows appear when we stand in our own sunshine."

"Do not approach the forbidden tree unless you would eat forbidden fruit."

—Matthew Henry.

BIBLE STUDY

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

February 5, 1961

CHRIST SATISFIES LIFE'S HUNGER

Printed Portion John 6:25-40

25. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither?

26. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27. Labour ye for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28. Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29. Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31. Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

36. But I have said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.

37. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Memory Verse: I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35.

Practical Truth: Christ is able both to impart and to sustain our spiritual life.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of the 6th chapter of John gives the account of Jesus feeding about five thousand. Then when Jesus perceived the people were about to take him by force and make Him a king, He withdrew to the mountain to be alone and, no doubt, to pray. (This is an example for us when honor is bestowed upon us.) In the evening His disciples took a ship for Capernaum. During the night a storm arose and Jesus came walking to them on the sea, and was received into the ship. The next day the people sought Jesus and when they found Him they could not understand how He came to be there, knowing that He did not leave with the disciples in the ship. He did not satisfy their curiosity, but began to admonish them because He knew in their hearts they were seeking Him for the loaves and fishes which satisfied their natural hunger for food.

Jesus said, "Labor not for the meat that perisheth," and "My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven." Then He said, "I am the bread of life." Just as the body needs meat, vegetables, and fruit to be healthy, so the soul needs a balanced diet of heavenly food. Many souls in the world are starving when Jesus is the bread that would satisfy them. After Jesus is received, then the soul needs daily food. That food is received through the reading of the Word of God, earnest prayer, showing forth good works and yielding to the Holy Spirit rather than to the desires of the flesh.

February 12, 1961

CHRIST OPENS BLIND EYES

Printed Portion John 9:24-38

24. Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

25. He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

26. Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

27. He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

28. Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

29. We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

30. The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvelous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

31. Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

32. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

34. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

35. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36. He answered and said, who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37. And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Memory Verse: I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12.

Practical Truth: Jesus is a sufficient spiritual guide for all men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It would be good to read the whole chapter of the account of the blind man who was healed by Jesus, and the opposition that he suffered at the hand of the Jews. Jesus had anointed his eyes with clay and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. He obeyed and thereupon received his sight. The Jews did not recognize the miracle but saw only what they thought was the sin of breaking the sabbath. Today we see people trying to cover up their own wickedness by not accepting facts as they see them. With all the miracles Jesus had performed in their midst they said, "We know that this man is a sinner." Should we be alarmed at what is being said about the saints of God? We must each one search our own hearts and keep clear before God and disregard what others will say. People today are rejecting the light because they prefer the darkness, though they profess to see. To such men Christ said, "Your sin remaineth."

In verse 35 we see the compassion of Jesus. He came to the rescue of this man who had been cast out. Today the eye of God is upon us and when trouble arises, He comes to help us out. Not only did He bring physical sight to the man but He brought spiritual sight as well. Just as soon as he said from the heart, "I believe," the darkness fled and the light of heaven shown in.

February 19, 1961

THE LORD OF LIFE AND DEATH

Printed Portion John 11:17-27, 38-44

17. Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

18. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

19. And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25. Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeest thou this?

27. She saith unto him, Yea Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world.

38. Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41. Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Memory Verse: I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25-26.

Practical Truth: Jesus has authority over life and death.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were very close to Jesus. The message that Lazarus was sick, no doubt, touched Him very much, yet He did not go to him. When we pray and the answer does not come immediately, let us think of the glory that was shown through the lingering of Jesus for two days before He went to the sisters of Lazarus.

We are touched as we read the account of the tender sympathy and grief that Jesus had when He was with the sisters of his close friend. Truly He is the same today, and is touched when we suffer.

Notice the faith Martha had in Jesus (verse 22). He told to her to believe and she would see the "glory of God." God help us to believe today that we might see the glory of God. He is waiting to show it to us.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life." We that have the Spirit of God within us shall be resurrected to life forevermore with our Lord and Saviour. We will put on an immortal body and live with Him in eternity.

Lazarus bound in grave clothes is a type of the person in a justified state, and when one receives the Holy Spirit he is made completely free.

February 26, 1961

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS

Printed Portion John 12:20-36a

20. And there were certain Greeks among them, that came up to worship at the feast:

21. The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

22. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

23. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

24. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

27. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

30. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

31. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

33. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

34. The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

35. Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36. While ye have the light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.

Memory Verse: He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. John 12:25.

Practical Truth: Genuine sacrifice may be required in order to accomplish the greatest good of which we are capable.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are many precious truths brought out in our lesson. We wish more people were seeking Jesus. If they could see Him dying on the cross for their sins, and that love He manifested be accepted, it would melt their hard hearts and they would gladly confess, let Him take away their sins and make them children of God.

If Jesus had chosen to preserve his life in this world and not go to the cross, we would not be saved. But He gave his life and it was like a grain of wheat that fell into the ground. That surrendered life brought forth fruit, and is continuing even until this day. He teaches us, too, to give up our selfish, fleshly desires and hate them. We then can find eternal life and bring forth fruit in this life for God.

The 31st verse speaks of the "prince of this world" being cast out. This is the devil. Under the law of Moses man had to come again and again to offer sacrifices for his sins, but now Jesus was to be lifted up on the cross. Through His shed blood, his resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the devil is dethroned in the hearts of men and they can live without committing sin. Judgment had come to this world through Christ.

—Mrs. Marie Miles