

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

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The Four Calls

The Spirit came in CHILDHOOD,
And pleaded, "Let me in."
But O! the door was bolted,
By thoughtlessness and sin.
"I am too young," the child replied,
"I will not yield today."
There's time enough tomorrow,"
The Spirit went away.

Again he came and pleaded,
In YOUTH'S bright happy hour.
He came, but heard no answer,
For lured by Satan's power,
The youth lay dreaming then,
And saying, "Not today;
Nor till I've tried earth's pleasures,"
The Spirit went away.

Again he called in mercy,
In MANHOOD'S vigorous prime.
But still he found no welcome,
The merchant had no time.
No time for true repentance,
No time to think or pray.
And so, repulsed and saddened,
The Spirit went away.

Once more he called and waited,
The man was OLD and ill.
He scarcely heard the whisper,
His heart was cold and still.
"Go leave me, when I need thee,
I'll call for thee," he cried.
Then sinking on his pillow,
WITHOUT A HOPE, he died!
—Selected

"It Is Finished."—Such words as these may be used in describing the completion of some great earthly task. But Christ used these words, not to mark the end of a life of failure, but to mark the completion of the greatest work God had ever undertaken for mankind—the work of making provision for the redemption of the human race.

God's Wonderful Love

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

There is no subject in the whole Bible fraught with so much living and universal interest to mankind as God's love; and there is none which ought to sound so deeply in the human heart, and so musically in the human ear, and beget in the soul so much gratitude. It should be a subject of frequent discourse with the minister, and of frequent meditation and conversation with the Christian. A devoted minister once said, "Were the highest heavens my pulpit, and all the host of the redeemed, together with Adam's family, my audience, and eternity my day, redeeming love should be my text and sermon."

The great gift which God gave was his Son, his only begotten Son. It was not an angel, or any mere creature, however exalted, but He who had dwelt with Him from everlasting. A greater gift God could not have given; he gave the greatest gift he had. Had he given all the myriads of bright angels that surrounded his throne, they would not have been a gift one-thousandth part so great as his only begotten Son. No wonder the Apostle called this an "unspeakable gift." Its value can never be told.

But God not only gave his Son; he gave him unsolicited. Man had not requested this gift; he had not sought God's favor. Nor could he have thought of a gift so great, or had the presumption to ask it at the hands of his Maker. But what was too great for man's conception, was not too great for God's. God conceived the plan before man was born, made out a scheme which should meet all his wants and necessities. When man first sinned, he gave him, unsolicited, the glorious promise recorded in Gen. 3:15. Addressing the serpent which had beguiled Eve, he said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Again, God not only gave his Son, and gave him freely, but he gave him to suffering and death. And

Christ, for our sakes, freely fulfilled the will of his Father. He who occupied the highest place in the highest world, condescended to take the lowest place in this: He "who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, made himself of no reputation, took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." He who was the Lord of glory, and the Fountain of life, and the Creator of men and angels, allowed his blood to be spilled, and his life taken away. The fulness of his love was seen in the giving of Himself for needy man.

The source from which this precious gift flowed was God's love. "God so loved the world." The greatness of this love none can tell.

"Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor would the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky."

Great as the love of angels may be, great as the love of sanctified believers may be, great as may be the love which exists between pious husbands and wives, and parents and children, it is nothing to the love of our heavenly Father. God has displayed his love to the world in numerous ways, but in no way so clearly and so fully as in the gift of his dear Son. We may see God's love everywhere—in sun, moon, and stars; in trees, herbs, and flowers; we may see it written on the firmament, and on the earth, and on the ocean, and on every living creature; we may see it stamped on spring and summer, on autumn and winter; we may feel it in the air, and hear it in the winds, and see it in the dewdrops and the teeming showers; but we can neither see it, nor hear it, nor feel it anywhere in the same way as we can at the mount of Calvary. No where does God's love shine with the same strength and lustre and brilliancy as it does on that memorable hill. Nothing sets forth such a bright and glorious manifestation of it as the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." It was not the sufferings and death and atonement of Christ that procured God's love, but it was God's love that procured the sufferings and death and atonement of Christ for our salvation.

God's love may be compared to the ocean, from which we may be ever drawing, but which we can never empty, nor even diminish. It is boundless love, everlasting love,—love which cannot be measured nor fathomed, nor conceived, nor explained. "His love passeth knowledge."

The object on which God set his love was fallen man. "God so loved the world." See the awful state

mankind were in. There was nothing within them on which God could look with complacency,—nothing that he could approve; nor was there anything about them which could inspire or beget love; they were corruption within, and disobedience without; their hearts were impure, and their words and their actions were evil. Yet God loved them; he loved them with a love of pity. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The great end which God had in view in giving his Son, was the salvation of mankind. It was that they might "not perish, but have everlasting life." Had not God manifested this marvellous love, and given his Son a sacrifice for sin, the world must have perished. There was none else that could have given salvation to us. No other help could have been found; no other Savior could have brought deliverance. Notwithstanding the aggravated nature of men's sins, he was unwilling that they should suffer the penalty their sins deserved; and therefore, he provided a substitute to bear their iniquities, to suffer and die in their stead, and open up a way to the mansions of light and love. Christ was given, not only that they might escape hell, but that they might get safe to heaven. He suffered, not only that they might not be tormented with devils, but that they might have angels for their companions. He died, not only to save them from everlasting punishment, but to bless them with eternal life.

The condition on which we may escape destruction, and secure everlasting life, is faith. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish." The condition is such as we can comply with. God does not require any thing which is out of our power to perform. He requires faith in Jesus Christ as one who is mighty to save. He requires faith in his doctrines and precepts, and the whole gospel scheme. He requires faith in his blood, and atonement, and expiatory sacrifice. Through this faith, the soul shall be saved from death, and live to all eternity in communion with God. Then believe in Jesus. The Gospel was "written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Believe in him whom "God hath made to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Believe in him who "hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us;" in him who "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity." Believe in Christ as your atoning sacrifice, who satisfied the claims of Divine Justice for your sins, and died in your stead. Believe in him as the Resurrection and the Life, the Physician of your souls, the way of truth, the way of holiness, and the way of peace; and in the moment you believe, you shall experience a spiritual change which shall bring joy and gladness into your hearts.

This great salvation is freely offered to all. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish." God "spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all." "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Christ "gave himself a ransom for all." He tasted "death for every man." None need entertain fears that he is excluded from the covenant of grace.

Guilty sinner, the everlasting Father, in the exercise of his wonderful love, has not even withheld his only begotten Son, but has delivered him up for YOU! Dare no longer to slight his love, but yield, and make way for its melting and refining influences into your mind and soul. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Look up to the cross—the bleeding Lamb of God! Look up, and streams of new life shall flow into your heart. "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin." Come to the fountain of purity, for you are polluted, and need washing. Come to the fountain of life, for you are dead in sins, and need quickening. Come to the fountain of blessing, for you are miserable, and need the peace divine. In the love of God, in the blood of Jesus, there is ground for the Christian to rejoice and for the penitent to hope for mercy. Mercy's footprints may be seen all the way from Calvary up to paradise. Oh, what astonishing mercy! and from what astonishing love did that mercy flow!

—S. Henn.

Membership in the Church of God

By becoming a member of the Church of God, we are incorporated into Christ. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (I Cor. 12:12).

This body is composed of Christ and all his saints. (I Cor. 12:27). It is the church (vs. 28). And yet it is all simply Christ himself (vs. 12). This body, or church of Christ, includes the Christians in heaven and earth, and is not a cut-off faction or part of any religious system or general body. We avoid making a sect by abiding in this body of Christ which is the whole, and joining nothing else. Even though we were to call the church to which we adhere, the Church of God, if we were to define it in such a manner, or have any conditions of membership which would enable a saved man of God to be on the outside of it, it would still be a sect. If we were to organize it ourselves it would be only a sect, because no man can organize the body of Christ, the Church. Now we . . . appeal to all our . . . teaching, both public and private, ever since we have come fully out of sectism and invite any person to point out one account of our organizing a church of our own, or a single description of the church we live in, that does not correspond with the body of Christ, which is no sect, or cut-off part, but the entire Church. Yea, if you can find one condition of church membership laid down by us that you can set aside and still be in Christ, we will renounce it. No person has been invited by us to join anything but Christ himself. Our constant teaching is that we recognize and claim no church but the body of Christ; and lay down no boundary to that church but the line that lies between the saved

and the unsaved. We have no other idea of the Church of God, nor have advanced any, save that community which is composed of all saved men. . . .

The only test of fellowship is the existence of fellowship, and fellowship and membership in the Church of God are coexistent with salvation. So we acknowledge all the saved in the Church, and at the same time we are authorized by Jesus Christ to say that "he that loveth me [Christ] keepeth my sayings." So church membership is not conditioned upon keeping the commandments of Christ; keeping the commandments of Christ is the sure and spontaneous result of being in the body of Christ.

To make a sect, men must form and join something else besides Christ. Christ is the way, the truth, and the life; the whole Christ, as set forth in the New Testament, is the basis of union.

—D. S. Warner

Is This The Easy Way to Reach Heaven?

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

Fifteen newspapers come to my desk daily. Each carries at least one religious column, proving that the subject has strong reader appeal.

After much study of this daily output, I have to declare myself a heretic. Today's religion is fast becoming a handy gadget—a sort of spiritual labor-saving device to get us to heaven the easy way.

The men and women who speak through the pages of the papers nearly always urge us to gain our own ends. Few point out that we should let God use us for His ends.

There is very little talk of self-sacrifice and practically no reference to the fact that the genuine religious person must expect to meet reverses, perhaps to the end of his life, and fight the moral evils of his society.

Emphasis is on getting, instead of giving. No great spiritual leader before our time ever swam with the tide. Nowadays one measures success by popularity.

There also seems to be a movement on foot to prevent people from looking at the facts of their world. Just leave everything to God, is the daily sing-song.

"Sell what thou hast and give to the poor"—a command which Jesus gave to the rich young man—is unpopular these days. Prayer and other religious rituals instead are held up as a means of getting God on our side—for one purpose—so that we shall have business success, social popularity, fame and personal happiness.

God is presented as a Being who is ready to lend Himself generously to our material welfare—a concept which does not prepare us for life or tragedy or for spiritual maturity.

This "Horatio Alger" approach strikes me as a clever device for gaining recruits. But when we turn the teachings of the Nazarene into workable schemes for getting ahead in the world, I think we have not found true and pure religion—we have lost it.

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced; including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the 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 secret and religious orders organized and governed by man.

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.

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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
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Editorials

I have determined by the grace and wisdom of God to be at my best for God during this new year of 1962. The first month of the year is pretty well spent at this writing, and the Lord has given us strength to be quite active in the work of the Lord.

A number of burdens are upon our heart to be granted from the Lord as we wait before Him. One is the need to get more room built here at His print shop for housing printing machinery and more rooms for workers' quarters. This will be quite an expense, besides much labor, but the room is needed for expanding the publishing work in obedience to the Savior's command to carry the gospel "to every creature." We now have the trench dug for pouring the cement for the foundation. The addition will be 20 feet wide and about 79 feet long. If the Lord so wills, we want to get this building finished by early spring.

We also have a burden to send more of the Bible truth into the foreign lands, as the calls are coming in quite fast from certain foreign countries. Their cry burdens our hearts for their needs. We have been sending papers, tracts and New Testaments to west and south African countries for the past four years or more. God is working in those parts and congregations are being raised up and we want to see this good work increased. We have other burdens but these are the most weighty upon our hearts at the present time.

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We had a picture in the January paper of a congregation that God was forming in Nigeria, West Africa. Bro. Etuk, who is laboring there, has a need of means for a typewriter, and also for a car to get around to the different places to scatter the literature and preach the gospel to men, women, boys and girls. Recently we sent to this congregation in West Africa \$80.00 in money and also purchased 100 New Testaments for that country. This money was sent from our Foreign Missionary Fund. We are expecting the saints to do more for this foreign work in the future. Pray for us and them.

It seems to me that some saints should renew their consecration before the Lord and not lay up so many treasures here on earth, but sell some of their lands and houses and give alms as the early Church did. People who add house to house and land to land could not conscientiously claim to have a genuine experience of consecration and led by His Spirit. When the cause of God is so great and needs are so many, with most all souls traveling the broad way to destruction, surely a sanctified soul would not dare withhold means from the cause of God and lay up treasures here. One that gives of his means that God has put into his hands with the best knowledge that God gives him will not lose his reward, espe-

cially if he gives it as unto the Lord. Everything that God has ever put into our hands has gone directly into the work of the Lord or been given to some needy cause or person. If we should die at the present time we would not have one single foot of real estate in our possession and not enough of personal property, if sold, to pay our funeral expenses. We expect to keep it that way until He says, "It is enough, come up Higher."

When the Judgment day comes I would not want to be like the professor of religion of whom I heard. He dreamed that he died and was going up to heaven. As he went up he felt something holding and hindering him from going on. In looking back he saw a string attached to him and tied to a forty-acre field here on the earth. It could be a bank account, bonds, city property or more fields than one that people would be attached to. So many keep adding to their holdings, going in debt and tying up their means, until they scarcely have anything free to give to the Lord's cause when opportunities arrive for them to lay up treasures in heaven. Some have in view to retire and seldom have many treasures laid up above. Others make their wills and leave God out of it—their estate often going to unsaved children and relatives who waste it trying to satisfy their carnal desires. As a result, there are no treasures laid up in heaven. My brethren, these things ought not to be. Saints should see to it that the Lord gets a major part of what He places in their hand while they are living.

The way the world is going at present, it looks as though Communism, which means atheism and infidelity, is going to be the ruling power in the world. When that time comes and their authority gets strong enough, much persecution will overtake the saints of God, and no doubt many will be put in jail and their property taken over by the infidel government. While in jail they will have plenty of time to wish over and over again that they had laid more treasures up in heaven.

God meets out many chastisements on saints in this world by afflictions and other disagreeable experiences trying to get their souls to the place where they will have a willing heart to honor Him with their substance and lay their treasures up above. God does not accept anything except willing service and sacrifice. The Apostle Paul tells us how to give in 2 Cor. 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver." Read the verse before and after this one, and may the Lord give you understanding.

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Following is a reprint of an article from the "Gary Post-Tribune" which Bro. Scott C. Baker clipped and sent to us:

MARKED TREND TOWARD RELIGIOUS UNION

Encouraging developments continue in the direction of some form of Christian unity. A year ago the Archbishop of Canterbury of the Church of England

talked with Pope John at the Vatican. Now the leader of the American Episcopal Church, Bishop Arthur C. Lichtenberger, has had "a most cordial talk" with the Pope. Such meetings would have been unthinkable only a few years ago.

The American bishop visited the Vatican on his way to New Delhi, India, where the World Council of Churches is now holding its third assembly. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member of the council, but Pope John has significantly sent five observers to the assembly.

At New Delhi, the assembly is expected to approve a merger of the council with the International Missionary Council. The latter group was formed in 1910 at Edinburgh; it had been working in close cooperation with the church council for the last decade. The church council includes leaders of 170 denominations from 50 countries.

Favorable action already has been taken at New Delhi on applications for membership from the Russian, Bulgarian, Polish and Romanian Orthodox churches. This was done in the name of unity, despite considerable doubts in the minds of Western churchmen as to the independence of churches behind the Iron Curtain.

It is regarded as a sign of the world council's increasing influence that Roman Catholics are giving greater attention to its activities. For his own part, Pope John repeatedly has said it is better to stress what unifies, rather than what divides.

Primarily due to the pontiff's influence, a world council official was able to report early this year that 1960 had brought "a further relaxation of tensions and an improvement in communications between churches in the major branches of Christianity."

The council's long range plan envisions unification of Christian churches, a common recognition of sacraments on such things as baptism, communion and marriage, and recognition of each other's ministries. That appears far in the future. However, there has been much fresh talk within the United States this year of denominational mergers.

Comment by the editor:— By reading the above article you can see how the world is shaping up for the final struggle between Gog and Magog on one hand and the saints of God on the other. They are surely gathering together against the righteous. Communists and "pinks" are quite strong in both the Council of Churches and Catholicism. According to the Scriptures Communism will be the ruling power in time to come. No one with any degree of true spiritual understanding of Scriptures would affiliate himself with either one of these three religious powers in the world today—namely, Communism, Council of Churches or Catholicism. These three unclean spirits like frogs are going over the whole world to gather the Gogs and Magogs together, along with the infidels and atheists, to fight against the innocent saints of God. (Rev. 20:8). Oh, that professing Christians would arise from sleep and shake themselves, and keep out of the traps and snares of Satan!

Obituaries

D. E. Dietrich was born December 23, 1890, and departed this life on September 19, 1961 at Stanley, Wisconsin at the age of 70 years, nine months and four days.

He had been sick for three months and suffered much pain. From all indications he died of cancer of the urinary system.

He never married, but will be greatly missed by his surviving two brothers and one sister, also by the Church at Stanley, Wisconsin.

Funeral services were conducted by our beloved Sister Margaret Eck of Bartlett, Kansas and Bro. Herbert Probst of Decatur, Ill. Kenneth and Laverna Probst sang the special songs. He was laid to rest in Oaklawn Cemetery at Stanley, Wisconsin. Yours in Christ,

—Frank Dietrich

(The Editor expresses his sincere regrets that the above obituary was misplaced and later found, which accounts for its late appearance in this paper.)

Mary Elizabeth Roberts, the wife of S. M. Roberts, was born in Indiana on December 6, 1891 and departed this life on December 16, 1961 at Covina, Calif. at the age of 70 years and 10 days.

She is survived by seven daughters, five sons, 41 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. A. E. Harmon. Text: Job 14th chapter.

Elizabeth Anthony was born Sept. 28, 1869 and departed this life on December 8, 1961 at the age of 92 years.

Sister Anthony was the mother of Carrie Holmes, Eva Moyer, Florence Nulph, Fred S. and J. Edward Anthony, also the grandmother of James Anthony.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. A. E. Harmon, assisted by Sister Opal Wilson. Text: 1 Tim. 5:24.

Andrew Franklin Rudd was born in Missouri on the 8th of April, 1882, and departed this life on Dec. 29, 1961 at Orland, Calif. at the age of 79 years, seven months, and 21 days.

He was married to Ruth Newton on March 12, 1947. He was a member of the congregation of the Church of God at Orland, Calif., having embraced the truth of the "Evening Light" saints at Glendale, Calif. in 1938. He was very faithful in attending all the services, always desiring to be on time and ready to select a hymn.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of Orland, Calif., a nephew and other relatives. He will be missed by his loved ones of Orland, and by all who knew him.

Funeral services were conducted by Eugene Harmon and H. P. Huskey. Text: Job 14:14. Burial was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery of Orland, Calif.

Thomas Marion Melot was born August 27, 1885 in Oklahoma and departed this life December 8, 1961 at Lubbock, Texas at the age of 76 years, 3 months and 11 days.

He lived in Shawnee, Okla. for a number of years and then in 1944 moved to Lubbock, Texas. He had been privileged to hear the Truth preached a number of years ago and was a real friend to the saints. He passed away praying for his boys.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Margaret Jane Melot of the home, two daughters, Glatis Johnson of Borger, Texas and Mrs. D. W. Bailey of Lubbock; seven sons, Ullie F. of Shawnee, Okla., Elbert of Hennessey,

Okla., Marion of Guthrie, Okla., Milton of Los Angeles, Milford and George B. of Phoenix, Ariz., and Joseph A. of St. Louis, Mo.; one brother, 43 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, beside a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in Lubbock, Texas by Bro. Charles R. Smith and interment was in Resthaven Cemetery.

Lonnie Henderson was born in Kansas in April, 1890 to Shelton and Addie Henderson, and departed this life near Beggs, Okla. on Jan. 1, 1962 at the age of 71 years.

In 1961 he united with the Church of God in Okmulgee, Okla. and remained faithful until the end.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Fannie Henderson, three daughters, four sons, two brothers, 26 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral was conducted by Woodrow Warren, assisted by others. Texts: Col. 3:2; John 14:1-3.

Mamie Howze Allen, the wife of Pearl Allen, passed away Dec. 25, 1961 at her home in Hoffman, Okla.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband of the home, seven daughters, one son, four sisters and four brothers.

Funeral was conducted by Woodrow Warren, assisted by Bro. W. Crawley, Bro. Lewis Williams, and others.

Brother Sol Edward Smith was born Nov. 22, 1883 to Elizabeth and Edward Smith, and departed this life on December 31, 1961 at Fontana, Calif.

In 1915 he was married to Esther Irene Fields. He became associated with the Church of God in 1917 in the State of Oklahoma.

The most outstanding tribute to be paid to Bro. Sol was his unwavering devotion to God shown in every aspect of his life, in the church and toward all mankind. He maintained a strong, unrelenting faith in God until the end.

He leaves a devoted companion, one son, one brother, many other relatives and a host of friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. Nellie Poulos, Bros. I. C. Chandler and O. B. Wilson at the Stanley Mortuary in Fontana. Interment was in Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino, Calif.

Essie Newton Parrish was born to Felix and Lizzie Newton on Aug. 20, 1896 in Texas, and departed this life October 14, 1961.

In 1919 she was united in marriage to James Parrish at Boley, Okla. To this union eight children were born, one son having preceded her in death.

Sister Parrish had been a member of the Church of God for more than forty years, having lived in Tulsa, Okla. before coming to California seventeen years ago.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband of Fresno, Calif., one daughter, six sons, three sisters, one brother, 22 grandchildren, one great grandchild, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. E. J. Trotter, assisted by Bro. I. C. Chandler.

Bro. Enoch Jones was born June 9, 1886 at Marlin, Texas and departed this life on Nov. 5, 1961 at the age of 75 years, four months and 25 days.

He was married to Susie Vera Deadwyler on May 15, 1912. To this union 13 children were born, one son having preceded him in death, also his wife. The survivors include five daughters, seven sons, 44 grandchildren, two

great-grandchildren, other relatives, and a host of saints and friends.

He was saved a number of years ago in Oklahoma, then lost favor with God for a time, but in later years renewed his covenant with God and was faithful to the end.

Sister Nellie Poulos officiated at the funeral, assisted by Bro. E. J. Trotter and Bro. Calvin Hobbs. Texts: Rev. 14:13; 2 Samuel 14:14.

(We, the children of the Bro. Jones, wish to thank each of you for your kindness and love shown to us in our grief—for the sympathy cards, flowers, your prayers and presence. All was so greatly appreciated.)

—Sister Arceal Johnson

Meeting Notices

The annual spring meeting at Green Pastures, Okla. will convene March 16 through March 25, 1961.

The annual campmeeting at Green Pastures will be in session this year July 6th through the 15th.

Please pray for the success of these meetings.

—E. W. Saunders, Pastor

To the ministers of the Church of God:

We would like for some one, who feels led of the Lord, to stop here and hold a meeting—even for a day or two would be a great help. We want this to be a standing invitation—come anytime.

We live at Borger, Texas which is northeast of Amarillo, Texas. When you come, just phone or call Broadway 4-5270. Your Brother in Christ,

—Elbert E. Johnson

Meeting Reports

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting held here at Guthrie, Okla. during the Christmas holidays has closed leaving behind many blessings. Many expressed how much they appreciated the good spirit that prevailed throughout the meeting. Many good messages were delivered and the Lord freely anointed in preaching His Word. Although there was quite a bit of sickness, the Lord was present to heal the sick, and blessed many in spiritual ways as well.

The Lord provided a good number of ministers from several states, for which we were thankful. There was much anointing and blessing on the last Sunday morning service as the Lord blessed Bro. Ulysses Phillips richly in breaking the Word of God to the saints. Also, the other messages were real precious.

Let us all live very close to the Lord in the New Year, as we surely don't know what lies ahead in 1962. But if we will all be faithful unto the end of life, we will receive a crown of life. So let us pray much and watch in all things that we might be counted worthy of eternal life. May God bless every saint and lover of the Truth.

—Bro. Ira D. Stover

FRUITFUL MEETINGS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Dear saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus:

It is a privilege to have this opportunity to send a report of another successful meeting which was held here Dec. 24 to 31, at Ridgeville, S. Carolina. The Lord cer-

tainly blessed in the meeting. Twenty-four were saved from their sins and many more were blessed. We had good attendance—from 200 to 250 each evening, as the seed, which is the Word of God, was sown.

Bro. Curtis Williams came and began to water, and the Lord gave the increase. God has a few scattered saints, but thank God, one day we shall all come home to receive our reward.

When the meeting closed at Ridgeville, we came to Holly Hill and began meeting on Monday night through Thursday night. The Lord gave another blessing with approximately 18 saved. Some had been in a backslidden state, but God gave the victory. We certainly want the saints to know that we here at Holly Hill and Ridgeville desire your prayers that we will keep close to His side. Pray especially for our young saints who just got saved that they will stay true to the Lord.

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

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The California Assembly Meeting at Pacoima, Calif. began on December 22 and lasted ten days. The first part of the meeting was not well attended, but did increase up to the very last Sunday when the chapel was filled. The interest was good all through the meeting. Able ministers were present to deliver good messages which did feed the souls of the listeners.

The weather was favorable all through the meeting. The services were edifying. The expenses of the meeting were met liberally. The ordinances of the Lord's House were observed by 91 participants.

There were some 15 preachers present to minister the Word of God. About 20 souls were at the altar for spiritual help.

Let us face the issues of life with courage and boldness, knowing that our God never lost a battle and will bless His trusting children through the coming year.

Yours in Christ,

—E. M. Zinn

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM OLD MEXICO

Thanksgiving week-end, Nov. 23-26:— Left Pomona, Calif. on Wednesday evening around 10 p.m. Stopped twice in route to Mexico long enough to catch a little sleep. I arrived at the store at Ojos Negros about 8 a.m. After visiting with the storekeeper and family a while, I left the usual road of travel and went 10 miles north to La Huerta, where I found the home and Indian family which we met over three and a half years ago on our first visit to Baja, Calif. in search of the Pi-Pi Indian tribe at Santa Catarina. From this home I could see the school yard where I viewed 30 children marching in formation supervised by a young Mexican school teacher. Across the road from the school, I visited the wife of a Pentecostal preacher, along with three elderly women who lived there also. She gave a favorable report of the success of their work there. On the other hand, others seemed to indicate a different opinion and showed a desire for us to have services there with them. In short, I felt definitely impressed that there was an open door for the saints to take the Gospel.

In visiting different ones, I soon learned of the death of an old resident, and that the burial would take place that day. Sure enough, within an hour, the funeral procession of cars and trucks was seen approaching from the mountains towards the cemetery. Approximately 200 people had come to pay their last respects to a man of 78 years. As they prepared to let the crude box, which served as the vault, into the ground, a large man who seemed

to be in charge, called out over the audience, "Is there a minister?", and the answer came back, "No hay, no hay (there isn't, there isn't)." This was repeated several times, but to no avail. Being impressed of the Lord to offer my services, I did so, and was readily accepted, giving me the opportunity to give out the Word of God to the family and friends of the deceased.

From the funeral I drove 20 miles to the lumber camp and spent the night there. The following day I witnessed to several of the lumberjacks. I learned of an American missionary and his wife and family, located and visited them, and had good fellowship together. I felt impressed that God has plans for future contacts in this little pueblo.

I left the lumber camp at 2 p.m. and arrived at Santa Catarina, Friday, a little before dark. There I found the three sisters well encouraged in the Lord. After a hot meal and season of prayer, I traveled on to El Alamo. On Saturday, between showers, some of the Mexican boys and I were about to finish laying the adobe blocks on the walls of the new house. On Sunday, the Lord wonderfully blessed in both Sunday school and preaching services with around 58 in attendance.

Dec. 16-17—Dear saints of God of this "Evening Light" truth: A few more weeks have passed since we gave a report of the work in Old Mexico. We are much encouraged with the continued interest for the gospel which the people are manifesting. Surely, it is through the prayers of the believers and the preaching of the gospel that draws the souls of men and women to God and heaven. We desire the continued prayers of all, that we may be used of Him in sowing the precious seed, and we trust the Lord of the harvest to give the increase.

Number wise, the attendance in El Alamo has been about 60, with 72 in attendance on December 10. Several families are willing to ride in the back of pick-ups for several miles in quite cold weather in order to be in a gospel service. We have a real desire that God send us a revival whereby the hearts of men shall be convicted of their personal need of repentance unto salvation and move out to seek to be saved, to go back into sin no more.

The three sisters—Ruby, Shirley, and Edith—have gone to the States for a much deserved rest and visit over the holidays. By the Lord's help we hope to be able to have some services with the Indians in Santa Catarina and also in the Mexican settlement of El Rodeo during their absence. We wish to acknowledge receipt of clothing, bedding, and financial gifts from congregations, Sunday school classes, and individuals. May God richly bless each one, and above all, please remember to keep praying!

Yours in behalf of the workers, —Harland H. Smith.

102 Harvard, Claremont, Calif.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Dear saints, please remember in earnest prayer Bro. and Sister Farmer Wilson who are both afflicted and unable to work, and have been for quite a long time. Sister Wilson has arthritis, and sometimes cannot use a broom or open a door because her hands are so sore and stiff. Bro. Wilson hurt his back two or three years ago, and cannot so much as stoop to tie his shoes. They both suffer much.

For some time they received a check for the disabled, but two or three months ago they were cut off because Bro. Wilson would not go to a cancer hospital to have a growth behind his ear removed. He says he has had it for years and does not seem to bother him. He has chosen to trust the Lord for the healing of all his afflictions.

Bro. and Sister Wilson were once the caretakers on the Monark Springs, Mo. campground, and did the job well. Now, saints, do you have any of the Lord's money? If so, will you ask Him how much you should send to them? Their address is Farmer Wilson, 614 Joplin St., Neosho, Mo.

—Writer of Neosho congregation

REPORT ON THE GOLDEN RULE HOME

Dear fellow-laborers in the Lord: We greet you one and all in the name of our Lord who has been so merciful and good to us our life's journey through. He daily loads us down with benefits. We rejoice in God for what He is and we praise Him for all He has done. We feel the need of continued prayers that we will be able to make full proof of our labors while passing through this time world.

We feel that we want to report how the project for the aged, handicapped and neglected is progressing here at Shawnee, Okla., which we are calling the Golden Rule Home. God has been good to permit us to get it under a roof before the hard winter weather set in. As of now, the exterior is all done except some painting, and the interior is well on the way to a finished end. All the plumbing and electrical wiring is roughed in, and nearly all the sheet-rock is hung. The door jams and doors are hung. The kitchen cabinets are built, too.

We are of the understanding that there is still a question in the minds of some in regard to the trustees for the Golden Rule Home. We want you to know that it is still our intentions to have them as the Lord burdens some for this capacity. As of now, we do have three appointed and we would like to have two more. We feel that we will in the near future. We feel that it is a "must" by the time the building is finished and ready to open, so we can draw up our by-laws, and so forth. We feel also that it is very necessary for God to lead in this matter, so pray for us.

Finances have been slow, but we are looking to God to supply. If the means could be provided, we could be open for the care of the needy within six more weeks of work. Let us each one listen to God and whatever He bids, do and we are sure this will be finished. We need wisdom and courage in these crucial times; pray for us.

Yours for the work of the Lord,

—Charles R. Smith, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, Okla.

CHURCH OF GOD BOARDING HOME

In the business meeting of the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting which was held here at Guthrie, Okla. during the Christmas holidays, 1961, a plan was presented and approved by the saints for the Church of God of this State to establish a Saints' Home here at Guthrie. In the discussion of this proposal it was pointed out that all of the rooms in the Golden Rule Home, now in the process of being built at Shawnee, Okla., had been spoken for—therefore, there was a need for an additional Home. It was also specifically stated that this project was not in competition with the Home at Shawnee under the supervision of Bro. Charles Smith.

The tentative plans propose that the Home here be constructed on ground as near as possible to the chapel and campground, so that the residents of the Home could readily attend all the services of the Church. The Home will be open to the neglected, handicapped and the elderly of the saints as a boarding home only—not as a nursing or rest home which would come under the medical restrictions of the State laws. Those requiring nursing care would be taken care of as guests of the Home. Detailed rules have not been formulated.

On the day (Dec. 30, 1961) of the business meeting a fund was started for the Home, for which Bro. Ira D. Stover was elected secretary and treasurer. He made a deposit and opened an account at the bank titled, "Church of God Boarding Home." A board of seven trustees will administer the fund and hold the property in trust for the Church. The actual construction of the Home may not begin until the Government completes the flood control measures in the campground area. We hope that this will be finished in the near future. Your contributions to this worthy project should be sent direct to Bro. Ira D. Stover, P. O. Box 210, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

TESTIMONIES

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am yet saved and encouraged to live for the Lord in spite of the devil.

I want to send in my testimony for the Lord. My little girl was born October 7th and seemed to be very well. When she was about a month old she began to spit up her milk. Sometimes it was very bad, and by the time she was seven or eight weeks old she had lost weight and hardly kept anything on her stomach. I decided that something was wrong with her milk formula, so I took her to a doctor. He checked her real good and asked many questions. Then he told me they would have to hospitalize her because she would need surgery if some of the other things they would try on her didn't work. Right then I knew I didn't want her operated on, so I took her home. She spit up everything just as fast as I gave it to her and continued to cry because she was still hungry. I took her to Bro. and Sister Lewis William's home in Wichita. They anointed her with oil and prayed one prayer, and the Lord healed her. As soon as they finished praying, Bro. Williams said, "Give her some food." I fed her and she didn't spit up at all. I had a time getting her full. What a mighty God we serve! The devil gave me a real test. Sister Williams warned me that this might happen. Afterward she would start spitting up and I would pray, holding on to God by faith without wavering. We were having fasting and prayer on Tuesday. Since that day she hasn't spit up at all. Praise the Lord!

Remember me in your prayers.

—Sister Betty Gracey

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

Kansas—Dec. 14—Dear saints scattered abroad: We greet you this beautiful morning in the precious name of Jesus. He is our all and in all.

Our hearts are burdened to get the gospel of salvation to souls steeped in sin, and would love to tell to all both far and near of the purity and peace we have through the blood of Jesus Christ. "I came defiled and guilty to Jesus the mighty to save. He took my sins and sorrows, and beauty for ashes gave. Peace, peace, glorious peace like tranquil waters flow, streaming down over my heart, made white as the driven snow." What a wonderful experience! Who wouldn't enjoy this life of perfect contentment? Godliness with contentment is great gain.

We wish to express our thanks to all the saints for their prayers, cards, letters and phone calls during my husband's (Ralph Beisly) illness. The dark clouds hung low. It seemed instead of getting better he was going down fast. One morning while in these dark hours, the Lord let the sun shine through those clouds. We were in worship and told the Lord we committed him into the hands of an all-wise God. A ray of hope sprang into our hearts. What better hands could we place him in? We

went about to change the sheets and put clean clothes on him, fixed his breakfast, and while he was eating he said he felt the Lord had given him a definite touch, and was free from pain. It was several days before he was able to be out of his bed, but he began to amend from that morning forward. God is so good to us. Ralph still has some discomfort at times, but we believe that our God who has brought him thus far will complete the work.

We feel impressed to write concerning the Church of God Missionary Fund. We thank the Lord for His saints who carry a missionary burden. May the Lord richly bless you who have been sending in your offerings. We appreciate everyone who has expressed his burden. We were able to send offerings to different ministers, also the Old Mexico missionary work. We keep a record book of the missionary fund and have several ministers on the list recognized by the saints as worthy gospel workers, giving their full time in labor for lost souls, personal work, visiting isolated saints, and stand ready to be at the bedside of the sick or those going through trials of persecution.

Bro. Curtis Williams drove over treacherous highways covered with snow or sleet all the way here to Coffeyville, Kansas. He came with a burden for this meeting and the Lord is blessing him richly. We enjoy sitting under the gospel message. Bro. Williams told us that Bro. and Sister Abbott are laboring in Kentucky, and that our Bro. Abbott wasn't well in body. Let's all remember him in prayer. He also spoke of the great field of labor needing laborers, desiring the Lord to direct him where to go.

Bro. Darius Gibson is still hunting and fishing for souls. You will hear of him from coast to coast, seeking out the lost. Bro. Murphy Allen goes from place to place visiting and encouraging isolated saints. He will leave his family and go to the rescue of some one in need. Sister Ruth Murphey gives her time in the ministry of the Word both in precept and example. Whatever her hands find to do, she does it gladly, filling the pulpit and being at the bedside of those who are sick. I am sure that these and others are worthy of our support. We don't want any of them to have to go to work with their hands when God's cause is so much in need of full-time workers.

Let us encourage you to keep a missionary spirit working in your heart. Don't forget the Old Mexico field of labor. Again we say to those sending in offerings and have a special burden to whom you wish your offering sent, make it known. We keep a record and send it as you desire. Make your checks or money orders payable to The Church of God National Missionary Fund.

We desire your prayers that we will be led by the Spirit of the Lord. Your humble servants,

—Ralph and Inez Beisly,

407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus' name. We are thankful that we can report that we are yet saved and encouraged in the Lord. We are praising the Lord for His goodness to us, giving us a desire to walk as He would have us to. I am thankful for a salvation that gives peace and joy. I realize it surely means a lot to follow the Lord and to have Him with us in the trials of life. We surely have to be rooted and grounded in the Lord to stand the tests that come. I am thankful that He told us that His grace was sufficient. It seems to take more pressing of late to be what the Lord would have us to be. I surely mean to do the Lord's will.

I am praying that the Lord will bless and help in the work at the printshop. Enclosed is eight names for the

Faith and Victory to be sent for one year each. Remember us when you pray.

Yours in Him, —Edward V. Davenport

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

Indiana—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints of God everywhere: I want to give my testimony on this Christmas Eve. I thank God for full and free salvation, and for sanctifying my soul. Above all the trials and tribulations God still gives me victory over all sin. He leads me through deep waters and brings me out a conqueror.

I desire an interest in the prayers of the saints. My heart is made to bleed many times when I hear people blaspheme the name of Christ Jesus. There is so much that needs to be done in these days to reach precious souls, and I do pray that God will give me a greater burden for poor lost men and women. God has a high-way for mankind and it shall be called the "way of holiness." I wonder today just how many are on this high-way of holiness? It is for those who have clean hands and a pure heart.

Pray for wife, Addie E. Herron. She is very frail in body. As ever your Brother in Christ Jesus,

—George W. Herron

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La.—To the dear Saints everywhere, again we greet you in Jesus' dear name: We haven't written anything in the Faith and Victory for so long that we feel it might be good to do so. The Lord gives us victory over sin and the world, and we still love this precious truth. It means more to us all the time. For so long our hearts yearned to know the Lord, have personal contact with Him and to make heaven our home. My parents were church members, but knew so little on religious lines. I eventually got saved in a sectarian meeting. I really repented of my sins, but didn't have much light on the line of dress and other things. Later I met the saints who taught me to trust the Lord for my healing without the aid of medicine. It took me some days to make my decision, but I have been so thankful that I did, as I find it so very precious and sweet to trust the Lord in sickness all these years. He brought me through a bad case of typhoid fever in the fall of 1956. I got so low that I had the death rattles, and I well remember when God gave me strength to cough and clear my throat in answer to prayer. After the fever got to 103 degrees I asked the ones nursing me to not check it any more, for I didn't want to know how high it went—my faith was in God. I was left very weak and had to learn to walk again. I haven't quite overcome all the effects of it but I am so much better. I have another ailment which I have had so long but am improving of that and feel the Lord has complete and permanent healing for me. A doctor has not diagnosed my case as I can have more faith without that, and just trust Him. Praise His dear name!

Then the saints taught me on the line of dress—to lay aside laces and all other trimmings, short sleeves, my gold watch, rings, bracelets, fancy pins and high heels. They read the Scriptures to me from 1 Peter 3:3, 4 and 1 Tim. 2:9, 10. It was a little hard at first to come to it, but what a blessing I had when I did! Dear saints, the Bible plan pleases every saint. I just want to say that the spike heels of today are certain to be injurious to a woman's health. It isn't natural to walk on your toes. It causes backache, leg ache, and injures the internal organs. They are a torture. Recently I read in a newspaper that a woman of the world condemned spike heels, along with other uncomfortable styles, and said it looked like that the fashion designers had in mind to torture the female sex. Now, how should the saints feel

about such things? I also was condemned for tea drinking as it upset my nerves, although I didn't care for coffee.

I found the ONE Church which Jesus built on Himself (Matt. 16:18), and the saints have been my people all these years, and with His grace I shall live with you in heaven. Praise the dear Lord!

We are still living a few miles from Loranger, La. where there is a nice congregation of saints in the Oak Grove community. We moved here from Hammond, La. over five years ago. You are welcome to visit us any time you come this way. It is about 12 miles to Hammond.

May God bless each of you in your trials and afflictions and give the victory. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. Christian love to all. Yours in His service,

—Sister Katherine Key, R. 1, Loranger, La.

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

Oklahoma—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings in the name of Jesus: I am still saved and standing on God's Word. The Lord has done great things for me. I have been very sick, but He has brought me up now. When I was so sick and in misery, the Lord touched my body without the aid of medicine—no rub or smell. I can't go back on Him. He has done so much for me. When we get sick we have Someone to depend upon. If we die, our souls have an everlasting abiding place with the Lord. If we obey His Word, we shall never fall. Out of all my afflictions I am still encouraged to press on for Jesus.

Dear ones, settle it to make heaven your home at any cost. Pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lizzie Jordan

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: It has been some time since I sent in a testimony. I am so thankful to be able to report victory in my soul this morning. I realize more and more how hard the devil is working on the saints of God to get them discouraged and give up the fight. My heart's desire is to grow stronger in the Lord each day and have the victory all the time over the trials and troubles of this life. I haven't always had the victory that I needed to have, but the Lord is certainly helping me. I ask all of you to pray with me that I will have constant victory.

I enjoy reading the Faith and Victory paper so much. Just before Christmas I had been heavily burdened for two weeks. One morning before I went to prayer I read most of the testimonies in the paper. Oh, how the Lord blessed and lifted me up. When I finished praying, I was so happy and encouraged all day. I went about my work singing, and just felt that I would like to get on a high mountain and shout God's praises to everyone. If people could only realize what a wonderful experience it is to have the inner man happy and satisfied instead of trying to satisfy the outer man so much, I am sure there would be many more seeking after God and His righteousness.

I promised the Lord early in the fall that if He would answer prayer for my son, Daryel, who is in the Air Force in eastern Washington that I would send in a testimony. He is an air policeman and was on guard duty most of the time. He changed shifts every three days, so that made him working at night half of the time. It was all outdoors in the weather. He had spent one winter in Washington and knew how cold and bad the weather could get. It seems that he can't stand the cold like most men, so he desired to get an inside job and have a regular

shift from 8 to 5. He asked for the transfer in September and they said they would try to get it. As time went on, it looked as though he would not get it. I just kept praying and begging the Lord to work it out. The middle of December he received the transfer. We were all so thankful and happy. It made me feel so encouraged because I believed that it was only in answer to prayer that he got the transfer. I believe in taking all the small things to God as well as the larger ones. When He answers for the small things, it encourages me just as much as the larger things.

Pray for me that I will keep true to the end. From one that loves the Lord,
—Hazel Savage

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Please find enclosed my subscription to the Faith and Victory paper. I certainly enjoy the messages it contains. Although I am new among some of you, I am glad to be an old-timer in the Church of God—since 1887, and thank God, she shines brighter and more separate from the world today.

Here is my poem:

Church of God (Eph. 5:25-27)

Since you found the blessed Saviour,
Have you seen His Holy Bride?
She's not decked with gold or pearls,
But walking closely by His side.
God the Father, Christ the Son;
The lovely Bride—there is but one.
She is His Wife and she's our Mother;
Church of God—there is no other.
God so loved her He gave His Son,
By His own blood her love He won,
And gave her a robe with jewels rare—
There is no beauty to compare.
It's the blessed robe of righteousness,
And will ever more endure.
She's not of the world, but shining—
Shedding light both near and far.
Oh, to know her is to love her—
Sanctified by God the Father,
Purchased for His very own,
Waiting for Him to take her Home.

Yours for the Truth, —Sister Myrtle Bishop

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

South Carolina—Greetings to the saints and readers of Faith and Victory paper: "To God be the glory for all He has done, for life and salvation—the gift of His Son." All praises are due His name.

This is my first time to write through the paper. I came out from the Trumpet people about two years ago, and I was glad to find the "old landmarks." Praise His dear name. I have been working with Bro. O. Neal Pratt at Holly Hill for the past two years. We were at the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting in 1960.

Around Christmas time we had a wonderful revival meeting here at Ridgeville and Holly Hill where Bro. Pratt is pastor. The Lord used Bro. Curtis Williams in these meetings. (See Bro. Pratt's report of these meetings elsewhere in this issue.)

We are back in the truth, and want to be used to God's glory. We desire an interest in the saints' prayers.

Yours in Him, —J. David Winter

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

Okla.—Dear saints, holy greetings in Jesus' dear name: Today I am still saved with a very deep desire to live to please the dear Lord. Truly, God is good to His trusting children. He is still healing our bodies and supplying our needs, for which we are very thankful.

One of our little girls burned her arm which caused her much suffering and pain. God was so good to give her ease, and then completely healed her. The same little girl had sores on her head which caused her much suffering, especially when I tried to comb her hair. Prayer had been offered time after time, and now nearly all the sores are healed. Thank God for His goodness to us.

I needed some clothes, so I began to pray to the Lord to supply this need. The Lord answered prayer and talked to two sisters many miles away. They sent me the clothing that I needed. I thank the dear Lord that I have learned to fully trust Him for my all. I have cast all my cares on Jesus.

I have another request before the Lord which I would like for the saints to remember, and I know the Lord can supply this need. May the Lord bless all of you is my prayer.

Your saved Sister,

—Clara Barnett

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

Mich.—Dear saints abroad, greetings of love in the Lord: I feel impressed to write these few thoughts for the paper.

I am thinking of the GREAT LOVE OF GOD. I have been reading the 18th chapter of Psalms. (Please read it). I read where David praised the Lord for victory over his enemies. As I was reading, I thought of the wonderful love that God has put in the hearts of His people in this New Testament time. Under the law of Moses, it was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. People actually defeated their enemies literally and rejoiced over it. Since Christ has come and put His LOVE in the hearts of His people, there are no more literal battles to fight against our enemies. The battle is already won before it starts, and we, on our part, don't count any soul as an enemy. In each Christian heart there should be a loving, forgiving spirit. We don't have to wait until our fellowman asks for forgiveness to forgive—forgiveness should always be flowing from our hearts. We should always feel like Christ did when He was dying on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" A Christian should never try to get even, nor retaliate in any way. He should never hold a grudge. God fights our battles. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." A Christian has no hatred or malice in his heart, but loves everyone.

I was thrilled in my soul to read in Psalms 18 of how God moved when David called upon Him. The earth shook, the hills were moved and shaken. God WORKED because He heard David's cry for mercy. He delighted in David for he was righteous in His sight. God is GREAT, and if we keep pure before Him, He will MOVE when we call upon Him. Praise His precious name!

I would like to take this opportunity to send my love to all the saints—those I know and those I don't know personally. The fellowship of the saints is precious to me.

God has been so good to us, still answering prayer, and healing us many times. Recently I put some ammonia and bleach both in my washing machine. The two together produced fumes that made me terribly sick. I felt sick enough to die—a terrible pain in my head. My sinus felt like it had been scalded. I vomited and was so sick. Husband prayed several times for me, and called Bro. and Sister McMillian of Bangor for prayer. About 3 a.m. the next morning I got relief, and felt that the Lord had really touched me. I got better fast, and was soon well. My trust is in Him.

Clarence, my husband, recently had some x-rays taken of his chest at the shop where he works. He received a

notice to come back for another x-ray, that the other one wasn't satisfactory. He has had bad heart trouble and we thought perhaps it showed on the x-ray. So I sent to Guthrie for prayer and asked for prayer here. When he got the second report back, it was all clear. We thank the Lord!

We have several problems we would like for the Lord to work out for us. We need much help in rearing our children, and trying to keep them straight. We want to know the will of the Lord as to our moving some place else. Pray much for us. Our whole desire is to please the Lord.

We dearly love all the children of God. The saints, ministers and all are always welcome here.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Margaret Brant

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

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings to you and all the saints: I am writing a little testimony that it may encourage some one to press on because we are in a world of trouble. We must stay close to God and pray much. We must be girded daily with the Sword of the Spirit to be able to stand. It seems that all the worldly people are now against the saints of God, so we have many things to fight against now in these evil days. But thank God, Jesus is able to fight for His people if we stand true to Him.

I can thank God that since I came out from all sects and took a stand for the whole truth of God's Word, He has been blessing me. Praise His dear name! I am glad that God's saints do not have to go to an earthly doctor to get well, because God has promised healing for His children. Praise the Lord!

Bro. Williams of Ohio was with us in January four nights for meeting, and it was such a meeting that I will never forget. The power of the Holy Ghost came down. (Further reports of this meeting at Holy Hill appear elsewhere in this issue.)

Discouragement is a tool that Satan uses to destroy souls. But Jesus is just the same yesterday, today and forever. People change, time changes, but Jesus is always the same. God delivered the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage, Daniel out of the lion's den, and the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. He can do for us what He did for them. We have no reason to doubt the power of God. We must stand firm for the truth in the face of Satan at all times. God will show Himself strong in behalf of those who fully trust in Him. I steadfastly refuse to please the devil by being discouraged. No matter how hard the storms of life may rage we can still stand on the promises of God and be safe.

Those who are dead to the world and alive in God will carry out God's purpose and plan. Praise the Lord! The Apostle James says: "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." We are here for a short time in order to prepare our souls for that Home over yonder. We do not want to make all preparations that are needed to make it in. If we fail on any line, it will stop us from going in. How sad that would be! I am glad that this old world is not my home. We thank the Lord for the privilege of giving our lives, time and talents in His service. No other service is sweeter than the service of God. Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of the great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. 2 Chron. 19:20.

When you pray, remember me your Brother in the Lord, standing for the whole truth of the gospel,

—Eddie Driggers

A Great Need in the Church Today

The crying need in the Church of God today is a revival of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that the Church may with power witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The justified men and women who composed the Church that Jesus built were commanded in Acts 1:4 not to depart from Jerusalem, "but wait for the promise of the Father." In the next verse we read that John baptized with water, but "ye [justified men] shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." In Acts 1:8 we read, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

It is clearly seen by these Scriptures that God knew that this body of believers was not fully qualified to go forth into the world and be able to witness with power to the resurrection of the Lord until they were endued with power from on high, or in other words, be baptized with the Holy Ghost. This second work of grace is just as essential today as it was then, and it must be more than just a mere claim of having it.

In the second chapter of Acts, when they were receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you will notice that "cloven tongues like as of fire" sat upon each of them. This fire denotes the cleansing process that took place as they received the Holy Spirit. After they had received the Holy Ghost we note that Peter, who was weak and faltering before, stood up and preached with power that memorable sermon whereby three thousand souls were converted and added to the Church.

There was another infilling of the Holy Ghost recorded in Acts 4:31 which reads in part: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." In the 33rd verse we read that "with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." We read in Acts 5:32 that God gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him. Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ unto them. In reading the 8th chapter of Acts, beginning at the 14th verse, we see that the apostles were eager for the new converts under Philip's ministry to receive the Holy Ghost. Peter and John were sent down to Samaria and prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Ghost, for He had not fallen on any of them. The Scripture says that the apostles "laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

We read in the 10th chapter of Acts how that Cornelius, a devout, justified man and his household, were baptized with the Holy Ghost. Beginning at the 34th verse Peter speaks to Cornelius and those gathered at his house: "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Cornelius, his household and friends, being

Gentiles, also received the baptism of the Holy Ghost just as the Jews did on the day of Pentecost, for we hear Peter testify to this fact in Acts 15:8, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**" When Paul found believers who had not been baptized with the Holy Ghost, he immediately taught this doctrine unto them, laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost.

According to the Scriptures recorded in 1 Thess. 5:23, when one is filled or baptized with the Spirit, he is sanctified wholly. Paul says, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; [it is also a preserving grace] and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." It takes in the whole man. One could have no greater experience than this. The next verse reads thus, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." God will do these things for everyone who will give Him a surrendered heart.

In Romans 12:1 we read what it means for one to qualify for the baptism of the Holy Ghost or be sanctified wholly. Let us read what Paul says to the justified brethren: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Then he tells them not to be conformed to this world. Paul was deeply interested in believers being baptized with the Holy Ghost. In other places he urges them to "go on to perfection." The other apostles also taught the need of being sanctified.

In the 17th chapter of John's gospel there is much said by the Lord in His prayer for the disciples that they be sanctified. Also, in 1 John, first chapter, the writer teaches the young converts the need of not only having their sins forgiven but also to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. That sin nature is an unrighteous element and needs to be cleansed from your being by faith in His atoning, cleansing blood.

The Apostle Jude was stirred in his heart and burdened that the ministers would not let up or cease to teach the faith that was given to the saints on the day of Pentecost for the reception of the Holy Ghost. He insisted that they would "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Note the introduction to this epistle: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." You notice here that Jude addressed his epistle directly to the sanctified ones. No doubt that some at that time were ceasing to preach and teach the need of being sanctified or filled with the Holy Ghost, and he was giving some strict instructions to keep on earnestly contending for this faith. He also said that it was needful. In the 4th verse he says that certain men had "crept in unawares." The word "crept" means to slowly move into a thing, and in that way be un-

detected. Did you ever see a snake charming a bird, how slowly he moves with his eye on the bird? There are two ways by which men creep into positions in the Church and are hardly detected. One way is by gradually drawing back from their former consecration or baptism and still using the word in a charming way to cover themselves from being detected and at the same time holding the confidence of unsuspecting souls. In time they lose God out of their souls, then go on deceiving and being deceived. Another way is by one who has been reared in the doctrines of the Church and have a good, clean moral record. He makes a profession and claims to get sanctified or baptized with the Spirit, but fails to go deep enough to really get the experience, while at the same time claiming a call to the ministry, and in that condition very few seem to detect him. When he loses his justified experience, he becomes an ungodly man, and of course, in that condition he is not much interested in seeing others go on to perfection. He never preaches a message on the baptism of the Holy Ghost or to earnestly contend for the faith given to the Church on the day of Pentecost for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brethren, let us keep the fact in mind that God has no grandsons, and He is no Grandfather to any man. All of His children are merely sons and daughters, being born from above, having a definite personal experience with God through complete consecration unto Him. If they watch and pray, and keep all on the altar, there will be no creeping in to something else and thereby deceiving themselves and many others. That creeping in has taken place in many a congregation, and thereby we see the dead state existing, with much worldliness and no definite experiences of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. God is calling on men to acknowledge their condition and repent and do their first works over that the first love may appear in its demonstration of fervency.

We read in Rev. 3:14 what God says about the Laodicean Church. They were lukewarm—neither cold nor hot, and He said He would spue them out of His mouth. They thought that they were doing fine—were rich, increased and had need of nothing, but God's judgment was that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. His counsel was for them to buy of Him gold tried in the fire that they might be rich, and white raiment that they might be clothed, and that the shame of their nakedness do not appear; and anoint their eyes with eyesalve, that they may see. He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Let us read what Paul says in 1 Tim. 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out, and having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which, while some coveted after,

they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, . . ."

—Fred Pruitt

God Clothed Them

The Bible tells us "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety." 1 Tim. 2:9. It is very important that we understand what God requires of us, and obey His Word. When we stand before God in the great Judgment Day, we will be judged according to what the Bible says. Now let us examine together the above Scripture. First, we will get our dictionary and see what the word "modesty" means. It reads: "Chaste; decent; now especially, not displaying one's body." Shamefacedness means "shy; bashful; showing shame or guilt; ashamed." (Webster's Dictionary). I believe we can plainly understand what the Scripture means. Women are to be filled with shame or guilt to the point that they will be very careful not to display their body.

After Adam and Eve sinned, we read in Genesis 3rd chapter, that they realized they were naked. Their innocence was gone because of sin, and guilt and shame took its place. Because of the effects of the first sin and the curse that was pronounced upon mankind therefor, God commands and expects a person to keep his body clothed. We also read that Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons (verse 7), but that was not enough. In verse 21 we read that God made "coats of skins, and CLOTHED them." The dictionary says "clothed" means "to cover with clothing; to dress." This is the plain Word of God, and it is a sin to disobey when we understand His requirements.

My heart has been made sad as I look at our precious women and girls. They just have to lose some shame and decency to dress as they do. These short, tight skirts are an abomination. Some who wear them have a little bit of shame left. They tug and tug at their skirts trying to get them to the knee at least, but, oh, how sad to see them so short! But most of the girls and women don't care, and it is a disgrace to womankind, and makes a person blush at what they show. Oh, may God have mercy upon them! Surely, surely they have lost all love for God and His ways out of their heart. They have just turned themselves over to the enemy of their souls to be destroyed and be a tool in his hands to help damn the souls of mankind. You may say that it doesn't hurt you to wear short skirts, but it does hurt you. You are hurting others and causing them to stumble and fall. Do you think you will be held guiltless for the man who looked on you and committed sin in his heart? I say that you will be held accountable. It is a serious thing and God is displeased.

I am glad for a few in the world who are crying out against these short skirts. I was told by a saint

girl who worked in an office, that after two of the girls who worked there had been warned about their short skirts and hairdo, but refused to do differently, they were fired. Their attire was unbecoming to a girl working in a public office. Then the paper told of a principal of a high school sending the girls home and told them not to come back until they lengthened their skirts. It said that the next day there wasn't a knee showing. In another town a principal sent 18 girls home because of their ungodly dress. I am glad to see some stirred. We see so much juvenile delinquency and read of so much, but those who are making the styles (which some feel they would rather die than not follow) are to blame for a lot of it. Oh, the devil has a great scheme and tricky way of damning souls and leading them into his traps. Sin is abounding in the world and America is filled with it. Our nation is standing on the brink of destruction and it is because the people have forgotten or rejected God's ways. May God stir the hearts of everyone to come back to the old Bible way. God is against the wearing of shorts and bra, short tight skirts, sleeveless low-necked dresses and clothing that "pertaineth unto a man." (Deut. 22:5).

The saints of God need to be careful lest the devil bring some of these ungodly styles upon you. He is very sly in doing his work, so keep a close watch and guard the modesty that God has given us to protect us from sin.

I have written this with a love in my heart for all. Generally a person who cries out against these evil things are classed right off as fanatical, but I feel that I have not left the Word of God in any of my declarations. Therefore, with a clear conscience and a love for your soul, I leave this message with you and God.

—Sister Marie Miles

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PETTING—"You can't play with fire without getting burned."

According to the Chicago Tribune, sociologists estimate that between 35 and 45% of all teen-age brides are pregnant on their wedding day.

In Washington, D. C., the nation's capitol, illegitimate births have doubled in the past ten years.

BIBLE STUDY

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

February 4, 1962

THE RIGHT USE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Printed Portion Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:27-3:5

Ex. 20:8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Mark 2:27. And he said unto them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

28. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

1. And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

2. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

3. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

4. And he said unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

5. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Memory Verse: And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath. Mark 2:27.

Practical Truth: Every day should be a day spent in pleasing God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The sabbatical law is the only one of the Ten Commandments that is ceremonial. The other nine are moral laws. They can be written on the fleshly tables of our heart. (Heb. 8:9, 10). The sabbath was a type of the soul-rest that we receive today by faith when we have salvation. (Heb. 4th chap.). The sabbath day was made holy by God in the wilderness (Deut. 5:15) and was classed with the priesthood, altar, vessels, sacrifices, etc. Vs. 27 says, man was not made "for the sabbath," "which is a shadow of good things to come." (Col. 2:14-17; Heb. 10:1). These ordinances were nailed to the cross. Today every day is holy unto the Lord to the true Christian. (Rom. 14:1-6). We rest from self, sin and self-efforts every day. Praise the Lord!

We meet together today as the apostolic church did (Acts 20:7) because the "first day of the week" was the greatest day in the history of the world. (1 Cor. 15:14). Our Lord was resurrected on that day and his first meeting with the disciples was on Sunday. (John 20:19,20). We read that the Gentile churches met on the "first day of the week." (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-4).

We should obey the Word of God and "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25). It is good for our spiritual growth to do this.

February 11, 1962

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIVING

Printed Portion.....Ex. 20:12; Mark 7:9-13; John 19:25-27

Exodus 20:12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Mark 7:9. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

11. But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.

12. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother;

13. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

John 19:25. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27. Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

Memory Verse: Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12.

Practical Truth: A return to God's law will fortify the home and strengthen the nation.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

More is learned by a child in his first five years than is ever learned in college or university. Attitudes are established and his ideals and habits are rooted within him. His regard for God, church and the Christian life is greatly influenced. God instituted the first home. One of the most important babies ever born came to a home. Jesus was subject to his mother. Our lesson reveals his care for her before he drew his last breath. Surely he is a perfect example of showing honor and respect.

Parents should instill in the hearts of their children that they expect them to honor them, because it is a direct commandment of God. Parents should live so children can rightfully honor and respect them.

The breakdown of the American home is one of the greatest tragedies. When love is absent between parents it causes discontentment, lack of security, disorder, dis-

cord, dissipation, and then disgrace in the children. How sad to see the devil working to bring destruction to our greatest institution—the home—and our nation.

The word "corban" means "a gift." Under the Jewish laws a man could say his money and possessions were a gift to the temple and that would free him from supporting his parents, although he could still use it himself. Jesus condemned such practices.

February 18, 1962

RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Printed Portion.....Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:21-24; Luke 12:4-7

Ex. 20:13. Thou shalt not kill.

Matt. 5:21. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22. But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

23. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

24. Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Luke 12:4. And I say to you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

5. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

6. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

7. But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Memory Verse: Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. Matt. 5:44.

Practical Truth: We should show respect to every one of God's created people.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our God is the one who gives life and is the one who takes life. We should not have anything to do with anything that would cause the death of a person in this world. Wars are raging in this world because of hate and a lack of concern for humanity.

Murder will not enter the heart of a person if it is filled with love; Jesus tells us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." The first murder recorded in the Bible grew from the seed of jealousy and other seeds.

Jesus came to fulfill the law. Those who come to him can have a new heart. They can become "new creatures in Christ Jesus." The Bible says, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15). Hatred and love will not dwell in a heart at the same time.

If we obey the memory verse and pray for our enemies and those who hate us we will not have any place for ill-will or ill-feelings. God's way is right and if followed will bring peace to us.

The last part of our lesson should cause us to have the fear of God upon our souls. Be sure we are ready to meet God because those who kill the body can't touch the soul.

February 25, 1962

THE CLEAN LIFE

Printed PortionEx. 20:14; Mark 7:14-23

Ex. 20:14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Mark 7:14. And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:

15. There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

16. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

17. And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

18. And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

19. Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

20. And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Memory Verse: Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23.

Practical Truth: "Unto the pure all things are pure, but unto them that are defiled nothing is pure." Titus 1:15.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A person cannot live a clean life unless his heart is first clean. The Bible says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23). After a person has been forgiven of his sins and cleansed by the Holy Spirit, the devil might bring a thought to his mind, but the sin will come if it is allowed to stay in the mind. The mind is the gateway or door to the heart. It will get down into the heart if allowed to stay in the mind. God tells His people to "resist the devil and he will flee from you." Be diligent to watch the heart and guard it with special care, and our lives will be pleasing to the Lord.

Jesus tells us that God permitted Moses to give a divorce because of the "hardness" of their "hearts" (Matt. 19), but from the beginning it was not so. In the New Testament dispensation "the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth." (Rom. 7:2, 3). "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Jesus also says that if a woman is put away because of committing adultery, the man who marries her also commits adultery. Likewise, if the man who put her away marries again he commits adultery. It seems to be very plain. It is so sad because of the erroneous teachings in the world on this question. Some through ignorance have become mixed up in sad conditions. God is able to untangle them and give holy wisdom in these cases.

—Sister Marie Miles