

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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God's Wondrous Grace

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Now why—unworthy—Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

I know not what of good or ill
May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days,
Before His face I see.

I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noon-day fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,
Or "meet Him in the air."

But "I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day."

—Author Unknown

A Hope Beyond The Grave

"Have we any hope within us of a life beyond
the grave,
In that sweet and vernal lands?
Do we know if this, our tabernacle, were to be
dissolved,
We've a house not made with hands?"

Dear reader, the above words of a song should
cause you to stop and ask yourself the questions, "Do
I really have that hope, do I know I have been born
again, and am I a new creature with my heart full

of love for everyone?" Truly, if we have passed from
death unto life, our hearts are full of love. "We know
that we have passed from death unto life, because we
love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother
abideth in death." 1 John 3:14. Dear friend, that
soul is still in a dead state of sin if there is one bit
of hatred for any one. If Christ is in our heart, there
is love for all God's creation. (Read all the 3rd chap-
ter of 1 John, also 4:7.) If you say you love God
and yet there is some hatred in your heart for some
one—some one you say you just can't forgive—dear
one, you need the Lord. Get down on your knees,
call upon Jesus Christ your Saviour, think of what
shame and suffering He bore for you, how the crown
of cruel thorns was pressed upon His head, how He
was mocked, scorned, spit upon, whipped and at last
nailed on the old rugged cross, dying between heaven
and earth! Oh, what suffering He bore for us! Yet
He said in His dying breath, "Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do." Oh, yes, Jesus
wanted even those who crucified Him to be forgiven.

Dear reader, God can give us that love also that
we can forgive and want others to be forgiven, no
matter what wrong they may have done to us. Come
to the Lord with a contrite heart and He will give
you that great love. Oh, how good you will feel in
your heart when all hatred is gone and sweet peace
and love dwells there instead. Our great Saviour
who has all power—the wonder-working Jesus—can
and will do this for you if you will turn to Him with
your whole heart. Then you can have that hope of
eternal life.

Dear soul, please don't go on in your present
sad condition. Death may overtake you, then all
hope will be gone forever—no more chance to repent,
and you will be lost for all eternity! Oh, how sad!
You cannot afford to miss heaven, so come to Jesus
who is able to bless, save and give you that hope of
heaven and everlasting life.

May God bless every reader is my prayer.

—Sister Becky Barnes

The voice of the Spirit is for the ear of love, and love
is intent upon hearing the faintest whispers—mind the
checks!

The Unity of All Believers

Does the Bible teach the unity of all believers?

Yes. "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name." Jno. 17:11, 12.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word: that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me: that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:20-23.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10.

"For ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Phil. 1:27.

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil. 2:2.

"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Jesus Christ: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5, 6.

"The multitude of them that believed were of one heart, and of one soul." Acts 4:32.

Can anybody look upon this picture and not see an awful contrast between it and the dark picture of the present-day sect confusion? Do the members of the different sects have the same care one for another? Behold, they are not of one mind, nor of one judgment; they are not one in name, nor creed, nor body; they are not of one heart, nor of one soul, nor of one spirit, nor yet of one faith; they have not one mouth, nor do they speak the same things. They are never one, except it be in opposing Bible salvation. As God confounded the babel-builders, and they all became divided, and of different tongues, so he has sent his thunderbolts of wrath upon Rome, the mother of harlots, and has knocked off several hundred Protestant fragments, each one of which speaks the peculiar dialect of its creed. The church, compared with a human body, is required to have but one mouth, which means perfect harmony in all her teaching. If we were to allow that the multiplicity of sects are the church, then a human monstrosity, having several hundred mouths, and every mouth speaking contrary to every other mouth, would be necessary to symbolize it. As the body of Christ has but one

mouth and speaks the same things, it is very evident that the jargon confusion of sect tongues does not represent His body, and is not His Church.

—D. S. Warner

PREACH THE WORD

For sometime there has been a cry in my heart that God would raise up more pastors, evangelists and teachers who will dare to take a firm stand on the Word of God in these days of falling away. When holiness was preached in the days gone by, when the standard was lifted high (Heb. 12:14), mighty conviction would come upon the hearts of the people, and scores were brought to a definite knowledge of salvation. The enemy was stirred and great persecution followed. But today the standard has been lowered by many groups calling themselves the Church of God. They are contaminated with worldliness and evil of various kinds until God will not smell in their solemn assemblies. A sad picture indeed! As we write, we cry, "Oh God, bring us back to the Bible standard of holy living." Many have left their first love, become cold and indifferent. Why? The Bible teaches that because iniquity abounds the love of many shall wax cold. Matt. 24:12.

Someone will have to come to the front and cry out against sin and uncleanness. The blood-stained banner must be lifted high and not allowed to trail in the dust. Shall we heed the call, or will God have to raise up a people who will cry out against sin and worldliness, until sinners and lukewarm professors shall see themselves hanging over hell and flee to the cross of Calvary? We as a nation need a Holy Ghost revival, and we must have it or God's judgments are going to be poured out without mixture. It may not be easy to stand against the opposition that confronts us, but it means to take a stand with God or burn in hell with Satan.

We hear some say that they are afraid they might cause some of their children to get discouraged and give up, not realizing that they themselves are standing in the way of their children from getting right with God, and will meet them in that place of fire and brimstone to burn with the devil and his angels forever. It is a sad picture, but true. Oh, flee from the midst of Babylon and deliver every man his soul. Many times our own loved ones turn from us. Christ's own brethren said He was beside Himself. "And the servant is not greater than his Lord." John 13:16; 15:20. "They that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," but those who stand firm until the end are going to reap a glorious reward. We dare not fail. We hear Paul say, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." And woe is me if I fail to declare the whole counsel of God. In 2 Tim. 4:2, 3 Paul's earnest appeal to Timothy was: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." If this is not the season for the full gospel to be preached and taught, it will never be in season. Also read verses 4 and 5 of the same chapter. Then Paul gives that glowing testimony in 2 Tim. 4:6-8 which has

given hope and comfort to untold thousands of way-worn pilgrims all down through the ages. Now if Paul could fight the good fight of faith amidst the conflicting forces of the enemy which he had to encounter, God surely expects us to take our stand in these days when light is so much needed. Deception, unbelief and worldliness are flooding the pulpits and pews all over the land, while the few here and there who are standing for the whole truth are branded as being narrow and fanatic. But Jesus said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it." As we continue to stand firm we can expect greater persecution. In 1 Tim. 4:10 Paul says, "We both labor and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God. . ." This shows us that some are trusting in dead gods or dumb dogs.

We seldom hear a message on sanctification, at least, where I am, and yet the Word declares that Jesus suffered without the gate to sanctify the people with His own blood (or make them ready to be sanctified by the Holy Ghost by the shedding of His blood). Heb. 13:12. Why is sanctification required? That alone destroys the sin nature that causes us to sin, or the old carnal nature with which the first man, Cain, was born. Then we abstain from spiritual fornication, or taking up with false beliefs, for when the Spirit of truth comes He guides us into all truth. John 16:13. Then we are true to our Husband which is Christ our Redeemer. Isa. 54:5.

Some say that it is necessary to dress modern to win souls to Christ (which is a lie of Satan), for if we cannot win them by a godly example of holy living and witnessing with earnest prayer, we will never win them by flirting with the world or dressing to please our children. "He that loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me," said Jesus.

When I was a girl people would go miles, walking many times, to hear the gospel. No theatrical entertainment was needed to draw them, neither girls and women dressed like Jezebel, playing guitars, pianos and such. In those days Christ was lifted up, but now in many places He is trodden down. Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." It takes the Word of God to show people their lost condition. Let us lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, so they can read the Word of God by observing our holy lives. We can and must do it. Praise God forever! The Word preached in its fullness cuts to the sinner's heart and He sees himself hanging over the awful pit of hell. He is glad to repent, make restitution, turn his back on sin, and cry out to God for mercy and pardon.

When we come to God we must unload worldly dress, jewelry, make-up, novel reading, television entertainment, theaters, card playing, gambling, tobacco, gossip, joking, foolish talking and every other evil thing which God reveals to our hearts. We must walk in all the light shown upon our pathway. In 1 John 2:15 we read, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

When a woman sits down and cannot cover her knees with her dress, she is far below the Bible standard of modesty. 1 Tim. 2:8-10 says, "I will therefore that men [women] pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." Can we lift up holy hands when they are adorned with things which God forbids in His Word? Read Isa. 3:6-23. Jezebel was the first woman we read of who painted her face. 2 Kings 9:30. The modern women are ahead of her now, for they also paint their finger and toe nails, and cut and wave their hair. Shame on a professing Christian woman for doing such things. You may say, "I don't see any harm in those things." God demands obedience to His Word, and sometimes what would seem to be small things to us mar our souls and God cannot work through us. But you may say it is no harm to wear a wedding ring for protection. Shall we do evil that good may come? No. The man or woman who is filled with all the fullness of God does not need a ring to show that he or she is married, for his Christ-like conduct will be sufficient. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Familiarity is treacherous, and if allowed to continue between the opposite sex leads to free-loveism and into the grossest sin. May God awaken men and women, boys and girls, before they have broken up homes and made wounds that cannot be healed. Sin is a reproach to any people.

Brother, sister, shall we take a bold stand against the ungodly things that are being practiced all around us? or shall we back down, drift along with them and be eternally lost? Peter was a coward before he was filled with the Holy Ghost, but after he was sanctified he boldly convinced the people that he had been with Jesus. If we stand true, we shall some day see why God permitted the storms and floods to cross our pathway. Then we shall be more than a million times repaid for all we have suffered.

Dear ones, if you are standing firm on God's Word, though everything seems to be swept away from under your feet, look up and rejoice—for God has great things in store for the faithful. He has a few people in this world who have not bowed to the image of Baal.

God forbid that we should meet Him empty handed. Let us pray earnestly and work diligently that a great harvest of souls may be gathered into the kingdom of God—the Church—which was fully established on the day of Pentecost.

Yours in the One Body, —A. F. Baldrige

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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

That God has a Church in the world today, a family of spiritually born-again souls who live in this world but who are not of the spirit of the world, is beyond question with all the saints in light. But it seems that some honest-hearted believing souls have a hard time locating that body of people, for the simple reason that many have failed to completely obey the Scriptures found in Romans 12:1, 2. Therefore, such a soul condition gives the devil an avenue to dim the light in the soul, and confuse their mind and heart concerning the fullness and completeness of the Church of God in the world today.

Some, being in this condition, form themselves into a separate group by certain peculiar doctrines, call it the Church of God and shut themselves off from receiving more understanding from God. Thereby they gradually die a spiritual death and become formal in their operation. Others who in former years had a lot of good truth have become so liberal that they have drifted into worldly religion, whereas before they would not touch or tolerate such things that they now call "new light." It is truly darkness, and they place themselves in the class described by the scripture in Matt. 6:23 which reads, "But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." Isaiah pictures them clearly in 5:20 which reads thus: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" With reference to this class we read again in Gal. 2:18, "For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Many ministers of this kind are in the world today who are fallen stars and they lead the people into the spirit of the world and bring grief and sorrow upon many precious souls. They put darkness for light, deceiving and being deceived.

The Apostle Peter discerned the saints clearly when he made the expression to Cornelius recorded in Acts 10:34, 35, "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." Then again in Acts 20:28 we read what Paul says, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." Paul made it plain that the Church of God was composed of souls whom Jesus had purchased with His own blood, and not of humanly-organized groups of people. God alone sets the members in the body "as it pleases Him," and

they are under Divine government, which harmonizes with the prophecies, with the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. In Isaiah 9:6, 7 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." How plain the prophet makes it that the government of the Church or kingdom is alone upon the shoulder of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This truth is also verified by Jesus in Matt. 16:15, "He saith unto them, but whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said that Peter was a blessed man, for flesh and blood had not revealed it unto him but His Father which was in heaven. He knew that His Father had told Peter this thing. In the 18th verse Jesus said, "... Thou art Peter, and upon this rock [the truth he had spoken of Christ] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." You will notice that the prophet Isaiah, when speaking of the kingdom, the Church, used the word "IT," which means just one, and also Jesus used the word "IT" when speaking of building His Church.

Paul, in writing to the Ephesians recorded in chapter 2:17, says, "And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him [Christ] we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together [by the hand of God] groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." Here the Apostle Paul makes it very plain as to what the divinely-organized Church of God is in the world and how that God by divine power and wisdom framed and builded together His children as a habitation of God through the Spirit. In Hebrews the 8th chapter and the first few verses we have it made plain that man has nothing to do with the building or the organization of God's church. Let us read, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: [In other words, when all has been said concerning Christ, His sacrifice made, His church and other things, this is the sum total of it all.] We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary [His consecrated children who are fitly framed together by divine power] and of the true tabernacle [His church or household of God—Eph. 2:18; Heb. 9:11] which the Lord pitched, and NOT MAN." Oh, that men and women today who

profess Christ would consecrate themselves to God as recorded in the first two verses of the 12th chapter of Romans, and continue in that condition so they could behold the bright light of the divinely-organized true Church of God in this dark world. Bless His dear name!

I am favorably impressed with what Bro. D. S. Warner writes about the Church on the first page of his book entitled, "The Church of God." He says in part: "No sect contains all the body of Christ; therefore, no sect is the Church of God. Then as honest men who expect to be judged by the Word of God, let us never call any thing the Church but the Body of Christ; that is, all the saved, either universally or in any given locality."

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Those who were God's people gradually went into great darkness after the apostles passed on and became so corrupted and evil at heart that they put to death those who were born from above and would dare to teach and practice the truth of His Word. Later, the Lord in mercy began to let the heavenly light shine again into the hearts of sincere seekers for the truth. Several prominent reformations have taken place. Paul discerned the coming of Catholicism which followed the glory of the early morning Church in 2 Thess. 2:7, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

Martin Luther was one of the men that God used to bring about a reformation in the 16th century. The light of heaven shone brightly for a while, but they soon went back into darkness and began to make images to the former beast (Catholicism). Later the Wesleys were used of God to bring more light to the people and taught the need of being sanctified, and cleansed from the sin nature. They were greatly blessed of God. For a while they had no human organization, but just met together in groups as the Spirit led, and God blessed them in their faith and confidence in Him to govern them and shine more light into their souls as He saw best, but soon they grew in numbers and began to humanly organize themselves. When that was done, they became at ease in Zion and gradually died down to formality and were filled with all manner of worldliness. They are in a sad state today.

In 1880 God raised up a man by the name of Daniel Sidney Warner who brought more light and truth on the Scriptures to the children of God. There was great rejoicing in the precious light of His Word, but some who were leaders among them began to love the world, love position and honor of men, and began to adopt the customs of the sects—made another image to the beast. In these things they corrupted themselves, and the compromise became so evident by the year of 1910 that a company of saints could follow them no longer, so they separated from them and continued to uphold the original truths. Later, from 1917 to about 1922, this group published a paper, "The Herald of Truth," at Carthage, Mo. under a representative board of 13 members. Dis-

agreements and factions arose, and soon the paper was discontinued. In the April F. & V. we mentioned about some things that took place (seven years after the first break) at Anderson where the Trumpet paper was printed, but neglected to write of the breaking away in 1910 which marked the beginning of the worldward compromise of the reformation which has continued ever since. These things of the past should be a warning to us who are in the light to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and not to seek or receive praise of men or allow the enemy to cause us to desire to be like sectarians, or to have any form of human organization, but have so much faith in God that He will be allowed to function freely among His children and set the members in His Body, the Church, as it pleases Him. The tendency to want to be somebody or to want praise and honor of men, or to be the "IT" in the Church of God should be rejected by all truth lovers and resisted steadfastly in the faith by all true members of His Body, the Church. Let us live a separated spirit from the world and bear the reproach of the cross that honest-hearted souls may see the way to heaven and to God.

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The time may come when we will need to make great sacrifice for the sake of our nonresistant faith as did many of our forefathers. But cost what it may, it is the way of the Bible, the way of right. It is the way which courageous Christian youth will seek to follow.

Obituaries

Bro. Scott Baker, the son of Aaron and Mary Baker, was born at Roaring Springs, Pa. on Feb. 17, 1885, and departed this life at Garrett, Ind. on March 21, 1962 at the age of 77 years.

Bro. and Sister Baker were united in marriage on Jan. 12, 1930 at Auburn, Ind. To this union three children were born, one dying in infancy.

Bro. Baker was a retired railroad engineer, having worked from Jan. 13, 1905 to Feb. 26, 1955.

Bro. Baker's mother reared him in the faith and he was always true to his convictions.

Surviving to mourn his passing are his wife, Florence, one daughter, Betty, one son, Ralph, two brothers, Roy of Auburn, Ind., Homer of Benton Harbor, Mich., three grandchildren, a step-son, Robert Gerner, of Houston, Texas, and a step-grandchild.

The funeral services were conducted at McKee's Funeral Home at Garrett, Ind. by a local pastor and friend, Glenn Mulligan. LeRoy Brand sang, "Life's Railway to Heaven," and "Beyond the Sunset." Burial was at the Union Cemetery, north of Garrett, Ind.

(Editor's note:—Bro. Scott C. Baker was well known by your editor and much loved and respected by all the saints. He lived a consistent Christian life and was always ready to help the needy. He was a regular supporter of the Faith Pub. House work from its infancy nearly forty years ago. His life fulfilled the Scripture found in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." He will be greatly missed by his family as well as among all the saints. For many years he had attended the campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. and enjoyed the truth that was preached. We expect to see him among the righteous in that Resurrection morn.)

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Mrs. T. J. (Lillie) Davis passed from this life on March 22, 1962 at Hammond, La. at the age of 71 years. She is survived by five children—three sons and two daughters. Her husband, Bro. T. J. Davis, preceded her in death nine years ago.

The thought of the funeral sermon was, "The first resurrection and the second death." Rev. 20:6, 14; Rev. 21:8; John 5:25-29; 6:39, 40, 44; 11:25. The funeral services were conducted by M. F. Williamson.

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Mrs. Dovie (Cook) Calhoun, daughter of Hiram and Samantha Cook, was born near Vincennes, Ind. on Feb. 15, 1889 and passed away at Sparta, Ind. on March 29, 1962.

She was married to Marion O. Calhoun at Sparta on March 15, 1907. Two children were born to this union: Milfred Carl, now deceased, and Freda, Mrs. W. W. Winchester of Barron, Wis.

Besides her daughter, she is survived by one brother, Berry Cook, and other relatives.

The funeral was held at Lanham's Mortuary, after which the body was taken to Chippewa Falls for burial in Forest Hill cemetery.

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Charles Adam Roberts was born July 15, 1877 and departed this life on April 3, 1962. He gave his heart to the Lord on March 6, 1962. He was married to Martha Nichols who preceded him in death on March 3, 1942.

Surviving are two sons: Leonard of Tulsa, Okla. and Ed of Kansas City; two daughters, Nona Turner of Tulsa

and Della Barkley of California, fifteen grandchildren, and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Sam Barton, assisted by Bro. Richard Madden.

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Mary Agnes (Lee) Williams was born August 29, 1892 near Hennessey, Okla. to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lee, and departed this life on March 12, 1962 at her home in Wichita, Kansas at the age of 69 years.

She was united in marriage to John Williams, Aug. 9, 1914 at her girlhood home near Okeene, Okla. No children were born to this union. Her husband preceded her in death.

Sister Mary was first converted when she was a child of about 12 years old and became affiliated with the Methodist people in her teens. Later, while in her early 20's she heard and accepted the "evening light" truth and remained with the saints in the Church of God until her death.

She leaves to mourn her passing: two sisters, Mrs. Ethyl K. Miles of the home and Mrs. Bessie L. Gordon, also of Wichita, a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

She was a devoted wife and a dear friend. Though she had no children of her own, she was very fond of them and brought happiness to them whenever she could. People often say, "Give me my flowers while I live," Sister Mary made her flowers while she lived. She spread joy and beauty with the artificial flowers she used to make and we feel sure that she will reap joy and beauty for that which she sowed.

She will be missed but there is the consolation that we shall see her again on the other shore.

"Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,"
Was the song she loved 'till the end;
And now she is resting in paradise
Because she took Him as her Friend.

Funeral services were conducted at the Saints' Chapel near Okeene, Okla. with Bro. Lewis Williams officiating.

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Lester Leroy Stice was born Sept. 2, 1894 in Memphis, Mo. and departed this life on March 28, 1962 at the age of 67 years, seven months and 25 days.

He was united in marriage to Ethel Mae Rapp who preceded him in death in 1954. To this union six children were born, two of whom preceded them in death. He left a letter bearing his testimony that he was in the Lord's care.

He leaves to mourn his passing a sister, Mrs. Anna Bryan of Joplin, Mo., three daughters, Mrs. Wanita Di Dio of Hammond, La., Mrs. Ila Duncan of Glendale, Calif. and Mrs. Dorall Forbes of Kentwood, La., one son, Arlda of Arizona, seven grandchildren, many other relatives and friends.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to all who showed their kindness to them in their bereavement.

The funeral services were conducted by Sister Ersu Carrick and Sister Opal Wilson.

PRAYER REQUESTS

La.—Dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name. I have been living for the Lord about ten years. I have put all my trust in Him, living and doing all I know to do. I don't want anything between me and my Saviour when I leave this old world. I want my way clear.

I want all you saints to pray that the Lord will bless me and heal my face. I suffer so much and have no rest

for my body. I know the Lord has the power to heal all kinds of diseases. There is nothing impossible with Him. I know He has healed me of other things and I know He has the power to heal my face. I want all of you to agree with me in prayer that the Lord will heal me. Pray the Lord to increase my faith.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Zibbie Corley

Pray that the Lord will send someone to help get a congregation of the Church of God established here in Dumas, Texas. I can get a building here for services. I feel there are many souls here who are hungry for the whole truth.

—Sister Frances McDonald

Meeting Notices

DATES SO FAR RECEIVED FOR THE 1962 CAMPMEETINGS

General Southern Campmeeting, Hammond, La.—June 22 to July 1.

Jefferson, Oregon Campmeeting—June 29 to July 8.

Green Pastures, Okla. Campmeeting—July 6th to 15th

National Campmeeting, Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.

July 20th to 29th.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting, Guthrie, Okla.—Aug. 3rd to 12th.

Dover, Okla. Campmeeting—August 31 to Sept. 9.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

The General Southern Campmeeting at Hammond, La. will convene, the Lord willing, on Friday, June 22nd and end on Sunday, July 1. Also, the all-day services at Hammond has been changed from the 3rd Sunday to the 5th Sunday of the month.

—M. F. Williamson
203 White St., Hammond, La.

JEFFERSON, OREGON CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting at Jefferson, Oregon will be held, Lord willing, this year on June 29 through July 8th.

All are invited to attend. Come and bring some one with you. We are looking forward to a good meeting and expecting the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings. For further information write N. C. White, Rt. 1, or Sister Beatrice Spaur, P. O. Box 254, Jefferson, Ore.

—Emma Busch, R. 2, Box 218, Scio, Ore.

All-Day Services at the Sapulpa Road Chapel

On the 5th Sunday of April, the 29th, all-day services will be held at the Sapulpa Road Chapel, Sapulpa, Okla. You are cordially invited to worship the Lord with us and feed your soul on the Word of God. Lord willing, a revival meeting will be in progress at that time. Pray for the success of the meeting. —Bro. Richard Madden and the congregation.

Meeting Report

Profitable Meeting at Wichita, Kansas

The meeting at Wichita, Kansas was in session from March 2 to 11th. The Lord did bless in a most wonderful way. The Word went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit accompanied with much conviction. A number gave their hearts to God, believers were sanctified, and some were miraculously healed. Many souls were blessed

in the meeting. The Lord also blessed us with good weather.

During the meeting the saints were permitted to hold cottage meetings, in which God healed and saved some, even some that had previously known nothing about the truth. The Lord has increased the burden here among the workers. We are desiring the prayers of the saints that God will continue to bless us here in Wichita.

Ministers present were Bro. Herman Kelley and Sister Katherine Williams of Oklahoma City, Sister Ada Davis, Hennessey, Okla., Bro. Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Okla. and Bro. Sanders, Green Pastures, Okla.

—Written by Sister Gladys Williams for Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor.

GOSPEL WORKERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Bro. Ralph Beisly, treasurer of the National Missionary Fund, informs us that up to this time (April 13) none of the gospel workers have contacted him about using the gospel tent, truck and equipment in the gospel work this coming summer season. He intends to have the truck lubricated, oil changed, motor tuned up and ready for service. Surely the Lord of the harvest would not be willing to see this gospel tent lay idle when so many souls are dying without God, when "every second, sad to tell, counts another soul in hell!" "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Rom. 10: 14, 15. Where are the called, qualified and consecrated gospel workers? Listen closely for God's voice with a heart saying, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"

The treasurer advises us that the missionary fund is being sent out as it comes in, so there is an urgent need for additional financial support through this fund for the gospel workers who will be using the tent and equipment. Every saint is in debt to the unsaved world. The debt we owe them is the gospel—the good news of salvation through Christ. Can you say you are paying your debt? The Apostle Paul said, "I am debtor . . . both to the wise and to the unwise." Rom. 1:14.

The house trailer that was used for some years with the tent and equipment was sold last year because it was too heavy for the tires and proved unsatisfactory for moving about. A light 16 or 18 foot travel trailer is now needed and could easily be pulled with the truck. This needed trailer would cost from \$1000 to \$1500, so let us pray the Lord to supply this need, and then help answer our prayers. "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

The truck and tent equipment is at the home of Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge Street, Coffeyville, Kansas. Please send your offerings for the National Missionary Fund to Bro. Beisly and specify for what it is to be used. Likewise, the gospel workers should contact and make arrangements with him in regard to using the tent equipment.

—Lawrence Pruitt.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM OLD MEXICO

April 11—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who died for us that we might be saved and who was buried and rose again—conquering death, hell and the grave—that we might be partakers of His divine nature and inherit eternal life.

I wish to use this time and space to urge each one of you to pray earnestly for the work of God in Old

Mexico. We are encouraged with the developments there, so much so that we see and feel the need of God's people moving ahead in every way to meet the challenge that confronts us. We often use and hear used the words, "supply and demand." Each affects the other. Where there is a demand for some commodity, the supplier is benefitted "if" he can supply the need. On the other hand, if the potential supplier is not able to meet the demand, he is inevitably the loser. Some competitor will likely meet the demand and transact the business, thus gaining a client.

Dear ones, we are ambassadors for Christ. We have what the people need. In Old Mexico there is a demand for the gospel—something that will satisfy the needs of the people. There is a demand for the free, plain, simple, soul-saving Word of God in all its fullness, given unselfishly (not for filthy lucre) in all its purity. Yes, we have what the people need. **WILL WE SUPPLY IT?**

Each week we go through Ensenada and Tijuana, the latter being a city of several hundred thousand. We have no congregation there, nor in Ensenada, a town of probably thirty thousand or more. We have made personal contacts and have names and addresses of people in both cities who asked us to come to bring them the Word of God. Will we supply it, or will Satan, who is bidding high for souls, push in his goods and gain the interest of the people with something enticing but not the Gospel of God?

We are admonished to work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man shall work. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." Are you doing all you wish you had done when you stand face to face with the Lord? We are not criticizing. We are challenged, and we want to extend the challenge to you!

The interest is increasing in Rosarito where the services are held out of doors. As we probably told you, we have purchased a piece of property there. During our praying and searching for a lot to buy, we were quoted prices from \$600 to \$2200. One evening, Bro. Ostis Wilson came to my house and said he wanted to leave some missionary money that had come in that amounted to \$350.00. The following week-end when we were through Rosarito we learned that a man was quite anxious to sell a lot which we were able to buy for \$350.00. We feel the Lord had His hand in this transaction. By faith we have ordered cement blocks for the outside walls of a building 55 by 30 feet to accommodate workers and serve as a meeting house until a regular chapel can be built.

Please continue to pray that "the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into the fields"—men and women with a burden for souls and a vision—a vision of what God can and desires to do. "Where there is no vision the people perish." Pray for the ministers that they may be able to expound the Word with divine authority, with Holy Ghost anointing—fearless—all in love. Pray until God bathes your own soul with His divine approval and blessing, then can you know that He has heard. "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." 1 Jno. 5:14, 15.

Don't forget to pray for the girls, the Hites and the Huskeys.

Pray for me that I might be true to God and the saints. Your saved brother,
—Harland H. Smith,
317 E. Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif.

The battle is the Lord's. I Samuel 14:47.

TESTIMONIES

Nigeria, West Africa—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I, my family and all the saints here in Nigeria, West Africa greet you and other brothers and sisters over there in America in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour—the Name that is above all names both in heaven and on earth. Amen!

I am sure that you have received my other letter long before this time. I have to report that I have received the \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) sent by you for a purchase of a typing machine. We ask God's blessing to rest upon you and all the saints there. Amen.

I have also seen the "Faith and Victory" papers of January, 1962 but nothing is heard about that of February, 1962. I will not fail to report immediately as soon as I receive that of February and March.

Dear brother, I and my people are very anxious to read from you and to hear about the progress of God's work there in order to encourage us here.

We are asking God's blessing to rest upon you and all the saints there for their kind support.

I am your Brother, —B. U. Etuk

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La.—Dear ones in Christ: We are encouraged to press the battle on. We realize that the enemy of souls is doing all he can to tear down and destroy the faith of God's people, knowing that he has but a short time.

There are many today who are sleeping, as it were, on the brink of eternal woe. The devil is causing many to look around and get their eyes off God. We can't afford to let the things we see and hear affect us in our walk with God. Get your eyes on Jesus and keep them there. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 6:5. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Gal. 5:6. It is through the Holy Ghost that we have perfected love. Our faith works by love. God is love. If we fail to go on to perfection and be sanctified wholly, we can't be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:23.

The fruit of the Spirit is love. If we don't have the Holy Spirit, we can't have perfected love. If we don't have love, we can't have joy. When people let their love grow cold they lose their joy. The joy of the Lord is our strength. If we do not have love, our faith will not work in harmony with God and His Word. It is through love that we obtain joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Love will cause us to be patient, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.

We hold the truth in love. Some folks hold the truth in a hard unforgiving spirit. The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life.

Joy is love exulting. Psal. 16:11; Isa. 12:3.

Peace is love in repose. Psal. 119:165.

Longsuffering is love on trial. 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:12, 13.

Gentleness is love in society. 2 Tim. 2:24; Titus 3:2.

Goodness is love in action. Gal. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:15.

Faith is love on the battlefield. 1 Tim. 6:12; Eph. 6:16.

Meekness is love at school. Matt. 11:29; James 1:21.

Temperance is love in training. 2 Peter 1:5-7; Col. 3:8-16.

Love is the fulfilling of the law. Rom. 13:10. We are knit together in love. Col. 2:2. Love is the bond of perfectness. Col. 3:14. "But he that lacketh these things

is blind, and cannot see afar off and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." 2 Peter 1:9. "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Gal. 5:13.

Yours in His love,

—M. F. Williamson

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Arizona—I thank the Lord for salvation, and for being so merciful to me. I want to live for God and by the Bible. The true Word of God will stand when everything else is gone. In Heb. 4:14 we read, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." If we hold fast to God, He will take care of us. Again, in Heb. 11:1 we read that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

God is so good, I can't thank Him enough for His goodness. I find it a pleasure to serve the Lord. The more I learn of the strait and narrow way, the more I want to make heaven my home to live eternally.

I want to thank all the saints for their help and prayers. If there is anything that I am falling short on, or if I have ever offended anyone I would be glad to find it out so I can correct it. By the grace of God I want to live for Him that my life will help to bring others to the Lord.

Please pray for my mother that she will get help in her soul and body. We are enjoying some good sermons which we hear from time to time. There are only a few saints here in Phoenix, and we don't have a minister. We have been looking to the Lord for quite some time to send us some help in the work here, but I know the Lord will work things out at His time.

Always remember me in your prayers that I may be true and faithful,

—Annie Peete

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Ill.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt, greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. I am still saved. I need prayer for my afflicted knee. I suffer much pain with it. There is nothing impossible with God.

I was sick and had a high fever. I prayed and prayed. God in His mercy healed me. "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." "The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up." My son's wife was so good to me when I was sick.

Your saved sister,

—Martha Knox

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La.—Dear saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' precious name: We have wanted to thank all the dear ones who have prayed with us so long for your prayers in my husband's behalf. He was troubled for some time with a hurting in his chest and a cough. Thanks to God in answer to the many prayers, he is much, much better. We still desire prayer that he will be completely healed.

God has seen us through so much and has blessed us so wonderfully. While I was in school, many were the nights that I would have to give up studying because I simply was too tired and had to go to bed, knowing that before me the next day lay a big examination which I would know little about, certainly hardly enough to pass it within my own ability. But I would pray, trying hard to put my faith in God to see me through. And never did He fail. He always made the better grades!

At one time such an incident seemed almost a miracle. I had had nine-weeks examinations all week and I had had but a very few hours of sleep that entire week and the week before. For my last test I simply could not hold my eyes open any longer, nor could I even try.

I had not studied at all for this test and knew I was totally unprepared to take it. But I went to bed, prayed before falling asleep, and hoped I could glance over my material the next morning before the test. However, I overslept, and could hardly have covered twelve long chapters anyway. So I went on to school, prayed again on the way, and went straight in to take the exam. When I saw the questions I did not know enough to answer a single one. To five long ones I had to give answers. I prayed, "God, help me," and began writing. When I got home my husband asked me how I did. I simply did not know. In fact, I couldn't recall a single answer I had given. But God helped me not to worry about it at all. Some how it just slipped my mind to think about it. But you may be sure that I knew who answered those questions for me when my teacher returned my paper with a grade only three points from an "A". Certainly, no other than God! He has been so good to us. So, no matter what the problem is God is sure to stand by His own—even school problems are included. God has blessed me to finish school and we thank Him for it.

Also, the Lord has blessed our home with a little baby. We want all the saints' prayers that we will never fail in our duty toward her and that we will ever live close to the Lord.

Love to all,

—Billie Jean Theriot

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S. C.—Dear Saints, Greetings in Jesus' precious name: I truly thank the dear Lord for saving my soul from sin. We had a few nights services and the Lord blessed.

A vertebra had slipped in my back. I asked Brother Oneal and my husband to pray for me. The Lord healed me Sunday night. When they got through praying for me I was healed. I do thank the Lord for healing my body. May God bless all of you.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Rosa Lee Platt

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Kansas—Dear Saints: I am so happy and thankful for the blessed Son of God who came to this old sin-cursed world and lifted up a sinless life in the flesh right here in this life. He was tempted, tested and tried like we are but He conquered and overcame all the power of sin. "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." Heb. 2:18. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17. Thank God for that grace to obey the truth, and it all came by Jesus. Sin had dominion over us until Christ came to set us free from the law of sin and death. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Rom. 5:20. "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under the law but under grace." Rom. 6:14. How I do thank God for the grace He gives me to live a life without sin in this present evil world.

Christ's blood shall never lose its power to cleanse and make holy. So many are denying the power of the blood to cleanse us from all sin, purify our hearts and fill us with the Holy Ghost. But, praise God, I find that if we come by faith to Jesus He will do all this for us. The Lord gave Himself for His Church that He might "sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." "Thank God for a Church triumphant, all pure in this world below, for the kingdom that Jesus founded does triumph o'er every foe." "Tis not in the Church of Jesus that people yet live in sin, but in the dark creeds they're joining,

and vainly are trusting in." Dear ones, that is the only Church that Jesus is coming for—the spotless Bride of Christ.

The Lord did give us a very precious day yesterday here at Coffeyville. As we observed the ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's supper, our hearts were melted before God as we remembered His broken body, bleeding hands, feet and side, and how He did all that to redeem us to God, and how so many are giving no heed today. Dear saints, let us draw near to Him where we can ever feel His tender love. Forty-three blood-washed saints took part in the service with Bro. D. A. Gibson doing the preaching.

Saints, pray for us here at Coffeyville that we strive earnestly together for the advancement of the cause of God, and that we will be as a city that is set on a hill that cannot be hid.

We would be glad for any of God's children to visit us any time. We have all-day meetings each second Sunday of the month.

Your blood-washed Sister,

—Margaret Eck.

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Mo.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, greetings in Jesus' precious name: Today I am well in body except I have something wrong with my right eye at the lower part of the grey of my eye. Please pray that the Lord will completely heal my eye. I have had good health through the winter—only had one slight cold. Thank the dear Lord for His healing power. I am trusting the Lord for both soul and body.

One of my nephews was seriously hurt last fall. They thought for a while he wouldn't live. We wrote to Sister Whitmore to be agreed in prayer. He recovered so quickly that the doctor said it was a miracle, and they never even put him in a plaster cast.

In Christian love,

—Sister Mary E. Hood

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Ark.—Dear saints: I feel that I should write my testimony to praise the Lord for healing my body. I was suffering last Wednesday night with a hurting in my stomach until I couldn't go to sleep. I was here alone. I told the Lord if He would heal my body I would write my testimony. The Lord healed me and I haven't been bothered with it since then. Praise His holy name!

I want the prayers of all the saints that I may always be faithful to God. Pray for my unsaved loved ones.

A Sister in Christ,

—Daisy Vanzant

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Ohio—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in the name of Jesus: I received your pretty card and encouraging words which mean so much in a time like this. I surely thank the good Lord for the dear saints, for their prayers and the many cards and words of cheer. If it weren't for the prayers of the saints I don't believe I could have stood up under the shock and strain of losing my husband so suddenly. It still hurts so much to know that he was lost and without hope after so many prayers and pleadings of the saints for him. He was saved at one time and lived for God for only four days, then went back into sin again. He was getting harder and harder against God. He finally got so he wouldn't come to meeting any more. At first he would come and hold his hand up for prayer. The saints pleaded and prayed for him many times. Then at the last he would take the children and me to the door of the meeting house, and drive off while we were having services. Sometimes he would drink while we were at the services. The day that the Lord called him, Mother and Daddy, the children and I had gone to Union City, Ind. to be in meeting with the

saints there. We begged him to go with us, but he would not. He said, "I'll go with you tonight." When we came home from Indiana, he was not there. I felt that he was drinking, for he and this boy had drunk together before. We went on to meeting without him. Mother and I both were so burdened for him that evening that we could hardly sing. The children and I got home right after the accident happened—just a block from home. We saw the cars still setting there and everything just like it happened, only all the six people involved had already been rushed to the hospital. It killed my husband instantly. He was thrown through the windshield onto the hood, then hit the pavement. He had three skull fractures, a broken arm, a broken spine, two broken legs, the right ear partly cut off, the right eye cut out and part of his face. Surely it doesn't pay to trifle with God. As I was called to the hospital, the Lord witnessed to me that he was already gone. Then came to me the Scripture in Proverbs 29:1 which says, "He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." This kept going over and over in my mind, and surely I could see that God's judgments had fallen. It is surely a dangerous thing to keep rejecting the mercies of God. The Lord did His part for my husband, for I never knew of a time when he was in service that God didn't deal with him. It seemed that God would deal with him even in dreams, but still he wasn't willing to pay the price and give up the world. I still thank the Lord today for the many times He did deal with him, even though he is lost. May this tragedy help to awaken some other backslider or sinner to see that God's Word is true.

Please pray for me that I will draw close to the Lord and that I can rear the four children up in the fear of God. It is surely a great responsibility in these troublesome times, but God's grace is sufficient.

Much Christian love, —Helen (McCoy) Baird

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S. C.—Dear Brother Pruitt, Greetings in Jesus name: I am glad that God has permitted me to write this testimony. I want to tell what the dear Lord has done for me and what he means to me. I am saved and my wife and most of my children. Thanks be to God for answering prayer.

I want to thank all of the dear saints for the good testimonies that they have put in the Faith and Victory paper. I get it every month and I do enjoy reading it. I know that God is real because we can see what he does for his children. Praise his dear name!

We believe in Divine healing and we have seen God work in many ways. He healed my wife once of tumor and healed me of stones in answer to prayer. I wish every one could believe and trust him for it.

Your Brother in Christ, —Utson Platt

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Okla.—To the Saints abroad: Greetings of holy love in Jesus' name, whose name is to be honored above every name. I'm thankful to be one of God's children and striving to keep contented being isolated at present from all services, knowing that God does all things well.

The Lord has blessed me many times and I feel I have somewhat neglected him in telling what he has done for me. First of all he healed my mind and saved my soul about seven years ago this April for which I'm thankful. He also wonderfully blessed me in having a tooth pulled without any pain. He healed my little boy when he drank cigarette lighter fluid. At the time he drank it he was about 16 months old. He is six years old now.

I remember the word where it says something about faith could remove mountains (large obstacles) and that nothing shall be impossible unto you. I was thinking of the big tornado that hit Hoffman a few years ago. I remember staying home especially that afternoon to study the word of God. I had been losing time going here and there with my husband to the cellar during the stormy weather. All had left the house but me and just as I sat down to read, the light went out and it suddenly became very dark. I thought that odd since I agreed with the Lord to stay here to study. I walked to the front door to look out and saw the tornado only a few miles away, which looked to be coming right toward our little town here in Hitchita. I stood there facing it being not afraid and asking the Lord to protect me and I had faith and confidence that he would.

A few days later I saw where the tornado, after leaving Hoffman, coming our way had almost reached our school district. It took down some trees next to the highway. There it made a crook and looked like it suddenly turned. I always thought that faith in the Lord had turned the tornado but I wouldn't testify to it. This afternoon my neighbor began to talk of how the stormy season would soon be here again. Then she, not knowing anything about my faith in the matter, explained that the Hoffman tornado would have gotten us if it hadn't made a quick turn.

Saints everywhere, be of good courage. The enemy has a lot of power but God has all power. Have faith in him so that when the winds blow we will regard them not; but when we see them coming, we can hear the still small voice saying, "Be not afraid, it is I."

I would love to testify also about the little humble things he does for me. I do enjoy reading little humble testimonies, but feel the Lord would have us tell about the big things he does for us too. Being isolated from the saints the Lord gets food to my soul in different ways, sometimes in dreams. A while back I dreamed I was in a large building which appeared to be a hospital. It seemed they were trying to force me to take shots of medicine and I wanted out of their reach. They led me to the hallway where there was a waiting room and turned me loose. I felt lost, so looking up on the bulletin board at the top I saw my name. Underneath it was some print so tiny I could hardly read it. Then a lady standing by, who was taller than I and could reach it, rubbed her hand across the letters, then the print began to glitter in bright red tiny letters saying, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." I didn't feel lost anymore and went right to my room. This was a blessing to my soul when I awoke and remembered the dream. The last part was better than the first. Remember me and my household in your earnest prayers. My husband has been in misery for about five years, because of my saved condition and has held me in bondage here. I covet all earnest prayers in his behalf that the Lord will show him to let me have my freedom and that by this he could get his freedom also. How I do love his soul and would like to see him with peace and happiness which the Lord has offered to all. I often remember all the saints in light everywhere and think of their loved ones also. It is my desire to let the Lord have his way.

Christian Love,

—Mrs. Jimmie Duvall

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

S. C.—Dear saints, Greetings in the name of the Lord: I have never sent in a testimony before but feel that the Lord wants me to send one in now. I am saved and enjoying good old time salvation. Praise the Lord! We are getting the Faith and Victory paper through Brother

Eddie Driggers and I enjoy reading them. I am one of the ones that was baptized by Brother Curtis Williams and Bro. Abbott in June, 1961. I have been doing my Father's will ever since.

In October I took real ill with diabetes but didn't have faith enough for divine healing so I was sent to the hospital. When I came home the doctor told me I would have to take insulin the rest of my days. While I was in the hospital I had plenty of time to talk with my Lord. He promised me I could be healed if I would only trust Him and have faith. I told quite a few I didn't believe I would have to take insulin all my days. Through the Christmas holidays we had a revival at Ridgeville, S. C. The Lord sent Brother Curtis Williams our way again and on Dec. 29 the Lord spoke to me and said, "Let my servants pray for you." Thank the Lord, I moved when he told me. Brother Curtis Williams, Brother Oneal Pratt and Brother David Winters anointed my head and prayed for me. Praise God, I haven't taken a shot since then. I am enjoying good health and eating anything I want to. (I was on a diet by the doctor.) I haven't taken any medicine of any kind since. I want every saint of God that reads this to please pray for me that my faith won't fail me, but that I will ever be a faithful worker in God's kingdom. I feel led of the Lord to do a work for the Lord at Ridgeville, S. C. so I need your prayers. Pray for me that my life can be spent to His glory. From one of his humble servants.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Rhodia Platt

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

Mo.—Dear saints everywhere, greetings of love in the name of Jesus: I am still saved; praise the Lord! I want to press on, for I want to win a crown of glory in the end.

Various problems come before me, but I thank the Lord that He is a merciful God—One who knows all about us, our trials and troubles, etc. So I just lean on Him and He has not failed me. Dear ones, God does not fail His people. If they fail, it is because they fail God. He is our present help in every time of trouble.

At this time my son, Ray, who is in the home with me, desires to go work on public work or on a large farm job where he can make more money. So I must sell a few head of stock and pay my indebtedness. I desire to stay here at my home instead of going out to work. I am 60 years old. I would like very much for a sainted couple to live with me and share expenses, or I would consider two sainted women. I live eight miles from Thayer, Mo. and have my transportation. We could attend the services most of the time at the Myrtle, Mo. Church of God chapel. I plan to raise some garden and young chickens. Any interested aged couple should contact me as soon as possible. I have indoor bathroom, four rooms, large open porch and closed back porch.

The Lord has been real good to me so far and cared for my needs. Pray that if it is the Lord's will He will work this out so I can have some saints with me to read, study and pray together in worship. I certainly miss my companion in worship—just me to read and pray. I am so thankful that the Lord has kept me saved, well in body and the desire to live for Him.

Pray for me, my saved children, and some who are out in sin.

In Christian love,

—Sister Marie Gaines

Rt. 2, Box 54, Thayer, Mo.

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

S. Carolina—Dear saints: In the name of Jesus I am glad to testify to what the Lord has done for me. He is a present help in every time of need and sticks closer than a brother.

We went to Myrtle, Mo. last October and were in services with the dear saints. We learned to love them all. I desire the prayers of the saints, for I want to do more for Him each day I live. I want my last days to be the best days. I want to stay in the center of God's will. Pray that my home will always be a home of prayer. A Sister in Christ,

—Minnie Winter

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

Ark.—Dear folks at the print shop: I do enjoy reading your wonderful paper. It has certainly brought light where there was darkness. Also I want the book, "God's Gracious Dealings."

I, for one, don't believe in these denominations. I am a Christian but I don't belong to any of the denominations and can't see it that way.

Enclosed find \$1.00. Keep my paper coming, and please pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus, —Mrs. Lucy Beavers

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

S. Carolina—Dear saints of God: I want to testify for my Saviour Jesus Christ. He healed me on March 12, 1958. I know He has all power to do anything we ask of Him. If you have faith, let it work for you.

In Matt. 13:15 we read, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

I want all the saints to pray for my unsaved husband and children, also pray for our pastor, Bro. Oneal Pratt, who has preached nothing but the truth. May the Lord bless every one of His saints.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Georgia Davidson

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

Calif.—Dear Friend: For over 40 years we have been distributing and putting out gospel tracts throughout the West from Canada to Mexico. This work has been without publicity. We have tried to let the Holy Spirit lead. There is very little encouragement from the human side, but God has given us great peace and joy. Will give you two or three incidents:

One evening in one of our church meetings a man came up to us and said, "I read the tracts put out in the plant we worked in. These tracts made me mad at first but finally led me to Christ."

Sometime later, in another plant, a young man came up to us and shook my hand and said, "You perhaps don't know it, but the papers you put out led me to Christ some months back, and I want to thank you. God bless you."

Many times I have used tracts to help people perplexed or in trouble. One man told me that the consistent use of tracts through the years had led him to Christ. A great deal of our work is seed-sowing.

We are grateful to the donors who made this work possible and we are deeply grateful to you who publish and mail these wonderful printed messengers.

Sincerely, your brother in Christ, looking for the coming of the Lord,

—Paul R. Frenger

(Editor's note:—The above is a good testimony for the use of gospel tracts in the salvation of souls. When you give a tract to some one you will never know how much that soul will be blessed in reading, and he may pass it on to another or it may be sent in a letter to a friend. If he throws it down to be trampled under foot, the Lord may have some one to see it who is hungering for the contents therein. We have also been distributing tracts and gospel literature personally and through the

mails for over forty years. We have received many precious letters of souls getting saved, and many who have been greatly blessed thereby. Some have picked up the tracts from the street, and some have found them in the house into which they moved. We have hundreds of different titles of tracts in stock and invite you to send for a free sample. Give your soul and the souls of others a treat of good soul food at our expense. We shall be happy to send them to you as the Lord has supplied the means to publish them. We have received freely from His hand and so we freely give them to all needy souls.)

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

Mo.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I can't ever thank the dear Lord for all He did for us during our recent sickness. Our three children were sick with the mumps, chickenpox, and the three-day measles while my husband and I had the flu. But I took pneumonia with mine—that is what we believed it to be. We didn't have a doctor so we don't know for sure. But the Great Physician healed all of us.

It looked awfully dark at different times. I thought I was going to pass on two different times. I awoke the children and asked them to pray for me. I surely thank the Lord that I had taught them to pray. If I had been using a doctor I don't think I would have lived until I got to one. But thank the dear Lord, He answered prayer. I told my husband to go and get my brother to call the saints and my parents, which he did. I told him to hurry, as I didn't think I would live long. The verse kept coming to me about asking, believing and it shall be done. The children had asked and I had asked the Lord to let me live, so this would comfort me so much. The saints came that night and some of them were with us most of the time. They were so good to us through it all. We surely do thank them for all their love and prayers.

I do want to say that the sickness was worth it all. I feel closer to the Lord than ever before, and I thank the Lord for it because my husband was saved during this sickness. He said he was saved a few years ago, but that he didn't feel the same as he has this time. He asked me to send in this testimony. He said he wanted to go all the way with the Lord. So do pray that he will stay close to the Lord. The Lord also supplied our needs while we were sick. We are now completely healed and are all doing fine. Praise the Lord for it all!

Pray for all of us that we will live a life acceptable to the Lord at all times.

Yours in Christ, —Nelva and Lincoln Stanley

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

Ark.—Dear Saints, greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour: Through this short note we wish to thank the dear saints for their prayers, kind words, labor and everything they did for us during the sickness of our precious companion, Oscar Wall. We feel it was just through the mercies and goodness of God that we still have him with us. His body was so racked with pain that it seemed at times the misery was more than he could bear, and we began to think our dear Lord was going to take him home to be with Him where there would be no sorrow and pain, but the Lord healed him.

We were so thankful for the faith and courage that our dear companion had. Even though he was suffering misery untold he could continue to say, "Live or die, dear Lord, I want to trust you for both soul and body." The night he almost passed on, several folks were gathered in our home, and one neighbor who seemed to have good intentions tried to get our dear one to get a doctor. One of the saints told the neighbor that we were doing a lot for Oscar. We had called saints in Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas for prayer. We find that a number of

folks with good intentions don't have the light on divine healing, and the pitiful part about it is that some aren't trying to get the light. When the Lord first began to choose and send out disciples He told them to preach the gospel and heal the sick. (Luke 9:1-2). And since the Word teaches that God doesn't change—the same yesterday, today and forever—we feel that the God-called ministers of this our day are commanded to preach and practice the same things that the early disciples preached and practiced. It is a dangerous thing to try to change the Word, add to or take from. (Rev. 22:18-19).

After the word got around that husband had been real sick and hadn't used medical care, the enemy in the form of a spirit came in like a flood and dealt us misery. Our youngest daughter's classmates would ridicule and mistreat her, but the dear Lord made it plain to me that I was in the true Church, and I want to be true regardless of trials, temptations and persecutions.

We ask the prayers of the dear saints everywhere that we will keep our integrity and continue in the faith. With Christian love, —The Walls, Oscar, Margie & Girls

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

Okla.—Greetings to the saints everywhere in the name of our Lord: Today I can say that I am still saved and pressing on with the dear Lord. I promised the Lord that if He would heal me I would write my testimony through the paper. I was prayed for at several meetings and received relief, but it seemed like the enemy would not take his hands off. My head would seem to tear apart whenever I would cough, and I had suffered so long. One day a few weeks ago I told the Lord that I believed the prayer of faith had been prayed for me and that I was looking to be healed. That same day He wonderfully touched my body. To Him I give the praise! My head hasn't hurt any since then. Some times I have dizzy spells, but I just talk to the Lord about it and in a little while I feel better. Thank the Lord!

I mean to live for the Lord until He calls me Home. I am isolated from the saints. I would like for the saints to pray that if it is the Lord's will that He will open the way for me to get a home close to the services. Pray for me that I will be what the Lord would have me to be in this life.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Carrie Murdock

(Editor's Note:—We are sorry that we do not have space to publish all the testimonies which we receive.)

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

A COMMUNIST SURVEYS THE CHRISTIAN 'THREAT'

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a much more powerful weapon for the renewal of society than is our Marxist doctrine. All the same it is we who will finally beat you. We are only a handful and you Christians are numbered by the millions. But if you remember the story of Gideon and his 300 companions you will understand why I am right.

We Communists do not play with words. Of our salaries and wages we keep only what is strictly necessary and give the rest for propaganda purposes. To this propaganda we also consecrate all our free time and part of our holidays.

You Christians, however, give only a little time and hardly any money for the spreading of the Gospel of Christ. How can anyone believe in the supreme value of the Gospel if you do not practice it?

If you do not spread it? And if you sacrifice neither time nor money for it?

Believe me, it is we who will win, for we believe in our Communist message and we are ready to sacrifice everything, even our lives. But you, you Christians, are afraid to soil your hands.

—From French Communist newspaper, 1954

THUS SAITH OUR LORD

Ye call me Master and obey me not,
Ye call me Light and see me not,
Ye call me Way and walk me not,
Ye call me Life and desire me not,
Ye call me wise and follow me not,
Ye call me fair and love me not,
Ye call me rich and ask me not,
Ye call me eternal and seek me not,
Ye call me gracious and trust me not,
Ye call me noble and serve me not,
Ye call me mighty and honor me not,
Ye call me just and fear me not;
If I condemn you, blame me not.

—Selected

True Riches

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4: 19. To be rich means that we are abundantly supplied with resources; also having desirable elements or qualities. To have all our need supplied according to His riches in glory would mean that we had free access to all the resources of Heaven—all our needs fully supplied for soul and body. Praise the Lord! Who is it that wouldn't rejoice in being so richly blessed?

These great blessings come only to those who meet the requirements of God's law of righteousness and justice. This great promise was first to the congregation at Philippi. God made this promise through the Apostle to them because they had proved that they were putting the kingdom of God and its needs first in their lives, before they considered their own needs.

In Eph. 3:14-20 the Apostle Paul writes that he prayed before God upon his knees for the needs of the Church. "For this cause I bow my knees . . . that he would grant you [His saints], according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." Dear ones, you can have great strength in the inner man, be rooted and grounded in love, and comprehend with all saints the breadth, length, depth and height of all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, and be filled with all the fulness of God. For He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Many today are longing to have the great blessings of God poured out upon them while they are living in pleasure. Yes, we are living in pleasure when we put our own needs before the needs of the kingdom. Malachi 3:10 says: "Bring ye all the tithes

into the storehouse, . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." While we are not under the law of Moses and are not forced to obey God, yet if we love Him we will gladly obey His Word and keep all His commandments. The promise to eat the good of the land is to the willing and obedient. Many today are living in poverty both in soul and body because they care for their own temporal needs only, and let the cause of God suffer.

Your Brother,

—H. P. Huskey

SIMPLY TRUSTING

When my soul with burdens heavy
Seems forsaken, prayers unheard,
Then may I look up to Jesus,
Simply trusting in His Word.

Just like Job in early ages
Trusted God, though unfound,
Then may I press on to victory,
Give me courage to abound.

'Tis not that God has forsaken,
Turned away, or forgotten me—
Something better in the future
Is His promise true to be.

"Oh, my soul, press on to glory,
Worlds of bliss invite thee on—
Evermore to be with Jesus
When my life on earth is done."

—Jessie Taylor

"Television occupies more of a child's time than school or church."—Newton Minow, Chairman of Federal Communications Commission.

God selects the humble for great tasks.

BIBLE STUDY

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

May 6, 1962

WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON

Printed Portion 1 Peter 2:9-21.

9. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

11. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

12. Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14. Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

18. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

Memory Verse: And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2.

Practical Truth: We can live in the world and not be of the world.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Apostle Peter is writing to some Christians, a little group of God's children who were persecuted and despised. They lived in a world ruled by the Romans. Wickedness abounded around them in ways that are hard for us to understand today. It was an encouragement to them, and is an encouragement to us to know that we are a chosen, royal, holy and peculiar people. Peculiar in the Greek means, "for safe keeping," also "purchased, possessed." Surely this was a blessing to them to know that they were a special treasure of the Lord's—that they were traveling to a home beyond this world of trouble and care.

Verses thirteen to seventeen point out the duty of every Christian believer to be a law-abiding citizen. As long as the laws of man do not conflict with the laws of God, we are to obey them. Notice, he says we do this "for the Lord's sake."

If we do wrong and are buffeted, then we do not bring glory to the Lord. It is when we do right and are persecuted that we bring glory to the Lord as we suffer patiently. Jesus was our example. When He was reviled, He reviled not again. "He committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously." That is what the Lord wants us to do.

May 13, 1962

SUFFERING FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

Printed Portion1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11.

12. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you;

13. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18. And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 5:6. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9. Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Memory Verse: Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf. 1 Peter 4:16.

Practical Truth: It costs something to be a Christian, and that is the sacrifice of ourselves.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When believers are in the "fiery trial" many questions arise in their minds. Some might wonder why they are so severely tempted, but when we know that God has permitted it to come, then we can just rest with faith and confidence in the Lord that He will get glory out of it some way. I am sure the Apostle Peter knew what he was talking about. He instructs us to "rejoice." We do not rejoice because something hard has come against us, but we rejoice because we are looking at the blessing that awaits all that are "partakers of Christ's suffering." Christ's triumph was in His humiliation.

There are some graces that would never have been discovered if it were not for the trials. How can you know that you have faith until your faith is exercised? Unless you have had to suffer as a Christian, you would not know the joy that comes to a soul when they are "partakers of the sufferings of Christ." As you stand for God and resist the devil again and again, you know the power that is given you when you see the devil flee. Your faith increases and you are better equipped to go through greater difficulties for God.

There is a reward in suffering. You become established, settled and strengthened. Humbly yield yourself to God and cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you.

May 20, 1962

THE COMING DAY OF THE LORD

Printed Portion2 Peter 3:3-13; Jude 24-25.

3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Jude 24. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Memory Verse: I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. 2 Tim. 1:12.

Practical Truth: Scoffers cannot keep that day from coming.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God has not left us in ignorance concerning the coming of Jesus. He said He would come. No one knows the day nor the hour but the Father in heaven. He wants us to be ready all the time. When He leaves His throne and comes bursting through the clouds, it will be too late then to pray. He will not be our Saviour then, but our Judge. When we look up into the peaceful heavens and then think that some day they will pass away with a great noise and the earth will melt with fervent heat, it makes us know that we need to depend upon something firmer than this old world. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away." We need to be sure that we are living by the Word of God and then we will be safe in that day. We need to be in the kingdom of God now. In the end of time Jesus will deliver "up the kingdom to God, even the Father." (1 Cor. 15:24).

False teachers are teaching that the earth will be burned over and that an earthly kingdom will be set up, but thank the Lord, God's children know the truth. In Daniel 2:44 it is clearly indicated that the kingdom of God would be set up when the Roman Empire existed. Jesus was born at that time, and later said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the

kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. The kingdom of God is spiritual. You cannot see it, but it is within you. (Luke 17:20-21).

May 27, 1962

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Printed Portion 1 John 1:5—2:6.

5. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 2:1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked.

Memory Verse: Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 1 Thess. 5:21.

Practical Truth: We need to be watchful and not sleep as others. We are children of the light.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Light is the symbol of purity, power and goodness, as opposed to darkness which represents sin, weakness and evil. Light reveals everything just as it is. Darkness distorts things, or hides them. Since everything is "open and naked" before God, then we know that God is light. When Adam and Eve sinned they hid themselves from God. Sin cannot stand in the blazing light of God without bringing condemnation.

Our lesson tells us how to get rid of sin and that darkness in the soul. It seems that false teachers today will even try to excuse sin or tone it down, but one sin will keep a soul out of heaven. The only way sin can be cleansed is for a person to face it, confess it and then ask Jesus to forgive it and cleanse it from his soul by His precious blood. Jesus is our Advocate with the Father. When we confess our sins to Him, He forgives us and casts them away. Praise the Lord!

As we walk in the light of God which is revealed to us through His precious Bible, we then have fellowship with every other "born again" person who is also walking in the light. What a great bond of love and kinship exists between God's children! There is nothing like it in the world today. It is given to us from heaven.

—Sister Marie Miles