

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Happy New Year 1963

Happy New Year, we now greet thee,
And in God we put our trust;
Asking that His hand will guide us
In the way that's right and just.

What have you for us to offer?
Will your days be calm or rough?
Will you bring us peace or conflict?
Or say to trouble, "'Tis enough?"

O Lord, give us strength and courage
To press on against the tide,
Of every wave of opposition,
May we still in Thee confide.

O, may the new year bring delight,
To many who are now in sin;
May their heart's door swing wide open,
And let the blessed Saviour in.

We know not what this year shall bring
Or what it holds for us in store;
Whether this shall be the last,
Or there may be yet many more.

One thing we know, without a doubt,
And this we all can clearly see;
That as the years move in and out,
We're nearing grim eternity.

And this short year will soon be gone,
Its days are flying fast;
Three hundred sixty-five, they say,
The year will then be past.

—Ulysses Phillips

"In the Beginning . . ."

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1.

Life is full of beginnings. We are now at the beginning of a new year. But here is a beginning

that carries our thought back beyond all years, all dates of history, all imaginable periods of time, beyond the beginnings of creation. Then Christ was. What a sublime stretch of being these words give to Him who is our Saviour! We cannot fully grasp the thought, but we can find comfort and security in it when we think of Christ, and when we rest in him as our hope and salvation. We trust in human friends, and the comfort is very sweet; yet we can never forget that they are but creatures of a day, and that we cannot be sure of having them even for to-morrow. But we trust Christ, and know that from eternity to eternity he is the same, and therefore our confidence is forever sure and strong.

Our trust is still more stable and firm when we read on in this Gospel of John and find who this Person is in whom we are confiding. "The Word was God." There is nothing doubtful in this language. No kind of exegesis can blot from this brief clause the truth of Christ's divinity. The Saviour, into whose hands you have committed your life, is the eternal God. Earthly trusts are never secure, for everything human is mortal; but those who commit themselves to the keeping of Christ are safe forever. It is sweet to think of Christ's humanity. It brings him near to us. He is like one of ourselves. He is our own brother, with tender sympathies and warm affections. We study the Gospel and learn the graciousness of his character as seen in his compassion, his tears, and his love. Then when we know that back of these qualities are the divine attributes, that he is very God, what glorious confidence it gives us! Let us set this glorious truth at the gate of the New Year; it is a shining point from which to start. —J. R. M.

So Great Salvation

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

At several periods and in different ways has God revealed his will to mankind. He spoke to men during the patriarchal age; he spoke to them in the Mosaic economy; he communicated his mind under the prophetic dispensation; but in these last days, or Gospel

times, God has spoken unto us by his Son, who in all things excelleth both patriarchs and prophets. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

The term salvation, though it is sometimes used in Scripture to denote temporal deliverance, is generally used to imply the blessings of the Gospel; in a few passages it is used to denote the Gospel itself, or the word of God, or the doctrine which, when received, brings salvation; and in this sense it is used in our text. The salvation conferred by Christianity or the word, or the doctrine of Christ, is the restoration of man to the forfeited favour of God. It is the deliverance of man from a state of sin and condemnation, to a state of justification and acceptance before God. It includes the forgiveness of sins, adoption, regeneration, sanctification, the fulness of the Spirit, and eternal life. Such is the salvation of the Gospel, the religion of the New Testament. No wonder the system which confers such unspeakable benefits is designated good news, glad tidings, wells of salvation, the salvation of our God, and in the text, a great salvation.

It is a great salvation, because God conceived the plan. It is heavenly in its origin. It is not a scheme of man's devising or propounding, but it originated in the mind of God, and was revealed through his well-beloved Son.

Its greatness may be seen in the circumstance that when man fell, a promise of this salvation was given by God, and was held out to the world through all the Old Testament dispensation till the coming of the Messiah.

We may see its greatness in the fact that the Holy Trinity has been concerned in procuring it, in proclaiming it, and in dispensing its blessings. The Father sent the Son; the Son offered himself up as a sacrifice, and satisfied the demands of justice for the world's sin; and the Holy Spirit enlightens the sinner, operates in his heart and conscience, convinces him of his sin, and guilt, and danger; applies the healing balm, makes him a new creature, inspires him with peace and joy, and bears witness to the reality of the change.

It is called a great salvation, because of the great price that was paid for it. And oh, what a price that was! It astonished all heaven, and has been the wonder of saints and angels for more than nineteen centuries. It was no less a price than the life-blood of God's own dear Son. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and

without spot." To procure salvation, he suffered as none other before or since the days of his flesh, have suffered. He not only endured privations, pain, and anguish, scorn and reproach; he was not only falsely accused, charged with blasphemy, scourged, crowned with thorns, and killed; but he also endured the awful and tremendous load of the sins of the whole world. He also bore the hiding of his Father's face. With a loud voice, he cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The salvation procured at such a cost, must be great. Thus Christ "became the Author of eternal salvation."

It is called a great salvation, because of the great guilt, condemnation, and misery which it saves us from. Ask the man who has embraced the Gospel what is the nature of the deliverance it has wrought out for him, and he will say, "I was once a wretched, miserable sinner, without peace and without hope. My sins had burdened my conscience with a heavy load; they had spread a thick gloom over my pathway; they had planted thorns in my pillow; they had made the very heavens look angry at me; and death and futurity they had made to appear awful beyond all description. My life was a burden to me, and many a time I wished I had been a bird, or a fish, or a dog, or a horse, or anything that had no soul, and no capabilities of sinning, and no account to render to God. But at length I was constrained to renounce sin, and embrace the great salvation; and from that hour, I have been delivered from my guilt and bondage. My burden is all gone; I feel no condemnation; I am delivered from the thralldom of the devil, and from the power of sin; and I have no dread of the future." My dear friends, is not this a wonderful salvation? Oh, how eagerly you ought to embrace it! How sincerely you ought to thank God for it. What it has done for others, it can do for you. It can remove your sins, cancel your guilt, roll away your burden, and drive away all your slavish fears. —S. Henn.

The Sunlight of God's Love

This morning as I look at the beautiful sun that is shining so brightly and clearly, I think what a wonderful blessing this is, and how many other great blessings God has given us. But as I look upon the sunlight and its beauty, I think of a far greater light—Jesus, the Light of the world, and how the sunlight of His love can shine in hearts. We all have the beauty of sun, moon, and stars to look upon. We can have loved ones, friends and homes to enjoy.

Some have plenty of everything their heart could wish or money could buy, but yet they are not satisfied. There is still in the heart a longing—a hunger—for something this world cannot give. Oh, dear reader, if you are that dissatisfied one, I can tell you what you need. You need Jesus and His love in your heart. He will give you that peace and rest you need in your soul. The sunlight of His love will dispel the gloom and sadness. He will give you a joy and peace, that nothing else can give. "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul

with goodness" Psalm 107:9. The Lord has peace, joy, pleasure, and real satisfaction for you. Oh, yes, He has rivers of pleasure for you. (Psalm 36:8).

Jesus has invited you to come to Him (Matt. 11:28-30). You can rejoice because He never slighted anyone; all are invited. Dear one, you may lie deep in sin, cast down by others, but Jesus loves you. Turn to Him for help. Turn from and repent of your sins. Jesus will not turn you away. He suffered, bled and died to save you! You need not go on as you are, in trouble and despair, for Jesus came to bring light and deliver souls out of darkness. Read Matt. 4:16.

May God bless every reader is my prayer.

From one who loves your soul, —Becky Barnes

The Church of God

God's church in the morning time was the perfection of beauty as it came from God on the day of Pentecost. It was fully equipped of God to do all that God intended it to do. In Psalms 50:2, we read, "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." "For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest forever; here will I dwell; for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation and her saints shall shout aloud for joy" (Psalms 132:13-16). No wonder it is so beautiful with God dwelling there, causing all of His children to love each other with a true heart fervently, serving one another in love.

The Psalmist says again, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together [in what?] in unity" (Psalm 133:1). Perfection cannot be improved upon. It reflects the image of God, and that's what makes it beautiful.

As we look at Zion in the 2nd chapter of Acts, its members began to speak in tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance. God was equipping them with the Holy Ghost and power. He was not sending them out in the wicked world to lift Him up and preach the everlasting gospel without power to perform the work that God intended them to do. God intended that all nations should hear of this wonderful salvation He had planned for them. Many languages were spoken there that day. It was something the people had never heard before—that these humble Galileans could speak and give out to them this message in their own native tongue. No doubt they carried the good news back to their own countries, and thereby spread the gospel as they went.

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44). The early morning church was all one. So the church in the evening time is an exact duplicate of the morning church. It never changes with time. God's Word, and plan, and church remain the same, so by God's help let us stay in the old path God mapped out for us. This beautiful King's highway is not like our modern free-

ways where all kinds of people and professors travel together to keep up with this modern age, with collisions, clashing, and antagonism, but there is love, joy, peace, unity, humility, and all the rich graces of God for us to run this race from earth to glory. I will admit that not all who sit in our congregations, and sing and testify, are the true saints as in the morning church, but all who are filled with the Spirit of God are as the church in the morning time. As it is said in Romans 2:29, "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly."

Bro. D. S. Warner, in 1880 came out with the clear doctrine that made the believers one like the church on the day of Pentecost. Now in this evening of time we have a Church of the same Spirit and power, and God is gathering His saints into one fold. Those who are scattered in Babylon, God is calling them to come out of the cages of deception—calling them, not forcing them out — and those who will recognize His voice will come out. But many will not hear and obey His voice. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, . . . and they follow me." (John 10:27)

The devil has many ways and traps to deceive people. Sometimes he leads them by habits that bind them in slavery, and sometimes he lets them join a church (of Satan's choosing). He doesn't care if you are a church member in good standing, just so you don't listen to that voice, saying, "Come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4). Saints cannot live in Babylon after light comes, for there is no soul food there, so the soul will starve and die spiritually. "The sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee [Babylon, which is sectism]; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee" (Rev. 18:22-23). Candle is the light of God in our hearts. It will die out of our hearts if we stay in Babylon. That is the reason God is calling His people out of her. He doesn't want them to stay in there and die. Listen to this: "The voice of the bridegroom [Christ] and of the bride [the saints] will be heard no more at all in thee [sectism or Babylon]." Read this in the 18th chapter of Revelation and may God give you understanding. Now we either do one of two things: We either come out at God's call, or stay in the cages of deception and starve to death spiritually. When the millstone ceases to grind out bread, they consequently starve to death.

The sectarian preachers preach for hire, or a goodly salary. God said to His ministers, "Preach the Word," and "freely ye have received, freely give." We can't give salvation, but we can preach it so souls can grasp it for themselves. God may allow us to have little or much. We can use either one to His glory. He will bless and increase the little as He did the widow's oil and meal. (1 Kings 17:9-14.) He is the same God today.

God's church is represented as a pure bride, or Christ and His church as a husband and wife joined in holy wedlock, without spot and blameless. Since Babylon is fallen and God is calling His people out of her, no true saint minister can work with or fel-

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

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

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all secret and religious orders organized and governed by man.

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

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

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma
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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

At this writing we are approaching the coming New Year of 1963. What will take place and the changes that will be made in this new year throughout the world in nations, cities, villages and homes will only be seen and known as God allows the clock to tick off the time. We do know that we are living in the most perilous times—a time when God is preparing things for His soon coming.

In the beginning of the 2nd chapter of the Prophet Nahum is a prophecy that undoubtedly speaks of the time we are now living in. To begin with he says, "He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face." This scripture no doubt has reference to God Almighty, the great "I AM." Those who are walking in this evening light truth can easily see that God is making great changes in these days among literal nations and among spiritual nations. A preparation is going on for terrible things to take place in the near future, and then the end, when He comes to claim His jewels whom He has gathered out of the pens of men and from all groups that live in dim light, whether they be large or small. The prophet follows the above statement with an exhortation for us to keep the "munition." The dictionary says the word "munition" means ammunition or military stores of all kinds or necessary equipment. We, as the evening light saints, surely do need to keep on the whole armor of God and keep His word hid in our hearts to use against the enemy who would try to undermine our faith in God. The Word is the sword of the Spirit which we possess. He tells us to watch the way things are going, make thy loins strong by girding them about with truth and firmness, fortify thy power mightily. Second verse, "For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches." No doubt Jacob here has reference to the church and Israel to His people before the Church was established by Jesus Christ, for the emptiers have emptied them out. So many have been teaching false things that many have been emptied of much of the truth, and those who once were flourishing fruit-bearing branches have been bruised and marred until not much fruit is borne any more, and they are not excellent as they once were. But God still loves His people and will with persecutions and tormenting trials gather His people back unto Him to some day take them home to Glory to live with Him.

The third verse reads, "The shield of his mighty men [leaders of the people who follow Jesus] is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet [they show the blood of Christ as the saving grace of God]: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly

shaken." The chariots picture the automobile, and there are certainly plenty of them in this, His preparation day. Their lights are as flaming torches. He says that the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. The Word of God refers to His children as trees (Isa. 3:61, Matt. 3:10). In calling them fir trees He means His saved people. Many things in these days are puzzling and hard to clearly understand, and they need much wisdom from God with stability to stand against the wiles of the devil and his tricky ways, which would, if possible, destroy all faith in God.

In speaking further of His preparation days, he says in the 4th verse thus, "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways [or highways]: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." You could not give a clearer description of the automobile than is given by the prophet and recorded here. They are not only now running on the streets of the cities and on the broad ways or highways, but they mount up into the air as airplanes and buzz through the air at a terrific speed.

While this is going on, we see nations of people developing into infidels and atheists, and ruling by force and otherwise, while our own nation is on the brink of a fall because of their sin and wickedness with formal worship or no worship. Satan is taking over with a stiff neck and infernal glee. When they have ruled out God in a general sense and cry, "Peace and safety" then sudden destruction will come upon them according to the scriptures in 1 Thess. 5:3. He tells us plainly in the 4th verse that we who are in the true light are not in darkness that the day should overtake us as a thief, for he says in the fifth verse that "ye are the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." Bless His dear name! Brethren and sisters, let us who are of the day keep on the whole armor of God for these are indeed perilous times and part of the armor will not take you through. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

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As we look over Christendom today we see the majority in a confused mess of doctrines with many conflicting ideas and theories. The large amount of private interpretation of scriptures keeps many precious souls groping in darkness and wondering where the true church of God is to be found. The fact is the true Church of God which God through Christ has built (and is now functioning in the world but not of the world) is to be found outside of all the groups and sects which Satan and his preachers have gathered together. Satan generally has enough truth mixed with error to fool many innocent souls into his groups or pens, and his preachers are quite clever in keeping them blinded to real truth lest they escape from his net of false religion.

Any body of people who humanly organize themselves into what they call a church and by some other

name than the Biblically given name, "Church of God," could not possibly be the real Church of God which is the body of Christ in this world. The Bible is exceedingly plain as to what the church should be named. Jesus first names the Church He was building in the 17th chapter of John, 11th verse which reads thus: "And now I am no more in the world, but these [His disciples] are in the world, and I come to thee, holy Father, keep through **thine own name those whom thou hast given me.**" Words could not be plainer written to convey to our minds that His people should be kept in the Father's name, which is God. By this, Jesus gives us to understand that we are to be kept in the Father's name (not his or any other name). The Church of God or family of God are the true spiritual worshippers of God in the world today and none other. Paul makes this plain to us also in the 20th chapter of Acts, 28th verse: "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.**" Here is another positive statement that the name of God's people is the "Church of God" and that they were purchased by the blood of Christ.

In Eph. 3:14, 15 we read what Paul says, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Many other places in the New Testament the body of believers is referred to as the Church of God. All who are born of God, born from above, and retain that experience and then ascribe some other name to themselves, they are in one sense denying God His rightful place and could easily be under the influence of Satanic leaders whose end is to be in the burnings of hell fire and brimstone.

Satan is quite shrewd in his different ways of working, and has many organizations which he calls churches. They have many and varied doctrines; some truth mixed along to deceive souls. If one does not suit you, he has plenty of others you can choose from, so you will not have to deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Jesus. Just profess and deceive yourself in believing that you will make it through some way because you have joined the church. Oh, the deceptive methods of Satan, the slimy monster of hell-bound demons!

Satan has many groups and organizations in the world that call themselves the Church of God. He has them by this name to catch those who are not blind enough to take some other name. These groups or organizations misinterpret the Word of God in such a way as to lower the standard of truth or to cause their followers to believe in such a way as to finally cause them to lose faith in God and drift in time into more deceptions to be lost, since he keeps them separated from the true family of God. Some of them deny the second work of cleansing grace typified by the tongues of fire that sat upon each of the 120 on the day of Pentecost when they were baptized with the Holy Ghost. Others claim wild-fire tongues as an evidence of the Holy Ghost. Nearly all the

groups have some strange doctrine as a hobby to keep their followers from the true way, speaking evil of the true Church of God which Christ built for his Father and is now ruled and governed by our Saviour and King, even Jesus Christ. Bless His heavenly Name!

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The old year that is now passing out has been a blessed year for the Faith Publishing House. The amount of literature has increased much, and the work is built up and established in God, with the tracts, papers, books and booklets going out in a steady stream to all parts of the world. The missionary work has greatly increased. The need of more room for the housing of printing machinery has been taken care of in a very gracious manner by the Lord and his loving saints.

We surely have much to be thankful for, as God's presence and big hand of power have been in evidence all through the year. We are looking forward to the coming new year of 1963 as another year of advancement in the printing work and a host of souls gathered unto Christ. We will have over four thousand new subscribers to the "Faith and Victory" paper to begin the new year with, as the saints have been sending in these subscriptions for the three months, beginning with the January issue. We thank our readers for co-operating with the Lord and us in this special effort to spread the clean gospel of Christ. You will surely have treasures in heaven. Those who supply the work with their means have a big part with the Lord in the gathering of precious souls and will be rewarded by God accordingly as they prove themselves to be the friends of God and the sons of God, for they hear His voice and obey HIM. As they give out, the Lord gives in. Bless His name! Thus their souls are kept alive by obedience to His voice. Our heart goes out in heavenly love to every reader of the "Faith and Victory" paper and we pray that you will prosper both in soul and in body during the coming New Year of 1963. Pray for us as we move on with Him.

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

(Continued from Page Three)

lowship it without getting enough poison to kill him. So the clarion call is "Come out and be ye separate and touch not the unclean thing." You cannot affiliate with Babylon without drinking of her poison, which brings spiritual death. I am sounding this warning in love and godly fear to all who might feel like wading around in the quagmires of Babylon trying to lift them to the level of God's true church. God said, "Let them return unto you, but return not thou unto them" (Jer. 15:19). Stand clear on the outside of Babylon and cry aloud the message, "Come out of her, my people, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." May God anoint this message and your hearts to receive it in the spirit it is given.

—The late E. M. Zinn

—O—

He stands best who kneels most.



1963 Scripture Text Calendar

Beautiful wall calendar in colors, with choice Scripture texts (King James version) for each day, prayer meeting texts and lessons, Sunday School lesson assignments and memory verse selections.

Single copy, 45c; 3 copies, \$1.25, postpaid.

The eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1962 are now bound in book form and available at 60c each or two for \$1.00, postpaid. The 1961 books are still in stock at the same price.

The 1962 "Beautiful Way" books are in stock at \$1.00 each, postpaid.

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

OBITUARIES

Cornelius O. Whitehouse was born on July 26, 1878, near Fox Creek, Kentucky, and passed away on September 29, 1962, at New Castle Indiana. Burial was on October 1, 1962, at South Mound Cemetery in New Castle, Indiana. He was a Spanish-American War Veteran and a retired employee of Chrysler Corporation.

Surviving him are two daughters: Alma Whitehouse of Chicago, Illinois; and Joyce McAfee of Clear Lake Park, California, and three sons: Ollie Whitehouse of Peoria, Illinois; Joseph Whitehouse of New Castle, Indiana; and Maurice Whitehouse of San Bernardino, California.

Two wives and one daughter preceded him in death.

Sister Bertha May Lindberg was born in Portland, Oregon on November 30, 1891 and departed from this life in Los Angeles on November 30, 1962, on her 71st birthday. She was the daughter of Phillip and Lucy Beutter.

In 1914 she was married to John Edward Donovan and to this union was born one son, Robert Edward. Bro. Donovan preceded her in death in 1923. Later she married Carl Lindberg who also preceded her a few years ago.

Sister Bertha accepted the Lord in her early married life and lived a faithful life, devoted to God for about 40 years. Many of the saints and some of her friends depended on her to pray for them, as she was a woman of much faith. Often when she prayed about some problem she knew her prayers were going to be answered, for the Lord would give her a little song about a light that was shining down on her. This was her assurance that God was going to work everything out all right for her.

She is survived by her son Robert, two nephews, a host of friends, neighbors, and saints. Sister Bertha will be greatly missed by all of us, but we feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. O. B. Wilson and Bro. I. C. Chandler. Interment was at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Minnie Della Robinson, daughter of Susan and William Sanders, was born March 19, 1895 at Marion, Ill. and departed this life November 24, 1962 at her home in La Puente, California at the age of 67 years, 8 months and 5 days. She was the youngest of six children. A brother and a sister and both her parents preceded her in death.

On October 19, 1919 she was united in marriage to Ralph Robinson. To this union two children were born, one son and one daughter. She is survived by her husband, Ralph Robinson, one daughter, Mrs. Violet Cates, one son, Ralph Robinson, Jr., one sister, two brothers, several nieces and nephews and many other relatives and friends.

Sister Robinson was saved when only eleven years of age and accepted the truth as taught by the Evening Light Saints many years ago. She trusted God with both her soul and body. She testified during her sickness that she had made a covenant with God to trust Him all the way to the end and she was faithful to this covenant. She served the Lord from eleven years of age on through her life. She worshipped with the saints in different congregations (Whittier, Pomona and Pacoima) during the past several years that she lived in California.

She will be much missed in her family, among her friends and among the saints.

Funeral services were conducted in the Rainbow Chapel in Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, Calif. on Tuesday afternoon, November 27, 1962 with Opal Wilson officiating assisted by Ostis Wilson. Interment was in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California.

Some people never think of religion until they come in sight of a cemetery.

Prayer Requests

Saints, please pray earnestly for the deliverance of my husband who is bound by the fetters of sin.

—A Sister in Christ

W. Va.—Dear Saints everywhere, please pray for my healing. The doctor says I have cancer, but I want to trust the Lord completely. I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would trust and serve Him the rest of my life and go the way of the saints for I do believe they are the true people of God.

A sister in Christ.

—Mrs. Essie Carter

Report From Mexico Missionary

Dear Saints scattered abroad, we greet you in the sweet and precious name of Jesus: We are thanking Him for all the many, many blessings that He has bestowed upon us. I want to say to the glory of God that I have up to date victory in my soul and it is only as the Blood is applied to my soul.

I have thought for a long time that I would like to tell the dear saints what God has done for us, but it seems that I just have not sat down and written.

I had been suffering for some time with my heart, for the past two years that I have been in Mexico. Often the girls would have to pray almost day and night until God would see in His plan to give me relief. I was attacked with it again during the time that Brother Charles Smith was conducting a few nights' meeting in Pacoima, California, so I requested prayer and during the prayer time the Lord marvelously touched my heart and I have not had any trouble with it since. I felt that the devil was trying to put me on a shelf, as it were, since I was so much worse this time than I had ever suffered before. From that day to this I have had not even one little pain. Oh, isn't God good to His children!

I want to say I do so appreciate the prayers of all the saints for me, both physically and spiritually. Often I have felt supernatural strength and wisdom come to me when it seemed that I was beyond any reach of help, but His arm was there to give just what was needed, when it was needed.

We are so thrilled with the way the Lord has been leading us in the school work here with the children in Mexico. It is wonderful how the door was opened and we could not help but walk in. Edith Cole is giving them a half hour of Bible each morning and we do feel that they are getting more than they ever would in services. It is this way—they must listen in school, but in services it is not necessary, so why put forth the effort? it is more fun to play.

One evening one of the young boys came to the house and was telling Edith that some of the young folks could not understand what she was saying in service, so she just pinned him down to honest facts about their wanting to hear or just closing their ears. He said that they could not, and she asked him if it were possible that the older ones who were out with the Spanish-speaking people could understand less than the children who never had an opportunity to be among the Spanish people at all or very little. Was it possible that the younger children could understand more? Well, the answer was, as anyone would know, it was not possible. It does make a difference if there is authority or not. In services it is just the Word that is given out, and if no one is willing to hear, then we have done our best and we have no right to demand anyone to love the Lord. We do thank Him for this opportunity that is ours.

At the present time one of the aged Indian women is just at the brink of eternity; and we are about made to wonder sometimes just why the Lord is keeping her here. We know it is for some very good reason that she must suffer and waste away so slowly. On Tuesday, Edith was sick, so we did not have school. On Wednesday evening we felt that it would be good if we would go up and stay from midnight on with "Rita," since everyone was so nearly worn out sitting day and night with her. So we got up at midnight and went up, and we had a new experience which causes us to be very happy and thankful that we do know Jesus as our Redeemer and Keeper. We had been up to Rita's for only about a half hour when we heard heavy footsteps just outside the door and an angry voice calling a young man to come out in the moonlight. It was the son of the sick lady and he had just about gone crazy, for he had a gun in his hands and would have killed the young man had he been seen. Shirley and I were sitting there in the house, and all at once the three women jumped up as if a rattlesnake had sounded under them, and made for the door, saying, "Let's go, Let's go." The first thought that entered my mind was, "Well, what for? We came to stay all the rest of the night here; why leave?" Then Poncha told us that

Charley was mad and was going to kill the young man because he laughed low out by the fire. Charley had not slept nor eaten any since his mother had gotten so low, so we could all understand that his nerves were about gone. We brought Poncha back to the village, and I told Edith in the road that I was going back. She asked Poncha what she thought and she was so frightened it was hard for her to give an answer. At last she said, "Well, since you have the Jeep you could get away if you needed to." No one realizes how many bullets could be fired by the time we could get to the Jeep. I had no fear and the girls said they had none, because we feel that the Lord will not allow anything to come to us unless it is His divine will; then it would be to His glory and for our good. That was all that we heard of Charley that night, but I will say that everyone walked very carefully and spoke in hushed voices. About 5 a. m. Charley came into the room where his mother was and he was just as normal as if nothing had ever happened. We do covet your prayers for this dear man. He is the man we went to pray for, (and also Bro. Smith went once or twice) two winters ago when he was suffering from this same condition. I fear it might be a growth or something in the brain for he does suffer so much from headaches. We felt that he was much better when he was prayed for, but when his family came home from Mexicali where they had gone to pick cotton, they took him to the witch doctors and from then on, it seems that God has turned away. We would like to see him learn to love the Lord, but if that is not possible, that he will not do anything serious when his mother is gone from him. There are just the two left and it is sad.

When we got back over there from taking Poncha home, the two Indian women were alone in the house and they did seem to appreciate our coming back. Edith was talking to one of the women and she just reached her hand over and touched her back and Edith said she was just quivering like a little frightened animal. So we feel that maybe God did use us that evening.

On Monday when we went to Ensenada they asked us to pray for her—the first time that the request had ever been made, and later one of the men said that after we prayed she rested well all day and stood the move over to her home real well. We feel that God would desire to make Himself real to them if there was not so much unbelief. They go to the witch doctors all the time so if God should do something they would only give them the glory and not God.

The work in El Rodeo is going on about as usual and we do thank the Lord for the few that will really take their stand and stand on the promises of God. This one family has been really holding out for divine healing, and through their prayers God has answered and healed their little boy. We know that it is not us, but it is marvelous that they so soon were able to exercise faith to really believe God for their bodies as well as their souls.

We learned just recently that none of the folks in El Rodeo go to the witch doctor for any aid at all, so they are not getting much business from that area.

Again we seek to be remembered in prayer for both spiritual and physical needs. Edith does so much need her eyes now since she is in school and God has not seen fit to touch them, but we desire to really be all He would have us to be. Keep much encouraged and pressing on for God, for it is the last mile that will gain the crown of life.

A servant of the King, —Ruby Marken

He doeth much that loveth much.

TESTIMONIES

Texas—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and Saints: It has been quite a while since I've heard from any of the saints. It does so much for me to receive a letter from some of you as we are isolated here in Texas. Some times the way seems so lonely, but when we think of the life our dear Lord went through, the few years He walked here on earth, we should not feel forsaken. It was no flowery bed of ease for Him, and to think, He bore it all that we might have a way of escape from sin. There is no place for discouragement.

I am so happy for this wonderful way of light and truth. We as saints of God surely need to be working and redeeming the precious time, for people are leaving this world every day lost and undone, and perhaps never a word spoken to them about their lost soul.

We are still praying that some of our faithful Church of God ministers will receive a call to come out our way and work. I believe this is a very needy field.

I am so glad for the little "Faith and Victory" paper this month. The good Bible lessons and the testimonies prove such a blessing.

I am sending \$5.00 to use on expense of the coming Assembly meeting at Guthrie and hope to attend some of it, if the Lord makes a way. In the times I have been privileged to attend, it has been quite upbuilding to my soul. If we don't get to be with you, we desire your prayers that we will be faithful servants of God.

Bro. Pruitt, I was sorry to hear of your illness, and I do hope for your improvement and good health. May God bless all the saints.

Your sister in the Lord, —Mrs. Frances McDonald

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Oklahoma.—To the dear saints scattered abroad: With joy we greet each of you. We have been inspired by a scripture and want to do as it says: "Call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted." Isa. 12:4. We are realizing more and more the power in calling on His name. When we do, and get answers, we should declare His doings. And above all, let His name be exalted.

Some weeks ago our dear Brother and Sister Willie Belcher and family were introduced to a major trial of affliction with their 11-year-old daughter, Eula. Four knots had appeared on one of her sides and other knots at scattered places in her body. They made their decision to see what these knots could be. Six doctors with the use of X-rays, blood tests and from the location of these knots, agreed that it was cancer. Many prayers were offered; chain fasting was also done, and God wonderfully answered prayer. They took one of these knots from the child's body to see what could be done for her in the line of treatment, also to determine the stage. The good news is this: God healed the child and the last knot is almost gone. She is back in school, living a normal life, and the doctors say she does not have cancer. Praise God forever!

Some days after this wonderful blessing from God, a nurse called from one of the hospitals here for prayer. She had been acquainted with Eula's great victory. A little boy was hospitalized and had a very slim chance for life. The local doctors had done all they could and a specialist was called in. The nurse called for a real earnest prayer for the child. By the time the specialist arrived, the child was mightily touched. The local doctor said, "I don't understand this—this child was nearly gone, but is out of danger now." And he began to amend from that same hour. God is still on His throne and He hears

and answers prayer. We want to encourage all to have faith in God. Pray for us that our faith will know no limits. One of the great secrets to these recent victories is that the dear saints all got under the burden and it moved God.

While enroute back to Shawnee from Illinois where we had been for all-day meeting, we were involved in an accident. A truck forced me into a center median. It looked as if our car would turn over in the path of a large truck. How we sought God! It did not turn over, but two tires on the left side were ruined. It was after dark. We could not move the car, so left it on the highway with the lights on, walked into town to get assistance. When we came back to the car, the patrol officer was there and he did get angry with me for leaving the car on the road. I had called home to tell the folks of my trouble and delay and to find out how little Eula was. They told me the good news that the doctors had pronounced her free from cancer. How we did magnify God! While the patrol was so wroth and was filling me out a ticket, I waited calmly. He said to me, "What do you do in Shawnee?" I told him I was pastor of the Church of God. By this time he had handed me a ticket. He took it back and made out a courtesy warning. Praise God! I told him of the wonderful healing and he said, "Well, I have heard of those things," and was so kind and courteous the rest of my dealings with him.

We want to add, too, that the work is still going on for the Golden Rule Home. We do not as yet have the building completed, but our faith still sees a finished project. Pray for us.

Yours for the work of the Lord, —Charles R. Smith

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Ark.—Dear Saints of God: My heart is full of praises to God for what He has done for me and my children. Thanks to His wonderful name! We can't give Him enough praise.

I have been very sick with flu and had a terrible hurting in my lungs—could hardly get my breath. So I prayed to our God in the name of Jesus and He heard and answered prayer. I'm able to do my work and feel fine. God has also healed our youngest son of asthma. Oh, I could go on and on telling of the wonderful blessings of God, but He knows how I feel in my heart.

I read the "Faith and Victory" paper as my mother saves her copies for me. I can't begin to explain how much they mean to me. I just want to go on trusting God and living for Him. Please pray for me. My husband is still lost in sin and is in poor health, so pray that he will turn to God before it is too late. Please pray for my children and their families and for my poor old father and unsaved brothers.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Anna Conley

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La.—To all the dear saints, greetings of love in the name of God our Saviour: In Him we live and have our being. We cannot chance living without Him—the thread of life is too brittle. He is our hope when everything else fails. This little clay form is too frail to lean on; the arm of flesh cannot save us, and to put confidence in uncertain things is not safe. It is to respect light and obey truth, to love with a pure heart fervently and to esteem the other better than self.

We want to tell the saints what good things God has done for us when he healed wife and raised her up from the bed of affliction. She had suffered about eleven days when the Assembly meeting here at Hammond started and it looked like she would miss the meeting. The enemy told

her it was possible she would die and have to leave her husband and the children. The thought magnified itself so much that she could almost feel that monster, death, working to make her think she would soon die of pneumonia.

About that time, the second day of the meeting, Bro. McCoy and his daughter, Helen, came in and found wife weeping. Sister Helen threw her arms around wife as she spoke words of cheer and comfort to her. Brother McCoy opened the Bible to read some scriptures of hope. "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" The thought was made clear that by believing the report, the arm of the Lord would be revealed, and it was by His stripes that we would be healed. Other scriptures were read to confirm the word of healing. By this time, Bro. and Sister Abbott came on the scene, and the exhorting word continued. Testimonies and definite proofs of God's healing power were witnessed by each. By this time, wife saw that those fears of death and leaving the children were from the devil. The final word read was, "Lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart . . . if thou wilt walk in my ways and keep my statutes . . . then will I lengthen thy days." Praise the dear Lord! The inspiration of these precious promises had a deep effect to bring active faith.

A direct question was put to wife concerning active faith. "Do you believe God will heal you when we pray for you?" Wife said, "According to what you have been telling me, then divine healing will take me to services today." Again they asked her, "Will you believe?" "I believe," said wife, "but pray for my unbelief."

Quickly I fetched the bottle of oil, and said, "Let's anoint Wanita now while the oil of anointing is still fresh." We all laid on hands according to the Word. The generating power of faith was felt as the presence of the Lord filled the room. The power of sickness was instantly broken as God gave us all witness that the work was done. Wife broke forth with words of joy and assurance that she was made well again. Praise our God! The oil of gladness filled the room as we all shouted praises to God with thanksgiving.

The sister then asked that the room be cleared, for wife was going to dress and be on her way to services. What a mighty God we serve! All praises belong to God—to Him be the glory!

With love to all saints, —Wanita and Salvatore DiDio

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Illinois—Dear Saints, greetings in the dear Lord Jesus: I felt led to send in my testimony. I am saved and sanctified and living for the Lord in all the light I have. I am studying the precious word of God. I love His word with all my heart. The Lord has healed me for many years. The first time I was healed in answer to prayer was in December, 1909. I mean to go all the way with God as the light shines on my pathway. I have been healed different times, and each time after I was healed, I would go slow for fear something would hurt me. That way I would be slow in getting well. I would think maybe I shouldn't do anything to injure my body. The Lord showed me this was from Satan. When God healed me I only needed to step out in faith. The Lord showed me this last spring a year ago. While I was cleaning house, I fell from the top of a five foot ladder, cracking the bone in my left limb. I was prayed for and I knew the Lord healed me. That old story rang in my ear, "Be careful, take care of your limb." I walked on crutches, honestly trying to do what I should. I got along slowly and at times seemed worse. There was to be all-day meeting in Spitler Park near my home.

I was praying and thinking, "Should I go or stay at home and take care of my crippled limb?" The Lord spoke and said, "What you ask, believing, you shall receive and where two agree it shall be done." I took these promises and stood on them, did not use my crutches any more. I went to the meeting and was healed. This increased my faith.

On the 14th day of November, a little after dark, I needed to get a container I had placed over the top of the basement steps. There was a landing at the top of the steps nearly three feet square. There is a light up over this landing. It is one step down to the landing. I thought I could get the container without turning the light on. I stepped down, got the container and started to step back into the kitchen. I was turned around or something, for when I stepped, I stepped off the landing and fell to the bottom of the basement onto the concrete floor. I still thought I had stepped into the kitchen door. I called husband who was in bed. No lights were on. He called, "Where are you?" I answered, "I don't know" and I didn't know. He turned the light on and came to me. I had fallen eleven steps. I was so happy to discover no broken bones that for a little while I almost forgot my suffering. I was very badly bruised and my head and forehead were skinned. There were several bruised spots larger than the palm of my hand on my body and I was very sore. I do custom rug weaving, and I had nearly thirty rugs on hand to weave and all were rushing me to be done. I began to fast and pray. I said the Lord would give me strength to do the weaving. He knew I did not intend to get that fall. I rebuked the hurting and stepped out on faith in God. He healed me and I did not lose one day. I have woven most of the rugs and am almost perfectly well from my fall. I thank the Lord, for this fall has increased my faith greatly.

Oh, glory to God, instead of trying to take care of myself so many times, I now have learned to step out in faith, stand on God's word and let Him prove to the world and all around that God is God and has all power; not in sickness only, but in trials, persecutions and the salvation of our children, also. I pray this will help someone in their faith. I fully believe my fall was for the purpose of helping me. I believe the Lord had all this rush weaving come in and let Satan give me the fall, like in Job's case, because the Lord knew I would stand true and trust him. The ones around me have seen this. Praise Jesus forevermore!

—Lettie West

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Calif.—Greeting of love to all of the dear saints and workers in the "Faith and Victory" house: We are almost to the closing out of the old year. I am so thankful for what the Lord has done for us the past year in keeping us saved by keeping our faith and trust in Him. We are praising God for hearing and answering our prayers in so many ways.

I was very thankful to be able to be in the services the last night of the revival meeting in Los Angeles. It was glorious. When I stood there looking at the saints leaping, shouting, and rejoicing, I thought it was just like the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2nd chapter). I said to a sister, "This is heaven—in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." In all of the years I've been in campmeetings and revivals, which has been more than 60 years, I have never seen or attended a service more precious and glorious than that last night of the Los Angeles meeting. As I looked over the congregation and saw so many saints rejoicing, more than I could count, I thought of the 120 gathered together where Jesus had told them to go and wait until they were endued with power from on high.

The power He had reference to was the power over sin and Satan. Some were mocking and said they were full of new wine. "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said unto them, Ye men of Judea and all that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you and harken to my voice. These are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel; [Joel 2:28, 29] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:14-18). A woman has a perfect right to preach if she is saved, qualified, and has a God-given call for the work. —Sister McKinney

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Georgia—Dear Sister Marie and the saints of God everywhere, Greetings in the name of our Lord: I am yet in the Lord and He is in me, thank God! As the song says, "I mean to go right on until the crown is won." Bless the Lord! Sister Miles, I enjoy living for Jesus after all He has done for us all. I am encouraged to live so very close to God.

Please remember me, my mother, and my grandchild with the sores on her legs. Please remember us to the Lord and I will wait patiently on the Lord to send Bro. Darius Gibson or someone to us in His own time. I am sorry I'm so far away, but I'm glad of one thing, Jesus is not far away.

I enjoy reading the nice encouraging letters and books that I get from you; they mean so much to me.

Your sister in the Lord, —Mrs. P. R. Bowers

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Studies in the Book of Revelation

No. 2

THE MEANING OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Why were the seven churches of Asia Minor selected as the ones to which the Revelation should be dedicated or addressed? (See chapter 1, verse 11.) Does what is said of the seven churches in chapter 1, and to them in chapters 2 and 3, have reference solely to the seven literal churches named, describing things only as they then and there existed, and portraying what was before them alone?"

The entire book of Revelation was dedicated or addressed to the seven churches. (Chap. 1, verse 11.) "But the book was no more applicable to them, except the special messages to the individual churches, than to other Christians in Asia Minor—those, for instance, who dwelt in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Bithynia, addressed in 1 Peter 1:1; or the Christians of Colosse, Troas, and Miletus, in the very midst of the churches named." "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass." Note that the Revelation was sent "unto his servants"—all of God's servants, regardless of geographical location.

"Only a small portion of the book could have personally concerned the seven churches, or any of the Christians of John's day, for the events it brings to view were mostly so far in the future as to lie be-

yond the lifetime of the generations then living, and consequently they could have no personal connection with them, except in the special messages directed to the particular congregations named.

"The seven stars which the Son of man held in his right hand (verse 20) are declared to be the angels of the seven churches. The angels of the churches, doubtless all will agree, are the pastors or ministers of the churches. Their being held in the right hand of the Son of man denotes the upholding power, guidance, and protection provided for them. But there were only seven of them in his right hand. And are there only seven thus cared for by the great Master of assemblies? May not, rather, all the true ministers of the whole gospel age derive from this representation the consolation of knowing that they are upheld and guided by the right hand of the great Head of the Church? Such would seem to be the only consistent conclusion."

"John, looking into the Christian dispensation, saw only seven candlesticks, representing seven churches, in the midst of which stood the Son of man. The position of the Son of man in their midst must denote his presence with them, his watchcare over them, and his searching scrutiny of all their works. But does he thus take cognizance of only seven individual churches or congregations during the gospel age? Then why were only seven mentioned? Seven, as used in the Scriptures, is a number denoting fullness and completeness, like the first seven days of time, which gave the world the still used complete weekly cycle. Like the seven stars, the seven candlesticks must denote the whole of the things which they represent.) The entire universal Church throughout the gospel age is symbolized by the figure "seven." The scope of the prophetic feature of this symbolization is not derived from the churches themselves, as such, or the messages to them, but rather from the symbolic number "seven" alone.

Any congregation of the Church in any period of the Christian dispensation is subject to the same condemnation or commendation as any one of the seven churches if it is found in a similar condition. One authority has rightly said, "Many expositors have imagined that these epistles to the seven churches were mystical prophecies of seven distinct periods, into which the whole term, from the apostles' days to the end of the world, would be divided." This theory, though very old, has arisen from imagination, and finds no basis in reason or fact from the Scriptures.

Adam Clarke writes in A.D. 1831: "I do not perceive any metaphorical or allegorical meaning in the epistles to these churches. I consider the churches as real; and that their spiritual state is here really and literally pointed out; and that they have no reference to the state of the church in all ages of the world, as has been imagined; and that the notion of what has been termed the Ephesian state, the Smyrnian state, the Pergamenian state, the Thyatirian state, etc., is unfounded, absurd, and dangerous; and that such expositions should not be entertained by

any who wish to arrive at a sober and rational knowledge of the Holy Scriptures."

F. G. Smith writes: "These churches can scarcely be symbols of chronological epochs for the reason that they are themselves the object of symbolization. We know that type and antitype cannot be united in the same thing, that they are mutually exclusive; and I fail to see how a particular church can be a direct object of symbolization and at the same time a symbol of something else. 'The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.'" (Rev. 1:20b.)

Again Smith says, "Some have assumed that the seven were selected in order to set forth seven successive historical epochs in the Christian church. The record shows however, that instead of the seven being symbols, they are themselves the objects of symbolization. Furthermore, the actual facts of ecclesiastical history, in their successive order of unfolding, do not agree with the messages as given to these churches."

Throughout all prophecy we find first the true Church in her apostolic beauty and glory, later arises apostasy and the deepest spiritual darkness in the Middle Age, and finally there is a restoration of the true Church just before the end of time. Now, for instance, try to make the message to the church at Ephesus apply or correspond to the Church of the first century when she shone forth in her pristine glory. The message to the Ephesians indicates that it was a backslidden church. (Rev. 2:5.) Such a prophetic symbolization of the Church in general at this period is inconsistent with the facts. Then according to this theory, the restored Church in the evening time—"At evening time it shall be light" (Zech. 14:7)—would be represented by Laodicea, reference to which the message from the Son of man declares that they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17).

This unsound doctrine arose many years ago, and has been widely promulgated by the Seventh Day Adventist sect, whose false doctrines on other lines were exposed by Bro. D. S. Warner in his day.

Brethren, let us endeavor to hold fast to sound doctrine, rightly dividing the word of truth.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt.

NOTES ON A MESSAGE DELIVERED

By Sister S. E. Abbott at

Hammond, La. Assembly Meeting, 1962.

In Col. 4:5 we read, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how to answer every man." Now we want to talk a little on salt. Just what is salt? Salt is a seasoning agent that we put on good meat, but how good would it taste if it be without salt? It would not have a good savor. I believe Job says something about savor. "Is there any taste in the white of an egg? Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?" or words to that effect.

We want to say also that salt will even sweeten things. People put sugar on a grapefruit, but did

you ever try putting salt? You just try it. It will sweeten it more than sugar, strange as it may seem. Oh, how we need that seasoning salt to sweeten us! Salt is also a preserving agent. It preserves food a long time. Without it, things spoil soon.

And then we want to say that salt makes people thirsty. We hunger and thirst more after righteousness when we have that seasoning salt.

Let us turn now to Paul's writings. He explains that the law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ—a school teacher. Notice here, "And every oblation of thy offering shall be seasoned with salt." Do you see here that it was a commandment of God in the sacrificial service to season with salt? May the Lord help us to season with salt what we say.

Let us go on now to what Ezra has to say, "And that which they have need of for the burnt offerings, wheat, salt, wine and oil, according to the appointment of the priests . . . let it be given them day by day without fail: that they may offer sacrifice of sweet savours. . . That whatsoever Ezra, the priest . . . shall require of you, it be done speedily. . . baths of wine, oil, and salt without prescribing how much." Bless the dear Lord, it says to give them all the salt they wanted. We need all the salt we can get to season us.

I believe the schoolmaster wants to teach us some more precious lessons. Let us see what Ezek. says about this seasoning salt. "And the priest shall cast salt upon them." Notice here, saints, that the priests first have to put the fire under the sacrifice, then he is to cast the salt upon the sacrifice.

Now, all these sacrifices were in the Old Testament, over on the other side of the cross. But thank God, we are now living on this side of the cross, and Jesus wants us to use salt for a seasoning purpose. The Law stood only for a shadow of good things to come. Thank the Lord! We can all have the "good things to come" now!

The Scripture says to present your bodies a living sacrifice. When one comes to the altar for sanctifying grace, he presents his body a living sacrifice. God wants to pour out his fire and fill us with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will preserve us as seasoning salt. It means first, to die out before we can be of acceptable service. It is heaven's will for us to be sanctified in order to keep an experience with God. This experience will preserve you and keep you.

Now back to the text again, "Let your speech be seasoned with — the Holy Ghost!" That's what it means! A message that is not seasoned with salt is not so tasty. That is because the Holy Ghost is not in it. We need to be careful how we speak—be sure the seasoning salt of the Holy Spirit is in it. The saints are the sweetest people in the world, but you take away the salt, and you don't have much. In 1 Thess. 5:23 we read, "The God of peace . . . preserve you blameless." Oh, thank God for preserving salt! So die on the altar and let God's High Priest pour out his salt. Salt will give you thirst. Let him that is athirst, come and drink the water of life freely.

If you haven't been sanctified, let Jesus, the High Priest, pour the salt on you. Every sacrifice shall be salted with fire and salt.

—Notes by Bro. Salvatore DiDio

"I've Taken Poison!"

A man arose in the night to take some cough medicine, and all of a sudden he began to shout, "I've taken rat-poison! I've taken poison!" He rushed out of the house and dropped dead. The newscaster said they took him to the hospital and after examination they found he had not taken poison at all, but he thought he had picked up the wrong bottle and he died through fear which caused a heart attack. I am sure that all of those who heard this broadcast were alarmed and concerned for the man at the thought that he had taken poison. When we hear of a child getting into poison we are greatly alarmed. When we heard about the smog in England that was killing many and making many sick, we were concerned. A man flew from the United States to take a sample of that smog and brought it back to study it. Everyone was concerned.

Now I want to ask a question. Why isn't there just as much concern over people who take a little poison at a time every day? In fact, it seems that the practice is encouraged. You will hear the radio announcers say that it is good, the signboards make fancy pictures out of it to encourage it, and men, women, boys and girls of all stations in life take it, even preachers and so-called Christians. Why aren't people concerned about it? Statistics say that over two thousand boys begin to take this poison every day. Are there many entreaties from parents to those boys, begging them not to take this poison? Are there many tears shed by mothers showing them the wrong in it and how harmful it is to their bodies? Of course, not many mothers and fathers can teach their boys and girls against it because they use it, too.

I am sure by this time you know what this poison is. It is said that if a leech sucks blood from an habitual smoker it will die instantly. Why do people take tobacco poison into their bodies when they know it is harmful? Maybe you did not know, but there are eighteen poisons in a puff of tobacco smoke. I will list them for you as they were written by the Medical Association: hydrogen sulphate, methylamine, ammonia, collidin, prussic acid, viridin, carbolic acid, nicotine, formic aldehyde, marsh gas, carbon monoxide, furfural, nicotin, lutidin, cordidin, rubidin, acrolein, tarry products. Now this is in a puff of cigarette smoke. All of these poisons are deposited in your lungs and body after each puff. You can tell this by looking at the smoke after it has been inhaled and before. The smoke, after being inhaled, has a whiter cast and clearer look than before. Also, it can be proved by blowing smoke before it is inhaled, with a little moisture from the breath, on a white cloth, which will cause a brownish-yellow spot to appear on the cloth. This shows the poisons

that are in it. But smoke that has been inhaled and from which the lungs have already absorbed the nicotine, will not show this poison.

Why, oh why, do people take this poison into their bodies? Some will say that they use the filter-tip brand. I read an article in the paper printed in August, 1962, that four cancer researchers studied for one year six brands of cigarettes, including two filter-tip brand types, and found that "tumors were induced by every brand of cigarettes even though the filter cigarette smoke yielded only one-third the amount of tar found in standard smokes." But they continued by saying that filter-tip cigarettes contain enough tar to cause skin tumors and eventual cancer in mice. In the face of all this proof, people continue to smoke away, and take poisons into their bodies.

The Bible says, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). Then we read in 1 Cor. 3:17 where Paul says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." Can you go on and defile the temple of God, this house and body that God has given you to live in while in this world? God said he would destroy those who harm this body. A person who takes poison, whether a small amount or a great amount, into his body is defiling it and God said he would destroy him. We need to keep these bodies clean and take care of them. Tobacco is surely "filthiness of the flesh" and we read in 2 Cor. 7:1 for us to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Some people not only smoke it, but also chew tobacco and swallow it. This causes many diseases in the body. Why don't people become awakened to what they are doing and quit it? Some have such a habit of it that they can't in their own strength, but we could give you many testimonies from those who have been delivered from it by the power of God. There is cleansing power in the precious blood of Jesus. Call upon Him today and ask Him to cleanse your system from the appetite for more poison, and get deliverance. —Mrs. Marie Miles

Two Kinds of Death

"And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1). Have you been quickened? Not, when did you join a church, turn over a new leaf, take communion or try to do better, but—when were you born again? You haven't? Then you are dead! Suppose we had a casket before us, in which lies the body of a dead man. He is dead physically; you are dead spiritually. He is separated from the world; you are separated from God. You say, "I don't feel dead." Neither does the corpse. Your feelings have nothing to do with it. You don't have to feel dead, to be dead. The corpse is dead

"in the coffin." You are dead "in sins." You are a sinner by nature. Some are Irish by nature. Others are Swedish, French, or English, by nature. But ALL men are sinners, "children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3) by nature. It is as natural for you to sin as it is for a fish to swim. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). My friend, you are a guilty sinner before God.

You say, "I have no bad habits." Neither does the corpse. He doesn't lie, steal, swear or gamble. There is nothing wrong with him, except one thing—he is dead. That's serious. They bury dead people.

You live a clean moral life? Nothing much wrong with you except—you are dead, lost! and headed for God's cemetery, the lake of fire, where you will be in eternity. Friend, your condition before God is far more serious than you think.

Talk to the corpse about a delicious steak dinner, or a fine fishing trip to the northern lakes, but from him there is no response. He is dead to, or SEPARATED from, the pleasures and enjoyments of this life. If one should speak to you about Bible study and prayer meetings, from you there would be no response. When you do go to a prayer meeting, you do not enjoy it—you endure it. You are as separated from the joys and blessings of the Christian life as the corpse is from the things of this world. He has no desire to eat. You have no appetite for the Bible. He cannot enjoy the things of this physical life. You cannot enjoy the things of the spiritual life. You go to church because it is one of your "duties," not because you get a blessing out of hearing the Word of God explained.

You Need Life! In order to enjoy the things that accompany physical life, the dead man needs physical life. To enjoy spiritual things, you need spiritual life. A lady said to me, "All that is necessary to be saved is to live the life." I answered, "Lady, you cannot live the life until you first have it."

The only one who can put that life into the corpse is the Lord Jesus. No organization or individual on earth can do it. No church, no religion can give you spiritual life. No one can, but the Lord Jesus. The dead man cannot raise himself up. Neither can you bring yourself out of spiritual death.

We might baptize the corpse and write his name on the church book, but that will not give him life. So, you might join a church, be baptized, take communion, but unless you have been "quickened" you are still dead. **THINK OF IT! LOST!** and yet perhaps you have been religious all your life. It isn't religion you need, it is **LIFE**.

Life is in the wounded man at God's right hand! "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ. He, the perfect God-Man went to Calvary to "taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9). He shed His precious blood that He might provide forgiveness and cleansing from sin, (Heb. 9:22). "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1 Pet. 3:18).

But that isn't all. He arose from the grave victor over sin, death and hell. Today he is seated, as the God-Man, in His resurrected glorified body at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 1:3; 8:1) the highly exalted One before Whom every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father (Phil 2:9, 10). Eternal life is in HIM. "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His SON" (1 John 5:11).

Do you have the SON? It is not merely believing what the Bible says about Him, that saves. Salvation is not the "record" ABOUT HIM, but salvation is IN HIM. You might accept the "record" about Him, and believe it to be true and at the same time reject Him, and live in rebellion against Him. You can go to hell believing the Bible is true. Salvation is not in just believing facts, but in receiving the SON. "He that hath the Son hath life" (1 John 5:12).

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE SAVED! You can be saved this moment if you will receive Him as your Lord and Saviour. "As many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). When you receive Him you have Him and when you have Him, you have, according to God's promise, eternal life. "He that believeth on the SON HATH LIFE" (John 3:36). "Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation, but IS passed from DEATH unto LIFE" (John 5:24, 25).

Be sure you have the SON, for "He that HATH the SON [not religion or good works] hath LIFE" (1 John 5:12). Receive Him today. Tomorrow may be too late.
—Paul Levin

THE BIBLE

Did you know that the Bible said that the earth was round before men would believe it, and discovered it to be true? You read in Isa. 40:22. This was 700 years before Christ. You know, men used to think the world was square.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that the earth turns? Read in Job 38:13, 14.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that there are springs in the ocean? Read in Job 38:16.

The scientists were counting up time. They found almost a day missing nearly 3500 years ago. Do you know where they had to read to find out why that was true? Yes, it was in the Bible. There were five kings and their armies who came to fight against the children of Israel. Joshua called upon the Lord and the Lord promised to help them. They were in a fierce battle and it was beginning to get dark. Joshua asked the Lord to cause the sun to stand still and the moon, and it did for almost one day. The Bible said that had never happened before nor since. You can read about that in Joshua 10:7-16. To be exact, the scientists said it was 23 hours and 20 minutes that were lost.

The scientists found 40 minutes missing. They again had to turn to the Bible. They searched and searched. Finally they found it in Isaiah 38:8. You remember when the prophet told Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was going to die? Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, wept and prayed. He called the Lord to record about how he had lived before him in all truth and with a perfect heart. He told him that he had done that which was good in the Lord's sight. God changed his mind and told the prophet Isaiah to go back and tell him that he had seen his tears and heard his prayer and would add 15 years to his life. He also told him that he would deliver the city out of the hand of his enemies. He said for a sign that it would come true he now would cause the clock or sun dial to turn back ten degrees. In other words, the sun didn't go down until 40 minutes later that day.

Our Bible is a wonderful book. It tells us where we came from, who we are and where we will go after death. It tells us how to live in this life and how to die. It tells us how to treat everybody and makes us know that God loves us. There is no book like the Bible. I love it, don't you?

—Sister Marie Miles

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.75; Lesson cards 12c

January 6, 1963

JESUS PREPARES FOR HIS MINISTRY

Printed Portion Mark 1:1-13

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him, in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

7 And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

9 And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Memory Verse: For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted. Hebrews 2:18.

Practical Truth: Jesus did not lean to the desires of the flesh in preparation for his ministry, but he followed the leading of the Spirit, which leads unerringly.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lessons this quarter are from the book of Mark. It was written by John Mark who (it is said) received his information from Peter. It would be good to read the scriptures between our lessons each Sunday.

He refers to the prophecy of the forerunner of Jesus as the beginning of the gospel or "good news." Then he goes on to affirm that "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach repentance." How wonderful it is to think that what God said would come to pass, did come to pass. Mark also gives proof to this.

Adam and Eve were created in purity and holiness but they sinned and not until Jesus came into the world was there ever a pure and holy person. The way of holiness had been closed but now as Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove. God, the Father spoke out of heaven and said, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus opened up the way of holiness to mankind. All who will believe on him and be filled with the Holy Spirit can have that same purity that Adam and Eve had and can have the same communion that they enjoyed. Praise the Lord.

Jesus had a work to do while here. He had the blessings of the Father upon him and the Holy Spirit to guide him. The Spirit drove him into the wilderness to learn many lessons. He felt the power of Satan come against him and the blessings of the angels ministering unto him. He is our example.

JANUARY 13, 1963

JESUS BEGINS HIS WORK

Printed Portion Mark 1:14-20, 35-39

Mark 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

19 And when he had gone a little farther thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets.

20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

37 And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee.

38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Memory Verse: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18, 19.

Practical Truth: We need to "tarry until we be endued with power from on high" and then go forth and face the battle of a life for God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

For thousands of years the people had looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. Now Jesus boldly goes forth and tells them that the "time is fulfilled." The time had come and it was time for people everywhere to "repent and believe the gospel," or good news. All heaven was behind his announcement and gave him great authority. He needed helpers and he called some fishermen and they "straightway" left all and became his disciples. God is still calling for workers today, but so many have excuses and therefore miss the blessing. His work requires haste because souls are perishing and need the "good news" that Jesus will rescue them from the damnation of hell if they will only "repent and believe the gospel." Many were astonished as he taught in the synagogues. He did not hesitate to tell the people where they needed to repent, but preached with authority and power. He rebuked an unclean spirit that recognized him as being the "Holy One of God," and it came out of its victim and tormented him no more. Many were amazed at this. His fame spread abroad. He went into Peter's home and healed his wife's mother of a fever. "He healed many of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him" (verse 34). The last part of our lesson we find Jesus rising early, and in a quiet place, alone, communing with his Father. The disciples found him and said, "All men seek for thee." If Jesus felt his dependence upon the Father, how much more should we.

January 20, 1963

RESISTANCE TO THE WORK OF CHRIST

Printed Portion Mark 2:3-7; 15-17; 3:1-6

Mark 2:3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.

4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed where-in the sick of the palsy lay.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,

7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?

15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for they were many; and they followed him.

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

3:1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.

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

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

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

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

6 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.

Memory Verse: And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. Matt. 10:22.

Practical Truth: Be not alarmed at the resistance that you will face, but know that as Jesus conquered, you also will conquer.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When you start out to live for God and do His bidding, the devil will try to do all He can to hinder you. Satan was stirred against Jesus because he was losing his position in the hearts of men and women. He began to embolden his subjects and they rose up against the work of Jesus. Satan tried to kill Jesus when he was a babe but did not succeed. Now he again stirred up wicked hearts to try to get rid of him. But Jesus had no fear. He knew that he would die, but not until the time came for it to come to pass. He had a work to do first and he went about doing that work.

After four friends brought the man sick of palsy before him and he saved and healed him, he was criticized for his mercy and others thought he had blasphemed. When he ate with sinners he was criticized, but he said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." We find he was a friend of all men. When he broke their tradition and healed on the Sabbath Day, they sought to destroy him. But the lowly Lamb of God was grieved as he looked about him and saw the "hardness of their hearts." This people had no compassion for humanity. They only thought of keeping the letter of the law and forgot the spirit of it. Jesus came to fulfill the law and came to His own but they rejected him and sought to get rid of Him. If we have the spirit of Christ in us today, we too, can expect resistance. God will care for us as He did for Jesus.

January 27, 1963

WHY JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES

Printed Portion Mark 4:10-20, 33, 34

Mark 4:10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

14 The sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.

33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.

34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Memory Verse: If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:23.

Practical Truth: God will perform a miracle in that heart that is prepared for the seed of God.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A parable means "side by side" or a truth beside a story. He brought deep, spiritual truths down to the level of the hearer. He used the known to teach the unknown. He made his hearers think. In the end of their thinking, a truth dawned upon their hearts, and they were moved by the workings of the Holy Spirit. When we talk to children and explain something to them we use simple terms and examples. Just so it is with the "babes in Christ" today. They need simple instructions. All of God's deep truths break in upon our conception little by little. Aren't there truths that you see clearer today, that a year ago were not so clear? God's Word is ever a new book.

How appropriate is the story used in our lesson today to bring out the different ways the Word of God affects the hearts of men. We find it true today. People are so involved in their own ways and the "cares of this life" that they are not giving much heed to the Word of God. It has become to them as a story that was told and an old tale. How we need to be stirred lest we, little by little, slip into the same condition. I believe the Lord wants us to be "hundred-fold" children of God. Root down in God and become established in the true doctrines of God's Word. We aren't going to slide into heaven, but this is a "pressing" way. Only those who are watchful and keep the Holy Spirit fire burning upon the altars of their hearts will make it in. —Sis. Marie Miles