

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant

At evening time
it shall be light.
—ZECHARIAH 14:7

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS LIGHTS
IN THE WORLD.
—PHILIPPIANS 2:15

JESUS
SAVES

Unto Him shall
the gathering of
the people be.
—GENESIS 49:10

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Come To Jesus!



This life is so uncertain—
Every moment flying fast.
O my dear one, turn to Jesus,
Death and hell will come at last.

Jesus gives you time to serve Him—
Do not waste these flying hours;
For they vanish, oh, so quickly
Like the dried and withered flowers.

All your life's a fleeting vapor,
O how soon 'twill all be past;
But the joy of serving Jesus
Will the universe outlast.

How the worldly things allure you,
And old Satan holds you fast.
Turn to Jesus—do it quickly—
He'll forgive your guilty past.

He will break the power that holds you
In a life of sin and shame;
He will give you Life eternal,
For that's why from Heaven He came.

You've been warned by those who love you,
"Come to Jesus, come just now."
Do not wait until the death sweat
Lies so cold upon your brow.

If you gain a world of pleasure
And you lose your soul at last,
You'll regret it then forever
For your dark and guilty past.

Heed the call when first you hear it;
Don't put off from day to day.
Quickly come to Christ your Saviour—
Walk the straight and narrow way.

—Unknown

The Boundary Line

Along the pathway of life there is a place which marks the course of the traveler on the road to eternity. There is a line drawn by the Word of God between sin and salvation. On the one side are the blessings of God, on the other is his wrath. On the one hand are the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit on to greater blessings and glory; on the other is the enemy of souls dragging his victims down to eternal ruin by his deceptions, or cruel oppressions.

When the innocent one steps over this line to follow the deceptions of the enemy, it is a far more sad undertaking than is generally considered, and too often forever proves fatal. It may at first be but a comparatively small thing, and no intention of spending a whole life in sin; but when sin has once entered the heart and left its stain where innocence before reigned supreme, a blighting influence remains; a different spirit controls the inward impulse of the heart, and the mind is led into forbidden ways, and conscience smitten, like Adam when he had disobeyed God; such a person is ashamed to hear the voice of God.

One sin will lead on to another, and so on until little by little Satan has the soul so completely bound that the heart becomes hardened, and the conscience seared; and sin is as a sweet morsel until times of adversity, trials and trouble, then is, to some extent, a reaping of what has been sown. But the sorrows and trouble, even in the most disastrous times, are scarcely a foretaste of the results of such a life in the great coming harvest.

On the other side of the line is something of far greater value than rubies, or the wealth of nations, and the riches of mines. It is the peace of God in the soul, darkness swept away; and when trouble and oppressions come, there always comes a blessing with them, and the sweet, gentle Spirit of Christ to comfort and lend a helping hand in time of need. Yea, "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1.

To the one who has crossed this boundary line and is traversing on the sinful side, far from the Savior who is ever calling with earnest pleadings to return, a spirit of conviction comes telling of your lost condition, and showing the ways of death before you, and pointing out the way of life everlasting. Remember there is hope for you if you will turn unto God; but you must do your part, make the decision and begin to call upon God for help.

Just about the time the wanderer from God has concluded to meet the conditions laid down in the Bible, and lead a life of salvation, the enemy comes in with his reasonings and suggestions, pointing out many other ways which he says are more easily traveled and will take him through all right.

To one, he points out the Universalist road; that is, that every one will be saved, and none lost, and that there is no place of future punishment. This doctrine has soothed the troubled hearts of multitudes and caused them to "believe a lie that they all might be damned who believed not the truth." 2 Thess. 2:12. For Jesus says, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.

Another misleading path which the enemy points out and by which many are deceived, is that of Morality. He says, "Do the best you can and you will come out all right," and other arguments of like nature. People sometimes say: "I never killed any one, nor robbed them of their money; do not lie nor cheat my neighbors; am upright in all my dealings, go to church, and have never done anything very bad," and expect to get through all right in the end. My friend, if that is your record, you are on the same list with the worst sinners that ever lived, and are doomed to spend eternity with them; for He says, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3.

To another one the enemy of souls says, "Just profess to be saved and you will be all right." That is the trouble with the religious world today, the great majority of them are professing and do not possess an experience of salvation. It is one thing to have a profession, and quite a different thing to have a real possession of salvation to accompany it. Some profess when they know they are not saved; such are hypocrites, others are deceived. This professing business, and being without the Spirit and power of God to accompany the same, has been the means of making more infidels than has all the literature of infidel writers. "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3. The devil says, "Oh, you do not need a change of heart; just resolve to do better, and claim it and you will get through." Yes, you will get through, but not to heaven, on that line; for the way to hell is paved with good resolutions and multitudes have gone ahead with good resolutions and landed their souls in perdition.

It takes good resolutions in order to get saved, yet it takes something more; the grace of God and meeting the conditions of his word. It takes a real

change of heart, a birth of the Spirit; for, "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Nicodemus, a "ruler of the Jews," a "master in Israel," could not understand these things because he had only a profession and knew nothing about a change of heart. But Jesus gave him to understand that his profession would not take him through to heaven. There are a great many prominent people who have been professing to be saved for years, and yet do not know any more about salvation than Nicodemus did when he came to Jesus by night.

Another by-path upon which so many are side-tracked is, Excuses. These are almost numberless, and the enemy is always on hand to help to find them. Many try to console themselves with the idea that "God is too good to bring people into the world and send them to hell; he is not so unjust." If people go there it is of their own choice, and contrary to the will of God. The Lord makes this matter very plain and says: "The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; if the wicked restore the pledge, give again that which he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he has committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live." Ezek. 33:12, 14-16. Cannot any one see by this that God would still be a just God if every one should choose the broad way and land their souls in hell? He says, "Whosoever will, may come." He makes the call, and offers not only to save all who will come unto him and believe and obey, but promises to keep them saved as long as they will obey.

There are certain fixed laws of nature beyond which no one can go without suffering the penalty. For instance, you are standing beside a hot stove and know that if you put your hand upon it you will receive a severe burn as a result. But you say, "I will risk it, and as God is a just God he will not let me get burned." You proceed, get burnt, and curse God for letting you get burnt, and say he is unjust, when it was only a result of your foolish, unwise course which you persistently pursued. At the same time your better judgment warned you not to pursue such a course. This is just about as reasonable as to accuse God of sending souls to hell, or permitting them to go there.

—E. E. Byrum

When you are on the Lord's side, and He is with you, it doesn't matter too much what is on the opposite side.

If God is for you and all hell is against you, just hold steady and you will win the victory.

PRIDE

The life and death of our Lord Jesus Christ is a standing rebuke to every form of pride to which men are liable.

Pride of birth and rank—"Is not this the carpenter's son?"

Pride of wealth—"The Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

Pride of respectability—"Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Pride of personal appearance—"He hath no form nor comeliness."

Pride of reputation—"A friend of publicans and sinners."

Pride of learning—"How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?"

Pride of success—"He was despised and rejected of men."

Pride of ability—"I can of mine own self do nothing."

Pride of self-will—"I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

Pride of intellect—"As my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." —Sel.

THE BIBLE

This book contains: The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here heaven is opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of life, will be opened at the Judgment, and is established forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

"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.

Do not neglect your Bible. A good book is all right in its place, but if you have the Bible, you have the Book of books; you have more than all others put together, because it is God's own word to you, and it is life. See St. John 1:1, 2. There is so much of this neglect of reading the Bible these days; therefore I feel it my duty to warn you. So if you want to go to heaven, you must search the Bible or else how will you ever find out what the Lord wants you to do, what heaven is and what hell is, and the way

to get to heaven? Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" John 14:6. Well, how would I know this if Jesus had not said it and I found it in the New Testament that He left for us? In the Bible we see what is left for us in Jesus' will, what we will inherit if we keep His sayings and do them. What book besides the Bible promises you this? How are you to know what to do if you don't read and search it? If you have none, get one at once; and if you have, read it. Don't lay it on the shelf or in a place where it is unhandy; have it with you wherever you go. Instead of picking up a paper or book, take your Bible and read a portion. If you wish to live happy and want to go to heaven, and if you wish to win souls for Jesus, read your Bible and be faithful. If you want to be a true servant of Jesus Christ, read the Bible. —A Tract.

Mrs. Prayer Meeting

We note in the "Free Will Echo" that Mrs. Prayer Meeting is dead. In the belief that friends of the deceased might be interested, we print the death notice.

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. She was born many years ago in the midst of great revivals and deep spirituality. She grew to be a strong, healthy child, fed mostly on testimony and Bible study. She was educated in the school of Christian service under the supervision and teaching ability of the famous world-wide teachers, the Holy Ghost and Divine Scriptures. She soon grew to womanhood and was prominent throughout the world for a number of years, and was one of the most influential members of this church family.

For the last several years Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been in failing health and gradually wasting away until recently when she was rendered almost helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, weakness of purpose, lack of willpower and inactivity.

At last she was but a shadow of her former self. Her words were whispered inquiries concerning the absence of her loved ones, now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform, Dr. Joiner, and Dr. Churchman all disagreed as to the cause of her death or fatal illness, administering large doses of organization, socials, contests, and drives, but to no avail. A post mortem showed a deficiency of spiritual food coupled with a lack of faith and of heart-felt religion. Also shameless desertion and non-support hastened her death.

Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. The body rests in the beautiful cemetery of by-gone memories, awaiting the judgment. In honor of her passing the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, except the third Wednesday of each month when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society will serve refreshments to the Men's Highball Team. —Selected

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

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit an issue that month to attend these meetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla.

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

Notice to subscribers: whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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Single copy, one year	\$.35
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Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly 4-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly.	
Quarterly sets of 13 copies, per year.....	60c
Five sets or more to one address, each set per year	40c

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

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

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; 1st 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 Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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
Phone No. BUtler 2-1479

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

Editorials

In this new year of 1964 the workers here at the Lord's Print Shop feel an urge to expand the various phases of this literature ministry and evangelism. Calls are continually coming for more gospel literature from distributors in New Zealand, Australia, Africa, India, and other foreign countries. Additional Spanish literature is needed for the expanding mission work in Old Mexico. In order to supply these urgent calls we have taken another step by faith—the same simple faith in God that established and has carried on this gospel publishing work over the past 40 years, supported mainly by free-will offerings. An order of 2¾ tons of paper has been received, delivered in Guthrie on Jan. 15 from a paper mill at Kalamazoo, Mich. This is our largest single order of paper ever made, costing about \$1000.00. Agree with us in prayer to God that not only this obligation will be met, but also the additional expenses incurred in getting this paper processed into printed gospel messages, such as other supplies, utility bills, maintenance of workers, and the increasing cost of postage and transportation.

Another move is being made in the Spanish literature field. Bro. Clifford Smith recently translated and set in Spanish type several tracts. Also at present he is writing copy and setting Spanish type in preparation for the publication of a Spanish paper about the size of the "Beautiful Way" children's paper. Pray that this effort will prove a real blessing to the Spanish-speaking people.

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To those who may not know, we might add that the subscription price of 35c per year on this paper does not pay the cost of producing it. Then you may ask, "How do you keep it going?" The Lord supplies the difference by the free-will offerings of His people. Likewise, through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are printed and mailed out free of charge as the Lord supplies. We endeavor to enter every open door with the gospel. Every child of God can distribute tracts—through letters or by personal contact. At present we have about 280 different titles of gospel tracts in stock. Send for a free sample of tracts, and a tract list order blank will be enclosed. To those who are willing and able to pay, we quote a small price which hardly meets the cost of production. Pay or not, the orders for literature are filled when we know the printed messages will be faithfully placed in the hands of the people.

At present, the "Faith and Victory" family is composed of eight full-time workers, all of whom are freely and voluntarily giving their time and services unto the Lord without any promise of a salary. However, up to this date the Lord has provided for

each his board and room, and a small allowance each week. Our faith takes in the promise that God will continue to supply every need of His work, even as He has so faithfully provided over the years. I believe I can write for all the workers that they are happy and contented in the place to which God has called them to labor, and all are working harmoniously together in the spread of the good tidings of salvation to a lost world. They would appreciate your prayers and co-operation.



Letters have been coming to the office from some of our new 5000 readers who received the paper for the first time in January, expressing how much they enjoyed reading its contents, and what a blessing it was to their souls. Many are sending in their own subscriptions, as they do not wish to miss a single copy. It would be so encouraging to all those who had a part in this special literature extension effort if they could read these nice letters of appreciation. Some wanted us to thank the one who had the paper sent to them. Others wanted the address of the sender so they could personally express their appreciation. However, it would be a very tedious task, to say the least, to locate the sender's address from among so many hundreds—would be like "looking for a needle in a haystack."

Dear co-laborers, let us ever remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9. Again he writes: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." 2 Cor. 9:6, 7, 9, 15.

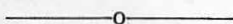


Some of our readers need to make arrangements now for their vacations so they can attend the various campmeetings this summer. All the congregations of the church which are planning campmeetings should send in the dates and locations of their meetings AT ONCE or by February 13th so we can publish them in the March issue for the benefit of those who need to know in advance. Here are the known dates on three meetings:—

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 24 to Aug. 2, inclusive.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Oklahoma, Aug 7 to 16, inclusive.

Tulsa, Okla. Meeting, Norfolk and Pine Sts.—June 5 to 14, inclusive.



1964 Scripture Text Wall Calendar—Just a few left, order at once! Price 45c each, or 3 for \$1.20, postpaid.

"Evening Light Songs" book, 512 pages, latest edition. Each, \$1.65, postpaid.

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

OBITUARIES

Onnic Lee Reed, the daughter of Milton and Kitty Harding, was born March 7, 1895 in the state of Tennessee and departed this life Dec. 24, 1963 at Tulsa, Okla.

On Oct. 15, 1914, she was united in marriage to Luther Reed. To this union 12 children were born, three of whom preceded her in death.

In 1935 Sister Reed was saved in the Church of God and lived a clean, peaceable life, growing very patient in her illness which extended over a period of five years. Sister Reed was a kind, affectionate wife and mother and spent a great portion of her life caring for other children in the home and showing much kindness and love toward them.

She leaves to mourn her passing a devoted husband, Luther Reed; six sons, Paul, Milton, Overlester, Wilbert, and Alfred of Tulsa, Noah of Los Angeles, California, and three daughters, Franceene, Barbara, and Doris Reed of Tulsa, Okla., five brothers, 45 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, a host of other relatives, friends, and saints. Our loss is heaven's gain.

The funeral sermon was by Bro. Ulysses Phillips, assisted by Bro. Sam Barton and Bro. Lewis Williams. Interment was in Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa, Okla.

Mary Vergie Gaines, daughter of Green and Amanda Foster, was born Dec. 24, 1897 at Honeygrove, Texas, and departed this life Nov. 2, 1963 at Bakersfield, Calif. at the age of 66 years, 1 month, and 22 days.

On Dec. 20, 1912 at Bristow Okla. she was united in holy matrimony to Evander Gaines. To this union six children were born, two preceding her in death.

In 1915 she heard and accepted the teaching of the Church of God as taught by S. T. Walker. She was saved and lived a faithful life for some years. In 1940, she with her husband moved to Bakersfield, Calif. where she again renewed her covenant with the Lord and endeavored thereafter to live for Him.

She leaves to mourn her passing a faithful husband, Bro. E. V. Gaines of the home, one son, Manyles, Tulsa, Okla., three daughters, Nancy Riley, Edith Sherman, and Ruth Shehee, all of Bakersfield, one brother, two sisters, 16 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral services were conducted in the saints' chapel at Bakersfield with Bro. I. C. Chandler officiating, assisted by Bros. Z. E. Francisco, E. J. Trotter, and Johnny Johnson. Interment in Union Cemetery, Bakersfield, California.

—Hazel Davis

Marian L. Collum was born May 9, 1926 at Kalamazoo, Michigan and departed this life on Dec. 31, 1963.

She is survived by her husband, William, one son, James William, age 14, and four daughters; Carol Sue, 17; Mary Kathryn, 10; Martha Kay, 7; and Brenda Louise, 3. She leaves her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thurlo Price, of Kalamazoo, one brother, Robert E. Price, Kalamazoo, one sister, Delores Ellsworth, Kankakee, Ill., and a grandmother, Mrs. Linnie Allen, Hastings, Mich.

Sister Collum professed a hope in Christ and met regularly with the saints at G. and E. Sts., Kalamazoo, Mich. She was kind and tender hearted, faithful to attend meeting, did what she could for others, and was faithful to her convictions. She chose to trust the Lord through her great affliction, and trusted Him to the end.

The saints in the congregation helped to tenderly care for her. Bro. and Sister Samons, Bro. Curtis Wil-

liams, Bro. Wm. McCoy, Bro. Ray Key, and Bro. Vada McMillian came to labor in prayer for her.

It wasn't easy to let her go, but we are satisfied that God knew best. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and loved ones.

Funeral services were held Jan. 3, 1964 at the Langeland Funeral Home in Kalamazoo, conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams. His text was John 11:25. Burial was in Central Portage Cemetery.

Meeting Reports

JEFFERSON, ORE. ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

Greetings to all the dear saints: Truly, we are praising the dear Lord for what He is doing for us here in Jefferson, Oregon. We are praising the dear Lord for salvation and the desire He keeps in our heart to go all the way with Him. †

We praise the Lord for our Assembly meeting here in November which is now past and gone, but, thank God, the seed sown was not in vain. Our God is still bringing souls in. Sin has been uncovered and precious souls snatched as brands from the burning. Oh, thank God, for His mercy to the children of men! The meeting was precious from the first day through the last. Two meetings were so especially filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that no one dismissed the meeting. The saints just continued to sing, praise and shout the victory. Truly it is wonderful how the Holy Spirit can send His ministers filled with the Holy Spirit to preach His Word.

Our precious Brother and Sister Gene Harmon came a few days before the meeting started and were such a great help as always. Sister Beulah was busy in the kitchen, Bro. Gene helping to get cabins ready and then filling his place in the pulpit. Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott came from Ky. How precious to see them as we had labored together at different times in West Virginia. Words fail me to tell of the sweet memories and I thank and praise our God for the many victories we had won together. How the dear Lord did bless all here as the dear ones were used of God to bring His Word to us! Oh, it was so precious to see the dear saints coming in from different states. Bro. and Sister Leslie Busbee and their dear little children came from Mo., with our dear Sister Vera Forbes. Bro. H. P. Huskey was present from Orland, Calif., besides the Oregon ministers.

I could write much more of this meeting, of the sweet unity and love manifested all through the meeting, but time and space fail me. I will close by saying that God is blessing the work here. The sick are being healed. Some more have been saved and new ones coming in since our meeting. Yes, the grace of God is upon the saints, although as our Brother Paul said in 1 Cor. 16:9, "There are many adversaries." Yes, there are still people that would try to turn others from the humble way, but thank God, the church is moving on to victory.

During the meeting the saints filled their places as God set them in the body—some to preach, some to minister to the saints, others to work in the kitchen, and those who had means to give liberally so that the ones who could not give were welcome and taken care of, too. The meeting closed Nov. 17, but the fruits are still being manifested. Truly, we are all workers together with Him.

We are praying for the Lord to bless you one and all, and ask you to remember us here in Oregon.

Your sister in Christ, —Beatrice Spaur

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual Okla. State Assembly Meeting here at Guthrie, Okla. has come and gone. The meeting was in session ten days, Dec. 20 to 29, 1963. We are still appreciating the many good blessings the dear Lord bestowed upon us. Oh, the wonderful truth and spirit of the meeting will long be remembered, and the knowledge of the souls that were saved, sanctified, and healed still thrills our hearts and makes us rejoice in God, our Savior. It makes us realize what the Lord can do if only we give our all—soul and body—to Him.

The first three days of the meeting were hindered by bad weather. After that, the rest of the meeting was well attended to the last service, and different times you could hear the saints say it was the best meeting they had ever attended. And I will say, it was wonderful! The singing was heavenly, and preaching so good. We truly had a real feast of good things. Numbers were at the altar for salvation, sanctification, and healing to the body, and only eternity can tell the good of this meeting. It is glorious to still be permitted to meet, as we were, again to worship God.

We had been so burdened for our nine-year-old grandson, Michael, who was so much in need of healing. On Tuesday morning Bro. Darius Gibson was preaching on prayer, teaching us that we should importune in prayer, and many times we just have to pile up our prayers one on top of the other. I thought, yes, I had been doing some of that, and as he preached, the Lord spoke to me saying, "This healing is to the glory of God," and at that, all my burden was lifted and I claimed the witness for his healing. The children and saints from California tell us he is like a different boy, and that God has healed him. Praise His name!

Let us keep close to the Lord at all times. Saints, let us live ready for His return, that when He does return, we will be found watching. Let us obey Him real carefully, and keep our garments pure and holy in His sight.

Yours in Christ,

—I. D. Stover, Pastor

MISSOURI MEETING REPORT

Webb City, Mo.—The last of November Bro. Charles Smith held a five-night series of meetings for us. We truly enjoyed the precious Word in every service. The truth was very close and heart-searching. We felt it was a real challenge to us.

We covet the prayers of all God's people that we as a congregation will live in such a way that our lives will be as a light to those in darkness.

May God bless you at the Print Shop.

In Christian love,

—Sister Ersa Carrick

REPORT ON BRO. WAYNE TURNER

Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: We visited Bro. Wayne Turner in La. State Prison on December 19, 1963 and found him very much encouraged, pressing on for the Lord and digging down in the Bible to learn more about the things of God and the perfect way of salvation. The jail services at Amite, La. are still being blessed. Souls are getting saved. Three went on their knees on Sunday, the 5th of January, and received help from the Lord.

Pray for us that we can and will have heavenly wisdom to do the work that the Lord has for us to do.

Your brother in Christ,

—E. B. Pinkerton

102 White St., Hammond, La.

Meeting Notices

GREEN PASTURES, OKLA. SPRING MEETING

We, the saints at Green Pastures, Okla., are unable to have our usual spring meeting in our chapel this year because it is not finished. We will have the meeting in the chapel on Third and Phillips Sts. in Okla. City, March 13 to 22. The Green Pastures congregation extends a hearty welcome to all to come. There will be ministers of God's choosing to bring the Word of God to us.
—E. W. Sanders, Pastor

GOSPEL SINGING AT NEOSHO, MO.

The congregation at Neosho, Mo. invites everyone to come and enjoy some good gospel singing at their chapel. We want to see you on Friday night, February 14, 1964. The chapel is near the corner of Joplin St. and Freeman Road, south of U. S. Fish Hatchery. For further information, write to Bro. T. V. McMillian, Rt. 5, Box 29, Neosho, Mo., phone GL 1-0278.

ENLARGING CHAPEL AT WICHITA, KANSAS

We, the saints at Wichita, Kansas, are planning to enlarge our chapel here by adding 24 feet to the building with a basement under the addition. We would like to get this all finished by June of this year. If there are any carpenters or skilled laborers who would want to help us with this project, we would be thankful and if anyone has money to contribute for this project, it would be appreciated. There will be a work day notice later for those who want to help on the building.

—Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor
1536 Piatt St., Wichita, Kansas

Special Prayer Requests

Miss.—Greetings, dear ones: I started to take a sore throat Dec. 2. On account of things being like they are, I get better and worse so many times. Please pray for us. God is good to me. Praise His dear name!

In Christian love, —Dorothy Bridges

"I desperately need an agreement of prayer from the saints for a burden and persecutions so heavy to bear. I've carried this so long that it seems I just haven't the faith to carry on alone. Will you pray? I am expecting the Lord to answer. I want you to pray that I will be ready for the answer whatever it is."

"I have cataracts coming on my eyes. I need prayer."

"I am so nervous and cannot sleep well at night. Please pray for me."

"I have two friends that I have been talking to about the Lord and they are very ill. Please pray for them for both soul and body."

"Please pray for a relative of mine who is leaving her husband and children and intends to get a divorce."

"Please pray for my unsaved husband."

"Please pray for me. I need a deeper walk with God and victory over many problems."

"Pray for my three-weeks-old grandson who is seriously ill."

"Pray for a lady who may have cancer and that she get saved. Also pray for a man who has undergone an operation on his brain."

"Pray for a home that is being broken up by the devil."

"Pray for my father who has cancer in his eye."

"Pray that my son will be saved and delivered from the smoking habit."

"I am not well in body and do want prayer that the Lord will give me good health."

"Pray that I will be saved, and also my father."

These are just a few of the many requests that come into the office. Ask God to bless each one who writes in for prayer. Some of our older saints are not able to get out much but thank God, you can take each one of these requests and the ones not mentioned, earnestly to the Lord daily in prayer. There is a great need for prayer warriors who will pray until they touch the "hem of His garment" and something special is done.

An Open Confession To Whom It May Concern:

Bro. Clyde Stroud, an acquaintance of many years, is now (Jan. 18) on his bed with an incurable condition as far as man is concerned. From his bed he has sent a letter asking my forgiveness personally (which was freely given) and requested that I publish a statement in this paper to all the saints that he had lost out with the Lord, but now he had repented and God had saved him. He has renounced the stand he had taken in past years, and is now asking all the saints to forgive him for not being submissive to them. He says, "I haven't long to stay here. My only desire I have left in this world is to make contact with all the saints and correct my mistakes. Help me do this as far as you can. Let everyone know I want them to come and see me, or write." Those who know him should write at once. His address is Bro. Clyde Stroud, c/o Earl Owens, Union Star, Missouri.

—Editor.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

Under date of Dec. 18, Bro. B. U. Etuk, acting superintendent of the Church of God missions in Nigeria, W. Africa, has written an introductory letter and enclosed the full December report of their missions activities, written by the secretary, Bro. F. F. Ekpo.

Here are the highlights of that report:

The monthly general business meeting was held on Friday, November 13, 1963, with Bro. B. U. Etuk as chairman. The meeting opened with prayer and singing of a hymn. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and, with some amendments, were approved unanimously. One of the main topics of discussion at this meeting was the extension or enlarging of the chapel at the headquarters' station in order to accommodate the large general meetings from all the mission stations. It was pointed out that they now have nine stations with chapels, but there are four new stations without chapels and the aim now is to build chapels for these four new stations. Bro. Etuk was directed to make these needed improvements known to the Church in the United States.

On Dec. 1, 1963, a baptismal and communion service was held at the headquarters station. The participants on this occasion began arriving on the previous evening and an all-night prayer meeting was held under the charge

of Pastor Gabriel Williams. This went on until the small hours of the morning and then a short sleep prevailed at last. Before 7 a. m. prayer meeting was held and Pastor Bennington M. Udo took over the reins from Pastor G. Williams who felt fatigue. The meeting was short during which time Pastor Udo reminded the baptismal candidates of the meaning of the occasion. By 8 a. m. the march to the stream started. In less than an hour they arrived at the place. Some choruses were rendered and the superintendent and pastors were rejoicing for the 64 souls who had been converted and were baptized. At the stream's side Bro. Etuk prayed, then Pastor B. M. Udo began to baptize each and everyone in the "name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost." This occurred



Pastor Bennington M. Udo baptizing.

simultaneously with the singing of choruses relating to the blood of Jesus, that was shed on Calvary. Sixty-four people were baptized.

After the baptismal service, they marched back to the headquarters' chapel where the service began at 10 a. m. Scripture lessons were read by Bro. N. B. A. Unanah and by Bro. Friday F. Ekpo. Bro. Etuk preached a short sermon, especially exhorting the ones who had just been baptized. After the singing of hymns and prayer, the pastors administered the Lord's supper to the assembled congregation which numbered 327.

On Sunday Dec. 15, 1963, the ordinance of feet-washing was observed. It was pointed out that since the inception of the missions about two years ago, this was the first time they had put John 13 into practice. The scripture lesson from John 13:1-25 was read to the congregation. After prayer by the pastor, S. U. Akpan, the superintendent took his text for his sermon from John 13:14, 15. He pointed out that Jesus in these two verses expressed the importance and command of feet-washing and that as Christians, we need to emulate His example. He was superior in everything to all His disciples, but He brought himself down to wash their feet, even the feet of Judas who was to betray Him. After laying emphasis on why they believed in feet-washing, he brought the sermon to a close by advising, "Before honor is humility." After some choruses were sung, this rare occasion was observed by the Christians, and even watched by members of the denominations. At the close

of the ordinance of feet-washing the meeting was dismissed at 1:30 p. m. The attendance at this service was 213.

The foregoing report reveals that a large number of people are in attendance at these services, indicating that it is a ripe and fertile field for the planting of the gospel. Bro. Etuk writes that their present needs are: (1) Bibles, Biblical books and literature, (2) financial help for the payment of workers, maintenance of the Lord's car, chapels for the new stations, and enlargement of the headquarters' chapel for the general meetings, (3) the continuing request for one or more missionaries to come from the church here in the States to teach them the Bible doctrines more perfectly.

Who will enter this open door with the gospel in obedience to the risen Christ's command to evangelize the world? Who will say, "Here am I; send me?" Isaiah was not able to respond in these words until a live coal from off the altar had touched his lips. Christ's spirit is a missionary spirit, and Divine love for souls will impel us to our duty. Surely the Lord is talking to one or more. Who will hear the voice of God and obey—not by the tide of emotions, but by the definite leadings of the Lord? May the church at large continue in prayer and consecration until these open doors are entered and a permanent work for God is established in Africa.

Here at the Office we maintain a separate Missionary Fund to relay offerings from our readers to mission work, home and foreign. —Lawrence Pruitt.

TESTIMONIES

Ohio—Dear Saints of God, greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior: Truly, our souls are lifted up this morning in praise to our great God of heaven. I feel so blessed to be one of His little children. I feel so unworthy of Him. He has done a lot more for me than I ever expected Him to do.

We were so thankful how He let us attend most of the Guthrie, Okla. Assembly meeting. I don't know of a meeting that ever fed my soul as much as that one did. It gave me much more determination to go all the way. It seems to have settled me.

I was reading the testimonies in the January issue of "Faith and Victory" last night about midnight, especially the one from Pennsylvania by Jerome Park. Oh, how it thrilled my soul! It brought back memories of my own home before Mart and I got saved. The Lord has done so much for us and delivered us from so much. There are not words to express the feeling I have down in my heart this morning. I thought when we got saved that we were the happiest of all people, but I've found so many more who feel the same way. Saints, I don't feel like I had a real husband before I got saved, but when we both got saved I felt like God had given me the thing I wanted most in life. We were saved about three and a half years when the Lord called Mart to preach His Word. I didn't feel too badly about it. I knew it was going to mean much for me to be the example of a minister's wife, to be ready to go or ready to stay when necessary. I've found it's much harder to stay at home and let him go out in the work in the field. At first I felt like he was being taken away from me. The Lord gave me a dream one night in which He took me and my family up to heaven. There were all kinds of packages of all sizes, and the Lord told me what they contained. There was Grace, Peace, Joy and everything I would need in this life if I would only ask for it. That encouraged me very much, and sometimes when Mart is

away from home holding meetings, it gets lonesome, but the Lord brings back the dream He gave me, and I begin to ask for more grace and more of a burden for the work of God. Before we got saved, he wasn't really mine. I couldn't trust him, but now he belongs to the Lord. I can completely trust him, knowing he is trying to help every soul he can to make it to heaven.

The Lord has never failed us since we've been saved. It surely did mean a deeper consecration for me when the Lord wanted him to leave his job and go out full time for Him. I wept and cried. I guess I really didn't know what it really meant until after he told his boss he would be leaving his job and for him to get someone else. We were used to getting about anything we wanted, worldly speaking, and we both knew it would be quite a sacrifice, but we wanted the dear Lord to have His way in our lives. And, dear ones, that is the only way that you can be completely happy, just completely yield to him, not to have your way any more. I'd like to say here that we have just as much as we ever did. It seems the Lord's money just goes farther. We don't desire to waste it. He says He will supply our "needs" and not our wants.

I truly thank the dear Lord for the truth and for freedom from the bondage of people. We desire the prayers of the saints of God that we will keep true and faithful unto the end.

Your sister in Christ, —Verna Mae Samons

Tenn.—I received the "Faith and Victory" yesterday and was much moved by the spirit of its contents. The testimonies seemed to spring from hearts filled by the Spirit of God, and the prayer requests impressed me the same way. I lifted my heart in prayer that our God would answer every one of them. I also asked God to especially bless all the new subscribers.

I have two prayer requests that I would like the church to pray for. [They are under heading of "Prayer Requests."]

Sincerely, —Ray Long

Mo.—Dear Children of God: I feel I would like to testify to the goodness of the Lord to me and tell how He healed my body recently. I had the flu and was very sick. My daughter called Sister Essie Wilson of Springfield and they came that night and prayed for me. God healed me that night. Thank the Lord!

I also would like for you to pray that my husband can get a job. Pray for all the family.

—Bro. and Sis. Earl Freeman

Mo.—Love to all the dear Saints: If God lets me live until the 30th of March, 1964, I will be 86 years old. I have been saved more than 52 years. Jesus is more to me every day. I don't see to read or write much. Thank God, the spiritual sight is brighter. I live alone with the good Lord. The dear saints are so good to help me every way they can. All the dear saints can help me with their prayers.

—Sister Minnie Noakes

322 S. Hall St., Webb City, Mo.
(She would appreciate a birthday card from you.—Editor)

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves me still saved and encouraged to press on for God. I truly thank the Lord for His goodness to us throughout the past year. Although we have had many tests and trials, the Lord has helped us through them. To Him we give all the praise!

I do thank the Lord for blessing my children who had whooping cough last summer and autumn. Some

were very sick, but the Lord healed them all. I thank the saints for their prayers, and also in behalf of my husband who had an operation. The Lord blessed and brought him through, but he still needs prayers that he will be saved. I have some special requests I desire the saints to remember. Also, pray for me that I will keep true and humble at the feet of Jesus.

—Gustava Anderson

Mo.—Dear Saints of God: I feel impressed to write about this affliction that I have had. I certainly hope it will be a help and encouragement to someone else who is holding onto the Lord for complete healing.

I guess I must have had this affliction for about a year. It just came upon me all at once. Before, I had been a well and healthy girl, for which I was very thankful.

One day while going about my work at home, I was meditating upon health and strength, and thanking God for the portion He had given me. All at once the thought came to me, "That could all be taken away as quickly as a snap of your finger." Of course, I then remembered Job in the Bible, how he had almost everything taken away from him. Yet he stood true to God. Job 23:8-10, "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: He hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

As I thought more about Job, I remembered that verse in 2 Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for thee: For my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

So I thought surely God doesn't give us anything too hard to bear. Not long after that, I took sick. I would have such severe pain in the lower part of my abdomen. Sometimes I could hardly sleep at night. But my faith was fully in God. I had much time to think about God while lying there in bed, and he seemed closer and dearer to me than ever before.

I know many prayers have gone up in my behalf, which God will honor. And I want to say I deeply appreciated the prayers and concern for me. I have improved much and know God has complete healing for me as I feel it is His will.

I do not regret one moment of my suffering. The lessons and blessings were too great. And I feel in time to come, I will be completely well, and will look back on this affliction with thanksgiving in my heart.

Your Sister in Christ, —Carol Jean McMillian

Okla.—Dear readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper: I have felt impressed to send my testimony in for quite some time. But I can't express how richly the Lord has bestowed His blessings upon us. In my times of trial He has encouraged me.

My little girl has had quite a cold and the Lord has touched her considerably and I thank Him for it.

I'm still going through some great trials and I desire your prayers.

Much Christian love, —Loretta Stockton

Kansas—Dear Readers: Recently my nephew, two years old, had an abscess in his throat just below his tonsils. His neck, head, and face were very swollen but the dear Lord healed him and he didn't have to suffer very much with it, for which we are very thankful. We should give the Lord the glory. Also, this

little testimony might encourage others who are praying for healing. Be of good cheer, the Lord is able and He wants to help us.

Pray for me and mine. The Lord knows our need. May God bless each one of your readers and may He richly bless each of His workers there at the print shop.

—A sister in Christ from Kansas

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in Jesus' sweet name:

Wednesday night at prayer meeting Sister Opal Wilson gave us a sermonette on the nearness of Jesus. She told how the disciples were in a ship. It was dark and the wind began to blow hard. They saw Jesus walking and they were afraid. He said unto them, "It is I, be not afraid." He was so near.

Mary went to the sepulchre early and the stone was rolled away. She began to weep. She stepped back and there was Jesus to give her the needed comfort.

The disciples went fishing. They toiled all night and caught nothing. Jesus stood on the land and said, "Cast the net on the other side." Oh, the multitude of fishes! Jesus was near and they obeyed Him.

May we never forget that when trouble of any kind arises in our lives that Jesus is near. He promised to never leave us. Praise the Lord!

Sister Wilson was inspired of the Lord to tell it. I can't write it as she told it.

Christian love to all, —Sister Dott Henry

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Mo.—Dear Saints at the Print Shop and abroad, greetings in the precious name of Jesus:

I feel it would be pleasing to our Lord and Savior to write my testimony of His great mercy to me and my family. Truly he is a loving and kind Savior and Healer and One we can call upon and He will always be there.

On the Saturday of Nov. 16, of last year, I went back in our timber with my brother-in-law to cut some wood for fuel. After cutting some down wood, we decided to cut a dead tree which stood about sixty feet high. As the tree began to fall I looked toward the top and saw it break about a third of the way down. I called a warning to my brother and he leaped with his chain saw, but I was unable to get clear of the top. As it fell, I threw up my left hand to guard my face, but it hit me on the right side of the head and right shoulder, also hitting my lifted hand that was guarding my face. The stroke knocked me completely out, both by the blow on the head and knocking my breath out. When I came to consciousness my brother was setting me up and asking me where I was hurt. The first thing I remember saying was, "O, Lord help me, Lord, help!" and praises to His name. He was there to help. I told my brother if he could help me to my feet, I thought I could make it to the house. When going, I could tell that my right shoulder bone was broken and could feel the pieces of bone rubbing together. My left hand was in a bad shape and I knew not whether it was broken or badly sprained. Also, there was a cut from the bottom of my right eye to my chin, my chin having a deep cut on it.

As I sat down and my folks were removing my shirt to see the extent of the hurt, the Lord gave me faith that He was going to take care of this injury without the aid of a physician even to set the bone. As I made this decision, faith seemed to be given to all my family. Thank God for a family that knows the power of prayer, and they all knelt in prayer together with Bro. Norman Allen who was here at the time. Our Lord surely blessed in prayer.

My wife and daughter called several places for special prayer, and Bro. and Sister Vada McMillian, our

ministers, came and anointed and prayed for me according to James 5:14, and we all felt that the Lord had definitely heard and would answer and make me well and whole again.

Some of our dear folks, who do not know the light on God's healing power, thought we were very foolish not to go to a hospital and have the doctor work over the broken bone. But we testified to the wonderful care of our God.

Many of the saints, both laity and ministers, came and encouraged us through prayer and song and other help.

Dear saints, I can say that I learned many sweet lessons while I was down. I was brought from a strong man down to the weakness of a small child. Of a truth all men are living on the mercies of God. I could not raise myself out of bed without help for about ten days. Bro. Murphy Allen came and at my request helped put some tape on my arm and chest to hold my shoulder from moving until the bone healed. I believe God showed us just how to fix this arm so the healing would be just right. Another thing we wish to relate is how the Lord blessed one night as I was suffering from both the sprained wrist and broken shoulder. It seemed I could find no way to rest at all, but the Lord moved in on the scene and gave me the sweetest rest I have ever known. When I awoke there was not a pain in my body anywhere and thoughts of praise and missionary work flooded my soul and I just praised God for his wonderful power and Holy Spirit.

At seven weeks from the time of the accident I went back to work. We give the Lord the praise for helping me, especially during that first week of work.

My family and I wish to express our appreciation to all the saints and friends that helped us at this time of our need. May God bless each and every one of you is our prayer.

Your brother in Christ, —Amos Porter

(Bro. Amos Porter is a trustee of the Church of God National Campground at Neosho, (Monark Springs) Missouri.—Editor)

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Kansas—Dear ones in the Lord: I want to say we are both well as usual.

Last night after I was in bed awhile, my left arm and hand began tingling and felt like it was getting stiff. It felt like it was getting larger all the time. I began to rub my arm and hand and I rebuked the old devil. I said, "Devil, you get out of here." I kept asking the Lord to take it all away, and He did. I tell you I couldn't thank Doctor Jesus enough for taking it away and healing my arm. Praise His dear Name! He is so good to His trusting children.

—Sister Grace Koehler

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Ohio—To the Saints everywhere, greetings: Today I am on my journey home to that glorious land where forever I will dwell in the light. I am saved, sanctified, and satisfied; ready to live and ready to die. I am well pleased with all that my Lord has done and is doing for me. Our home is a happy one; and we continue to live where we can admonish one another. We think on the song that says, "Father, I stretch my hands to thee, no other help I know. If thou withdraw thyself from me, oh, where shall I go?"

How precious it is in these last days to be saved from sin. We truly praise God for His word that is a comfort, strength, and encouragement to every saved soul. One day I was coming down the stairs and I missed the last step and hurt one of my ankles. It was very painful for awhile. My husband was sitting in a chair

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—Mrs. Cherry R. Alba

Mich.—Dear saints scattered abroad, greetings of love: It has been some time since I have written a testimony for the paper. I dearly love all the saints of God. I don't always have time to write to all those that I'm personally acquainted with, so I'd like to take this opportunity to greet you.

This leaves us still serving the Lord and with a deeper desire than ever before to live close to Him. We are glad we ever sought the Lord because He has proved to be a help in every time of need. He is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Sister Marian Collum was a sister in our congregation and she was very dear to us. She and her family have come to our home many, many times, and Marian would say it felt like going home. The Lord has taken her Home to rest now, and we miss her so much! At first it seemed like our hearts would break, but God has sent His comforting Spirit and has comforted our hearts. God can comfort our hearts as well as heal our diseases. We have proved it to be so many times. Please, all you saints, continue to remember her family that God will work out every problem and keep them in His care.

The dear Lord has been good to us. Once again He has touched my husband, Clarence, who has had so much trouble with his heart. For a number of years he has had this trouble. When he gets real bad, the Lord undertakes, and he is permitted to keep going. Recently his heart was so bad; he didn't know whether he would make it home from work alive or not. He goes to work each day by faith. He is a very hard worker.

Our son, Kenneth, was very sick with pneumonia. On Thanksgiving Day he was very sick. We really had to seek the Lord for more courage, faith, and help. The Lord undertook, but we still felt we needed extra help. We sent for Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson. They came (God bless them) and prayed with us. It was such a help and blessing to us. The Lord also gave Clarence another healing touch, and he has been much improved.

Kenneth was healed and we give God all the glory. The flu has raged in this part of the country and we have had it several times. We are healed now, thank the dear Lord! Oh, we have so much to be thankful for!

We appreciate so much the wonderful family of God. I'm glad I'm in that family. We desire the prayers of the saints, and please pray for the work here, that God will protect and care for His own. We want to thank all the saints for their recent prayers in behalf of the afflicted ones here.

Your sister in Christ,

—Margaret Brant

Let's Keep the Record Straight

The first sentence in a recent mimeographed sheet which propagates the no-cleansing heresy in the second work of grace reads thus: "There are many of our church of God people that do not know that Bro. Warner ever taught sanctification as a first work." Of course, they do not know that, because Bro. Warner never believed or taught such a theory. Let us examine the facts.

The writer has before him a 493-page clothbound volume entitled, "Bible Proofs of the Second Work of Grace" by D. S. Warner, published in 1880. In the year of 1877 Bro. Warner received the experience of sanctification or cleansing in the second work of grace, subsequent to his conversion or justification a number of years earlier. In 1878 he began writing the manuscript for this book.

Let us quote his own words from his book. Under his introductory remarks he writes:

"I wondered that we should have tarried so long in the 'first tabernacle,' when but a thin veil, and that rent by the death of Christ, separated between us and the 'holiest of all:' where the glory of God forever dwells, even that glory which Christ has given to the church 'that they may be one.' John 17:22.

"The great mass of the church, who have actually come out of spiritual Egypt, are yet with the murmuring host in the wilderness, battling with their inbred evil nature because, under the generalizing preaching of the present day, no further application of the blood of Christ is pointed out to meet the deeply felt want of perfect heart purity, and the great day of reckoning will disclose the solemn fact, that thousands have turned back to the double bondage of Egypt, and are now eternally lost, who, with definite teaching in the way of holiness, would have been washed in the Redeemer's blood, had their 'fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.'

"Having, therefore, a clear conviction, that upon the preaching, and testimony of entire sanctification as a distinct experience, subsequent to justification, more than upon all else besides, depends the salvation of immortal souls, the safety of converts, the purity and consequent power, peace and prosperity of the church, and the glory of God: and perceiving that this 'second grace' is 'the ultimate end of Christ's death, and the great burden of the apostolic ministry, I was constrained to dedicate, forever unto the Lord, all the energies of my being, for the promotion of this great salvation."

On page 34 Bro. Warner writes: "He who denies that there is a definite moral change to be experienced after conversion simply publishes the fact that he never attained it himself; and stultifies himself as much in the minds of all who have, as he who denies the experience of pardon does, in the estimation of all who have that experience. In either case, the person proves himself unqualified to testify, having no personal knowledge of the point in question.

"Recently, one of the many whose disturbed minds rush them into public print to oppose the special holiness work, took the position that the disciples were not converted until Pentecost, another in the same paper pronounced them both converted and sanctified. Thus, each, in the estimation of the other, was driven to untenable ground in order to obviate the second work. Both are alike contrary to the Word of God.

"The New Testament record leaves no particle of doubt that the disciples of Christ were 'born of God,' or regenerated under his personal ministration."

On page 79 we read: "In witnessing the conversion of several hundred souls, I do not recollect of hearing one profess entire sanctification in connection with pardon. Does not a Bible experience usually find utterance in Bible language? Why then do converts say, 'The Lord has pardoned all my sins,' 'I have found peace with God,' etc., but never say, 'The God of peace has sanctified me wholly,' 'Washed me whiter than snow,' 'Perfected me in love,' etc.? This can only be accounted for by the fact that they have received the former experience but not that represented by the latter terms."

On page 129 we read: "The one-work theory of the head could not stop the outcry of the heart for purity, but it could render them vague and indefinite, and thus prevent a direct act of faith from appropriating them in a present, definite experience of perfect holiness."

On page 133 we read: "The object of the sinner's consecration is to obtain pardon. That of the believer is 'for sanctification.' In the penitent's consecration the conscience is smitten with guilt, because of the evil of his doings. In the believer's consecration there is no condemnation, but the heart is pained at the discovery of inbred depravity. The first is an unconditional surrender, without a knowledge of the extent of the King's laws. The second is a perfect consecration, in the full knowledge of the purity of His law, and a fervent desire to be conformed thereto."

On page 162 we read: "These scriptures [1 Peter 2:1, 2] cannot, by any fair means, be reconciled with the Zinzendorf theory of perfect purity in regeneration. If this grace saves from all indwelling sin, the above exhortation to new born babes to lay aside all malice, etc., would be much out of place."

Beginning on page 180 Bro. Warner devotes an entire chapter on the texts in Roman 5:1 and 2 which are positive proofs of two distinct degrees of grace. Part of the chapter reads: "The Apostle here places side by side, justification and another state of

grace beyond. 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Here is a clear and full statement of a complete work, i. e., justification by faith through Christ, and its effect, 'peace with God.'

"As regeneration, adoption, and justification are all one in point of time, they are all embraced in this act of faith; but these new born joys are transitional. Behold, a second door appears which leads to the true standing grace.

"Read ver. 2. 'By whom?' By the same Lord Jesus Christ. 'Also,' in addition to justification, 'we have access by faith;' the same as into justification; 'into;' not the experience already mentioned, but distinctly, 'into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.' In this 'endowment of power from on high,' the soul 'puts on the whole armour of God,' and is 'made perfect, stablished, strengthened, settled.' 1 Pet. 5:10.

"If this Scripture does not aver two successive degrees of grace, I cannot see how language could convey that idea. If we deny this truth, this second verse becomes entirely without meaning—a useless tautology.

"What a contradiction, yea, what an insult to the God of the Bible for men, who claim to believe and revere that holy Book, and yet say they cannot believe in a second grace! Such pretensions are no better, yea, less consistent than the hypocritical plea of the infidel who says, he cannot believe the Bible at all. Such obstinate unbelief in the face of the abundant and unequivocal testimony of God's Word, and human witnesses, simply shows that the soul is under the dominion of old 'Sarka' . . . I should not fear to rest this whole subject upon this single text."

These are just a few quotations from this volume which thoroughly presents the united testimony of several hundred texts on this subject.

Again Bro. Warner writes in song:

"We reach the cleansing laver, the blood has been applied,

Then on the golden altar we're wholly sanctified.

Within the second veil, oh, holy! holy! place!

With joyful lips we tell the fullness of his grace."

J. W. Byers repeats the same truth in song:

"O second grace! I find it sweet!

God's holy will is now complete:

The Father, Son and Spirit reign;

All inward foes are surely slain."

No, my dear reader, Bro. D. S. Warner never taught sanctification in the first work of grace. Let's keep the record straight. —L. D. Pruitt

Has Your Heart Been Touched?

When word came that President John F. Kennedy was dead, hearts were touched all over the world, and indeed it was a sad event! But let us think of One who was killed over 1900 years ago. Even the hearts of men everywhere are still touched and it brings tears to our eyes. God was also looking

down on this scene, but with approval, for it was only through His death that mankind could be redeemed back to Him. It was an awful thing, as it seemed to His disciples and followers, yet we remind ourselves of it frequently by participating in the ordinances and partaking of the Lord's supper, and we are thankful it took place, sorrowing though that Christ, a man like we are, had to suffer for us.

—Sylvia Busbee

The Rich Poor Man and Poor Rich Man

There was a rich man and a poor man, and the poor man was just desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. But the rich man didn't have time to be bothered with this poor man. But let me tell you one thing, we must take time for Jesus. This beggar died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man died also, and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and seeing Abraham afar off and the poor man in his bosom, he cried and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me," and send this man to whom I failed to give the crumbs that fell from my table. When he came to my house, I didn't have time for him. Send him to me that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.

Don't you wait until you go to hell and ask for help, for it will be too late. Now is your time to turn from your wicked ways and turn to the Lord while the blood is running warm in your veins. O, man and woman, boy and girl, Jesus has his hands stretched out to you today. Don't turn Him away. He is pleading with you, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." There is no rest anywhere except in Jesus.

—R. Lawrence

Do Not Defile God's Temple

A physician recently asked the American Medical Association if cola drinks contain caffeine and the answer was that they do. Some of the more popular brands contained 3 to 4.6 milligrams in an ounce. The Federal Food and Drug Administration permits the use of caffeine in these beverages up to 72 milligrams in 12 ounces.

An average cup of coffee will contain about 18 milligrams of caffeine in a fluid ounce. Strong tea contains approximately the same amount of caffeine as coffee; but average tea contains from 12 to 15 milligrams in each fluid ounce. Thus, coffee contains about four times as much caffeine as a cola drink.

(This information appeared in the issue of Dec. 29, 1963, Grit Newspaper, by Dr. W. C. Alvarez.)

"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. Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. We are told in 1 Cor. 3:17 that "If any man defile the temple of God [our body] him shall God destroy." God expects us to take care of this body which he has given. We cannot be God's obedient child if we drink colas, tea, coffee, smoke cigarettes or use tobacco in any form, or drink any strong drinks. This is defiling the body that God has given us to live in. We cannot abuse this body in any way and be clear before God. It is a serious thing and should be given serious thought.

It has been proven by the Medical Association that one puff of tobacco smoke has 18 poisons in it. It also has been proven that tobacco causes people to have lung cancer and it affects the respiratory system and heart.

We are going to be judged in that Great Day by the Word of God. We cannot just live up to part of it and be clear in his sight. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10. We love the souls of men, women, boys and girls and that is the reason we must give you "thus saith the Lord." It is not our idea but it is God's Word and command. We can't do wrong and get by.

—Sister Marie Miles

HEARKEN!

"Hearken to me ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father." Isa. 51:1, 2a.

"And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham. . . Acts 7:2.

Hearken means to give careful attention to. What we are looking at plays a great part in our life. We need to look unto Abraham and take him for an example. When God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, God sent His angel down to tell Abraham about it. They found him in the door of his tent in the heat of the day. Most of us when we are in the heat of the day in trial, feel we have to be doing something; but Abraham was just sitting. Abraham pled for Lot and the others in the city and God heard that plea. Are we able to plead for souls like Abraham pleaded for Lot? God help us to realize that He has more for us than to be barely saved. Many souls would be saved today if God had men and women to go for Him.

Do we value the call of God as we ought? God called David from feeding his sheep. He called Peter from the fishing net, and He hasn't ceased to call today. He would call more of us if we would have an open heart and listen. How many young people have heard the call of God and yielded to it? As long as we sit in our pleasant surroundings, faith remains undeveloped. We need to hear the call of God. In Abraham's case, it involved many changes. God not only called Abraham but He gave him promises.

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Heb. 11:8. Abraham did not know where he was going and we may not know either, but God will choose our pathway.

God will give us a life of service if we will just listen and open our hearts. If we will be like Isaiah and say, "Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8b), God can use us. If we feel like all we can do is just to encourage the saints and not see anyone else saved, what's going to happen to us in a few years? There are great things that need to be accomplished in these last days. God has always had purposes to carry out. God has always had work to be done and He has some things today He wants brought about if He could get a hold on the right souls that will respond to His call. He is calling His young people to stand out as monuments to what He can do. The pathway of success is a narrow pathway of obedience. It leads out in the fullness of the blessings of God. The way of obedience may look steep and rugged, but God has a way of blessings and encouragement, when it all looks dark. Obedience is the only way that leads to the blessings of God.

Are we afraid to hear the call of God? Are we afraid that God might call us to service that we might not render? God can make us a vessel that is pleasing in His sight if we will bow to Him. He still has some great work to be accomplished. Take the bird that lingers too close to the nest; it never knows the ecstasy of flight. Take the one who wades in the ocean side; he never knows the thrill of the waters breaking. Settle it in your heart that "I am going to show God to the young men and women in my day." People need a challenge today that will cause them to get away from the shore lines. The angel told Lot not to stay in the plain, but to flee to the mountains. We need to live above the average. Some day God is going to rain fire and brimstone in the plain. God can use that man or woman that will move out and leave all pleasant surroundings. Mountain climbing isn't easy, though.

We get the idea that people out in the world aren't interested in spiritual things, but they are. The common sort of Christian is plaguing the world. Are we impressing others that we are not Christians of the common sort? Have we lost something along the way that will mark us as men and women of God? God is calling us to something that is a little deeper and richer.

—Sister Opal Wilson

(Parts of a message delivered by Sister Opal Wilson, taken in shorthand by Roberta Melot.)

"Oh, that I was to lie upon the fire that never is quenched a thousand years, to purchase the favor of God and be reunited to Him again! But it is a fruitless wish. Millions of millions of years will bring me no nearer to the end of torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity! forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell!" —Francis Newport

YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT—

We cannot predetermine who is susceptible and who is resistant to becoming an alcoholic. We cannot discover the alcoholic until after he has started to drink; and, sometimes he must drink socially and then moderately for 20 years before his alcoholic susceptibility becomes evident. The only cure known for alcoholism is total abstinence.

BIBLE STUDY

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

February 2, 1964

THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA

Printed Portion John 4:7-14, 28, 29, 39-42

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Memory Verse: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:14

Practical Truth: Believing on Jesus makes us perfectly happy.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There was a rigid social and racial barrier set up by the people of Judah against the people of Samaria.

The bitter hostility between them was caused by the remnants of the ten tribes of Israel intermarrying with the pagans, thus they brought in much idolatrous worship. The Samaritans also set up a rival temple on Mt. Gerizim not far from Jacob's well. Jesus proved to us by his actions that he did not regard any social or racial barrier. In God's sight all souls are precious. The Church of God has been practicing and teaching that since the beginning of this reformation in 1880. I know this to have been practiced for over 40 years. Those of all stations in life regardless of color have been welcomed to attend our services. The saints have been persecuted for this stand but nevertheless it is God's Word and it is practiced.

Jacob's well was dug through earth and solid rock to the depth of 125 feet.

Jesus spoke to the woman of living water which is eternal life. He also talked to the disciples of what was meat to him and that was to do the will of His Father, which at this time was saving souls. We, too, need to drink deeply of that water of life and eat the heavenly meat so we can receive a deep love for souls which will cause us to labor for their salvation. This will cause us to want to tell others the good news that Jesus will save today everyone who will come to Him.

February 9, 1964

PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN

Printed Portion Matt. 4:18-22; 17:1-2; Mark 14:32, 33, 37
38; Acts 12:1-3

Matt. 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart.

2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Mark 14:32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Memory Verse: For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20.

Practical Truth: Peter, James and John followed Jesus through joy and sorrow.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

These three are often referred to as the disciples who were in the inner circle. Jesus did not choose them because they had college degrees but because they were seeking truth. They also were busy men. God does not choose lazy people to work for him. The Jewish leaders said that Jesus' disciples were "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13). But through the wisdom of God they were more than a match for them. Jesus spent much time in training them as leaders and truth bearers for Him. In studying their lives we find them having much moral courage, yet humble and dependent upon the Lord. They were to face the big task of leading people away from the offering of sacrifices, outward cleansing and the ritual of the Mosaic law. People had done this for hundreds of years and for them to now believe that when Jesus came it was all done away with was a big step. The disciples knew that it would mean the laying down of their own lives as their Master and Lord had done. Jesus expected them to be firm, bold and fearless. He called Peter, Cephas, which meant "a stone" and James and John, "sons of thunder." Yet we find them to be men of love.

God permitted James to be killed but he sent an angel to release Peter from prison where he was bound to two soldiers and while two stood at the door, guarding him. Herod was permitted to do only so much. We, too, can place ourselves into the hands of a God who does all things well.

February 16, 1964

THE MAN RESTORED

Printed Portion Luke 8:26-39

Luke 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

32 And there was an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him: but Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Memory Verse: And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

Practical Truth: The devils will obey Jesus.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Devil possession is just as prevalent today as it was in Jesus' time. Many people today who are possessed are covered up by some disease that the doctor of today calls their trouble. Of course we do know that some diseases are from natural causes. Sinners today are all under the influence of Satan but are not all possessed. A person who is possessed is one who has yielded himself completely into the hands of the devil and is under his complete control. Some can be oppressed of the devil but not possessed. When a person has been delivered from devil possession he needs to get saved so he can be fortified against the devil. When he has been delivered, he is left "empty, swept and garnished" Matt. 12:44, 45. If his heart is not filled up with Christ the unclean spirit which "walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none . . . will return into my house from whence I came out; . . . Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

There is deliverance for every soul who is bound by Satan. Jesus came to deliver the captives. Have faith in God and His mighty power.

The herdsman was astonished to see Jesus talking to the demoniac. Matt. 8:30. They were more astonished when they saw 2000 hogs running down the slope into the water. Mark 5:13. They did not wait to see Jesus caring for the man who was being given food and clothing. The place was stirred and Jesus told the delivered man to preach to them. Months later when Jesus returned, the people there received him joyfully.

February 23, 1964

SIMON AND THE REPENTANT WOMAN

Printed Portion Luke 7:36-50

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if

he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Memory Verse: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence. Eph. 1:7, 8.

Practical Truth: Jesus loves the sinner and will forgive the most wicked person who humbly comes to Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The "more righteous than thou" attitude is not from God. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world because they were already under enough condemnation because of sin. Their trouble was deep enough and hard to bear. The devil is a hard taskmaster. But Jesus came into the world to show sinners a way out of their trouble. God sent Jesus into the world that the world through him might be saved. John 3:16-18. God wants us to have a heart that is touched and filled with compassion for every soul. The wrong attitude in dealing with souls will never help them.

Our lesson brings out the fact that the "more righteous than thou" attitude that Simon had was not right. He did not look with any favor upon the poor, repentant sinner woman. He watched in shocked silence while Jesus permitted her to wash his feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair. Possibly he began to doubt Jesus being a great prophet because he permitted this and did not say anything but he did not have to wait very long. Jesus rebuked Simon for not showing him the common courtesies of the day by giving him water to wash his feet and the usual kiss on the cheek from the host. Simon also heard Jesus tell the woman that her sins were forgiven.

We rejoice to know that God's love will reach down and save every soul regardless how deep in sin they have gone. He will save them to the uttermost all that will come unto him.

—Sister Marie Miles