

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

—A. M. Overton

The Blood of Jesus

God could not perform His part of our sanctification without a suitable sacrifice and efficacious blood being provided for it. Therefore, it is said that Jesus sanctified Himself (consecrated Himself, set Himself apart unto God for the work of redemption) that we might be sanctified. There was no moral change involved in His sanctifying Himself because Jesus was morally perfect. He knew no sin. The term is used here in a similar sense as under the Old Testament signifying a setting apart for sacred use. Isa. 53:10, 11 says, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed,

he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." Heb. 9:26 says, "But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." And Heb. 9:28 says, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; . . ." Again Heb. 9:14 says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

And Christ did this that we might be sanctified. It takes the blood of Christ to accomplish New Testament sanctification. Heb. 13:12 says, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." And our sanctification is a work of God. John 17:17 is where Jesus Himself prayed to God saying, "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth." Heb. 10:19 tells us that we enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the agent through which this is accomplished. Rom. 15:16 says, ". . . That the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." We see, then, that we are sanctified with the blood of Jesus, through the truth, by the Holy Spirit.

Just as there are two parts to one's justification, a negative and a positive, a taking away of sin and an imparting of the Christ life, so there is also a negative and a positive to one's sanctification. Some may say that the Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean temple, and if He comes in to dwell there at the time of our sanctification, then the temple must have previously been cleansed and made ready for Him. I agree that the Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean temple and that the temple must be cleansed and prepared before He enters in to dwell. But when our consecration to God is complete and our sacrifice acceptable (Rom. 12:1) the Holy Spirit, who is the agent, brings the blood of Christ which is the element of cleansing or detergent for sin and applies it to the heart purging and cleansing all impurities out of our nature and then

comes in to abide there as our constant guide and Comforter. Just as the two parts of justification are simultaneous, so are the two parts of sanctification simultaneous and occur at the same time. Then it is by obeying the word that we are brought to this point and instructed as to what and how to do this and it is brought to pass.

The first Testament was dedicated (sanctified) with blood—the blood of animals (Heb. 9:18-22). This was called the pattern of the heavenly things (Heb. 9:23). Then it speaks of the heavenly things themselves requiring a better sacrifice to purge them. The remainder of the chapter enters into a discussion of Christ and His sacrifice and blood. It indicates here a comparison between Old Testament sanctification and New Testament sanctification. Heb. 9:11-14 is a clear comparison of the two sanctifications and shows the superiority of the sanctification through the blood of Christ over that through the blood of animals.

Referring again to Heb. 10:19, we emphasize the truth that we enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. This is very necessary to a clear understanding of the truth on this subject. The holiest was the second part of the tabernacle. There was no entrance to it except from the holy place. The tabernacle had no rear or side entrances. The only way to enter it was to go through the court past the brazen altar and the laver which was typical of the washing of regeneration, having our sins washed away in the blood of Jesus, into the holy place which was typical of the holy life of the justified believer. From there the most holy place or holiest could be entered. In other words, one must be in the holy place, genuinely converted to God, born again, living a sinless life before he is a scriptural candidate for sanctification.

The early disciples were born of God, John 1:12, 13. Their names were written in heaven, Luke 10:20. They were keeping the Word of God and had been given to Christ out of the world, John 17:6. They belonged to God, John 17:9. They were not of the world even as Christ was not of the world, John 17:16, 16. Yet Jesus prayed that they might be sanctified. We can see a need of an additional work of grace in their hearts and the out-croppings of something in them that was not according to complete godliness. Two of them showed a desire for preeminence, Mark 10:35-37. The other ten became indignant against them over this, Mark 10:41. And the reason they did was because they had the same thing in their own hearts because on one occasion they all showed a personal ambition for greatness and argued among themselves who would be the greatest, Mark 9:34.

These are things that never showed up in them any more after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit which confirms the fact that a definite change was wrought in them by the receiving of the Holy Spirit. Neither do I claim that all that the apostles did before the day of Pentecost was an example for us in our justified life. They were still under the law where "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" was standard and accepted practice and consequently

might be expected to want to call fire down from heaven upon those who rejected their Master. We could not do that now and be justified in it because we are clear out from under that standard of life and know better than that. Also, the disciples along with the Jews of their day were expecting Christ to restore the kingdom of Israel in its splendor and glory as it had been in former days and would naturally be expected to seek prominent places in that kingdom. But we in our day who understand the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God and the establishment of it in our hearts and the humility of Christ as was later understood and taught by the apostles themselves could not act in such ways and aspire to such positions and be justified in it.

But the main point here is to note the great change in their moral nature that took place in them when they received the Holy Spirit. He was able to teach them Christ's true mission, character, the true nature of His kingdom and they were able to see how wrong they had been in those things. They were particular to teach us the truth on those lines so that we today have much advantage over them at that time and could not follow such examples in our justified experience and maintain our justification.

It was to brethren who were "In the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:1) that Paul said, "This is the will of God even your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3) and "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly," etc. (1 Thess. 5:23) Jesus said the world could not receive the Holy Spirit (John 14:17) but the disciples were not of the world and were ready to receive Him. Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed (Acts 19:1-6). The New Testament affords many more such scriptures proving the same thing but this is sufficient to prove that one must be in the holy place, born of God, etc., before he is a scriptural candidate for sanctification and that sanctification or the baptism of the Holy Ghost is a second work of grace wrought in the heart of man by the Holy Spirit of God.

But we must enter into this experience through the blood of Jesus. This signifies a definite cleansing in this experience. The blood of Jesus is always a detergent for sin.

Returning now to the pattern of the heavenly things—the type—we find that the blood of the sin offering was to be sprinkled on the altar of sweet incense which was before the vail and also to be sprinkled on the mercy seat and also to be sprinkled seven times before the mercy seat in the most holy place. (Lev. 16:11-16 and Lev. 4:7). Bear in mind this was the blood of the sin offering he was talking about and it was to be used from the brazen altar of the sin offering clear on through and in the most holy place before the Lord and it is said that it was to make an atonement for the holy place because of the uncleanness of the people, etc. Let us insert here the full text of Lev. 16:15, 16, "Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that

blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness."

Now Christ is our sin offering and it is said we must enter by his blood into the holiest which signifies an atonement must also be made there for our uncleanness.

But clear, indisputable proof of the cleansing in sanctification is found in Eph. 5:25, 26 where it is said that Christ gave Himself for the church that He might sanctify and cleanse it. This is not dealing with types and shadows this time but is a plain, definite statement of fact. This is the church he is talking about here. It is not the world of sinners lost but the church which is not of the world and those who are in the church have been given to Christ out of the world. But they needed some cleansing, too.

Now, in conclusion, let us take one more look at the pattern of the heavenly things. We note that the mercy seat was in the most holy place or second compartment of the tabernacle which signifies this is the place of the Christian's rest (Heb. 4:1-9). Also the fact that there was no seat or lounge or any place of reclining or rest in the holy place signifies that was not a place to stop and loiter but just a place to pass through in getting to the most holy place where the place of our rest was. In other words, God does not want you and me lingering in the justified state but He saves us to the end that He might sanctify us and perfect us in Him and bring about a full and complete salvation and restoration in us. So let us not loiter and linger in a justified state, but let us bestir ourselves and press on just as earnestly and rapidly as possible into the sanctified experience so that we may be made full and complete in Him.

—Ostis B. Wilson

GIRD UP

"Gird up the loins of your mind." 1 Peter 1:13. In the Oriental nations they wear long, flowing garments. When they had anything special to do they girded or tucked their clothes closely to their bodies so they would not be in the way. If they were allowed to be loose it would be in the way and cause them trouble. We read in 2 Kings 4:29 where Elisha ordered his servant to gird up his loins, and to go and lay his staff on the face of the Shunamite's child who was sick. His flowing clothes would hinder him in hurrying along to do as he was bidden.

I believe Peter understood what it meant to let one's mind run loose. If he had girded up or brought in his mind, when they took Jesus to be crucified, he might not have denied Him when the little maid accused him of being with Jesus. When they took Jesus to the trial, all kinds of thoughts pushed their way into Peter's mind. These thoughts took possession of

him and fear took hold of him. The devil made him believe he would have to lie to get out of it all. Dear ones, the devil works the same way today. We can't afford to let our minds run loose but we must gird them up and bring them in.

Paul teaches us in Phil. 10:5, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Dear ones, it means much to watch "every thought." The mind is the sorting room for the soul. The devil will present thoughts but we must separate them and resist thoughts that are not right or according to God's Word. We must let only those thoughts linger in our mind that will bring us into obedience to Christ. Our minds work all the time. We are thinking something continually. We have a big job on our hands to be sure that "every thought" is the right kind of a thought. When we see something happen or we hear something, our mind, right away, draws a conclusion about the thing or the person. Is that conclusion according to the teachings of God's Word? Is it a thought of love, long-suffering, patience, forbearance, kindness and peace? Or is it a thought of contempt, disgust, impatience, ill-feeling, and unrighteousness? Remember we are to bring "every thought" into obedience to Christ. Jesus could look into the hearts of people and read their minds. He spoke out clearly and plainly to those he dealt with. We are not able to read others' minds and we might misjudge unless God clearly gives us discernment. We must even then be careful how we handle what God gives us.

When we are wronged or mistreated, thoughts will crowd in, and over and over they review that hurt. Dear ones, we need to take a stand against thoughts of this type. We must remember that there is some good in that thing which touched us so deeply. It might be for our good, or it might be that the Lord has permitted it to come so others can know God is able to keep His children in severe trials. When they see the grace of God flowing out through you in keeping sweet under that situation, it will encourage them to want to have God in their hearts. God's ways are right and we must submit to God. Keep the blood of Jesus on the door posts of your heart. Through the blood of Jesus you can conquer and "gird up the loins of your mind."

—Sister Marie Miles

TESTIMONY AND PRAYER REQUEST

Mo.—Dear Saints abroad, greetings in Jesus' name. We want to report that we have had a good summer in the Lord's work. We have been privileged to visit some isolated saints and have been in several campmeetings.

We have seen souls born into the kingdom, the saints edified and striving together in the cause of God. We want to encourage all to be faithful and to draw nearer to God. We are much encouraged to press on in the work of the Lord.

At this time we have a special request for prayer. We know Satan would like to hinder the work of God. Pray that the devil might be rebuked and God glorified.

Yours in Christ,

—Murphy and Natalie Allen

"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, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

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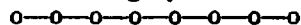
EDITORIALS

Again we greet our readers with a report of a very profitable campmeeting season. It was our privilege to attend the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo. for the 28th consecutive time, and the Lord's presence and power was felt throughout the meeting. The Spirit of God confirmed the Word with signs following, such as miraculous cases of physical healing. The altars of prayer were filled with penitent seekers day after day. Crowds overflowed the tabernacle at many services, and the facilities were taxed to care for those on the grounds. Many new people attended and rejoiced in finding the truth preached and practiced as in former years.

The Oklahoma campmeeting here at Guthrie was well attended. The Word was preached clear and definite, and souls were saved. In answer to prayer the Lord cooled the weather for this meeting.

The reports from the other campmeetings were likewise very encouraging. The Lord is calling His people out of the many isms and schisms of men into the glorious liberty of the children of God—into the "one fold" under one Shepherd.

God is preparing His saints for that final "battle of that great day of God Almighty." The recent events of mob violence, killing, burning and looting is but forewarnings of the communist-inspired disregard for law and order which may erupt into a nation-wide inferno. Even those who participate in "civil disobedience" programs and marches are aiding this pagan power whether they realize it or not. The dragon is now loose and gathering all the evil forces to compass "the camp of the saints." The only safe refuge is in the Lord—in that "sacred pavilion" under the shadow of the Almighty.



Our office and shop co-workers—Roberta Melot, Sharon Watkins, Clifford and Dorothy Wilson and family—were permitted to attend the Oregon campmeeting at Jefferson this summer. In that area some of them had close relatives whom they were privileged to visit again. Now they are back at the Lord's printshop with renewed courage to get the printed gospel messages out to a lost world.

We appreciate all the consecrated co-workers and we know that their reward will be great in heaven as they labor on faithfully for the Lord and His great cause. Nothing in this world is more valuable than a soul. The question is: Will that soul be saved or be lost eternally?



The Church has generally opposed any of its members joining labor unions. Though a number of states still maintain "right to work" laws, that liberty is being further threatened by a proposed amendment of Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley Act which would make union membership compulsory nationwide.

On June 8 several religious bodies testified before the Labor sub-committee asking for some conscience clause that would allow exemption for those opposed to joining unions on religious convictions.

definite second work of grace were explained with power and anointing which caused a searching of hearts all through the camp.

There were nine states represented. Many isolated ones rejoiced to be able to attend a campmeeting. We are grateful for the sacrifice of our out-of-state ministers as well as our local ministers whom the Lord used wonderfully.

We wish to extend our appreciation for all donations which helped to make our meeting a success, this being our first meeting in our new location. We are now looking forward to having many more such Holy Ghost-filled meetings now that the Lord is helping us to buy this camp site.

Pray that the Lord will continue to burden hearts that this is a camp site for the saints all over, a place to stage battles against sin and all the works of the devil. Pray for us and the congregation here.

—Sister Hazel A. Clark, Pastor

EL ALAMO, MEXICO CAMPMEETING REPORT

Calif.—Dear Saints of God: I would like to express some of the things I experienced while attending the El Alamo, Mexico campmeeting held July 9-11. After we got off the main highway, we traveled through some rough desert land following the Wittenborns in their camper. All during the four or five hours, we were never discouraged in the least as there was a hungering and thirsting that made us press on. There were my four foster boys and myself in the car. Sometimes around a curve the Wittenborns would be out of sight and it would appear that we were alone in the night for there were no lights to be seen anywhere. I asked the nine-year-old boy how he liked it in the desert alone. He expressed that he was encouraged to press on.

The Lord brought some thoughts to me and I began to express them to the boys. We compared the road we were on to the road to heaven. At first we were on a smooth highway for a few hours. Soon we got to the rough and rocky places, and at times we couldn't see the lights from our guide which we were following. I thought of Job when he couldn't find God on either hand, but he said, "Thou knowest the way that I take." When we could not see the lights of the pickup ahead of us, we only had to stay on the road. This is the way it is with following Christ. He will lead us through if we stay on the right road, whether we see Him or not. And we followed them right to the chapel in El Alamo. The Lord has helped us to know that it matters not what the devil says, we will make it Home if we stay on the right road.

The saints there came out to greet us, happy we came. Sister Charlotte Huskey asked, "How did you get here in the car?" My car is a '62 Chevrolet and is very low. The Lord brought us through the narrow, rough road. Sometimes I couldn't see over the hood of the car and sometimes I was climbing a steep hill and couldn't see what was ahead. This is the way of the Christian's life—not knowing whether we are going to hit hardships or favorable things—but the Lord takes us through. It would have been better if I had had a truck or pickup as the others had, but I didn't. The thought came to me that it is better to have saved parents, maybe surrounded with saved relatives, and a saved companion, but the Lord can take us through even if we are not equipped with any of these things. He will do with us as He did with Moses and his rod—He used what he had.

After arriving there I saw the working of the Holy Ghost and was made to think of Isaiah 53:2, "... He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there

is no beauty that we should desire him." I wasn't there very long until I felt like Jacob when he saw the angels ascending and descending and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place." I saw such humility among the ministers and much waiting and prayer. I saw a minister take the stand, then come down and kneel in prayer, asking all to pray again. He wanted to be sure. I saw how free all the saints were. They didn't apologize for having scriptures to read. All over the congregation saints would rise to their feet and read some scripture that was on their heart. And in every service there were several read and one could see the sincere appreciation for the Word of God. There was quite a number that went to the altar for help. Bro. Harland Smith would often lead out in prayer with all the saints gathering around joining in the prayer. Sometimes after the service the whole congregation gathered around the altar and prayed together. The ordination service for Bro. and Sis. Tomas Mendosa was very precious. He is surely a tool in God's hand. This was truly a campmeeting in every way as the people were sleeping in cars, truck beds, in the chapel, and wherever they could make a bed. They seemed to be happy just to be there. The meetings were very well attended day and night.

Quite a number were baptized, some very old and some very young. They believed in much prayer. The ones that were baptized would pour out their hearts to God before leaving the water.

The ordinances of footwashing and the Lord's Supper were very sacred. One sister seemed to think that if washing one another's feet was pleasing to the Lord, she wanted to wash as many as she could and after washing two she seemed to want to wash more. About thirty sisters took part. They weren't in a hurry and stayed and testified. One could see the sincerity on their faces, nothing was rushed, and there didn't seem to be a set time for things. They let the Lord have His way about the time for everything.

The saints interpreted for me but when I wasn't around them, everything I heard was Spanish. Still there was a wonderful feeling of belonging and of freedom. Everyone I looked at would smile and I could see God's love shining through. They are young in the Lord but still they knew how to get the love of God over to one.

These people have very little of this world's goods. Ministers live a very sacrificial life and sacrifice much to get the Word of God out to the people. I thought of the mutual love and charity the Bible mentions in the fourth chapter and the 34th and 35th verses of Acts. I'm beginning to understand more about the meaning of these verses. And I believe that the Lord will be pleased with us for helping the saints who are trying to carry on the gospel without the necessities of life. Many in foreign lands have a great need while we have such abundance.

"Do we well, my precious brethren? While they starve and die for bread. We with heaven's richest blessings are so bountifully fed. If we tarry till the morning, mischief shall our souls befall. Go and tell earth's dying millions there is bread enough for all. While we wait, the millions perish and we do not well."

Pray for me that I will keep true and do His biddings.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Elizabeth Freeman

SERMON NOTES FROM NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

"The man who has gone through the hardest things often is the man God can use the most to His glory."
—Bro. Richard Madden

"When you have God on the inside, it will automatically come out."
—Bro. Curtis Williams

"It doesn't do any good to turn over a new leaf if the old one hasn't been cancelled out."—Bro. Stover

"The Church of God is small but holy."—Sis. Abbott

"When God's glory fills this earthen vessel, the blessings of God will flow in our souls."—Bro. Carver

"Get an experience that will stand the storms of life through the most trying circumstances."—Sis. Lottie Porter

"If you are having trouble and difficulty with your children, it is the way you are handling them. There must be an example set for the children. The wife has to submit to the husband. If a child learns to submit, he will get along better with everyone. Be an example. Influence is robbing a lot of people of their children."—Bro. Merrill Williamson

"All of us are going to have to taste persecutions. If your feet are solid on that rock, Jesus Christ, then the trials can come, and storms sweep over your soul, but when the waves are gone, you will still be standing. The Lord keeps us as the apple of his eye. What touches us, touches Him."—Sis. Margaret Eck

"You can walk in water up to your chin and it won't hurt you as long as it doesn't get in you. We are troubled on every side but not in distress."—Bro. Lewis Williams

"If we miss heaven it will be because we failed God ourselves and not because of someone else." Bro. Allen

"The great majority of saints are the ones who gave their hearts to God in their youth. The older a person gets, the less chances are for them to get saved."—Bro. Willie Murphy

"God has the cattle on a thousand hills but He has to have someone to drive them in once in a while. Many folks aren't willing to trade material things for spiritual blessings."—Bro. Samons

"A lot of people rise and eat and get a taste of salvation, then go back to sleep. The journey is too great for us in a justified state. God wants to purge our hearts to cause it to bring forth more fruit."—Bro. Abbott

"The main thing about the service [ordinance of the Lord's supper] is the spirit of it. This is a special memorial service of the Church. It is bad to neglect to attend this service. It would be like neglecting to attend the funeral service, which is a memorial service, of a close loved one in your family when you were in the same town. Jesus knew if something wasn't given us to remind us, we would soon be forgetting the sacrifice that was made for us. These emblems are the keepsakes of our Lord."—Bro. O. B. Wilson —Roberta Melot

LETTER TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I have been quite burdened for the young folks. I've tried to find a way to be a greater blessing to them. I took these burdens to the Lord as I do all my problems. It is encouraging how the Lord answered.

About this same time I was reading a book written by E. E. Byrum. While reading this one day and meditating on its contents, a phrase seemed to stand out to me. This phrase delivered the thought that so many were "sitting on the devil's stool of do-nothing." The Lord said that was for me and my heart said amen. Praise God! I don't want to be caught doing nothing for God. Therefore I was provoked unto love and to good works (Heb. 10:24) by the brother's writing.

I am writing this letter with a sincere desire and prayer that it will prove a blessing. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed according to thy word." (Ps. 19:9). It is therefore very needful for us to read the Bible. "It is good for a man that he

bear the yoke in his youth." (Lam. 3:27). Praise God! I'm glad I've taken His yoke upon me. Oh, what a change it has wrought in my life. But here is the scripture which many young people stumble over. "Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded" (Titus 2:6). It would seem that it is hard for the young people to turn away from their foolishness. But from such we must turn away if we are to be Christ's disciples. There will come cloudy days but here is a good slogan to follow: "The inner side of every cloud is bright and shining; I therefore turn my clouds about, and always wear them inside out, to show the lining."

Eve influenced Adam to partake of the forbidden fruit. She was able to do this because of her position as Adam's companion. We are ambassadors for Christ and thus hold an influence with different individuals we come in contact with. Let's trust in God and use our influence wisely. Joseph was about my age (17 years old—Gen. 37:2) when he was taken by his brothers and sold into Egypt. He gained influence in the jail and later with Pharaoh by interpreting several dreams. As a reward he was greatly exalted. He accomplished this because he stayed humble and listened to the Lord. Jesus himself, at the age of 12 years, was found in the temple sitting with learned men both hearing and asking questions in such a way that many were astonished. When reproved for staying behind his parents, he replied, "What, wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). When called upon to prophesy, Jeremiah replied, "Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child." The answer was, "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." (Jer. 1:6-8). The young do play a certain part in this field of labor. If it hadn't been for young David going forth to meet the giant Goliath, what would have become of Israel? Samuel, when just a young lad, was used by the Lord to reprove Eli. (1 Sam. 3:1-14)

Let us take stronger courage, dear young people, and fight the good fight of faith. Before going to bed at night, ask yourself this question: What did I do for the Lord today? And if the answer is nothing, take courage and put forth more effort the following day. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5). God wants lively stones in His Church.

Pray for me that I will follow the "Lamb whithersoever He goeth."

Your Brother in Christ,

—David Baird

TESTIMONIES

Mich.—To the dear saints everywhere: I must write in and tell of what wonderful things the dear Lord has been doing for me. I had trouble with what I thought might be my heart summer before last. Sometimes when I would doze off to sleep in the car while riding, it seemed I would almost pass out. Around a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving time I had quite a lot of bad spells with gas on my stomach and couldn't raise it except through the mercy of God in answer to prayer. I had to be careful what I ate as it would sour on my stomach. Our blessed Lord healed me of that, praise His dear name.

Then I think it was about a week later I was real bad sick most of the time. I had so much trouble with my heart. I don't know positively that it was heart trouble, but I believe it was, and maybe other things, too. My lungs and chest seemed so badly affected and I had trouble with my throat at times, also. I surely was in bad condition while I had it and for awhile I almost thought my time had come to go. One night around the third or

fourth of December I was feeling so sick. I was praying earnestly and I told the dear Lord that if He would heal me completely of all this I would send in my testimony. Dear ones, I believe I was healed instantly, or nearly so. Even before I quit praying or soon afterwards I noticed that the dear precious Lord had sent His almighty healing power upon my poor body and praise God, I am still healed, and have been able to do a lot of work since. Praise His blessed name forever!

Dear ones, many of you will probably remember how for years and years I have had to wear a bandage on my ankle most of the time on account of those awful ulcers I had. I was on crutches at times, and two or three different times I believe I had blood poisoning. I had a raging fever, and I had fever sores completely around my mouth after one of those spells. Only my precious Lord could deliver me out of all this as I trusted Him completely. Praise His dear name. You who know all this can rejoice with me now, as this leg that had the ulcers on it is completely healed up. Praise God! And I know I am done with them forever as I am trusting my dear Lord that way. Praise His blessed name forever! Now dear ones, since around the first part of December I have not needed to wear a bandage at all. How I praise my blessed Lord for sending His healing power through my body in answer to our cries and prayers. I believe that was the time when God also healed me of the heart trouble. Praise His blessed name forever! A dear sister in her late sixties who is a shut-in, but knows how to pray, has also been praying with us real earnestly for this victory. It is a genuine miracle after so many years. I am so happy about it all. Dear ones, our Lord is still in the healing business. Don't be afraid to launch out and trust Him completely. He will never fail you.

Pray for me that I always prove faithful.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Sister Eva Wilkins

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and readers of the "Faith and Victory," We are thankful that we can report that we are still saved and love the Lord with all our hearts. We do thank the Lord for the time when He first called after us and showed us our need of salvation. We are encouraged in the Lord and have no other desire but to please and glorify the Lord. The Lord has been so extra good to us in the past few months that we feel that it would be glorifying to His name to tell of His wonderful blessings.

On December 8, 1964, I was involved in an accident while on my way to work. As I was rounding a curve, the sun suddenly blinded me and my pickup crossed the center line and hit an oncoming car. Both occupants of the car were women school teachers on their way to work. It was only a few minutes until Bro. Byron Pruitt came along and saw what had happened. It surely was good to have some of the saints around there with me. Both of the teachers were taken to the hospital. One was in critical condition and the other just had minor cuts and bruises. The ambulance driver tried to get me to go too, but I refused. It was just a miracle that my life wasn't taken. (I had just filled my pick-up with gas the day before and the gas tank was broken in the accident.) We went to my mother's. Some of the saints came in and had prayer with me. I had some glass in my eye and the Lord relieved me of that. I could not bend my left leg and the knee was swelling quite rapidly. We went to a specialist in Baton Rouge. We told him of our faith and confidence in the Lord and that we preferred no medical aid and to do only what was absolutely necessary. He honored our faith and said that he believed in God, too. I was admitted to the hospital and found out that one

of the teachers had been transferred to the same hospital and was in a very critical condition. Saints in different parts of the country were called for prayer for us. The Lord worked it out that my wife was able to stay in the room with me that night and that surely was a comfort. About 7:00 the next morning I felt that I couldn't stand the suffering any longer. My wife called my mother and she called different ones for prayer. The Lord gave relief from the suffering. (We found out later that the young school teacher died that morning.) After the doctor cut into my knee, he saw that it was much worse than the X-ray had showed. He had to take the knee cap completely out and formed a cap by connecting the two leaders that had been connected to the cap. I had to wear a cast from my hip to my ankle for six weeks. When the cast was taken off, I could only bend my knee a very little, but the Lord wonderfully blessed and now I have almost full use of my leg. What a mighty God we serve!

As a result of the young lady's death, I was charged with negligent homicide. The trial date was set for May 12, 1965. Bro. and Sister Carver from Shreveport, La., Bro. Williams from Ohio, and Bro. and Sister Merrill Williamson from Jena, La. were here for the trial. Most of the Hammond and Loranger congregations were at the trial also. It was marvelous how the Lord prevailed and worked. I was facing a possible five years in the penitentiary. The saints surely were praying and the jury went out to make their decision. They were only out for a few minutes. They brought in a verdict of "not guilty." We and the saints surely did thank the Lord. We have never questioned the Lord in this matter as we feel that He has permitted this to happen for a purpose. I can say that my faith has been increased in the Lord since we have been going through this trial. We want to thank all the saints that were praying for us. We know that many were concerned and we so greatly appreciate the burden that each one carried for us.

We also thank the Lord for the baby boy that He blessed us with in our home. We desire that we may have the needed wisdom and understanding in rearing him. We want to be able to train him up in the ways of the Lord.

Pray for us that we may hold true and faithful to the end. We want our lives to always shine out for Christ.

Christian love, —Randall and June Flynn

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

San Ysidro, Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Lawrence, God is so good to us and we feel unworthy of His blessings. We received "La Luz de Esperanza." They are so precious and I thank God He has helped me so much in Spanish that I can really enjoy them myself. We have given out quite a few but of course have many more to give out. But the people are so hungry for the gospel that it will be easy to give out all these.

We are glad to report God blessed the Sunday evening service in a very special way. Praise His name forever!

Bro. Esteven has returned from Southern Mexico. It is very interesting to hear of his efforts to spread the gospel there. He tells of one infidel he met while in the mountains cutting wood. He testified to the infidel of God's saving grace but the infidel just raved at him. Bro. Esteven said he just stood still and asked God for patience and wisdom. After the infidel was all through he said, "Then if what you said of God is true, there is no wind." The infidel was quick to say there was certainly a wind. "But how do you know," said Bro. Esteven, "You can't see it." "But I know the things it does," answered the infidel. Bro. Esteven said, "But you can't tell me what color it is. You said there is no God be-

cause you can't see Him and I can't tell you what color He is, either." The conversation went on for a while like this and at last the infidel shook hands with Bro. Esteven and said, "I believe you have convinced me that there is a God." Praise His name! Just use the Word of God on the devil and he has to back down.

Your sister in Christ,

—Charlotte Huskey

(A baby girl was born to Bro. and Sister Huskey in the mission home in Rosarito, Mexico, August 7. They named her Leah Mae. Let us all pray for these consecrated workers. —Sister M. Miles)

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

El Alamo, B. C., Mexico—Dear Brothers and Sisters: I thank God for salvation. I wish to tell how God taught me a lesson and proved His Word to me. In Luke 6:38 His Word says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again."

One morning my husband said to me, "Kill one of our roosters and cook it. I will be back after awhile and take it over to Bro. Alfonso's family; they don't have much to eat and she is not well." I did not want to give the rooster away as we only had three and I thought we needed it. I went on doing my washing, but later on in the day I decided I would do as he had said. I put some water on to heat and then went out to catch the rooster. The devil helped me to do as I wished by not letting me catch one. I ran and ran until I was very tired and gave up. When my husband came home the rooster wasn't ready, so he went out to catch it but couldn't catch it either. But he didn't let the devil get the best of him; he just got his rifle and shot it. When the rooster was finally ready, it was late but he took it to the family who received it with much thanksgiving.

Tomas had not been gone long when a friend brought me a nice young hen. The hen is worth much more than that old rooster, but if I had not given the old rooster, God would not have given me the hen. If we are selfish, God will not bless us in our souls, nor will He supply us with the things we need.

Your sister in Christ,

—Diamantina Mendosa

[Translated by Charlotte Huskey]

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

Ky.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and the saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name. Tonight finds me still saved and enjoying salvation. I really need the prayers of all of God's trusting children. I don't have any place to go to meet with the saints in worship. I don't know what I would do if I did not have my "Faith and Victory" paper to read. It is so much help to me. I really do enjoy reading those good testimonies, also the teachings and practice of the Church of God as taught in the beginning of this reformation. I did enjoy the article by Bro. Darius Gibson on the early teachings. That is the way it was once preached and practiced in this community. But things are different now in the preaching and practice here. But they call themselves the First Church of God. May God help them to wake up and inquire for the old path and walk therein.

To all the dear saints everywhere, may God's rich blessings rest upon you is my prayer.

Your brother in Christ,

—John W. Rice

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

Okla.—Dear Saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper, I have been wanting to write my testimony for some time for the benefit of all the dear saints, and to the glory of God. I want to thank everyone for praying for me. God has surely blessed me in soul and body.

My leg which was broken is doing real well. I haven't needed the crutches for the past two months or more. God gets all the praise.

In Hebrews 12:5-8 we read, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children. My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons." These scriptures are really precious to my heart, knowing that God has dealt with me for the benefit of my poor soul. I can truly say this leg that was broken has been the means of binding me closer to God than ever before. I have been made to realize more perfectly the obligation that rests upon everyone of God's children to keep hidden away in the fear and love of God, and to keep a real close watch on our every-day lives that we please and glorify Him in all things. There is no telling what may happen to us to bring us closer to Him and cause us to realize His will concerning us more perfectly. I wish to warn everyone to be more zealous in obeying God on every line of truth that our lives will be altogether acceptable with our God.

"Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28. Dear saints, we surely need the fear of God on our hearts continually. May our God bless these few remarks to every heart who reads this testimony.

Sincerely yours for God and His glory, —John Green

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

La.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: As I write you these few lines my heart is drawn to two very wonderful verses in Psa. 23:1 and 4, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Up to a very short time ago I did not know about these two wonderful verses, because I was so deep in sin that I didn't care to know. But today, dear friends, I do care, for on June 27, 1965 I, James White, accepted Christ into my heart and soul and I am thankful for what God has done for me.

God is great and He alone has the power to heal us and forgive us of our sins if we will only let Him. I am thankful that He thought enough of me to forgive my sins. I was so deep down in sin that I didn't care whether I lived or died. I lay on my bed many times and asked God to take my life, for I thought death would be better than the torment and agony I was in, but friends, I am happy today that God spared me.

I am 20 years old, and most of that time has been spent in jails and prisons. I was first locked up at the age of 12, the next at the age of 16, the next at the age of 18, and as I write this I am in jail in Amite, La. But even if this body of mine is in jail, my soul has been set free. This body, when it dies, will return to dust from which it was created by God. But this soul will live forever with my God.

Here is my prayer when I turned from my sins. "Oh Lord, I repent for what I pretended to be, or thought I was. I want to belong to Thee in truth. I want Thee to truly reign in my heart as Lord. Cleanse me of all my sin through your blood which was shed for me and lead me by your Holy Spirit. Lead me in true death to self and in true living in your will! I sincerely commit myself to Thee, my Savior and my God." Yes, these words have I made my prayer.

I praise God, and will always give Him the praise, for He showed me the way of salvation. And I say again I am very happy for what God has done for me.

Thanks to my pastor, Brother Pinkerton, for he is a great help to me. He helped me to see that this sinful life was nothing but a road to destruction. I am following a new road now and it is the one to peace and glory, and God's Word is my road map. I found out what God can and will do for us if we will only let Him. I hope and pray that these few words will help others who are not saved to get saved.

May God bless each and every one who is one of His saints is my parting word to you.

Yours in Christian love,

—James White

[James White was saved June 27, 1965 in the Amite, La. jail. He was taken from the jail on July 27, 1965 and was baptized in the river one mile east of Amite, La. and returned to the jail. —E. B. Pinkerton]

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

Mo.—Dear Saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory," I must testify of what the Lord has done for me. I know the Lord was with me all the time. I had what most everybody thought was ringworm. I had sores on my face, hands, and legs. They were so sore on my legs that I could hardly walk. My clothes rubbed them and that made them worse. I could only lay on my back in bed. Many nights I would get up about midnight, hurting so that I couldn't sleep. I would pray to God to relieve the pain, then lay back down, and in a little while the severe pain would be gone.

Many times unsaved loved ones and others tried to discourage me, but still I kept right on trusting God. Bro. Leslie Busbee kept encouraging me with scriptures. One that was a real comfort to me was 1 Thess. 3:3, "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." That surely was precious to my heart.

My mother wrote to the print shop for prayer. We received a letter back saying that Bro. Leslie had requested prayer and the saints there had been praying for me. I am thankful that I am one of God's family. It made me appreciate that family more and more to know that they were praying for me. I'm still thanking God for His wonderful family. This really lifted me up. Praise the Lord.

I was anointed and prayed for and God touched my body. Today I can walk, run, jump, or do anything a normal 18-year-old boy would do. The Lord surely was with me, I know.

Pray for me that I'll ever be faithful to God and never go back into sin.

Your brother in the Lord,

—Don McIntosh

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

La.—Dear Saints: We are still working among the prisoners. Some are getting help and some are not. We completed our third year of this work the third Sunday in July, 1965. There have been forty-seven prisoners who knelt in prayer for help. Bro. Wayne Turner is back in the parish jail. Anyone can write to him at the Amite Jail, Amite, La. We still go to Angola, La. State Prison once a month and visit death row. We need your prayers for heavenly wisdom for this work. Pray for the healing of an affliction on my body. I would like very much to be healed to the glory of God.

Your brother in the Master's service, —E. B. Pinkerton

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

La.—My Beloved Brothers and Sisters, greetings of love to you and each one in the precious name of Jesus. What a joy it is for me to be back writing to you through the "Faith and Victory." Also to yet be numbered among

the flock of our heavenly Father, for I still, by His love and mercy, lay claim to His glorious salvation. I praise God today for all He has done for me and the desire of my heart is to follow wherever He leads me. I know not where this will be but because I belong to Him I know that it will be just where He wants me, and for me this is enough. As the old saying goes, "It is enough, oh Lord, if thou art mine." And truly with Him we have more than enough.

As most of you know, my writing while at Angola was very restricted. Rules on death row were very strict and because of this I was not able to write and carry on the correspondence I am permitted to do here at Amite. In fact, I would deeply desire your prayers that these strict and unfair rules would be lifted off the death row inmates, so that those yet remaining there will be allowed to write to their friends. There are over 20 men on death row and because of these rules some of them receive no mail at all. Also remember the men themselves in your prayers.

The death penalty is a terrible thing and I thank God no one was executed during my two-year stay on death row. But I did witness the experience of several who came within hours of being executed, and it is something that I hope and pray I never go through again. Only by living those hours of waiting for someone to die could you fully appreciate the depth of this serious act of execution. Please remember this whole situation in prayer.

My stay on death row was for two years and in some ways it was a very hard time for me. I was faced with some trials and burdens that at times seemed almost impossible to overcome. Had it not been for the grace of God, I don't know what I would have done at times. But no matter how hard it got, the Lord was always there to supply grace for the need. Once in a while I'd have to fight through self to get His grace, but through it all, He was always there. The enemy tried hard to discourage me and the fight there was of the hardest. Victory was the sweetest over the hardest fight and through it all I found it a time that drew me closer to my Master, and more dead to self. For this I deeply thank God.

Bro. Pinkerton, as my prison-approved pastor, and Bro. Carver, with permission from the governor, were permitted to visit me on the row and these visits were a joy to me that can't be explained. They, and all the saints, made special efforts to show me I was not alone and there is no way my heart could hold any more love. My thanks to all who did so much for me. I have been touched deeply by it all and the beauty of these memories will live in my heart forever.

January 18 of this year was the day the U. S. Supreme Court handed down their decision giving me the new trial. It will be a day to remember in my life. Another man on the row heard the decision over the noon news and immediately called from his cell to mine the news of the new trial. I will say that I had thought I'd be able to take news gracefully no matter what the decision would be, but when I heard it I literally shook. My eyes were filled with tears and I felt deeply humble for what God had done for your servant. All the saints who have had a close association with me in seeing the Lord work regarding my life and my case can attest to the fact of how great He is. As someone else put it, "We stand in awe over what He has done." And if there is anyone in this world who owes their all to God, that person is I. The blessings He has flooded upon me are obvious for all to see, even those of unbelief have seen them. Small though these words may be, to God be the glory and praise forever.

Right now I am back at the parish jail at Amite and what a joy it is to be back in service each Sunday and to

be able to write and visit all my loved ones again. Truly it is cause for rejoicing and I surely do. Nothing has been decided on my case as yet but I am content and happy to wait upon the Lord and let Him work. Please pray that His will be done.

Later on this year I am expecting my mother down for her vacation and as I haven't seen her for over two years it will be a joy to my heart to see her once again. As most of you know, my mother lives in Minnesota. The latest word on my son, Gerald, is that he is growing like a weed. He stays with my in-laws in Minnesota and they take wonderful care of him. Please remember them in prayer, also. I am deeply thankful for the good home he has.

The Hammond campmeeting held recently was a real blessing to all, especially in answer to prayer for the salvation of souls. We truly rejoiced in this. I was able to visit many old and dear friends, and to meet many saints I hadn't known before. We had two wonderful Sunday services here at the jail, as well as a precious ordinance service on a week day that will long be remembered. At times I catch myself wondering why I am blessed so much. To some I know that will sound like a crazy statement when they see me in jail. But we know that anywhere with God, even in jail, is a rich, glorious blessing. I know that of all people, I am the most unworthy, and yet He blesses me to the overflowing of my cup. I stand before mankind as a living example of the love, mercy and grace of God to the sinner. My prayer is to ever be, as Hannah W. Smith wrote, an epistle of Christ, known and read of all men, to His glory and honor.

I must close now but Lord willing, I shall be writing again soon. I desire your continued prayers in my life.

Yours in the service of the Master, —Wayne Turner

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

La.—Dear Saints, greetings of love: Today I'm glad to report victory over the devil, and to be satisfied in the great love of God. He has truly proved to be a present help in time of need—the greatest Healer man will ever know. God has been very real to us, especially this year.

Many of you have been praying for Dale's healing of muscular dystrophy. He is very much improved, and finds the braces more in the way than helping him. The muscles in his stomach are functioning normally. It has been three months since he had any trouble with his food digesting. Praise the Lord! Oh, how good He is to us! We are expecting complete healing. There is nothing too hard for God.

Another great blessing the Lord has given us was the healing of our little boy Danny, who is seven, of a ruptured appendix. Praise the Lord! He was very sick three weeks, but the Lord has healed him. He has a good appetite and is gaining back the strength and weight he lost. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the saints for their concern and prayers, and I pray God to reward each one. No one can tell me the Church is losing its power or that the days of miracles are past. Anyone with this feeling should do more praying for themselves. "As your faith is, so be it unto you."

The Lord has permitted several severe tests of suffering to come into our home, but I do not want to complain. "The Lord knoweth the way that I take and when I am tried I shall come forth as gold." Praise the Lord! We are encouraged to continue to fight the good fight of faith. I am becoming much afflicted with arthritis, especially in my hands and feet. I know our God is able. Please remember us in prayer.

We enjoyed so much the Jefferson, Oregon campmeeting and the National campmeeting.

Christian love,

—Dora Doolittle

Calif.—To all the dear saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name: We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers in my behalf during the trials I have just gone through, also for the good messages we received by mail from you. The Bible says when one member suffers, all members suffer. You have proved this over and over again to me. I want to praise the Lord for this kindness for this is the love of God manifested through His children. It is so wonderful to serve a mighty God and have sweet peace in my soul. I love the dear saints everywhere. I want to report that Richard has a job here with a house trailer company. He works 40 hours a week and has Saturday and Sunday off which we again want to thank God for. It has been some time since he had a job where he was able to attend Sunday School and services. Praise His holy name.

I want to live so close to God that I can hear His precious voice at all times. He is the same today as he was yesterday or when he walked the shores of Galilee. Pray for us that we be able to stand in these evil days without a spot or wrinkle.

Christian love,

—Verlene Williams

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

S. Car.—Dear saints of God: Greetings in Jesus' name. I felt that the Lord would have me to send in my testimony. I can say the Lord has been so good to me. I have been saved for many years. I can say that the Lord is ruling and reigning in my life. He is my helper when I get sick. I don't take any remedies or rub on anything but I look strongly to God for my body and He has healed me many times. I am 91 years old and I find this way getting brighter and sweeter all the way. I am in need of a touch from my God. I have a growth on my back which is giving me trouble but I mean to trust God to the end. Many times the devil will come around and say I had better do this or that, but I tell him I have the best doctor anyone could have. That is God, praise His dear name! Saints, I want to live close to God where He can hear my prayers. I can't tell it all but praise His dear name, one of these days I will go home to be with Him. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ,

—Sister Mary Muckenfuss

BIBLE STUDY

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

September 5, 1965

GROWING IN THE FAITH

Printed PortionColossians 1:9-14, 19-23

Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful unto every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

Memory Verse: Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 1 Cor. 16:13.

Practical Truth: We can "stand fast in the faith" when our faith is built on facts.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Epaphras, a faithful minister, brought some good news to Paul concerning the church at Colosse. Paul wrote them this letter, a part of which is our lesson today. He was glad to hear of their "love in the Spirit." Our first verse starts out, "because of this." Paul had been praying for them to continue in the faith, love, spiritual understanding and to walk worthy of the Lord and pleasing unto Him.

The knowledge of Jesus dying on the cross, which was verified by many, many witnesses, and also His resurrection, are the very foundations of our faith. Upon these our faith begins to grow. As we become awakened, deep down in our souls to the fact that through his death and resurrection we can be freed from the bondage of sin, our faith takes in justification, through deep godly sorrow, which works repentance. Oh, the joy that fills our souls when we know that Jesus died on the cross to reconcile us to God. We were alienated and enemies in our minds and works to God. But through Jesus we were brought back to God. The knowledge of being translated from the low plane of sin and the power of darkness, into the kingdom of God brings great faith. As we continue to walk carefully before the Lord we find great pleasure in God. Our faith continues to grow and we are able to take in being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Our faith is the very foundation of our hope of being partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Jesus will present us unblameable and holy to God, as we continue to grow in faith.

September 12, 1965

HOW TO RUN THE RACE

Printed Portion 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 10:12, 13, 23, 24, 31-33

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

24 Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

32 Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.

Memory Verse: Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Hebrews 12:11.

Practical Truth: Do only those things that edify the soul and not the flesh.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

I don't believe we have ever lived in a time since God has restored this "evening light" in its fulness when the enemy has worked harder to destroy souls. The devil knows our weakest points. And each one of us surely ought to recognize them also. We should daily ask God to help us to see ourselves as He sees us. Examine ourselves to see where we might be weakest. Put up a guard of careful watchfulness on that point. Pray until we strengthen ourselves through the grace of God so we can overcome. Don't live careless but carefully, recognizing that you are fighting a sly foe.

Our lesson brings out how we are to live in this world. We are subject to temptations through the five senses of the body and the mind. But our lesson brings out the fact that God knows all about how we are tempted. He also assures us that he is watching and will be faithful to help us if we live close to Him and keep His commandments. Many times the very cause of people being overtaken, through strong temptation, is that they feel assured that they will not fall. Our lesson states very clearly, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Dear saints, never feel that you are above any temptation. Watch and pray. Jesus was tempted, yet without sin. You do not have to fall. God will make a "way of escape." Live close to God and do all you do to the glory of God. Deny selfish lusts and live so you can obtain that incorruptible crown that is given to the faithful few.

September 19, 1965

UNDERSTANDING OTHERS

Printed Portion Phil. 4:1-7; Col. 3:12-15.

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I intreat thee also, true yoke-fellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Col. 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Memory Verse: And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. 6:9.

Practical Truth: God will help us to forgive others and understand them.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Solomon asked God to give him an understanding heart. I feel that each of us should ask God to help us to be able to understand others as we ought to. Each of us is different. Each has mannerisms that might seem strange to others. We must be careful or we will misjudge others. This will bring a misunderstanding. Our lesson tells us that Paul is begging Euodias (U-o-dias) and Syntyche (Sin-ti-ke) to be more understanding of each other and be of the same mind. It seems they had some difficulties along this line. If two people will think good of each other and be tender toward the leadings of the Spirit it will lead them together. When two hold for their own way it hinders God's work. God wants His people to "be of the same mind in the Lord." This takes a humility on the part of all concerned. It will bring joy to the soul.

Our lesson tells us something to "put on." We cannot put these things on unless we are holy and the elect of God. We are to be just full of mercy toward others. We are to be humble in our mind, not thinking we are better than others but esteeming others better than ourselves. We are to forgive others or the Lord will not forgive us. If we will let the peace of God rule our lives and be filled with love we can have an understanding heart.

September 26, 1965

HAVE MORE LOVE

Printed Portion 1 John 4:7-21

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Memory Verse: And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God loveth his brother also. 1 John 4:21.

Practical Truth: You love God just as much as you love your brother.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God is love and He made man in His likeness. There is a desire in every person to love and receive love. Of course, when people yield themselves to the enemy of their souls, many times they act as if they do not love anyone or anything, but if you watch them closely there will be something you can see them bestow love upon. It might just be the dog, living with the hermit away up in the hills, that he loves. God wants us to be full of love. Love is what broke our hearts and made us realize that we were sinners and needed a Saviour. Jesus proved His love because He died for those who did not love Him. Therefore when we are born again we are born of love. When we confess that we belong to Jesus then God dwelleth in us. Now if God is love, then we have love in our hearts toward others. Our lesson very plainly says that if we say we love God and do not love our brother, then we are liars. I feel our prayer to God should be that we be so full of love that it will flow out to all.

We are glad that there is love in this world. It would be an awful place to live if there were not any love. God wants us to show our love. I feel the Lord wants us to smile to those we meet on the street and show our love in that manner to those we do not know. Try it and you will find it will cause others to smile at you. Now, in hell, there will not be one bit of love. What an awful place that will be! Heaven will be all love. May the Lord help each of us to watch that our love does not grow cold, but increases more and more. —Sister Marie Miles