

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Christ Is Risen



"CHRIST, the Lord, is risen today,"
Sons of men and angels say!
Raise your joys and triumphs high!
Sing, ye heavens! thou earth, reply!

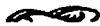
Love's redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo! the sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell:
Death in vain forbids His rise;
Christ hath opened paradise.

Lives again our glorious King:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once He died our souls to save:
Where's thy vict'ry, boasting grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
Foll'wing our exalted Head;
Made like Him, like Him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies!
—Charles Wesley

The Lord's Day—First Day of the Week



On Sunday morning, at the rising of the sun, the women hurried to the sepulchre where Jesus had been buried. As they arrived, they saw a young man sitting on the right side clothed in a long white garment and they were afraid, but he said to them, "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen, he is not here: behold the place where they laid him." Mark 16:6.

That was one of the most glorious days of all times. Our blessed Lord and Saviour came forth from the grave triumphant over death, hell and the grave. That day was the "first day of the week,"

which was Sunday. What better day would there be to meet together to worship the Lord? I am sure the disciples felt that way, and we find them together in one place on the first day of the week on their first meeting after the resurrection. (John 20:19, 20) Jesus appeared unto them and said, "Peace be unto you." Then just one week later, after the arrival of the eighth day, John writes, "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the door being shut, and stood in the midst and said, Peace be unto you." (John 20:26) We need to understand that the expression, "the eighth day," was commonly used in the law signifying the completion of one week and that it can mean nothing else in this place (see Lev. 23:35, 36); just as we now mention the eighth tone of the musical scale, meaning the first succeeding octave. We also notice in the Scriptures the expressions, "in three days," "the third day," and "after three days," are all used to describe the same period of time. So we see that the early church began to meet on Sunday, the first day of the week.

The early church was still meeting together on Sunday as recorded in Acts 20:7. This took place in Troas, in Asia Minor. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together, . . . Paul preached unto them." Paul told the Corinthian church to take up their offerings on the first day of the week, which is Sunday. (1 Cor. 16:2) Then sixty years after Jesus' resurrection, John tells us that he was "in the Spirit on the Lord's Day." (Rev. 1:10) Many historical writers tell us that even up to 324 A. D. they still called Sunday the "Lord's Day." (Eusebius) But we must remember that every day is holy unto the Lord. On this day we merely meet together to continue to worship the One whom we have worshipped all week. We don't worship the day, but we worship the God who made the day. The disciples met together on the first day of the week in memory of Jesus' resurrection and the Church today follows their example.

Constantine, emperor of the Roman Empire, was the first ruler who officially recognized Sunday as the day of worship. He did not start it, as it had

already been started by the apostolic church, but just recognized it.

It was also on the first day of the week that God poured out His Holy Spirit upon the 120 who met together in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1) That was a glorious day—the birthday of the church when it was put in operation—and now we meet together on the first day of the week to receive a blessing to our souls.

The Scriptures tell us, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25) We do know that the day is fast approaching when it might not be possible that we will have this privilege of meeting together in worship here in our country, as it has been denied in other countries. We need to appreciate this privilege and thank God for it. Let us pray that God will continue to give us freedom to meet together in the name of the Lord on the "first day of the week." —Sis. Marie Miles

The Seventh and Last Trumpet

There are various Trumpets mentioned in the Scriptures, all having significant meanings when properly applied and understood. In the book of Revelation we find trumpets in prophetic and symbolic language, but in order for us to get a proper understanding of their meaning we must interpret them in the light of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and in Acts, and the epistles. The truth in the book of Revelation never contradicts other New Testament truth, and can only be properly understood when interpreted by the Holy Spirit in the light of the New Testament as a whole.

In 1 Cor. 15:52 we read, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible." Here we see the last trump is to awaken the dead, and resurrect them. In Rev. 11:15-18 we read, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and forever. . . . and the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants, the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth." In the above scriptures we see revealed the truth that the seventh angel here is the same as the last trumpet angel of 1 Cor. 15:52. The dead are raised at the sounding of the seventh trumpet. All mankind are brought into judgment before God and given eternal rewards.

In the book, "Revelation Explained" by F. G. Smith, we quote his explanation of Rev. 11:15-18, "The seventh angel that here sounded is the third woe angel according to the description before us, and ushers in the general judgment. When the temple

of God was opened that this event might take place on earth, there were 'lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.' Wondrous commotions took place in the world, for kingdoms and empires were overthrown, and Jesus Christ was the only king remaining, and his mission was to raise the dead that they might be judged, to give reward to the prophets and saints, and to banish with everlasting destruction those that corrupted the earth. The description itself is too plain to need further comment."

In Revelation 10:7, we read, "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." In the first six verses of this tenth chapter we read of another angel, a mighty one, which came down from heaven, "clothed with a cloud; and a rainbow upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet were as pillars of fire." This angel is the one who stands upon the sea and upon the earth and declares that "time shall be no longer," but this is not the seventh angel of verse seven. This mighty angel, clothed with the cloud, and a rainbow upon his head is symbolical of the messengers throughout the world in these very days, who are crying that time is drawing to an end and that Christ is soon to bring the whole world into judgment. Quoting the words of the song written by W. G. Schell, as recorded by F. G. Smith, with his comments:

"Lo, the angel now is standing
On the sea and on the land!
How his voice the air is rending
As to God he lifts his hand!
What an awful, awful message;
Help us, Lord, this truth to see.
When the seventh trumpet thunders,
Then shall time no longer be.

One more trumpet yet to summon
Us before the judgment seat.
Then the time of our frail planet
Will be said to be complete.
How the wicked will be wailing
And the righteous overjoyed,
When with fire the heavens are burning
And the earth shall be destroyed."

In I Thess. 4:16, 17 is the answer and explanation to the last trumpet messenger, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." This agrees with 1 Cor. 15:23, 24. "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet." This scripture explains and agrees with Rev. 11:15, 18 where all nations and kingdoms were made subject unto Christ and brought into judgment before God. Also we read in Matt. 25:31, 46 where all nations will be brought before Christ to be judged.

These and other truths explain the seventh angel of Rev., chapters 10 and 11.

The seventh and last trumpet is not being blown yet, as some teach, and think it is. Christ is yet to come with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God to raise all the dead, and to separate the goats from the sheep and to give everyone his eternal reward.

Many false interpretations of scriptures are going out these days concerning prophecies and Revelation which contradict the New Testament truths which do not confuse, nor bring us into bondage to set dates, nor fixed boundaries. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The book of Revelation is a wonderful book, but it is being used these days by many false advocates of pet doctrines which have no foundation of sound truth in the Word of God, but are built on supposition.

Among the very last words in the book of Revelation the Lord warns us against adding to or taking from the words of the prophecy of this book. "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book." Many writers and preachers of what they call Revelation, today are violating the truths just quoted above.

Trying to measure this gospel day by seven church ages is a fair sample of the delusion. The Gospels and Epistles make it clear that Christ built only one church that would withstand all the forces of hell during the gospel day. He has only one church, of which He is the Head, the Door, the Governor, Priest and King; and yet writers and preachers mutilate His Body based on their false doctrines of seven church ages, and each one ruling a certain number of years. Such is adding to and taking from the plain teaching of Christ and the Apostles. The book of Revelation harmonizes perfectly with the teaching of Christ and the Apostles when rightly divided. The prophets had a rule to judge false teaching in their day. It was "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20. The same rule can be applied today. Thus, to Christ and the Apostles: if they speak not according to their word, it is because there is no light in them.

According to Paul and the Revelation, we find that the seventh trumpet is the last trumpet. See 1 Thess. 4:16, 1 Cor. 15:52, and Rev. 11:15, 18. This trumpet is to be sounded at the coming of Jesus Christ. Now He said, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man; no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" Matt. 24:36. Now, if no man knows, nor the angels of heaven, neither Christ himself knows when His coming will be, how, and where is any man's authority to say that we are now living under the seventh trumpet, when that trumpet is not to sound

until Christ rends the heavens with a shout? See 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

The poet said, "The sixth trumpet now is sounding to prepare his holy bride." And that is confirmed by Matt. 24:31. Now all His people are not gathered out yet, and His Bride will not be made ready until all have been gathered out, purified and cleansed by the preaching of the Word (Eph. 5:26, 27). So according to God's plan the sixth trumpet will continue to sound till His bride is ready, and then He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, the seventh and last trumpet of God, to judge the world, and take His Church home to be forever with Him. To say that we are now living under the seventh trumpet is to deny the teaching of Christ, and the divine inspiration of the Apostle Paul.

—R. A. Owens

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN WORSHIP

Question: Is it right to use musical instruments in worship? G. W.

Answer: God's ear hears nothing but the music of the human heart. We are to sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. See Col. 3:16. Make melody in your heart to the Lord. Eph. 5:19. The melody of the heart is the only worship that God hears whether it be in preaching, praying, or singing. Eloquent sermons never reach the ear of God if they are not born in a Holy Spirit filled soul. God will hear the ignorant man or woman's prayer if it comes from the heart, but the words of a prayer may be grammatically correct and the sentiment ever so beautiful, yet if it does not come from the heart, it never reaches God's ear. The voice may be ever so melodious and well-trained, the voices of the quartet may be in the most beautiful harmony and they may sing to delight the trained ears, but many times the cracked voice of the lonely widow in her cabin home is far sweeter music in the ears of God. A musical instrument is perfectly heartless; therefore the tones of the piano never reach God's throne, no more than a heartless prayer or sermon. It is not the cultivated voice or the soft melodious tone of the harp and viol that God hears, but the heavenly melody of the heart. Why bring anything into the worship of God that cannot worship God?

—C. E. Orr

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may I bravely do my part
To win that soul to Thee.

—Robert E. Goodrich, Jr.

FAITH-INSPIRING volume just off the press, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present," consists of 272 pages. Doctrine of divine healing and 273 testimonies in attractive heavy paper cover. Price—\$1.50 for a single copy, three copies for \$4.00. ORDER TODAY! The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher by Isabel Byrum. Paper bound, 223 pages. Price—\$1.00. Both of these books are postpaid at prices quoted.

"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.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 13th 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.

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

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

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EDITORIALS

A sincere "thank you" and a hearty welcome is extended to the many readers who became regular subscribers by returning the pink or blue subscription remittance envelope attached to the wrapper of those special "trial" copies which expired with the March issue. The response to this literature extension effort is very encouraging. Letters from quite a number of new readers expressed how glad they were to read these trial issues, and now they want to receive a copy every month. (A few of these letters appear on another page.) May the Holy Spirit continue to illuminate the Bible truth on various subjects which will appear in the forth-coming issues.

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The season of springtime has come again. The plant creation, which has lain dormant through the winter months, now bursts forth in new life and color. The warm air and moisture combine to produce a resurrection. Likewise, in a spiritual sense, the soul which is "dead in trespasses and sins" can be resurrected to walk in newness of life as he hears and believes the soul-saving gospel.

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In Luke 24:1-6 we read that the women went to the sepulchre very early in the morning. The stone was rolled away and they found not the body of the Lord Jesus. Two angels standing by the empty tomb said to the women, "He is not here, but is risen." The empty tomb speaks eloquently of Jesus' resurrection and that He is now our living Saviour, Priest, and King. Jesus—the Resurrection and the Life—did not conduct any funerals, but when He came in contact with the dead they were resurrected. The obedient disciples of Jesus today also have that blessed hope in His promise, "Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19b.

The plan of salvation was not complete without Jesus' resurrection. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Who [Jesus] was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." Rom. 4:25. "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." 1 Cor. 15:14. "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." 1 Cor. 15:17. "But NOW is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." 1 Cor. 15:20. Thank God for a risen Savior who is alive forevermore. Now He sits on the mediatorial throne at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, not to set up His kingdom (for He did that at His first coming), but to "deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father . . . For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Cor. 15:24-26. At Jesus' coming the last grip of physical death will be destroyed forever with the general resurrection of all the dead, the righteous to eternal life and the wicked to everlasting punishment.

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Bro. T. H. Coffey, pastor at Hammond, La. held a meeting here at Guthrie, Okla. from March 4 to 10.

The preaching was clear and definite Bible truth. Some souls responded and found help at the altar of prayer. The saints were edified, and rejoiced in the truth. Sister Coffey was here with him, but she still needs prayer for the complete healing of stomach trouble. We appreciate their lives of devotion to the cause of Christ, and were glad to have them in our home. May the Lord continue to bless their efforts.

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Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist from Kentucky, began a meeting on March 17 at the 50th Street Chapel of the Church of God in Oklahoma City. Very good reports have come from those in attendance. Bro. Williams visited us and co-workers here at the office on Tuesday, March 19. May the Lord continue to bless and prosper his labors in the evangelistic field.

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Congratulations and best wishes are extended to Bro. and Sister Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla. who observed their 60th wedding anniversary on Monday, March 25. Neither of them is well enough to be out much, but their hearts are still in the work of the Lord. If you have not sent them a card or letter, it is not too late. Their address is 2262 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, Okla. 74110.

On Sunday afternoon, March 24, Bro. and Sister Ralph Beisly of Coffeyville, Kansas held open house at the Barton home in Tulsa for this beloved couple. Many friends and saints came to wish them well. May the God of all grace be their portion until the crown is won.

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New Book Just Off the Press—Order Today!

The new book, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present," is expected to be ready for distribution by April 1. This faith-inspiring volume consists of 272 pages. The first 90 pages set forth the Bible doctrine of divine healing, and the remaining pages record 273 testimonies of healing from about the year 1890 up to the present. Many of these testimonies were taken from the files of this paper over the past 45 years. If you had a healing testimony in this paper, it might have been included in this book. Some want copies in a cloth binding, and that may be done in the near future, depending on the cost. In order to keep the price reasonably low for wider circulation, we will put most of this edition in an attractive heavy paper binding. The price is \$1.50 for single copy, or 3 copies for \$4.00, postpaid to you. Send your order and remittance TODAY, and it will be filled as soon as possible.

Prayer and faith are the keys to divine physical healing, as well as the salvation of the soul or any other blessing from the hand of God.

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Other excellent out-of-print books are planned to be reprinted just as fast as time, help, and means will permit. Our only aim is to present these vital Bible truths to this generation with the prayer and hope that they will prepare to meet the Lord in peace when He calls the world to Judgment. Soul-saving work is the highest calling there is in this world—that

which pertains to the eternal destiny of immortal souls. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." 2 Cor. 5:11. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18. Again he testifies: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. . . ." Rom. 1:16. There is transforming power in believing the gospel of Christ. No other name or means can save the soul from sin. Friend, if you are not at peace with God, won't you plunge into that cleansing fountain today?

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The Psalmist David exhorts: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: . . . who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies."

Many times a special benefit has come to our mind in which the Lord's hand intervened to protect us from serious physical harm. Ten years ago in February my wife and I were driving on the highway just north of Oklahoma City, coming home. A car came around one in the opposite lane of traffic, facing us in our lane, and struck the left one-fourth of the front of our car, caving in the whole left side where I was sitting at the steering wheel. Our car was pushed sideways and my wife was thrown out onto the ground, but the car did not turn over. Both of us were hurt and bruised—no broken bones. The Lord undertook in answer to prayer and we were healed up in a short time. This accident was very close to being much more serious. Had the collision been slightly more direct head-on, the result could have been far different. But we have thanked the Lord many times for His intervening hand in sparing our lives. The Lord protects His people from dangers seen and unseen—perhaps many more times from unseen dangers than we will ever know about. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord!"

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Jesus said, "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." This is a "must," and the workers at this gospel publishing plant are encouraged to be faithful in sending out the "white-winged" gospel messengers in all directions. Your continued prayers and co-operation will certainly be appreciated, and God will smile upon you. —L. D. Pruitt

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LOS ANGELES EASTER REVIVAL

The Los Angeles, Calif. Church of God annual Easter revival will convene, Lord willing, on April 5 to April 14, 1968. There will be three services each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and 7:30 nightly. We cordially invite everyone to attend these services and solicit your prayers for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. I. C. Chandler, 415 11th St., Bakersfield, Calif., phone FA 5-6752 or Bro. T. R. Summers, 207 E. 76th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. phone PL 8-8319. Bro. I. C. Chandler, Pastor

Campmeeting Dates for 1968

Following are some of the campmeeting dates for the coming summer. Dates of others will be added as they come in. More complete notices of each will appear in later issues.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 7 to 16.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 21 to 30.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 28 to July 7

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—July 5 to 14.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 14.

National Campmeeting at Neosho, Mo.

(Monark Springs)—July 19 to 28.

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—August 2 to 11.

Boley, Okla.—August 16 to 25.

Myrtle, Mo.—August 16 to 25.

Fresno, Calif.—Aug. 16 to 25.

MEETING TO BE HELD IN ALABAMA

Bro. Lindsey Shelton plans to have another meeting this year in Alabama, beginning May 10, Lord willing. The place is 23 Hightown, Northport, Ala. We are expecting Bro. Lewis Williams and Bro. Isaac Chandler and a company of gospel workers. We are asking the prayers of all the saints. This is a new field where we are trying to get a work started. If any of the saints desire to help, we would appreciate it. You may send your offering to either Bro. Williams or Bro. Shelton.

All who desire to come, will find a sincere welcome. If anyone comes by bus to Tuscaloosa, Ala., call this number—75-8-2187. If any come in cars from Columbus, Miss. on 82 Highway, cross Boiler Road, turn left at Travel Inn. If coming from South on 82 Highway, cross 69 on 82, come to the Travel Inn, and turn right.

For further information contact Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt, Wichita, Kansas, or Bro. Lindsey Shelton, 23 Hightown, Northport, Alabama.

PLANS FOR EVANGELISTIC TENT MEETINGS

"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Eccl. 11:4.

Now is the time to get the evangelistic tent equipment ready for service in the field. Let us be encouraged from the good fruits from last summer's efforts. Bro. Mart Samons and others held a tent meeting in Kentucky which resulted in the establishment of a permanent place of worship near where he now lives at Danville. Hungry souls are still out in the byways and hedges, but the Church must take the truth to where they are. Let us not be weary in well doing. Neither should we observe the winds of adversity, nor regard the clouds of discouragement. A vision of the worth of a soul will impel us to our duty.

Bro. Mart Samons reports that he and Bro. Curtis Williams want to hold tent meetings this summer in W. Va. and Kentucky. The truck, which pulls the house trailer and hauls the tent equipment, must have a new or rebuilt motor. Of course, this will require money to get the truck rolling again. The Lord will bless your sincere interest and sacrifice for this worthy endeavor. Please send your free-will offerings for this purpose directly to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Church of God Missionary Fund, Louie and Evodna Marler, Rt. 1, Box 180, Senath, Mo. 63876. —Lawrence Pruitt

ATTEND THE DAYTON, OHIO MEETING

The Lord willing, Bro. O. B. Wilson will hold a meeting at Dayton, Ohio, beginning Easter Sunday, April 14, and to continue about 10 days or as long as the Lord leads.

The Church at Dayton extends a hearty welcome to all the saints and lovers of the truth to attend these services.

For further information, phone or write the pastor, Bro. Wm. McCoy, 24 Belpre Place, Dayton, Ohio 45403.

OKLAHOMA CITY SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Church of God, Third and Phillips Streets, Oklahoma City, will be held, Lord willing, from May 3 through May 12, 1968. A sincere welcome is extended to all. Come praying and looking to God to pour out His blessings in this meeting.

For further information, contact Bro. Herman D. Kelley, Pastor, 2304 N. Everest, phone GA 7-7314, or Sister Mary E. Harris, Secretary, 2140 N. Kate, phone GA 7-7330.

GUTHRIE, OKLA. ALL-DAY EASTER SERVICES

The congregation of the Church of God at Guthrie, Okla. cordially invites you to attend their annual all-day services on Easter, April 14. A basket lunch will be served at noon in the dining hall. Come and worship our risen Lord with us.

OBITUARIES



Bro. J. R. Hooker was born February 27, 1884, and departed this life January 16, 1968 at Carthage, Mo. at the age of 83 years, 10 months, and 29 days.

He was united in marriage to Winnie Herrod, to which union were born four sons and two daughters, all of whom survive. The sons are: Joseph, North Highlands, Calif.; Samuel, Portland, Oregon; Fred, San Bernardino, Calif.; and Robert, Jr. of Springfield, Mo.; daughters are Mrs. Elna Lauderdale, Lawrence, Kansas, and Mrs. Roberta Sawyer, Memphis Tenn.; also grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bro. and Sister Hooker celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1967.

Funeral services were conducted by the two minister sons, Joseph and Samuel, assisted by others, and burial was in the Oak Hill cemetery at Carthage, Mo.

I was in the home and witnessed the death of Bro. Hooker. It was indeed precious to see the sweet spirit manifested in his life. As death approached, how thankful he was! He loved the Lord and His people, and in return, he was dearly loved.

How true it is, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

Sister Hooker has a very nervous condition and needs prayer. —Ruth Murphey

Vernon Parrish, son of Charles and Wilma Parrish, was born October 29, 1958 in Fresno, Calif. He departed this life March 9, 1968 at the age of 9 years, 4 months, and 9 days.

It was during the Fresno, Calif. campmeeting in August, 1967 that he accepted the Lord. Vernon was a very dear child. At home he was diligent, faithful, and

obedient. He was faithful and cooperative in his Sunday school class and in children's meeting. He was loved by all who knew him. During his saved life he encouraged one of his friends to get saved. The friend heeded Vernon's advice and is still saved today. During his short illness he was faithful to the end.

He leaves to mourn his passing his father and mother, Charles and Wilma Parrish; three sisters: Debra, Arlene, and Charlene; nine brothers: Chester, Ellington, Anthony, Cornell, Murphy, Bryant, Arnold, Charles, Jr., and Timothy, all of the home; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Phillips, and Bro. James Parrish, also of Fresno, and a host of relatives, saints, and friends. One brother preceded him in death.

Funeral services for August Leitgable were held February 17, 1968 at Pocahontas, Ark. He was 90 years old, and is survived by his wife, Amanda Leitgable, of Pocahontas.

Several years ago he was saved at the Church of God chapel at Myrtle, Missouri. He enjoyed attending services when he had the opportunity.

Mrs. Laura Nicholson passed away on February 6, 1968 at Bloomington, Ill. She would have been 83 years of age the 21st of February. She died suddenly with a heart attack. She had asked God to take her this way, and He answered her prayers.

Mother often wrote to you and your group for prayer. She lived every day for God, and the trip she had planned for many years is over, and she is now with Jesus. Mother had much faith and extended it to many people. She is surely missed by all. —Mrs. Max Lockenvitz

In Remembrance of Sister Lucy Mae Patterson,

Coffeyville, Kansas,

Who passed away on March 29, 1967

When I was a little girl,
And it was time to go to bed,
My mom would read the Bible,
A book she always read.
She'd read to me about Jesus,
And how He came to be;
About His love for everyone,
How He died for you and me.
Beside the bed she'd kneel in prayer,
And thank Him for the day,
And for the many blessings.
Then she'd always say:
"Keep us through this night,
And protect us, Lord, until
We meet You in the morning,
Whenever it's Thy will."

—By her daughter, Ruth Means

VICTORY

Oh, what a wonderful thing it is to have victory in Christ! Such a victory does not put us "on top" in a worldly way, but it enables the poor among men to rejoice in the holy One of Israel, and the meek to increase in joy and gladness and wealth greater and more precious than gold. It enables "whosoever will" to triumph over the more weighty matters of life, which matters easily beset the greatest world conquerors. Thus they prove the testimony of one long ago who said, "He that ruleth

his spirit is better than he that taketh a city." We conquer by the sign of the cross, by overcoming the world. The power of Christ and the Kingdom of God enable men to subdue their lives to holiness. Oh, that more could but grasp the vision of the victory that Christ, the Saviour of men, wills to give to all!

—Leslie Busbee

IN MEMORY OF PAULINE BROWN

TIME—does time mean anything to you?
With all the work there is to do.

The day no more than get's a start,
With us we have to dash and dart!

The morning starts with six straight bells,
And chimes our way to heaven or hell.

How did we live our time today?
Did we take time to watch and pray?

When time is through and we are gone,
Can it be said of us at dawn,
She truly was a Dorcus sweet,
For me she washed and mended neat?

Her time was all well used for God.
She worked with hands and often trod
To do for others with no complaint.

Time was well spent, 'twas just a saint!

—By Pauline Brown

Selected by her daughter, Doris.

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MINISTER

Midwest Nigeria, W. Africa (Feb. 12)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: My family and the gathered brethren join with me to send you, workers of the Faith Publishing House, and the saints of Church of God in the United States of America greetings in the holy name of Jesus—the joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all here below, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who reigns in perfect light. Praise His holy name! Amen.

I am acknowledging your letter dated January 25, 1968, in which was enclosed a draft . . . for the advancement of the gospel of Christ in the Kwale area. The draft was easily cashed and may God bless the saints who are led by the Spirit to donate willingly for the support of the work in foreign lands. We are toiling on and shall labor until the Master comes.

It is a matter of much interest to now state that many who have been in darkness, being fed with false doctrine and prophecy, are at least listening attentively to the great message of the Kingdom of God. How very regrettable it is that countless thousands who claim to belong to Christ are merely professors and not possessors of Christ. Thanks be to God that we are not driven into silence, but find ourselves more engaged in active service in Jesus' Army of Redemption. We have gathered a good number and I am contemplating to address a letter to the Ukwuani District Council Amai to permit us the use of a hall at the local Authority School at Usagba-Ogbe for worship on Sundays. It is forbidden since the war began to assemble in the field for open air preaching. House to house campaign, which engages our attention as the alternative, is yielding fruits satisfactorily to the praise of our God.

The war in Nigeria is shocking, horrible, heart-rending, and thought-provoking. Satan has succeeded in deceiving Nigerians to regard themselves as enemies and engage in a bloody conflict. Most painful of it all

is that the majority of these thousands who have passed away were not saved. What a jump from the frying pan to the fire! The civil war could have been avoided had the ministers of religion in Nigeria been true to their Christian conscience. Just a few, very negligible indeed, who submit to be led by the Spirit and walk with God. These are they who are fervent in prayer, asking God to be merciful in order that the plans of Satan against Christianity should be frustrated.

Commenting on Benin City congregation, I have to assert that truth shall prevail. Darkness will surely fade away with the gradual coming of the morning light. The Church of God is Mount Zion; it cannot be removed, but abideth forever.

It is good news that you have mailed to me a package containing a Holy Bible, and several other religious books, pamphlets, and tracts for distribution. Since the wicked hands denied me my entire personal possessions at Benin City through looting, of which my Bible was most felt, I have not got the means to buy a good one. I was fortunate to meet a man in my home town who loaned me one for use.

Your prayer is our chief need. I desire it from you all, too, in behalf of our brethren at Asana.

Yours to make Him known, —Titus U. E. Enu

MEXICO (BAJA) MISSIONS REPORT

Dear Readers of the "Faith and Victory": Greetings once again in Jesus' wonderful name. It is truly glorious to be saved—saved from sin through Jesus' precious blood that flowed from His side while hanging on the cross that day. How necessary it is to recognize that the blood of Jesus was what purchased our salvation!

I fear that too many times seekers fail to receive a definite pardon and a clear witness in their souls that their sins are forgiven and that they have been made a child of God simply because they do not acknowledge the blood and plead for pardon and forgiveness on that basis. "Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me: Oh Lamb of God, I come." That prayer from the heart will bring the answer! Believe it, plunge in and receive it! "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1. Then we are candidates for the experience of entire sanctification, which includes full surrender to God's will, consecrating all to Him for all time and eternity, and asking God to crucify us that Christ may reign. This is our part, which when done from the heart and not just the lips, will bring to pass God's part through and by the Holy Ghost, even the purging, cleansing and baptism with and in the Holy Spirit, resulting in "power from on high" to be witnesses for Christ.

I started to write a brief report of the Mexico missionary work, but this thing is on my heart so heavily that I feel I must say something to clear my soul. If anyone who reads this is not sure of your salvation, go back to the foot of the cross and lay your case before God and plead the blood until you feel your soul has been bathed in His divine love and grace. This applies to any and all, no matter what your experience may have been in the past or how long you may have been saved or whether you've done much for God and His church. If the divine love of God is not flowing in your soul and you do not have sweet fellowship with those who walk with God, go back to the foot of the cross where the "fountain was opened for sin and uncleanness" and plunge in and come out singing, "There is power in the Blood!" Praise God!

Let me say that there was a wonderful response from the saints this month, and we are certainly grateful for the offerings that came in for the missionaries and the work. Bro. Tomas was able to register the Dodge 4-door pick-up with the Mexican government. Sister Edith Cole's car is "rolling" again. The cement foundation and floor are poured and the blocks are going up on the chapel in Ojos Negros, and better than all this, the gospel is going forth. We ask your continued prayers.

Yours in His service,

—Harland Smith

317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

(Editor's note: In order to aid the Mexico mission work, Bro. Dale Doolittle of Hammond, La. donated a bus, and just recently he delivered it to California near the mission field. Bro. and Sister Merrill Williamson of Olla, La. accompanied Bro. Dale on this trip. The saints in Louisiana sent clothing, canned goods, and supplies along with the bus which had been partially converted to sleeping quarters. No doubt this bus will provide temporary living quarters for the workers on the mission buildings at the various stations in Mexico as well as transportation for the missionaries and natives to and from services. Let us continue to pray for and support these faithful missionaries in Baja, Mexico. We also request urgent prayer for Bro. Harland Smith who is nearly disabled with bursitis and arthritis.)

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Feb. 28)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Greetings again in the precious name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Thank you very much for your letter dated Feb. 6. I have noted the contents. I just arrived here after a long trip to the northern parts for conventions and visits. There were very lively meetings and good contacts. I am amazed to see how powerful the Word of the cross is! How true the saying of the Lord is that the harvest is plenteous while the laborers are few, and He has asked us to pray for more laborers. The needs are great, and may the heavenly Father who knows everything supply all our needs and provide from His never-exhausting source of life and means. How true that the prayers and patience of the saints avail much. Hence my request is that you saints may keep on praying and praying for us in India.

Thank you for your valuable advice and helpful suggestions which I wish to keep very strictly to the letter. This time I again visited the Calicut believers. They are still very firm, and faithfully holding fast their confession of truth. Please pray for them.

I remain yours in the One Body of Christ,

—C. M. Verghese

Prayer Requests

Ky.—"Healing of my body."—Mrs. Mabel Dunaway.

Neb.—High blood pressure—Alice E. Britt.

Ore.—High blood pressure.—James Moore.

Pa.—"I have been suffering in my body for some years. . . . husband has a cataract on his eye and one has come on the other eye."—Sister H. Lydic.

La.—"Husband is very sick . . . needs spiritual help."—Beulah Johnson.

South Dak.—Arthritis, double vision. —Mrs. Hazel Simpson.

W. Va.—"Pray for my afflictions, also my brother and a friend who has cancer."—Sister E. Carter.

Ill.—Nose and throat condition. —Mrs. Nina Champion

Calif.—“Pray for my hip and side.”—Gladys Ewbanks.

Calif.—“I am having trouble with a nerve in my ear. Pray for me. God can heal it as He did the high blood pressure. I can eat anything now.”—Sister Annie McKinney.

Ohio—“Continue to pray for healing of rheumatism in my feet and limbs. They are swollen out of shape. I am a child of God.”—Ella Clark.

N. Car.—“I am nearly deaf. I love to sing the songs of Zion. I cannot hear the preacher. I am determined to live for God . . . (I want to encourage the congregations to have at least two revivals a year.)”—Arthur A. Brown

Miss.—“Pray for my memory, my high blood pressure and my financial needs, unsaved loved ones, also for my husband who is nervous and needs spiritual help.”—A reader.

Canada—“Pray for James Cowan who is very sick with heart trouble, lungs, ulcers, and liver.”—A. E. Powell

Okl.—Suffering with her head. —Mrs. Marie Fields.

Minn.—Bro. E. J. Kirchner has many troubles.

Mexico—Sis. Celia Rodriguez is suffering with several tumors and wishes to be remembered in prayer. She has settled it to go with the Lord at any cost.

Sister Lillian Meek has been staying with me some nights. She is gaining strength but still needs prayer. She is still weak. We thank God for all He has done for her.

We have many prayer requests that come into the office. One dear sister wrote, “I have always been able to have an altar of prayer where I could talk to God out loud as talking to a friend, but now I have to whisper my prayers. I find my thoughts wandering. I am afraid God is grieved with such praying. I have fasted and prayed, but seems I do not get victory. I know we need to pray for our needs. Will you print a request in the paper for me?” Surely this dear one does need the Lord to help her to be able to learn how to pray in secret. We know that God can help her.

Sister Jessie Taylor's nerves are bothering her greatly. Dear saints, do pray the Lord to bless her and touch her body.

Some dear ones write for prayer for problems, some homes need to be restored and many, many desire prayer for their loved ones. Oh, how glad we are that we have a great, big God and One who has all power that can take care of all these needs. Let us take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there.

God has all power, but it is not always His will to use His power as we think He ought. He could have kept Daniel out of the lions' den, but it was not His will to do so. He could have kept Paul and Silas from being beaten and put in prison, but it was not His will to keep them out. It was His will that Daniel, Paul, and Silas be delivered in the midst of their troubles. He had power to keep James from being beheaded and Stephen from being stoned to death, but He did not will to use His power. Dear ones, we know that we will suffer persecutions, trials and afflictions in this life. We know that it is all in God's hands if He wants to use His power to deliver us. Until God definitely shows us differently, we have a right to ask Him to use His power to deliver us out of all the trials, problems, and afflictions that come our way. —Sister Marie Miles

He who does not pray is not a Christian. He who does not pray much is not much of a Christian.

—C. E. Orr

From the Mail Box . . .

Mich.—Dear ones at the Publishing House: I received the notice that my subscription had run out, and as I don't want to miss any, you will find one dollar for a renewal. I think your article on “What Is Entire Sanctification” is very good, so I am passing it on.

Thank you very much.

Yours in Christ,

—Agnes Gibbons

Ala.—Dear Workers at the Print Shop: I have been a regular subscriber to the “Faith and Victory” paper for several years, and enjoy it very much. I look forward to it each month. I enjoy the testimonies and answers to prayer. The deep truths in the messages are food to my soul. May God bless you. Keep up the good work.

Enclosed is two dollars. Please renew my subscription for three years, and use the rest for whatever the need.

Will you please pray for God to heal an ailment in my neck and head? It bothers me about my work. I know God heals. . . . I love God and His Word. I am walking in all the light He shines on my pathway.

May God bless each one of you is my prayer.

—Mrs. Willie Morgan

Calif.—Brethren: I enjoy your little paper very much. It is a blessing to me. I am enclosing one dollar for three years. May the Lord bless you and your paper always. Sincerely yours in Christ,

—Louis G. LaPorte

Mo.—Sir: You will find \$1.00 enclosed. Please renew our subscription for three years. We like your little paper and don't want to be without it.

Yours in Christ,

—Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Tilman

Calif.—Dear Christian Friends: Find enclosed \$1.00. Please put my name on your subscription list for one year. Use the rest where it is needed.

I am a retired minister of the Church of God, having been in the ministry since 1914, and what a change! They don't want us old-time ministers preaching—it is too strait. I came up under the preaching of J. D. Ferrill, I. M. Heddin, W. T. Seaton, and others of like preaching, and I can't get used to this modern kind. I said I was retired—I have no pastorate, but Wife and I visit and pray for the sick and try to be a blessing to those in need. I was born and reared in Missouri, but have been on the west coast for 38 years. I still believe in the doctrines of the Bible—the Church of God, the unity of God's people, sanctification as a second work of grace, and healing for God's people through faith and prayer.

My prayers are with you that you may reach many souls for Christ.

—Luther Howard

Ind.—Dear Brethren: We enjoy your paper, “Faith and Victory” so well that I am sending one dollar for three years' subscription. My wife and I are both saved and trusting in God. Both of us are in our seventies and retired, but God is with us.

May God bless your work. Pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

—William Clifford

Penn.—Kind Sirs: I want to thank you and the kind person who sent me this nice little paper. I prefer to know who sent it to me so I can thank them in person.

This reading brings memories of long ago. Several of these preachers stayed at my grandmother's house and

preached in a little church by her home on the farm. Of course H. M. Riggle, my dear uncle, was her son-in-law.

I am sending for two books now. . . . Also keep sending the paper to me for the year. —Mrs. Geo. A. Eckman

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

Georgia—Dear Publishers of "Faith and Victory" paper: I do appreciate this paper being sent to me. I think its teachings are the truth as far as I can understand. I am sending \$1.00 to renew my paper. I need all the help that I can get. I need your prayers. I am sending \$1.00 to cover costs of mailing samples to my sisters. . . .

Many thanks for the paper. —Mrs. Ray Sloan

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I have received the paper, "Faith and Victory," for the first time, and I really enjoy it. I am sending in some names of friends and relatives that I think would like the paper. . . . —Viola Fields

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

La.—I want to say I thank you for the wonderful paper you have mailed to me for the first three months in 1968. It is a wonderful paper to read and to have the Sunday School lessons for each Sunday.

Enclosed find \$1.00 that I may receive this paper for three years. I am also sending in the names of my friends whom I believe would be glad to get it, also. . . .

Yours for Christ, —Mrs. Serena Gay

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

Ark.—Dear Sirs: I enjoy reading your "Faith and Victory" paper very much. As my subscription has expired, I am enclosing a dollar for a three-year renewal. I don't want to miss a single copy of it. I surely want the paper for three years.

Also, please send the paper to a friend for one year. Also send a sample copy to . . . —Mrs. Ted Henley

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

Ohio—I am a subscriber of your paper. This March issue is the best I ever read. If you have or could send me ten or fifteen of the March issue I will gladly pay you for them. I want to distribute them to prospects for Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ, —L. A. Leeth

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

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Mo.—Dear Ones in the Lord and all the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper: Greetings in Jesus' name. This leaves us still able to report victory in our souls.

Darius has been so very ill for several weeks. At times he was not able to retain his food. Since his body is so weak, he is hardly able to take so great a strain. On Saturday evening, March 2, he got very low and once it seemed that life left his body for a little while. The Lord came on the scene and touched him. At times since then he has been better.

We do want to thank the Lord and everyone for their prayers, phone calls, letters, get-well greetings and offerings. All of these tokens of love have meant much to us in this time of great need. May the Lord reward you richly is our humble prayer. The Lord sent us help for a while. Bro. Frazier Smith and my sister, Beatrice, came. May the Lord bless and reward them for this sacrifice of love to us and also everyone else that has been so deeply concerned.

Please continue to remember us. He is yet so frail. He got down to 107 pounds in weight. He is very weak. We sit up day and night with him.

May God bless all of you.

Yours in His tender care, —Darius and Evelyn Gibson

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I am so glad to report victory in soul and body over the enemy. I had a bad case of the flu. I became very ill on the 4th of January. The enemy surely tried to destroy me, but he was defeated. My children became uneasy as they said they had never seen me so sick before. I did not realize how sick I was. They called the saints in Oregon and some nearby for prayer. I did not seem to get any better so on Monday my granddaughter called Bro. Chandler. He and Sister Chandler came. They anointed me and my fever, which was very high, left. I had not been able to eat in over a week. The next day I asked for food, and began to mend. I was very weak. The saints called and sent cards which were much appreciated. I thank all who prayed for me. For three weeks I was still very weak and had a bad deep cough, but thank God, it is all gone now through trust and prayer to God.

I had it settled before I took sick that live or die I was going to trust the Lord, for He is my Savior, Healer, and Keeper. Praise His dear name! The children did not want me to go home, but I wanted to be alone with the Lord. I reconsecrated myself, life, and all anew to Him and He has been teaching me some wonderful lessons. I mean by His grace to spend the rest of my days in His service at my post of duty. Remember me that I ever be found faithful. —Melissa Greer

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

Minn.—Dear saints at the Printshop: I am enclosing . . . for tracts, for renewal of my subscription to a roll of 12 papers, and these two other single subscriptions for three years.

May God bless and keep all of you in the center of His will. May He bless you for the wonderful work you are doing in spreading the gospel.

I am still in good health and strength, and going on until the call comes from on High. —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

La.—Dear Saints: Praises be unto the Lord whose power is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God has once again come on the scene and healed in our home. I don't feel that I do enough for Him, and I want to testify for Him.

On Sunday, the 21st of January, my youngest daughter, Pat, became ill. During her illness there were a few days she vomited several times a day, some blood each time. Her daddy felt she should see a doctor, but she refused. We felt she had failed the Lord and I talked to her. She said she had prayed and asked for forgiveness. I feel that God permitted this for her soul's benefit. I have prayed many times for my family to be saved at any cost. Sometimes I wonder just what the cost will have to be to bring some of our loved ones to God, but we must say amen to His will.

The Lord undertook and helped Pat inasmuch that she went back to her job on Tuesday, Feb. 6, but she only worked three days and had a relapse which lasted several days. She was very sick, even worse than before. I began to wonder if God was going to spare her life. On Tuesday night (the 13th) I called Guthrie and Shreveport for prayer. I also called a few of the saints here to come and pray. God blessed and she got several hours' sleep. On Wednesday she was still very sick. In the afternoon these words of encouragement came to me: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." These words came to me twice. I felt that surely the Lord was giving me this to let me know He was going to heal. Early in the morning on Friday, I awoke, and hadn't slept very much. I felt impressed to call Sister Sybil Goldsberry. I felt it was time for the Lord to heal Pat and told her so on the phone. I also told her that my

husband had said he was going to take her to a doctor or have a doctor come to see her on Friday, but I wanted God to have the credit for her healing. She said they would go to prayer right then and expect God to answer prayer. I called others here for an agreement. God brought a real change in that sick girl on Friday, and she called her daddy at work. It meant so much to us to hear her talk in a strong voice after not hearing her speak very much for several days. God wonderfully blessed her, and she is up and feeling well, but still needs more strength.

Pray that she will live for God. Our young people can live for God if only they will be willing.

Surely I want to live real close to God and be an encouragement and a real example for my husband and family, and all I come in contact with.

We need to pray earnestly for our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord who are suffering affliction and are depending on God to heal. We also need to pray God to save souls, as there is such a little time left for those who need to prepare to meet God. Soon time will no longer be, and you loved ones who are in sin, please come to God while there is time and opportunity.

Christian love, —Cassie Price

Kansas—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: I would like to take the paper for a year, and to tell you how much I enjoy your paper. I read it for the first time when I was on a train coming from California to Kansas City. I was already a Christian at the time. I met a real sweet lady and her daughter. They gave me the paper to read.

I enjoy hearing from God's people everywhere. God still saves and He still heals and answers His people's prayers. My God isn't dead. He has healed my body many times and my children. I like to hear that people are still trusting the Lord for healing. We have a few who do in our church.

I am 25 years old and have been saved five years this April. I have four children. My husband is saved, also. God has been so good to us that I couldn't begin to tell you all the things He has done for us. I can only regret those wasted years before I was saved. —Sister Patsy Gochenour

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I am still saved and encouraged to live for God.

In January I was on the job working when I started having a hemorrhage. I called home for my son to come and get me and bring my daughter with him to finish my day. He came, but my daughter didn't feel like coming. I said, "Lord, I can't leave this house like this," and I asked God to give me strength to finish that day. I promised to testify of it and write it in the "Faith and Victory" paper. I was shaking, but I told the Lord that He had said He was a present help in time of need and I needed Him to give me strength to finish my work. In a few minutes I had strength I hadn't had for some time.

Some things can slip a person's mind so quickly. What we promise we should do. I have found that the devil can take one's thoughts so quickly.

I had another hemorrhage for a night and a day. We called on God, but I had to suffer a long time before the Lord answered. I am trusting the Lord to completely heal me now. I ask your prayers. —Sister Tillman

Ohio—Dear Ones in Christ: Enclosed please find one dollar for which please renew my subscription to "Faith and Victory" for three more years. Don't let it run out.

I am still saved by the grace of God. I am 84 years old. He is precious to me. He heals me when I get

sick and supplies all my needs. I love Him supremely. As the songs says: "I'll never go back to the world and its ways, its pride and its fashions, nor seek for its praise, I'll give to my Savior my strength and my days, I'll never go back again." Pray for us and my son in Vietnam. Yours in Jesus' precious name. —D. B. Hurt

N. Y.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings in the name of the Lord. I thank you and your co-workers for your prayers. I sent a handkerchief to be anointed. I was wonderfully healed. I was suffering with my head. Jesus is still in the healing business.

Enclosed is . . . for postage for a free copy of the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," life and labors of the late Fred Pruitt.

Yours in Christ, —Laura Rivers

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, and the saints of God everywhere: Greetings in the name of our loving Lord who was "wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

My grandchild and I have been very sick with a severe case of flu. I am happy to be a living witness for our God. I am glad for the people of God. I want to thank you for the prayers you sent up to the Lord for my grandchild and me. God is a healer. "He is the same yesterday, and today and forever." Heb. 13:8. When we were so sick, I was not the least uneasy. I trusted God for our healing and not the arms of flesh. I said, "Lord, though you slay me, yet will I trust you." Different ones would come to visit us. Some would ask, "What are you doing? Are you taking any remedies?" I told them I was trusting the Lord for my healing. I just kept my mind stayed on Jesus and His holy Word. God healed us. I would pray to Him that if it was His will, to heal us right before the eyes of the unbelievers, and He did. Now I am able to give our God all the praise and not any to the arms of flesh.

The world can have all its pleasure, television, and everything that brings pleasure to their sinful minds, but give me Jesus. Again I thank all of you for the prayers you sent up to the Lord for us. We still have a little weakness of the flu but are up and going, thank God. He is wonderful! I am very grateful for the wonderful healing He has done for us. —Sister P. R. Bowers

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I want to do something this summer that will be a help to win a soul to God in my declining days. I would like to be about my Lord's business. I am 80, but pretty active. I would like to have the free four-ounce sample of tracts to give out. I plan to work in hospitals, and attend a few campmeetings. We don't have a church here that believes and walks in the "old paths." Send also a copy of "God's Gracious Dealings." Enclosed is a little gift . . . and renew my paper.

Remember my wife and me. May God bless you and all the staff. —A. L. Bright

Okla.—Greetings to the workers at Faith Publishing House in Jesus' Name: I have been sick most of the time for the past two years. I had gall bladder trouble and gall stones. I would get very sick at my stomach and vomit. When I lived in Arkansas my neighbors would

help take care of me. Finally I called Bro. Charles Smith to come get me to live in the Golden Rule Home. They prayed for me. I was taking medicine when I came here but have quit. I had trusted the Lord completely for ten years before my affliction got so bad. I am glad now that I have quit taking medicine completely and am trusting the Lord since I have been here. I am better. Sister Nellie Poulos and Bro. Pat Cole prayed for me one night after worship and the Lord healed me of gall bladder trouble and gall stones.

Since I have been here, I have had the flu three times and have trusted the Lord without taking any medicine. Satan brought back arthritis in my knees that the Lord healed me of years ago. It is a lot better now.

Pray for the Lord to heal the noises in my head so that I can understand what others say. —Dolly Williams

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie: May the Lord bless you and the workers at the Printshop. We trust all are well and enjoying the blessings of God.

The Lord is very good to us and we desire to do all we can to prove our love to Him. Yesterday (March 17) was our all-day meeting. We felt somewhat disappointed that we did not have a visiting minister, but the Lord never disappoints us. He was truly with us and gave us a blessing. The Senath, Mo. saints came, also Bro. and Sis. E. A. Loftis and their two married daughters who got saved last summer. It truly makes our hearts rejoice to see these young women growing in the Lord. In the afternoon there were about eleven or twelve who came from Bradford to be with us in the service. We surely appreciate each one and trust all received a blessing.

Sister Della Anschultz is much better but we are holding on to God for complete healing.

We love the dear saints here and are enjoying working in this place where the Lord put us.

We have Sunday School and worship service each Sunday morning and Sunday evening, prayer meeting each Thursday evening, and all-day meetings on the third Sunday of each month. The saints and ministers are welcome to come any time.

We feel our need to be busy at our Master's work. Time is passing so very swiftly and sin is increasing. The devil has people deceived in man-made churches. It is hard to get souls to see the truth. But we mean to do all we can to be a light.

We pray for God's work everywhere. We know that "what in life we all may do, can but save a very few, yet the blessed Savior shed His blood for all."

May God keep your hearts encouraged in the printing work and help you to be faithful in His service.

Yours in Christian love, —Albert and Margaret Eck.

P. O. Box 168, Grubbs, Ark. 72431

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

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I promised the dear Lord if He would heal my little grandson I would write my testimony. The dear Lord blessed him to recover for which I thank the Lord.

I also thank the dear Lord for touching my body and healing me of an ailment that had been bothering me for almost a year. All praise to His dear name!

I desire your prayers for my unsaved loved ones.

A Sister in the Lord, —S. Williams

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

Okla.—Dear Saints: I felt like letting the saints know how the Lord has been so good to me. I had been praying quite some time for a better job and the Lord has supplied my needs, for which I'm thankful. I give Him all the praise. Surely He sees our needs and supplies them.

He will never fail us. If anyone does the failing, it is not He. I don't want to fail Him in any way.

I also thank the Lord for touching Mother's foot that was very bad. We thank the saints for all their prayers and what they mean to us.

Pray for me.

—Carolyn Moore

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

Nebraska—Dear Sister Marie: I promised the Lord if He would heal Lisa, our little girl, I would testify for Him. While I was at Mother's [Sister Lambricht] Lisa had a bad chest cold. She woke up early one morning and her lungs were so congested she could not cough. She started crying. Mother and I agreed in prayer for her and the Lord touched her right away and she stopped crying and went back to sleep. She started getting well from then on.

The baby had a bad cold after we came home and the Lord healed him right away. He didn't act sick at all.

I'm so thankful I know the truth and know how to live so God will answer our prayers. I'm glad I have a possession instead of just a profession.

Please continue to pray for my husband. He has real bad headaches sometimes.

Sincerely,

—Mrs. Carolyn Holland

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all: Greetings of Christian love. I trust this finds all of you encouraged in the good things of God. We are encouraged to press on for God in the straight and narrow way. The saying is that the "way of the cross leads home." Another saying is that "the glory lingers near the cross." I think of the precious Scripture where Paul said that "nothing would be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thank God for victory through our Lord.

I surely hope that all is going well with you there in the printing work. We appreciate your labors and efforts, also all who are laboring there for the Master. We trust the good Lord to richly bless all of you.

Bro. Gordon Humphrey and wife were with us in services a few weeks ago for a few nights. Then Bro. Mart Samons was with us for two services. These services were all real good and edifying. Some souls came out. Continue to pray for the work here that souls will be saved.

Enclosed is a little offering for the work there. We desire an interest in your prayers that we will be all that God is leading us to be.

Your Brother in Christ's gospel, —T. V. McMillian

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

Ky.—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, and all the dear saints, greetings: I want to send in my testimony of what the Lord has been doing for me. I appreciate the letters we have received from you. They are always so encouraging. I received wonderful help from the "Faith and Victory" paper.

I can't begin to thank my blessed Lord enough for all He has done for us since the dear saints have come here and started a work near us. I had for many years struggled under confusion, not only in regard to the right church to attend, but also in my soul. I never was sure just where I stood with the Lord, nor able by faith to obtain a real settled experience. Truly the devil had me bound by doubting, but I was honest at heart and continually searching for something that would satisfy my hungry soul. In God's Word He says, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking flax shall he not quench . . ." Matt. 12:20. Therefore God was very patient with me. With the help of the dear saints here

(who also bore with me patiently) and my earnest seeking, I have obtained complete victory over my doubting. I have placed my whole life in God's dear hands. I died out to self and everything I knew and what I don't know, also all that He may reveal to me in the future. I can now truly say without a doubt that God's Holy Spirit has moved into my heart and sanctified me. Praise His dear name!

In answer to the prayers of the saints here, when I was anointed and prayed for recently, He healed me of an affliction. Oh, what a wonderful God we serve! I am more determined to trust Him than ever before, for both soul and body.

I still desire your prayers for me and my husband. Also please pray for our children that they may see the light and come out of deception into the true Church of God.
—Mrs. Wilbur F. Jarvis

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

La.—Dear Saints, greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This finds me still saved, sanctified, and encouraged to live for the Lord. He is very good to us.

I want to testify to three instances of healing to my body in the last few months. In the fall of 1967 I had a severe case of the flu. I was sick for about five days, but the dear Lord raised me up and healed me.

Just before the Hammond, La. Assembly meeting in 1967, I started having trouble with my left knee. It would swell up, get stiff, and be very sore. This went on for about three weeks. I was anointed and prayed for at the Hammond meeting. The following Monday it seemed my knee was worse than ever, but I just held on to the promises of God, and the next day my knee started to get better. It wasn't long until it was completely well. Thank the Lord, no medical aid whatsoever was used. I had been speaking out for the Lord on my job and He showed Himself strong in my behalf.

Another time I dropped a heavy piece of metal on my finger. The blow crushed my finger on the end, bursting it open about half an inch long. But the Lord didn't let it break my finger. Bro. Gordon Humphrey and his wife were near here, visiting her mother. They stopped by Wednesday night on the way to prayer meeting and had prayer for me. The finger started to heal and within two weeks it was completely well.

The Lord is so good to us! It is the desire of my heart to live for Him the rest of my days. There is nothing in this old world to go back to.

Pray for me that I will do just as the Lord would have me to. Christian love,
—Doyle LaCroix

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

N. Carolina—Dear Ones in the Lord: Some months ago I promised the Lord I would tell what He had done for me if He would heal my son who got the end of his finger crushed with the lawn mower. I asked the Lord to stop the blood and the pain and take all the soreness away. I can say, praise the Lord, He did just what I asked Him to do. The flesh and bone were pushed out. I took my hand, pressed it together, and put a bandage on it. Praise the Lord, the next day he wanted to take the bandage off. After taking it off, he went out to play. Praise the Lord, He does heal and He will heal if we live the life.

Yours in the One Body,
—Sister Lennon

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

Mo.—Dear Ones: I am thanking and praising the dear Lord for saving my soul. I know He came over the hills and mountains looking for me when I was lost in sin. Praise the Lord for His mercy to me. I love the Lord and all His people and I want to do all I know and understand to please Him.

When the Lord saved me I had insurance on my home. I gave this up and trusted God for my insurance. I used to drink pretty bad but by the help of the Lord, I gave that up, too. I don't have any burial insurance or any other kind of insurance. I just trust God to care for me.

I don't hear much said about labor unions. I will say they belong to the world. In 1st John 2:15 we read, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."
—Asa and Katie Gibson

Sickness, Affliction and Healing

Why do people get sick? What is the cause of sickness? Can sickness be avoided? What benefit can sickness or affliction be to anyone?

These and similar questions occupy the thoughts and minds of a goodly number of people, and every individual has a right to be concerned about the condition of his or her health. There are many and varied answers to the above questions, and yet the inquirer may not be fully satisfied with the answers given.

Turning to the Book of Divine Inspiration, we see that sickness and death are the direct results of the sin and disobedience of Adam. Rom. 5:12 reads, "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Verse 14, "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

But there is hope. Thank God! Rom. 5:20, 21, "Moreover, the law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." Isa. 53:4-6, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." We thank God for his wonderful plan, that He has provided a Savior and Redeemer; and a Deliverer that is willing and able to save from sin, heal our diseases, carry our sorrows, and to even loose the bands of death.

Can sickness be avoided? I am sure that many people today are suffering from ailments and afflictions that they have brought upon themselves through carelessness or the violation of the laws of nature, exposing themselves to the elements, to germ-infested places and localities, indulging in sinful practices, and fulfilling lustful desires and appetites, thereby opening the floodgates to sickness and disease. Such cannot escape. But if "ye shall serve the Lord your God, he shall bless thy bread and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Exodus 23:25. Yes, a lot of sickness and suffering can be avoided by living in obedience to the laws and ordinances of God.

What benefit can sickness or affliction be to an individual? If you have ever visited a sick room, or hospital and looked upon the face of unfortunate humanity, held in the clutches of sickness and misery, it may be that you would say, "I see no benefit to be derived through such an experience." But let's get the testimony of some who have come through. I do not know what was the nature of David's affliction, but he said in Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes."

Hezekiah was a faithful servant of God who was sick unto death, and word came to him that he would die, and to set his house in order. He turned his face to the wall, and wept, and prayed, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth, and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight." Hezekiah wept sore. The Lord saw his tears, heard his prayers, and added to his days fifteen more years. No doubt Hezekiah remembered the ordinance of God as recorded in Exodus 15:26, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." In his prayer of thanksgiving he said, "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." Isa. 38:17.

It is a wonderful privilege to take our sickness and afflictions to the Lord in this gospel day. The Apostle James exhorts us in James 5:13, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. [Afflictions are not always confined to sickness or disease. It may be some burden or trouble, or anxiety or oppression.] Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Why is it that many righteous persons are afflicted? The testimony of the Lord concerning his servant Job would give clear evidence that all sickness or afflictions are not imposed upon the individual because of sin in the individual's life. Job was a perfect, upright, God-fearing, praying man. But God permitted the devil to afflict Job with deep grief through the loss of his substance and family, and later with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. We cannot tell how long the test endured, but he held on to his integrity and came forth as pure gold. The tide turned when he prayed for his friends.

Another clear incident is recorded in John 9:1-3. "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man who was

blind from his birth, and His disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man or his parents that he was born blind? Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." We would like to make this statement, that regardless of the source or cause of the affliction or disease, Jesus Christ is a specialist. He is the Master Physician. No case is too hard for Him.

In Matt. 4:23, 24 we read, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic; and those which had the palsy; and he healed them."

For reasons unknown to us, some are required or permitted to bear sickness over a period of years before obtaining divine deliverance, some almost a lifetime. Aeneas was bedfast eight years, the man born blind until he was grown, the woman with the issue of blood twelve years. Some died and were raised from the dead, and others went on, looking for a better resurrection.

All tears will be wiped away, sorrow and grief will vanish. There shall be no more death; no more pain, not a shadow, nor a sigh in the land of bliss and light, where there never comes a night.

—Ulysses Phillips

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll for 3 months, \$1.95; Lesson Cards, 15c per pupil for three months.

THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS

April 7, 1968

Printed Portion John 19:17-30

John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that

the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

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

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

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

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar; and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, IT IS FINISHED: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Memory Verse: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32.

Central Thought: It means more than admiring a cross or wearing a cross to be saved. One must accept salvation from the Christ of the cross.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus came bearing the heavy cross as the people of the day looked on with hatred and the disciples lingered in the shadows with fear. It might have looked like defeat, but thank God, it was victory. Even though Jesus went through shame and suffering, carrying the cross, He was on His way to glory and "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2) The joy that Jesus had was the knowledge that through His going to the cross and enduring the shame, many could be brought to salvation and eternal life. This knowledge I am sure kept Him pressing on as He struggled under the cross, although His body was bleeding and His strength was almost gone. We were "reconciled to God by the death of His Son," and "having made peace through the blood of His cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself." (Rom. 5:9, 10; Col. 1:20) All the ordinances of the law Jesus took away, "nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col. 2:14) By His going to the cross, He triumphed over the devil and today the devil is a conquered foe. We need not yield to him at all but can use the power that God gives us to resist the devil.

One of the greatest sermons preached or words declared was by Jesus when He said, "It is finished." Oh, what great news that was flashed out to the world that was lost in sin! The plan of salvation was finished. Jesus chose to die for us and take our sins away as we believe in Him. He has done His part, now it is up to us to do our part by accepting it and believing it.

April 14, 1968

OUR RESPONSE TO THE RISEN SAVIOR

Printed Portion John 20:19-21; John 21:15-19

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, before the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews,

came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou was young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Memory Verse: Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21.

Practical Truth: The plan for our salvation was made complete when Jesus arose from the grave. We need to believe on Him and be saved from our sins.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

When we are in a trial we look by faith at the victory and that brings joy to our hearts. We are still rejoicing when we see the problem or burden lifted and worked out. Last week we called the cross victory and today we still are thinking of victory because it has become a reality to the disciples as Jesus had arisen and spoke to them as they were shut up in a room for fear of the Jews on the first day of the week. Jesus had gone to the grave but thank God, it could not hold Him. He came forth triumphant, and is our risen Savior. He is alive forevermore. Today He is speaking "peace" to all troubled, fearful hearts. Let each one feel the force of that "peace" that He came to bring and is still giving today and be at rest through the knowledge of confessed sins forgiven.

Peter said, "I go a fishing." Other disciples said, "We also go with thee." It seems that Peter was a leader and spokesman among the disciples. After Jesus appeared to them, after His resurrection and had fixed them some breakfast on the seashore, he addressed Peter, whom he had called with others, from their daily labors to follow Him some months before. Jesus said, "Lovest thou me more than these?" Do you love me more than the love for fishing and for the things of the world that draw you to them? Today Jesus is asking us the same question. Do we love Jesus more than anything in this world? Are we doing things or going places, loving things that God in His Word has called us away from? Do we love Jesus most? God is a jealous God and wants all of our love. He wants to be first in our lives, thoughts, and desires.

The 18th and 19th verses seem to let Peter know he would be killed for Christ's sake. History tells us that

Peter was crucified but wanted to be with head down as he didn't feel worthy to be crucified like his Lord.

and "she is more precious than rubies." "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

April 21, 1968

WHAT IS WISDOM?

Printed Portion Job 28:12, 13, 23, 28; Prov. 3:13-18

Job 28:12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding.

13 Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.

28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Prov. 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Memory Verse: And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28.

Practical Truth: It means more than understanding God's commandments but if we have true wisdom we will fear evil enough to put God's laws into practice in our lives.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson asks the question where wisdom is found at the end of a number of statements concerning the knowledge of what the earth has in it and brings forth, which is seen by man. Even though man can see these things and know they are true, yet wisdom is not found in the land of the living nor acquired by man from human knowledge. Gold is referred to five times, but wisdom cannot be acquired by gold. (Job 28:15). Verse 21 makes us know that wisdom is hid from the eyes of all living but in our lesson verse 23 lets us know that God understands it and it must come to us from Him. It cannot be bought but only given to us through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

As we further study our lesson in verse 28 God speaks to us and lets us know the true meaning of wisdom and understanding. This is the important part of our lesson and we must get this truth. The "fear of the Lord" is wisdom. There are two kinds of fear. One is terror or fright but "the fear of the Lord" is a deep reverence, love, and a high respect for the Creator of all things in the earth, under and above it—a kind of fear that recognizes a God who has all power, knowledge, and each of us is only one of His millions whom He has created. We cannot be independent of Him. Wisdom of God brings a knowledge of our relationship to Him that cannot be denied. When we get this wisdom we have understanding to depart from evil and love our God with reverence.

Wisdom leads us into "paths of peace" and it becomes a "tree of life" to us. "Happy is everyone that retaineth her." "All things desired cannot be compared to her"

April 28, 1968

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Printed Portion Proverbs 1:2-7; 3:5-8

Prov. 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

4 To give subtility to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel:

6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Practical Truth: We should trust God and His guiding wisdom in all the affairs of our life.

Memory Verse: If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of Proverbs was written by Solomon. The first three verses tell us the purpose of this book. Wisdom is the "fear of the Lord" and brings to us the knowledge of life and its purpose. Instruction is learning from God what our purpose in life is and how to carry out that purpose. Perceive is to grasp by the mind the instructions given in words and understand what God requires of us.

It would be good to look up in the dictionary the meaning of the words listed in verse 3. Remember that these four words give us instructions and are teachers for us.

Verse 4 makes us know the object of the book of Proverbs. Subtlety means here good judgment and simple means those who are untaught, but teachable. From God the young can receive or know facts that they can discreetly (or be able to) live up to what they know.

A wise man always is seeking to increase his learning and listen to wise counsels.

Some of the proverbs are clear but others are given in parables or dark sayings. When a person will think it out and seek God for understanding, it will mean more to him than the plain saying. He will remember it longer and appreciate it more. Jesus, the greatest teacher, used parables.

How important is the last verse of our lesson! We need to truly lean hard upon God and study His Word so we will know how to live in this life and be ready for heaven. If we will acknowledge the Lord and His ways, He will lead us aright. We must resist our own ways and the ways of man and the flesh. Take God's ways and we will have spiritual strength as we trust in God.

Sis. Marie Miles