

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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COPY JESUS

Reader dear, are you a "Christian?"
Do you bear that sacred name?
Then, that means you "copy Jesus,"
As He lived, you live the same.

Do you say that He's your Master,
And that you revere His Word?
It is said a perfect servant
Shall be even as His Lord. (Lk. 6:40)

Let us now consider Jesus,
He who says, "Come, follow Me."
Just as He has been before us,
So ought we to also be. (1 John 2:6)

Holy Jesus, separated
From this world and all its sin;
Yet, while living here within it,
Reaching out to fallen men.

Harmless Jesus, not returning
Harm for harm that He received;
Kind and loving to the sinners,
Yet, with sin forever grieved.

Humble Jesus, never forward,
But with selfless, holy aim,
In a meek and quiet manner
Sought to glorify God's name.

Lowly Jesus, filled with meekness,
By the common people heard;
Gentleness — it gave Him greatness;
Ne'er He uttered a harsh word.

Tender Jesus, showing mercy
And good will unto all men:
With a heart of love outreaching
To forgive, and not condemn.

Caring Jesus, with compassion
Toward humanity in need,
Like a tender, loving Shepherd
Seeking hungry souls to feed.

Sharing Jesus, never selfish:
Always something He could give;
Seeking how to be constructive,
And for other's profit live.

Praying Jesus, interceding
With His Father, oft' alone;
Keeping day by day communion,
Bearing burdens to God's throne.

Faithful Jesus, waxing valiant
In the battle against sin;
Marching all the way to Calv'ry
That He might the vict'ry win.

Is there in your heart a longing
Just to be like someone grand?
Then aspire to "copy Jesus,"
In His faith and life to stand.

Copy Jesus, He's the model
For a perfect Christian goal;
You'll not fall below the standard,
And you'll never lose your soul.

—Harlan Sorrell

Unity

Unity, or the oneness of God's people, is one of the foundation doctrines of the Church of God. That Jesus taught unity and prayed for unity of the believers is easily found in the Bible. In John 17:21, Christ prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us. . . ." In Matt. 16:18, Jesus tells Peter and us, ". . . and upon this rock I will build my church. . . ." He did not say "churches," but "church," which is in the singular. Col. 1:24, teaches us that the Church is the body of Christ, and Eph. 4:4, teaches that, "There is one body. . . ."

Since unity is taught in the Bible, how do we achieve this required state? Should this not be known by all believers, and should we not earnestly desire to possess this Christian characteristic, not only in doctrine but also in reality?

What makes us one? Is it our race? Is it our nationality? Is it our sex? Is it our culture? Is it our social position? Is it our style of dress? Is it the food we eat or don't eat? Or is it the make-up of our emotional personality? One does not have to think long to understand that what produces unity in the Church of God cannot be any of these things, for we are certainly not all of the same race or nationality. We aren't all the same sex. We have come from many varied cultures through the ages of time, so unity can't come from culture. Our social positions are not all the same, and people the world over have dressed in a wide variety of costumes, so these things cannot produce unity. Our food cannot be the item that makes us one, for that varies widely with the geography of the world. Certainly we do not all express our emotions in the same way, so this, too, would have to be ruled out.

Laws and rules do not unite mankind. Heb. 7:19, teaches that the law made nothing perfect. We need only to look about us at the governments and organizations of the people of the earth to know that no laws or creeds of men have brought true and lasting unity. Any law written by man cannot cover all the bases. A law will have exceptions, or special interest, and it will not fit all men everywhere for all time.

The means by which we have and possess unity in God's Church is not achieved through any work of the flesh, for in the flesh "dwelleth no good thing." Rom. 7:18. It would be vain for man to attempt to acquire unity with the facilities he possesses. It is impossible.

Let us inquire further into our search for the source of unity. God teaches us that a characteristic that all Christians have in common is to "depart from iniquity." 2 Tim. 2:19. We cannot

be separated from our sins through our own efforts, for in 1 John 1:7, we learn that, ". . . the blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin." This shows another characteristic that Christians have in common, and that is the blood of Jesus by which they were washed from their sins.

I believe that God would want us to have a clear vision of the Church and of the unity that is to exist in it, for He has been very gracious to paint us a portrait of the source of unity in the Church of God.

In Eph. 2:19-22, the Church is pictured as an holy temple, and Christians are the material from which this temple is fitly framed together. In 1 Cor. 1:10, in addressing the Church of God, Paul instructs that there is to be no division in this building, and that we, the composition of the Church, be perfectly joined together.

What, then, fitly frames us together and what is it that perfectly joins us together? For the answer, let us look at the tabernacle in the wilderness. In Ex. 36:20-34, Moses describes the boards that make up the perimeter of the tabernacle. They were fifteen feet high and approximately twenty-seven inches wide, and they were overlaid with gold. The boards were held together by five wooden bars (also overlaid with gold), four of which were passed through golden rings attached to the boards. The fifth bar that was in the middle was not so attached. It was made to shoot, or pass, through the boards from one end to the other, and so could not be seen. Thus the board walls of the tabernacle were held together by the bars. This presented to the viewer a building fitly framed together, and yet it was composed of individual boards.

In Ephesians 4, we find the key common characteristic that makes us one. In verses 4-6, as Paul speaks of the various single elements of the Church, he writes in verse 6, "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

What ties, or unites, us into one building or temple of God? Is it not God in us through the Holy Spirit? The word "through" is most significant. That center bar shot through each board of the tabernacle and locked each one to the other. So the Holy Spirit is in the members of the Church, uniting and tying us together so that we might present a temple fitly framed together and perfectly joined.

In Eph. 2:22, Paul writes, "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." He writes, in Eph. 4:3, "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The thing that separates the true Church of God from all other churches and gives us true

unity where all the efforts of man and earthly organization fail, is the Holy Spirit dwelling in and through each member. Without Him in our hearts true unity cannot be achieved.

The law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did. May we strive to enter into that better hope with a complete work of salvation in our hearts.

May God help us to endeavour "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Your brother in Christ, —Stanley Dickson

Traditions—Good and Bad

The word "tradition" usually means in a Biblical sense a teaching or practice which, in contradistinction to the written revelation of the Scriptures, has been handed down orally or by word of mouth from generation to generation.

The Jews feign that, when God gave Moses the written law, He gave him also the oral law. They also say that, before Moses died, he delivered this oral law, or system of traditions, to Joshua and on down to the succeeding leaders. With reference to these traditions, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread." Matt. 15:2. At the moment Jesus did not answer their question, but in turn asked them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me: And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching, for doctrines, the commandments of men." Matt. 15:3-9.

Jesus here plainly condemned these Jewish traditions of the elders, to which they were holding, as "commandments of men," and by them they "made the commandment of God of none effect." Jesus frequently denounced the tradition of the elders when it was against the true law of God.

Traditionalism has had a great effect upon Christendom down through the centuries ever since Jesus and the apostles encountered opposition with the Jewish traditions. The formulation of traditions and suppositions of men aside from God's Word caused the radical de-

parture from the Christian standards of the morning era of the gospel day. It has divided the so-called Christian world into a multiplicity of sects and creeds, which is a far cry from the unity of the Spirit and faith for which Jesus prayed in that notable last prayer.

In the light of what has been written, here is a paradox. The Apostle Paul writes to the Church at Thessalonica, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." 2 Thess. 2:15. The Greek word which is rendered "tradition" signifies anything delivered in the way of teaching, and here most obviously means the doctrines delivered by the apostle to the Thessalonians, whether in his preaching, private conversation, or by these epistles. Whatever these traditions were, as to their content, they were revelations from God, for they came by men who spoke and acted under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. On this ground the passage here can never with any propriety be brought to support the traditions of men.

The Bible reader well knows that the doctrines which the Apostle Paul delivered to the Church were not received from the apostles at Jerusalem or elsewhere by word of mouth, but by direct revelation from God while he was in the desert of Arabia. Thus, they were not traditions in that sense.

In order to rightly divide the Word of truth we must conclude that there are good traditions arising from right principles of truth. Traditions must be kept in line with, tested, and proven by the written Word of God. Otherwise, there are many dangers inherent in following traditions blindly.

Occasionally, traditions become fixed, for instance, in the manner of conducting worship services or taking offerings, and then any variation from that practice brings questions in people's minds whether this or that was done right. In many cases the folks are looking to the traditions (past practices) as the standard and not to the written Word. But the vital point to bear in mind is not to allow technicalities or "unlearned questions" on the Scriptures to become an issue or a test of fellowship, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Those who are not "endeavoring [are not putting forth a sincere effort] to keep the unity of the Spirit" do not discern or have a clear vision of the precious spiritual Body of Christ—the Church. The Apostle Paul exhorts us, "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." 2 Tim. 2:23.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

(Written in Sept., 1962)

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, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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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 that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation 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. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill 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.

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Editorials

We are living in a society which promotes self. The teaching of humanism, that is so subtly prevalent, states that any good derived in life will be accomplished through what you can do for yourself.

The basic teaching of helping others, which made our country great and a shining light to the world, is disappearing. Today we hear people loudly proclaiming their own virtues and accomplishments. This has brought about an alienation one from another. There is no quicker way to drive a wedge between you and someone else than to intimate that you are better or more intelligent, or more talented, than he. The truth of the matter is that often those who feel a need to express their superiority may be deficient in character and sometimes insecure.

Not only will this self-reliance and feeling of pride separate individuals, it drives a wedge between them and God, for we are told that the Lord hates a proud look. (Prov. 6:17). There are several names for this wedge that a little slackness in our lives will allow to work, namely: jealousy, selfishness, greed, arrogance and pride.

It should be our daily goal to prevent anything coming between us and God and our fellow man. May God help that none of us should be awakened on the Judgment Day to find such traits existing in our lives.

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We will soon have in stock wall calendars for 1988. The price this year will be \$1.60 each plus 75¢ for postage and handling. The calendar measures 7¼ by 13½ inches, and includes a colorful nature scene for every month.

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We are now offering nice plastic covers for the *Evening Light* Songbook. The cover is similar in color to the songbook and has the *Evening Light* title and emblem stamped on it. The cover is available for \$2.50, which includes the postage and handling. At present we have only a limited supply, so you may want to place your order immediately.

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We are still looking to the Lord to lay a burden upon the heart of a good qualified typist to assist with the job of setting copy for the literature we print.

We want to thank each of you for your prayerful support of this printing ministry and ask a continued interest in your prayer.

—Wayne Murphey

(The following was written to a local newspaper.)

To the Editor: Recent events in our town, state, and country have prompted this letter, which is meant to be challenging and thought-provoking to everyone who should read it. The events I'm referring to especially are the recent stories in the news exposing the vice and scandal in the lives of public officials and so-called religious leaders.

I am very sad that these things are happening, because the people are confused and disillusioned about the very things that are most important to them: God and country. An attitude of mistrust and unbelief hangs over us like a dense smog, obscuring the true brightness of the sun.

But I am glad, in a way, for other reasons. This very preoccupation with scandal has made me realize that people are still placing recognition and value on things that are right and morally good; and they are still expressing disapproval and unwillingness to accept things that are wrong, immoral, or dishonest. However "educated" or "liberated" we as Americans have become, we still have "something" inside of us—a voice that cannot be stilled—a conscience. In the middle of the philosophy that tries to convince us that there are no absolutes, certainties, or morals, we are still disappointed in those who do wrong, and pleased with those who do right.

As a young person, I want to challenge my elders and leaders: You are a public official—elected by the public, serving the public—you have a duty to us, the public. You are accountable to us for your conduct. We are expecting you to use our money, our natural resources and land, and our labor, not for your own gain or fame, but for our security and welfare. If you are weak, or if the temptation to betray us becomes too great, avail yourself of the help of the Higher Power. There are many of us who are praying for you.

I would also like to challenge my fellow Christians and all others who associate themselves with religion. We are judged, not by our talk, but by our walk. If we would dare place Christ's name with ours, let us live like He lived. We cannot in our own strength because His standard is very high. He must be inside of us, living through us. If He is truly there, what comes out of us will not be dishonesty, greed, pride, promiscuity, prejudice, etc. What people expect of us—what GOD expects of us—is love, sobriety, self-control, honesty, integrity. People may not believe in Christ, but let not their reason be your life and my life. They may not have the courage to live the "straight life," but they certainly respect it, and they expect it from

people who profess to be Christians. Talk is so cheap; let's live the life.

I realize that my views and my style of living isn't popular and may be called old-fashioned, but I'm enjoying it too much to change. There are many benefits: a sober mind and a clean, healthy body, a happy marriage, the ability to look my fellow-man in the eye, peaceful sleep, an honorable business record, and a satisfying assurance of my whereabouts after I die.

After all, isn't that what we all really want?
Sincerely,
—Angela Gellenbeck

To the Editor:

Why do so many individuals show proper respect to inanimate objects that are needful to complete the destiny and purposes of so many things, yet show a complete lack of respect towards the intrinsic elements necessary to complete the destiny and purposes of the highest form of life on earth, which is man, an eternal, living soul?

A carpenter has respect for his wood, a baker for his ingredients, a mechanic for his tools, an artist for his paints, the beholder of art for the picture, as well as respect for the artist. The vital reason for respect is not their intrinsic value in metal or paint, but rather their real value in relationship to its intended purpose and destiny. The real worth placed on any object is always calculated in accordance with its intended destiny and purpose.

This reasoning applies to animate as well as inanimate objects. When we show no respect for the human fetus, man shows his total insensibility towards not only the object, but its Creator, as well as the intended purpose and the eternal destiny for which it was created.

When man aborts a living fetus, he shows a total lack of moral sensibility towards this tiny physical human body, which is necessary for the completion of the intended destiny of the highest creature on earth: man, an eternal, living soul. Can you not see that the lack of respect and proper regard for this fetus is a clear disregard and total lack of respect for life itself, either physical or eternal?

Who cannot see that within the breast of that fetus lies every essential element to house an eternal, living soul? Who is so void of understanding as to fail to see that the termination of a physical fetus is also a termination of the purpose of an eternal, living soul?

Who is so void of moral insensibility as to believe that abortion is strictly a matter of maternal choice, thereby eliminating the spiritual and moral aspects and their correlating just desserts?

—Stephen Bacon

Prayer Requests

VA—"Still remember Sis. Bohannon in prayer."
—N. Connell

OK—Bro. Lenard Marler needs special prayer.

LA—"Remember my wife, she is very ill, also Sis. Ladolia Fuller needs healing."—Bro. Louis Kimble

WI—"Pray for Bro. Tony Sarimients of the Philippines. He has cancer of the lungs, also a diabetic condition."
—George Hammond

TX—"Please ask the Lord to remove cataracts from my eyes or keep them from growing. They are small now."
—Nellie Lovell

LA—Sis. Katherine Harmon, Gladys Cashio and Myrtis Flynn need healing.

OK—Bro. Carl Shaffer needs special prayer for complete healing. He has been in a hard battle for some time.

OK—"Remember my brother, Clyde Miles."
—Maybelle Pruitt

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear saints: We would like to thank all of you for the recent phone calls, letters, cards, and gifts in celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary. May God bless you all.

We especially thank everyone for your interest and prayers in our affliction at this time.

Christian love, —Bro. & Sis. Earl Tinsley

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

DURHAM, NC CAMP MEETING REPORT

We certainly thank the Lord for a blessed camp meeting this year. The Lord was faithful in sending forth His Word. We are very thankful for all the ministers who came to worship with us. We really appreciate the Word of God that was preached in its fulness.

Pray for us, —Jerry Lennon

REPORT OF THE BOLEY, OK CAMP MEETING

We are happy and very thankful to God for the glorious, Spirit-filled camp meeting that He blessed us with. The theme of the meeting was "Love." The spirit of the meeting was precious. The Word was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and our souls were blessed and refreshed from heaven. Praise the Lord!

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers from S. India: Bro. John Sughushana, and Bro. K. H. Paul. We appreciate all the visiting ministers and their labors of love in the meeting.

The street meeting was anointed of the Lord. As we sang and prayed, the Word was sounded

aloud. There were some requests for prayer from the hearers. Tracts were handed out by the young saints. Do pray that the Lord will make the tracts a blessing to souls as they read them.

The ordinance service was very sacred and solemn. It was opened with singing and testifying. The saints expressed their love and thanksgiving to the Lord for His love and care. Oh, how our hearts did overflow with joy as the tears of joy flowed from our eyes. Praise the Lord!

We thank the Lord for sending ministers and workers to help in the battle against sin. May the dear Lord bless each one for their labor of love.

Prayerfully submitted,

—Sis. Katherine Williams

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DALLAS, TX MEETING REPORT

The congregation in Dallas, Texas would like to thank God for a very successful outreach tent meeting.

Many received help for soul and body. We deeply appreciate those who supported the meeting spiritually, financially and physically. There were great sacrifices made. To God be the glory! The Lord will reward everyone according to His riches in glory.

We would like the saints to know that the last payment on our church has been made. We have deep gratitude to each of you who supported us with your prayers and finances. The chapel is located at 770 Elsberry, Dallas, Texas.

—Sis. Annie Bell Allen

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CHEHALIS, WA CAMP MEETING REPORT

A great feast was prepared. There was much good soul food, but those who were invited failed to come. There were only two local souls who came, out of the dozens that were invited. "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt. 22:14.

We received a great blessing and we hope that the dear saints who came with the soul food, did, too.

The end is much nearer than most people think, and how it must tear our dear Lord and Saviour's heart out to see so many rejecting Him after He gave so much for us.

What a great blessing to be one of His humble servants.
—Jim Wilson

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COFFEYVILLE, KS TENT MEETING

A tent meeting is planned in Coffeyville, KS at 708 E. 1st Street. It will begin Oct. 9, and go through Oct. 18. Services will be nightly at 7:30

p.m. We pray that the Lord will burden those of His choosing to come and help us. For further information contact Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at the above address, or phone (316) 251-8169, or (316) 251-1108.

Pray for us and lost souls.

Sincerely, —Bro. & Sis. Ralph Beisly

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FT. LAUDERDALE, FL REVIVAL

The saints at Ft. Lauderdale, FL are planning a revival meeting for Oct. 25-Nov. 1. We are praying that the Lord will send ministers of His own choosing. Come praying that the Lord will establish a work in this much needed area.

Anyone interested should contact Sis. Mattie Savage, (305) 763-8690, or Bro. Robert McIntyre, (305) 233-2166. The address of the chapel is: 950 NW 29th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

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OKLAHOMA CITY OK FALL MEETING

Lord willing, the Oklahoma City congregation intend to hold their Fall Meeting from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. There will be both morning and afternoon service on the last Sunday of the meeting. For further information contact Bro. Johnny Williams (405) 682-1241. The chapel address is 5900 N.E. 23rd St.

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JEFFERSON, OR ASSEMBLY MEETING

The date of the Jefferson, OR Assembly Meeting is Nov. 6 through Nov. 15. All persons in the northwest region who are interested in the truth as taught and practiced by the Church of God in this Evening Light Reformation since its beginning, are urged to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be arranged for you. It will help if you notify us in advance. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. The whole meeting expense, including meals, is financed by free-will offerings, as always.

If you drive, go to the "Texaco (Pride of Oregon)" service station in Jefferson. Go east from there on Marion Road approximately one mile to Skelton Road. Go north from there one-half mile, and you will see the chapel on the right.

The phone number at the chapel is (503) 327-9916, or you may call O. B. Wilson at (503) 928-7223, or write O. B. Wilson, 34237 Sunset Drive NE, Albany, OR 97321 for more particulars.

If you come by bus or train, come to either Albany or Salem, and you will be picked up. If you fly, come to either Portland or Eugene and you will be picked up. You should phone beforehand so that someone can be there to get you.

We will be looking forward to seeing you in Jefferson, OR Nov. 6-15.

—Bro. Ostis B. Wilson

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GOULDS, FL REVIVAL

Lord willing, the revival meeting for the Church of God at Goulds, FL, will be held Nov. 23-29, 1987. For further information, contact Bro. Herchell Hargrave, (305) 258-4102. The chapel telephone number is (305) 251-3873.

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GENERAL SOUTHERN ASSEMBLY MEETING

The General Southern Assembly Meeting, near Loranger LA, will be held November 22-29, 1987.

A complete notice will be in the November issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper.

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From the Mailbox . . .

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the wonderful name of Jesus. Today finds me feeling fine in both soul and body. I thank God for all He does for me. He has been so good to me and I can't thank Him enough. He has healed me so many times and I give Him all the praise. I am so glad I am a child of God. When I need help from God He always helps me through my troubles and trials.

Please help me pray for my children to be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

May God bless each one of you as you work for Him.

With Christian love, —Eathel Hill

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PA—Dear Sis. Pruitt and/or Bro. Murphey: We send greetings of Christian love to each of you and pray the good Master to continue to bless your efforts in His behalf.

We are still rejoicing over the good tent meeting held here in Duncannon this August. We give thanks to our God for the help that souls received at the humble altar of prayer, and His faithfulness to give opportunity one more year to friends and loved ones to seek His precious gift of salvation. How sad that so many turn down that most precious gift of all. . . .

With appreciation and Christian love,

—Barbara J. Campbell

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LA—Dear saints of God: I thank God for His mercy and lovingkindness toward us. We appreciate being a part of the wonderful family of God and we want to serve God as it says in the Holy Word, "Love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deut. 6:5.

The prayers of the saints of God are needed at this time concerning the Bhramayana children. We want what is best for them.

At present, the children's father, Potong (Dang) Bhramayana, is working in Wilmington, NC and has another wife and two boys. Dang called this month (Aug. 9, 1987) and invited the children to visit him and his new family. As a concerned Christian mother, I need all the saints' prayers that the children will be protected and will have a Christian environment to grow up in.

The Lord has been good and I have had the children for four years since we left Frankfurt, W. Germany on June 7, 1983.

Please pray that I will remain a true mother in the Lord, and that Dang will be saved.

Respectfully, and with much love,

—Catherine (DiDio) Bhramayana

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FL—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all there at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our dear Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life on the cruel cross that we might be saved from our sins. I am glad that His dying was not in vain in my behalf. I am so glad He saved me before it was too late.

I surely thank the Lord for all of you who are giving sacrificial service to Him in sending the truth of His Word out in the world that souls may be saved after reading the literature. Praise the Lord for His great Church of sisters and brethren.

Sis. Maybelle, please forgive me, but I would like to correct a mistake I made that was published in the September issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper concerning my age. I said that I celebrated my 91st birthday. After reading it, I realized what a mistake I had made. I celebrated my 92nd birthday on Jan. 30, 1987.

May the Lord bless each of you is my prayer.

Yours in the one family,

—Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, and Co-workers: It is with a thanksgiving heart we write these few lines. First, we want to say that we appreciate your faithfulness to spread the truth. May God continue to bless all your efforts.

Recently, I opened my Bible to 2 Tim. 1:5-8. "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (verse 5) This

verse was so encouraging to me because I could relate it to my Grandmother Taylor who worked and won my mother to the Lord.

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." (verse 6) In reference to *Clarke's Commentary*, this is the stirring up of the Holy Spirit and fresh fuel added.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." (verses 7 and 8)

I found these Scriptures to be so inspiring and challenging. Pray that we will be faithful to the end.

The Lord answered one of our unspoken requests recently for which we owe much thanksgiving unto the Lord.

Sincerely,

—Linda Probst

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: A little over four weeks ago I fractured my hip again. I lay on my back for over two weeks. Within three weeks, I was able to walk again. I surely thank the Lord for coming to my rescue and healing me. I also thank the saints for their prayers, cards, and phone calls. I have been drawn closer to the Lord in this experience. . . .

With Christian love, —T. V. McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear saints at the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings to you, one and all, in Jesus' precious, holy name! We are very much encouraged to press on. We feel impressed of the Lord to testify for Him at this time.

On July 1, our heavenly Father blessed us with a 6 lbs., 13oz., little boy. We are eternally grateful unto Him for performing a miracle in our behalf. . . .

We were praying that the Lord would bless us with a safe, quick delivery and He did exceedingly above that. He was truly faithful unto us and we feel so unworthy, but by His grace we mean to be faithful.

Please pray for us.

Charity and prayers,

—Bro. Brian, Sis. Melanie, and Cecil Francisco

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. Truly He is the most precious Friend in all the world. He is our Comforter in time of sorrow, our Guide when our path in life is unknown to us. Always He is our Helper. His blessings and mercies are bountifully bestowed on His children.

Thank the Lord, I am still saved and sanctified and endeavoring to live for Him. God has been so good to me these many years. I'm so thankful He called and saved me when I was a teenager. I truly believe I have been spared many pitfalls and sorrows of Satan.

The Lord has healed me of some very serious afflictions. He has cared for me whenever I had need of healing. About a year ago something happened to my right thumb. It felt as though it was out of joint at my wrist. It grew worse and I could hardly comb my hair, tie my shoes, and even to write my name was painful. Many other chores were hard and hurt so much to do. Then one day I went for a walk, stubbed my toe, and fell on both my hands. From then on my whole wrist hurt. By the help of the Lord I determined to trust His healing power. For a long while there was no change. As I continued to trust the Lord, I noticed different ways that it would feel better. I could do things without so much pain. Just as the devil would bring discouragement and make me think it would never get any better, Jesus would give me a special touch and encourage me. It has been almost a year, but now it is healed and I am able to do all my work without pain. Thank the Lord for His mercy and kindness to me.

My wish is that this will encourage others to keep their trust in Jesus. Many times I've read the good testimonies in the *Faith and Victory* paper and was greatly inspired to continue to live for Him and walk closer to the Lord. By reading the Bible and having our daily communion with our Lord and Saviour, our lives will be blessed of Him. Then we can reach out and be a blessing to others along the way.

We need each other's encouragement and prayers. Please remember me when you pray.

Your sister in the Lord, —Dorothy Wilkins

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

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all saints: I am so grateful this morning that the dear Lord has spared our lives and watched over us in this sin-cursed world. He has given us food and water for our bodies, and He watches over us day and night. He says He will never leave us, nor forsake us. Praise His name. He surely is the same today, yesterday, and always. Yes, He is still on His throne.

I had a really bad ache in the muscles of my left arm. It would come and go and was very painful. I prayed before I went to bed and while I was praying it started hurting again. I asked God to take the pain away and He did. I haven't had the pain since. Praise the Lord!

We sure enjoy the *Faith and Victory*. It surely is food for our souls.

We have some unspoken requests. We still need to be closer to the Lord. Pray for our children that need to be saved.

With Christian love, —Sis. Lois Underwood

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

MO—Dear Sister Maybelle: Greetings of Christian love to you and each one of the workers at the Print Shop, and the saints every where: I truly thank and praise the Lord for all He has done for me and all that He is doing for me each day. He has given me strength and grace to go through the trials I am having with allergies. Each time I feel His healing touch, I rejoice and have a time of thanksgiving and praise to my blessed Saviour.

It was good to be in the services of the Monark Camp Meeting again. I am so thankful to the dear saints, Bro. and Sis. Inman, who always make a way for me to go.

I thank the Lord for all of His faithful saints everywhere in this world; each one who has been born into His Church. I love the Church of God, the Church that Jesus built on the rock.

I enjoyed the September *Faith and Victory* so much. May God richly bless you each one who so faithfully help to put out the good news of the gospel.

Let's not forget to pray for each request for prayer and for all people everywhere. Our nation needs much prayer, as well as all nations.

May God bless and comfort the sad ones who have lost loved ones. God is truly our Comforter and our dearest Friend, as well as our Lord and Saviour.

God bless you each one and encourage your hearts.

Your sister in Christ, —Lena Bowman

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

IL—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in the precious name of our wonderful Lord. He's the dearest Friend anyone could ever have. He is my Saviour, my Sanctifier, my healer, and my keeper. Yes, He's my all in all. As you know, I am still living alone and I'm able to care for myself with the Lord's help. He is so good to me. His praises shall continually be in my mouth. I couldn't live without Him.

May God have mercy and help us to do our best for Jesus' sake, and the sake of souls. God is counting on us and we know we can count on Him. Amen!

Yours for Christ and His truth,

—Sis. Romoser

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Anybody can find fault; it takes no genius to do that. Genius is far better shown in finding something to praise and commend.

—J. R. Miller

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Aug. 25—Our dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, and the dear co-workers in the Print Shop and the saints scattered every where in America: Greetings to you all dear ones again in the most holy name of Jesus Christ.

We had a blessed monthly meeting at the Thrikkannamaugul chapel last Saturday. We plan to have a camp meeting for young people in the second week of September at Karikkom. We expect the salvation of many youths during that meeting.

I have decided to go to North Kerala to visit the congregations in the northern region and to conduct three days meetings at Chalhissery this weekend. There will be a baptism service and also ordinance services next Sunday evening.

The chapel building at Kizhakkethenuvu is moving slowly and needs some more money to get it finished. Our God is Jehovah and He is able to clear the way in the appointed time.

May God bless each of the congregations in America. Please do remember us in your prayers without ceasing.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Ghana . . .

Sept. 1—Dear saints: Greetings to all at the Lord's Print Shop in Jesus' dear name. I am thankful I can say with all my heart that I love God. I put all my trust in God and I am saved today.

I am a Sunday School teacher. I am 30 years old. I put all my trust in Jesus and am giving the children the right teachings from the Bible, visiting them and asking about their problems.

My wife is Cecilia Owusu (28 years) and my children are Cynthia (8 years) and Dorothy Kaiser Owusu (5 years), who was named after our missionary, Sis. Dorothy Kaiser.

My wife has attended one church here in Akomadan which is called "The True Church of Christ." She was a member of the Women's Society in that church. It came to pass that my wife filed to divorce me with many wrong reasons. She advised me to separate myself from the Church of God. She has found that there is hatred against us. She has heard of many arrests and questionings from government officials, and she doesn't want me to be in such troubles.* People don't like the Church because we are few.

I continued preaching the gospel in the Church of God services and I still distribute

Faith and Victory papers and tracts to market women, police, soldiers, bankers, hospitals, etc. These things annoyed my wife Cecilia because I was making myself known as a part of the Church. As I was distributing the tracts, people also discouraged me the same way as Cecilia. They asked if the Church is still popular. They said that since the missionary has died there is no more leader.

On July 26, 1987, suffering and troubled by all this, I left the house first, because our church starts at 9:00 a.m., while Cecilia's doesn't start until 10:00 a.m. After I arrived, Cecilia and children entered the chapel and asked to be prayed for, as she and the children had seen the light. Amen! The ministers and workers laid on hands and prayed for her.

Christian love,

—Francis Owusu

* [Several months ago the police at Akumadan received a letter which stated that Bro. Marfo Kofi and the Church of God in Ghana was connected with **Faith Publishing House** who was a part of the CIA and attempting to overthrow the government of Ghana. Bro. Marfo was detained and questioned by the police concerning this. To our knowledge there has been no further developments concerning this.

—Editor]

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Aug. 31—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus. It is undoubted that the camp meetings of this year ended with the victory of souls saved and His saints refreshed with spiritual food. We shall pray for sustenance of the newly saved souls.

The engine work on my car has commenced. The parts needed have been bought but they were alarmingly expensive. In fact, the entire inhabitants of the continent of Africa are in trouble. Life is not worth living in Africa. Many are regretting to have been born at all. But thank God that the saints have God to trust in for survival. The Lord promised us the blessing of a great harvest this year and we shall have it. We shall not lack food, therefore, in 1988.

There has been a great downpour of rain for the past seven days. Everything was flooded with rain waters. The streams are full and overflowing with water. Our crops are not badly affected. We must still have a good harvest, as the Lord has promised us. We are having lovely sunshine this morning. The fish net I set in the stream caught a good number of fish this morning. That will be sufficient to fix dinner for ten persons. Praise God.

We are living for Jesus day after day. We are serving Him earnestly, happy to be in His service.

May God be with you and yours.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Rivers State, Nigeria . . .

Aug. 22—Dear Bro. Murphey and Sis. Pruitt: I send greetings to you and the dear servants of God in the Faith Publishing House through Christ, our Redeemer. We still offer Him thanks for His lovingkindness toward us and for giving us grace to serve Him up until this moment. Thanks are His also for sustaining the publishing work in spite of the global hardship that has thrown many organizations out of line.

A few weeks ago we took the gospel to another village for a two-day gospel work. This was a place polluted with false doctrines and a number of hearts had been won to them. We had an encounter with some of their members. We thank Him for those who acknowledged the truth and for giving us victory.

Falsehood is on the increase and we ask you to join us in prayer so that many will accept the gospel truth before it is too late. May the Lord bless you all.

Within His love, —F. Naths Ibganibo

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will we know one another in heaven, especially husbands and wives?

Answer: This question comes up quite often. This questioner is not the only one who would like to know the answer to this question. It may be that the most of us are more or less curious about these matters at times, but in the main we may not get much satisfaction for our curiosity.

First of all, I would say to you as the Apostle Paul said in 2 Thess. 1:7, to some who were troubled about some things: "And to you who are troubled rest with us. . . ." He then went on to explain to them that when the Lord Jesus comes to judge the people, He will set all things in order and judge them properly according to their deeds. One thing we know is that God made us in the beginning, and now through salvation He has made us over again. We are "new creatures in Christ" and "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4), and He knows exactly what it takes to fulfill the desires and longings of that nature because it is His own nature

which He has given to us. He has fitted everything in heaven to that nature, so we can be perfectly assured that if we are accounted worthy to enter there, we will be perfectly and thoroughly satisfied with everything exactly as it is, however it may be. God has fixed that place to exactly fit the nature He has given us through salvation so that we will be sublimely happy, satisfied, and content with everything just as it is, so let us all bend all efforts to get there.

It appears certain from the holy Scriptures that our relationships with one another will not be the same in heaven as it is here on earth. Here, we have relationships in the flesh, but it will not be so there. In Matt. 22:23-33, there is recorded a conversation between Jesus and the Saducees which touches on this very question that we are considering. The Saducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. These Saducees confronted Jesus with what they considered to be an air-tight case against the resurrection of the dead. They referred to a statute in the law of Moses which said that if a man married a wife and died without having any children, that his brother was to take his wife and raise up seed unto his brother. In their story there were seven brothers, and one by one they all had the same woman to wife and none of them had any children, so she was married to all seven in order. Now all of them were dead, they said, and the woman also was dead. Their question was, "Whose wife will she be in the resurrection, because they had all married her in this life?"

Jesus answered the Saducees straight from the shoulder, and said in Matt. 22:29-30, ". . . Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." This spells it out in black and white that there are no husband and wife relationships in heaven. Neither will there be any family relationships (father and son; mother and daughter, etc.) in that eternal world. Oh, how merciful, compassionate, and sympathetic God has been to arrange it this way! This is surely His divine wisdom. Many are familiar with the burden, grief, yearning, and longing in the heart for a wayward, erring loved one; and how anxious we are for them to come home and change their way of life. Oh, the unspeakable anguish that rends the heart when we see that loved one snatched away unprepared, and we know that there is no more hope—they are gone, forever gone. To bear that same anguish of heart for long, long eternity is devastating just to think about. God has taken care of that with one stroke of His mercy, by just dissolving all

human ties and bonds which we have in this life, so that if a son, daughter, spouse, or parent should be lost, it will not affect our happiness of heaven to any degree.

It is evident, however, that there is a way in which all of God's redeemed ones will know one another, and apparently even without introduction. The first seven verses of the seventeenth chapter of Matt. record the incident of Christ's transfiguration before three of His disciples: Peter, James, and John. Verse 3 says, "And, behold, there appeared unto them [Peter, James, and John] Moses and Elias talking with him [Jesus]." The disciples knew them and it is evident that they did, for in verse 4, Peter said to Jesus, "Let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." He named them and wanted to build tabernacles for them, so it appears evident that he knew who they were.

This knowing of one another is knowledge on a different plain or elevation than the knowledge we have of one another in the flesh. I cannot explain just how it will be in that respect, for I have never been there to experience it first-hand, but a few Scriptures guide my thinking which is not at all dogmatic. It seems to me that the knowing of one another in that eternal world will be in the spirit, and not in the flesh. I do not intend to convey the idea here that I do not believe that the resurrected saints will not have bodies and perhaps familiar, recognizable features. I believe they will, but I also believe that everything there will be on a spiritual level and it is in that realm that we will know one another.

Actually, that relationship begins here, when in salvation we "come to the spirits of just men made perfect." Salvation brings us into a unique and "knowing" relationship with every other blood-washed saint in the whole world. We fellowship and know them in the spirit. 2 Cor. 5:16, says, "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." Col. 3:11, says concerning our relationship in Christ, "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all." Read also Romans 10:12; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28. These Scriptures all teach us that salvation brings all born-again souls into a holy amalgamation in the spirit of every nation, tongue, and people (Rev. 7:9), and that their relationship and bond of fellowship is in the spirit and not in the flesh. By this we know that this knowing of one another in the spirit begins here, but it will be perfected over

there and that will be the basis of all relationships in heaven.

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What Some Men Have Said About Heaven

"There is a land where everlasting suns shed everlasting brightness; where the soul drinks from the living streams of love that roll by God's high throne! — myriads of glorious ones bring their accepted offering. Oh! how blest to look from this dark prison to that shrine, to inhale one breath of Paradise divine, and enter into that eternal rest which waits the sons of God!"

—John Bowring

"Heaven's the perfection of all that can be said or thought — riches, delight, harmony, health, beauty; and all these not subject to the waste of time, but in their height eternal."

—James Shirley

"There are two unalterable prerequisites to man's being happy in the world to come. His sins must be pardoned and his nature must be changed. He must have a title to heaven and a fitness for heaven."

—John Seeley

"Heaven must be in me before I can be in heaven."

—Charles Stanford

"If God hath made this world so fair, where sin and death abound, how beautiful, beyond compare, will paradise be found."

—Robert Montgomery

"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

—Thomas Moore

"It is not talking but walking that will bring us to heaven."

—Matthew Henry

—o—

Do You Need Strength?

On the wall in the chapel at Pomona, CA there hangs a motto which says, "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (Isa. 30:15). It has been hanging there for a number of years, and has been an inspiration to many. Think upon those precious words for a while. What does quietness mean? It means for the body to cease its moving, and for the mind to be cleared of all the push and pull of the stress and strain of the cares of life, becoming still before the Lord. Then let the mind soar up to the heavenly realm. Think of the greatness of God. Think of His love and how He has proved it to all by sending His precious Son to live, die and arise for salvation. Think of how unworthy one is of any blessings, since at one time all had sinned against the precious heavenly Father, yet He bestows blessings upon blessings upon all. Think of what He has done in the past and know that He will do the same now and in the future. He has promised to be "a rewarder of

them that diligently seek him." Since you have diligently sought Him for the things you have need of, you can expect them to come. You can rest in His precious Word and know that He will take care of all those things that you have brought to Him in prayer. Can't you just feel new courage, new strength for the trying scenes of life surge up in your very being? Now go forth and count the victory yours.

—Sister Marie Miles

RIGHTEOUSNESS

So often we hear quoted, "There is none righteous, no, not one", and "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags", to uphold the idea that it is impossible to live a holy and righteous life in this world. Sometimes comments are made about "self-righteous" people. Those who make such comments do not understand that people who are righteous are only righteous through Christ, not of their own self-righteousness.

Let's examine the above quotes more closely. In Romans 3:10-12 it says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Notice it says, "As it is written." It is written in Psalms 14:1-3 and Psalms 53:1-3. If we go back to Psalms we see that it is "the fool" to which reference is made, not the Christian. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Psalms 14: 1-3. It is so plain that this is speaking of an unregenerate person and in no way refers to a Christian, who seeks God with his whole heart. It is sad to see the lengths that people will go to claim that we cannot live a holy and righteous life in this present world. "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Romans 10:2, 3.

Now let's examine the other Scripture so often quoted trying to justify the position that Christians are not righteous. "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6. It is true that "all our right-

eousnesses are as filthy rags", but as Christians we have "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Galatians 3:27. "Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law; but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Phillipians 3:9.

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous", 1 John 3:7. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." 1 Peter 2:24.

We can live "in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life," Luke 1:75, by becoming "awake to righteousness", 1 Cor. 15:34, and being "partakers of his holiness", Hebrews 12:10, and "having on the breastplate of righteousness". Ephesians 6:14.

As Christians God expects us to be righteous not by our own righteousness, but "through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

—Joyce Hall

SIN IN THE FLESH

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing. . ." Ro. 7:18. ". . . and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Ro. 8:3.

Much reference is shown in the Word concerning sin in the flesh. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, (or body) yet being UNPERFECT. . ." Psa. 139:15, 16.

Defining Carnal Sin

Adam's sin, depraved nature, sin principle, original sin, fallen nature, infirmity of the flesh, human element, sin of the world, body of sin, carnal spark, Adamic flint, old man, Adam, Agag, Achan, Self.

SELF of the CARNAL and SELF of the HUMAN

Self of the carnal is found within the carnal mind; but Self of the human has its hinderances and must be watched closely. It hinders when a sanctified soul makes costly blunders and mistakes; or by human conjecture judging others by

outward appearance; soon to find they were mistaken. Should we fail to make right our human errors, Self of the Carnal will then take over. The saying is: "Better the slip of the foot than the slip of the tongue. Those things we see obnoxious in others; first correct in yourself." All exertions to correct our human weakness in sizing up others is vain without the Grace of Humility to check and to hold back the HUMAN in us.

Natured in Love

"God is Love." This is His nature. This holy nature we receive in fulness when it is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. It is perfected as we continue to obey His Word. "Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Being perfected in love, we become partakers of God's Divine Nature.

The Three Laws — Romans 7:22, 23.

(1. The Law of God. 2. The Law of the Mind. 3. The Law of Sin.)

"For I delight in the LAW OF GOD. . ." Delight in the law is not sufficient to obtain salvation. "But I see another law in my members, warring against the LAW OF MY MIND. . ." This is God's law of conscience; the powers of reason contained in the intellect of the human will to righteousness.

"And bringing me into captivity to the LAW OF SIN. . ." This is the compelling force of the law of sin in the flesh. A law in itself, it demands all to obey its passions and lusts thereof.

The promptings of the flesh cannot move on its own evil impulse except by a law that gives knowledge of what sin is. By the suggestion of sin, the flesh activates its passions for sins and wars against the better reasoning powers of the mind to bring it into subjection. "Sin revived, and I died." It became operative; it worked up its wrath in man in defiance to God's just law. Paul states that: ". . . the law entered, that the offences might abound." This is the way God had in revealing the exceeding sinfulness of sin in the flesh.

As the seed of Adam is so fertile, it is bound to bring forth fruit in the soil of man's sinful nature. But when the fallow ground is plowed up, and the seed of love is planted, it brings forth fruit unto holiness. As the fruits of perfected charity are reached, he maintains and behaves himself; meek as a lamb, gentle as a nurse, and patient as Job. He is not easily aroused and disturbed by carnal frustration, ill temper, and such. LOVE'S supreme affection is shed abroad in the heart. It is "the bond of perfectness."

"Charity never fails." This is the language of the Bible and the standard set for all.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

Sanctification

In the Lord's prayer to His Father and our Father in the 17th chapter of St. John, He was burdened that His disciples and all that followed them should be sanctified. He did not pray that His Father would take them out of the world, but He did pray that He would keep them from the evil. In order for them to be kept from the evil it was necessary that they be sanctified. He further said that they were not of the world even as He was not of the world and stated, "I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified." He didn't pray for them alone, but for all those who would believe on Him through their word. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." St. John 17:21-23. He was burdened that they should be sanctified in order to be made perfect in one even as He and the Father were one, that the world may know that God has sent Him.

Brethren, we ought to heed the prayer and be not of the world, even as He was not of the world, get sanctified and continue in that state, loving and serving God with one heart and one soul, showing forth the love of God by loving one another even as He loved us; ceasing from all envy, jealousy, backbiting, evil thoughts, or giving way to imaginations which would disturb and hinder oneness, that we may prove our sanctification to be of God. The Bible tells us that we "should endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" and in doing this we should never think or imagine evil of one another.

Those ministers whom God has used in holding up the truth for years, have stood like a rock in the billows when enemies were raging against the Church of God and are yet firm in the truth, should be honored in their places lest one be found sowing discord, breaking up the oneness and making division, all of which would greatly please Satan.

Jude, in writing to the sanctified saints, exhorted them to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This faith was, no doubt, the faith given them on the day of Pentecost for the reception of the

Holy Ghost — the work of sanctification. (That faith had never been given them before, as the Holy Ghost had never been promised or shed forth on men in this manner before that time.) They also received gifts of the Spirit at that time which they used in their ministry, as recorded in Acts 4:33, which reads thus: "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."

Jude was burdened that the doctrine of sanctification be kept before all saved people. No doubt, the reason he addressed his letter to those who were sanctified was because some were ceasing to preach and teach the truth on this subject which was so vital in keeping the oneness of God's children in the bond of peace, for which Jesus prayed. Sanctifying grace in the soul will give one power to bear and forbear with loving kindness toward all men, not ready to make division, sow discord, or make any rend in the Body of Christ, which is the Church of the living God.

—Fred Pruitt

HOW TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE

Old Uncle John was not so spry as he had once been. There were only a few black hairs left among the many gray ones. His limbs were shaky and his steps faltering. He was "no good for work any more," he said; but there were two things that he kept on doing right along: he seemed to be always smiling and he seemed to be always praising the Lord. "Happy John," the people called him, and he certainly deserved the name. He did not seem to have much of this world's goods to make him glad. His lot in life did not appear to be more than usually pleasant, nor was there anything in the way of external evidence to show whence his happiness came. I had often sat and gazed upon his placid face lifted in devotion to God. He never seemed to get into trouble. No matter what happened, Uncle John seemed to have no part in the trouble. With others, troubles came and troubles went, but Uncle John still smiled and praised the Lord.

One day I was standing outside the meeting-house with a little company of brethren, when Uncle John came walking out, smiling as usual and praising the Lord. One of the brethren said to him, "Uncle John, how does it come that you are always so happy and never seem to get into trouble?" He stopped and looked at the speaker with a broad smile, and answered, "I just praise the Lord and mind my own business." He turned and walked away, but his words lingered in my ears and were indelibly impressed upon my memory. His secret was very simple,

but very effective. And thus he went on smiling, praising the Lord and minding his own business, and he was "happy John" even to the end. Many years ago he went to his reward, but the lesson that I learned that day has never been lost.

Uncle John's rule for keeping out of trouble seemed very simple. It looks very easy to mind one's own business, but it is one of the hardest things in the world to do, because it is one of the hardest things in the world for us to be willing to do. The Scripture says, "Every fool will be meddling," and it is so hard for some folks not to act like fools, anyway in this particular respect, even though they are ever so wise. The affairs of others are so interesting to them! This is a very human trait, but it sometimes leads to unpleasant consequences.

God knew the failing of people on this line, so he said, "Study to be quiet, and to do your own business" (1 Thess. 4:11). You have, no doubt, studied a great many lessons, but have you studied this particular one? It is evident that many have not yet learned this if they have studied over it. Probably they did not know that it requires studying. Possibly they never thought of it as being an object of study. But it is. We shall never graduate in the school of wisdom until we study this lesson and learn it thoroughly. "Study to be quiet and to do your own business." That is the lesson. Have you learned it? Some folks are always talking, talking, talking. There seems to be no end to their talk. When people talk so much they are sure to talk of some things that should not be talked of. Some people can not keep an experience of salvation because they talk too much, and as a result they have a great deal of spiritual trouble that might be avoided. But, then, they are so interested in their friends and neighbors! How can they help talking about them? Why, just let them spend their time in studying to be quiet. Let them give themselves a few lessons in minding their own business.

Peter had that human trait. He was interested in what John was going to do. When he asked the Lord "What shall this man do?" he received an answer. He did not have to wait for it. It was this, "What is that to thee? Follow thou me." I have known many good Christian people who became mixed up in neighborhood or family affairs and got into a great mess of trouble because they failed to mind their own business. If there is a dog-fight going on, all the dogs in the community seem to want to join in it. There seems to be something in humanity that is very much the same. If there is trouble in the community they want to mix into it some way or another. Trouble is a thing that is much easier to get into than it is to get out of.

More people get into trouble through the wrong use of their tongues than through any other means, I suppose. The Wise Man says, "He that keepeth his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble." He also says, "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water." You know how it runs in every direction, so that you can not gather it up again nor confine it. Never meddle with the strife of others. You are sure of an abundant crop of trouble if you do. It is written, "He that passeth by and meddleth with strife belonging not to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." You know how that is: if he holds fast he will get into trouble, and if he lets go he will get into trouble.

There are some people who are religious and who seem to get along pretty well until their children get mixed up in trouble with some one. Just as sure as that happens they are in the trouble, too. They think that their children could not be to blame. They take the children's part, and trouble is the result. And when they have gotten out of the trouble, if they do get out, they have dishonored both themselves and their religion. There are others who can never let trouble alone if their friends or neighbors are in it. They will mix in. They feel that they must defend their friends, and they are often so partial in their feelings toward them that they can not believe them to be in the wrong. They become all heated in the thing, and before they know it they have a big case of spiritual trouble on hand in addition to the other trouble.

When people get into trouble, they like to tell others about it. If you have sympathetic ears for trouble, you can hear plenty of it.

Few people want to take God's way out of trouble. They will do anything to have their own way out. We are told to leave off strife before it is meddled with. That is the only safe way. While you are out, keep out; and the only way to keep out is to mind your own business. Try Uncle John's rule. It will work very well. It is a splendid preventive of trouble. Would you be happy? Would you have the confidence of your neighbors and associates? Would you be free from worldly entanglements? Would you have a contented heart and a cheerful mind? Would you be worthy of the esteem of the people? Would you be different from worldly people? Would you be a sunshine-bearer for your neighborhood? There is just one way to do it. You must do as "happy John" did—smile, praise the Lord, and mind your own business.—C. W. Naylor

(If you enjoyed this article, the book *Heart Talks* from which it came, can be ordered from Faith Publishing House for the price of \$3.00, plus 84¢ for postage and handling.)



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"I greet you in Jesus precious name, who is so good to me. I want to tell you how God answered my request for prayer. I got relief from pain as soon as you prayed. The day the Lord touched me, I read the verse on the scripture calendar, 'I shall not die, but live and declare the works of God.' It was such encouragement to me."

—Sister O. K. Myers

"Brother and Sister Clifford Wilson and family recently moved here from Iowa so that their children could be with the saints and in the meetings. Since both have worked here before and are acquainted with the printing work, they are able to help out part time here in the Lord's work."

—Fred Pruitt

"Sin had separated man from a merciful, unknown and unknowable God. A great gulf was between them. How could an infinite God, who was a Spirit, make Himself known and loved by finite man? Only God in His great wisdom and power knew how to bridge the great gulf. Jesus, the Son of God was the answer. John writes that 'in him [Jesus] was life; and the life was the light of men.' John 1:4. Jesus is the 'bread of life' and will satisfy every hungry heart. All that will come to Him will be accepted."

—Marie Miles

"Truly the Lord has done great things for me, whereof I am glad. I praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation and for the peace and joy there is in serving Him. We are living in perilous times with terrible sin on every hand. The power of Satan is so strong, but the power of God is stronger. Praise His name."

—Sarah Hoffman