

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### Until I See His Face

I saw the bridegroom standing there,  
 Handsome was He indeed,  
 The fairest of the fair,  
 From out of Abraham's seed.  
 He walked beside me up a path  
 Strewn with flowers grand.  
 I knew at once He was mine,  
 And then He touched my hand.  
 Oh, that tender touch of His,  
 I knew we'd never part.  
 One we must forever be;  
 For He was in my heart.  
 No one else could take His place.  
 I vowed to Him to wed.  
 Then I woke, I'd been asleep.  
 My beautiful vision fled.  
 I'd been praying for one to walk  
 Along this path with me,  
 And God sent me His dear Son,  
 In this my dream to see.  
 In my memory I can see  
 The beauty of His face.  
 He will never cease to be;  
 For time cannot erase—  
 The memory of His voice,  
 The touch of His tender hand,  
 His presence there beside me:  
 It all to me was grand.  
 Yes, this was my Saviour  
 Who walked beside me there  
 On that flower-strewn pathway,  
 In answer to my prayer.  
 Such a wonderful memory  
 That time cannot erase.  
 I know He will sustain me  
 Until I see His face.

—Russell H. Douglas

### Being Prepared!

Isaiah 38:1, "... Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live."

Let us think on "Set thine house in order." Since I have worked a lot in my lifetime cleaning, this subject is easy to talk on. When you are expecting company, what are the first things you think about? I am sure it is of being prepared. Do the beds need changing; does the house need dusting and sweeping; are the dishes all washed; is the bathroom ready with fresh towels; and is food prepared. . . ? If you are like me, you're getting ready up to the last minute. Then, just before they arrive, you sigh because it's done. Now that all is done, you can hardly wait to hear the knock on the door. What a sweet reunion! Now to just enjoy your guest. . . .

But how about that unexpected company who never lets you know they are coming? Here you are, dishes in the sink, the beds not made, dust everywhere and the floors unswept. You have been too busy all day with other things and you have let the house go, then comes a knock on the door. Your heart sinks, but you know you must let them in. Oh, how embarrassed you are. Instead of enjoying the company, you feel like going off in another room to shed a few tears. But when prepared, there is much more joy in the visit.

Now let's just move a bit closer home. Do we ever set our soul in order? Do we ever clean out the dust and dirt and have every corner of the soul shining pure and white? You know, we do have the warning that Jesus is coming. This means we should be cleaning away on our house to be sure daily it is all in order for company. If we spend time in cleaning and keeping clean, we will be looking forward to the knock on our door when He comes.

Although we are warned He is coming, He is also an unexpected guest. The reason is be-

cause no one knows just when He is coming. Will we get busy with other things of this life and let our house go unattended because we think, "Oh, we can clean up tomorrow?"

Just awhile back we had some dear friends that kept saying, "We're coming to see you folks," but they never said when. Well, I would clean and wait, but they didn't come. Then I would have to clean again and I'd ask, "Mother, do you reckon I am getting ready for our friends?" She would answer, "We will see. You just never know when they will come out." This went on for some time and I would think, "Oh, I am cleaning for nothing. They won't ever come." Then one evening I felt real strongly, "Go ahead and clean the house tonight." I almost didn't. I thought, "Oh, I'll just wait till tomorrow. That's my regular day to clean." Then it came even stronger, "You had better do it tonight." So, weary in body, I cleaned and cleaned. I had one room left and the phone rang. The friend said, "I will be there tomorrow about lunch time. How thankful I was it was all done and now I could just happily await the arrival of our guest. Had I waited until the next day I couldn't have had it all done. I was so happy that I listened and cleaned anyway, because it was the first time this friend was ever in our home.

So friend, Jesus is going to visit our house someday for the first time, and if you feel a tug at your heart at anytime, you had better clean up your life. Please obey, because it may be tomorrow He will call for you. If your house is in order, then you can be so thankful and rejoice as Jesus and you take a stroll all over heaven!

The next part of our verse gives the sober reason for being prepared, "Thou shalt die, and not live." Oh dear friend, each of us are facing death, and life for us all will someday come to an end. I trust and pray we all will be well-prepared for that great day! I pray none of us will find our house as Jerusalem did when Jesus said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:38.

In closing I'd like to ask who told us to "set our house in order?" Remember, "Thus saith the Lord," and why did He tell us all to be prepared? Because, "Ye shall die and not live."

May we all spend our time cleaning and keeping clean our little house, for tomorrow Jesus may come. —Elaine Dunn

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The divine command is, "Be thou faithful unto death." This sums up what God requires. He does not ask us to be energetic beyond our strength, or generous beyond our means, or wise beyond the brains with which our poor head is furnished; but whatever our strength or means or brains, He does ask us to be faithful.

—Selected

## Be Not Deceived

There are many ways we can be deceived. Jesus said in Matthew 24:4, "... Take heed that no man deceive you." In verse 24 He says, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

The Apostle Paul in Colossians 2:8 says, "Beware lest any man spoil you [or take away your goods; your understanding of God's Word] through philosophy ["a search for truth through logical reasoning." —Webster] and vain deceit. . . ." Jeremiah 37:9 says, "Thus saith the Lord; Deceive not yourselves. . . ." James 1:22 says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

The Devil is working hard today to deceive precious souls and he has so many ways, that we need to be very watchful. Even as John said in Revelation 20:7, 8 "... Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations. . . ." In Matthew 4:9 he tried to get Jesus to fall down and worship him, but Jesus resisted him. Praise God for the victory Christ won over Satan, and He is able to give us victory, too. But so many people are falling down to the devil and worshipping him. Some even call themselves Devil worshipers. Oh how I wish we could awaken the nations to the awful deception of the Devil. This is the cause of hate, murder, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, rape and kidnaping. Oh what will become of our nation? Even people professing Christianity are partaking of these sins.

The Devil has many ways to deceive. He does not always appear as you would picture him, but sometimes he comes as a wolf in sheep's clothing. Jesus called them false prophets, and told us to beware of them. A wolf is out to catch sheep. A good shepherd will keep his sheep in one fold and cause them to lie down together and lead them by the still waters. But a wolf is seeking to divide and scatter the flock. Oh souls, beware. If you get divided from the flock, there are many spirits to deceive and cause you to lose your vision.

Time and space does not permit saying all we need to say, but we see the Devil is working in religious movements to deceive souls and take them to a Devil's hell.

Let us all take heed and be on guard, for there is a great day coming when we shall all give an account to God.

I give this warning in love. May God bless every reader, —Sis. Margaret J. Eck

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Procrastination is the thief of time. —Young

## The Image To The Beast or Some Food For Thought

By Gene Beisly

(Continued from last month)

A certain denomination teaches "once saved, always saved." It considers itself to be totally (and bitterly) opposed to Catholicism. It could be "fighting words" if you or I were to approach this group and say, "I see an almost exact image (or reflection) of the Catholic church among your teachings!" To what might we be referring? "Sin you will, sin you must." Don't Catholics say, "Come and confess your sins we know you committed this week. . . but if you die in your sins, don't worry (that is, if your survivors pay well), we will pray you out of purgatory." Doesn't purgatory sound like a second chance to be delivered from damnation? Doesn't the millennial reign do the same thing? Isn't the millennial reign a reflection of, a likeness of, an image of the beast? Yes, it is. When God looks into the hearts and minds of those involved in a denomination teaching such doctrine, what will He see? He will see a reflection of something reaching far back into the beast era. If people won't prepare for eternity right now, do we really think they would later? If Satan can convince only one soul to put off salvation until the "millennium" do you think he would be happy? How many hundreds or even thousands has he beguiled into neglecting their spiritual welfare? Something else quite similar to the millennial teaching is the New Age teaching of reincarnation. Reincarnation has been around for years, but have you ever seen a time in which it is becoming so widespread? Isn't reincarnation a second chance? People hope to become better, to reach a higher plane of development, reach toward perfection . . . if not in this life perhaps in another life—or another. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Whom will we believe, God or some man claiming to be a prophet of God and yet proclaiming something contrary to God's Word?

From this point on you will probably see how there is a false sense (a deception) of spiritual security in all Protestant doctrines. A spiritually deceived person may honestly think he or she is right, when in God's sight they are wrong! We have a righteous Judge (I Peter 2:23) who looks on the heart—knowing all about our understanding of God's Word. Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: . . ." Deception can come from being

incorrectly taught about the Word, but we can also deceive ourselves by refusing light and understanding of the Word as it is shed on our lives. ". . . Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: . . ." John 12:35.

In some groups, to miss communion on Sunday is a "no-no." The communion is taken to each shut-in who couldn't attend church services. Is their "salvation" (or security) in the communion? It appears that way, but real security is not just taking the communion.

How about those who speak in the "unknown" tongues? One man told me that the tongues are "what makes the world go 'round.'" Is their tongues experience their "salvation?" Do they live as they please through the week, and because they speak in tongues at the next church service they feel safe and secure?

Dear reader, what is going on in the church world today? Deception, darkness and a blindness of spiritual vision, that's what. May God help us. There is a group which say if they wear certain underclothes, (yes, you read it correctly) they are protected from danger! Someone wrote a book about this group. Its title is, *The God-makers*. Is this an image of Catholicism? I think so. It's my understanding that Catholics wear a medal of St. Christopher or have a small statue on the dash of their cars for special protection from danger.

There is another group which has a strong appeal to many people due somewhat to that inward hunger to be noticed and appreciated. This group makes its members feel good about themselves by telling them, "Each of you is a preacher." To them, this is an elevated position of importance. But they say there is no hell, a person has no soul, only 144,000 will rule with Christ, there is no personal experience of salvation, the earth will be burned over so they can dwell here in "their hereafter." I know some very good people in this group and it makes me sad when I think what their future might hold for them.

Would you agree that there are some who honestly think they are right with God even though they confess to sinning every day? Others live respectable lives but have no testimony of a positive and personal salvation experience with God. Do you know some whose

(Continued on page 12)

## 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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**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 now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year ..... \$1.00  
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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

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

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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## EDITORIALS

"The Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." II Thess. 3:3. This is a very heartening and encouraging promise to us as we live in a time when Satan is doing all he can to confuse, cast down and discourage those that believe in God.

Do you ever despair of spiritual growth? Have you known stalwart Christians that you wish to emulate? Do you ever read of the men of God in the Bible and wonder if you could somehow be in a position for God's blessings to flow through you as it did them? God's faithfulness is our guarantee that these goals are within our reach. God's presence can be just as real in our lives as it was manifested in others.

It is of necessity that we allow God to establish us. Be under no illusion, human nature is capable of all kinds of extremes. Once a person formulates an ulterior motive in serving God or is prompted by something other than a pure heart, there is no way of predicting the spiritual condition that this will evolve into.

For God to establish a person, He requires reality, not homespun theories or experimental ideas. The Word of God must be taken for what it says and put into practical application. Matthew 7:22, 23 describes a class of people who, on the judgment day, will be very vociferous in their accomplishments. There are people who will claim a high profession in what they have done. Salvation means more than being active in religious ideas. It means actually having our lives established on the Word of God.

To be established means a separation from the world. What this entails could be a much debated question with many men's ideas interjected. But our verse simply states that it is being kept from evil, and evil consists of those things that are morally corrupt and wicked.

If we will pray for God to direct our hearts, He will lead us into a fellowship with Him in which sin will not be able to mar our joy and happiness.

—Wayne Murphey

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We now have *Evening Light Songbooks* in stock. Those who have had back orders should be receiving their books in the near future. The songbook still sells for \$6.50 and there is a 10% discount on 12 or more books purchased. Include 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ on each additional dollar of total purchase to cover the postage and handling.

When we reprinted the songbook in 1987, we added music to all of the hymns which previously had words only. In doing so, the words of the fourth verse of song #466, "Jesus Paid It All," were inadvertently changed. The new addition of the songbook also contains this difference.

We have printed a correction for the song on pressure sensitive paper which can be placed over the song and change it to read as it was printed originally. These adhesive inserts will be mailed out with all orders for you to use at your own discretion. If you currently have song-books containing the song with music, and would like to make the change in wording, write and request the number of changes you need for your books. We will send them to you free of charge.

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The allegorical story entitled, *The Watchman On The Wall*, which was printed in the *Faith and Victory* in a series from July 1988 to Feb. 1989, is now available in booklet form. Consisting of 32 pages which includes several illustrations drawn by Bro. Darrell Johnson, the booklet is available for 50¢ per copy. Please include 90¢ for postage and handling.

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We have recently reprinted and updated our book list. To receive the current one free of charge, simply write and ask for it.

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On April 11, we received 5,100 lbs. of offset printing paper. To us, this paper represents the potential means of circulating the Word of Life to many. Some have sent offerings especially to help with the cost of this shipment, and we are grateful.

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The old bookstore on Monark Springs, MO Campground has been moved off its lot in order to make way for the erection of a new building. Lord willing, a foundation will be poured the first part of May and work will progress to the point that the bookstore can be utilized at this year's National Camp Meeting.

—Wayne Murphey

## Prayer Requests

MO—Bertha Yoder has two very important unspoken requests.

LA—"Please remember me, I suffer quite a bit with arthritis." —Gladys Cashio

AR—"An 8-year-old girl needs healing; she has kidney failure and seemingly, she has leukemia." —Sis. Mary Foster

WV—"Please pray for my sister, Virginia Bonham, who is suffering with cancer." —Leota Robins

MI—"I really need your prayers; I have had a cold before, but nothing like this." —Olive Gettersen

CA—Sis. Melia Viser needs complete healing.

OR—Bro. Charles Elwell is having severe heart problems and needs the saint's prayers.

OK—Bro. and Sis. Archie Souders are still in need of a healing touch from God.

WV—Continue to keep Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons in your prayers as they need strength for the problems they are experiencing.

## CORRECTION

In the testimony of Sis. Katherine Williams printed in the April *Faith and Victory*, the date on which she left for California to attend Sis. Mable Carter's funeral was erroneously stated. It should have read that Sis. Katherine left on Jan. 4, 1989.

## MESSAGES WANTED

Dear saints: I am making a special request for all of Bro. Darius A. Gibson's teachings and sermons that you may have. I would appreciate a copy of all that are available. During my severe sickness with Rocky Mountain Tick Fever, I experienced several things. The most powerful of all was the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ which spared my life for the 4th time. I feel a special touch or calling from Him. This is why I feel a sense of urgency to hear my Grandpa Darius' teachings. I would also like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all of you who took time from your busy schedules to send up a prayer for me and my family through this whole ordeal! The Bible states that the Lord will return one's givings in good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over. (Luke 6:38). —Rex D. Gibson Rt. 2, Box 105-B, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-3290.

## WORK DAY NOTICE

In preparation for the 1989 Church of God National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO, work days are scheduled for the three Saturdays before the meeting starts on July 21. The work days are: July 1, July 8 and July 15. You are cordially invited to come and help us prepare for the meeting. Even if you cannot come, we encourage all of the saints to pray earnestly for the meeting this year.

—Jim Wall, Business Manager

If you would be a Christian: come to Christ, yield to Christ, ask Christ, believe Christ.

—Selected

**MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES****Camp Meeting Dates for 1989**

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 3-7  
Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 26-June 4

Jefferson, OR — June 9-18

Tulsa, OK — June 9-18

Green Bank, WV — June 16-25

Oakland, CA — June 19-25

General Southern at Loranger, LA —  
June 30-July 9

Fresno, CA — July 7-16

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO  
July 21-30

Bakersfield, CA — August 4-13

Duncannon, PA — August 6-13

Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-20

Durham, NC — Aug. 13-20

Boley, OK — Aug. 20-27

California State at Pacoima, CA —  
Aug. 25-Sept. 3

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**NEOSHO, MO REVIVAL REPORT**

Dear Bro. Wayne and all *Faith and Victory* readers: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the Lord for the glorious Holy Ghost revival He sent us here in Neosho, MO. Before the meeting started I told the folks that we were going to have a meeting, but we wouldn't know if it was a revival until it was over. Praise God, we did truly have a real revival. There was altar work every meeting except two. Children, young people, and adults responded to the Lord's dealings. There was truly an emptying from vessel to vessel, as the Lord defeated some strongholds of the enemy.

The meeting was closed with an ordinance service that was richly blessed of the Lord. For some the tears flowed freely as the spirit of Christ's love and unity prevailed. We then all went to the Monark Campground to use the baptistry. Eleven souls were buried and resurrected with Christ. Praise God!

We thank the Lord for the strength He gave Bro. Ostis and Sis. Evelyn Wilson to labor so diligently in this meeting.

Please be praying for us all here in the Neosho congregation. I believe the Lord is leading us to higher heights and deeper depths, to be greater workers for Him in bringing more and more sheaves for the Lord of the harvest.

Yours in His service, —Bro. Bob Huskey

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**GUTHRIE, OK REVIVAL REPORT**

The Guthrie congregation is thankful for the recent revival meeting the Lord sent us

April 3-9, 1989. The Lord burdened Bro. Curtis Williams and used him to deliver, under the anointing of the Spirit, soul-stirring and edifying messages. There was altar work every service and 10 were baptized on Sunday afternoon, April 9, 1989. —Bro. Carl Shaffer

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**COFFEYVILLE, KS REVIVAL**

Dear saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus whom we love, adore and desire to please in all things.

We here at Coffeyville are desiring to have a singing the evening of May 13th, and follow up with a meeting the next week. We want to encourage ministers to come and use their God-given talents, and also singers to use their talents to the glory of God. Come prepared to serve. We want to ask an interest in your prayers as we reach out to those in our community. We want to be faithful to a vision given us years ago.

Let us hear from you.

Yours in His service,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly  
407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, KS 67337

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**TULSA, OK CAMP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are praying that the camp meeting which starts June 9 through 19, Lord willing, will be Holy Spirit led.

There will be a 6:30 a.m. prayer meeting with two services on weekdays: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sunday three services; 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The last Sunday will close the meeting after the 2:30 p.m. service, if the Lord wills.

Will you join in with us that souls be saved, baptized, sanctified, bodies healed and saints encouraged? For further information contact Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, Tulsa, OK 74106, phone (918) 584-6838, or Sis. Eva Hardman, 2232 Norfolk, Tulsa, OK 74106, phone (918) 583-2929. The chapel phone is (918) 584-8438.

—Submitted by Eva Hardman

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**55TH OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING**

The Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will convene, Lord willing, May 26, and continue through June 4, 1989, at the chapel located on the corner of Sixth and West Warner Streets, Guthrie, OK.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this 55th annual camp meeting, and to enjoy the fellowship of God's people as they worship together in spirit and truth. With the dining hall

and dormitories on the grounds, provisions will be made for all who come. Expenses will be met by freewill offerings.

We are praying for God to send true spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to minister the Word of God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are living in the last days and need you to come praying with a burden for God to save souls, sanctify believers and to heal the sick.

Please send all contributions for the meeting directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Carl Shaffer, P. O. Box 21343, Oklahoma City, OK 73156. Phone (405) 771-4522. The chapel phone is (405) 282-5499.

—Submitted by Bro. Carl Shaffer

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#### JEFFERSON, OR CAMP MEETING

The date of the Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting is June 9-19. All persons in the northwest region who are interested in the truth 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 freewill 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 Bro. Clifford Wilson at (503) 362-4394, or write Bro. Wilson, 2514 Ridgeway Dr. S. E., Turner, OR 97392 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, June 9-18.

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#### LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

This year the camp meeting is scheduled to begin Friday night, June 30th, continuing daily through July 9, 1989. Come praying for the Spirit's blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, Rt. 1, Box 192, Loranger, LA 70446, or call the pastor, Ed Wilson, (504) 878-4559. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

#### From the Mailbox . . .

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings and love in the name of Jesus our Saviour, "... Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who 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." Hebrews 12:2. May the dear Lord help all of his saints to have a vision of the "joy . . . set before" us so we may "glory in tribulations." I am so thankful we can serve a living, loving God who has promised to supply our every need.

Please pray for us that we may be able to give thanks always for all things unto God, even for some light afflictions of our bodies, for we have the promise that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. We pray for grace to live so that we are "the called according to His purpose."

Cousin Wilbert passed away March 18th and I believe he went to be with Jesus in paradise. Wilbert was zealous to help people to come to the Lord, even going to a foreign country (Liechtenstein) to contact people. . . .

We will continue to pray the Lord to bestow a special blessing on all at the Print Shop.

Please remember us in your prayers.

With Christian love,—Bill and Doris Busch

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. I praise God for that name, for He is worthy to be praised. When we are lonely He is there, and when we are sad He is there to comfort us. Isn't that wonderful? I am looking forward to seeing Jesus. It may be sooner than we think.

I thank each one at the Print Shop for their prayers. Some of my children have been going to church which is an answer to prayer. It will make me happy to see them walking in the truth and working for Jesus. I can hardly wait to see them shouting the victory. Keep praying for them and I will pray for all at the Print Shop. I need prayer for one of my ears. I can't hear out of it. I know God will heal it.

May God bless each one at the Print Shop.

—Sis. Eathel Hill



CA—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear ones at Faith Publishing House: Greetings in our blessed Saviour's name.

I look forward each month to reading the *Faith and Victory*. The articles, testimonies and greetings are very encouraging. My faith and love for our dear Lord grows deeper day by day . . .

May the Lord bless and keep all of you at the Publishing House.

Sincerely,

—Rubi Dyer

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### Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: We send greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. We are thankful that we can still report victory in our souls, and a determination to press on toward our goal.

We thank you for your prayers for us. The Lord is very good to us and has come to our rescue another time and has stopped the spells of hemorrhaging that Bro. Goldsberry was having. I took the flu on Easter Sunday and was very ill for 2 weeks with much congestion in my left lung, which made breathing very difficult, but again the Lord stood by us and brought us through. Praise His dear name!

The Lord made it possible for us to go to Shreveport on the 4th of March for the singing and the week of meeting which Bro. Ostis Wilson held. Bro. Arnett and Sis. Genevieve so graciously opened up their home to us, and came and got us and brought us home. The meeting and sweet fellowship of the saints was precious to our souls and we are still rejoicing over the good messages that went forth.

We have enjoyed reading the *Faith and Victory* and are thankful God has provided another worker there at the Publishing House. May the Lord bless every one of you who are so freely giving of your time and talents in the work of the Lord.

In Christian love,

—Bro. and Sis. Ben Goldsberry

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VA—Dear brethren at the Lord's Print Shop: I trust this letter will find all well and each one of you encouraged to press the battle on.

I am happy to report that I am still saved and pressing on toward that great and final reward, by the grace of God. The Lord is so precious to me. I truly desire with my whole heart to please Him. The more wicked this old world gets, the greater my desire is to be like Christ. I love His law and delight in obeying the One that paid so great a price for my salvation. I have been passing through some valleys, but these things are only creating a greater desire to hold on to our Lord.

The Lord has blessed me so much over the years. I could never repay Him, nor could I ever praise Him enough for His goodness and mercy. Fifteen years ago I was newly saved and was trying to teach my little boys to love and serve the Lord though the enemy was opposing me on every side. I was isolated and faced many dark hours alone with no one to encourage me. The months turned into years and my feet have trod through many deep valleys, but God's grace was sufficient for every trial. I pressed on although the Lord had to carry me at times. I pressed and the Lord supplied the strength. We held onto each other and here we are today still in love, still going on together and still gaining the victory.

Let me share some of our victories with you. The little boys that I trained in the fear and admonition of the Lord are now sixteen and twenty years old. They love the truth and desire to live for the Lord. The twenty-year-old is engaged to a lovely young lady that shares his faith and convictions. My companion, though he once persecuted and mistreated me, is now a loving and caring husband. There have been healings and victories too numerous to write. The most outstanding victory is God's unfailing keeping grace that has brought me to the land that I enjoy today. Glory to God.

Please hold us up in your prayers as we press on to that final victory.

Your sister in Christ, —Nancy Wagoner

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OK—Greetings to all the readers of the *Faith and Victory*, especially those who have called or written the Print Shop for prayer. Keep holding on dear ones. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. I am almost 85 years old and God has never failed me.

I desire the prayers of all the saints that I will be faithful to the end. It is he that endureth to the end that will be saved. There are so many spirits gone out in the world, but the Lord has kept me in the same straight and narrow path. There is nothing to turn back to but sorrow. The way seems brighter all the time. Let us keep true and I hope to meet you in Heaven.

—Sis. Edith Wall

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## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

April 17—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and other dear ones in the Print Shop and the dear saints scattered abroad:

Greetings to you all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ. My trip to Andhara state was a real blessed one. We conducted 4 days



of meetings there. Many got saved and baptized. We preached in English and Bro. John Rao interpreted it into the Telungu language. We traveled to and from by passenger train.

It was with real shock that I happened to read in the *Faith and Victory* about the sad news of the sudden departure of our dear Bro. Lewis Williams, Bro. Dadie Moore, Bro. Leonard and Sis. Grace Roberts. We send our heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved family members.

We got some rain yesterday with a storm, resulting in some bad consequences in different places. One tree fell on the roof of our chapel at Karikkom producing some damages. Urgent repair is needed on it.

May God bless the camp meetings in America this summer. I enjoyed the camp meetings in different places last year. Please remember our new work in Tamil Nādu state. We have a nice congregation there now. . . .

With love and many prayers,

—John Varghese

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From Mexico . . .

April 7—Dear saints: I give my thanks to my God for the privilege to know and salute all in the precious holy name of our admirable Saviour, Jesus Christ. I hope that this finds you in good health and rejoicing in the rich graces and peace of the Lord according to the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts. (II Thessalonians 1:2, 3).

Precious brethren, I give honor to God for the goodness that you have bestowed on us, and that He has given us many souls that need the truth and that they are encouraged to serve the Lord with all their hearts. I beg you to pray much for them.

We also have a sister, that is very faithful, who has broken an ankle in a fall, also a sister, a widow, that has a brother sick unto death and two other families which have sickness in their homes. We need much prayer for healing.

I also want to tell you about an ex-pastor of a Baptist church who has seen the truth and is now in the Church of God. He has a chapel where he conducts services which he wants to give for the service of the Church of God. I am to hold services there. Please pray that I will be a wise and useful instrument for God, and that all those in his congregation will accept the truth as their pastor, Toribio Martinez has. Bro. Martineez is about fifty years old.

It is a truth brethren, that among the saints here there is much poverty. Some have very little to eat, much less nice clothing. Some dress very sad, but are beautiful inside because their hearts are for God. Some live far away, but I go get them and take them home after service

making a round trip of about forty or fifty miles. It is worth it as they are hungry for the truth, and we have a burden for their souls. Help us pray that the work will continue to grow.

I am also visiting the jail, and there is much interest in hearing the Word of God.

We had a four day meeting at Easter and God blessed the services. We plan to have a camp meeting the 13th through the 19th of August. The weather is perfect at that time. We pray that all will be in the order of the Lord. . . .

May God bless you richly and abundantly in all things is my prayer and wish, knowing well that the work of God is not in vain. Amen!

Much Christian love and prayers,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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From the Philippines . . .

March 21—Dear Brother Murphey and family: We rejoice so much for your kindness to us, dear saints. The plane ticket that Brother Hammond will give me to go with Ruth to the U.S. is a big amount. That is a very wonderful love. Please say thank you for us to Brother Hammond and to all the dear saints who have sacrificed to help us.

The church that challenged the saints to a debate did not sign any of the four propositions I sent them, but they said many bad words against me in their public meetings. No one responded to their preaching because of their unchristian attitude. Just after their permit had ended, I went to the Barangay head to give me a permit for gospel meetings, also. He gave me 10 days from 7:00 to 9:00 every night, so we are now going on with a good attendance. I'm going to break the meeting temporarily because I plan to go to Manila with Ruth to process the papers needed for the trip to the U.S. We are praying much for God to continue to guide and bless us in every way for this plan.

Please give my loving regards to all the dear saints there. We hope to see you soon.

With my love and thanks,

—Matias S. Tangunan

[Editor's note: We have received recent notice that all of the papers needed for Bro. Matias' and Sis. Ruth's trip to the States have been acquired. Their plane tickets have been purchased here and wired to them. They are scheduled to arrive in Oklahoma City on May 5th.]

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

April 10—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the saints of God: Greetings once again in the mighty

name of Jesus, the Almighty in power, yet tender in love and plentiful in mercy. All honor and glory unto Him forever and ever. Amen.

We are toiling on faithfully and hopefully, strictly confined of course to divine direction. As those redeemed by the blood we can only live and work as the Redeemer dictates. Congregations around Kwale are being visited with increased frequency. All night prayer was held on March 17, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The spiritual upliftment and fortification of the saints the next day was indescribably profitable. There is need to be on a higher ground with a view of rising above the clouds and walking in the King's highway of holiness.

Prices of essential food have risen far above the purchasing ability of the common man in Nigeria, making death by starvation inevitable. High cost of transportation has brought upon all unavoidable restriction of movement. Farming, which appears to be the answer somewhat, is having its problem of scarcity of land for continual cultivation. With us of the household of faith, undismayed by all the powers of earth and hell, we can still take the bull by the horns. There is no situation that will prevent our wings from beating the air where the sunlight gleams. The saints are a happy lot of people. Praise the Lord. Your prayers are our chief need.

Yours to make Christ known,

—Titus U. E. Enu

## In Memoriam

**Dadie Jay Moore** was born July 4, 1943 in Clarksville, TX and died Saturday, March 18, 1989 in Tulsa at the age of 45 years, 8 months and 14 days. Bro. Moore lived here since 1958 and was an inspector for DuPont Chemical Company. He was a member of the Church of God.

Bro. Moore is survived by his wife, June, of the home; 4 children, Malcolm and Cheryl Moore of Sand Springs, OK, Anecia Moore, Neal Moore and Thelma Moore of the home; sisters and brothers, Evelyn and Richard Eudy of Niland, CA, Hollis and Sylvia Moore and Jane and Noland Belcher of Bogota, TX, Barbara and Dean Freeman of Paris, TX, Donnie Ray Moore of Mt. Pleasant, TX, Hulan Moore, Marilyn Naas and Carolyn McIntosh of Tulsa, OK. He was preceded in death by his parents, Essie and Chalmer Moore.

The officiating ministers were Bros. Richard Madden and Stanley Dixon.

## NOTE OF THANKS

The family expresses their appreciation for all the cards, flowers, love and kindness shown at their time of bereavement.

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**Leonard David Roberts** was born May 30, 1907 in Winona, MO, and died Saturday, March 25, 1989 at home at the age of 81 years, 9 months and 25 days. Bro. Roberts was retired from the Roberts Plastering Company. He was a member of the Frankoma Road Church of God.

Bro. Roberts is survived by his children, Betty Lou Hensley, David Roberts and Sally Cole, all of Claremore, OK, Joan Haven of Chetopa, KS, Patsy Madden and Sonny Roberts of Bristow, OK, Linda Powers of Catoosa, OK; one sister, Noni Turner of Beggs, OK; 30 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Grace, February 27, 1989 and son, Sammy.

Funeral services were held in the Frankoma Road Church of God with Bros. Richard Madden and Don McIntosh officiating.

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**Martha A. Moore** was born January 29, 1906 in Dublin, AR and died at home Tuesday, March 28, 1989 at the age of 83 years, 1 month and 29 days. Sis. Moore was married to Hubert Moore 65 years ago in Bristow, OK. They lived in Bristow until moving to Sapulpa in 1976. She was a member of the Church of God.

Sis. Moore is survived by her husband, Hubert, of the home; two sons, Kenneth Moore of Liberty Mounds, OK and Harold Moore of Sapulpa, OK; brothers and sisters, O. W. Wheeler of Bristow, OK, Mary Mead of Sapulpa, OK, Flournoy Wheeler of Mannford, OK and Gertie Wheeler of Bristow, OK; 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

## Question and Answer Column

by  
Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Will you please explain and discuss I John 5:16, 17?

**Answer:** I John 5:16, 17 reads, "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."

First let us notice the phrase in verse 17 which says "All unrighteousness is sin." Since

God's Word says this, we must accept it as so and conclude that every unrighteous act is sin from God's viewpoint. God's Word also says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4). But it also says in verse 17, "There is a sin not unto death." There surely must be some harmonizing grounds for these apparently contradictory Scriptures.

In James 4:17 we read, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." The key words in this text for this discussion are "knoweth" and "to him." We conclude on this basis that if the individual had no knowledge of God's will in the matter, it would not be sin to him and would not be charged against the individual as sin by God. Therefore he would not be cut off from God (spiritual death) on account of it even though it is sin in God's sight according to the definition of sin given in I John 5:17. Romans 4:15 says, "... For where no law is, there is no transgression." It must also be true that where there is no knowledge of the law on any given point, no transgression would be charged against an individual who violated the law on that point. Paul confirms this also in Romans 7:9 where he says, "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." But what does this mean? It seems to me to mean that even though Paul was doing things that violated the law, he was free from the condemnation of it until he came to a knowledge of the law on the points he was violating. But when the knowledge of the commandment came to him, he fell under condemnation and sin revived and he died.

Therefore, I conclude that light and knowledge enter into the consideration to determine whether a certain thing would be classified as a "sin unto death" or a sin "not unto death." If we see a brother doing something that we know to be contrary to God's will, though he does not know it and therefore is not being charged with it, and his connection with God is not being severed on account of it (death); yet God cannot bless him with it in his life like He could bless him without it, then we are instructed to pray for God to reveal the light and truth to him on that point so he can be freed from it. When God answers prayer and deals with the individual about that unrighteous thing in his life and makes him know that it is an unrighteous thing, contrary to the will of God, and he continues right on in it knowing it be a violation of God's will, then through the knowledge of the commandment, "Sin revives and he dies." (Romans 7:9). It then becomes a sin unto death to him and I John 5:16 says we need not pray about that matter any further. The text didn't say not to pray for the individual's recovery to repentance and salvation, but just not to pray about

that particular sin in his life—it has already been dealt with.

Even though the text under scrutiny says "There is a sin unto death," I do not understand it to be identified with the one and only unpardonable sin—the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 12:32). I John 5:17 also says there is "a" sin not unto death. Would we suppose by this that there are only two sins in the world available unto mankind; one unto death and one not unto death? Of course not. The best understanding that I have at this time is that there is a kind or class of sin unto death and a kind or class of sin which is not unto death, and it is determined by the light and knowledge of the individual.

## HOME LIFE



## A Tribute To Mother



My mother in the flesh was also a Mother in Israel. She had a large family and brought us up around a family altar where we were taught to give respect and attention to the reading of the Word of God and prayer. Many evenings were spent in singing hymns. She loved the Lord and gave reverence to Him. She carried a burden for her children's never-dying souls. How well I remember when I had been away from home for some time I wondered if Mother still tarried in prayer each morning before coming down for breakfast. I found her faithful at her post of duty.

Obedience was faithfully taught us. Maybe we didn't always understand, but she told us to trust her judgment as she must answer to God for us. I appreciate her teaching me how to work and take on responsibility; to sew, keep a clean house, and prepare meals. She taught us to be saving with food. Jesus told His disciples in John 6:12 to "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Cleanliness was taught. Our bodies and clothes were to be clean as well as dishes washed, floors swept and mopped and windows washed. There was tidiness in the house and yard.

Mother taught us carefulness in how we handled the dishes and school books. We didn't have toys, but did have a few things for our enjoyment. They were handled with care. Over the years these things have proved a blessing to me. We read in Luke 16:11, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"

She was firm but loving. One day I came home from school crying because I was to get a lower grade because we couldn't take part in some school activities. My mother's tender heart was touched. She couldn't read, but she had enough Scripture in her heart to console us when needed. She told me not to marvel if the world would hate us for obeying and loving the Lord. Many times that has been a memorial to me to bear the yoke in our youth.

Mother would tell us children, "If you claim to be a Christian, be sure you live like Christ. If you don't, don't claim to be a Christian." She also told us, "You can join all the churches in the world, but if you are not saved from sin and living a holy life, you'll never make it to heaven." She advised us to never deny Christ as He is our only hope of heaven. Many more remembrances I could relate. All of her teachings brought me to Christ.

I think about the Church being our Mother and how needful it is for the Church to teach her little babes the way of righteousness. When a newborn was added to our family, we were happy to welcome it and to love, cuddle and nurture it. We in the Church of God are happy for every one who will yield their life to Christ and become a newborn baby. Lord help us to know how to care for them so that they will be good, strong, healthy children of God—a light to the world.

Lovingly in Christ, —Sis. Inez Beisly

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"I have not been able to find a single and useful institution which has not been founded by either an intensely religious man or by the son of a praying father or a praying mother. I have made this statement before the Chambers of Commerce in all of the largest cities of the country, and have asked them to bring forward a case that is an exception to this rule. Thus far, I have not heard of a single one."

—Roger Babson

"Children, look in those eyes, listen to that dear voice, notice the feeling of even a single

touch that is bestowed upon you by that gentle hand! Make much of it while yet you have that most precious of good gifts, a loving mother. Read the unfathomable love of those eyes; the kind anxiety of that tone and look, however slight your pain. In afterlife you may have friends, fond, dear friends, but never will you have again the inexpressable love and gentleness lavished upon you, which none but a mother bestows." —Macaulay

"Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought—the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven."

—Longfellow

## The Image To The Beast

(Continued from page 3)

sense of their soul's eternal reward lies only in keeping the discipline of their church, shaking the preacher's hand, having their name on a church book, being baptized as an infant, or observing some other teaching? However, that person feels safe because he or she keeps the discipline of the church, etc. Don't these people read their Bibles? Jesus came to condemn sin in the flesh. Are these people deceived? Isn't this where the devil wants them? Deceived people are likely to be very comfortable with their spiritual condition. The Laodiceans in Revelation 3:17, 18 were told, "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich: . . ."

Does all this sound as though I'm picking at the church world in general? It may seem that way to some, but there is more to consider for saints.

Do we believe that the Church of God is established in the "top of the mountains?" Yes, indeed. (See Daniel 2:34, 35; Isaiah 2:2; Hebrews 12:18-29.) What do I mean, the "Church of God?" Look at how many "churches" of God there are now. Often there is one or more in many cities of this United States. Am I referring to these? Not necessarily. There are many man-made organizations bearing the name Church of God. An image to the beast will be found in them. God's Church is made up of born again individuals. (Psalm 87:5, 6; Acts 2:47.) He keeps a record of the members. Man cannot put someone into or out of the Church. God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him. (I Corinthians

12:18, 27). The Church is directed by the Holy Spirit, not in the future, but now. Do you remember that Philip was called by the Spirit to leave a revival and go into the desert to preach to one man? Dear reader, it is beautiful and glorious. Praise God. No doubt there are many saved people who are now worshiping with some man-made organization. When these people realize they are really members of God's Church He gives them a call, ". . . Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; . . ." (II Corinthians 6:16, 17).

Let us consider ourselves for a few moments. Please read this very slowly if necessary. Think carefully as you read. Analyze each word and each thought. When the Holy Spirit convicted us of sin, didn't we realize that we were lost, undone, without hope—without a Saviour? Oh, yes, I remember. Thank God for His dealings. Didn't we realize there was **nothing** we could pay, **nothing** we could give as a ransom for our souls? We came as beggars! I wasn't worthy to look up into His face. My soul cast itself prostrate in the dust before Him. Thank God for His mercy. This Saviour gave His life for you and me. No other sacrifice would do. Our salvation required the shedding of blood of a perfect sacrifice. He paid the price. Thank God for that love! Think just a moment. . . . Was there any "fight spirit" left in us at that time? No. Was there love instead of hatred? Was there beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness? Oh, yes, a thousand times yes. Thank God for that deliverance. (Isaiah 61:1-3).

But what is my burden? It is the images created by Protestantism. There is an image of false security that can affect the saints. There is a very serious side to this. Do you and I still possess that meek and quiet "no fight" spirit? Please read this question again. Are we letting it sink in? Do we need to humble down before God? Do we need to ask Him to break down any idol, root up any bitterness, cast out any foe? "Lord wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." If God is talking to your heart, what better time could there be than right now to ask God to forgive you of any ill will, pride or any self-deception? I Peter 3:3, 4 tells us the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit is very valuable in God's sight. It is also very important.

As we "settle in" at "our place" in the congregation, a curious thing could happen. Our comments in Sunday school and our testimonies could become based more on what we remember of God's dealings with us in the past rather than on a fresh, lively, vibrant experience in the present. There could be a sense of security

develop within us because "I attend church services at Sixth and West Warner in Guthrie. It is the oldest congregation in Oklahoma. Some outstanding early day ministers preached here. I remember miracles of healing performed here," or "I heard Bro. Willis M. Brown preach. He prayed for me," or "I heard Bro. D. S. Warner preach and he was the one who first began preaching the truths of this evening light reformation in 1880." We could slip into a place where we depend on the preacher to do our Bible reading for us! "Bro. \_\_\_ is our preacher. He sure is a good one. He really preaches the Bible," true, but he can't preach **everything** we need from day to day. Daily Bible reading on our part helps take care of that. Do we depend on "our preacher" to do our praying instead of us doing it for ourselves?

There is a chance that our opinions and convictions of the Scriptures could become very important to us and very correct in our eyes, so much so that we may not appreciate anyone who disagrees with us. And do you realize where that brings us? Right back to where Luther called Zwingli a heretic! The Calvinists had nothing to do with Lutherans! This is a fearful, dangerous condition.

Now God's Church as a whole will not come to this point. God's Church is pure. But God's Church is made up of individuals. Satan attacks individuals—you and me. May God help us.

Yes, man-rule is part of the image to the beast but a greater part is a false sense of security—a spiritual deception—that comes from putting trust and confidence in a belief or teaching which in God's sight is damning to the soul. But what if a belief or teaching is soundly based on the Bible? That is a good question. Some Bible doctrine may become so much a part of our lives that just because we keep it faithfully, we feel real secure, even though a coldness of our experience or a "holding of the truth" in unrighteousness and a loss of our first love creeps in (Revelation 2:4, 5).

Think of it—the dragon (paganism and idolatry) gave its power, seat and great authority to the first beast (Catholicism) who transferred all its power to the second beast (Protestantism). As God looks down at religious denominations and their doctrines, He will see an image, or reflection, if you please, of Catholicism. "Sin you will"—directly from the first beast right down into and through most denominations today. "Purgatory"—the "second chance" teaching of millennialism is false. There is no second chance as "they" teach it. "Confession"—liken it to partaking of the com-

munion, or the speaking in an "unknown tongue" for "security" instead of living a holy life. In each case some people will feel that "If I take communion," or "If I speak in tongues (a big sigh of relief) I'm all right for a while longer." "St. Christopher's medal"—liken it to people who wear certain clothes to protect themselves for the same reasons.

But, saints of God, what does God see reflected when He looks into our hearts? A meek and quiet spirit? The works of the Spirit? Aren't these what He wants to see? Yes, indeed. Ephesians 5:25-27 tells us Christ gave Himself for His Church that He might present it to Himself—a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle. Is that too high a standard? No. The inspired Word means what it says. The Church of God is in the world but separate from it and man-made groups.

Idolatry is defined as: "The worship of a physical object as a god, immoderate attachment or devotion to something." I don't like the sound of that, but I fear that Satan will try to slip idolatry into your life and mine. How? None of us wants to make a failure in life, but do our thoughts, plans and efforts to succeed take first

God. How? One way is its name. The Church name is important but not so important that we can use it like an umbrella on a rainy day. That name in itself gives no protection from deception. Satan will try to make us think it does. The Church name does not give us a license for loose living. If we borrow something, return it. This includes books, money and all in-between. If we give our word on something, keep it. Are shady business deals allowed? Does God's Church have any spot or wrinkle? No. God's Word lays judgment to the line and righteousness to the plummet. (Isaiah 28:17). How will this beast spirit beguile us? This Scripture comes to mind: (through the) lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. (I John 2:16). The Word says, lust and pride. These deal with the spirit of man, his intelligence, his soul—the inner man. If deception can be imposed here, Satan has the control he desires. I hope you feel my burden. Does it sound dangerous to you that you or I could create an image to the beast within us? We are in danger if we do. Did I paint the picture dark enough, ugly and dismal enough to motivate someone to flee from it? I pray God that it be so. I hope that Satan's

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## *The Church name is important but not so important that we can use it like an umbrella on a rainy day.*

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place? Have some of us neglected the wife, children, home and health because of the desire to succeed? Lord help us! So many times these have been "offered as sacrifices" to an "idol" of success.

When the first beast came along, it just changed the names of some idols to fit them into the new lifestyle. Satan may try this on us. He might tell us that "gain is godliness." (I Timothy 6:5). And some who sought riches have "pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:10).

The second beast's appearance was like a lamb. It appeared to be innocent but it exercised all the power of the beast before it and spake as the dragon! It caused an image to be made to, or of, the first beast. Is this beast (Protestantism) the most dangerous of all? I think it is safe to say that. A person can find a religious group "out there" which will be tolerant of any lifestyle, ideas, or convictions.

This beast is beguiling. The definition of beguile is: "Deceive, cheat, to please or persuade by the use of wiles." Wile: "A trick or strategy intended to ensnare or deceive, trickery." It is dangerous. It will try to affect the Church of

beguiling, deceptive tricks will be repulsive to you. II Peter 1:10 tells us to make our calling and election sure. Please read the entire verse. If we do this, I believe we will be totally free of any contamination of the image to the beast.

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## **Married to Christ**

Whenever we are born into the kingdom of God, we become married to Christ. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Rom. 7:4.

Since we know the exact hour and day that we become married to our spouses here on earth, it only seems reasonable that we should know the exact hour and day we become married to Christ, or are spiritually entered into the kingdom of God. We know when we are born again!

We do not enter in gradually by being good, by deciding to start changing our ways, by going to church every Sunday, by being baptized into some church, or by putting our names on some church roll.

—Joyce Hall

## Chinatown Gertie



Near the turn of the century this old mission building in the heart of Chinatown (in New York City) had posed as a Chinese theatre. However, underworld gangs hid out in its black cellars. Opium rings flourished. Killers struck suddenly, then, like serpents, disappeared into their dens, often leaving their victims stuffed in trash cans.

When finally the theatre was closed down, dope rings found new hide-outs and new crime waves lashed the city.

It was during these turbulent years that a shrewd woman known as Chinatown Gertie kept police on the run. Gertie was a dope addict, a prostitute, and considered as vile a woman as ever darkened the alleys of Chinatown, but Gertie was something of a queen of her underworld gang.

When New Yorkers were reading about Gertie's spine-tingling escapades and wondering what she would do next, an amazing thing happened. Someone from the mission searched and found Gertie and told her the wonderful story of Jesus and His love. Gertie had never heard such a story before. She listened with the eagerness of a child to the words of the gracious invitation, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18.

When she learned that Jesus, the Son of God, loved her enough to die for her sins, Gertie's heart melted. She surrendered her life to Him who said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

God heard her cry for mercy and instantly broke every chain of sin that bound her and set her free, and Gertie went to work for a new Master.

Gertie's years of sin and dissipation had taken a toll on her frail body, and she lived but a short time after that. One warm spring day she went to be with the Lord.

Her funeral was held at the rescue mission in Chinatown. People filled every seat and an overflow crowd lined the walls. From Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn and The Bronx they came. People from all over New York City came to gaze upon the face of the woman they had so long read about.

The funeral service was brief and simple. Then Gertie's casket was opened, and the people marched by single file to view the body. Line after line filed past until the building was almost deserted.

As the very last of the marchers approached the casket, an old man stepped out of the line. He moved closer to the casket and when he seemed certain that he was alone, he looked into the silent face for a minute. Then, with a deep voice that shattered the silence, he began:

"Well, Gertie, I thought I would like to have a little talk with you. Say, Gertie, do you remember that time over on Coney Island when the den was raided? They got me, but you slipped through their hands."

His voice saddened as he recalled other crimes their gang had pulled off. As he recalled each one he would say, "Do you remember that, Gertie?"

He paused for a moment. Then his voice mellowed, "But then one day somebody told you about Jesus. You repented of your sins and asked Him to forgive you. He washed away all the sin and guilt of your lifetime with His own precious blood, and He put your mind at rest, Gertie."

"You knew that you had work to do and not much time to do it in. You must have gotten tired going out in the rain and snow and darkness looking for us miserable slaves shackled to the devil. You wanted us to know about Jesus who could free us, too, and put our minds at rest."

"You done a good job, Gertie. You did not stop until you had won every last one of our gang to Jesus."

When the old man turned to go, his tear-streaked face was radiant. Looking back over his shoulder he said with a loud voice, "So long, Gertie, I'll be seeing you on the streets of gold."

—Sel. by Bro. Earl Bliss

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## Patience

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:2-4. Some time ago, as I read this Scripture, the Lord began talking to my heart about the need and importance of letting patience have her perfect work. He made me to know that this was not a standard too high for us to come to in this life; also that we needed to have confidence that with His divine help we could let patience have her perfect work. Gradually it opened up to me of how God is a God of patience and how that by us fully surrendering to Him in everything He permits to touch our lives, we can be brought into a depth of holiness of letting patience have her perfect work.



First, let us consider some about the patience of God. In Romans 15:4, 5 we read, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus." We read much in the Old Testament of God's patience with mankind, bearing with his weaknesses, blunders, and sins and yet showing mercy and patience. We see it so clearly in the life of Moses as he brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness. In spite of their unbelief and murmurings and disobedience, God continued to go with them, bearing patiently with them. He continued showing Himself strong in their behalf in different needs.

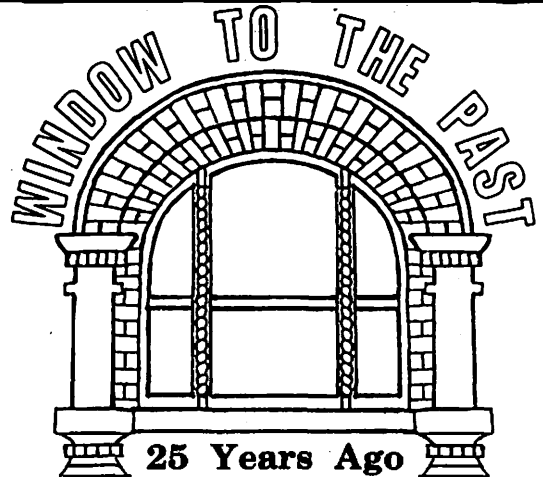
Thus we see how that God is truly a God of patience. He bears and waits on mankind, working, in different ways to bring him to obedience; but when it comes to the point of definite rebellion, He then brings judgment.

The word patient has several meanings, one of which is persevering, which means to persist in any enterprise undertaken in spite of counter influences, opposition; undisturbed by obstacles, delays, failures, etc.

In Job 23:8-12 we read, "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." During this time of sore testing it seems as though God was standing back and not giving Job the encouragement as He had formerly done. I'm sure this was hard for Job to bear, but still his patience held firm. He had been faithful in keeping God's Word when all went well, and had laid a firm foundation for this testing time. This is important in our walk with God.

As Job continued his steadfastness, the time came when God appeared on the scene and talked with Job. Job received some benefit to his soul. Then when he humbly prayed for his three friends who had accused him, God accepted Job and turned his captivity. Thus Job became a monument of patient endurance, an example of "suffering affliction, and of patience" down through the years. Many of us have been helped by his life. We read of others also who patiently endured.

—Fern Stubblefield



Excerpts Taken From  
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"After praying over the matter since last autumn, Bro. and Sister Ostis B. Wilson, minister of Pacoima, Calif., have felt impressed to make definite plans to go, the Lord willing, to Nigeria, West Africa to labor with the Church of God mission there for a few months. They have already secured their passports, and their application has been made to the Nigerian government for visas to enter that country. They have booked passage by ship, to leave New York on June 9. If their visas arrive in time and the Lord continues to will it so, they will be leaving the States on that date. Their plan is to go cross-country by train or car to New York, and make a number of stops enroute.

"Bro. Etuk and the other native gospel workers in Nigeria have been informed of their proposed coming to labor with them, and they are looking forward to their capable assistance with joyful anticipation."

—Lawrence Pruitt

"We are so happy to report victory in our souls and perfect trust in the dear Lord, and how He takes care of us in our old age through every test. We are thankful for the love and encouragement we received through His dear saints of late on our 80th birthdays—Brother John Wilson's on the 29th of March and mine the 1st day of April. We received so many cards and several gifts. May God richly bless you. As two old soldiers, we can speak from experience. He has never failed, and we know He never will. Praise His name forever."

—Bro. and Sis. John W. and Essie Wilson