

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

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NO TIME—NO MONEY—NO HELP?

By Sis. Patricia Bell

God wants to bless His people abundantly in many different ways—spiritually, temporally, physically and mentally. But we often miss the blessing because our self-pitying attitudes are saying, "I don't have enough money," "I can't afford the time," "I do all the work around here," "I don't have enough space for things," "I never get a break," or "the husband or the children aren't helping me enough." These unhealthy attitudes will drive one and cause much unnecessary stress. How much do these discontented attitudes rule in your home? Take a check and see how you and others are influenced by these fearful and faithless words.

One afternoon I was reading an autobiography to my children. Through part of the book, during her pre-teen years, the author describes her mother as someone she didn't really know as a person. All she remembered hearing from her were demands and statements that reminded the family of how poor they were and

how much work there was to do. They couldn't have company because the housework wasn't done. They didn't have enough food to share or enough time to spare for the children to play with their neighbor friends. This attitude closed the children's heart to their mother until the Lord was able to help her understand that her lack of faith in God was the problem. It was then that she asked God and her children to forgive her for not serving her family with a happy, willing heart. The episode in this book really spoke to my heart because I saw that in our materialistic world, we are faced daily with the worldly pressures that call for more time, more money and more help.

I have been searching my life to be rid of these common complaints. It seems that they have such a strong hold on us that if we do not whine then we feel we might lose something. It is a faithless, self-pitying and discontented unbeliever who can truthfully complain, because "God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness." He has "provided us richly all things to enjoy." The Lord is our Shepherd and we have no lacks. God also gives us the advantage of asking for and receiving those things we desire. Sometimes we act like God doesn't even exist when we stew around and continue to want more.

God wants to bless us and He desires to impart to us His fullness and complete joy. God sees every motive, hears every word and knows even our thoughts. He expects us to be happy with all He does for us. He daily loads us with

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benefits so we should recognize how He helps us to accomplish our daily tasks, how He reminds us of things, gives us strength and gives us enough time and money for whatever we need. Instead of wishing for more, let us turn our minds to listening to His voice, obeying His commands and honoring Him as God.

How do these negative attitudes affect our children? I believe that more than anything else in the world we want to make heaven and we want our loved ones to go there too. Now, do we act like heaven is our priority or are we worried about not having enough to make this life perfect? Our "not enough attitude" will keep us from joyfully living this life with purpose and meaning; and when our children see us fretting over earthly things more than for eternal souls, they will not believe in God either. Where is your treasure? I don't want those around me to see me irritated over things; but I want them to know that my tears are for things far greater.

Let us be a contented and grateful people who know their heavenly Father feels praised and thanked. Let us realize that God will bless every life that honors Him. Ask God to give you grace to be thankful in all things and when you receive the grace, you will then be eligible for more grace. Isn't it wonderful? Thank God that we have the privilege to watch every day for miraculous ways that God will personally reveal His love and show His greatness to us individually. He wants us to not fret and worry about time or money. Read Luke 12:27-37. When we begin to thank God for things and begin to honor and bless Him with our words then we will be blessed and our discontented, empty souls will begin to fill up with love and gratefulness and a smile will break out in our hearts. Start by just being thankful for the things you have, like the ability to hear, to walk and have the right use of your mind. The more you praise Him, the more you will find for which to thank Him.

Paradise

By Sis. Lisa Kelly

Discovering the meaning and origin of the words we use is a fascinating and enlightening endeavor. Learning the "why" of certain words can open our minds in a wonderful way to greater comprehension of the Scriptures. We can have a new delight in the richness of the Bible when we understand the etymology of some word we had not investigated previously.

A wonderful word from the Word is "paradise." We first find this word in Genesis, chapter 2, as we read, "...the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden;..." (verse 8.) The commentator, Adam Clarke, says the Septuagint renders it, "God planted a paradise in Eden." The word paradise is from Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit and signifies a pleasant garden, a vineyard, a pleasure garden, a place of pleasure and delight, a park, a foreign ornamental garden attached to a mansion; also a walled-in park, a hedging round, wall around. ("Pairi" around + "daeza" wall.) In the beginning, Paradise was the habitation of man in his state of innocence where he enjoyed the presence of his Maker, constituting his supreme happiness (AC). There the Lord had planted or caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. What a beautiful, wonderful place that

garden was! Just imagine the glorious sights, smells and tastes flourishing in God's Paradise!

There may be more passages in the Old Testament where our word paradise is applicable, but let us look at just three passages now. Nehemiah 2:8 mentions the keeper of the king's forest—forest is our paradise word—the keeper of the king's paradise! In Ecclesiastes we find Solomon telling us about his pursuit of pleasure and in chapter 2, verse 5, we have our word again, "I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits." He is saying he made himself "paradises." Then going on to Solomon's Song in chapter 4, verse 13, the word which was translated as "orchard," in the phrase "an orchard of pomegranates," is the word that can be rendered "paradise," and we could read "a paradise of pomegranates."

In the New Testament, we find in the gospel of Luke, our Lord Jesus telling the dying thief on the cross that he would be with Him in paradise that very day. (Luke 23:43.) The thief had said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus in essence told him, "Yes! I will! In fact, I will take you to a place of exquisite pleasure and delight this same day as soon as our spirits leave our tortured bodies!"

Thinking about the joy and glory they passed to should thrill our souls to the very depths!

Now let us consider another scripture that mentions paradise, and this may be one we have not really thought much about. The Apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 12:2-4, that he was caught up to paradise. As we are realizing the meaning of paradise, a pleasant garden, a walled-in park, a place of beauty and delight, is it any wonder that he tells us that he heard and saw things it was not possible for man to tell about? Could it be that he found the Paradise of God so glorious that he was unable to even try to explain its beauty? Dear Lord, grant us the

privilege and joy of exploring Your Paradise and experiencing Your beauty in the great tomorrow! This is, in fact, God's will for us! Jesus revealed to His beloved disciple, John, what is in store for His children, and John recorded it for us. We read with great anticipation in John's book of Revelation, chapter 2 verse 7, "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Let us join wholeheartedly with Jude in praise to God, who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy—in Paradise!

The Church of God and Sects Contrasted

By H. M. Riggle

The Gospel Trumpet Company printed tract No. 28
from a series of published articles beginning December 24, 1903.

Thousands look upon the church of God in this evening time as simply another sect sailing along over the agitated sea of confusion. Such terms as "No-sects," "Comeouters," "The most sectarian sect on earth," etc., are applied to the saints of the Most High God by the ministers of Babylon in their camp meetings, conferences and synods, until even honest souls are prejudiced against the Bible way and are led to regard God's people as rank heretics. False reports, impressions and accusations go out until an awful spirit of opposition is inculcated into the minds and hearts of the people. This prejudice must be removed in order to reach people with the truth.

The same spirit was manifested against the church in the beginning of the Christian era. "...For as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against." Acts 28:22. The people then, as now, looked upon the church of God as simply a sect, and everywhere it was spoken against.

When the orator Tertullus accused Paul before the governor of being "a ringleader of the sect of Nazarenes," the apostle answered, "Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. But this I confess unto thee, that *after the way which they call heresy* [sect], so worship I the God of my fathers..." Acts 24:1-5, 13-14.

Paul denied the charge of belonging to a sect and declared that his accusers could not prove

that the church of God is a sect; yet he says that after the way which "they call" sect he worshiped God. So we declare today. Standing on the same platform with Paul, possessed with the same hope, we boldly defy our accusers to prove that the church of God, in which we hold membership, is a sect.

Be it understood by all, that the saints of God, who stand complete in Christ, are not so-called "come-outers," "no-sects," nor are they possessed with a sectarian spirit. We stand opposed to "come-outism," "no-sectism," and every other schism and ism. We simply abide in the body of Christ, the church, and earnestly contend for all Bible truth and stand radically opposed to all that the Word of God condemns.

In this short treatise I shall briefly contrast the church of God and sects, so that every honest reader may see the truth and be led into the precious light of "present truth."

1. *The church of God was built by Christ, while all sects have been founded by man.*

"And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

Three things stand out prominent in this text. First. Christ is the builder, founder, and organizer of His church. "I will build" shows that the church of God is not man-made but of divine

(Continued on page 11.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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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 sin 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 Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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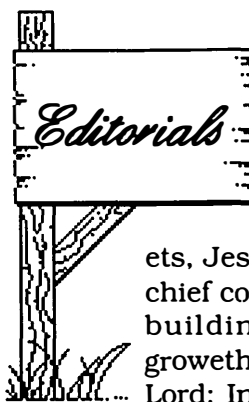
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"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22.

Those who repent of their sins and allow the Lord to be master of their life immediately become members of Christ's body. They are no longer foreigners or strangers to the Lord and His people. In the Lord, the Scriptures say, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28. It is important for the children of God to understand that they have become new creatures and their lives will be changed in ways that causes them to "fit" into the body of Christ. Prejudices and biases that bring disunity and contention should not be a part of this new creation. Attitudes that cause one to feel superior or inferior should likewise be dispelled so that God's people can work together in harmony.

It does not happen by accident that an individual has the proper "fit" in the holy temple of the Lord. Those who desire to conform to the plan of the Lord must allow Him to mold and shape them to the proper size and He may even need to cut off certain aspects of their nature to allow them to blend into His plan. We are instructed to not faint when we are rebuked and chastised of the Lord. (Hebrews 12:5.) God's dealings are designed to bring out the best in us and make us useful in His kingdom and we should be thankful for His patience with us.

A building that has all of its members properly fitted is able to bear greater loads because each member is supporting a share of the load and undue stress is not placed on a few individuals. Gaps and large cracks are sealed up, keeping the elements and the creeping things securely on the outside. The beauty of fine furniture and cabinet work is greatly enhanced by having the joints tightly fitted together and

when the members of Christ's body are fitly joined together the beauty of the Lord's handiwork can be seen, bringing glory to the Master designer.

While visiting the Mesa Verde National Park a number of years ago the park ranger on duty at one of the major cliff dwellings pointed out the different characteristics of some of the dwellings that had been built hundreds of years ago. Some had built their dwelling carefully and neatly with the stones fitted together very tightly while others were put together in a more haphazard manner.

There are some things that people allow to become a part of their lives that will cause them to be a bad "fit" in the body of Christ and hinder their spiritual progress. Those who permit these things may also become a discouragement to others and a reproach to the Lord's body. One of those things is carelessness in a person's life. Some have become careless in their words and conduct with business associates or around their family. Carelessness may manifest itself in what people allow their mind to dwell on, in resisting temptation, who they associate with, in failing to keep their promises, in their prayer life and in obeying the Word of the Lord.

A close companion of carelessness is neglect. Neglect can also cause a soul to come up short in fitting into the Lord's body. Some, while dining sumptuously in a physical way, are neglecting the feeding of their soul spiritually. Many neglect attending the services of the Lord and the business of the Lord and are often neglectful in their giving, in training their children, in seeking the will of the Lord in their decisions and in keeping their eyes on the goal of life eternal.

May the Lord convict the careless and neglectful soul to see the danger they are in before satan takes advantage of their weak spiritual condition and snatches away their salvation.

By being careful and diligent in living for God, our lives can be a wonderful blessing to others and the light of the gospel can shine through us and point the weary, wayward soul in the direction of home. By being pliable in the hands of God we can be crafted into a perfect fit and be built together, forming a place the Holy Spirit would be pleased to call His own.

On April 20, we were thankful to have another skid of paper delivered to the Print Shop and we immediately began printing the book.

Food For Lambs by C. E. Orr. When the press runs were completed on this 168-page book, nearly a third of the paper had been used. Lord willing, we plan to print the covers and complete the book in the near future. The truth that we have been entrusted to publish is real and life-changing and I thank God for it. It has blessed and changed my life for the better and caused me to see the way of righteousness more clearly and I believe it will do the same for others. May the Lord bless those who have carried a burden for this work through the years and are continuing to help keep the light of Truth shining brightly to this generation. It is because of the saints who are listening to the still small voice of the Lord that the expenses of this operation are met. It is comforting to know that He still has those who are not bowing their knees to the idols of this world but are continuing to walk on the highway of holiness and have a burning desire to help others also find this glorious highway.

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The Scripture says, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." I Peter 4:12. A number of things have befallen some of the people of God recently and even though it has been hard to understand why, we know that God is still in control. We also know that He will make a way for those who are going through hard places if they will keep their hand in His.

On April 17, Bro. Frankie and Sis. Lynn Millis, with their two sons, were travelling on the highway back to their home in Enid, OK, when a man pulled out in front of them and caused a serious accident. Their vehicle was demolished and they were injured, however we are thankful the Lord spared their lives. They all suffered various degrees of cuts, strained muscles and bruises. Their son, Benjamin, had a broken nose, an injured shoulder and a bad cut on his arm and hand. Sis. Lynn suffered a severe back injury. We visited them in their home on April 21, and it was encouraging to see their bright hope in the Lord. Sis. Lynn was unable to get up and the doctor who examined her when they were first taken to the hospital from the scene of the accident had written her a very discouraging letter which she received that day. She was suffering from nausea and the signs were looking bad, causing it to appear that she might have other internal injuries. Yet in the midst of

this dark cloud of trouble, she wanted to sing the songs of Zion and we lifted our voices and hearts together to our great Redeemer. It reminded us of Paul and Silas singing praises to God in the dark prison. I am thankful to report that the Lord has not forsaken her. We have heard since that she is improving and we are continuing to pray for complete healing. The man who caused the accident had a suspended drivers' license and no insurance, so we are also trusting the Lord to help them through the difficulties brought on by their financial losses.

Sis. Lynn asked us to extend a special thank you to the saints who have been praying and ministering to them. They sincerely appreciate the calls, cards, encouraging letters and all you have done to hold them up in this time of trouble.

There have been others who have had severe auto accidents recently and our hearts go out to them in their suffering. Sis Helen Underdown suffered a stroke and was involved in a bad accident and our hearts and prayers go out to her.

On April 29, Sis. Bertha Miles passed from her earthly toil. In years past, she kept the financial books for the Print Shop. She was the wife of Bro. Vernon Miles. Vernon is the oldest son of Sis. Marie Miles, who many may remember had an active part in the work here at the Faith Publishing House during her lifetime. Sis. Bertha's grandson, Bro. Lyndall Sorrell, has dedicated his life to the Lord and is currently running the press here at the Print Shop. We greatly appreciate his devoted service to the Lord.

We pray that the Lord will comfort Bro. Vernon and the family in their sorrow.

On May 4, Sis. Janie Woodruff, who works here at the Lord's Print Shop, received an unexpected call that her mother-in-law had passed away. She has gone, with her daughter and grandson, to Tennessee for the funeral and plans to spend the next week with relatives. We trust the Lord will comfort and bless her in this difficult time.

While these events have come near to our lives, we know that many others are also facing similar sorrows. We are thankful that the Lord will be near each of His children and give them strength for their day. May God's grace be with you.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey
wemurphey@yahoo.com



PA—I would appreciate prayer for my Aunt Alda Huss. She has serious physical needs. Remember her husband Dick Huss in soul and body. Also, a friend asked prayer for her cousin, Connie Young, who has cancer. Thank you for seeking the Lord's help and will in these matters.

—Sis. Barbara Campbell

TX—I need your prayers for the physical problems I am having.

—Bro. Clyde Taylor

OH—I would like for you to pray for my niece, Rosalie. She has a very bad back. Pray that she will be healed. She also needs to sell her mobile home as soon as possible. Thank You,

—Sis. Tressie Adkins

OK—Remember wife in prayer. Her limbs are becoming more swollen and we are looking to the Lord for help.

—Bro. T.V. McMillian

SC—Remember Sis. Helen Underdown in prayer. She had a stroke and an auto accident and is recovering from both.

OK—Pray for Sis. Lynn Millis, she is recovering from back and other injuries resulting from a serious auto accident.

CA—Please pray for me and for our need here in Fresno for a pastor.

—Sis. Dorothy Gray

WI—I have been going through a valley of affliction with my hip and back. The Lord is teaching wife and me much through all of the suffering. It has been very rich! Please pray for us. In His precious love,

—Bro. Bryan Rich

LA—Remember Sis. Genevive Carver in prayer. She is suffering from physical afflictions.

NC—We thank the Lord for progress on our building project thus far. We are building this chapel by faith and are looking to the Lord to provide. We do covet your prayers and support for this work. We thank you in advance for any contributions. The address is: Church of God, 6219 Kelvin Drive, Durham, NC 27712. Phone: (919) 544-2203, (cell) (919) 740-3748.

Thank you and God bless,

—Bro. Jerry Lennon, Pastor

MEETING DATES

Oklahoma State (Guthrie, OK)—May 27-June 5
Holly Hill, SC—May 29-June 5
Green Bank, WV—June 10-16
Tulsa, OK—June 12-19
Jefferson, OR—June 17-26
Okmulgee, OK (Sisters' Retreat)—June 24-25
General Southern
(Loranger, LA)—June 26-July 3
Fresno, CA—July 3-10
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 15-24
Myrtle, MO—July 29-August 3
California State (Pacoima, CA)—August 19-28
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 24-28

MEETING NOTICES

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 27-June 5, at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lake View Road. This is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

Due to road construction, the south Guthrie exit for northbound traffic on I-35 is closed. Use the Seward Road exit #151 and go west to Sooner Road and then north on Sooner Road to Lake View Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 27, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.

HOLLY HILL, SC, CAMP MEETING

We would like to cordially invite all to attend the Holly Hill, SC annual Camp Meeting. Lord willing, it will be held from Sunday morning, May 29 through Sunday morning, June 5. Sunday morning services will be held at 10:00 a.m. and services will be held Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. daily. All evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Meals will be

provided daily and lodging is available on the church grounds for as many as we can possibly accommodate. There are also several motels in the Santee area. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and need lodging. If you would like information on motels, if you need directions or if you are planning to attend and need accommodations, please call Bro. Floyd Crummie at (803) 496-5768 or Bro. Tommie Platt at (803) 496-5414. We welcome everyone! Please pray for us that God will bless everything that is said and done and that He will send the ministers of His choosing.

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 10 and continue through Thursday evening June 16, Lord willing.

Services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Two meals will be served daily, with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and the noon meal immediately following morning service. There are no afternoon services scheduled.

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Dorm spaces are available for the young people as well as rooms and private homes for others. Please bring your own bedding and towels. Come prepared for cool weather. You may want to bring a heater or fan as we have unpredictable weather in June. It would be good if you could call ahead so we can better arrange accommodations. Please provide as much of the following information as possible: name and phone number, date of arrival and departure, number of adults and children in party. However, if you decide to suddenly drop by, you will be welcome. Accommodations will be provided.

The campground is located off Route 28 and 92 in Arbovale. Signs will be posted to direct you to the grounds. Camper hook-ups are also available.

For further information call Bro. Mike Carpenter at (304) 456-3250 or Bro. Jim White at (304) 456-4192.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in this meeting.

OKMULGEE, OK, SISTERS' RETREAT

The 2005 Sisters' Retreat will convene on June 24-25, 2005 at the Church of God chapel in Okmulgee, OK, at 1515 E. First Street, for sisters age of 21 and up. There will be two full

days of sessions. We will need individuals to volunteer to teach these sessions (married or singles.)

The theme for this year is "Possessing Those Traits of Godly Women." This retreat will be supported by freewill offering. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat. Donations can be sent to: Sisters' Retreat 2005, Church of God—Evening Light, 322 Lindsay Street, Alcoa, TN 37701.

For those needing hotel accommodations, we have reserved rooms at the Days Inn located in Okmulgee, OK. For four (4) individuals to a room (two queen-sized beds) the total cost will be \$55.00 per night. You will need to RSVP to Sis. Mary McDonald by Sunday, May 22, 2005, if you wish to reserve a room at the hotel. If you have comments or would like additional information, please contact: Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997, Sis. Carrie Porter (865) 984-2348 or Sis. Clara Phillips (918) 758-4240 for directions to the location in Okmulgee. Please send all e-mails to tnsistersretreat@yahoo.com.

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GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING

You are invited to share in the General Southern Camp Meeting scheduled Sunday, June 26 through Sunday, July 3. There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Please bring your own sheets and linens, if possible. Power and water hook-ups are available for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, LA, travel 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, contact Bro. Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Come praying for a special visitation from the Lord and that lives will be changed.

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FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting starts July 3 through July 10, in the chapel at 388 N. First St. We invite you to worship with us during our camp meeting. On the first Sunday there will be three services and Sunday School. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m., morning service will begin at 10:30 a.m., afternoon service will start at 2:00 p.m., and evening service will start at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday there

will be services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The last Sunday, following Sunday School, there will be morning and afternoon services at the regular times with the evening service omitted. Please join us for food for the soul and body.

From Hwy. 99 north, exit Belmont and turn left. Continue to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From Hwy. 99 south, exit Ventura east. Go to First St. and make a left; then go to Grant. Turn right. The church sits on First and Grant.

For further information, call Sis. Dannella Taylor at (559) 348-9029 or Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 292-8217.

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NATIONAL CAMP MEETING MONARK SPRINGS, MO

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO, July 15-24, 2005. All are cordially invited to come and bring others to enjoy the blessings we are expecting from the Lord.

The Monark Springs campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and 3/4 mile south of the intersection of Highways 86 and 59.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may telephone the campground, (417) 472-6427, or Bro. Mike Hightower, (417) 451-3636, for transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campgrounds. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space and trailer spots are available on a first-come basis. Family units are also available.

The business managers are Randel Bradley (see address and telephone number below), and Mike Hightower, 13974 Newt Dr., Neosho, MO 64850. Phone, (417) 451-3636.

Instructions For Making Dormitory Reservations

Call DeLoris Bradley (620-226-3390). If not at home, please leave a message on the answering machine, or e-mail rdbradley@ckt.net I will call or e-mail to confirm.

Please provide the following information so I can accommodate each one better:

Name and phone number

Date of arrival

Date of departure

Number of adults and children in party

Things to keep in mind:

Bring your own bedding if possible.

If you leave after the weekend be sure to let me know even if you are returning the next weekend.

No young people or children are to stay alone in cabins or family units.

After Wednesday the rooms start clearing out, so you might want to keep that in mind.

We have a boys' and a girls' dorm—if your child is staying in one of these, we ask that you feel the responsibility of staying also for at least one night.

There is a mens' dorm, ladies' dorm and a ladies' dorm for the handicapped.

We want everyone to come and enjoy the fellowship of kindred hearts while we worship the Lord together.

Come praying that the Holy Spirit will have full reign in all that we as a group do, from the dorms to the kitchen, and in cleaning and keeping our grounds orderly. Parents or guardians, please keep your children in services with you. I believe God would be pleased if we observe these things and will meet with us under the tabernacle in a greater way.

Love and prayers,

—DeLoris and Randel Bradley
1540 2000 Rd
Bartlett, KS 67332

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held August 19-28, 2005 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331. The first service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 19, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, please contact either the Sunset Guest Home at (818) 899-2022, Bro. Paul Phillips at (661) 251-6956, or Bro. Herbert Clay at (818) 897-1396.

Standing Prayer Requests

Carlos Arriago
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Charlotte Dilliner
Sis. Elaine Dunn
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Jeff Gutwein

Bro. Robert Hetland

Bro. Lee Hilton

Bro. Doyle LaCroix

The Lounds Sisters

Sis. Marie Mitchell

Sis. Melba Powell

Sis. Anna Severs

Sis. Catherine Shaffer

The Mitch Taylor family



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

LA—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: Greetings in our Lord's name! In the early forties I was blessed to come to the Hammond, LA camp meeting and there I met Bro. Fred Pruitt. With all my heart I desired the Truth. Oh, I had so much to learn. I am still learning. I was searching for truth and prayed much that I would not be deceived. In my sincerity God has helped me to press on. Praise Him for all of His faithfulness to me. "Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face. There to sing forever of His saving grace. On the streets of Glory let me lift my voice. Cares all passed, home at last, ever to rejoice."

In this changing world, God's Word doesn't change. The truth will remain the truth forever and I pray for the light to shine on until the end. Praise the Lord for His faithful children. I love you every one. —Sis. Gladys S. Cashio

AL—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I am praising our Lord for all He does for me. He does little things and big things. I appreciate everyone who came to our singing and everyone who prayed for that weekend. It rained and stormed the day and night before the singing and then stopped for the weekend. The stormy weather resumed after the weekend. Isn't it wonderful to serve a powerful and wonderful God, One who can do anything and all things?

Please continue to remember us in prayer. Christian love, —Sis. Betty Herron

OK—Dear Ones: We have a good report that it is well with our souls. However, the Lord saw fit to test us this winter. My husband, James, had a cough for several weeks that was some-

times very severe, and then a growth on his ear began growing larger. He was anointed and prayed for. After a few weeks most of it came off and a few days ago all of it came off! His ear is now well and you can hardly see where it had been. We give God all the praise and honor due His Holy name. We are also grateful the coughing has almost ceased. Most of all, we are thankful all is well with our souls.

Love in Christ,

—Bro. James and Sis. Carol Jantz

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KY—Dear saints: I am writing to send in a testimony of what the Lord has done for my little six-year-old nephew. He was hit in the eye with some sort of buckle off his older sister's purse and they had to take him to the hospital. They sent him to a specialist who looked at his eye and said it was very serious and that he may be blind in the injured eye. His eyesight was 20/80 and he could not see out of it very well, so the specialist wanted to send him to Lexington hospital, which is about two hours away, to be seen by another eye specialist to determine if there was bleeding behind the eye.

We went to prayer and we called for prayer and we asked the Lord to please touch his eye so they would not have to have the surgery and that he would not lose his eyesight. When they got him to the other eye specialist they looked at his eye and the doctor said his eyesight was 20/20. He was very surprised to see that my nephew's eye was better and said it was strange. My sister-in-law's mother told the doctor that she knew why it was better, there were prayers being prayed for him. We know that God did the surgery on his eye and to God be the glory! Praise His holy name!

We want to encourage each one who is going through afflictions and trials to keep looking up to God; those stripes were put there for our healing. (Isaiah 53:5.) The song often comes to me when in the midst of trial and afflictions, "He's everything that I need." No matter what, Christ is everything we need. We must keep fighting the good fight of faith and keep looking to Jesus.

Christian love, —Sis. Priscilla Cooper

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From India...

April 25, 2005—Dear Bro. Willie Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all of you dear ones in the precious name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated April 13 and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. Our VBS

was a blessed one this year. About 150 children attended. All our congregations are doing fine. Please pray for the needs of our 20 ministers. They need support as they are full time workers and as they have family responsibilities. Also remember the needs in the new stations recently started. Schools reopen in June and children need support to buy materials, including school uniforms and books. May God open some hands to support this need of the children. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

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From the Philippines...

April 7, 2005—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: Loving regards to all the saints in the U.S.A. I am so happy and thankful to receive the *Faith and Victory*. Thank you so much for your continued support for the gospel work in the Philippines.

I conducted a two-week seminar for the pastors. Some young people from different congregations attended the seminar also. They wanted to learn so that they can help in their respective congregations and teach the Word of God in their communities.

I feel tired from the effort required to teach the lessons, but I am glad I can share my experiences and knowledge with them. It is rewarding to see them enjoying the discussions, tests and demonstrations.

We now have 20 pastors in different places. They have many schedules for home Bible studies and open-air group Bible studies. With God's help we are advancing to different towns, cities and provinces. Our pastors in the province of Aurora reported six water baptisms last Saturday, April 2. They also said eight more are requesting baptism this coming Saturday. The province of Aurora is a six-hour ride on a rough road located on the other side of the Sierra Madre Mountain, a plain along the coast of the Pacific Ocean.

They are now evangelizing in three towns, Maria, Baler and San Louis. Baler is the capital of the province. My son, Bro. Harlito, is leading the evangelistic team. Most of those who were baptized were public school teachers. They are requesting a church building where they can assemble for Bible Studies to sing spiritual songs, to pray together and to worship God. I am praying earnestly for the Lord to supply this worthy and urgent need.

Again, I say thank you for your unending love to us in the Philippines.

Your brother in Christ, —Matias S. Tangunan



Bertha DeLois (Eck) Miles went home to be with the Lord on April 29, 2005, at the age of 66 years. Bertha was born to Waldo and Beatrice (Davis) Eck on July 21, 1938 and was the oldest of six children. She was raised in a happy home and lived with her parents on different farms near Enid, OK. In 1948, when she was 10 years old, her parents purchased a 160 acre farm and dairy near Covington, OK where she resided until her marriage.

In 1956, she graduated as valedictorian of Covington High School and two years later graduated from Enid Business College as valedictorian, having earned the Cromwell Cup, with the highest grade in that school's history.

Bertha met the love of her life, Vernon Miles, while attending a Church Assembly Meeting in Guthrie, OK. They were married on April 5, 1958, and have resided together 47 years in Guthrie, OK. To this union was born four children: Connie, Don, Lonnie and Cindy.

She was a contented homemaker, loving mother and wonderful wife. She loved her children and conveyed to them her love for tending a garden and raising vegetables. She was an excellent seamstress and cook and taught both of her daughters to sew and cook. After all of her children left home, Bertha became a realtor with Abe's Real Estate, then later with Ochs Real Estate. She thoroughly enjoyed helping people find the right home and made lasting friendships with many.

As a young girl, Bertha gave her heart to the Lord and she kept her faith to the end. She was an active member of the Church of God and served as the church secretary/treasurer for many years. She also kept the accounting records for Faith Publishing House for many years.

Bertha was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Larry Eck, and one granddaughter Vickie Darlene Sorrell.

She leaves behind her loving husband, Vernon, of the home. Four children: Connie and Dwane Sorrell, Don and Sheryl Miles, Lonnie and Jeannine Miles, Cindy Thomason and Terry Huerta; her beloved grandchildren: Lyndall Sorrell, of Edmond, Susan Cole and husband, Doug, of Neosho MO, Jennifer, Rodney, Kevin, Gerald and Darlene Sorrell of Edmond, Michael and Derek Miles, Anthony Miles, Amber Thomason, Samantha and Angie Huerta all of Guthrie; her three sisters: Berniece and Carl Miles of Edmond, Lillie East and Dennis Melton, and Waneta and Leroy Creel of Guthrie; one brother, Hurley Eck of Edmond. She will be missed by a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and the family of God who all loved her thoughtful ways.

Note of Thanks

We desire to express our appreciation to those who have shown their love during her illness and passing. Your prayers, cards, flowers, meals, phone calls and words of comfort and concern have been a great blessing and have helped and encouraged us in a difficult time. May God bless and richly reward your thoughtfulness.

—The family of Sis. Bertha Miles

The Church of God and Sects Contrasted

(Continued from page three.)

origin. It was prophesied by Daniel as a kingdom set up by the God of heaven. (Daniel 2:44.) It is "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man," Hebrews 8:2. All sects have been organized by men. The church of God is divine, while all sects are human. There is no affinity between the two. The former is built by Christ, the latter by man. Christ built but one church. Since sects are separated into multiplied divisions, God is not their author. "Not the author of confusion, but of peace." (I Corinthians 14:33.)

Second. The church that Christ built He denominates "my church." Then, no sect is in His church, for they were all built by man. Since they are not Christ's, they belong to the devil, for there is no neutral ground.

Third. The church Christ built was to stand forever. He said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) "It shall stand forever." (Daniel 2:44.) Since it was to stand forever, it is in existence today. The same church that Christ built nineteen hundred years ago is still standing. In it alone we hold membership. To it alone we belong. Thank God, it will stand while cycles of ages roll.

Another point of contrast: In A. D. 32 Jesus said, "I will build my church." In A. D. 33 "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47.) This proves that the church of God was already built in A. D. 33. Its complete organization dates from Pentecost. Since all sects have come into existence since A. D. 33, not one of them is the Bible church.

Of sect Babylon, the Catholic is the oldest. But its organization does not date back farther than the third or fourth century. The Lutheran is the oldest sect of Protestantism, and its creed was not formed till 1530 A. D. Since that date all the sects of Protestantism have arisen. They cannot be God's church, because it existed for centuries before they had an existence. It is the true, they are the false. It is the real, they are the substitutes. It is the genuine, they are all counterfeit. It is all essential, they are but human frauds. We as the saints of the Most High discard all the latter and abide in the former. We cling to the church of God and reject all sects. Are we not orthodox in so doing? Who can deny it?

"But," some will say, "the churches [meaning the sects] are necessary to the government, organization and success of the people of God." I ask, "If this is true, how does it come that in the days of primitive Christianity, and for centuries before these sects arose, the people of God got along so well without them? What improvement have modern sects made on the government, organization, or success of Christianity?" Let the devotees of sect Babylon answer.

"But," says one, "the church of God in the days of the apostles was a perfect organization." Amen. And it is the same today. Then, what good are your sects? We abide in that very church that in the days of the apostles had government and was perfectly organized; and, thank God, its government and organization has never changed.

Then, why plead for your worthless sects? There was no Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Disciple, Mennonite, Dunkard, Quaker, Free Methodist, Amish, Episcopalian, Pentecost Band, Christian Catholic,

Universalist, Mormon, Adventist, Gospel Worker, United Brethren, etc., etc., in the days of primitive Christianity. All these sects have risen since.

If these are essential, I again ask, Did not the cause of God prosper more in the earth before their existence than since? Certainly. Sects are to the body of Christ, the church, what wooden crutches would be to a sound man. Every sound man would say throw away the crutches and let me walk erect for they retard my progress and are but a hindrance. So in these days, the church of God has cast away the human crutches (sects), and she stands erect, a perfect organized body, composed of living members.

2. The church of God is the body of Christ; no sect composes this body; therefore, no sect on earth is the church.

"His body's sake, which is the church." (Colossians 1:24.) "He is the head of the body, the church." (Verse 18.) "The church, which is his body." (Ephesians 1:22-23.) These texts are conclusive. The church is Christ's body. This body is composed of all the saved. "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." I Corinthians 12:27. Sects, then, are other bodies and no part of the church.

3. All Christians belong to the church of God. No sect contains all Christians.

Reader, observe this truth. The church of God includes in its membership every saved man and woman in heaven and in earth. It is the whole family of God. (Ephesians 3:15.) You can not be a Christian and not be a member of the church of God. Whether you are in a sect or out, if you have salvation, you are a member of the Bible church. Since the church of God includes all Christians, it is no sect. It is the whole.

We, the saints of God, through salvation, are members of the church of God. We belong to no other institution. We are members of the one church to which every Christian belongs. Therefore, we are not members of any sect, but of the whole, the entire family.

To become a sect, we should have to organize and join another body than the body of Christ to which we belong. What, then, is a sect? Any institution that does not include in its membership every saint in heaven and in earth. For example: Does the Free Methodist denomination include the whole family of God? If so, there are no Christians outside of this particular organization. To admit that there are saved people outside or elsewhere, is to admit that that institution is a sect.

Not one sect on earth includes all Christians; therefore, no sect can be God's church.

But when goaded and nettled by this positive truth, sectarians cry and say, "All the churches [sects] together constitute the church of God." If so, then all the sects taken together include all the saved in heaven and in earth. Do they? They all know better. Thousands of millions in Paradise are members of the church of God, but they are not members of any sect on earth. More than this, there are tens of thousands of saints upon earth who do not hold membership in any of the modern sects, yet stand complete in Christ, and are members of His church.

And again, if all sects taken together, Catholic and Protestant, compose God's church, where was His church before they arose? Ah! God's church existed 1500 years before the first Protestant sect was organized. So it is separate from all sects and they form no part of it. Another thought, God's church will exist to all eternity, whereas all sects will cease to exist when time ends.

So view it from whatever standpoint you may, there is no relation between the church of God and modern sects. To point men to and lead them into sects by trying to identify these institutions with the Bible church is to make the truth of God a lie and become guilty of the sin of heresy. God help all honest souls to forsake all sect clans and abide in "the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

"But," say the Babylonians, "are you not a sect yourself? Are you not narrow?" No. In order to become a sect we must organize a separate institution from the body of Christ. Thank God, we renounce all such institutions and abide only in Christ. Instead of being "narrow" and sectish, we are members of the only Bible church, the one to which all Christians belong. Therefore, the whole family of God are our brethren and sisters. We have fellowship with all the saved. We simply renounce sects and all evil, but recognize the few scattered saints who for want of light are still held in these fallen institutions.

4. *Christ is the head of but one body; sects comprise many separate bodies; hence, Christ is not their head.*

"And he is the head of the body, the church...." Colossians 1:18. "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:5. "There is one body, and one Spirit...." Ephesians 4:4. "The body is one," "are one body." (I Corinthians 12:12.) "Baptized into one body." (Verse 13.) Reconciled "in one body." (Ephesians 2:16.) "Called in one body."

(Colossians 3:15.) "One body," proves but one church. Only "one body in Christ." Then, all other bodies are out of Christ. Sect Babylon presents almost a thousand separate and distinct bodies. There is no identity between the two. We prove our loyalty to God by abiding only in the "one body" (the church of God), and by rejecting all others as antichrist.

If the multiplied organized bodies of sect Babylon are right, then the Bible is wrong. But if the Bible is truth, there is but "one body," "one church" in Christ and all others are antichrist. Reader, stand by the truth and let sects fall. "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul." (Jeremiah 51:6.)

Christ is the head of but one body—His body. Then, no sect has Christ for its head. They have only human heads. As head of the church, Christ is its lawgiver. He has given us the law, the New Testament, for the perfect government of His church. Sects have to revise their laws, or disciplines, whereas the law of the Lord is perfect and needs no revision.

5. *Salvation makes us members of the church of God, but not of any sect.*

This point is worthy of careful meditation. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...." John 10:9. "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. The church and the kingdom are the same. Conversion puts us into the kingdom. (Matthew 18:3.) Through the new birth we enter the kingdom. (John 3:3, 5.)

The moment a sinner receives pardon, that moment he is a member of the church of God. Will that make him a member of the Baptist, the Methodist, the Dunkard, or any other sect? Never. These he must join. Some sects claim to be orthodox. Among them, the Christians, the Disciples and the Catholic. But when a sinner repents and gets salvation, that does not make him a member of any of the above sects, yet he is a member of the church of God. So with all their boastful claims they are classed with the sects of fallen Babylon.

The only way to obtain membership in the Bible church is to get salvation. So all its members are saved. We lose our membership in the church the moment we commit sin. "He that committeth sin is of the devil;..." I John 3:8. But sects are full of sinners. There is no identity whatever between the church that Christ built and sect Babylon.

6. *Christ takes the members into His church, while the preacher takes members into the sect.*

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Corinthians 12:18. "The Lord added to the church daily." (Acts 2:47.) "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son...." Colossians 1:13.

Being inducted into the church of God is a work of the Almighty. Men cannot take you in. They can preach the Word, instruct souls in the ways of righteousness; but setting us in the church is beyond their power. God sets the members "every one of them" in the body. When a sinner repents and meets all the Bible requirements, the Lord saves him and adds him to the church of God. He has not, by virtue of salvation, been added to any sect. The preacher takes him into these man-made institutions.

Their excuse is this: They say the Lord adds to the invisible church, whereas they take members into the visible. In this they are heretics. The church of God existed for centuries before their sects arose. Was it visible or invisible? Was the church of God in the days of the apostles an invisible body of believers? No. It was "...a city set on a hill, and could not be hid." Matthew 5:14. Have the sects made the church invisible? Never. They have hid it from the view of the people by covering it over with human rubbish. In these days God's messengers are applying the torch of truth to the rubbish of sectarianism and tradition, and the result is, the church of God is shining forth again.

Let a hundred souls in a certain town get salvation. The Lord has added them to the body of Christ, the church. They follow the Lord in baptism, assemble together, observe the ordinances and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Is not that local assembly visible? Suppose they join a dozen different sects. Will that make them more visible? Preposterous!

7. The names of all the members of the church of God are written in heaven; but few in the sects are written there, but all are written in the earth.

"Your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20.) "The general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven." (Hebrews 12:23.) "Whose names are in the book of life." (Philippians 4:3.) "In the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27.) But in sect Babylon each peculiar faith or schism has the members' names written in a book of their own. In this they fulfill the words of the prophet: "...They that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters." Jeremiah 17:13.

8. The church of God unites believers, while sects scatter and divide.

To illustrate: Suppose in a certain town a meeting is held and one hundred people get salvation. There are then one hundred members of the church of God. God has set them in His body. Their names are written in heaven. Their hearts are knit together in love. The Lord has joined them together in the bonds of love, peace, and perfect unity. The New Testament is their faith and discipline. They all have one faith and doctrine. They assemble and worship God, observe the ordinances, and God's approval is upon them. God will call some to the work of elders and deacons. After such have proved themselves worthy of these offices, they are ordained by the laying on of hands. This, dear reader, is a perfectly organized body of believers, in harmony with the New Testament.

But suppose, for want of better light, twenty join the Catholic sect, ten the Free Methodist, twenty the Baptist, five the Dunkard, five the Quaker, ten the Salvation Army, five the Lutheran, ten the Pentecost Band, five the Presbyterian, and ten the Mennonite. What has this effected? Babylon prophets will tell you that this is organizing the church. But the fact is, it has disorganized them. They now belong to ten sect bodies, whereas before they belonged to but one—the body of Christ, the church. Those one hundred saints now on Sunday morning meet in ten places of worship, whereas before they all assembled in one place. They now represent ten different faiths, while before they all had but "one faith."

Any honest soul can at a glance see that the sects scatter and divide the children of God. When those hundred receive the light of God, and come out of those ten sects, and abide only in the church of God, this does not tear down the church as Babylonians say, but builds up and unites it.

9. Heresies and sects are the same.

"Sect. A denomination which dissents from an established church. *Sectarian*. One of a sect; one of a party in religion which has separated itself from the established church."—*Webster*. "*Heresy*, in Scripture and primitive usage meant merely sect, party, or the doctrine of a sect, as we now use denomination."—*Webster*.

This gives us the true idea of the Scriptural use of sect and heresy. They both signify the same. Sect is always in the New Testament derived from *hairesis*; heresy is always from the same word; therefore, heresy and sect are the same. "The sect [*hairesis*] of the Sadducees." (Acts 5:17.) "The sect [*hairesis*] of the Pharisees." (Acts 15:5.) "The sect [*hairesis*] of the

Nazarenes." (Acts 24:5.) "They call heresy [*hairesis*]." (Acts 24:14.) "Straitest sect [*hairesis*] of our religion." (Acts 26:5.) "Concerning this sect [*hairesis*]." (Acts 28:22.) "Be also heresies [*hairesis*]." (I Corinthians 11:19.) "Sedition, heresies [*hairesis*]." (Galatians 5:20.) "Damnable heresies [*hairesis*]." (II Peter 2:1.

A sect, then, is a heresy, and a heresy is a sect. A heretic is a sectarian, "one of a sect." All sectarians are heretics. There are a few honest souls, however, who have been ignorantly led into sects and have not imbibed the sect spirit. These are not sectarians. When they see the awful sin of heresy, they will drop the sect, and abide in the church only.

10. *The Bible condemns sects.*

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." II Peter 2:1-3.

The above describes the apostasy as it is. "Damnable heresies" is rendered "destructive sects" in the German and other versions. Many are led into their pernicious ways. Since sects are "damnable" and "destructive," God help men to flee out of them. In Galatians 5:19-21 heresies (sects) are classed with murder, adultery, witchcraft, drunkenness, etc., under "the works of the flesh," and "they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good works and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Romans 16:17-18.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." I Corinthians 1:10.

"For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." I Corinthians 12:24-25.

Sects are "schisms" or "divisions." All such are condemned by the above and many other scriptures. Because there were divisions among the Corinthians, Paul concluded that there "must be heresies" (sects, margin). (I Corinthians 11:18-19.) Then, in the name of Jesus, our Master, we warn all men to forsake and renounce sects. No man can remain in that which the Bible condemns and continue guiltless before God, especially after light is given.

11. *God is calling His people out of all sects, and gathering them into one fold.*

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." II Corinthians 6:14, 17.

Sects yoke together believers and unbelievers, saints and sinners. This is forbidden. Every child of God is commanded to come out from among them. II Timothy 3:1-5 describes sect Babylon in her present state. "Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness." What is the command? "From such turn away."

"For thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Ezekiel 34:11-12.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins; and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4.

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." I Timothy 6:3-5.

These commands of the Almighty if obeyed will bring every honest soul out of confusion; and if disobeyed will make them stand guilty before the bar of truth. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4.

Oklahoma State Meeting Association Family Housing Units

