

FAITH AND VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



The Path the Vulture's Eye Hath Not Seen

By W. W. Fitzwater

"There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it." Job 28:7-8. The term *vulture* in the Authorized Version, is in some places termed *eagle*, which is one of the largest species of fowls, an inhabitant of the forest, and noted for its keenness of sight; and perhaps has discovered every path of the animals that roam the forest. Yet there is a path the vulture's eye hath not seen and never will discover. But, sinner, while it is hid from the vulture, God does not want it hid from you, hence He says, "...I will teach you the good and the right way [path]: Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all you heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you." I Samuel 12:23-24.

Truly, one ought to consider what great things God has done, and is still doing, for you. He gives you life, health, food and raiment; yea, and all things to enjoy in this life, and now freely offers salvation. He wants you to see this. He calls it "the good and the right way," and says, "only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all you heart." Jesus says, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." John 14:6. Jesus is the true way. All other ways are false, hence to be in the way is to be in Christ. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17.

Truly, to those who are in Christ, "old things are passed away,"—The Old Testament with all of its ordinances, including the Jewish Sabbath, etc. (Colossians 2:14-16.)—"Behold all things are become new."

We have a:

- "New Testament." Hebrews 9:15.
- "A new heart." Ezekiel 18:31.
- "A new song." Revelation 14:3.
- "New doctrine." Mark 1:27.
- "A new name." Revelation 2:17.
- "New Jerusalem." Revelation 3:12.
- "A new and living way." Hebrews 10:20.

This is the way, or path, the vulture's eye hath not seen. It is "the path of the just." Proverbs 4:18. The only way to heaven. The path that leads from this world of sin and sorrow to a world of bliss and glory. It is the path that Jesus trod, and which Paul, and all the saints of yore have followed. It is the path for you. There

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is no other. "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls...." Jeremiah 6:16. In this path we find rest to our souls that nothing can disturb. Job declares in our text, "the lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it." While it is a fact that no natural lion nor any other ravenous beast can travel this spiritual way, it is also a fact that no one possessing any characteristics of a lion or ravenous beast shall walk therein. No furious nor domineering spirits are there. But it is the way of peace and harmony. Isaiah looking down

through the annals of time with a prophetic eye, to the gospel day exclaimed, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there." Reader, this is the path the vulture's eye hath not seen. It is a "good and right way." "A new and living way." The way of truth. "An highway." "The way of holiness" and **the only way**. Will you walk therein?

(From *The Gospel Trumpet*, February 7, 1907.)



Victory—Vulnerability

Adapted from a message Bro. Steve Elston

delivered in Loranger, LA on 10/20/02. Edited by Sis. Christy Robertson.

Read I Samuel 30:1-19. The Amalekites had burned Ziklag and captured the families of David and his men. "...they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken..." Verse 16. The Amalekites were enjoying victory and having a good time.

Before victory comes, there is stress, conflict, battle and the lack of physical needs being met. Victory brings release and relief. At least for a time you can rest, sleep, eat and have a good time.

While the Amalekites were doing this they had let down their guard. "And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day:..." Verse 17. Their neglect was very expensive, it cost them every bit of their victory.

An army that is more powerful than another army can be overcome because of their vulnerability. An enemy that strikes at an unexpected time and unprotected place can have the advantage of the element of surprise.

The condition of being vulnerable is to be not fully guarded; not adequately protected against the enemy. Let's apply this spiritually. When we have a victory, we are so vulnerable to being attacked. We are dealing with an enemy that is more vicious and ruthless than any army on earth and when he identifies a weak area in our experience he is ready to exploit it to his advantage.

Read Ephesians 6:10-12. We are in a spiritual battle and we must not let down our guard

at any time. Although satan has been trying to foil God's plan for mankind since the very beginning, in these last days it seems the evil one is rallying his forces against God's people maybe more than before. He has managed to accomplish a lot, too, by being subtle—"flying below radar." He approaches at an unsuspecting moment when we're sort of "on a high" from victory.

Read I Kings 18 and 19. Elijah was a great man, but he was of like passions as we are. In this passage we read where he gained a great victory. He saw God work in an unmistakable and visible way. It was a great moment and he was on the mountaintop. Then Jezebel threatened his life. What happened at this point of vulnerability? Elijah feared for his life and ran. He suffered depression and wanted to die. See how quickly the enemy sneaked in and got to him at his weak moment? He was elevated by victory, but wasn't fortified enough to prevent the attack from satan.

It is so necessary that we constantly keep our hearts with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. When our attention is drawn aside from the attacks of the enemy and focused on how we have been victorious, we are wide open for the devil's attack. He knows just where to put his finger. We must be on guard.

Read John 1:29-34. John the Baptist was privileged to have a place that no other person had. He physically heralded the coming of

Christ—introduced Jesus to the world. This was a place of victory for John. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God. He saw Him in His glory. How much more convinced would anyone need to be?

Read Matthew 11:2-6. At a time when John the Baptist was in prison and vulnerable, the devil slipped in with the weapon of doubt. This caused John to question if Jesus really was the Christ.

Victory—vulnerability! It is so real and subtle, and comes at times when we least expect it—when we're on a "high" of what the Lord has done for us.

Read II Corinthians 12:1-7. Paul was in a place of elevation, or victory, in a sense. Because of this, he was at a dangerous, vulnerable point. As an apostle, if Paul had failed he would have greatly hindered God's work. God did something to put that in check. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh,..." Verse 7. It sounds like Paul's vulnerable point would have been pride. Paul recognized that God was helping him to not be so vulnerable.

In the wake of spiritual victories—when we're having such a good time spiritually—we have to be so careful. Shortly after we have been saved or sanctified; after God has broken the power that something had over us; after we've seen God work through us to bring about the salvation of souls; after a sweetly blessed camp meeting; when we see peace reigning in our congregation; or after a wonderful season of blessing, renewing and refreshing from God, then we must be on guard. Satan wants to take away all the victory we've gained.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith,...." I Peter 5:8-9. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

Be busy feeding our souls, fellowshipping together, worshipping the Lord and reaching out to lost souls.

We can hold on to the victories that we have now, but that does not mean we will not have to fight again. But one day, we will not have another battle. The time is coming when we will win the last victory and we will never be vulnerable again.



Become a Living Sacrifice

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:15-17.

Realizing the dangers in our materialistic world, many have asked the question, "In America today, how can we keep our children from having too much leisure time or too many unnecessary things? The following ideas may be of some help.

(The famous American evangelist, Charles G. Finney said about child rearing, "The word train is to ground them in correct views of truth, and in right principles of actions. Catechize, is to thoroughly instruct them in the great principles of righteousness.") The first question we should ask ourselves is; am I thoroughly grounding my child in the correct views of truth and the great principles of righteousness or am I just

babysitting my child as he or she is growing up?

Romans 13:13-14 reads; "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." The things mentioned in this verse were the normal things that people living after the flesh did in those times. Today there are many new forms of entertainment for the flesh, which may not be sinful. However, we must watch these things. All entertainment is to fulfill the desires of the flesh. In excess, it becomes sin.

Our goal for every child is that he or she attains Heaven. Does entertainment help in reaching it? Entertainment satisfies the flesh, the Word says, put on the Lord Jesus and make not provisions for the flesh. The problem with

(Continued on page 12.)

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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.

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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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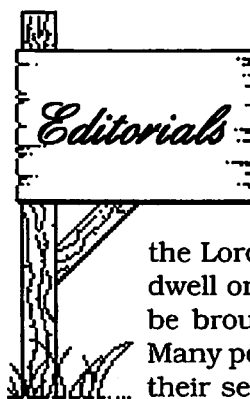
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"In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks." Isaiah 26:1.

In Isaiah 25:5 we read how the Lord will bring down them that dwell on high and the lofty city will be brought low, even to the dust. Many people today are trying to find their security and livelihood in the cities of this world that will one day be brought low.

When Lot chose the well-watered plain of Jordan the Scriptures tell us he "...dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom." This may have continued for a matter of time, but when the angels of the Lord visited the city later, they found Lot and his family residing in a house in Sodom. Obviously he had prospered financially, for no longer did he need to dwell in a tent. The lure of earthly prosperity from commerce in the wicked cities had drawn him in.

The direction we focus our attention usually also reveals our interests, and as time passes we become more deeply involved in those things that appeal to us. If our interests are centered on the things of earthly value and they consume our time, we, like Lot, will one day sadly realize that our time was wasted and our interests were vanity.

Lot took the angels into his home for the night and when the inhabitants of the city sought the angels, Lot went out and addressed the inhabitants as "brethren." While II Peter 2:7-8 tells us that just Lot was "vexed" by the filthy conversation and unlawful deeds of the wicked men of Sodom, he was certainly mixing closely with them. Lot not only lost his possessions, he also lost his wife and some of his daughters due to his association with those ungodly cities.

Abraham had his interest centered on the things of God. Earthly prosperity was not his ambition, for he had left his home and kindred to follow God. When strife arose between the herdmen of Lot and Abraham, then Lot was given the choice and chose the lush, well-watered plain of Jordan. This left Abraham with the less desirable land. However, he later plead with the Lord to spare the wicked cities for he knew what their destruction would mean to his

nephew. The wickedness of those cities was apparently worse than Abraham realized for the Lord could not find ten righteous people there.

The writer of the book of Hebrews spoke of Abraham saying, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10. Abraham could have settled into some of the cities of Canaan but his heart was set in following God. None of these earthly cities were built on the foundation of truth, justice, freedom from corruption and defilement, wisdom and beauty that he was looking for and therefore they could not satisfy the intense craving of his heart for the righteousness of God. These lovely qualities in a pure form can only come from God and the social creations of fallen man come far short of the expectations Abraham envisioned.

Since the time of Abraham there have been many cities that have risen to great power and affluence but they are now in a state of ruins. Jericho, Babylon, Ninevah, Tyre and Sidon are only a few that were once thriving centers of commerce and now are little more than a memory in the pages of history.

Was the search for "a city which hath foundations" by Abraham in vain? Was it a quest for a Fountain of Youth that did not exist or a fabled city of Eldorado? No! No! No! By faith Abraham found the city he was looking for and is rejoicing in it today.

In the second chapter of the book of Daniel, the Lord showed Daniel the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar that prophesied of this great city (kingdom) which the God of Heaven would set up. Daniel said it would never be destroyed, would not be left to other people, would break in pieces and consume the great earthly kingdoms revealed in the dream and would stand for ever. He also assured the king that the dream was certain and the interpretation was sure. We understand from the interpretation that the fulfillment of this dream was to take place during the time of the Roman Empire.

The Lord revealed much about this glorious city to the prophet Isaiah. "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." Isaiah 28:16. This precious corner stone is identified as Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Ephesians 2:18-20 and other Scriptures clearly reveal this fact. This passage

tells us that those who are near and those who are far have access unto the Father by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. and helps us understand that we can be a part of this wonderful city. "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;"

As mentioned in Isaiah, this Corner Stone is a "sure foundation" and it will never be destroyed. Jesus asked Peter "...But whom say ye that I am?" He responded by saying, "...Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus then told him, "upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Abraham was right in looking for a city which hath foundation. The Jews questioned Jesus about making the statement "...if a man keep my saying he shall never see death." He told them "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." John 8:56. What joy must have filled the heart of Abraham to see the plan of salvation unfold to mankind, for though he was gone from this world he still lived with God.

Today there is a fountain opened to atone for the sins of mankind. The cleansing of this fountain will make you pure and fit to enter into this beautiful city of God. The corruption of sin is not allowed in this heavenly environment and one cannot expect God to make an exception for anyone. Jesus paid the full price for our redemption and all who enter must come through the door. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9.

Those who have given up the frivolity of the world to enter into this heavenly city find that the mighty, protective walls of salvation surround them. The psalmist envisioned the blessed state of the one who had entered this city when he proclaimed, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments." Psalms 119:165-166. The hope of righteous men and women of all ages is brought to glorious reality in Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for the beautiful Church of God!

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We are grateful for the Lord blessing us to complete the two rooms we have been remodel-

ing for my daughter, Elizabeth, to stay in. She joyfully moved into them on the evening of May 4. As some may remember my mother, Sis. Frances Murphey, has also been living here since last November. We brought her here after we picked her up from the porch of her home where she had fallen. Thankfully she did not sustain any serious injuries from the fall and has adapted well to her new surroundings. She feels quite at home here since all of her young life was spent at the Print Shop. Her father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, began this work in March 1923. We rejoice that the truth of God's Word is still being published and the same Heavenly Father is providing our daily bread. We also thank each of you who have carried a burden for the advancement of this ministry and we are happy to see the progress God has given.

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



KY—Remember my children in prayer. Maneth and Lucinda have physical needs, Doug and Cassondre are in need of employment and direction from the Lord to know where to settle. I also have a very serious unspoken request for my Grandson, Michael. —Sis. Kay Griffith

MB—A prayer concern: Meghan (13), has a brain tumor. Thanks for your prayers that the Lord can open her heart for Jesus. Gratefully in Jesus love, —Bro. Wilfred Froese

OH—I am writing to ask you to please pray for my nephew's wife, Sue. She is very sick, she has diabetes and several other things wrong with her. Now they tell her she has Parkinson's disease. Also remember my nephew, my son and my niece for the needs they have. Thank you for all your prayers. —Sis. Tressie Adkins

IL—Thanks for your prayers. I moved from the other prison. My anger had me speak fool-

ishly and not as a man of God. Praise God for forgiveness. He is my hiding place and shield. I hope in His Word. I thank God that I can learn from my mistakes. I must abide in Christ more and more; that's my desire.

I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* papers. They are truly a blessing. I thank God for true people of Holiness. The church of God is the true standard.

Please pray for me. I'm taking it one step, one moment at a time.

May God continue to lead and guide your steps. Sincerely, —Bro. Victor Edwards

CA—Remember my wife's mother who just got out of the hospital. I am also requesting prayer for three staff members who lost family members last week. Also pray for Ms. Sanchez and family. Both of her parents have been ill and it is taking a toll on her. Thank you and your staff for the work that you do. God bless,

—Bro. Dan Viser

Nigeria—Brethren, I also have a prayer request. I have been married for 12 years now. I gave birth to three sons but each of them died within two years. For two years now I have been unable to have a child. Please, I want the church to join me in prayer that God would help me to have children and that the children should remain with me. I love children so much that I desire to have my own.

I love the church of God. I want to be united to her here and abroad. I would like to communicate personally with some sisters. I love you and how I wish I could see your faces. God bless you, Your sister —Joy Okoye

Philippines—The son of Bro. Tanap is in the hospital with liver problems. Please help us pray for him. God bless, —Bro. Jimmy Manaloto

OK—Remember Bro. Jerry Quave in prayer. He has some serious physical needs.



Standing Prayer Requests

Bro. Carlos Arriaga
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Sis. Gladys Cashio
Sis. Helen Carson
Sis. Waneta Creel
Sis. Dorall Forbes
Sis. Evelyn Fredrickson
Bro. Troy Gentry
Bro. Lee Hilton

Bro. Mark and Sis. Darlene Knight
Sis. Juliette Lounds

Sis. Melba Powell
 Bro. Jerry Quave
 Sis. Olene Rector
 Sis. Anna Severs
 Sis. Cheryl Smith
 Bro. Michael Smith
 Bro. Edward and Sis. Gloria Taylor
 The Mitch Taylor family
 Sis. Annetta Williamson
 Sis. Lula Williamson

*I Know Something Good
 About You*

*Wouldn't this old world be better
 If the folks we meet would say—
 "I know something good about you!"
 And treat us just that way?*

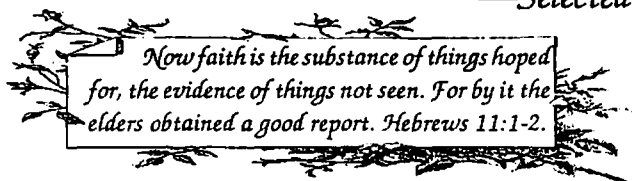
*Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
 If each handclasp, fond and true,
 Carried with it this assurance—
 "I know something good about you!"*

*Wouldn't life be lots more happy
 If the good that's in us all
 Were the only thing about us
 That folks bothered to recall?*

*Wouldn't life be lots more happy
 If we praised the good we see?
 For there's such a lot of goodness
 In the worst of you and me.*

*Wouldn't it be nice to practice
 That fine way of thinking, too?
 You know something good about me;
 I know something good about you?*

—Selected



MEETING DATES

Vanceburg, KY (Spring Meeting)—May 18-20
Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 25-June 3
Holly Hill, SC (Camp Meeting)—June 3-10
Tulsa, OK (Camp Meeting)—June 10-17
Green Bank, WV (Camp Meeting)—June 15-21
Jefferson, OR (Camp Meeting)—June 15-24
Alcoa, TN (Sisters' Retreat)—June 22-23
Fresno, CA (Camp Meeting)—July 1-8
General Southern (Loranger, LA)—July 1-8
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 20-29
Myrtle, MO (Camp Meeting)—August 3-8
California State (Pacoima)—August 17-26
Spooner, WI (Tent Meeting)—August 22-26

MEETING NOTICES

VANCEBURG, KY, SPRING MEETING

The Vanceburg, KY, Church of God congregation, Lord willing, will be holding a spring meeting May 18-20. There will be morning services at 11:00 and an evening service at 7:00. We encourage all who feel burdened to come and support our meeting. The spring meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There will be meals prepared daily on Ruggles Campground in Tollesboro, KY. We are depending upon the Lord to lead and direct in sending the ministers of His choosing. Accommodations will be provided. Please bring bed linens. RV and camper hook-ups will be available. For more information, contact Bro. or Sis. Dallas Cooper at (606) 796-3645 or (606) 202-1572 cell, or the chapel at (606) 796-0882 and leave a message. All are welcome.

—Vanceburg, KY congregation

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The annual Oklahoma State Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held May 25-June 3, 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.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 25, 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 give a cordial invitation to all to attend the 2007 Holly Hill, SC Camp Meeting beginning on Sunday, June 3rd, and continuing through Sunday, June 10th, Lord willing. All are welcome, and we will make accommodations for as many as possible. Anyone planning to attend who needs accommodations should contact Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Smith at (803) 492-7975 or Sis. Beverly Pratt at (803) 496-3057, so arrangements can be made. Please come, if you can, and if you cannot be here, please pray for God to bless our services.

In Christ's love,

—The Holly Hill, SC Congregation

GREEN BANK, WV, CAMP MEETING

The annual Green Bank Camp Meeting is scheduled to begin on Friday evening, June 15 and continue through Thursday evening, June 21, 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.

JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

Everyone is invited to attend the annual camp meeting in Jefferson, OR. The meeting will start the Friday evening of June 15 and end on Sunday morning, June 24. Service times will be at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and a 2:00 p.m. service on the first weekend and last Saturday. For accommodations or directions, you can reach Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621 or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575. Your presence would be a great encouragement to the saints here in Oregon.

ALCOA, TN, SISTERS' RETREAT

The 2007 Sisters' Retreat will convene, Lord willing, June 22-23 at the Church of God Chapel located at 322 Lindsey Street, Alcoa, Tennessee 37701.

There will be two full days of sessions. The theme for this year is "Following Those Godly Recipes." The retreat will be supported by free-will offerings. All donations can be sent to the above address.

Accommodations will be provided; however, there are nearby hotels. Please pray that the Lord will have His way and bless this retreat.

For further information, please contact Sis. Mary McDonald (865) 977-6997 or Sis. Carrie Porter (865) 984-2348.

FRESNO, CA, CAMP MEETING

The Fresno Camp Meeting will be held July 1-8. On Sunday, Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m., with services following at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday services will be at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The last Sunday, Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m., morning service 10:30 a.m. and we will end the meeting with the 2:00 p.m. service.

DIRECTIONS: From 99 north, exit Belmont and turn left. Then go to First St. and turn right. Go to the second block and turn left on Grant. From 99 south, exit Ventura east. Then go to First St. and make a left. Go to Grant then turn right. The chapel sits on First and Grant.

If there are any questions please call Bro. Eric Carter at (559) 593-9063.

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

Lord willing, the General Southern Camp Meeting at Loranger, Louisiana will begin Sunday, July 1, with morning and evening services daily through Sunday, July 8. If you can join us, come praying for a blessing.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hook-ups are available for those with campers. Meals will be provided 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. (At the exit, take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40.)

For more information, contact Carlos Doolittle at (985) 878-8122. The chapel phone is (985) 878-2788. Please do support this meeting with your prayers.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The California State Camp Meeting will be held this year from August 17-26 at the campgrounds located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

The first service will begin 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 17, with three services daily thereafter. For more information, 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.



**LETTERS
 FROM
 OUR
 READERS**

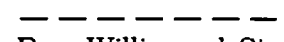
LA—Dear Bro. Willie: I want to share a special blessing God has given me.

Last year I noticed a sore starting to form on my left hand. I felt concern when I realized it was not healing. I began to bring it to the Lord in prayer. He began to bring promises to me of healing that He was going to give me. I wrote them down. When the devil would bring fear on me, I would read what God gave me. When it was

growing worse and looking so bad, I knew it was cancer. After I was anointed and prayed for, I started to see a change for the better. God told me He would heal me and I thank God for completely healing my hand. Last fall, I started having eczema on my arms severely. The itching would torment me at night. I was also anointed and prayed for, for that condition. Praise God for giving me complete healing!

I have been alone almost 21 years. Yet, I am not alone. I feel God's presence so real with me. Jesus is my dearest friend. And I cannot live without Him.

I need your prayers that I will be faithful to the end. In Christ, —Sis. Ruth Joiner



OK—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I feel almost like David did when he expressed himself in Psalm 45. He began by saying, "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made (or the things which I have heard) touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." This whole Psalm seems to be the prophecy of Christ and His Church. As I was lying upon my bed this afternoon thinking and meditating upon the goodness of God that He showed toward His people down through the ages of time, I thought of how the apostle Paul spoke of the church of God as the family of God. He goes on to say, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:14-21.

We can see by these Scriptures how God loves His family and wants to bestow every good thing upon His church. The reason the Lord loves and cares for His church in such a wonderful way is because it was purchased with His precious blood. (Acts 20:28, I Peter 1:18-19, Titus 2:14.)

He will bless His family even in a greater way in the resurrection when all the dear children of God are gathered around the throne for ever to be with Him in those mansions that He has gone to prepare for us. (John 14:23.)

The hymn #380 in our songbook, *Evening Light Songs*, expresses it real well in the first verse, "We are bound for the mansions of glory, In that beautiful city of gold, Where beholding the face of our Savior, It will fill us with rapture untold."

Another poet has said, "What will it be to be there." #373. I am looking forward to that day. (Philippians 3:20-21.)

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

AL—Dear Bro. Willie and Sis. Neta: I am thrilled to write my testimony. I am so happy—My cup runneth over!

I have had a raised spot on my face for about four or five months. I did not pay it much attention until January. In a two-week period I had four different people ask me about it. All they could talk about was how bad it would get, and you need to see a doctor immediately. I lost sleep at night, I would pray and think about what all had been said to me. This spot, bump or whatever it was, was small, about the size of a pencil eraser—but I felt like when anyone looked at me all they saw was this place on my face.

I am rejoicing and praising God. Sunday evening, April 22, it fell off. I would love to stand on the housetop and tell the good news. God is so good. The saints in our congregation have been very thoughtful. They have not asked me about it, but they have been praying.

We had a good singing in April. Sixty people from out of state came, also some neighbors and friends, plus our congregation. We had a building full singing praises to God. It was beautiful. The specials were great and so was the congregational singing. We appreciate each one that came and helped make this special.

Bro. and Sis. Jim Wall have been here this week holding a Bible study on Revelation. It has been interesting. I have learned a lot and need to learn a lot more.

Remember us in prayer and rejoice with us for all He does for us. I am so happy I am still smiling!
—Sis. Betty Herron



Roman Phillip Deforth was born on January 17, 1916, in Thorpe, Wisconsin to Phillip and Augusta (Becker) Deforth. He passed away May 4, 2007, at the age of 91 years, 3 months, and 17 days. He was a resident of the Norman, Oklahoma Veterans Center for the last few years of his life.

On January 4, 1970, he was married to Frances Porter in Guthrie, OK, where they resided all their married life. Brother Roman was a faithful member of the Church of God, attending services at Guthrie with Frances until his move to the Veterans Center. Later, Brother Galen Kelly began picking him up on Sunday morning to attend the services of 23rd Street Church of God, Oklahoma City. He was greatly appreciated there during the few years he was able to come.

Roman was in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1944. Following his release he was a salesman for 25 years for Acco Feed and Seed in Wisconsin. After moving to Guthrie, he worked for the Oklahoma Highway Department. Roman was an avid gardener and raised lots of vegetables. He made many friends while selling his vegetables.

Roman was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Frances, of Guthrie, OK and his brother, Myron Deforth of Athens, WI.

He is survived by one step-son, Merle Porter and his wife, Shirley, of Guthrie, OK; one step-daughter, Marsha McCormac and her husband, Bob, of Broken Arrow; one nephew Gary Deforth of Dorchester, WI. He is also survived by four step-grandchildren, Dena Porter, Guthrie, OK; Sheila Lafferty and husband, Eddie, Guth-

rie, OK; Kyle Porter and wife, Julia, Guthrie, OK; Meridith McCormac and fiancé, Adam, Washington D.C.; six step-great grandchildren, Da'Lynn Porter, Mariah Porter, Elijah Lafferty, Caitlyn Porter, Kirstynn Lafferty, and Kyla Lafferty all of Guthrie. He is also survived by other relatives and friends.

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Reinette Rhodes Henderson, the second child of six children, was born August 17, 1928, to George and Rosa Rhodes, in Wetumka, Oklahoma. The Rhodes family later moved to Beggs, and in 1947, she graduated from Wheatley High School. Reinette later met, fell in love, and married her soul mate, Herbert (Tip) Henderson. To this union, one child, Deborah Ann, was born.

Sis. Reinette was saved in the Church of God in 1957, under the pastorship of Bro. Woodrow Warren, in Okmulgee. After being in the Tulsa congregation for several years, Sis. Reinette felt a call to return to Okmulgee. She taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and later held the position of Church Treasurer. She remained a faithful member until God called her home on March 31, 2007.

Reinette continued her education at Tulsa Community College, receiving an Associates Degree in Special Education. She taught Special Education classes at the Oklahoma School for Deaf and Disabled Children in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. She was a teacher's aide at Beggs Public Schools for several years. In retirement, she enjoyed reading, fishing and gardening.

Reinette loved her family all unconditionally, and touched the lives of many. Our hearts are filled with sorrow and tears will flow. But we should still our grief long enough to think what this Homecoming means. Toil and burdens are exchanged for the repose of Heaven. We should rejoice and thank God for a life which leaves behind a radiance of love.

Reinette leaves to cherish her precious memories: her husband Herbert Henderson, daughter, Deborah Stuart of Birmingham, AL, granddaughter, Tara Rynette Rhodes of Mobile, AL., and her great granddaughters, Starr, Skyy and Saije; stepchildren: Sharon Luckey Carr of Waco, Texas; Priscilla Henderson Russell, Carolyn Henderson, and Dale Henderson of Tulsa, Oklahoma. She leaves her sisters: Leona

Rentie, Lurenza Elam and Lucinda Rhodes of Tulsa, Oklahoma, her brothers George (Mary) Rhodes of Tulsa, OK, and Charles (Patricia) Rhodes of Owasso, Oklahoma. "Auntie" leaves her extended family of daughters and sons, Earcelene Rhodes Jackson, Albert Rhodes, Byron Maynard, Lance Maynard, and Jacquelyn Rhodes. Lawrence Maynard and Shelly Maynard Vann preceded her in death. She will be missed by a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

Bro. Charles Lowe, Bro. Robert Warren, and Pastor Leroy Walker conducted the service.

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Thelma L. (Losh) Lewis was born of John C. Losh and Cora Mae Losh in Muncie, Indiana on April 7, 1915. She and her family just celebrated her 92nd birthday. She enjoyed visits of many family members during this celebration of life and love. She passed away, after an illness of a few weeks, just at sunrise on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007. She was preceded in death by brothers and sisters; Helen Martin, Gertrude Harris, Edward Losh and Robert Losh. Her grandparents, Noah and Rachel Losh were lifetime residents of Muncie from the 1860's.

She graduated from Muncie Central High School in 1932. The Losh family attended the Willard Street Church of God for most of their lives.

Thelma married L. M Lewis, February 3, 1924. They ministered to the church and people in the Lincoln, NE community and throughout the U.S. for over sixty-five years. He preceded her travel to Heaven, having made his journey on July 8, 2004. They had enjoyed seventy years of marriage and were a blessing to everyone who knew them. Her offspring knew that every evening she was in deep prayer for them and was involved in evening Bible study. Even in her passing days, she could sing many songs from memory and would join in the Bible reading, quoting much of her Scripture from memory.

Thelma is survived by her four children, John, Lincoln, NE; Ellen Rhoades, Fort Wayne, IN; Rachel Gonzalez, Alliance, NE; and Robert, Lincoln, NE.

There are over sixty progeny resulting from their marriage, including nine great great grandchildren and the blessings of God is that all sixty plus survive and are in excellent health. God has blessed the entire family with health and longevity through the years.

Become a Living Sacrifice

(Continued from page 3.)

the flesh is that it is addictive. What satisfies the flesh today will not satisfy the flesh next year. If children habitually satisfy their flesh, the child's carnal desires will become a monster beyond control. Self is not only hard for a child to control but it is everyone's worst enemy. Dear Bro. Trimble from Pomona, CA; would say, "My worst enemy is ME."

Becoming a living sacrifice for Christ is the most rewarding way to obtain that heavenly goal. God's Word says "...be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed..." and become "...a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God..." Romans 12:1, 2. Also, "...holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" Hebrews 12:14.

Within the first year, a child should begin learning to control his or her emotions (himself). With your help, he can bring his desires under reasonable control, whether it is eating, drinking, sleeping, playing or manipulating parents. Jesus said to "...do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31. Of course, that is impossible without Christ in the heart. A person who has been taught to control their desires while they were young can do this much easier. The first years are the time to form the foundation of a strong disciplined character. A parent can help a child form this kind of character by consistently approving godly behavior and consistently reproofing selfish behavior.

Most children during their second year are able to understand some spiritual concepts. At that age, begin teaching him or her to serve Jesus by obeying you and serving others. Doing for others is how to practice living sacrificially for the Lord. The younger a child learns to be a living sacrifice, the more he enjoys its benefits. He will grow up thinking it is a normal way of life and will not be whining about his wants. Children can enjoy serving others by helping with a younger sibling, helping clean house, putting away his or her things, serving their father, washing dishes, setting the table, making cards for sick friends, pulling weeds, raking leaves etc. These are some ways they can serve others. By doing these things, your child will be learning the concept of being a living sacrifice which **will bring them rich rewards.**

Complimenting our sons and daughters for their godly attitudes and actions is the best way to motivate them to do good works. Most children want to please, or at least they want approval. Constantly throughout the day, give your approval for constructive things they are doing especially when it is something to bless another person. Even if the job is imperfect, do not humiliate. If they are trying, that should excite your praise.

Having plenty to do will also keep down the boredom and fussing with siblings. When you hear a fuss, quickly think of something for the 'fussers' to do. They will soon learn to curb the fussing. When you hear a child say, "I'm bored," you will know you must find projects for him or her to do. (For the "abundance of idleness" was one of Sodom's sins.) If nothing excites his interest, then let him or her work with you and force him to stay with the job until it is done. Start this training when the child is small. It is very difficult to get older children (six and up) to work after they have had six years of pleasing themselves.

Children who have to help earn their living, learn many lessons that are needful for life. If your child does not have to help earn his living then have him work around the home. Parents must actively teach their children to make good use of their time because a child's mind is never idle, and he must give account to God for both actions and thoughts.

Many are yielding to the temptation of getting their children "out of their hair" by sitting them in front of entertaining videos. It is a great temptation. I understand. I also know that Mother's have little time for themselves, however, be happy that you have children, and be thankful that your child is able to enjoy a carefree childhood. The important thing is that they be kept busy doing constructive things instead of becoming "couch potatoes" which could lead them toward the road to Sodom.

Here are some of the things to do with your children:

1. Make picnic lunches to enjoy in the back yard. Children spend a lot of time rigging up a table, finding seats, and carrying dishes and food. You will have a few minutes of quiet and no kitchen to clean.

2. Read and read and read character building or Bible stories. Read to them when they lie

down for naps, when putting them to sleep at night, when traveling. Listening teaches a child to sit still, to appreciate what they hear and it forces them to form images in their mind, which helps them to be creative. The mind is robbed of creativity in motion pictures because the images are already formed. Educational videos are profitable but should have limits.

3. When a child does not want to sleep after reading, kneel beside his bed and pray. Put your hand on him or her. They will lay quiet while you are praying and before you are through praying, they will usually be asleep.

4. Have a set of World Book Encyclopedias. Whenever a child brings in an insect or flower, stop whatever you are doing (when possible) and study about it from the World Book.

5. My friend began teaching her children to cook when they turned five. Their first project was their own birthday cake. Children can help in the kitchen early on. By age 8, they can make simple foods and clean the kitchen, wash and put away their clothes.

6. Play educational games together, Monopoly (how to count and add money), checkers, (reasoning) and Uno (colors and numbers). I made up games, matching Spanish and English words, Roman numerals to Arabic numbers, Multiplication tables and their answers, geometric symbols to their names, etc. We played them like "Memory"

7. We worked together, and then played together. We played ball, ran races, I scuffled with the boys.

8. Each of my girls sewed themselves a dress at age eleven. They had already sewed smaller items. Every girl should learn to sew. There are always mending, alterations and special garments to make. Who knows when America may fall into another depression and our daughters may have to make trousers for their little boys from the backside of their dad's worn-out jeans?

9. Every child should learn to garden and to preserve foods, by drying, freezing, or preserving in other ways. During World War II, children made victory gardens to help with needed food supplies.

10. Teach your children how to arrange flowers and have bouquets ready to take when visiting. Buy vases, baskets, and artificial flowers at garage sales or second hand stores.

11. Teach them to give by sponsoring an

orphan or some other worthy project. They can earn their own money or use their allowance.

12. Children can keep the lawn presentable. It could develop into jobs for money.

13. Girls can do baby-sitting in your home or only in the homes of trusted friends.

To say "I don't have time for all that," is not a good attitude to have. We all make time for what is most important to us. I had six children and usually another or two (sometimes five others) living with us. I lived four years without electric and no washing machine. When we did get a Maytag wringer washing machine, it took all day to wash a week's laundry and left the clothes so wrinkled they had to be ironed. Beside the domestic work, I also did a lot of entertaining guests, visiting, caring for the sick, teaching children's meeting twice a week, and home schooled a few years.

Is the most important thing to you, where your child will spend eternity? Then take time to discipline (disciple) him or her. Train your children to be a living sacrifice, that he must do "all to the glory of God" and when he is older he will still be doing it. You should start very young and trust God to give you strength and grace to keep at it. "The word train is to ground them in correct views of truth, and in right principles of actions." Are you training or just baby-sitting?



How to Become a Millionaire

"How would you like to be adopted by a millionaire, Dean?"

"Wouldn't mind it at all," he replied. "Do you know a millionaire who would be interested in adopting me?"

"Yes, I do. You know that God has been offering to adopt you into His family for a long time and isn't He a millionaire, a million times over? Why, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. (Psalm 24:1.) And in Heaven, gold is such commonplace stuff that the streets are made of pure gold, symbolically speaking." (Revelation 21:21.)

"In God's love letter, the Bible, you will find that it is His desire to adopt you into His family, that you and all of us might receive the adoption of sons. (Galation 4:5.) After your adoption, a mansion is prepared over in Heaven (John 14:2) and some day you will be taken to that beautiful home to be with Him forever."

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:..." I Corinthians 2:9-10.

"There is one thing you need to realize, however, God does not want to adopt you because you are so nice and lovable. For in His sight, you are nothing but a sinner, and there is nothing about you as you are that is really commendable. You are not a bit like His own Son, the Lord Jesus, but God is ready to undertake the job of making you like Him if you really want to be."

"Your old human nature could never enjoy Heaven, for God is absolutely holy, and if you were transported to Heaven just as you are, you couldn't stand it. You would want to get out, and no one would stop you either. What you need is a new nature from God, a holy nature that will fit you for Heaven so that you can enjoy it when you get there."

"You can never obtain this new nature by any good works of your own. (See Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9.) Rather, it is the gift of God—not of works. You are taken into His family, not only by adoption, but by a new birth—being born again...by the Word of God. (I Peter 1:23.) In order to be adopted, you must confess and repent of your sins, and by a living, active faith receive Christ as your personal Savior. When you meet the Bible conditions, you are regenerated by the power of God and thus born of the Spirit into His family. (John 3:6.) this will give you that new life that you need to enjoy Heaven."

"How can you hesitate about an offer like this, when God offers you so much more than any earthly millionaire ever could? He proved His great love for you by suffering for your sins and dying in your place upon the cruel cross. Then turn to Him now with all your heart and let Him transform your life and make you His own dear child. It is the most profitable decision you can ever make, and it shouldn't be put off any longer. The offer may be withdrawn any time and the door of mercy closed forever."

—Selected

When saved in Jesus, all the promises of God become our possession by inheritance. Brother, we are rich the moment we become an heir of God and a joint-heir of Jesus Christ through Faith.

—George L. Cole

"Accepted in the Beloved"

Ephesians 1:6

'Tis not for works which I have wrought,
'Tis not for gifts that I have brought,
Nor yet for blessings I have sought,
This I have been "Accepted."

'Tis not for tears that I have shed
'Tis not for prayers that I have said,
Nor yet for slavish fears I dread,
That I have been "Accepted."

'Tis not for these, however right,
That God has found intense delight,
Nor is it these that have made white
The robes of those "Accepted."

From these I turn my eyes to Him,
Who bore the judgment due to sin,
And by Christ's blood I enter in,
And stand in His "Acceptance."

His precious blood was shed for me,
And in that precious blood I see
The righteous ground, the perfect plea,
For my complete "Acceptance."

And as I gaze my joys abound,
For now on resurrection ground
I see the Lamb with glory crowned,
Who died for my "Acceptance."

And when within that circle sweet,
Where God's eternal smile I meet,
I'll praise Him for the work complete,
Through which I am "Accepted."

—Selected

From One Extreme To Another

By D. O. Teasley

How likely we are, in our human weakness, when we awake to the fact that we have gone to an extreme, to fly in fear from the present-seen dangers till we lose the good we seek to gain by going to the opposite extreme.

When we see that we have been cold and formal in our devotion to God, if we are not careful, our zeal to do better will lead us to do worse and flying from formality, we shall find ourselves in the regions of self-effort, wild-fire and unholy demonstrations.

On the other hand, when we flee from overdone and self-made manifestations of spirituality, we should be careful to avoid the other extreme lest we fall into the pit of ritualism and dead formality, and thus "grieve the Holy Spirit of promise whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Where there is life there is noise and activity; and where there is holy enthusiasm there is moderation, decency and order. In the healthy Christian soul there is beautifully and harmoniously blended the two opposite extremes, forming a holy and happy medium, pleasing to God and beneficial to man.



The Prayer of Faith

By E. E. Byrum

Worrying and doubting are two pitfalls into which the devil loves to have a person fall. The first opens the way for the second, and soon throws a person into confusion, where they are ready to throw down their experience, if they have one, or fail to get one if they have not already received it.

These hindrances must be cast aside. It will do no good to worry over a thing before it happened; neither will it do any good to worry over anything after it has happened. It has a tendency to affect and unsettle a person physically, mentally and spiritually. The constant strain upon the mind by worrying will hinder the proper digestion of the food, and thereby affect the body and nerves, and opens an avenue for depressions and accusations against the soul. Next comes doubting with its flood of imaginations, fears and crushing power. What is to be done? Cast your cares upon the Lord, for He careth for you. Have faith in God. Believe the promises and act upon them and you will have no time to worry; no inclination to doubt.

When Elijah asked God to not let it rain, he prayed earnestly, and his prayer was answered, but he did not keep on praying the same prayer for three years and six months. When the time came to pray for rain he went up on old Mount

Carmel, with a determination to pray through to victory in short order. Although he prayed seven times before he got the witness, it did not take him very long, and as soon as the witness came his praying ceased, and he went on his way doubting nothing. God will honor those who believe Him and obey.

The prayer of faith will move things.

It will remove hindrances from the pathway of the Christian.


It will beat back the enemy and cause him to be defeated.

It will open the windows of Heaven and cause the blessings to come showering down.

Long prayers are not always prayers of faith, but the one offered with a firm belief that the Lord hears and answers is the effectual prayer.

Once a prayer of only three words saved a man from being drowned. (Matthew 14:30.) Seven words saved a man from his sins. (Luke 18:13.) Nine words converted a wicked dying man and caused him to enter the glory world. (Luke 23:42.)

Bible Lessons



"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, we are CHANGED" II Cor. 3:18

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