

Glad Tidings

November

2019

"Buy the truth, and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23)

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION
Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Philippians 4:13

1 Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Life sometimes seems as though it is one long day of trouble for the righteous. Even if that was true, there is comfort to know that the Lord knows and is able to provide. The prophet Nahum declares, "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nah. 1:7) The Bible declares continuously that the Lord is good. Even Jesus Himself said, "there is none good but one, that is, God." (Matt. 19:17). This of course proves that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. Jonah knew that God is good and gracious and would spare Nineveh when they repented; when in reality he wanted to see them destroyed.

Jonah fled from the strong hold instead of trusting in the Lord and His goodness. He paid his own fare down to Tarshish and landed in the belly of hell (the whale). However, he knew what to do and where to go as he prayed, "And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice." (Jonah 2:2) The Lord showed His goodness by speaking to the whale and causing it to vomit Jonah out on dry ground. Jonah had learned what David knew that thou he made his bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (Psalm 139:8)

Hezekiah and Israel were besieged by Sennacherib and his gigantic Assyrian army. Hezekiah gathered the people together and spoke encouragement to them. "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:" (2 Chron 32:7) Hezekiah wanted the people to know and trust that with the Assyrians was an arm of flesh but the Lord was with them to help them and fight their battles. The Lord that is good was on their side; consequently, they had a majority of one as God sent an angel and destroyed all the mighty men of valour and Sennacherib returned home in shame and slain by those of his own bowels.

A strong hold is a fortified place of defense for those under attack by the evils of the day and by just the circumstances of life. The barriers of this strong hold are such that the enemy cannot break through when the Lord is in the matter. In the day of trouble, we are like Peter who said, "...to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) Man will let us down so trust in the Lord who never fails.

The Lord knows those that trust in Him when things aren't going in a pleasant way. Of course He knows every single individual, but He knows those that trust in Him in a more intimate way. It seemed as though Job had a very long day of trouble and even encouraged by his own wife to curse God and die. Job did not do this, although he did curse the day of his birth. The Lord knew how this would all turn out and Job knew this as well as he said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10) It is just as the Psalmist declares, "For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalm 1:6) Job affirmed that though the Lord might slay him, he would still trust in him. (Job 13:15)

Adversity is going to come to the righteous; it is just a matter of time; however, God has a goal in mind in this conflict as Solomon writes, "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." (Eccl. 7:14) To find nothing after him means that He is first and is to be trusted in times of great prosperity and also in times of adversity. A person who has always driven a Mercedes car would not be as thankful for this luxury as one who has always driven a used car. A person doesn't appreciate the light unless he has once been in darkness.

There is a day of trouble for the righteous that does encompass many things but Paul says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18) This doesn't mean that we must thank the Lord for the loss of a loved one, the fire that destroyed our home, the tragic diagnosis received or countless other bad news received. It does mean that in the midst of these terrible scenarios, we have reason to give thanks to the Lord; not for the trouble but in the midst of trouble. We trust with Paul who said, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:13)

Because the Lord is good, He is a strong hold but not just in the day of trouble. He is a strong hold in our daily battle with our fleshly nature to subdue it and keep it in subjection. We cannot trust in self to do this job. We must trust the Lord. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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**PART THREE—DOCTRINAL
ANOTHER GOSPEL**

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Paul let the Galatians know that if they were removed from the gospel to which they had been called, it was not another. There is only one. The rest are perversions. A perversion would be a gospel, so far removed from the true gospel, that it not just a difference of opinion.

It is important to know the difference and to refuse to hear those who pervert the gospel. It was so important that Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Gal.1:8. Accursed means excommunication, or not in the body of fellowship.

Paul gave the Romans this direction. Rom. 16:18, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Let us look at some perversions of the gospel. When some brethren from Jerusalem came to Antioch, teaching that you must be circumcised to be saved, the apostle Paul did not advocate an immediate non-fellowship for the brethren at Jerusalem, but rather went to see if that was truly what they believed.

Acts 15:2, "When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question."

As Paul discovered, this perversion was not believed by the church at Jerusalem, but by some of

the Pharisees who believed. The church at Jerusalem wrote letters disavowing such a perversion.

In later years, some brethren began to preach that Christ really didn't save his people, but he made salvation possible to those who believe and repent. They began to teach that those who live in heaven are those who hear the gospel and obey. But when we read Matthew, we find this is a perversion of the gospel.

Matt. 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."

The salvation of his people is sure and based upon Jesus and not obedience of man. We must mark and avoid these people.

Others began to teach that you must be baptized by water baptism to have your sins remitted. This was just an extension of the above perversion. We know it is a perversion by the following scriptures.

Heb. 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission."

1 Pet. 3:20,21, "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Water baptism is a figure of the remission, and is not the remission. We have no fellowship with this perversion.

Others teach that there is no resurrection of the wicked. This is a very abominable perversion, for it challenges the words of Jesus.

John 5:28,29, "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

The true gospel can have no fellowship with this perversion.

The Calvinists and absoluters came along and claim that God has set all obedience, accidents, wickedness and diseases out in his decrees, and that they are included in Rom. 8:28-31. They claim that God does not cause evil, but he takes every bad thing that happens to you and turns it into your good, not that he can overcome evil and bring good. This perversion claims that if a 30 year old mother has incurable cancer, with three or four little children at her feet, and a heartbroken husband, that God is going to work all this to the good of all in this household, if they are children of God. What a terrible perversion of the gospel. Let us again look at the scriptures.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? “

Do you see the words *accidents*, *wickedness*, and *diseases* listed with the five wonderful things which work together for our good? Of course not. It is not there. The apostle didn't put it there, because it is not true. That is a reason it is a perversion of the gospel and not a difference of opinion.

Elder R. H. Pittman wrote in the March, 1928 issue of the *Advocate and Messenger* the following, “Of course, the brethren who have extreme doctrines and modern practices do not ask that we adopt them; but their plea is that we tolerate them. Toleration, however, is all that error ever asks until it grows strong enough to make demands.”

We can have no fellowship with gross errors in the doctrine and practices which have been given to us by our Lord. (April, 2004)

(From “*The Best of Elder Guy Hunt*”)

PRACTICE WHAT YOU BELIEVE

It is not what men eat but what they digest that makes them strong; Not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach but what we practice that makes us Christians.—Source Unknown

It has also been said, “It is true that you have to breathe in order to live, but you have to live in order to breathe.” “You have to eat in order to live, but you have to live in order to eat.” A person may be a child of God without being a Christian but a person cannot be a Christian without being a child of God. I think there are some who claim to be Christians but their conduct betrays their assertion. There is an old saying that is an idiom which states “that the proof is in the pudding”. This meant you didn't know if something was good or bad to eat without trying it.

When it comes to being a Christian and following Christ, however, you don't need to try it to know that it is good because the inspired word of God declares it is good. You want to see good days? If you do then act like the Christian you profess. “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:” (1 Pet. 3:10) The Christian life is the good life.—*Editor*

MATTHEW IX. 16, 17

September 19, 1935

Mrs. A.D. Hodges, Carnegie, Okla., asked us for our views on this text. It reads, “No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved.” The Saviour is here teaching that the old order of law worship and service is not brought over into the new or gospel dispensation. The new cloth of gospel worship and service is not tacked on or sewed on or simply added to the old law worship and service. The gospel day is a new [pg 114] dispensation, a new garment, and old cloth is not to be mixed with it.

In that age bottles were made of skins. Old bottles would not stretch. If new wine should be put in them the bottles would burst—the fermenting and working of the wine would burst them. To put new worship—gospel worship and service—in the old bottle of the law dispensation would be to cause the bottle to burst, and the whole thing would come to destruction—all would be lost. There is to be no mixture of law and gospel. The old bottles served their usefulness in the first use they were put to. The law served its purpose, and it is passing out now. A new bottle—a new gospel day—is coming in, and the new wine of gospel worship and service is in it. Are you using old bottles, engaging in law worship and service? If so, you suffer loss. Since writing the above we find we gave our views on this same matter of new wine in old bottles, as mentioned in Mark ii. 21, 22, in our issue of May 14, 1907, in which we gave the same views, though expressed in different words.

C. H. C.

JUDE 12, 13

September 19, 1935

Sister M.O. Lucas, Albertville, Ala., asked us in 1930 to give our views on Jude 12, 13 and asked if these persons under consideration were disobedient children of God or were they unregenerate. Jude says they are clouds without water. God's preachers are rain clouds—not “thunder heads.” Jude says they are wandering stars. God's preachers are “fixed stars.” Jude says [pg115] “to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.” That is a long time. That seems to us that the darkness is too long for a child of God. Go on down to verse 19 and you will see that Jude says concerning them, “Having not the Spirit.” Paul says in Rom. viii. 9, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” It seems to us this should settle the matter as to what sort of folks such people are. Jude warns the Lord's children concerning them, and they should be marked and avoided. The church does not need them. Keep them out.

C. H. C.

(From “*Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist*” by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 6)

BACKSLIDING

By Elder Jerry McMinn
Linden, Tennessee

Backslide – To slide backward in morals or in religious enthusiasm, to become less virtuous or less pious.

From personal observation, from discussion with other ministers, and from comments made by dedicated church members, I am convinced there is much backsliding in many churches today.

Churches which customarily had Sunday night and Wednesday night services are struggling to keep these going.

Sunday morning attendance also varies considerably. The meeting house may be nearly full one Sunday morning and nearly vacant the next week. I suspect that most who are not in attendance are home watching television filling their minds with video trash, lust, and violence.

People are not staying home because they don't have transportation or because the distance is too far. They are not coming because they have chosen to do other things!

Many church members plan their vacations, family reunions, recreational activities, and shopping trips at times when they ought to be at church. Some plan business activities or volunteer to work extra hours without any regard to how it will affect their spiritual lives. As a result, many church members suffer from spiritual anemia!

Suppose others at your church begin to backslide. What if the faithful grow old and depart this life? The time may come when backsliders return to find the doors of their meeting house closed because the church dissolved in their absence!

We need to prayerfully consider our church duties and meet them. It has been said that there is a great difference between "building the church around our lives" and "building our lives around the church." Which best describes you and me? Do we just add a little religion now and then to pacify a troubled conscience? Or, do we try to center our lives around the activities of God's house?

If the Lord was as unfaithful to our needs as we are unfaithful to support his cause, there would be a lot of funerals in Tippah County in the very near future! Remember, it is God who blesses us with our daily bread, with shelter from the storms, and, indeed, with the very breath of life!

Let our services to God show our appreciation for all that he does for us. For truly, he "daily loadeth us with benefits." (Psalm 68:19)

(From "Southern Sentinel", September 17, 1992)

"Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God." (Jer. 3:22)

THROUGH BACA'S VALE

By J. C. Philpot
November 22

"But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel."—Luke xxiv. 21.

What a trial to their faith must the death of Jesus have been to his disciples and believing followers! When their Lord and Master died, their hopes, for the time at least, seem almost to have died with him. And indeed to the eye of sense, truth, holiness, innocence, all fell crushed by the arm of violence as Jesus hung on the cross. To the spectator there, all his miracles of love and mercy, his words of grace and truth, his holy, spotless life, his claims to be the Son of God, the promised Messiah, the Redeemer of Israel, with every promise and every prophecy concerning him were all extinguished when amidst the triumph of his foes, in pain, shame, and ignominy, he yielded up his breath. We *now* see that, by his blood-shedding and death, the blessed Lord wrought out redemption, finished the work which the Father gave him to do, put away sin by the sacrifice of himself, reconciled the Church unto God, triumphed over death and hell, vanquished Satan, magnified the law and made it honourable, exalted justice, brought in mercy, harmonized every apparently jarring attribute, glorified his heavenly Father, and saved millions with an everlasting salvation. But should we have seen this as we see it now, had we stood at the cross with weeping Mary and broken-hearted John, heard the railing taunts of the scribes and Pharisees, the rude language of the Roman soldiery, and the mocking cries of the Jewish mob, viewed the darkened sky above, and felt the solid earth beneath rocking under our feet? Where would our faith have been then? What but a miracle of almighty grace and power could have sustained it amidst such clouds of darkness, such strength of sense, such a crowd of conflicting passions, such opposition of unbelief?

So it ever has been, so it ever will be in this time state. Truth, uprightness, godliness, the cause of God as distinct from, as opposed to error and evil, have always suffered crucifixion, not only in the Person, but in the example of a crucified Jesus. It is an ungodly world; Satan, not Jesus, is its god and prince; and therefore, not truth but falsehood, not good but evil, not love but enmity, not sincerity and uprightness but craft and deceptiveness, not righteousness and holiness but sin and godliness prevail and triumph as they did at the cross. This tries faith; but its relief and remedy are to look up, amidst these clouds, to the cross, and see on it the suffering Son of God. Then we see that the triumphing of the wicked is but for a moment; that though truth is now suffering, it is suffering with Christ; and that as he died and rose again, so it will have a glorious resurrection, and an eternal triumph.

THOMAS JEFFERSON COULD BE CALLED A PROHET

When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe.—Thomas Jefferson

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not.—Thomas Jefferson

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle if acted on would save one-half of the wars of the world.—Thomas Jefferson

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.—Thomas Jefferson

My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.—Thomas Jefferson

No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.—Thomas Jefferson

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.—Thomas Jefferson

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.—Thomas Jefferson

To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.—Thomas Jefferson

(From "ITMS", March, 2009)

(Do we not see much of this happening or trying to happen in our society today?—Editor)

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

We know that in battlefield situations, when the enemy would appear to outnumber us, it is possible for the lesser number to conquer the greater number. It would appear that the army with the greater fighting force could overcome the army with the lesser fighting force. Many times this is the way the scene plays out.

The outcome of defeat for the smaller army is not always necessary. The smaller army is sometimes able to defeat the larger army. You may ask how this can be, and I am going to tell you how it is possible. The smaller army is able to conquer the larger army if it is able to divide the larger army, thereby being able to defeat first one portion and then the other. History is replete with examples of this tactic being utilized in order to win the battle.

There is another area where the divide and conquer concept is used very effectively: in the

churches. Satan has learned that if he can divide the church he will, in most cases, be able to conquer both factions of that church. This situation prevails in many areas today. Where once there were churches with large numbers of members, today there are fewer churches with a lot fewer members. In some places there are no churches remaining of the ones that once flourished.

What has happened to these churches? Satan has been able to enter boldly and with great determination he has divided and conquered. He has broken asunder the bonds that once drew the members together in love and fellowship with one another. He planted seeds of doubt, distrust, envy, strife, hatred and any other disrupting concept he could find. These evils grew and festered among the congregation and finally erupted with such force that they tore the congregation apart. The church withered, and in many cases it died outright.

What is the answer? What can the churches do to guard against such infiltration by the Devil? First and foremost we need to pray that God would guide us in the right way. We already know that He does this very thing. But we still need to pray for that guidance in order to remind ourselves that God is indeed doing this very thing. Then we need to pray that God would continue to remind us of our duties to Him and to His church, as well as to each other in His church. After all, we are family, one family in the church of Jesus Christ.

We need to pray for unity of the brotherhood—then set about to insure that unity exists and that it continues to do so. "United we stand—divided we fall."

Abraham Lincoln said, "United we stand and, divided we fall." He was thinking of the United States.

Aesop said, "United we stand; divided we fall" and: "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Matthew 12:25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

Mark 3:24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand...

(From "ITMS", February, 2006)

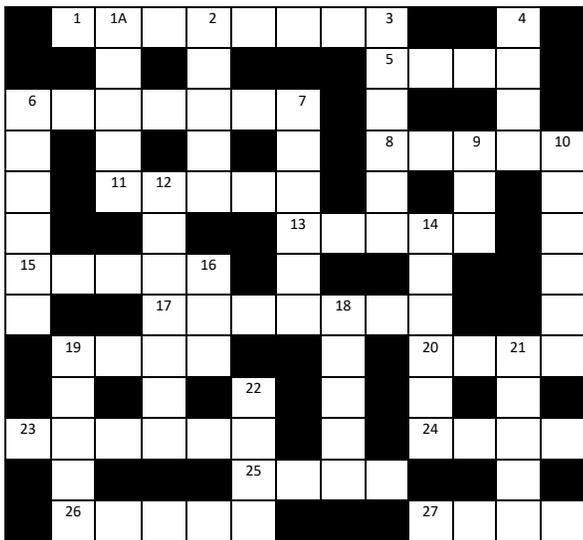
"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:1-3)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Make ____ in the desert a highway for our God.
5. He doeth according to his will in the ____ of heaven.
6. Jesus' gospel sets at liberty them that are ____.
8. Gideon was the ____ in his father's house.
11. Jacob took hold of Esau's ____ at birth. Plural.
13. Prodigal would eat the ____ that the swine did eat.
15. He raped Tamar the sister of Absalom.
17. ____ not with them that are given to change.
Letter after D.
19. They that ____ on the Lord renew their strength.
20. Jonah fled to Tarshish and ____ the fare thereof.
23. There's a river the ____ thereof shall make glad the city of God. Singular. Not a ruver.
24. ____ your heart and not your garments. Tear.
25. Sins are removed far as the ____ is from the west.
26. It was a ____ soldier that pierced Jesus' side.
27. The ____ of God is quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword.



(Answers on Page 10)

DOWN:

- 1A. Pilate asked Jesus what is ____? Makes free.
2. People join the church by walking down the ____.
3. The Spirit of God writes on fleshy ____ of the heart.
4. Jesus touched the ____ of the blind and they saw.
6. Hireling prophet hired by Balak to curse Israel.
7. At Red Sea the right hand of God was glorious in power and ____ in pieces the enemy. Break.
9. This animal made to talk by God to false prophet.
10. We may desire sincere milk of the word if so be we have ____ that the Lord is gracious.
12. Esau is the father of the ____ Singular.
14. Cain said to God am I my brother's ____?
16. Peter and Andrew were casting a ____ into the sea because they were fishers.
18. John the Baptist ____ for joy in the womb. In the present tense.
19. Jesus' first miracle turned ____ into wine.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

21. In the tabernacle there was an outer court and an ____ court.
22. The last word in the Bible and in a prayer.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We had gone and picked up our grandson, Isaac, so he could go with us to church. He was good in church and we ate lunch and spent the afternoon with my sister. When it was time to go, Isaac gathered up all his stuff, Blackie, a stuffed dog, a backback, a sipi cup and headed to the car. When we arrived at his house, he exited the vehicle and I heard him say, "Home sweet home" as he headed to the door. How true. It really will be "home sweet home" when we all get to heaven.—*Editor*

WHERE'S THE GRACE?

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

The person talking was not an Old Baptist. She said I went to this church and sat through the service and all I heard talked about was how I need to do better. She said, although I can make many improvements, I know I am bad, but where was the grace. I wanted to see the grace.

Another confided in me that he had felt no comfort in going to his church for he heard no gospel. He heard about man and how he should do better but nothing about grace to the one who feels he is stumbling along the path of life.

This brings me to the saying that was common among our people about the time there ceased to be great growth among our people as a whole. The saying was, "We just preach too much grace." I do not believe you can preach too much grace. We may not be declaring the whole counsel of God as we should, but do we preach too much grace?

There is nothing that will cause us to want to do better, more than hearing about the grace and mercy of God. It made me want to join the church. I knew I was a sinner. I needed to know there was hope for a sinner like me. I wonder If I would have joined the church if all I heard was how bad I was, and very little about the greatness of God. I saw the contrast. I needed not only to see how bad I was, but I also needed to see how great and good God is to poor sinners.

I think we as a people fail to preach enough grace. I address this to myself as I would to other ministers. We can go to any order of people and hear about the sin of abortion, how we ought to be more fervent, how we ought to be more giving. These are all good and biblical principles. But, there is only one place

(Continued on Page 7)

CHURCH NEWS

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church on Fairgrounds Rd New Albany, MS will have a special Thanksgiving service on Wednesday night, Nov. 27, 2019, before Thanksgiving beginning at 7:00 p.m. Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS will be bringing the message. New Prospect is currently without a Pastor.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was blessed September 6-8, 2019 to celebrate its 100th anniversary with Elder Ricky Harcrow bringing three outstanding messages on "Take Heed and Remember" on Friday night. Saturday on "Now Unto Him Who Is Able" and Sunday on "Reigning Sin and Reigning Grace". Good singing, preaching, praying, fellowship and food were in abundance and especially the Spirit of God. Hope the Lord comes again before the next 100 years.



I wonder what these two preachers. Elder Rickey Taylor and Elder Ricky Harcrow were sharing that was so funny at lunch during Bethany meeting?



"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph.3:21)

CHURCH NEWS

Ministers attending on Friday night, September 6, 2019 of 100th anniversary meeting of Bethany PBC Ecu, MS. Elder James Hall, Elder Jerry Wise, Elder Larry Wise (Pastor), Elder David Wise, Elder Ricky Harcrow (Guest Minister), Elder Darren Owens, Elder Steve Weaver, Elder Jeremy Wise.



WHERE'S THE GRACE?

(Continued from Page 6)

where we can hear the true doctrine of grace and that is where the truth is taught. If someone is searching for the truth and comes to our church three or four times and hears nothing about how God saves worthless sinners, will they be able to identify us as the church. What can they see different in us than where they have not had any comfort. I am very disturbed when I go out to hear a brother several times and each time I am made to think, if this church is that bad, why would I want to be an old Baptist.

I think we need to spend more time comforting the soul and less time whipping the soul. Surely as we show the Lord high and lifted up to poor sinners, it will cause a person to want to draw closer to that high and lofty position.

My prayer to God is that he would lead my mind to point out the grace to poor sinners whenever I preach, whatever the subject might be. If some little lamb comes to the feeding trough, I believe it is pleasing to the Lord for him to be fed that first time. If we always try to follow the leadership of the Spirit and spend more time meditating on the word of God, when we preach, surely no one will have to ask, Where is the grace?

I know better than anyone except the Lord, how bad I am. I need to see the grace.

Guy Hunt

(From "The Pathway of Truth", December, 2001)

What kind of church would my church be if every member were just like me? Point to ponder.

THE MANY SAVES

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

John 5:34: "But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved."

The words save and saved are mentioned over one hundred times in the Bible. It is an important subject, and it would do us good to be informed on the subject. Save comes from the Greek word "sozo" meaning to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction. Many believe that there are many dangers and destructions one can suffer in this time world, yet a lot of them think that there is only one kind of save when it comes to the Bible. In fact there are many saves mentioned in the word of God. Here are a few of them. Save is used in two different applications in the word of God; in an eternal sense or a timely sense. Here is an eternal sense. Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." God sent his Son to save his children from being eternally separated from him. When sin came into the world, it put a partition between God and his children. God the Father had covenanted with the Son to come as flesh and blood to live a perfect life thus fulfilling the law of sin and death. Since the separation would be forever, that makes it an eternal save that Jesus obtained on the cross for his children. All the children will live eternally in glory, because of what Christ did on the cross. Other eternal verses are in John 12:27 and 1 Timothy 1:15.

Now we will look at a timely verse. John 5:34 "But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved". For Christ to use the expression "that ye might be saved" a future blessing for the faithful while here on earth. He was telling those Jews that if they believed on him here in time then they would be saved from the wrath that would be coming on this untoward generation because they rejected Jesus as the Messiah Acts 2:40. That generation would suffer destruction at Jerusalem; many would suffer death, their temple completely destroyed. Many of them becoming slaves in the empire. Others dispersed to wander the world. Wouldn't that qualify as danger and destruction that one could be saved from by obeying the Lord? Since the danger and destruction is here on earth, that would make it a timely text. Also consider this. It was Christ who said that they would be saved in obedience. The same Christ that came in flesh and blood to save his children that the Father had given him. It took perfect obedience for that to happen. Christ was the only one who could offer a perfect obedience. Therefore Christ could not be talking about an eternal save, that was his work to do, and he completed it on the cross. So what Christ was

speaking of here was timely salvation. There are many dangers and destruction one can suffer here in this sin cursed world we live in. We need saving from those things, and the way that we save ourselves from them, is through obedience unto God. Other timely texts are in Matthew 14:30 where it tells of Peter sinking in the water and cries out to his Lord to save him. Save him from what? From drowning! We read in Hebrews 11:7 of Noah and his family saved from drowning because they obediently built the Ark, and entered into it as the rain began to fall. All eight lives saved in the Ark that floated in the water, while everyone else drown.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we should read our Bible and separate truth from man made doctrines that confuses eternal and timely salvation. Men who teach that obedience can obtain eternal life for the children of God. Not giving glory to the Christ that has already taken care of our eternal salvation. Rest in the fact that Jesus paid the price at Calvary. Obey your Lord as you walk the paths of life; in doing so you will be saving yourselves from the destruction that can happen to you here on earth. Lord knows that there are many ways for that to happen.

Elder Rickey Taylor

ONLY GOD CAN GIVE LIFE

A marshal in Napoleon's army -- a man who was devotedly and enthusiastically attached to him -- was mortally wounded in battle. As the last struggle drew near and he lay dying in his tent, he sent for his chief. Napoleon came. The poor man thought his emperor could do anything. Perhaps he even sought to put him in the place of God. So he earnestly pleaded with his leader to save his life. The emperor sadly shook his head and turned away. But as the dying man felt the cold, merciless hand of death drawing him irresistibly behind the curtain of the unseen world, he was still heard to shriek out, "Save me, Napoleon! Save me!" In the hour of death, that soldier discovered that even the powerful Napoleon could not give him physical life.--Our Daily Bread.

"There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it." (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." (John 17:2)

Any action (both physical and spiritual) always spring from the presence of life.

LET YOUR WORDS BE FEW

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

People communicate by words but there is a proper way to make your thoughts known that is edifying and then there is an unacceptable way. Solomon said, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." (Eccl. 5:2)

Sometimes children of God are hasty in speaking words which should not have been spoken. These same children then look back and see that if their words had been fewer, softer and more meaningful, everyone would have been spared a great deal of grief. This certainly proves that God is right on target with every detail in the lives of His people. God knew the capability of the mouth to utter vain words as he describes the sinner who is dead in sin as having a mouth full of cursing and bitterness with the poison of asps under their lips.

When the child of God is born again, he or she no longer has the totally depraved nature of a mouth full of cursing, but the Adamic nature that produced this ungodly characteristic is still present and subject to breaking out into a fire if not held in check by adding temperance to God-given faith.

Perhaps you have been provoked in spirit by someone and in your haste began to utter words that did not become the divine nature of the new birth. It doesn't matter whether the provocation was just or unjust; you are not at liberty to retaliate in any way. Did Christ strike back with hasty words when He was stricken and reviled? He did not as He was firmly committed to One that judges righteously. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." (1 Pet. 2:23)

Moses was provoked by the children of Israel who had no water to drink and chided Moses for leading them to the wilderness to die of thirst. God told Moses to take his rod and speak to the rock and it would give His water. Moses called the people rebels and took some credit for the miracle by saying, "...must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Numb. 20:10). The psalmist summed up the case of Moses and every other person who utters hasty words with later regret. "They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips." (Psalm 106:32-33)

Moses did not speak a volume of words, but those he used were an affront to God and a direct disregard of the command of God: consequently, Moses did not get to enter Canaan's land. He would have been better off by doing what God commanded. Peter also would have been better off if he had not hastily spoke

and said, "...Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended." (Matt. 26:33) Jesus told him the reality that he would deny Him three times before the cock crew. The same mouth that was used to promise obedience and faith to Him was used to swear and curse with his third denial. When the cock crew, Peter remembered the words of Jesus and wept bitter tears.

Peter could have avoided this bitter moment and you can as well by just following the scriptures which say, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." (Eccl. 5:4-5) Read the scriptures carefully and you will see that ALL the disciples promised not to be offended and those same disciples forsook Him. The Bible doesn't tell us how the Lord dealt with them, but I am sure they did not escape chastisement.

There was a time when an individual's word was his bond, and you could depend upon that word with trust and confidence. This has deteriorated much in our land today as many believe their mouth and body are their own, and they can do with it as they please regardless of what God says. There are individuals who may tell you one thing about a certain matter, and then tell someone else an entirely different story. Does not the scripture say that God is in heaven and you are upon earth? God knows the behavior of all His people and will meet out chastisement in His own time. Do not take matters into your own hands when you are provoked as Moses. The scriptures declare, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit." (Prov. 15:1, 4) Let us all return to the God of the Bible and let our words be few, chosen and filled with a kind spirit.

It is indeed strange that some individuals who are provoked in spirit and have uttered many hasty words can remember every single word that the regarded offender has said but can barely remember anything of their hasty words in return. It could be that they may be guilty of what I have accused my children of doing in times past and that is "selective hearing." They hear what they want to hear and tune out the rest. If you can't remember what was said, do not say anything that might put a slanted unfair version before anyone who might be influenced by poor chosen words. People can sometimes tell the preacher how many scriptures he quoted incorrectly during a sermon but cannot remember how many he correctly quoted.

So the next time you wonder why some individuals do not talk a lot, they may be just remembering what Solomon said about few words. Solomon knew all about vanity. Pray your mouth and mine would always honor God as befitting our divine nature!

EFFECTUAL CALLING

Effectual: Producing, or powerful enough to produce the intended effect.—See Webster.

The Scriptures teach a calling separate and apart from all human agency. There is also a gospel calling. However, the gospel call fails on many; fails to effect, or deliver, or teach, or move. The effectual calling of God *never* fails to effect, deliver, and teach! 2 Sam. 22:45—“Strangers shall submit themselves unto me: *as soon as they hear, they shall be obedient unto me.*” Isa. 49:1—“*The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath He made mention of my name.*” This calling cannot be of man. God only can make such a call!

Phil. 3:14—“I press toward the mark for the prize of the *high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*” Eph. 1:18—“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is *the hope of his calling*, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” All who believe that the gospel call is instrumental in the salvation of alien sinners, or even effects, or directs them in the way of salvation, are blind to the truth! “The *god* (little g) of this world, hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them.”—2 Cor. 4:4. The mind of their understanding has not been enlightened. They do not know any thing about the *high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus, which is separate and apart from the gospel call*; That the gospel call does not and cannot effect, or move the alien sinners. 1 Cor 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to *them that perish* (the destroyed or lost: see Webster) “*foolishness.*” 1 Cor. 2:13-14—“Which things also we speak (preach), not in words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” “But the natural man (alien) *receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God*: for they are foolishness unto him: *neither can he know them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”

How any man can read such plain testimony and continue to believe that the preaching of the gospel *effects, moves, and is instrumental in the salvation of the alien (dead) sinner is past understanding*. The only scriptural reason given is 2 Cor. 4:4—“The *god* of this world hath blinded their minds.” The preached gospel is to open the minds of the God-called to these truths—not to make them true; and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan (the god of this world) unto God—see Acts 26:18.

That there is a calling of God which is *effective*, which imparts life (spiritual life) to the alien sinners, delivers, and brings them to God, which never fails to effect, *and that without man’s help* read 2 Tim. 1:9. “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, *not according to our works.*” This calling is without works on man’s part of any kind. This calling

is direct from heaven (see Heb. 3:1). “The gifts and *calling of God are without repentance*”—Rom. 11:29. One of the gifts of God (without repentance) is eternal life. See Rom. 6:23. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9. Verse 10: “Which in time past (before the calling) were not a people, but are now (when God called them out of darkness) the people of God.” “But the God of all grace, *who hath called us* unto His eternal glory by Jesus Christ.”—1 Peter 5:10. Called us unto His eternal glory by Jesus Christ.

Dear readers, there is no way possible for a man to be active or assist in this *calling of God unto His eternal glory*. Is it possible for the *god* of this world to blind God’s children to the extent they cannot see the truth concerning the effectual calling of God! It seems that even a blind man should not error in the face of such plain testimony.

In gospel bonds,

G. E. Griffin
Lubbock, Texas

(From “*The Primitive Baptist*”, May 16. 1957)

ANSWERS BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE READ RIGHT TO LEFT

ACROSS;

1. thgiarts
5. ymra
6. desiurb
8. tsael
11. sleeh
13. sksuh
15. nonma
17. eelddem
19. tiaw
20. diap
23. maerts
24. dner
25. tsae
26. namor
27. drow

DOWN:

- 1A. hturt
2. elsia
3. selbat
4. seye
6. maalab
7. dehsad
9. ssa
10. detsat
12. etimode
14. repeek
16. ten
18. spael
19. retaw
21. renni
22. nema

“If the bodies of God’s children are not raised up from death and the grave and fashioned like the body of Jesus Christ, all the Christian service and labour of love toward God and His people in the Church, and on the outside of the Church, are all in **vain**, and we are yet in our sins and will never see God: because there is not another deliverer promised! It is Jesus Christ or nothing!”

Elder C. M. Mills

The Amen Corner:
by Elder Ricky Harcrow ... 1-5-17

What Does God Produce?

Some make a great argument about the term IRRESISTIBLE GRACE. However, the point of controversy is not the term itself but the question is, what does God actually do in the process or which one is the one who produces the saving virtue. Which one decides, determines and produces the work and how is it made effective to the object to which it is directed? Is the Grace of God (and the work of God in that Grace) IRRESISTIBLE or can the work of God be hindered by an uncooperative attitude in the individual?

We preach and teach that the SINNER in his natural state is PASSIVE (NOT ACTIVE) in the work. It is not that God does some and we do the rest but God does all in the work. This is not a contradiction. God does ALL that is necessary to produce the saving effect on and in the object and the sinner obeys with an obedience that is ALL above his natural ability to perform. That is, HE (the natural man) is altogether passive or INACTIVE in the work. God is the ONLY proper author and fountain of the work. The object of GRACE is the only proper recipient and responds in accordance to the nature and purpose of God's determination. No language can communicate what God PRODUCES. God's work is FROM HIM TO US. The liberty of the will is not in this picture. Men by nature are not in a teachable position but rather dead in sin (Eph.2:1-3). A friend of mine said to me one time, "*Bro. Harcrow, faith and regeneration are according to our works but are HIS gifts*". Well their scheme as I call it gives The FIRST GLORY to men. That fact is easily determined. According to them God gives the opportunity, God makes the OFFER and God makes the PROMISE, but the OBTAINING of the thing promised they ascribe to the man. Therefore MAN produces the FINAL result. So without any hesitation we can say that the works system leads men to take the ultimate glory to himself. Such a thought process does not agree with the testimony of Scripture. I say with Paul to the Philippian church "**Being confident of this very thing that HE WHICH HATH BEGUN GOOD WORK IN YOU will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**" (Phil.1:6). I will take the position of the weeping prophet Jeremiah in 31:18, "**Turn thou me and I SHALL BE TURNED For thou art the LORD my God**". May God help us to acknowledge the ONE who did PRODUCE and begin the work and the ONE who shall finally bring it to its designed end. AMEN!

Elder R.D. Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

I THANK THEE

We receive blessings from the Lord and have our prayers answered but do we then thank the Lord? God had made known unto David the king's dream and its meaning which none of the wise men of Babylon could do. He is about to go in to the king and explain the dream and what does he do? "I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." (Dan. 2:23). He thanks the Lord for this opportunity.

The seventy that Jesus sent out with supernatural powers returned and Jesus told them not to rejoice that the spirits were subject unto them; Rather, He told them to rejoice that their names were written in heaven. Does Jesus reveal truth as this to all people? No, He doesn't and Jesus thanks His Father that some things are hid. Jesus rejoices and says, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." (Luke 10:21) Just be thankful He has revealed precious things to you.

Jesus' friend Lazarus died and after tarrying for two days He had come to the tomb of Lazarus and is about to raise him from the dead. He is moved at the sight of the weeping by Mary, Martha and their friends. Before Jesus calls Lazarus from the grave, He thanks the Lord for having heard his prayer, even though He hasn't uttered it yet. He knows God will hear. Jesus says, "...Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." (John 11:41) His Father hears Him always but because of the people present, He cries with a loud voice "Lazarus come forth" that they may believe that God has sent Him.

In a negative and self righteous manner, we can thank the Lord but for the wrong reasons such as the self-righteous Pharisee who goes up to the temple to pray along with the publican. Listen to his self righteous thank you, "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." (Luke 18:11) The publican just begged God to be merciful to him, a sinner, and he went down to his house justified.

Yes, thank the Lord for answered prayer and the many undeserved blessings bestowed upon us all. However, don't emulate the prayer of the Pharisee if you want to be justified by faith and have continued answered prayers in a positive way. Amen!—*Editor*

God be with you until, by God's grace, we meet again
in the next Glad Tidings.