

Glad Tidings

September

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

2020

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

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Fear seems to be running rampant among people in the nation. They fear becoming infected with the corona virus and the possible consequences. They fear the loss of employment and the inability to meet their financial obligations. They may fear man who is bringing so much unnecessary destruction in certain areas of the nation. Of course this fear is being perpetuated by the news media who reports only that which fits their hidden agenda. These fears are very real and genuine but what does the Bible say regarding such fears?

Of course, we realize that we must fear the Lord and revere His holy name. If we do this, we will desire to honor Him in all that we say and do. The wise man Solomon wrote, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.” (Prov. 29:25). Much emphasis is being placed on staying safe during this virus pandemic and taking precautions. If we would take as much precautions in staying safe from the traps of Satan as in staying safe from the virus, we would not see as much widespread disdain for Christianity and law and order that is so commonplace.

The word translated safe in Solomon’s wisdom does not mean to be safe from danger, disease, or any other enemy. It means “to be set on high and to be strong.” When we fear man and all the things that he is capable of doing, we fall into the snare of Satan and have become his prey. Animals caught in a snare have become prey to the one setting the snare. In the case of fear of man, we have set the snare by our own choosing. Man can only kill the body but the Lord is able to destroy both body and soul in hell; therefore, we must fear and reverence Him.

Obviously, when we are weighted down with all the unnecessary fears, we are weak and most vulnerable to Satan’s attacks. When we put our trust in the Lord, we are set on high and become strong (safe) as we are abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. Trust in the Lord means to rely and have confidence that He will see us through whatever trial we may encounter in this life. The scriptures are filled with those who trusted in the Lord and did not fear man. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not fear the king and his decree and neither did Daniel; they put their trust in the Lord. They did not know the outcome of their trial, but they trusted the One who did know.

When there is danger such as a severe storm that may be approaching, we want to take shelter. What better place to take shelter and refuge from our fears than in the Lord of glory. Solomon also writes and uses the same word “safe” is in Prov. 29:25, “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” (Prov. 18:10). When David went out to fight the giant, Goliath, he castigated Goliath by telling him that he came with just a sword and spear; however, David came “in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel.” (I Sam. 17:45). We all know the outcome of that battle. David could be strong because he ran into the strong tower of the Lord. David would later write, “For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.” (Psalm 61:3).

It is the “righteous” that runs into the name of the Lord for strength and safety. The wicked have no desire to do anything that would be in any way construed as righteous. Many times it is the wicked that gives cause for the righteous to take shelter in the strong tower of the Lord. Paul was persecuted time and again by the wicked of his own kinsman and also Gentiles but where was his trust and confidence? It was at one time in his own self and the law, but not now, after the Lord had born him again by the Holy Spirit. Paul had troubles galore but he declared, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;” (II Cor. 4:8-9).

It takes tremendous faith to continue to trust the Lord and run into His strong tower. When we are told to do that which goes against our nature, we must have great faith. Jesus told the apostles that if a brother trespasses against them seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; they were to forgive him. This was the apostles response, “And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5). They knew they must have extra reliance on the Lord to perform this command which goes against our nature to strike back rather than forgive.

Lord, increase our faith during this pandemic and any other trials which we may face that we may be safe (strong) and enjoy peace of mind; that we may be free from fear and anxiety, safely sheltered in thy strong tower. We know not what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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Blessed Truth to Live and Die By



By Elder Ricky Harcrow 7-2-13
Fort Payne, Alabama
From *Share The Word* 7-2-13

A careful study of the bible will eventually disclose that among many other precious truths, it contains three things that stand out in the face of any objection: 1-Creation 2-Redemption and 3-Resurrection. It will also show that the blessed Son of God was intimately connected with all three and the imprint of God's divine nature, sovereignty and purpose is upon them all. First of all, we understand from the Holy Bible that God is the creator and sustainer of all things; only He can create. Men may take matter already created and form certain things but only God can create. In as much as God is the sole creator and cause of the existence of all things He has the right to do with what is his, what He wills to do. Hebrews 1: 3 states plainly that He **"Upholds all things by the word of His power"**. John in the Revelation makes this statement, **"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for**

thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created". (Rev. 4:11).

As God is the creator of all things He set his laws in motion for the existence and perpetuity of the creatures of His creation. Men may call them the Laws of Nature but in all reality they are but the Laws of God. After all the centuries of time that have passed, does the Sun still abide in its course by day? Is the Moon light by night still with us? Is there seed time and harvest? You say, that is a silly question and I agree but I ask this question to those who would deny God and his power and say to them "His Counsel stands", His creation abides and will abide until He who created it shall bring it to a close.

Those who agree with us concerning the work of creation may not agree so much concerning the work of redemption. The work of redemption and salvation is just as much over-seen by God as was his creative work in the beginning. Man violated God's Holy Law and by the disobedience of that One man Adam all men received a just sentence of death. (Rom:5:12). A man violated God's Law therefore a man must pay the penalty that God's Law demands. So in the work of Redemption the Son of God (the man Christ Jesus) stood in our stead and became sin for us (2nd Cor. 5:21) and obtained eternal redemption for us. (Read Hebrews 9). God's purpose was just as sure in this plan of redemption as it was in creation. Nothing was out of place. God's intent or purpose was to redeem those whom He gave to the Son (St. Jn.6:38-39). They are by nature dead in sin (2nd Cor. 5:14, Eph. 2:1-3). They are born dead in sin, they live dead in sin, they will die dead in Sin and go to Hell dead in Sin UNLESS THE LORD BY HIS CREATIVE HAND does a creative work. This is a creative work in the new birth; a quickening bringing us to Life in Christ and instilling in the heir of promise a new nature. Then there is a continuing conflict like two great armies at war one with the other but this is not an over-haul of the Old man. It is a new creation. (2nd Cor. 5:17).

The Resurrection from the dead proved that Christ was who He said He was. Rom. 1:1-4. Wicked men crucified him. I can leave no room for doubt that the wicked actions of men are voluntary willful violations of God's holy and righteous Law and that men are completely and wholly responsible and all accountable to God for such actions. When Wicked hands crucified the Lord of Glory men did what they wanted to do. God does not force or compel the wicked to act wickedly. It is inherent for them to act according to their own evil nature. Just as it is for the Dog to return to his vomit and the sow to her wallowing in the mire. However, God may, can and does, take at His discretion men, angels or anything else He may please to fulfill his purposes and bring to pass his designs. Ps. 33:9 **says "For He spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast"**.

Notice; **“He spake”** (the cause) **“and it was done”** (the effect); **“He commanded”** (the cause) **“and it stood fast”** (the effect).

God is not obligated to explain any of this to us and admittedly much of it is beyond our ability to explain. God help us not to try to explain away what we do not understand or that which may be beyond our ability to explain. May we let the Bible say what it says and believe what it says. Think of it in the context of the potter. Does the pot say to the potter “Well you know that I had a little something to do with what I am”. Well of course such a thing does not happen but that is exactly the position of the Arminian with polish taken off of it. He tells the sinner to do something the Lord said He cannot do. The clay has nothing to do with the process. The potter seeks out the clay, brings it to his house and molds it according to his own vision. This is how the “Divine Potter” deals with us. Paul illustrated the fact in Rom. 9:20, **“nay but O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter POWER OVER THE CLAY, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour and another unto dishonor?”** We are His WORKMANSHIP (Eph. 2:9-10), His work, the masterful work of a God who knows no bounds, in other words, HIS PRODUCT. It literally means “For of Him we are a product”. The world says we are a product of our environment or a product of our own experience and I know that such has an effect on the natural man to some degree. But in the work of Redemption, Creation and Resurrection we are actually the products of God through Christ; Not of our Will or some co-operative effort with the church, the preacher, our talent or religious out-reach. William Cowper wrote 275 years ago and we sing in every hymn book: “God Moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm. 2-Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill, He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign Will 3-His purposes will ripen fast unfolding every hour, the bud may have a bitter taste but sweet will be the flower”. AMEN.

Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, AL.

TRUTH OR CRACKPOT?

Everybody has the right to express what he thinks. That, of course, lets the crackpots in. But if you cannot tell a crackpot when you see one, then you ought to be taken in. --Harry S. Truman.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)

Our Daily Prayer



17 June 2020
By Elder Rusty Wise
Tupelo, Mississippi

John 8:45 KJV “And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.”

Why should the Pharisees not believe that Jesus was the son of God? They were having a conversation in his very presence, some had even witnessed his abilities, and still many more had heard of his power to heal. So why did they doubt him? The simple answer is, they had no ability to believe.

Believing on Jesus is not just a matter of hearing and seeing with the natural senses. We of our own natural selves have no desire to seek or listen or to understand unnatural things, nor ability. Something from within us must change in order for those senses to be operative. In other words that soul which is dead to the things of God must be regenerated. God must send his spirit into us, and revive that which cannot revive itself. Bringing life where only death existed.

Jesus himself explained the new birth to Nicodemus, yet he was not able to comprehend. Consequently many of God's children do not comprehend as well. However he gave him this comforting thought, the wind bloweth where it listeth, thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell from whence it comes, nor whither it goeth, so is everyone born of the spirit. The activation comes at the discretion of God, and that activation will bring a noticeable difference in our lives. The question remains will we quench the spirit or feed it?

Quenching the spirit brings about a miserable existence, because we are not satisfied with the life we hold onto, and we will not reach out for the life to be enjoyed. However this does not change the work of Christ on the cross, nor the work of the spirit within, both are immutable. It does affect what and how we believe. Because we fail to act on the faith provided, we tend to believe that we ourselves possess a power of our own, that is not of God. We feel the ability to hold him at bay, that we can tell him what he can and cannot do, where he may and may not go. We feel in control of all things in of ourselves.

A man named Nebuchadnezzar once thought along those same lines. He boasted to all his kingdom of

the works done by his own hand. After spending about 7 years walking about like a donkey, with gnarled feet, fur like eagles feather, and eating grass, he was brought to the point that he declared that God works his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou?

Our belief is further affected by our dedication to study and meditation. And to what principles we hold in regard to that study. For instance: is God absolutely sovereign; is man by nature completely depraved; did Jesus attempt to save his people; is salvation based on a chance system or by an act of pure grace; Can man save himself by the works of the law; does water baptism unlock the gates of heaven for us; are there multiple ways of eternal salvation, and does it depend upon our circumstance? The answer that we derive from these questions will ultimately decode what we believe.

However if we are diligent in our course of study and we find something that contradicts our beliefs, we have a few choices to make. We can overlook the revelation and dismiss it. We can make it say what we desire, so that it will coincide with what we believe. Or we can change our belief to that of God's? Most often we do not opt for the third choice, because it challenges our preconceived ideas, or more to the point it tells us that we have been wrong. So will we harmonize the word of God that we may know and believe his truth, or will we dismiss and overlook it? Will we be like the Pharisees, that did not believe no matter what, or will we be like the disciples of the early church desiring to know more about Jesus?

Our prayer today is that we be like the Bereans. May we study the scriptures that we may know the truth. That we would cherish the revelation of God's word in our lives. That we may know and understand all that we can of what God has done for us in this life and the life to come. Amen.

1 More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of his saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me

Refrain:

More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.
.....Verses 2, 3, 4 and five.

A child of God can spend a lifetime studying and learning about Jesus Christ and He will only have scratched the surface of this God-man. That still doesn't lessen our responsibility and consequent joy to keep on studying and learning.—*Editor*

QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR ARTICLES OF FAITH (Number One)

By Elder Virgil F. Lowrance (Deceased)

In the first place, there are those that question the need, or propriety, of having articles of faith at all. "Why not just let the Bible speak for us?" they ask. Now, that may sound very appealing to simplicity of thinking, but a moment's reflection will show the insufficiency of such a solution. Most professed Christians also profess to believe the Bible and contend that is the source of their belief. Yet, what they believe is so divergent that, for one to simply say, "I believe what the Bible teaches," tells you absolutely nothing about WHAT they believe about any particular subject in the Bible. The important question is, what do you believe the Bible to teach? What is the MEANING of certain passages, verses, even words? To illustrate the point rather dramatically, where can you find a Primitive Baptist that will tell you that John 3:16 can be taken at face value and expresses what he believes without any explanation at all? Now, just in case this may fall under the scrutiny of some Arminian, I will ask you a question: Who among you would be willing to take Romans 9:13, "...*Jacob have I love, (sic) but Esau have I hated.*" at face value without any explanation? These examples could be multiplied a hundredfold and will suffice to show that, before you can tell anything about what a person believes, Biblically speaking, you must know something about what he thinks it teaches on some definite subject. Therefore, in setting forth the distinguishing characteristics of the "...belief of any religious group," "Articles of Faith" serve a very useful purpose. Furthermore, they are a great help to anyone, or group, in studying the Bible on various subjects. Also to **test** their **faith** by the Bible itself, if they have the fortitude to do so!

Secondly, I believe it is in complete harmony with Apostolic precept and example to "...*set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us...*" (Luke 1:1) Of course, this could be done by expounding the Holy Scriptures themselves on all points of one's belief. But this would take so much time and/or space that few people would take the time to read, or listen, as the case might be. On the other hand, that would require a profundity that but very, **very** few men possess! The only alternative is to "set forth in order a declaration" in an abbreviated form. If you do this in the briefest way possible to be understood, what you have are "Articles of Faith"—you may call it whatever you please!

Many people are discouraged by lengthy articles. So, in order to encourage and invite attention to this subject, I am going to let this suffice for this time and try to have some more to say about it at a later date. Incidentally, I just made another point in favor of "Articles of Faith." —("Christian Pathway" in "Autobiography of Elder Virgil F. Lowrance")

A HANDFUL OF CORN

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)



“There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit there of shall shake like Lebanon: And they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.” (Psalm 92:16--Editor) This in the type has to do with the church, followers of God. “Handful” doesn’t always have reference to a small amount. It sometimes has reference to abundance. During the days of Joseph in Egypt in the years of plenty, the earth brought handfuls, and he stored up enough to take care of the lean years to come—hence abundance. I suppose you remember reading in the book of Ruth that she went into the field and gathered or gleaned corn, and some handfuls of purpose by the servants. The corn is found on top of mountain, above the weak and beggarly elements of life. Corn is recognized as food. In the long ago they ate corn parched and other ways. The gospel is recognized as food, “Feed my sheep.” Feed them with knowledge and with understanding. Natural food never gave life, neither does spiritual food give spiritual life, but it is very useful for those who have life. The church is spoken of as being established in the top of the mountains, and is often referred to as a mountain-mount of the Lord, the Holy mountain. The fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon. The word “shake” carries with it movement—life is motion—lively stones. “And they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.” When we think of the fruit or grain flourishing, we look upon it as growing, bringing forth the bud and the bloom, then the matured grain. They of the city are not grass, but are like the grass that flourished on the earth.

The church is spoken of as the city of truth. The Lord said that the poor shall have the gospel preached unto them. While the Lord was here on the earth in person, multitudes gathered about Him. The question came up as to how they could be fed. The answer came by one of the disciples. A lad here has five barley loaves and two small fishes; but what is this for so many. The Lord took the five barley loaves and the two small fishes and blessed them and then gave to the disciples. So all were fed, and afterwards they took up twelve baskets of the fragments that nothing be lost. There is so to speak an handful; but when blessed, it was an abundance. This is a part of the provision made for the church of God here in time. When this corn is found it will be on top of the mountains.

Elder A. D. Wood

(From “*The Christian Pathway*”, February, 1983)**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

By Elder Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

Copied from the “Gospel Messenger” and “The Advocate and Messenger”

Q. Have any certain knowledge as to the color of Adam?

A. We have not. It is thought that the Hebrew word Adam is derived from the Hebrew words meaning “formed of red earth,” and that, therefore, Adam was a white man with the ruddy complexion of health. As the Jews are traced back, in the Scriptures, through Abraham and Shem and Noah to Adam, the latter must have been a white man. The word Ham, the name of Noah’s younger son, is thought to mean “black” or “hot;” he was the ancestor of the people in the southern warm countries of Asia and Africa, Arabia, Egypt and Ethiopia. The word Ethiopia means suburnt. In accordance with Acts 17:26, Rom. 5:12, I Cor. 15:22, and Rev. 5:9, nearly all scientists agree that the whole human race descended from one pair, and that the races have been, in the overruling providence of God, brought about by differences, of thousands of years, in climate, temperature, moisture, exposure, and environment. We know from the Scriptures (Psalm 68:31; Acts 8:26-40), and are assured, from experience and observation, that Ethiopians are subjects of Divine grace. No human reasoning can exempt any variety of mankind from accountability to God, and from condemnation by His justice or salvation by His mercy.

(From “*The Collected Works of Elder Sylvester Hassell Part Three*”)

YOU TELL ON YOURSELF

You tell what you are by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisurely time,
And the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burdens bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on your Phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from the well-filled shelf,
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself.
So there is really not a particle of sense,
In an effort to keep up a false pretense.

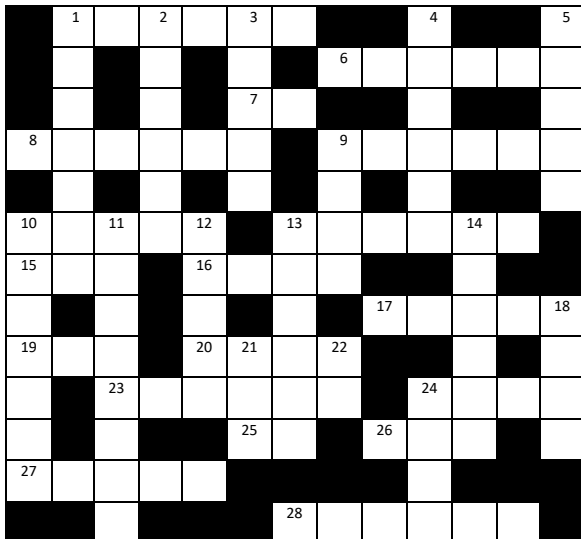
--Author Unknown

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, Sept. 1977)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. The ____ of the wicked shall be put out. Light.
6. ____ being ended, Jesus laid aside his garments.
7. If I ____ away I will send the Comforter said Jesus.
8. He walked 3 years naked and barefoot for a sign.
9. ____ not your hearts as in the day of provocation.
10. In Him we live and move and have our ____.
13. Lot was vexed with the ____ conversation of wicked.
15. He that endureth unto the ____ shall be saved.
16. Will a lion ____ in the forest when he hath no prey?
17. Jacob was a plain man dwelling in ____.
19. Love worketh no ____ to his neighbour. Sick today.
20. Are not 2 sparrows ____ for a farthing? Esau did it.
23. A soft ____ turneth away wrath. Not a question.
24. My punishment is greater than I can ____ said Cain.
25. Initials. Noah and Sarah
26. The Lord said He would ____ the pride of Judah.
27. It is in vain for you to rise up ____ and sit up late.
28. Barabbas committed ____ in the insurrection.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

1. ____ thy son while there is still hope. Correct.
2. Open ye the gates that the righteous ____ that keepeth the truth may enter therein. Country.
3. Jesus was the ____ of the world. Shines bright.
4. The flesh profits nothing; it's the ____ that quickens.
5. Jerusalem was a ____ plucked out of the fire.
9. Cast out the bondwoman and her son for he shall not be an ____ with the son of the freewoman.
10. Even the devils also ____ and tremble. Trust.
11. Paul saw Athens, a city wholly given to ____.
12. Nebuchadnezzar was made to eat ____ like an ox.
13. Timothy was to refuse profane and old wives' ____.
14. Jesus was asleep in the ____ part of the ship.
18. Hope is an anchor of the soul both ____ & stedfast.
21. Adam begat a son in his ____ likeness.
22. Doctor abbreviation.
24. Children mocked Elijah calling him a ____ head.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

This is not actually out of the mouth of babes as it involves our then 10 month old grandson, Eli Wise, who isn't talking yet. We were keeping him and his brother Isaac overnight so his parents could go out to eat for their anniversary. He had his supper and a bottle and some time later, my wife said, "Ok, Eli, it's time to go to sleep, take a nap." She told Isaac to bring his blue "sleeping blanket" to her. Isaac gave her the blanket as she was holding Eli. He knew what this blanket was for. He lay his head over in the blanket and closed his eyes without a peep. Of course this didn't last as he popped back up after a couple of minutes but did soon go to sleep and slept very well that night.—*Editor*

THE NEEDLE AND THE THREAD

The Bible uses some interesting figures to represent [God's children] and their relationship to God: Vine and branches. clay and Sculptor. sheep and Shepherd.

Another interesting metaphor came not from the Bible, bur from an African convert. This young man prayed one evening, "O, Lord, You are the needle, and I am the thread."

He had just visited a school where girls were learning ro sew. He watched intently and noticed a simple principle. Wherever the needle went, the thread followed. That, he decided, presented his [fellowship with] God. If he would stay close to the Lord, praying, reading His Word, depending entirely upon Him, and following Him, God would always lead him where he needed to go. He simply was the thread following the needle.

God will guide if we follow. We [have heard the song say], "*Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*"

--Copied: Author Unknown

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", Sept./Oct. 2003)

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

A man who hadn't attended church in years suddenly began attending faithfully on Sunday mornings instead of going fishing as was his normal habit.

The pastor was highly gratified and at the end of service one morning told him, "How wonderful it makes me feel to see you at services with your good wife!"

"Well, Preacher," said the fisherman, "Quite honestly, it's a matter of choice. I'd much rather hear your sermon than hers."

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecrú, MS the 2nd weekend in September, 2020 (Sept. 11-13). Services Friday night, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 12, at 10:30 a.m. There will not be any meals served because of Covid 19 virus. Concludes Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The Tombigbee Association of Primitive Baptists to be held with Sulphur Springs PBC, Caledonia, MS the 3rd weekend in September, 2020 **has been cancelled** due to the COVID-19 virus. Elder Joe Nettles is Pastor of Sulphur Springs.

Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, Winona, MS will have their annual meeting the 4th weekend in September, 2020 (Sept. 26-27). Services Saturday, Sept. 26, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with lunch. Open meeting. Elder B.T. Strum is Pastor of Friendship.

Everyone is invited to the annual fall meeting at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS the 1st weekend in October, 2020 (Oct. 3-4). Meeting begins with services Saturday, October 3, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Brother Adam Frost will be ordained to the office of deacon in the afternoon service. All ordained Elders and Deacons especially invited to sit in the presbytery to assist in this ordination service. Sunday service, October 4, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Elder Paul Blair, Lexington, TN is invited minister. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

The COVID-19 virus has taken its toll on annual meetings of Primitive Baptist Churches with many having to be cancelled because of concerns for the safety of worshippers. Most Primitive Baptists are a gregarious group of believers as they greet one another with a handshake or a hug. They haven't been able to do this due to concern of spreading the virus once they were able to reassemble in worship and it is sorely missed.

Please pray that the Lord will bless this pandemic to soon come to an end and God's people will not only be able to worship again in a Biblical way but other activities will be safely able to resume. We have taken so much for granted over the years and failed to be as thankful as we should. Then when those blessings were taken away or restricted, we begin to realize just how precious they were. David said, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1) Pray the virus threat will soon end and normality resumed.—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

NOTE: Please note once again that some of these meetings announced may not be just as announced and have to be cancelled so check with the pastors if you have some doubt if the meeting is still on board.

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jer. 3:15)

Elder Grady Camp



Remember Elder Grady Camp, Germantown, TN in your prayers. He has been battling heart issues for quite some time and had three heart high risk surgeries last year and was blessed to come through successfully and is much improved since then. He thanks everyone for their continued prayers and thoughts during this trying time for him and his wife, Marjorie Craig Camp, to whom he has been married over 66 years. Brother Grady is the long time former Pastor of Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church in Memphis TN and most recently, New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church in New Albany, MS He celebrated 50 years in the ministry in October 2018 but hasn't been able to preach in quite some time.

The minister's prayer meeting on 2nd Sunday night in each month at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church in Ecrú, MS has been indefinitely suspended due to the corona virus. Specifically, this prayer meeting was to pray for the Lord to prosper all the Lord's churches with greater zeal, revival and increase in members devoted to the cause; to pray for the ministry and to send forth labourers into His harvest. The group never was a large group and had dwindled to five who were usually able to attend most meetings. Distance to the meeting was a big hindrance I'm sure. This meeting had been going on since 2011 so we call on the Lord's people to pray continually for the welfare, both physically and spiritually, of Zion. Remember we cannot do anything good without the Lord but each child of God must do their part.—*Editor*

CAN GOD SAVE THE INSANE?

-- Comments On A Radio Sermon --
Elder C. H. Cayce –The Primitive Baptist –
February 6, 1936

A few nights ago, we listened to a sermon over the radio. We did not get the name of the speaker. If we correctly understood the announcement, the broadcast came from some other church by a hookup in Fort Worth [TX].

The preacher was strongly urging the unregenerate to “get right with God” before it is everlastingly too late.” He told a number of things which might happen to one who is unsaved so that his salvation would be utterly impossible; it would be everlastingly too late for him to ever be saved.

One thing he told his listeners that would make it absolutely impossible for them to ever be saved was that they might lose their right mind; they might become insane; their reason might be dethroned. And, he said, “When reason is dethroned, your opportunity for heaven is gone.”

We do not know what denomination this man is identified with, nor do we know his name...He is not a Primitive Baptist—of this we are fully aware. But from his discourse and statement, we get the idea that he holds that God cannot save an insane person; God cannot save a person whose reason is dethroned. What a poor idea this man has of the God of the Bible, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of Israel.

We thought of the two who were possessed of devils that we read about in Mat. 8:28:

And when he was come to the other side of the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass that way.

Here were two persons who were so fierce and so insane that “...no man might pass that way.” Here were two fellows that no preacher could get to. The preacher could not get to them by radio in that day. They had no radio then!

They were in a deplorable state—so deplorable that they could not be reached by the preachers or any of the devices of men. And, according to what the preacher said over the radio, the Lord Himself could not save them! Their reason was dethroned, and their opportunity for heaven was forever gone.

It is true that, so far as the efforts of men are concerned, they had no opportunity for heaven. So far as the works and efforts of men are concerned, no man would have any opportunity for heaven.

...**With men this is impossible**;...[Mat. 19:26].

With men, it IS impossible to be saved.

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, Sept./Oct. 2003)

There is only One who is mighty to save!

CONNECT THE DOTS

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

There are many games, where after you connect the dots, you can have a clear picture. Such is the case many times in the Bible. It is especially true of Hebrews 11:13. “*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*”

These were people who died in faith, having seen the promises God has granted to us in our day, but were not blessed as you and I to actually live in the day of such beautiful revelation of the scriptures. Let us follow the dots. They were persuaded. They embraced them. They confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Many people are very happy that they are persuaded but for some strange reason are reluctant to embrace them. They do not follow the dots and get the whole picture.

Of course, if one does not have faith they have no dots to connect. When I persuaded my wife 54 years ago that I loved her, do you think she would have believed me if I had shown any reluctance to embrace her? Do we dare think Christ is less observant than a young lady? To embrace the promises is to embrace and trust and honor Christ.

We have possessions as a result of these promises. “*But upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.*” Obadiah 17. There is no holiness in being persuaded. King Agrippa was almost persuaded to be a Christian. The honor to the King and the holiness is when the action is taken. Thus, if we are persuaded and do not embrace them, we have taken no action. In failing to take action, we cast doubts on whether we are even persuaded.

Then when the final dot is connected it brings us to the confession. When we are persuaded and embrace the sweet blessings and promises of the Lord, we gladly confess that we are strangers and pilgrims here. In other words, we realize this world is not our home, heaven is. We understand better what the Apostle meant when he said to be absent from you is to be present with the Lord.

If every child who heard the message of grace and was persuaded by it, connected the next dot in the picture of life, and embraced it, our church houses would be full and more would be bringing forth one hundred fold.

My oldest brother used to pick his guitar and sing a song that had the words, "If I could turn back the pages of time, I'd give all I own..." How many times have you thought about how much better you could have done, if you had sought the pleasures in the Lord, rather than the pleasures of life? How much sooner would you have joined the Church if you could turn back the pages of time?

I believe it was a poet who wrote something similar to this. "The saddest words of tongue or pen, are the words, it might have been." --Guy Hunt

(From "The Pathway Of Truth", February, 2005)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. eldnac | 1. netsahc |
| 6. reppus | 2. noitan |
| 7. og | 3. thgil |
| 8. haiasi | 4. tirips |
| 9. nedrah | 5. dnarb |
| 10. gnieb | 9. rieh |
| 13. yhtlif | 10. eveileb |
| 15. dne | 11. yrtalodi |
| 16. raor | 12. ssarg |
| 17. stnet | 13. selbaf |
| 19. Ili | 14. rednih |
| 20. dlos | 18. erus |
| 23. rewsna | 21. nwo |
| 24. raeb | 22. rd |
| 25. sn | 24. dlab |
| 26. ram | |
| 27. ylrae | |
| 28. redrum | |

OLD AGE QUOTES

Many believe - and I believe - that I have been designated for this work by God. In spite of my old age, I do not want to give it up; I work out of love for God and I put all my hope in Him.--Michelangelo

"Older people knowing they face a limited time in front of them, focus their energies on things that give them pleasure in the moment, whereas young people, with long horizons, seek out new experiences or knowledge that may or may not pay off down the line. Young people fret about the things they don't have and might need later; old people winnow the things they have to the few they most enjoy."

— John Leland

THE END IS NEAR

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

Two preachers from the local churches are standing by the side of the road. Pounding a sign into the ground, that reads, "The End is Near! Turn Yourself Around Now—Before It's Too Late!"

As a car sped past them, the driver yelled, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!"

From around the curve they heard screeching tires and a big splash.

One preacher turns to the other and asks, "Do you think the sign should say "Bridge Out?"

This story illustrates our propensity for making the wrong decisions in life. Even with concrete evidence before us, we will still insist on doing things our way, even though the evidence is stacked against us. Sometimes the evidence is unclear or even misleading, yet the evidence is still there. We must weigh the evidence in the balance.. If we are getting good measure, we would be well advised to take heed to the evidence.

Our preachers today are sharing evidence that God is gracious and loving. One Who loves His children to the extent that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to suffer and die for all the Father gave Him. The Son willingly came and fulfilled all His duties. Therefore, we are saved alone by the grace of God through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, shed upon Calvary's tree.

Today so many of God's little children are being misled by the indirect and unclear statements of many who profess to be Bible scholars. Many are being told to accept Christ in order to become a child of God and obtain a home in Heaven. Bible truth is that we are already the children of God before we ever have a desire to become one of His.

We cannot accept Jesus for the free pardon of our sins—He was never offered to us. Jesus offered Himself to the Father in our stead; the Father saw the gift that it was good and very good; He accepted the gift, the blood of Christ, for the remission of our sins, and we stand before Him today, cleansed of all our sinful nature. God looks at us through the blood of Jesus and He sees us washed clean.

When we place our signs on the pathway of life, let them be clear, simple, straight-forward. If the bridge is out, let them say: DANGER—BRIDGE OUT AHEAD!

(From "In The Master's Service", August 2004)

One Arkansas farmer discourages trespassers with this admonition: "Please do not trample the poison ivy or feed the bull."--Source Unknown.

He that displays too often his wife and his wallet is in danger of having both of them borrowed.— Benjamin Franklin

ISAIAH 30: 18-21

By Elder W. T. Daily (Deceased)

“And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are they that wait for him.” Verse 18.

The Lord’s children are here being warned that when they have been instructed in the right way, they should be determined never to turn away from it to deviate from it. For there are so many temptations to turn in an easy way, where the most popularity is, “For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” It is so much better company in the narrow way and, although we may find much less popularity and much more criticism from the world, yet it leads to life in Christ, that is, enjoyment of spiritual life with the Lord’s people. What value are the plaudits of the world in comparison with the pleasures of walking in communion with the children of God, and with the inward feeling that comes with obedience of the inward spirit.

“For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.” Verse 19.

And he will hear the cries of His beloved people when they are in distress. It was no help for them to cry unto the Egyptians. They heard, but it was in vain. They could not help. But with the Lord, He can do all things. He can and will hear and relieve: cry to Him and weep no more.

“And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.” Verse 20-21. O, may the Lord of mercies bless Zion to see the right way and have the courage to walk in the way, in spite of all adversities; even in afflictions. Our Saviour has warned us to expect these things in this world, But he has urged us to be not dismayed, saying, “In this world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

We are to wait for the Lord’s appointed time to bestow His wondrous grace upon us and make us see with the eye of faith what He has prepared for them that love Him. “But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” May our Lord guide the minds and hearts of all the readers of this publication, that they might be willing to walk in the

one and only way of righteousness, being willing to give all of the honor and *glory* to God, not trying to divide it with any man on earth.

This is written in the deepest humility and love:

Elder W. T. Daily

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, November 1977)

WHEN INGERSOLL WAS SILENCED

Shortly after Robert C. (G) Ingersoll, the noted infidel, was defeated in his race for the governorship of Illinois he was one day proudly proclaiming his infidelity on board a train between Chicago and Peoria. After being for some time offensively voluble, he turned to a gentleman near him and defiantly demanded: “Tell me of one great result Christianity has ever accomplished.” The gentleman, not wishing to open an argument with the boaster, hesitated to answer.

The train had stopped and all were silent in the car. Just then an old lady of eighty years, who sat just behind the infidel, touched his arm with trembling hands, and said, “Sir, I don’t know who you are, but I can tell you one great and glorious thing Christianity has done.” “What is it, Madam?” said Ingersoll. “It has kept Robert C Ingersoll from becoming governor of the great state of Illinois.”

If a flash of lightning had flashed through the car, the effects would not have been more marked. Ingersoll turned literally pale with rage and remained silent.

The grand old lady has long since passed away, but her courageous act will be remembered.

Zion’s Landmark

Reprinted in “*Good Will*”, 1941

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, November 1977)

QUOTES**ROBERT G INGERSOLL—INFIDEL**

If a man would follow, today, the teachings of the Old Testament, he would be a criminal. If he would follow strictly the teachings of the New, he would be insane.

Let us put theology out of religion. Theology has always sent the worst to heaven, the best to hell.

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense. (Note: Regarding this quote, Even a blind hog will occasionally root up an acorn every now and then said Elder Sony Pyles in a sermon.—Editor)

REASONABLE SERVICE

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Luke 7:42: An excerpt from the parable of the Two Debtors in Luke 7:36-50. "And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?"

Thus the question is given to Simon the Pharisee at the conclusion of the story of two men, who were forgiven by their creditor that both owed him money. One owed 50 pence the other 500 pence. Neither one could pay their creditor. The creditor then forgave both the debtors of their debt, paid in full though they had no money. The Lord asked Simon "who will love him the most?" Simon's reply was "I suppose the one he forgave the most." The one who owed five hundred pence. This is a story to teach us humility and gratitude we should have toward our blessed Lord who forgave us of a huge debt that we could never repay. In his forgiveness of our sins he gave unto us eternal life. With our sinful nature we could never have obtained eternal life. That is why Jesus Christ came in the flesh to give us a fully paid debt to God the Father.

We should all examine ourselves and ask the question occasionally, are we grateful for what Christ did for us? Are we like the Ethiopian that went away rejoicing when he was told the glorious doctrine of grace? Acts 8:39. It has been my observation over the years that when a person sees themselves as unworthy of the grace of God, that shows that they have the right attitude for reaping the joys of their salvation. A big part of that attitude comes from knowing that we are totally depraved (inherent sinners) in our fleshly nature. The Bible tells us that we are conceived in sin, and we come forth from the womb with a sinful nature. (Psalms 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.") To know that, yea even to understand it will bring about a feeling of humility in us. It will prevent us from being high minded, to know that without God we would have no desire to worship him to the best of our abilities. Romans 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than

he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Knowing what our precious Lord did for us should compel us to commit ourselves to regular church attendance and glorifying our Lord's name. It is something that we can do for him.

Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." It is by the mercy of God that we have a home in heaven. Here the apostle solicits the brethren at Rome, if you understand that you are saved through the mercy (undeserved favor) of God, then dedicate your life (sacrifice your fleshy desires and sinful ways) to serve the living God. It is not an unreasonable thing to ask that of someone that has seen that salvation is by the grace of God. Those whom God loves and chose before the foundation of the world are the only ones who are capable of worshiping him, when they are born of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 tells us "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." A dead alien sinner does not possess these traits because he has not been regenerated; it would be unreasonable to ask of him to sacrifice his old fleshly nature and use the inward man, because the inward man does not exist in him! The apostle Paul was a well read and educated man, yet he always referred to himself as chief of sinners and a wretched man, 1 Timothy 1:16 and Romans 7:24. This attitude kept Paul humble and helped him avoid the pitfalls of arrogance that come from being high minded. He saw his earthly accomplishments as mere dung, as compared to the excellency of the knowledge of our blessed Savior Philippians 3:8.

So let us take the fruits of the Spirit and use them to swallow up the old sinful man in us, and dedicate ourselves by using the right attitude in remembering we are what we are by the grace of God. Keep us humble Lord.

R. L. Taylor

HEAR THE MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS

"When you were born, your mother brought you to church. When you were married, your wife brought you to church. When you die, your friends will bring you to church. Why not try coming to church on your own sometime?"—Source Unknown

God pardons like a mother, who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.--Henry Ward Beecher

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