

Glad Tidings

November

"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

The Bible is filled with warnings, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, and the result or consequences of failure to take heed. Paul writes in Gal. 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7-8) We cannot fool God because His eyes behold all the evil and the good. The truth is the Lord will not bless anyone who ignores His word and goes their own way.

Yes, even the wicked are warned in the word of God, yet they go their own way and have pleasure therein. Paul writes of many terrible sins in Romans chapter one such as haters of God, implacable, without natural affection, covenant breakers and unmerciful, yet notice the attitude of those that are involved in these activities. "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Rom. 1:32) I trust the children of God are not among those that have pleasure in those seeds of the flesh which bring corruption.

God is not warning anyone that unless you comply with what I say, I will send you to hell or if you obey what I say, you will go to heaven. Heaven or hell is never a proposition in the word of God. Rather heaven is reserved for the preserved in Christ Jesus based on the choice of God and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Those not embraced in the shed blood of Christ will be sentenced to the second death and the lake of fire because of their sins. We would all have been sentenced to that place except for the love of God and the atoning blood of Christ.

When we are born of the Spirit of God, we are enabled to sow to the Spirit rather than the flesh. Before we had this new birth, we could only sow to the flesh because we were destitute of the Spirit. Now we have a dual nature and are capable of sowing seeds to the Spirit but alas, we still have our fleshly nature and sometimes we sow that seed with unpleasant results. We reap what we saw. Could it be that all the unrest and hatred in our nation is the result of failure to take warning and are reaping what we have sown over the years? God is not mocked, He is serious in everything He says.

The wicked fall under the final judgment of God and are appropriately sentenced. The children of God were judged not guilty on the cross as Jesus bore the wrath of God on their behalf; consequently, they are spared from the wrath to come on the wicked. However, those same children appear before the judgment seat of God here on earth in their lives to receive the things done in the body, whether they be good or evil. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10)

God reserves all the glory for Him because He is a jealous God and warns His people of failure to take heed. God delivered Israel out of Egyptian bondage and into Canaan's land. They were warned not to take sons and daughters of the Hittites, Canaanites, and other ites in marriage lest they learn the ways of their heathen gods. God warns them through Joshua of the consequences of disobeying God. "If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good." (Josh. 24:20) The judgment of God would fall upon Israel as they began to serve strange gods.

Joshua said that as for him and his house, they would serve the Lord. We aren't serving the Lord in sowing to the flesh and going after strange gods. How does that apply to us today? I fear that many children of God are serving strange gods that may take the form of a job, sports, recreation, family, covetousness, money, power etc. Anything or any one that hinders from serving God by not attending the house of God, reading His word or ministering to others is a strange God. These seeds will experience a reaping at some point and it will hurt.

We can receive a tremendous blessing if we obey the commands of God and receive chastisement when we ignore his precepts. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." (Isa. 1:19-20) We are thankful our home is heaven is secure because of the faithfulness of God. If it was dependent upon our faith, we would be lost and ruined. Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Then we are warned to be stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. (! Cor. 15:58) (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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WHEN GOD GETS READY



By Elder Herman Clark
luka, Mississippi

I am sure most everyone has heard in conversation with other folks the expression "When God Gets Ready..." I am guilty of opening my mouth with many "sayings" concerning God that has no foundation what-so-ever of being truth. Many of these quotes we learned from our parents, grandparents, and handed down through generations. My grandmother used to describe some of her recipes with words like "a pinch, dash, little bit, and even the word "smidgen." I can relate to a "pinch" of salt, a dash, maybe a "little bit", but the word "smidgen". I know not the amount, volume, or any measurement that fits.

I often hear people say, "You are not going to die until God gets ready for you." Taking a closer look at this "saying", I know what it means for a person to "get ready" to do something. When I go to the doctor's office, I try to get ready by preparing myself to look decent, smell good, and have my list of medicines. I would like to say that God is always

ready for what ever occurs. People sometimes, without really thinking of what they are saying, describe God's ways on the same level as men. However, we read in Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 16:17 "For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."

Isaiah also said in 46:9-11 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." If God, as stated by Isaiah, declared the end from the beginning, then surely nothing takes him by surprise. I am glad to report that the sudden death (sudden to us) of the children of God is not surprising to God. He never says, "Wait a little while, "I'm not ready for you." The scriptures plainly teach in James 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." It is sin that brings forth death.

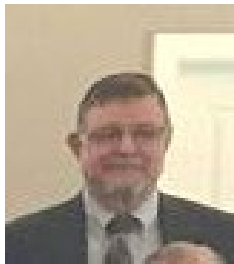
I have often heard some say "Are you ready to meet the Lord?" I heard that all my life as a young boy. In all that I done, I was never ready or prepared to meet the Lord as it was presented to me. I had a bad feeling, no peace at all it seemed. Thinking surely if I go to the altar one more time, just in case I've left something out, surely this time will seal the deal for me. Oh the fear in the depths of my soul of God Almighty! This all changed for me when I began to hear the true gospel preached by an Elder of the Primitive Baptist Church.

At first it was foolishness to believe such, yet down deep I knew what he was saying was truth. He told me about the Savior Jesus Christ. I remember a verse that stood out to me and is found in Romans 6-9 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Looking for something that would include my actions in these verses that Paul was teaching just wasn't there. It was only the work of Christ. Beginning to notice the words of what was being preached brought forth a peace that was beyond understanding. I noticed the words "BEING NOW justified by HIS BLOOD, we SHALL BE SAVED from the wrath through him." The verse said that now I was justified by the blood of Christ. For one person to go to everlasting hell that was justified by the blood

of Christ is to say that our God requires a sin debt to be paid twice. Let us read verse 10 "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." I saw that it was by his life and not mine. What a blessing! This told me that in this flesh there was no good, yet because God loved me and gave himself for me, I was reconciled to God by the death of his Son. We WERE reconciled, not will be reconciled. Reconciliation was accomplished by the shedding of the blood of our Lord on the cross, laying down his life. Paul stated in Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

It all boils down to the fact that I have nothing to prepare myself to meet Jesus. The truth takes nothing away but only strengthens the soul of a little child of God. This makes one to find rest in the finished work of Jesus, which I had never known. I truly believe and fully expect that one day my soul shall mount up as eagle's wings to meet him, and in the resurrection of my body will be made ready by the hands of God to meet him that is ready for me. We, his people will rise and meet him in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Bless his holy name. (From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", March, 2007)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



By Elder Robert Payne
August 30, 2020

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. Isaiah 52:9

We live in troubled times, but God's children can be joyful and sing praises to God for his mercy and grace to a redeemed people. We rejoice in a Savior that paid our sin debt in full and heaven will one day be our eternal home one day because he loves us with an everlasting love. We love him because he first loved us. To me that brings much comfort to a poor and weary soul and ought to cause all of us to praise him more each day. Gather together and praise his Holy and righteous name.

HUMILITY



By Elder Bill Walden (Deceased)

Man is, by nature, vain and proud. While this may seem a harsh statement and not flattering to the ego we feel it is true, according to the Holy Scriptures. "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts". (Psalm 10:4) Considering the statement by David we must conclude that in order for one to seek after God something must be done for them outside of themselves. Consider a few statements by those who were blessed with a degree of understanding of who they really were in comparison to almighty God. Then notice the blessing by the enabling Spirit of God whereby we can walk humbly before Him. We believe the closer we walk with God the more humble we become. In Isaiah 6, Isaiah's king had died, and during that season of great loss he had a vision of a greater King, and the result of that was he saw himself. His words have been preserved for our learning today. "Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." (Isaiah 6:5). Not until his lips were touched by the live coal from the altar did he say "here am I, send me"—not until we are made to realize that we cannot praise Him until he has enabled us to do so, as was the case with Isaiah.

To be blessed with the spirit of humility is one of the choicest blessings of God. It is a rare blessing since there are so many false concepts today to buoy the human ego. For instance, many subscribe to the humanistic theory of "what the mind can conceive, you can achieve". While Godly effort to achieve is good as long as one tries to achieve Godly things, to be lifted up in ourselves is not.

It is interesting to notice the mention of men and women in the historical narratives, how haughtiness was driven from them by their closeness to God, whether Abraham or Moses, Hannah or Mary.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in die time." (I Peter 5:6) I will mention here that when I first began to have a little understanding of God's greatness as it is expressed in the Holy Scriptures, and to see the total depravity of man, particularly myself, I wondered how I could humble myself, and to this day the only

way I know to humble myself is by studying about His goodness and greatness; about His marvelous grace, that He has stretched forth the scepter of grace and mercy to touch my unworthy hand. Unworthy though I be, that humbles my heart like nothing else can, that God's Son would condescend to go through the process of birth, endure hunger, cold, forsaking of friends, unspeakable shame and contempt. Job said, "For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me". (Job 23:16) This makes the new heart of flesh soft and when we realize who and what we are by nature, it is troublesome to us, for we have gone against His holy precepts.

I have given considerable thought to the opposite, the antithesis of humility that may be exhibited in the lives of the children of God, and arrogance, I feel, would fit. If we are blessed to see beyond ourselves and look by faith at the biblical description of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ, no God-called minister of the gospel can look at the cross and put on a display of himself and become the center of attention. It's unprofitable to try to appeal to the carnal side and at the same time try to appeal to the Spiritual side. When we see what He sacrificed for us, and are given a degree of insight into our own feebleness, then we can understand John the Baptist's desire and understanding, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Would it not be wonderful to keep this thought always in our mind—it is all about Him and not ourselves.

May God bless you all --Elder Bill Walden
(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", March, 2007)

JOHN BUNYAN ON HUMILITY *Pilgrim's Progress*

He that is down needs fear no fall,
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble ever shall
Have God to be his guide.

USE THE RIGHT MEASURING STICK

A self-righteous man once boasted to a Christian friend of his, "You know, John, I'm not such a bad fellow. There are many worse than I!" His friend replied, "Ivor, you are measuring yourself by the wrong standard. You measure yourself by the harlots and drunkards you see on Skid Row and you feel quite satisfied by comparison. But go and measure yourself alongside Jesus Christ and see how you make out." No person's life cuts much of a figure when placed alongside the perfect life of Christ. The life of the Lord Jesus shows us how crooked and defiled our own lives really are. It is no wonder God says, "There is none righteous, no, not one."

"Exploring Romans"—John Phillips

THE TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Many people look at the book of Job, and see the main lesson as being suffering. They then try to apply the lessons to all sufferings of the children of God. Some go so far as to make the applications of Job to the final sufferings we face as we come to death. I think that is a great error.

The lesson of Job to me is the trial of our faith. Job was a perfect and upright man, one that feared God, and eschewed evil. God said so himself. Yet, we are taught in the bible that good and godly men go through trials of their faith. God knew that Job would not turn his back on him. After his trials, Job knew it also.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" 1st Peter 1:6-7 The trial of our faith is important. The trial of our faith is more precious than gold.

Satan always thinks we will turn against God when trials come our way. Job proved him wrong. We need to prove him wrong in our experiences. When Job's wife urged him to curse God, Job knew God was all he had. When Christ asked the apostles, "will ye also go away", their answer was, "to whom shall we go?" When we have the view that Job had, when he saw his redeemer standing upon the earth, and also the blessedness of the resurrection, no amount of disappointments and trials is going to turn us from the Lord. However, if we fail to keep that view ever before us, we can fail in the trial of our faith and suffer great loss in this life.

While I have witnessed many saints die in the triumph of a living faith, I do not think this was a trial of their faith. Their trials of faith had already given them much assurance in the past. Now they faced the end of life with great courage and anticipation, knowing now that their absence from their families would make them present with the Lord.

The Apostle Peter lets us know that the trial of our faith, when completed, brings us blessings. "Be

sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1st Peter 5:8-10 The end result appears to me to be a better condition than the beginning.

The three Hebrew children, Daniel, Joseph, and many more who could be named, all were restored and elevated after the trial of their faith.

So was Job. "So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning..." Job 41:12 The lesson that stands out to me in the book of Job is the trial of his faith. Anytime you apply the lessons of this book to the lives of God's children today, remember, to apply, the latter end has to be better than the beginning. Any suffering we or our loved ones endure which is fatal, is not the lesson of Job.

We reach the heavenly shore based upon the love and sufferings of our Lord, not upon the successful trial of our faith.

--Guy Hunt

(From "The Pathway of Truth", March, 2005)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Sept. 8, 2020

A GOOD name is better than previous ointment ; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Eccl. 7:1

While death is a dreaded subject to most all of us, it is a sure event in all the lives of God's creation unless he comes before we die. Sometimes death comes unexpectedly, and causes shock to those who remain. Sometimes it comes after much suffering and is a welcomed friend to the one suffering, and loved ones but still causes grief.

Elder S.A. Paine's reported last words were, Oh, how sweet to die! Job says in Job 14:14 says If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. The Apostle Paul ask in 1 Cor. 15:55, O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? Again the Apostle Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:6-8 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

ELDER

By Elder Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

Q. What are the meanings of the word elder, bishop, pastor, and minister?

A. Elder (an ancient Jewish title) means older, one having age and authority over younger persons; in ancient times age was essential to authority, because age is generally accompanied by experience and wisdom, and persons of age are usually appointed or chosen to positions of authority in modern times; among the ancient Jews, elders were the fathers or forefathers, the heads, representatives, judges, and rulers of families and tribes, and the Jewish Sanhedrin or Assembly was composed of elderly men, and it was the Supreme Court of the nation, to whom was referred the more difficult cases from the lesser courts of elders in the towns and cities, but, under the Roman government, while the Sanhedrin could condemn a person to death, only the Roman procurator or governor could have the sentence carried into execution; in the New Testament an elder is a person possessed of superior spiritual wisdom, and authorized by the church of his membership to preach and administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; even the apostle Peter (whose false or pretended successors, Roman Catholic popes assume to be lords over the church and the world), calls himself by the humble title of elder (I Pet. 5:1). Bishop (a more modern title) means overseer, and a bishop in the New Testament is a spiritual overseer of a church, and is the same as an elder (Acts 20:17, 28); Peter calls Christ the Shepherd, and Bishop of our souls (I Pet. 2:25). Pastor means feeder or shepherd and he is one who should provide good pasture for his flock, and guide, heal, and preserve them; God is called our Pastor or Shepherd (Psalm 23:1); so is Christ (John 10:11; I Pet. 2:25); and so are God's ministers (Jer. 3:15; Eph. 4:11). Minister means servant or attendant; Christ is called a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man ((Heb. 8:2); angels are also called ministers or ministering servants to the heirs of salvation (Psalm 104:4; Heb. 1:13, 14).

Q. What may be said to comfort one who is troubled because not realizing the love of the dear Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who loved poor sinners to such an extent that He the eternal Son of God, became a man to suffer, bleed, and die for them?

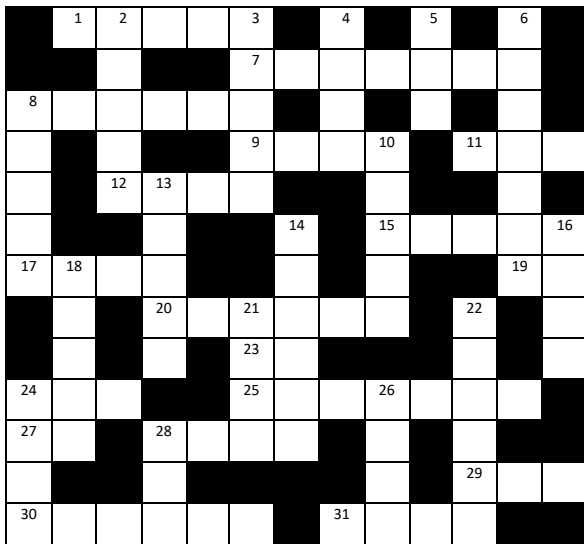
A. None are troubled on that account who do not believe in and love the Saviour. All our love for Christ, compared to His love for us, is but as the heat of the moon compared to the heat of the sun; it is cold indeed. When by an eye of faith we behold the King in His beauty, we esteem Him as the chiefest among

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Israel always kept the ____ of unleavened bread.
7. God ____ and no man shutteth.
8. Brother of Peter and made fisher of men.
9. An ____ and adulterous generation seeks for a sign.
11. And God called the ____ land Earth
12. I am the ____ of the sheep said Jesus. Opening.
15. Timothy was to make full ____ of his ministry.
17. This treasure neither moth nor ____ doth corrupt.
19. Only one leper returned to give the glory ____ God.
20. Herod put Peter in prison intending after ____ to bring him forth to the people. Acts. 12.
23. Judgment begins ____ the house of God.
24. As many as are ____ by the spirit of God are sons.
25. Soldiers cast lots for the ____ of Jesus.
27. Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar ____ not?
28. To him be glory and dominion for ____ and ever.
29. If a son asks for an ____ will he give him a scorpion?
30. My spirit will not always ____ with man.
31. Joseph dreamed of ____ and ill favoured kine.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

2. On the 7th day God ____ His work in the creation.
3. God confounded language at the ____ of Babel.
4. Old Testament priests came from the tribe of ____.
5. On the ____ of the priest's robe were gold bells and.
6. Joseph rode in the 2nd ____ in Egypt as governor.
8. Fathers provoke not your children to ____ . Get mad.
10. Naaman was a Syrian soldier and also a ____.
13. Cast the unprofitable servant into ____ darkness.
14. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole ____.
16. Other sheep I have which are not of this ____.
18. Blood was on the side posts & ____ door posts.
21. Jesus came to ____ His people from their sins.
22. For my yoke is easy and my ____ is light.
24. The grandmother of Timothy.
26. There is a ____ to every purpose under the sun.
28. Name of priest who thought Hannah was drunk.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm a mother was tucking her small boy into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Hello from Ohio,

Our family enjoys receiving your Glad Tidings in the mail and we can have a lot of fun reading them. We have decided to send a small donation to help you out. Thank you for doing this from the Thomas family in Ohio.

Sincerely,
Case Thomas
Piketon, OH

(Case is son of Elder Troy Thomas and wife, Sister Rebecca Thomas and is in 10th grade—*Editor*)

Dear Ones,

So much to learn from reading about the experience of the prodigal son Lk 16. It's interesting that he never lost the Love and the Relationship family name of his father in his choice to turn from his father's will to follow the fashion of this world. Though his father allowed him to go his own way, until he understood he could not overcome without his father, he grieved his father. In repenting he regained fellowship with his father in choosing to go to him.

Wishing our Dear Lord's blessings to you all. He is always faithful to make us able to overcome.

In Dear Hope & Love
Sister Loreta Lilly
Tallmadge, OH

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down flat. With God all things are possible, so may we all look up and our Jerichos may also fall down flat.—*Editor*

(Continued from Page 5)

ten thousand, the One altogether lovely, and we desire to love Him infinitely more, and to serve Him infinitely better, and to be with Him and like Him forever. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6).

(From "The Collected Works of Sylvester Hassell", Part Three)

CHURCH NEWS

Elder David Wise from Starkville, MS has written a new book that is now available; see the details below:

We are thankful and excited to announce the release of my new book entitled *What Is A Primitive Baptist?* This book attempts to explain the identifying marks of the Primitive Baptist church in light of the word of God. You may order your copy of this new release by following the link below on Lulu for \$15.

<https://www.lulu.com/.../paperback/product/-edmv22.html>

From the author: When I tell others that I pastor and attend a Primitive Baptist Church, it's very common for their first question to be "What is a Primitive Baptist?" Well, my short answer to that question is usually something like this: "We as Primitive Baptists believe that Jesus Christ finished the work of eternal salvation on the cross apart from any action or work of man, and we are saved to heaven by Jesus Christ's blood and by God's sovereign grace alone. We worship in a simple manner in accordance with the New Testament scriptures; we sing, we preach, we pray, and we fellowship. We hope you will come and worship with us as well." Actually, there are quite a few aspects of the doctrine, worship, and practice of the Primitive Baptist Church that are considerably different than the general teachings in Christianity today. We attempt to maintain the original apostles' doctrine and simplistic worship and practice we see in the scriptures of the Original (Primitive) Baptist Church. In this book, we hope to consider the identifying marks of the Lord's church in light of the word of God.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was blessed to enjoy a good spiritual meeting the 2nd weekend in September, 2020 with singing, praying, and preaching by Elder Ricky Harcrow of Fort Payne, AL. This enjoyment was tempered somewhat on Monday after the meeting when Bro. Harcrow was tested positive for COVID-19. We thank the Lord he is doing fine and no one at the meeting in contact with Bro. Harcrow has gotten sick during quarantine. Continue to pray for our churches in the midst of this pandemic. Listen to Bro. Harcrow's messages at Bethany website: www.bethanybpecrums.com

Elder David Montgomery in his *Adventures with the Primitive Baptists* gives the account of a deacon in Florida who sometimes addressed the money situation with the following: "Brethren, I have good news and bad news. The good news is that all these preachers came and we've figured out how much money we need to give them and we've got it. The bad news is—it's still in your pockets!"

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS was blessed to ordain Brother Adam Frost to the office of deacon on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 3, 2020, of their meeting. Thanks to all who participated in the presbytery and the preaching of Elder Paul Blair invited minister. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Elder David Wise was chosen moderator of the presbytery. Elder Joe Nettles was chosen as clerk to record proceedings and Elder Tony Lester to pray the ordination prayer. Elder David Wise delivered the charge to Brother Frost.

Photo of the presbytery: Left to Right: Wayne Minor, Joe Ott, Elder Joe Nettles, Jeffrey Weeks, Elder David Wise, Adam Frost, Steve Minor, Joel Knowlin, Elder Tony Lester, Elder Larry Wise, Elder Paul Blair, Matthew Pryor, Dale Kennedy.



(Elder David Wise Charging Adam Frost)

We are thankful that Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS was blessed with a new member as Sister Melony Berryhill was baptized into their fellowship in the baptistery of Macedonia PBC on September 6, 2020 by Elder David Wise. Clear Springs is currently without a Pastor.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in November 2020 will be held with Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS (Nov. 29) with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell churches. Everyone is invited. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

APOSTLE PETER

Part One



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

John 1:40-42: **“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.”**

I have a desire to write at length on the Apostle Peter over the next few months. To do it in just one article is not possible I have found upon studying the subject. I hope that you enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed studying, meditating, praying and writing some of what I have learned.

First why did I title the article “Apostle Peter” rather than just calling him Peter? Because I am hoping to carry the story of Peter from his calling to his work as a God called Apostle. While his calling was early in the gospels yet we don’t see him ascend to the height of his apostleship until deep in the book of Acts. Peter would grow in grace as time went by, much as you and I hope to do in our life here in service to God.

Peter is introduced to us in our above scripture. A fisherman from the city of Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the brother of Andrew who was also called to be a disciple. They were fisherman by trade. A blue collar profession that provided a living, but no dreams of being wealthy. Though uneducated yet he was not illiterate obviously from his ability to quote scriptures such as in the book of Acts. He was a husband. Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, he saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever.

Jesus healed his mother in law. For one to have a mother in law, he must have a wife. Peter had a wife which is perfectly fine: however, it is a little ironic that the Catholic Church says that Peter was the first Pope. Popes are forbidden to have a wife by the church. The named “Cephas” meaning a stone is not

the stone or rock which the church was built upon. Jesus Christ is that rock Matthew 16:16, 1 Corinthians 10:4. When Christ called Peter “a stone”, Jesus meant a small stone, a chip off of a bigger rock. Not the rock that the church is built upon.

We read about Peter and the draught of fish in Luke 5:1-10. Peter and his crew had toiled all the night in fishing. They caught nothing that night and after the break of day they are now back at the shore, and mending their nets when our Savior comes to them asking about using their boat as a vessel to preach to the people on the seashore who have come to hear him. Peter maneuvers the boat just off the shore in the water and facing the shoreline so Jesus can preach to them the kingdom of God. There is no doubt that these people heard an impressive and moving sermon from the Son of God. After the Lord had finished his speaking he turns to Peter and says Launch your boat out into the deep and cast your nets expecting to catch a draught of fish. Peter answers him by saying “Master we have toiled all the night and have caught nothing!” Nevertheless at your word I will do as you say. Peter was still feeling the sting of working hard and catching nothing by his own hands. Yet he felt he should do as the Lord commanded. So Peter and the others cast the net and catch a draught of fish. Just as the Lord had said they would. Now a draught means a “haul of many fish”. This should teach us that we should listen to what the Lord says, questioning none of it.

We ministers preach time after time and we feel like Peter. Luke 5:8: **“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”** Upon realizing that there was many fish in the net, even to the point that the net begins to break, and shouting to his crew to help him when they finally get the fish in the boat the catch is so heavy the boat begins to sink. Peter seeing that truly this was a miracle from God, he falls down at the feet of Jesus and begs him to depart from him. Peter felt completely unworthy to be in the presence of the Lord. He felt just as the centurion did that he was not worthy that such a man would have anything to do with a sinner like him. He felt himself an unclean man, not worth the time of Jesus, let alone blessing him with a great miracle. Yet Peter would see greater things than this. Many more miracles by the Son of God would Peter witness. Peter’s journey had just begun!

R.L. Taylor

Do you have a broken heart and a contrite spirit then take heart, the Lord is near. “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” (Psalm 34:18) God is the great Deliverer, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.” (Psalm 34:19)—*Editor*

THANKSGIVING DAYS

By Sister Hattye McCutcheon (Deceased)
*(Sister McCutcheon was the wife of the late
 Elder E. D. McCutcheon—Editor)*

Yesterday, today or tomorrow may not be the historically established thanksgiving day that Abe Lincoln proclaimed in 1863, but it is thanksgiving daily. Never can we praise the Lord enough for the natural life we are permitted to live, and much less for the love in our hearts. Every one of these blessings had its beginning with the Father above. He preserves us in this world and is our Master who delivers us.

As timely creatures, who are we any way? It is so blessed to realize our heavenly Father is our all in all. What is more meaningful than for us to say in our heart, and in our lives, thank you Father for loving us enough to be our creator, our saviour and redeemer, our prophet, our priest, our king, but also our elder brother.

We could not cause ourselves to be born, to live in the world or be caught up into heaven when our time is ended on earth. What is there to deter us from stopping every day long enough to pray and thank him for giving both natural and spiritual life, and being our guide to see us through this life. More gifts for thanksgiving are given to us every day. We assemble in his great name to adore the King of heaven—of the whole universe. The fact that he has commanded us to take up our cross and honor him as we live on earth is enough to cause us to thank him forever. "We are bound to give thanks always".

Every time we meet in his name for worship, we feel the sweet consolation, being in one accord. This is another measure of "thanksgiving". Some times we meet and do not feel the Lord's presence as we ought. We are commanded to pray to be given his grace, but before we reap, we are instructed to sow seeds to his glory.

Every good and perfect gift that comes down from the Father of lights is one of thanksgiving for us. Let us pray to be able to count many more and give thanks for each one.

(From "Glad Tidings", November, 1984)

Q. Who is the strong man named in Luke 10:21, 22?

A. The strong man is the Devil, his palace is the soul of the unregenerate man; his goods are all the faculties of that man, of which the Devil has undisturbed possession; the Stronger that comes upon him is Christ, who overcomes him in his palace, and deprives him of all his armor, his deceitful wiles, and divides the spoils, takes from Satan's service the regenerated man's endowments, and devotes them to the service of God. Christ having dispossessed Satan, conquers our hearts and occupies them forever. —By Elder Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

BEGIN EACH DAY ANEW

By Mrs. W. J. Berry (Deceased)

"Let not the sun go down on your wrath"

In the book of all books we have a guide to every walk of life. Sometime we allow sleep to come upon us and seal bitter words and feelings into our hearts with the night. If only each day should end its own bitterness, how much better this world would be. If only we could leave each day's heartaches and bitterness buried in the past, and not go back again and again and dig them up to harass ourselves and companions with them. If they are bitter when they are first buried in the past, how much of hatred, bitterness and sorrow do they gain when they are exhumed, days, months, or years afterward. If we could only begin each new day anew! Who would want to drape a new-born baby with the worn and polluted rags of someone dead and buried? And yet many of us do that very thing with a pure, new-born day. We even dig up the old day, buried long ago, and get the grave clothes to dress our infant day.

O Lord, our prayer is that we shall be able to leave the past buried with all dead things, and go forward. Let us forgive all things, drowning all bitterness in love!

"Let not the sun go down on our wrath".

(From "The Pathway Upward" by Mrs. W. J. Berry)

ANSWERS

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 1. tsaef
- 7. htenepo
- 8. werdna
- 9. live
- 11. yrd
- 12. rood
- 15. foorp
- 17. tsur
- 19. ot
- 20. retsae
- 23. ta
- 24. del
- 25. erutsev
- 27. ro
- 28. reve
- 29. gge
- 30. evirts
- 31. nael

DOWN:

- 2. dedne
- 3. rewot
- 4. ivel
- 5. meh
- 6. toirahc
- 8. regna
- 10. repel
- 13. retuo
- 14. rettam
- 16. dlof
- 18. reppu
- 21. evas
- 22. nedrub
- 24. siol
- 26. emit
- 28. ile

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" (Eph. 4:31)

THANKFULNESS TO GOD REVEALS MUCH

By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama



Great thankfulness to God reveals much about the heart of a child of God.

1st) It reveals an understanding that we do not deserve God's blessings. While the world tirelessly promotes self sufficiency and self esteem, the word of God graphically paints our portrait as a naturally depraved sinner. And if we are born of the Spirit, we have the faculties and the witness of the Spirit in us to convince us that, while rich in Christ, we are yet very undeserving in and of ourselves.

2nd) Thankfulness acknowledges God as our provider. We don't thank anyone for what we think we deserve. But in understanding our own depravity, faith says to us that God is our only hope; and, the gospel teaches us of God's eternal purpose to send Christ, and also, how Christ obtained our eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:12) We could never have accomplished that ourselves, nor would we have ever had the desire to do so. So, we thank God for His grace upon us and for that which works within us. (Philippians 2:13)

3rd) It expresses gratitude for the blessing. Because we deserve nothing, it is only right that we acknowledge God as our provider and thank Him for His kindnesses to us. When Jesus cleansed ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him (Luke 17:17), He asked, "Where are the nine?" Jesus would have us ponder that question and soberly consider our own thankfulness. One would think that such miraculous cleansing should have brought forth a river of thankfulness. All of them should have "returned" praising God and glorifying His name. That rightfully belongs to Him, and Him alone! But only one returned. Are you like the one who returned to thank Him? Or, are you among the nine?

In conclusion, Paul tells us the great duty and privilege of Christians who understand something about what God's grace really is and the thankfulness that it should produce. 2nd Corinthians 4:15 says, "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." When something redounds, that means it "super abounds." Oh that we would not forget our own unworthiness, that we

would acknowledge God as the one and only Giver of all good things, and that we would learn to more faithfully practice thankfulness each day – not just in late November!

The very heart of our Savior yearns, not for hard labor and sacrifice, but for you to simply express your love to Him in gratitude and thanksgiving for all the free and wonderful grace you've already received.

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

(From "The Banner of Love", November, 2015)

WE ARE HEALED

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Many teach today that we should never be sick. If we are sick, it is because we haven't claimed what has already been accomplished, and that is all our sicknesses have been healed by Jesus Christ. The ones who teach this refer to Isa. 53:5 which says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed." They claim that by the stripes Christ endured on Calvary's cross, we have been healed; we never have to succumb to sickness. We can rebuke illness in the name of the Lord and that illness will vacate the premises. It is all a lack of faith.

The scripture in Isa. 53:5 doesn't indicate in any way a physical healing has been accomplished by the stripes which were laid on Christ. It is the truth that we have been healed, but we have been healed of the putrefying and deadly sore of sin. This is seemingly made plain by the next verse which states, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." It was "iniquity" that was laid on Christ. Iniquity comes from a Hebrew word which means "fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin." This in no way indicates a healing of all our diseases. Of course we must realize that God did and still does perform physical healing, but He did that before Jesus ever suffered anything on the cross of Calvary. We must also realize that the ultimate cause of all sickness is sin which will finally culminate

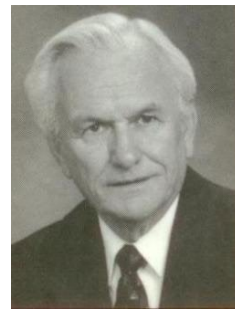
in death. The Bible gives us an account of Hezekiah that was "sick unto death" in II Kings 20:1. Hezekiah besought the Lord; the Lord heard his cry and added unto him 15 years of life; however, ultimately he died because of inherent sin brought into the world by Adam and passed upon all his posterity. Sickness then goes back to the origin of sin, thus it is explained that Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. The Lord laid on Christ our iniquities. Many were brought to Christ who were possessed with devils and he cast out the spirits with His word and healed all that were sick. The reason for this is stated, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8:17).

Peter mentions the verse in Isa. 53:5 concerning being healed in I Peter 2:24 and follows it up in verse 25, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Notice that the sheep have returned to the Shepherd and Bishop which is Jesus Christ. Sin, fault, iniquity, evil and mischief sent us astray, but now are we returned. How have we returned? We have returned by the stripes (bruising-ultimately in death) of Jesus Christ who bore our sins in His own body on the tree of the cross. We, as sheep, have been reconciled to God by the death of His Son and will finally walk with God in heaven because we have been brought into Divine agreement with God. Amos said that two could not walk together except they be agreed.

The Lord gave the apostles power to heal the sick and even raise the dead, but that power doesn't exist today. The reason people are sick is because of the inherent sin in them which as stated previously will finally end in death; however, they are not necessarily sick because of any specific sin as was the case of the blind man in ninth chapter of John. This blind man had not sinned, neither had his parents, that resulted in his condition, according to the words of Jesus. James tells us what is to be done when there is sickness among us. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:14-15). Why would James, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, give instructions for praying for the sick if no individual was ever supposed to be sick? The answer is that people are going to be sick; and if they ultimately die because of that sickness, it is not because of a lack of faith. God is still in the healing business, both natural and spiritual, but we always pray, "Not our will but thine be done."

We rejoice that Jesus has healed us of that deadly sore of sin in the sight of God and have returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Without this healing, we could never be in heaven's pure world. God has legally justified us in the sight of God. Even though we all must surely go the way of all the earth, we just as surely will enter the portals of glory because of the stripes Jesus endured. There was a joy set before Jesus as He endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2). That joy was the deliverance and healing of His chosen family from that deadly, separating sore of sin.

HEALING THE SICK



By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, Tennessee

The Old Testament prophets foretold that he would heal the sick, and, true to his word, he traveled over the land, casting out devils, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and raising the dead.

Matt; 8:16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, *Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*

(Excerpt from "Every Messianic Prophecy Fulfilled", A booklet By Elder Harold Hunt)

"Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." (John 16:32)

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