

# Glad Tidings

December

*"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 rich young ruler came to Jesus wanting to know what good thing he could do to have eternal life. Jesus, knowing his covetous nature, told him to keep the commandments of Moses. The young man said he had from his youth but what did he lack. Jesus told him to sell all he had, give to the poor and he would have treasure in heaven and to come follow Him. The ruler went away sorrowful for he had great possessions. When Jesus told the disciples that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God, the disciples were amazed and asked Jesus, "who then could be saved"? This was Jesus' response, "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26)

It is impossible for men to do anything to obtain eternal life as they are dead in sins. However with God, it is indeed possible because nothing is too hard for the Lord. God promised Abraham that he would have a son and by nature that would have been impossible. Abraham was old and Sarah's womb was dead but God fulfilled His promise. The promised son, Isaac was born, at the set time that Abraham was told in spite of the deadness of the body of Abraham and the deadness of Sarah's womb. This birth was contrary to nature.

God promised to send His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those under the law. God foretold exactly how He would send His Son. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) Matthew tells us that the name Emmanuel is interpreted "God with us." (Matt. 1:23) Ordinary conception is between a man and woman but this wasn't any ordinary conception or birth. Job asked the question long ago, "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." (Job 14:4) With men this is impossible, but with God it is possible. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin, Mary, as a clean thing out of an unclean thing. The angel told Mary, "...that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) This was a very miraculous sign that had been promised whereas a young woman (not a virgin) bringing forth a son would have been a very ordinary occurrence.

Jesus Christ is the unspeakable gift from God that was born sinless of a virgin but died for sins on the cross; not His own sins but the sins of His elect family. Just as the promise of Isaac, and Jesus came to pass so will the promise of eternal life be realized by the family of God. Why? It is because there are some things that are impossible with God. It is impossible for God to lie; consequently, we have this blessed assurance, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (Titus 1:2) We can count on every promise of God because the scripture declares, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (II Cor. 1:20)

Jesus was born on time, died on time, and was resurrected on time. The grave could not hold the Saviour; it just wasn't possible. Luke writes that He was delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, crucified and slain and then raised from the dead. "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." (Acts 2:24) God hath sworn with an oath to David that of the fruit of his loins he would raise up Christ to set on his throne which would be accomplished with Jesus being raised from the grave. "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." (Acts 2:31) With men this is impossible but not with the Almighty God whom we worship.

The scriptures give us the record of Jesus' birth and what He came to do which was attested to by the thrice Holy God before the world began. John writes, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (I John 5:7) To what did the eternal three bear record? John answers this question: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (I John 5:11)

That eternal life the young ruler thought he could obtain by doing something good was impossible with him but not with God. The **record** is verified in the inspired word of God that eternal life is a gift which resides in none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) Scripture verifies scripture; therefore, is not of any private interpretation. To us a child is born; unto us a son is given. (Isa.9:6) (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS  
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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**GOD SOVEREIGN IN SALVATION**

(No. 4)

By Elder James H. Oliphant (Deceased)

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." We are taught in many places to be submissive to the will of God. We never enjoy the religion of Christ more than when we are fully submissive to the will of God. The Lord has a will concerning the salvation of sinners, and had a will concerning it before the world began. Either the will of God determines who shall be saved, or the will of man determines it. John says, it is not "of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13). So we are not left to uncertainty as to this matter.

It is fitting that this matter should be entirely with Him for several reasons. It was the Lord that died the death of the cross to save sinners. He shed His own precious blood to save sinners, and therefore this matter should be decided by Him. Another reason is—Heaven is His, all His; everything there belongs to Him; and we concede that men may do what they please with their own, and if men say, how much more the Lord? His wisdom and power fit Him to decide this matter more than any other thing.

If any of earth's millions had any claim or could show any reason why they should be included then the case would be different; but if no one has such a claim it appears that He may do as He will with His own, and so give it to whom He will.

He says, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy." We are not permitted to point to any as too bad—*too vile* for His mercy. We read of some of the worst that were favored.

"He to whom most is forgiven will love the most." Here is one result of the salvation of the chief of

sinners. They will love much. "I come not to call the righteous but sinners." Those who feel that they are poor, vile sinners will lose nothing by the whole matter being left to the Lord.

Who can say that more would be saved if it were left to the will of man? Or who can say *certainly* that any would have been saved if all had been left to the will of man? If the sinner is to decide whether he will be saved, he must do so while he is a sinner—while he is "dead in sin," and who can say that such a sinner would ever so choose? And if sinners, dead in sin, would never make such a choice and yet the whole scheme of salvation should be left to depend on them, what a great failure it all would be!

If the design of God is His own glory in the salvation of sinners, would His glory be more secure if all were left to depend on man? Each one of us knows something of our proneness to go astray—to forget God and all our duties to Him. Is it best for us that all be left to ourselves? "*What was there in you that could merit esteem—or give the Creator delight?—Twas 'even so Father,' you ever must sing—'because it seemed good in Thy sight.'*" It becomes us to say concerning this matter, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

If it were the will of God to save all the race, we would not find fault; but if God's object is His own glory, who can certainly say that this end would be better secured in this way? The *justice* of God as well as His mercy is important. If all were left under the law and under its curse, then the *justice* of God would be sure, but not His mercy; on the other hand if all were redeemed and saved, His *mercy* would have been seen but not His justice.

It will appear that God is in earnest about the salvation of His people if we will consider all He has done to secure it. "He spared not His own Son," and "how shall He not with Him freely give us all things?" Who can answer this question? God certainly thought of this and of all things necessary to bring it about long before time. He has "prepared" a place for us. The great wedding supper is prepared. The robes, the mansions—all are prepared for the redeemed; but if it all depends on their choice of God, see how great a failure it would be?

In free governments like ours, we find that the elect are inferior to the elector. The people are the electors and the elect take the place of servants. So, in the matter in hand, God is never called the "elect," but He is often represented as choosing or electing, and we are over and over presented as "the elect" of the "chosen." To make all depend on the sinner's choosing God is to invert the order, and make the sinner sovereign, and God dependent.

The Lord is the Sovereign of the universe. He holds the keys in His own hand and does His pleasure in the whole matter.—Elder James H. Oliphant—1914  
(From "*The Advocate and Messenger*", Dec. 1982)

**MORE THAN ONE WORLD**

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

“They are of the world: therefore they speak of the world, and the world heareth them” (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:5).

Those who claim that the gospel they preach is the means God uses to save people in an eternal sense say that the world, the entire Adamic family, can hear their gospel and receive it. But notice John says, “He that is not of God heareth not us.” So John was not one of those who speaks of the world and the world heareth them. “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us.” Now who is right in this matter, those that are of the world and speak of the world and the world heareth them, or John, who taught as quoted above?

They cry, “The Son died for everyone,” and then quote John 3:16 to prove their point, *they think*. But this time John later records the words of Christ when He said, “I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me.” Wouldn’t it be somewhat strange to die for the world, and then say He prayed not for that same world? Die for a people He would not pray for? I John 5:19 says, “And we Know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” Here is a world that is separate from God and the people or the world that is of God.

I wonder why they that are of the world and who speak of the world so often, never read in connection with John 3:16 of that world which is not with God’s people and for whom Christ would not pray? Notice this: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (I John 2:15). Who is the *world* of this verse? There certainly must be some human beings embraced in the term *world*, but we are taught not to love the world, neither the things of the world. I cannot understand why people make such a display of the world in John 3:16 and then never undertake to show the harmony in these verses quoted in this article.

The Bible states that God loved Jacob and hated Esau. Is Esau in John 3:16? If he was, why would God say He hated him? All who are embraced in John 3:16 are loved of God. Was there any difference in Esau and Jacob in the mind of Christ when He died for the world? The Bible declares that God changes not, if He loved Esau, and He changes not, and there is no way you can separate him from the love of God, then he will be saved. Those who really study the Bible know it teaches that God’s work is

perfect, and also whatsoever He doeth stands for ever.

Christ was made to be sin for His people, the entire world of John 3:16; those He loved. As He *did not love* Esau, Esau was not in the world of John 3:16, for He *loved* that world. Who then are embraced in the world He died for? Those embraced in the election of God before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4). “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” Now keep in mind that God’s work is perfect. Nothing can be added to it nor anything taken from it. This being true, and His people being chosen to this end, that they should be holy and without blame before Him in love, then they *will be* presented to God the Father without blemish or any such thing.

Notice this: “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” That is, the world of John 3:16. He did not lighten any of those in that world for whom He would not pray. If He did, then that work stands forever, and if such a man should go down to eternal destruction he would have to go there with his sins atoned.

“For I cam down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” He came to do His Father’s will. He was made to be sin for His people, having obtained eternal redemption for them. Now the question is this: Did He do this for every individual from the beginning of the world to the end of the world or this age? We know that in connection with this if one for whom Christ died goes to eternal torment he will go there with his sins put away, Christ being made sin for him. I am saying that John 3:16 embraces those He loved, and those He loved with an everlasting love cannot be separated from His love. Their number, as the sand of the sea shore and the stars of heaven, is innumerable. According to the Bible there is a great many of them.

Elder A. D. Wood

(From “*The Advocate and Messenger*”, June, 1979)

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**DELIVERER**

“Paul did not say, ‘O wretched man that I am’ because he was whipped, imprisoned, and shipwrecked, but because sin dwelt in his flesh which hindered him from doing the things that he would...”—Elder John Clark, 1919

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” (Rom. 7:24-25)

**HIS HOLY PRESENCE ON EARTH AND IN EARTH**He reigns forever and ever

**(Editor's Note: Over the years Elder G. H. Crain regularly penned letters to the congregation he pastured. The following is excerpted from his newsletter 37 years ago, one week before Christmas, 1977.)**

**By Elder G. H. Crain (Now Deceased)**

In any season of the year, in every age of time, in joy or sorrow, in life or death, the message of the coming and accomplishment of Jesus Christ brings joy and peace. The eternal love of God reaches down, in the person of his son, to mortal men, women, and little children; his holy angels bringing tidings of great joy.

The angel, Gabriel, many years before Jesus was born, appeared to Daniel, the prophet, to give him skill and understanding, also to bring the blessed message, "Daniel thou art greatly beloved." Daniel 8:16, 9:21-23. (Oh, for the grace to convey and portray to the household of faith, his children, "Thou art greatly beloved.")

About 850 years after Daniel's prophecy while Zacharias burned incense in the holy place, there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord, standing on the right side of the altar. In God's word where angels appear to men, such holy presence fills with fear and awe, however, on such occasions the beginning of the message is "fear not"; in the gospel how precious is the phrase "fear not".

In this wonderful visit of the angel. Zacharias and Elisabeth were promised a son, and instructed to call his name John. The angel was Gabriel (Luke 1:19) *"I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee and to show thee these glad tidings."*

According to the testimony of the angel, John would be great in the sight of the Lord and would be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. The purpose of John's ministry was to go before the Lord's people with the message of the Lord's coming—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Three months before John was born, Gabriel appeared in a city of Galilee named Nazareth to a virgin that was espoused to a man whose name was Joseph; both Joseph and Mary were of the house of David.

Within the sacred pages there is no passage or prophecy more beautiful or wonderful than this one: *"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord*

*God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

This everlasting kingdom stands firm in the face of all unbelief and opposition—the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; it came through the dark ages, it reaches to all kindred, tongue, people, and nations. Grace, irresistible everlasting love and power bring people in the kingdom and all the powers of evil cannot prevent it or remove it.

In addressing again the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand, the following and fundamental with us—an all wise, all powerful God; Jesus Christ came in the flesh; He was born of a virgin; Salvation is by Grace; Jesus Christ is head of the church; All that believe in him should be careful to maintain good works; and He reigns forever and ever.

May he bless each of you in his own blessed and special way now and in the days ahead.

-- In love,

G. H. Crain

(From *"The Banner of Love"*, December, 2014)

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**WHAT GOD HATH CLEANSED**

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

*"And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."* (Acts 10:15)

The Lord was teaching Peter a very valuable lesson. The Jews were accustomed to looking upon Gentiles as dogs. The Lord was sending Peter to the house of a man that was unlawful for a Jew to enter. But the householder had been cleansed by the Lord.

It is a common custom of men to look upon others with a less favourable view that they hold for themselves. Yet, we ought not to consider those common whom God hath cleansed.

The only way for poor sinners to be looked upon with the favor of God, is to be seen through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. Those who Christ shed his blood for are not common but of royalty. *"...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and*

*dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*" Revelations 1:5-6.

The Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray and prayed within himself, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are..." Luke 18:11. He looked upon other men as being common or unclean, especially the publican standing afar off. But the publican was of royal blood.

The devil is in the business of helping God's children feel worthless. When we grow old or infirm and have to have help with our daily life, we may feel worthless. The devil even convinces some people they are so worthless that they take their own lives. Yet, when we have in our heart the hope of heaven we are not worthless or common, but our wealth and riches are in the Lord.

There is nothing wrong with our anticipation of being relieved of sin and pain and our souls being in the presence of God. That recognizes that we feel we are royalty. But, we should also be aware as we journey here, that our lives as they are lived in honor to God are worthwhile to those who are fellow travelers. Many times during my life I have sold myself short of what I mean to others. When trouble or sickness comes, so many show their love and affection that it humbles our souls. I see the saints of God each day who have no idea how much they mean to me or others. They just cannot understand that they would even be missed.

Since my sickness began, I have had such an outpouring of love from Primitive Baptists and friends outside the Church, that I feel all warm inside and desire to finish my course with joy.

We should always know that as we travel the Christian Pathway, our fellow travelers are those whose names are written in heaven. Not one is common or unclean because God has cleansed them.

Neither do those who claim to be preachers of the gospel have a right to consider to tell someone they are bound for hell. Just because they have not followed the same rules does not mean they are common or unclean. As Peter learned, just because someone had not followed the Jewish law and been circumcised did not mean God had not cleansed them. When Jesus washed us from our sins in his own blood, the cleansing job was done. He did not leave it to us or someone else. What God has cleansed is totally clean.

We were cleansed from sin as Jesus cleansed the leper. We were immediately clean. Men needed to stop telling others to accept Jesus. Those who he cleansed are accepted of God in Christ. "To praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." Ephesians 1:6

--Guy Hunt

(From "The Pathway of Truth", June, 2007)

## CHRIST OUR SURETY

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

Since Brother Radicliff asked our opinion as to whether Christ is our security, or our surety (see his letter elsewhere in this paper), we will offer a few of our thoughts on the subject. We would say, however, that we understand Christ to be the surety for His people, and have always understood this to be the doctrine of the Primitive Baptists as a denomination.

The very idea of Christ making atonement for His people on the cross is evidence that He was their surety. It is generally understood that if A is security for the payment of a debt owed by B, the creditor will look to B for the payment of the debt just as much as he looks to A. He holds B equally responsible with A. But if A is surety for B, then when the debt is due the creditor makes demand of A for the payment or settlement of the debt. He looks to A for settlement. Thus the Saviour becomes surety for His people. All their sins were charged to His account. Their sins are not charged to them and to Christ jointly, as partners in the affair, so that demand for payment could be made upon both. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."—Isaiah 53:6. All their sins, all their iniquities, were laid on Him; they were charged to His account, so that demand was made of Him for payment of the debt which they owed to divine justice. Thus He became their substitute; He was offered in their stead. In that sense He was their substitute. All their sins being charged to Christ and laid on Him, the law holds no demands against them. The demand was all against Christ, and He met every demand, and paid the debt in full. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all"—the demand was that He pay it all, and this was upon the principle that He had assumed the debt. If He did assume the debt, it then became His, and was not, therefore, a debt owed by them both. He took upon Himself all their indebtedness, paying what they owed and setting them free therefrom.

In Paul's letter to Philemon (Philemon 18) he said, concerning Onesimus, "If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account." If it was put on Paul's account, it was not put on an account against Onesimus. Paul became his surety, He did not say, "If Onesimus fails to pay, or is not able to pay it all, I will pay what he lacks," but he said "put it on mine account"—that is, charge it against me; do not charge it against him. This Christ became surety for His people. Their sins were all charged on His account.

This blessed truth is a comfort and consolation to us, but time forbids us writing more. Go on, dear brother, proclaiming the truth that Christ is our surety.

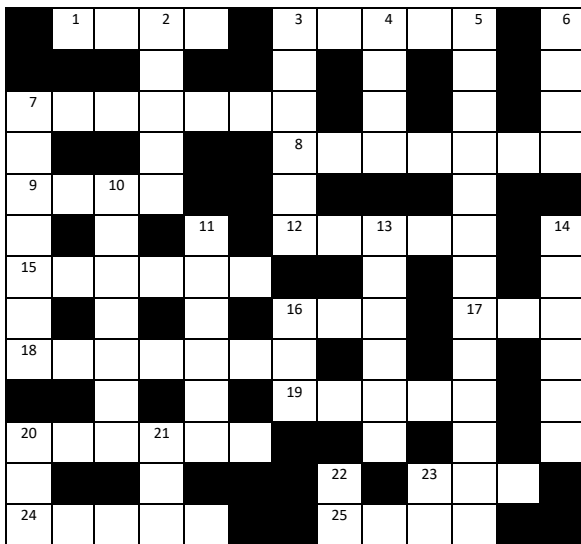
C. H. C.

(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist", by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 1)

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:**

1. King of Amalek taken captive by Saul.
3. A seller of purple to whom Paul preached.
7. The Egyptians \_\_\_ Israel (Jacob) 70 days at death.
8. Joseph \_\_\_ a dream and told it to his brothers.
9. Jesus' coat was without \_\_\_ woven from top. Stitch.
12. Ye are a chosen generation, a \_\_\_ priesthood.
15. Baptism is the \_\_\_ of a good conscience to God.
16. House of prayer was made a \_\_\_ of thieves said Jesus of the money changers.
17. \_\_\_ unto her that her warfare is accomplished.
18. Lead us not into temptation but \_\_\_ us from evil.
19. \_\_\_ yourselves to God as those alive from the dead.
20. \_\_\_ thou persuadest me to be a Christian.
23. A \_\_\_ in thy courts is better than a thousand. 24hr.
24. The love of \_\_\_ is the root of all evil.
25. As it is written there is none that doeth \_\_\_ not one.



(Answers on Page 9)

**DOWN:**

2. Name of Abraham when God called him out of Ur of the Chaldees.
3. Jacob saw angels ascending, descending on this.
4. Second bird sent out by Noah after the flood.
5. King who took Sarah thinking she was Abraham's sister. You hath he quickened who were \_\_\_ 2 words.
6. The carnal \_\_\_ is enmity against God. In brain.
7. If ye have faith as a grain of \_\_\_ seed. Smallest.
10. David's son with long hair caught in a tree.
11. Adam & Eve used fig \_\_\_ to cover their nakedness.
13. Abide here while I and the lad will go \_\_\_ to worship and return said Abraham to servants.
14. I am the voice of one \_\_\_ in the wilderness. John.
16. Gideon's sign was fleece that was wet then \_\_\_.
20. Who hath believed our report and to whom is the \_\_\_ of the Lord revealed?
21. There is \_\_\_ Lord, \_\_\_ faith, \_\_\_ baptism. Not 2.
22. Attorney General.
23. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye \_\_\_ them.

**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

Do a little more than you're paid to.  
 Give a little more than you have to.  
 Try a little harder than you want to.  
 Aim a little higher than you think possible, and give a lot of thanks for health, family and friends.—Art Linkletter

From Kids say the Darndest Things: "My Dad used to be rich but then he married my Mom."

From a Dennis the Menace cartoon: Denace's parents are having a man and his wife in their home for a meal. Denace says to them: "You say you live in Massachusetts? I thought Dad said you lived in sin." Oops.

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**OLD THEY - EXPOSED.**

(From "The Writings of Elder John Leland")

Of all the villains that haunt the world, not one of them is more mischievous than Old They. He is generally treated as a noun of multitude, followed by a single verb, (They say,) which makes it exceedingly difficult to identify the vagrant. Whether he is an individual, bearing as many titles as a Spanish Don, or a monster, having as many heads as a Hydra, is hard to ascertain.

If a man wishes to spread a false report, to injure his ruler, priest or neighbor, he has nothing to do, but to add, They say so, and all passes currently.

If any, however, are incredulous, and back the evil report, after passing many hands, which gave the report publicity, and drawing near the ideal residence of They, he then plays the game of a talisman before them, or dissolves himself in air.

Others, who have been often foiled in their pursuits after the fugitive, and yet are in the habit of believing that They has said so, instead of fixing the blame on the infamous tatter, who is retailing the slander, conjecture a substitute for They, and ever afterwards consider the substitute as an enemy, when, at the same time, the poor suspected man, knows not for what. If it will not be considered too dictatorial, I will here suggest a salutary expedient.

When a man begins to retail the libellous reports of others, or vend his own choleric manufacture, on the credit of, They say so, if he will not identify his author, hold the man responsible for all he says, and let Old They shift for himself.

The thing that alarms me is that there are so many clergymen who say that the so-called 'new morality' is all right. They say we're living in a new generation; let's be relevant, let's change God's law. Let's say that adultery is all right under certain circumstances; fornication's all right under certain circumstances. If it's 'meaningful.'—Billy Graham

**CHURCH NEWS**

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS will **not** have its annual Christmas Singing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday night in December due to the continued threat of the Covid-19 virus. The blessing of singing praises to our Savior, Jesus Christ and having fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ will surely be missed. This is the first time I can remember that the church has not had this singing since it was started many years ago.—Elder Larry Wise, Pastor

The following is just a reminder about the new book by Elder David Wise. It would be a good Christmas gift for a Primitive Baptist and interested parties:

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.

Many meetings have been cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 virus and they have sorely been missed. We pray that 2021 will be much better and the Lord will bless the pandemic to come to a halt although this virus probably will not; hopefully, however the spread will be minimal rather than prolific as was the case in 2020.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**

I want to extend a very Merry Christmas to every one as we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Regardless of when He was born, we rejoice in the truth that He was born of a virgin, died to save His people, and was resurrected from the grave. In Him we live, move, and have our being. Many thanks are extended to all individuals and churches that have supported this publication through their monetary contributions and prayers during 2020. May God continue to have mercy upon us individually and as a nation—*Editor*

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**IN CHRIST WE HAVE**

A love that can never be fathomed  
 A life that can never die  
 A righteousness that can never be tarnished  
 A peace that can never be understood  
 A rest that can never be disturbed  
 A joy that can never be diminished  
 A hope that can never be disappointed  
 A glory that can never be clouded  
 A light that can never be darkened  
 A purity that can never be defiled  
 A beauty that can never be marred  
 A wisdom that can never be baffled  
 Resources that can never be exhausted.

Source Unknown.

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**BEAUTIFUL COUNTENANCE**

The renowned Quaker scholar Rufus Jones was speaking of the importance of having a radiant countenance. After his address, a woman "with an almost unbelievably plain face" came up and asked him what he would do if he had a face like hers. He replied, "While I have troubles of my own of that kind, I've discovered that if you light it up from within, any old face you have is good enough."

Our Daily Bread, December 7, 1992.

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." (Prov. 15:13)

"...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." (I Sam. 16:7)

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." (Prov. 17:22)

Someone has said, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." Two people do not always see the same.



**APOSTLE PETER**

## Part 2



By Elder Ricky Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

2 Peter 1:16: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

We continue our writing on the Apostle Peter. In this article we look at him being a witness to Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. As our verse above says he and the other apostles were eyewitnesses of his majesty (greatness). We will now look at a few of these events. Sometimes all twelve saw his miracles and sometimes there was only a few that witness it. Peter seems to have been one that the Lord particularly wanted to witness the events. We notice this in Mark 5:35-43. In the miracle of raising the young damsel from the dead. A man named Jairus a ruler of the Synagogue in the area. He pleaded with the Lord to come and heal his daughter, but by the time he had made his plea to Jesus news came that she had passed away. The Lord tells Jairus to just continue his belief in him. Jesus then began his journey to go where her body lay. However he didn't allow all of his followers to come with him just three of his apostles. Mark 5:37 **And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.** Upon arriving at the house where the damsel is they find that there is a disturbance among those that had gathered. The paid mourners and wailers were causing a mournful scene because of the death of the damsel.

Mark 5:39-42: **"And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment."**

Notice that Jesus put everybody out except the mother and father, Peter and the two disciples. Now the Lord didn't need these people to assist him in the miracle. The Lord simply told the damsel to arise and she did. Everyone in that room was put there for the purpose of witnessing the miracle that our Lord performed.

We now go to the scriptures where it is recorded about the glorious transfiguration of our Lord. First let's see who was there to see the transfiguration.

Matthew 17:1. **"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,"** Again the Apostle Peter is here to witness another miracle of our Lord.

Matthew 17:2-5: **"And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."**

This transfiguration is what Peter is talking about in our opening text. Telling the people that you are not following a cunningly devised fable. A fable is a false story. Peter would later say as an Apostle "I saw these things as they happen! I heard the voice of God the Father say This is my beloved Son.". Jesus Christ is real. Jesus Christ is truly the son of God!

These events are just a few of what Peter witnessed as he walked with the Lord. So what was the purpose for Peter and others to witness these great events?

I believe the answer can be found in these scriptures: Luke 1:1: **"Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,"** Luke is writing to his friend Theophilus. He is writing for the purpose of "setting in order a declaration of those things believed among us". This is what we believe; these recorded events as written by eye witnesses of what they saw. Luke 1:2: **"Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;"**

Now Luke sums up the purpose for having these eye witnesses. Luke 1:4: **"That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed."**

Those "things" are Jesus miraculously raising the dead. Causing the lame to walk. To give sight to one that was born blind! Peter and the other apostles are saying we saw these things, they are certain!



Certainty means “security” or “undoubted truth”. These events were not done in a corner, where no one witnessed them. We were there; we saw these things with our very own eyes. You are not following after cunningly devised fables. These stories are all true. Jesus is the Christ. The Son of the Living God!  
 R.L. Taylor

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

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>ACROSS:</b> | <b>DOWN:</b>    |
| 1. gaga        | 2. marba        |
| 7. denruom     | 3. reddal       |
| 8. demaerd     | 4. evod         |
| 9. maes        | 5. daedhcelemba |
| 12. layor      | 6. dnim         |
| 15. rewsna     | 7. dratsum      |
| 16. ned        | 10. molasba     |
| 17. yrc        | 11. sevael      |
| 18. reviled    | 13. rednoy      |
| 19. dleiy      | 14. gniyrc      |
| 20. tsomla     | 16. yrd         |
| 23. yad        | 20. mra         |
| 24. yenom      | 21. eno         |
| 25. doog       | 22. ga          |
|                | 23. od          |

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**



By Elder Robert Payne  
 October 18, 2020

“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” Hebrews 10:14

This chapter lays out the law service and the idea that in this service that those offerings every year by the high priest were only a remembrance of sin and never an atonement.

Now Jesus came, as a Lamb without spot or blemish (no sin) and offered himself, one time to the Father. The Father accepted that payment for the sins of the sanctified, never to be remembered against us any more.

He was nailed on that cruel cross for our sins and declared with his dying breath, IT IS FINISHED! The debt was paid and none will be lost. Jesus will have what he paid for. Rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!

**IF I WERE THE DEVIL**

By Paul Harvey—1965 (Deceased)  
*(Notice anything familiar today?)*

If I were the devil...If I were the prince of darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness, and I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apples from the tree, Thee.

So, I'd set out however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent I'd whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

To the young I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good and what's good is "square." And the old, I would teach them to pray, after me: 'Our father which art in Washington...'

And then I'd get organized, I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd peddle alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I would soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed, and with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil, I'd encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to—discipline emotions—just let those run wild until before you knew it you'd have to have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every school house door,

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing. I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, and then from the schoolhouse, and then from the Houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute Psychology for religion and deity science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

And what will you bet that I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling as a way to get rich. I would caution against extremes in hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, and that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing."

Paul Harvey, good day. [alabamagazette.com](http://alabamagazette.com)

**OUR DAILY PRAYER**

By Elder Rusty Wise  
February 25, 2020

Psalm 18:31 KJV: For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?

Two very intense questions for us to ponder. Is there any other god that we can call on, is there a god that knows our thoughts and intents of our heart, is there another god that is awake at every moment to hear our cries, is there another god that can supply our every need? And is he steadfast and unmovable and never changing?

Many times we become very anxious in our lives and think that God is just not moving fast enough for us, or even moving to help us at all. We get to the point, like Sarah and Abraham, that he must need some help. We then turn to the gods of this world and find ourselves in trouble.

Whether it be like Abraham and the promise of a son that took many years, or whether it be like Peter and building altars to others in haste. Our thoughts of serving ourselves as gods or serving other gods will not work.

Then the question remains who is our God, who is a rock beside our God. Our Father in heaven is our God; He is the beginning and the end. He is the one that created everything in six days. He is the one who's just and holy law must be satisfied perfectly and completely. He is the one who made man from the dust of the earth in his own image. And though man is cast down by his own destruction, God by his own power is the one who is able to raise him up again.

He creates us in a moment and gives us a lifetime of hope. He loves us without end. To the point he sent the very best he had, to redeem us from the awful curse of sin. Then he promised that he would return to take us home to be with him.

Is there anything that could come close to matching our God?

Our prayer today is that we may remember the first commandment given to Moses, he is the Lord thy God, we are to have no other god before him. And may we remember that whether we do or do not understand how he is working, rest assured that he has not forgotten. As Moses commanded the

Israelites, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, that we might know in our hearts and mind whom is our God.

1. When Moses and the Israelites from Egypt's land did flee, Behind them were proud Pharaoh's host, And in front of them the sea; God raised the waters like a wall, And opened up the way, And the God that lived in the olden times is just the same today!

Refrain: He's just the same today, He's just the same today, And the God that lived in Moses' times is just the same today!

2. When David and Goliath met—the wrong against the right,—The giant armed with human strength, And David with God's might; God directed David's sling, The giant low did lay, and the God that lived in the olden times is just the same today! [Refrain]. . .

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**OUR GOD IS IN THE HEAVENS**

By Elder Larry Wise

False gods and gods made with hands can do nothing for the child of God. Those made with hands must be carried from place to place and false gods do not even exist. What about our God? The Psalmist declares, "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." (Psalm 115:3) Our God doesn't consult with us in acting according to His will. He only consults His own will and does as He pleases. The Psalmist also said, "Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places." (Psalm 135:6)

It pleased the Lord to make us His people and that is why He will never leave or forsake us. (1 Sam. 12:22) The book of Job also states, "But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth." (Job 23:13) When God stretches out His hand to deliver and save, who has the power to turn it back? If it could be turned back, man would have more power than God.

Jesus came to save His people from their sins and He had to be smitten on the cross to accomplish this act of love. The scriptures tell us that it "pleased the Lord to bruise Him" when His soul was made an offering for sin. (Isa. 53:10) Jesus always, without exception, did those things that pleased the Father. (John 8:29) We aren't at liberty to do as we please but are under obligation to please Him to the best of our ability, using our God-given faith.

**JOY TO THE WORLD**

Yes, even in these troublesome times I say, Joy to the world. Why? Because the Lord has come. Let heaven and angels sing and repeat the sounding joy of the glad tidings of great joy. How did this King of kings come? He came on the great, memorable silent night when the shepherds, watching their flock, followed the star in the east, which guided them to the stable wherein they found the babe in a manger, where they fed the horses, wrapped in swaddling clothes wherewith the horsemen rubbed and shined the horses. This Christ, son of Mary and Joseph, was born a Saviour for His name was called Jesus because He should save—save whom? His people from their sins. Another writer tells us, “There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Ed-Acts 4:12) Take notice that it says “whereby we *must* be saved.” This is proof that the Christ did the saving. In the first place, man cannot claim the honor of helping, as man was the *last* of God’s creation.

Let us not sing His praise on Christmas Day only, but repeat the sounding joy every day in the year. The New Year’s Day is a good day to begin. I fear that amidst the great joy of merry-making and giving gifts that many lose sight of the meaning of such celebrations. Let none of us forget that God gave up His only Son that He should save His people from their sins—not will, but did, in the past. Let each of us, having a hope that we are in the redeemed family sing “Joy to the world, the Lord has come!” Our Saviour was born as no other was ever born; He died as no other ever died; He lived and performed miracles as no other. He arose from the grave as did no other, and best of all He is coming again as no other—coming in the clouds to gather His family home. He will carry them on His wings of love to dwell with Him eternally in glory. Let us think of the things up higher, and not so much of this sinful world, for the earth and all therein will pass away. But up higher where mortality has put on immortality, all will be peace, love and joy, where we shall sing with more understanding and more sweetly, “Joy to the world, the Lord has come.” In hope that I’ll meet you there.

Artelia Morrisett  
Edmund, Okla.

(From “*The Primitive Baptist*”, February 6, 1947)

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**GREAT LOVE**

“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.” (Romans 5:7-8)

**EXCERPTS  
GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Elder Wise,

I am sending a small donation to your good paper.

I would like to share an unused writing which was put on the bulletin board in our dining room here at this Assisted Living where I reside.

“How accepted are you  
by God today?  
Look at Jesus!  
That is how accepted  
you are!  
Christ is the measure  
Of your acceptance!”

Isn’t that great?

Thinking of what many people say, “Have you accepted Christ.”

May God continue to bless you with your good publication.

Doris W. Smith  
Milan, TN

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” (Eph. 1:6—*Editor*)

Bro. Larry,

I enjoy the Glad Tidings so very much.  
May the Lord continue to bless you.

In Christian Love,  
Sis. Anne Smith  
Amory, MS

P.S. Find enclosed a small token of thanks.

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**BE FILLED**

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matt. 5:6)

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;” (Eph. 5:18)

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph. 3:19)

“He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.” (Luke 1:53)

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