

Glad Tidings

February 2021

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

2021

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 book of Hebrews is a book of betters. It tells of a better hope, better testament, better covenant, better promises, better country and also a better resurrection. The book of Ecclesiastes is attributed to Solomon (no one knows for sure) and it also has many verses that describe things better. Remember this is the view under the sun and not above it. We have just begun a new year but no human being knows what will happen as it unfolds but the God of heaven and earth. Eccles. 7:8 says, “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

We have two betters in this verse. The first better tells us the end of a thing is better than the beginning but just exactly what is the thing? If the thing is bad to start with, how can it be better than the beginning? The wicked ungodly generation starts out wicked and end up wicked and are banished from the presence of God in the final judgment. This end is surely not better; it is worse. Contrast this with the child of God who starts out wicked in his conception and his birth but is transformed in the spiritual creation as Paul tells us, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Cor. 5:17) This is surely better than the beginning but the best is yet to come in the better resurrection. “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” (Phil. 3:21) It is better in that we will be resurrected never to die again, unlike Lazarus and others who were also resurrected but had to die again.

We contemplate the end results of a course of action when we begin; we are hoping it will prove fruitful and better than when we begin. God never operates on this basis. He is the one that declared the end from the beginning; this is why we can trust Him to prosper our course of action if it is according to His will. The good book gives us the answer how to make our beginning and end prosperous. The Lord charged Joshua after the death of Moses, “Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.” (Jos. 1:7)

We certainly pray that the end of 2021 is better than the beginning. It has begun with a wide outbreak of Covid-19 virus and much corruption in political leaders, both national and state. We cannot control the outcome of either of these situations but we can continue to pray and trust the Lord for grace to bear up in the midst of adversity. Paul said, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (I Cor. 10:13)

We aren't left in the dark as to what to expect as time marches on. Paul writes Timothy that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. However, what was Timothy to do in this chaotic environment? Paul tells him, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” (II Tim. 3:14) We must follow the same pattern and “continue” to trust and follow the Lord to be disciples indeed as Jesus said to some believing Jews, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;” (John 8:31)

Patience is required to follow the Biblical course of action so the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. When terrible adversity came Job's way, what did he do? He did not follow his wife's advice and curse God and die. Instead he said, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.” (Job 13:15) Job is mentioned in the New Testament by James and tells of his patience, “Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” (James 5:11)

We know from reading the word of God that the latter end of Job was blessed more than the beginning. He started out rich but he ended up richer. “And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10) We don't find where Job was “proud” in spirit when he had all his material blessings. If he had he wouldn't have had the grace to endure because, “...be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” (I Peter 5:5) Look to the Lord at the beginning, middle and the end. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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HOUSE OF GOD



By Elder Calvin Warren
Tupelo, Mississippi

The wise old preacher said in Ecclesiastes 5:1 to, "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil." To understand what is meant by "keep thy foot", read James 1:19-21. One is not to bring the thing that is not becoming to the church into it.

The manner of life is to be considered because the House of God should be looked upon as a Reverential Place. It is not a place for the natural man but designed for the spiritual one. It will never appeal to natural man if it is functioning as God designed it. We that love the House of God look at it differently than most do. We love the church with a spiritual love, and see it in a very different light than the world does.

First we realize what an amazing place it is. It is a place where God meets with his people. Even the Lord Jesus said that where two are gathered in his name he would be present. I might take time here to point out the house of God is not the building that we meet in. It

is wherever the Lord's people meet with him to worship and praise him. It can even be in a wilderness like Jacob. In Genesis 28:17 he said, "How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." The word dreadful is not used as being a place undesired, but one of great wonderment. A better word would be the one we hear our grand children use today, which is (awesome). The house of God is an awesome place, one very desirable, and one that we want to be at, a place where we meet with our Lord and Savior to worship him. It is a place where we get an insight into heaven itself, to view heavenly things and surely say that this is an awesome place.

Secondly, it is a place to be desired, the psalmist said in Psalms 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." What a wonderful blessing to wake up on Sunday morning with such an anticipation of going to the house of God. Realizing that there is nothing that the world has that holds your desire. It is focused upon the Lord, and you can say sincerely, I would rather occupy the lowest position there is in the church than the highest in the world. (There is no low position in the church, they are all equal, and if there is, it's the pastor, for he is servant to the rest.) I have always said that to be a child of God is a greater honor than being King, or even the President. The House of God is loved and desired by his people.

Thirdly the house of God is a place of learning. When we come together we should expect to be taught the word of God. It is said in Micah 4:2, "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he (God) will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." His house is one of teaching, teaching God's people of the wonderful works of grace, bringing them to the knowledge and understanding of His will for them. But teaching is to no avail if we are not willing to learn, but God did not leave us without the ability to do so, because "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. He has given us the Spirit that enables us to learn His wonderful word.

Fourthly; the house of God is a place to behave in a Godly manner. Paul writes to young Timothy in I Timothy 3:14, 15, and says, "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Just anything does not go in the house of God. It is not a house of entertainment, it's a house of worship, just because certain things appeal to the natural man and entices him to come in, it doesn't

mean that is alright. Aren't we glad that God has enabled us to see this and conduct ourselves in a God pleasing way. It also means that it is a place of truth; just any doctrine should not be taught. It is the pillow [sic] and ground of the truth, so truth should be taught to the fullest and none left out. Paul said to the church at Ephesus, Acts 20:27, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." So the house of God is one of Good Conduct and sound Teaching.

Fifth; The House of God is under authority. God's word tells us in Hebrews 10:21 that there is a High Priest over the house of God. "And having a high priest over the house of God," which is Jesus Christ our Lord. He has entered into the Holiest of Holy, and is seated at the right hand of the Father ruling over his kingdom. If he is ruling, and he is, then he has sovereign authority over his house. That means that all the rules and regulations comes from him, and no one has the right to change or add any. What a blessing our services are. They are done in the simplicity of Christ which is far removed from the compilations of man. At times I think if Jesus would visit these worldly entertaining institutions he would do the same as he did in the temple. Surely man's interest has removed the true meaning of worship from God's house, therefore not adhering to the authority of Christ.

Lastly; The House of God is a house of judgment. I Peter 4:17, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God, and if it first begin at us, what shall the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?" There are many facets that we could cover with this thought, but I will cover just one. The one that the church is to judge itself, and when it does in a proper way then we are not judged of God. I Corinthians 11:31, "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." The House of God ought to always be considering its ways and weighing them against God's word to see if they are in compliance. When something is not according to, "Thus sayest the Lord," it should be removed and replaced with that which is. What a wonderful blessing it is to be part of the Lord's church and enjoy the fellowship, love and teachings that is presented in the simplicity of Christ Jesus.

May God bless Elder Calvin Warren
(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", June 2009)

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem." (Psalm 122:1-2)

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." (Psalm 100:4)

SCARCELY SAVED

By Elder T. L. Webb, Sr. (Deceased)

What is meant by the expression in 1 Peter iv.18, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Mrs. Jessie Cole, R. 2, Fayette, Ala.

I think the righteous under consideration in the above text are God's regenerated people and that the salvation is a time salvation. Scarcely means deficiently, scantily, difficulty, barely, not plentifully, not abundantly, etc. Eternal salvation is not that way, but it is abundant, full, copious, rich, bountiful and complete, through the overflowing and abundant mercy of God and the vicarious and complete obedience of the Son of God, who was "full of grace and truth" and of whose fullness have we all received and "grace for grace,"—not grace for works; for Paul says in Titus iii. 5 it is "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." And the Apostle Peter says: "According to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Jesus says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."—John x.10. He also said to Paul on one occasion, "My grace is sufficient for thee." So, when it comes to imparting life to poor sinners, preserving them and finally saving them in the glory world, I see nothing scarce about it, but it all seems to be abundant, full and free—it is all complete in Christ.

The preceding verse to the one under consideration shows that judgment begins *at the house of God, which I understand means the church of God. In this judgment*, that is going on now with God's people in the house of God, they are but scarcely saved from the chastening rod and to the joys of spiritual life, when obedient; and some of them are not even scarcely saved from some things. Those of God's people who obey not the gospel lose out here in time, for it is here in time that they are rewarded according to their works. Now, please do not get excited over the word "rewarded" until I get through with it. Why should we be afraid of the idea that people are rewarded according to their works if the Bible teaches it? It is all right and in perfect harmony with the doctrine of God's sovereign, unconditional, discriminating and unhindered work in saving all the chosen objects of His love in heaven—that is, when it is rightly applied. If the Bible teaches that people are rewarded according to their works, and saved according to their works, and it surely does, then it necessarily follows that it is either here in time or eternity. Paul teaches us in Heb. xi. 6 that if we do not believe in God as a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him we cannot practically come to

Him. But we might ask the question, who is it that diligently seek after God, how are they rewarded, and when? None but God's people seek after God. Proof: Rom. iii. 11. David said, with reference to the judgments of the Lord. "Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."—Psalm xix. 11. The Lord says, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his works shall be."—Rev. xxii. 12. There are many other texts that show conclusively that people are rewarded according to their works. But what I want to impress on the mind of the reader is that this judgment and all these texts about people being rewarded according to their works is here in this time world.

Paul says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."—1 Cor. iii. 13-15. Instead of this text teaching that people are rewarded in heaven according to the way they build on this foundation, as some would have us believe, it teaches the reverse—teaches that if the child of God does not build right, his works will be burned—he will lose out here in time, yet this will have nothing to do with his eternal destiny—"he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." Oh, what a glorious thought that all the trophies of God's love will be acquitted at the last judgment, not on account of their works here in time, but through the merits of Him who loved them and washed them from their sins in His own blood. There is not a Scripture in all the Bible that teaches that people will be rewarded in heaven according to their works here in time. None except the wicked world, whose names will not be found in the book of life, will be, according to the final judgment, rewarded in eternity according to their works here in time. See Rev. xx. 12-15. At the final resurrection those that have done good will be raised to everlasting life, but not because they have done *good*. The Bible plainly teaches that everlasting life is "not according to our works." If we were raised to everlasting life in the last day according to our works, then it would not be of grace, for "If it be of grace, then is it no more of works." If in the final judgment God's people should be rewarded with the joys of heaven for their obedience or good works here in time, then they would have no occasion to praise the Lord for that happy place; they would have to praise themselves; and how could they ever sing that new song that John heard—"Thou art worthy, because thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God, by thy blood, out of every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people?"

I have not space now to try to explain all the text, but will say I think the ungodly and sinner will finally appear banished from the presence of God.

(From "*Little Things*", By Elder T. L. Webb, Sr.)

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE



By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi

My brother-in-law spent the last several days serving on the local county grand jury. Out of the 100 cases that had been set before the grand jury since last October 2006, 100 of the cases had some kind of connection with drugs.

One of the greatest weapons that threaten the very fiber of our nation is the illegal use of drugs, and the use of illegal drugs. I would not doubt that if we were to survey 10 different people on the streets of our local town, each one could tell of one in their family ranks that are being overcome with this terrible addiction. Over the years, I have seen Old and young people whose lives are destroyed because at one time they, for one reason or another, tried the illegal drugs. In many cases the first time is not the last but only the beginning of destruction. Just think how many lives are hurt by one member of a family that uses drugs. Homes are lost by grandparents, parents, and other members of many families, the cost sometimes so great there is no way to measure the damage in many ways to our nation. This drug epidemic affects not only the poor, but the rich also. It is nation wide. This drug epidemic is not just affecting those that do not attend a local church body, but those that started out on the right road in the church and have fallen by the way side because of being addicted to drugs. This is so sad!

Proverbs 14:12 teaches us a great lesson. "There is a WAY which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the WAYS of death." Did you notice the word "WAY" which is singular? How many times are the words spoken "Ah, go ahead and try it...one time want hurt you?" Now notice the word "WAYS" as it is used in this verse. The way which seemed right unto a man ends up as ways of death.

There are so many broken hearts, so many children that have parents that are drug addicts. I visited in a home recently that the great-grandparents are

keeping a three-year old child. Both parents of the child are in jail. Drugs are the culprit. When I left the home the little child followed me out to my vehicle and said to me, "Will you pray for my mother?" She further stated to me "I pray for her every night." If you want something to rip your heart out, just let a beautiful child such as this say these words to you.

A court official said recently that the rehab centers only give a temporary break for those that are addicts. Most are right back in the middle of this terrible thing within a few months. Some do make it and live productive lives. Is there a way out? yes, there is a way. His comments were as follows: "The best remedy is to start attending a church on a regular basis. When God takes hold of one, he and he alone can fix their life." I thought that was a good answer. Our only way out of the "Ways of death" is He who said "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We need to remember there is nothing too hard for the Lord. Parents, please take time to be a family. Know what your children are doing, and do you know who they are associating with, and for their sakes, tell them about JESUS. Let them know you love them. Do not forget there is a life outside this epidemic and that is in following the Lord. Jesus said in Matt. 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

(From "The GOOD NEWS newsletter", April 2007)

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

(From "Advocate and Messenger", December, 1938)

"How vain would be the eternal counsels, if power did not step in to execute them. Without power His mercy would be but feeble pity. His promises an empty sound. His threatenings a mere scare-crow. God's power is like Himself; eternal incomprehensible; It can neither be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by the creature."—Pink

"You have not, you never will have, anything to glory in, but the Lord. Whatsoever good you receive, comes from His grace; whatsoever evil you escape, is from His blessing; and if ever you have eternal life, it will be the free gift of God in Jesus Christ."—Romaine

"Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name." (1 Chron. 29:12-13)

AFTER THE FLESH

May 20, 1937

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.—Rom. viii. 5.

To our mind the apostle here draws a line of distinction and shows the great difference between the unregenerate and those who have been born from above. In his teaching here may also be found an idea of comfort and consolation and encouragement for tempest-tossed child of God, for it gives an unmistakable evidence of a gracious state.

"They that are after the flesh" are those who have been born of the flesh; those who are offspring of Adam in their natural state. They are those who have been born of the earthly parentage only. They have been born from beneath, but not from above.

To "mind," as here used, simply means to love, to care for, to be concerned about. They do not mind or [pg 282] care for the things of the flesh in order to be born of the flesh, but they mind those things because they are born of the flesh. One does not care for the things of nature in order to be born into the natural realm. One has to be first born into the natural realm in order to care for the things that are in that realm.

To be "after the Spirit" is to be born of the Spirit, born from above. One does not have to mind, or care for, the things of the Spirit in order to be born of the Spirit, no more than one has to care for the things of the flesh, the things of the natural realm, in order to be born of the flesh, or to be born into the natural world. We love the things in the natural realm after we have been born into the natural realm. The loving or caring for the things of nature, the things that are in the natural realm, is indisputable and unmistakable evidence that one has the natural life—has been born into the natural realm.

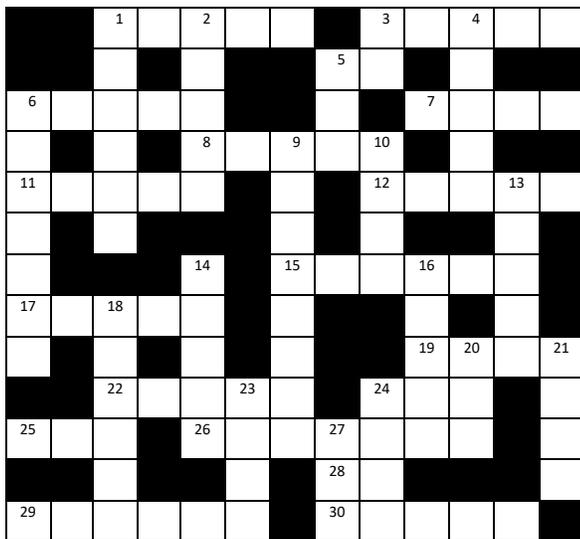
Even so, one minds, loves, cares for, the things of the Spirit because he has been born into the spiritual realm—because he has been born from above. The fact, then, that one loves God, minds the things of the Spirit, cares for and loves spiritual things, loves holiness and righteousness, is indisputable and unmistakable evidence of the fact that he has been born of God, has been born from above. It is evidence which inspiration has given that one is a child of God. The mind is something that pertains to and belongs to life. The carnal mind is a mind that belongs alone to the natural life. The spiritual mind belongs alone to the spiritual Life. "We have the mind of Christ."—I Cor. ii. 16. Those who have the life of Christ have the mind of Christ. This mind is not a carnal mind [pg 283] but a spiritual mind. To be in possession of no other mind than a carnal mind is to be in a state of death; or to be in a state of death in trespasses and sins is to have no other mind than a

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. It is Christ in you, the hope of ____.
3. O ____ where is thy sting, O grave where is victory?
5. If ____ be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
6. The Lord shall descend from heaven with a ____.
7. Though sins be scarlet, they shall be white as ____.
8. As it is written the ____ shall serve the younger.
11. Paul prayed that Corinth would be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the ____ man.
12. Heaven is my throne; the ____ is my footstool.
15. Jesus fulfilled the law to a jot and a ____.
17. Jesus healed a woman who had an ____ of blood.
19. ____ me and I shall be whiter than snow. Cleanse.
22. There is a time to ____ purpose under the heaven.
24. A ____ gar named Lazarus died being full of sores.
25. ____ unto you scribes and Pharisees ye are like whited sepulchers, beauty outward but dead within.
26. ____ unto me the joy of thy salvation said David.
28. ____ Christ the solid rock I stand not sinking sand.
29. The barrel of meal ____ not, neither did the cruse of oil fail according to word spake by Elijah.
30. ____ I leave with you my peace I give unto you.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

1. God sent forth Adam from the Garden to till the ____ from when he was taken.
2. Man without a wedding garment was cast into ____ darkness where was weeping and gnashing of teeth.
3. ____ unto others as you would have them do to you.
4. Saul's army general who died as a fool dieth.
5. Blessed are eyes for they ____ and ears that hear.
6. Moses was told to make an ark of ____ wood and to overlay it with pure gold.
9. Jesus came not to ____ but fulfill the law. Plural.
10. The dove found no ____ for the soul of her feet.
13. Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves among the ____ of the garden.
14. The apostle who denied the Lord three times.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

16. God confounded language at the ____ of Babel.
18. Jesus went to the grave of Lazarus to awake him out of his _____. Plural.
20. Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in ____.
21. Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no ____.
23. A bruised ____ shall he not break & smoking flax.
24. Not a ____ of the sacrificial lamb was to be broken.
27. The veil of the temple was rent in twain from the ____ to the bottom.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

I would guess every Primitive Baptist preacher has experienced someone in the congregation go to sleep in the course of the sermon. Some people like to sleep late on Sunday morning and some seem to like to sleep in church services. Someone was asked how long he slept on Sunday morning? The reply was, "It depends. It depends on how long the pastor's sermon is." Also a little boy was asked why he had to be quiet in church? He replied, "Because people are sleeping."—*Editor*

ARE YOU READY?

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3:15)

AFTER THE FLESH

(Continued from Page 5)

natural mind, or a carnal mind. One must be born of another parentage than the natural parentage in order to have the mind of Christ, or in order to have a mind for spiritual things. If you have a mind for spiritual things; if you have a desire for righteousness, it can be for no other reason than that you are "a child of Jehovah, of the seed Royal, a dignified race." You have been born from above. God is your Father; Jesus is your Elder Brother; heaven is your home; and you will live with the Father and with Jesus and all His redeemed family in all the ceaseless ages of eternity. The light afflictions here are but for a moment, and are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in you after a few more seasons of sufferings and distress. May the Lord bless and sustain you.

C. H. C.

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

CHURCH NEWS

The church meetings that have been able to be held are few and far between due to the Covid-19 virus. We are prayerful that 2021 will see abatement of the virus so that the people of God can assemble without so much anxiety about becoming infected with the virus that doesn't seem to want to let up.

MINISTER ORDINATION

Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS has scheduled the ordination of Brother Jackie Smith to the office of Elder and the full work of the gospel ministry. The ordination will be on Saturday, February 20, 2021 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is cordially invited, especially ordained elders and deacons to be part of the presbytery.

Brother Jackie is a deacon at Pleasant Hill and has been exercising there and in the area for 2 years or so. He has been blessed to preach at a number of our local churches, and we hope he will be blessed by the Lord to be a blessing to the kingdom of God for many years to come—Elder Neil Honea, Pastor of Pleasant Hill.

“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38)

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS is planning an open meeting the 4th weekend in February but services ONLY on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Covid-19 protocols will determine if the meeting has to be canceled. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Macedonia PBC Annual Meeting Update:

Macedonia PBC in Ackerman, MS has decided to move our annual meeting to the **2nd weekend in November** (from the 1st weekend in October). For 2021, the meeting dates for our annual meeting will be Sat (Nov 13) and Sun (Nov 14). For several years, our prior date has conflicted with other church's meetings or associations and we hope this adjustment to our meeting time will allow more of our dear friends in Christ to visit us during our annual meeting. As you prepare your annual church meeting calendar, we hope you will annually pencil in Macedonia PBC for our **Fellowship Meeting on the 4th weekend in February** and our **Annual Meeting the 2nd weekend in November**. We look forward to resuming our church meeting schedule soon and to visit your church, and we hope you will in turn visit us at Macedonia as well. Lord willing, we will see you on November 13-14, 2021 at Macedonia PBC in Ackerman, MS. God Bless! Elder David Wise, Pastor

CHURCH NEWS

We are thankful to report of a baptismal service of Bro. Jed Rushing at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church in South MS conducted by Elder Ricky Myers, Brookhaven, MS on January 3, 2021. May we have more children of God take up their cross to follow the Lord in baptism and receive the timely salvation that comes with this act of obedience. “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet. 3:21) Praise the Lord for His wonderful works toward the children of men.—*Editor*

IN MEMORIAM



Elder Vernis J. Stanaland began the New Year in heaven as he passed away January 1, 2021 at the age of 75 from complications of Covid-19 virus. He was the Pastor of Tyler Primitive Baptist Church in Tyler, TX where he had served for 38 years. Be in prayer for his wife of 53 years, Iris Stanaland and two daughters, Sonia Lowery and Karen Minton and the rest of the family that mourn his passing as well as the church he had served for so long in Tyler, TX.

The loss of Elder Stanaland makes two Primitive Baptist ministers that I know of that has been lost to the effects of the Covid-19 virus. Elder Larry Barkley from Pigeon Forge, TN died earlier from this virus that has caused so much havoc. There have been several other ministers that have been very sick from the virus. We pray for better days in the worship of our Savior.—*Editor*

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:16-17) Those that come unto the Lord who are labouring and heavy laden are promised to be given a rest. (Matt. 11:28)

APOSTLE PETER

Part 4



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Matthew 16:15-19: **“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”**

There are several things that Peter says throughout the four Gospels and Acts. Here he says that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God. A truth which the scriptures backs up completely. Then the Lord tells him where he got that information. It was not just a rumor, or just a wild guess that turned out to be true. Peter is saying this from the depths of his heart. It was the Father in heaven who put it there in his heart. To have it put into his heart shows that he was blessed indeed! From this statement we see that Peter is already born of the Spirit. To be able to call Jesus the Christ is a fruit of the Spirit. No one can show fruits of the Spirit unless they are born again. This statement did not arise out of Peter's fleshly nature, for the fleshly nature can only produce sinful things. Not ever child of God will say that Jesus is the Christ. For those that do however it is a manifestation of their being a child of God, which they can rejoice in. To know that he is the Christ is a huge blessing here on earth. Peter would need to know and realize this for his future work in the gospel church. From this time forward his ministry would involve the teaching that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ the Son of God. Could the elect be saved without Jesus as the Christ? No. For it was Jesus who came in flesh and blood and redeemed them on the cross. Had he been anything less than the Christ, then the elect would still be in their sins. There would be no

hope of glory for any of us. The good news of the gospel is that God literally came in flesh and blood and lived a perfect sinless life and offered that life for all his elect on the cross. That person was none other than Jesus Christ. The head of our church. The Son who met in covenant with the Father before the foundation of the world and agreed to come as their Savior. Today if you understand that Jesus is the Christ then you are blessed as Peter was.

That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Jesus did not mean that Peter was the rock of the church as some religions maintain, for he was just a mere man called to be an apostle. The rock here is our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 10:4 **And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.** The rock of our savior is the best foundation to build our belief upon. Christ the rock will never fail us in our time of need. Some would argue that Peter's name does mean rock. The name Peter comes from petros in the Greek language. It means a small rock like a pebble. You can't build a good foundation on one single small pebble, it won't stand the test when the trials come. Jesus Christ is our Rock. When Christ mentions building upon this rock, he was speaking of himself and the fact that he is the Christ the Son of the living God. This is the foundation the church is built upon.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: Many erroneously believe that this makes Peter as the gatekeeper in eternal heaven and once their spirit leaves the body at death they go to the gate of heaven and Peter the gatekeeper turns the key and let's them into heaven. No. The significance of the word keys here is to have knowledge and authority as an Apostle of the gospel church. Peter is a God called Apostle that would teach the fundamentals of the gospel church here in the kingdom of God in this time world Ephesians 2:20

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; Nor would this make Peter the head Apostle over the others. Peter wouldn't be the only one that would have the keys to the kingdom for the other ten and the Apostle Paul also, have the keys or authority to preach the gospel. Peter was truly blessed to preach the gospel as an apostle such as he did on the day of Pentecost and to Cornelius the Italian. The other apostles would have that gift as well. Maybe different than Peter's but none the less, just as equal in knowledge and authority.

We should be thankful that God called men such as Peter to the apostleship to establish the gospel church here on earth. R. L. Taylor

NOT REVEALED

By Elder S. N. Redford (Deceased)

Not long ago I stated in THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST that no man could prove by the Bible that we would know one another in heaven, or words to that effect. Brother R. A. Ford, of Harrisburg, Ark., cited me to the rich man and Lazarus, and Moses and Elias, as examples that seemed to indicate future recognition. I don't understand he believes we would know each other as we do here, but merely wanted these expressions explained. To which I reply: I do not say we will not know one another in heaven, for I do not know; but I said no man could prove it by the Bible. I know God could reveal it to us; but we may speculate and surmise all we want. "Secret things belong to the Lord," and "revealed things to us and our children." First John iii. 2 says, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." Then why try to tell just how it will be? There is enough revealed for us to write and preach about. That the disciples recognized Moses and Elias I would not deny—the Bible is too plain on this matter. But God could have revealed them to His disciples, for they appeared in glory, and there would be no other way they could have been known only by revelation. But, as I said before, when we have tried to fix it all up, and as I have heard some say, "surely we will know more when we get to heaven than we do now, and we know one another here, therefore we will know each other in heaven." But here we meet the text, "It doth not yet appear what we shall be." Let us be content with the fact that we are told "we shall be like Him"—that is, like Jesus. May the Lord help us to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.

S. N. R.

(From "The Primitive Baptist", August 17, 1939)

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

ACROSS:

- 1. yrolg
- 3. htaed
- 5. os
- 6. tuohs
- 7. wons
- 8. redle
- 11. renni
- 12. htrae
- 15. elttit
- 17. eussi
- 19. hsaw
- 22. yreve
- 24. geb
- 25. eow
- 26. erotser
- 28. no
- 29. detsaw
- 30. ecaep

DOWN:

- 1. dnuorg
- 2. retuo
- 3. od
- 4. renba
- 5. ees
- 6. mittihs
- 9. syortsed
- 10. tser
- 13. seert
- 14. retep
- 16. rewot
- 18. speels
- 20. ega
- 21. mrah
- 23. deer
- 24. enob
- 27. pot

HIRELING AND WOLF

By Elder S. N. Redford (Deceased)

A brother from a distant state asks my view on John x. 12. He asks who is caught by the wolf spoken of, the hireling or the sheep? To which I would say: It is the sheep that are caught and scattered. Wolves do not catch the hireling—it is the sheep they are after. The hireling is after the money, and cares nothing for the sheep, only to fleece them. Hence, when he sees trouble coming he flees and leaves the flock to the mercy of the wolf; and there is no doubt in my mind that, now and then, men put on the sheepskin in order to appear unsuspected among the Old Baptists, only to fleece them. But wait until trouble comes, and you will see that before he will suffer he will forsake the flock, and the flock, being without a protector, the wolf can catch and scatter them at pleasure. He does not destroy them eternally but here in time they are caught in the traps and snares of this wicked world, or else they are divided and scattered. These are my views briefly stated. SNR

(From "The Primitive Baptist", August 17, 1939)

FLESH

John Mason Brown was a drama critic and speaker well known for his witty and informative lectures on theatrical topics. One of his first important appearances as a lecturer was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Brown was pleased, but also rather nervous, and his nerves were not helped when he noticed by the light of the slide projector that someone was copying his every gesture. After a time he broke off his lecture and announced with great dignity that if anyone was not enjoying the talk, he was free to leave. Nobody did, and the mimicking continued. It was another 10 minutes before Brown realized that the mimic was his own shadow!

Was Brown's shadow real? Of course. Does a shadow have the power to control a person's actions? Of course not. It can only mimic us. But in Brown's case, his shadow did take control momentarily. Why? Because he allowed himself to be so distracted -- "addicted," if you will - by it that he completely forgot what he was supposed to be about. That's a pretty good description of the sin nature we carry within us as redeemed people. It can cause havoc, even though it has been made powerless by our identification with Christ.

Today in the Word, May 17, 1992.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom.6:12-13

ELECTION



By Elder Bill Walden (Deceased)

I want to write at this time on the subject of “election,” and to be clear, the election that I am referring to is unconditional on the part of the “elect.” It was not found on any foreseen good works whatsoever on the part of the elect.

Ephesians 1: 3, 4, 5: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: (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: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...”

Romans 9:11 “For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.” Please note carefully election occurred before Jacob and Esau were born (not after), as Paul said in the scripture above in Ephesians 1:4. This great transaction was before the foundation of the world.

We will not cite all the account of Elijah’s complaint to God that the enemy had killed all the prophets, and now they sought his own life, and that he was left alone: Romans 11:1-3. Centuries later Paul delivered the comforting message of election in Romans 11:4-5: “But what sayeth the answer of God to him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. (5) Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.” *At the time that Paul wrote this there was “a remnant according to the election of grace.”* Why would anyone with a spiritual mind fight and kick against such wonderful truth? In this “present evil world” in which we live today, when the foundation of God’s truth are being assailed, when Old Line religious denominations are turning their backs on their own statements of what they once stood for. Many of their Members are heart broken because of it; and many of our political leaders are willing to endorse issues that fly in the face of God’s revealed truths, in order to gain popularity. May we always remember that just like in Elijah’s time and in Paul’s time we are not alone; “there is at this present time” those who have not bowed their knee to the gods of the passing

things and changing attitudes of this world: “there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

Election, when properly understood, is a very comforting truth as taught in the Bible. Just prior to his death in 1778, Augustus Toplady, a respected preacher and writer, wrote the following: “I must humbly commit my soul to the hands of Almighty God; whom I know, and have long experienced to be my ever-gracious and infinitely merciful Father, nor have I the least doubt of my election, justification, and eternal happiness...”

“Grace first inscribed my name in God’s eternal book: ‘Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, Who all my sorrows took...”

“Grace’Tis A Charming Sound,” by Phillip Doddridge

2 Timothy 1:9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began...” As the Elect were chosen before the foundation of the world, they were given grace in Christ Jesus, and sometime from conception to death they are called with an holy calling. Election and the holy calling of God are inseparately linked together. Notice Romans 8:30. We find an unbreakable chain with no weak links that assures us that everyone whom God predestinated will be called by Him: He also called, and His calling is effectual.

Psalms 33:9 “For he spake, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast.” And so it is, when He speaks with His life-giving voice He never fails.

“Grace all the works shall crown, in everlasting days; it lays in heaven the topmost stone and well deserved the praise.”

(From “Zion’s Lamp”, April, 2016)

KNOWING YOUR ELECTION

Paul gave thanks to God for the church of the Thessalonians and made mention of them in his prayers. He remembered their work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said in I Thess. 1:4, “Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.” How did Paul know they were the “elect” (chosen) of God. First he already had the witness of their faith, love and hope and secondly they embraced the good news of the gospel. “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.” (I Thess. 1:5) These marks could only come from a child of God who was “elect”, redeemed, and born again.—*Editor*

EXCUSES

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

We often make excuses for not doing that which we know we should do. People have often made excuses for not attending the assembly of the saints and they are often bizarre, making no sense at all. Elder Ronald Lawrence tells of one lady he visited on Wednesday who told him she had a headache and would not be able to be in church on Sunday; this despite the fact she had three days to get rid of the headache. Well, this Covid-19 pandemic has given those who are prone to make excuses the perfect storm not to attend; they indeed finally have a very legitimate excuse or reason not to attend church. What will happen once the normal resumes? We will just have to wait and see.

We have missed out on so much over the last 10-12 months on not being able to worship the Lord in a normal way. One would think that the church house would be filled once church assemblies are restored to some form of normalcy. The scripture tells of a certain man who made a great supper. He sent his servant out at supper time and bade many saying, "... , Come; for all things are now ready." (Luke 14:17)

The supper is prepared and ready, now come and enjoy the feast. What was the reaction to those who were bidden? "And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused." (Luke 14:18) They consented together but each had a different excuse. The first wanted to be excused so he could go and see a piece of ground he had bought. What reasonable person would buy a piece of ground they had never seen? Not only that but it was supper time; what could they possibly see to ascertain the value of any land in the dark? The scripture plainly reveals how frivolous the excuse was.

The second excuse offered was just as frivolous as the first. "And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused." (Luke 14:19) These oxen needed to have already been proven as to their reliability to plow. In the morning would have been a better time to prove their worth. This individual missed out on the supper

along with the first. Remember this is a natural lesson that illustrates a spiritual application. The gospel supper is a feast for the hungry as the sheep and lambs are fed but one must go to where the feeding trough is located.

Then we have a third excuse offered in refusing to come to the supper. "And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." (Luke 14:20) In reality, this last one doesn't even beg to be excused; he just says he cannot come. Perhaps he could have brought his wife as well for I am sure she would have been welcomed. The scripture surely informs us of loving family and putting them first before the Lord. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." (Matt. 10:37) The scripture also tells us of the blessings of forsaking family (including wife) and houses and lands for the gospel's sake. (Mk 10:29-30) Of course this gets into the sensitive issue of family reunions taking people from the house of God.

People will come up with all kinds of things (real or imagined) that prevent them from doing what they know they need to do. Sometimes this reveals their true character. Solomon said, "The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets." (Prov. 22:13) The slothful man is one who is idle, indolent or lazy. This reminds me of Pa on Ma and Pa Kettle. Ma was always telling Pa to fix certain things. He would always say, "I'll get around to it one of these days." Those days never seemed to come. The lion usually doesn't reside in the streets but in the jungle so he just didn't want to get out and do what he needed to do. Did you know that the Bible teaches a sin of omission as well as commission? "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)

There are many "come" texts in the Bible that are meant for the benefit of God's people in this life. Those bidden to the supper missed out and those who make excuses not to come to the banqueting house miss out in this life but do not miss heaven thanks to the faithfulness of God. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isa. 55:1) "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

Whether the believer knows it or not, they are missed by their fellow brothers and sisters when they aren't in the house of God. Be an encouragement to the pastor and fellow believers by attending worship whenever possible. You may have the virus excuse now but what will it be when and if it passes?

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