

Glad Tidings

July 2021

2021

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

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

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Sometimes it seems that bad news comes in bunches. When the washer goes out, it seems like it isn't long before the dryer or some other appliance goes on the blink. We have had a series of illnesses in the church I serve the past several weeks that caused great concern and heartache. There have been battles against cancer, unexpected surgery, battles against the Covid virus, stroke, debilitating pain, and several other maladies. What do we do when the bad news keeps mounting? The sweet Psalmist of Israel, David, must have experienced such times as these as he wrote, "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 61:2)

Our hearts may be overwhelmed by all the adversity, so we need someone who cannot be overwhelmed, and that is the Lord Himself. He is higher than we are. His ways are higher than ours and His thoughts higher than ours. However, He knows our down sittings and uprisings and is able to provide. Imagine how Job felt when the bad news just kept coming, one after the other. The Sabeans took away all his oxen and asses and killed his servants. More bad news came as he was told the fire of God came from heaven and consumed his sheep and servants that kept them. Then Job heard that the Chaldeans carried away all his camels and killed the servants with the sword. The last news may have been the worst of all; he was told that a great wind had destroyed the house where his sons and daughters were and all ten of them had been killed.

This surely was an overwhelming time for the heart of Job. How did Job react? Did He blame God and strike out against others? No, he did not. The Bible says that after this life changing news, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job. 1: 21-22) Job knew that the Lord knew the way he would take and was made to cry out, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15) He surely was led to the Rock that is higher than Job.

The bad news did not stop for Job after the death of his ten offspring. He was afflicted with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head so that he took a potsherd to scrape himself. The wife of Job reacted to all this news by exhorting him to just curse God and die. How did Job respond to his wife's exhortation? "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." (Job 2:10) We always like a good ending in any story. Well, Job's story has a good ending; He is blessed twice as much in the end than at the beginning and is mentioned in the New Testament as a man of patience and recipient of the mercies of God.

If our house is founded on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ, we will be able to withstand the onslaught of bad news because we are led to the Rock that is higher than us. David had committed a grievous sin with Bathsheba and the child of that union was very sick. David fasted and wept for many days for the child. His servants were fearful of telling him when the child finally died for fear of what David might do to himself. David, however, perceived the child was dead and how did David react? David changed his apparel and came into the house of God and worshipped. David explained, "And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (II Sam 12:22-23)

David had many adversities as a result of his sin with Bathsheba so he knew first hand about needing help from the Lord. There is seemingly nothing worse than family trouble. David had family trouble and much of it because of his adultery with Bathsheba. He lost the child of that union with her. He lost a son Amnon who was killed by his brother Absalom for violating his sister, Tamar. He lost Absalom who tried to usurp the kingdom from David. He lost a fourth son, Adonijah, who proclaimed himself king and later put to death by Solomon. David did indeed restore fourfold for his adulterous sin.

We never know for sure how we will react when the bad news keeps piling up one after another. We trust we would be as Job and trust the Lord who is faithful who will not suffer us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear. (I Cor. 10:13) (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, correspondence and contributions to the Editor of Glad Tidings at the address below or call 662-489-5017 for announcements. You may also e-mail to wisepb310@gmail.com; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received prior to the 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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JUDGMENT

Elder S.N. Redford (Deceased)

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27.

"Because he hath appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained, whereof he hath given assurance unto all men in that He hath raised Him from the dead."—Acts 17:31.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." Rev. 20: 12, 13.

"Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Jude 14, 15.

"And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Matt. 25: 32.

From these with many other passages of scripture, we learn that the doctrine of a general judgment is a Bible doctrine. The world may not like this doctrine, and I am sure they do not; but nevertheless it is true. Yes, even they that pierced the Lord shall look upon Him, "And all kindreds of the earth shall wail because

of him."—Rev. 1: 7. Sentence will be passed upon the unrighteous; they will hear the awful sentence from Jesus Christ, the righteous Judge, "Depart from me, ye cursed," while His saints will hear the joyful news, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom."

I do not think that God has a great ledger in heaven with all the good deeds we have done written down, and all the evil deeds we have done written down; that if our good deeds outnumber our evil deeds, heaven's gate will open to us, or that it will be the reverse of the evil deeds outnumber the good. The Bible teaches that Jesus received the just strokes that should have fallen on us, that He took the place of His people under the law, being made a curse for them. He drank the dregs of the bitter cup of God's wrath for us, and hence God's people are justified in Him. Heaven is justly their home. It is a righteous judgment that they should have joys eternal. God's people will not enter heaven as so many pardoned criminals, but they will possess heaven as an inheritance through Jesus. They are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. Not only so, but ungodly men and devils will confess this truth. God's dear saints will fill heaven with their loud hallelujahs, saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!"

Those who die in their sins, those that have no Saviour, those who pierced Him, those who had no love for God, will be raised with all their guilt and shame, and stand before Him who sits upon a throne high and lifted up, their every knee to bow, and every tongue to confess, Jesus, the righteous judge, will pass sentence upon them and they will be banished from His blissful presence forever and ever. This doctrine opposes the doctrine of the annihilation of the wicked; but, like all other points of doctrine of God it reflects glory and honor to God, and comforts His people. The poor, down-trodden people of God will be avenged of their enemies; but in that glorious day when Jesus will be avenged of their enemies. Many millions of His saints have suffered death at the hands of their cruel enemies; but in that glorious day when Jesus shall avenge them, they will lift up their heads with joy; sorrow and sighing will fall away. The loving hand of Jesus will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Now to summarize: The doctrine of God teaches us that He purposed to save sinners; that He chose to save sinners; that He predestinated to save sinners; that He atoned for the sins of sinners, and forever put them away; that the Holy Spirit regenerates sinners; that He will effectually call everyone for whom Christ died; that Jesus intercedes for all His redeemed people according to the will of God; that they are preserved in Christ and kept by the power of God, that in the resurrection their bodies will be raised from their dusty beds, and that these, too, will be saved, made spiritual like the glorified body of Jesus.

In short, the doctrine of God teaches us that God will save all His people and land them safe in heaven, without the help of man, and in spite of all the opposing powers of hell. This glorious doctrine revives us by the way. Happy is that soul who abides in it. Let us plant our feet upon this solid rock and defy every storm.

WHEN AMERICA FORGETS GOD

The best way to become unpopular is to prophesy judgment and destruction. Every generation likes to hug to itself the delusion that it is permanent. If we are to discover the future civilization, there are only three sources of information. We have prophecy, and it indicates that the end of this age will be a time of distress and confusion. We have history, and history indicates that there always have been war and corruption. Then we have human nature. As human nature has failed in the past, how dare any glowing optimist to succeed in the future?

History, geology, archaeology, and the Bible tell us a crisis story. Nations and civilizations have gone on uneventfully for centuries and suddenly have been plunged into chaos or blotted out of existence. It was not mere poetry when the psalmist of old said: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." The lesson of all history is that God will eventually attain His purpose. Nebuchadnezzar may defy God, but God's final answer is destruction. Napoleon may say to Deity: "You rule up there, and I rule down here." But God's answer is the island of St. Helena. Out of Russia has come a rumor which cannot be denied, that Lenin, the Red dictator, spent his last days crawling on all fours, snarling and snapping like a beast.

There is no reason to believe that America can defy the Divine law and continue to exist. If an age produces godlessness, it will produce lawlessness; and moral defiance will bring moral disaster.

Will H. Houghton-- *King's Business, 1931*
(From "Advocate and Messenger", (July 1982)

FRIEND DEFINITION

A British publication once offered a prize for the best definition of a friend. Among the thousands of answers received were the following:

"One who multiplies joys, divides grief, and whose honesty is inviolable."

"One who understands our silence."

"A volume of sympathy bound in cloth."

"A watch that beats true for all time and never runs down."

The winning definition read: "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

Bits & Pieces, July, 1991.

ON CONVERSION

By Elder Samuel Lee Rives

From "Meditations Upon Religious Subjects"

Cruden defines conversion as follows: "Regeneration is the infusion of grace into the soul, conversion is the exercise of grace."

Mullins says: "The term conversion usually refers to the outward act of the changed man which is the manifestation of the inner change in the soul."

It will be seen that the two definitions obviously teach one and the same thing: regeneration first, conversion afterward, And that means, salvation first, then a turning from, or conversion from, error.

Further on, Mullins asserts, "In conversion we choose the way of life in response to motives and appeals presented to us in the gospel." And in this he means to teach that the unregenerated soul "chooses the way of life" and this states "it is the result of our own free action." He also says, it is "that first turning from sin to God, which is otherwise designated as regeneration, or the new birth." Here, it will be seen, he makes conversion mean the same thing as the new birth, or regeneration. Now, look back at his first definition where he says it is the "manifestation of the inner change." Clearly and deliberately meets himself coming back. It seems that his motive in his last stand was for the purpose of getting some activity of the alien sinner ahead of regeneration. Then, he even had the nerve to say: "theological has tended more and more to restrict the word to that first turning from sin to God, otherwise designated as regeneration." Usage among Arminians has always tended to attach more and more importance to the works of an alien sinner in order to obtain new birth, but usage lacks a long shot of being Bible. How would it look to say the Bible tends more and more to restrict a word? To "tend more and more," means to change more and more. Does the Bible change more and more?

Arminians just cannot shoot straight. They start off with a good-looking assertion, but the next time you hear them, they are clean gone into the kingdom of works. They affirm salvation by grace and dive off into a sermon and come up on the other side with works in their mouth. Where the Bible says "not of works," they never explain. Every item of works mentioned in the Bible for salvation, they find, and apply it to an unregenerated man, for him either to act or else go to torment. Now, regeneration gives life, so let regeneration come first, which is the Bible plan, and let the good works follow—"created in Christ Jesus unto good works."

(From "ITMS", July 2013)

Regeneration is a one time occurrence whereas the child of God may experience many conversions.

A QUESTION ABOUT CREMATION

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

Several years ago we were asked what stand Primitive Baptists take with regard to cremation. I am not aware of any official position ever being taken on this issue by the Primitive Baptists as a body, but of the ones I have heard say anything about it that I considered to be among the more spiritually-minded, all of them have recoiled from it as a thing repugnant, inappropriate and opposed to nature and decency. I have never personally known of a devout Primitive Baptist being cremated, and I think I can say with reasonable certainty that, as a body, they are very much opposed to it. According to the limited information I have been able to gather on the subject, it appears that cremation is a pagan practice and has always been considered extremely revolting by the Christian community.

We do not find an instance in the Scriptures among the people of God where they were cremated in place of burial. Their bodies were entombed, and seemingly with some degree of ceremony. I personally find the thought of burning the bodies of loved ones to powder, and scattering their ashes to the four winds, very undignified and depressing.

We read in Amos 2:1 that the Lord punished Moab for burning the bones of the King of Edom into lime. And in Jeremiah 7:31 we find that the judgments of God came upon Tophet for burning their sons and daughters in idolatrous sacrifices, which the Lord said He neither commanded, nor did it come into His heart.

I personally believe cremation should be outlawed. It is a well-known fact that many crimes have been solved, or at least verified, by the exhumation of bodies, some of which had been in the grave for many years. Cremation destroys all traces of bodily evidence in cases of criminal death, and sometimes suspicions of wrongful death do not arise until after a person's burial.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I think the example of our blessed Lord is the one we should follow, in this and all other matters. He was not cremated but was given an honorable and loving burial. The words of Isaac Watts are very appropriate ones with which to close these comments: "Why should we tremble to convey—Their bodies to the tomb? —There the dear flesh of Jesus lay—And left a strong perfume.—The graves of all His saints He blest—And softened every bed.—Where should the dying members rest—But with their dying Head?" --- Elder Ralph Harris

(<https://www.paradisepbc.org/Articles>)

The scriptures tell us that we were made from the dust of the earth. God told Adam in the sweat of his face he would eat bread until he returned to the ground. Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return. (ED)

TRUST AND THE KINGDOM



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Psalms 37:3: **“Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”**

I enjoy reading Psalms. God blessed those that wrote the Psalms to speak to us today in the gospel church. We should read the Psalms for our spiritual welfare. Our verse above speaks to us today in the gospel church.

Trust in the Lord means to put our faith in God at all times. There is never a good time to not put our trust in God. Trust in God is certainly needed in this age in which we live. Our trust in the Lord should be when we have both good times and bad. We should strive not to be just fair weather servants, when times are good. We should also hold on to him when the times are bad and uncertain. He is ever an anchor for us in the storms of life.

And do good. What is that which is good? Anything that God points out to us in his word. Charity, sacrifice, helping others in need. Being a good neighbor. Raising your children, in the nature and admonition of the Lord. Slow to anger, not riotous, keeping a civil tongue, and many more.

The Sermon on the Mount which begins in Matthew 5 is a good place to look to learn more about that which is good.

So shalt thou dwell in the land. What land is this? It is the kingdom of God that is here today. The kingdom that was set up in the days when Christ was here on earth. The Jews had a literal land of Canaan that they dwelt in. They had the temple at Jerusalem. One couldn't properly worship unless he went to the temple in Jerusalem. The Temple at Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. Christ has left us something far better than the temple and Canaan. He has left us the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom is not a place that is literal like Jerusalem. It is something that we can feel in our hearts or as Christ said within you. Luke 17:20-21 **“And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall**

they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

It is a spiritual kingdom like God is a Spirit. **John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."** Since it is a spiritual kingdom, that is felt with the heart we understand what this kingdom is. **Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."** Peace and joy is felt in the heart. The flesh cannot receive this. Only a heart that has been regenerated is capable of receiving peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. This is the land that the Psalmist is speaking about.

And verily thou shalt be fed. How is one fed in a spiritual kingdom? Since the land we enter into is spiritual, then the feeding would have to be spiritual as well. The scriptures tell us that we have a natural body and a spiritual body. The spiritual or inward man is spiritual within us. It is what we are able to receive the word of God with. It is given unto us when we are born again. Our spiritual man is fed by the preaching of the gospel. **1 Corinthians 3:2 "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."**

Paul uses the word fed to the Corinthians. How did Paul feed them? Did he literally feed them with milk and meats? No he was referring to the preaching of the gospel. The meat here represents those that are mature in the understanding of the gospel. Milk represents those that are babes in understanding the gospel. Babe or adult Paul fed them by his preaching the gospel to them. Today we enter further into the kingdom of God by the preaching of the gospel. We should not forsake the gospel church. It is there that we hear the preached word.

Through the preached word we are fed and Christ is further manifested unto us. **Titus 1:3 "But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;"** We are already saved by the grace of the God; it is a gift given to us without any requirements what so ever. We don't need preaching to get into heaven. We do need it to press into the kingdom of God here on earth. The kingdom we feel in our hearts. Let us press into it and enter into the joys of the Lord.

R.L. Taylor

The prophets were hated and slain, not because they hid the truth, but because they contended for a truth that is contrary to nature. In Hebrews Two we read of the severe trials of God's people, not for withholding truth, but for publishing it.

Elder J. H. Oliphant – 1888
 ("Advocate and Messenger", July 1982)

THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD

By Sister Oattie Sneed (Deceased)

"Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; I shall not be moved...My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my salvation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defence: I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. (Psalm 62:1-7)

In reading the above words, penned by the Psalmist, David, I feel a kindred to this man of old. For God is my refuge now, has been and will be always. What would my life be without his guidance, his comfort, his felt presence every hour of the day and night? He prepared the church and a hope of life over yonder when our days are done here on earth.

I have had health problems for a lot of the time in my years gone by, and also in the present. I know that has made me feel the need of a saviour and comforter more of my life while I am here in this time world. Trials and tribulations have been a part of it, and when things go well, I know that I am indebted to God for every good thing. Our churches are set up for us to feast on spiritual food, made available to us by God's called servants. Our loved ones and our friends cause us to feel that God gave them for us to fellowship and share the love that flows from breast to breast.

We, as a nation, are blessed to have religious freedom and are allowed to meet as much as we desire and enjoy the fellowship and love of our brothers and sisters in our churches. I understand from the news media that many poor people are persecuted and even killed because of their love of God and his churches. It makes me very sad to learn of the way of life some have. I am praying that those little children of God may have the same privileges that we have had in the past, and still have, and that we expect to have in the coming years. Truly, we are blessed as a people and nation. May we live in such a way that those privileges may continue for the ones coming after us. We do know these blessings could be taken away because of our disobedience and sinful ways.

As one of the song writers wrote, "Saviour hold my trembling hand,"; it has become my plea also.

--Oattie Sneed

(From "Glad Tidings", May 1986)

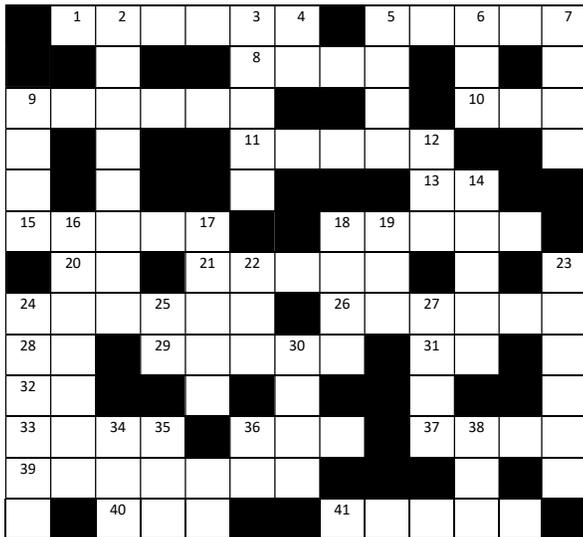
GOD BLESS AMERICA

We sing the song "God Bless America" and see signs saying the same. However, will God truly bless a nation that flaunts and ignores His laws? God will not continually overlook this without judgment—Editor

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Son of Cush who was a mighty hunter in earth.
5. I said in my ___ all men are liars. Hurry.
8. City where Paul was imprisoned and wrote letters.
9. On Pentecost brethren were in one mind and ___.
10. Joseph's brethren sold him, cast him into a ___.
11. Out of the ___ came forth meat; Samson's riddle.
13. Orpah and Jonah initials. _____ Simpson.
15. Satan was more subtil than any ___ the field.
18. This apostle was converted on the housetop.
20. ___ many ___ I love I rebuke and chasten.
21. He fashioned a molten calf from gold earrings.
24. Joseph's brothers hated him yet more for his ___.
26. The golden vials in Revelation were full of _____ which are the prayers of the saints. Aromas.
28. The full soul loatheth ___ honeycomb. Not a.
29. Shall a man be more pure than his ___?
31. Uzziah and Sarah initials. United States.



(Answers on Page 8)

32. First 2 letters of cupbearer of Artaxerxes.
33. John was exiled on the ___ of Patmos.
36. ___ is the transgression of the law.
37. Israel was to strike the Passover blood on the two ___ posts and upper door posts.
39. My sheep I know and I give unto them ___ life.
40. ___ the spirits whether they are of God.
41. Abraham rose ___ in the morning to offer Isaac.

DOWN:

2. He must ___ but I must decrease said John.
3. Let all things be done decently and in ___.
4. ___ unto others as you would have them do to you.
5. ___ is water what doth hinder me to be baptized?
6. The one to whom Jesus gave the ___ would be one who would betray Him.
7. Eve gave Adam the fruit and he did ___. Plural.
9. Wicked husband of Jezebel admonished by Elijah and desiring the vineyard of Naboth.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLED

DOWN:

12. The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall ___. Decay.
14. The only Saviour of sinners. Call His name ___.
16. The ___ expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.
17. Daughter of David who was violated by Amnon.
18. Blessed are the ___ in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
19. Having loved his own, he loved them unto the ___.
22. ___ and it shall be given you. Inquire.
23. Queen who helped save her fellow Jews from the wicked Haman's intent.
24. He was delivered from the den of lions.
25. By the grace of God I ___ what I ___.
27. He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ___ only but also for the sins of the whole world.
30. Lead us not into temptation; deliver us from ___.
34. God said ___ us make man in our image.
35. You do ___ not knowing the scriptures nor the power of God. To ___ is human to forgive divine.
36. First two letters of name of Abraham's wife.
38. Love worketh no ___ toward his neighbour.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

I preached a sermon not too long ago in which several youngsters were present. We sang the last song and had the benediction prayer. After the service a seven year old boy's grandmother confided in me that toward the end, he had leaned over and asked her, "Is it about over?" I remarked there is nothing like the honesty of a youngster. I think some adults from time to time think down deep, "Is it about over?" This preacher was just thankful for the presence of the youngest to the oldest.—*Editor*

**EXCERPTS
GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Elder Wise,

I am sending a small donation. Sorry it has taken so long but I kept thinking I would see you at a meeting but conditions made that difficult.

Thank you for your patience.

E. Devon Horton
Marmaduke, AR

People don't write letters as in times past. Many writers in the Bible wrote letters to the people of God. Paul, however, didn't even have to write or speak anything regarding the church at Thessalonica because their faith spoke for itself. (1 Thess. 1:8)

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July, 2021 (July 23-25), Services Friday night, July 23, at 7:00 p.m. with no supper. Saturday, July 24, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services immediately thereafter. Elder Darrell Chambers from AL is invited minister. Sunday morning, July 25, the annual communion services will be observed. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS the 2nd weekend in August, 2021 (Aug. 6-8). Services Friday night, Aug. 6, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 7, at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, August 8, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Tim Cunningham, Etheridge, TN is invited minister. Note: This is a change from previous years. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS the 1st weekend in August, 2021 (July 30--Aug.1). Services Friday night, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 1 at 10:30 a.m. Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Antioch.

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 3rd weekend in August, 2021 (Aug. 13-15). Services Friday night, Aug. 13, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10:30 a.m. with no lunch. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.



Congratulations to Elder Chase Harrison and Sister April Stepp who were married May 29, 2021. Bro. Harrison is Pastor of Raleigh PBC in Memphis, TN

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was blessed with a Spirit-filled Communion meeting the 3rd weekend in May, 2021. Many visitors and friends from sister churches came and worshipped with us. The singing was excellent, the prayers felt and the preaching by Elder Mark Quarles on Philip and the Eunuch and Mary Magdalene was greatly blessed.



Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS will have their annual meeting on Saturday, August, 28, 2021. Services start at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 p.m. This is an open meeting. The church is currently without a pastor but Elder David Wise will be assisting during the meeting.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2021 (July 16-18). Services Friday night, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, July 18, at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch afterward. Elder Bobby Howell, Amory, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Elder Tony Lester, Pastor of Beulah Primitive Baptist Church, Salltillo, MS was blessed to baptize the granddaughter of Elder Calvin Warren, Emilee Warren, into the fellowship and blessings of the church he pastors during the month of May 2021.

I suppose every church has a prayer list that is read or laid out for members to see and remember in prayer. There are many children of God, young and old, who are battling illnesses that are serious enough to threaten life. We never know when our life can be turned upside down but God is always right side up and available for the comfort and support of His people. We are thankful for prayers answered and we trust will continue to be answered.—*Editor*

UNSPEAKABLE JOY



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Chris: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” 1st Peter 1:7-8

The joy unspeakable comes from the appearing of the Lord. Yet the Apostles say they have not seen him. They had not seen him in person, yet they had seen him in other ways. We see him in faith. We see him in the revelation of the spirit as the comforter reveals the Son to his people. We see him in his children. *“But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by who made all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”* Hebrews 2:9-10 We must be a believer to rejoice with joy unspeakable. Not just a believer that Jesus walked the shores of time but that Jesus died for every man he loved. We see him in perfection. We see him in power.

We do not see this Jesus nor rejoice with joy unspeakable if we see him as a saviour begging us to accept him. And be saved. If we view a Saviour who died and left it to us to do something to merit it, we cannot rejoice with joy unspeakable. If our view is, Jesus died for all the human race and it is up to us to decide if we shall live with him in glory, you really have all those in hell loved by Jesus, just as much as those in Heaven! If we can see him wringing his hand because he did all he could to save us, and the rest is up to us, we cannot rejoice with joy unspeakable.

Simeon saw salvation when he held the baby Jesus in his arms. *“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation”.* Luke 2:29-30 Simeon saw this salvation in the Lord, not himself. The joy was sufficient to now taste death in peace.

We see Jesus in the Church. *“But ye are come unto mount sion, and unto the city of the living God, the*

heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” Hebrews 12:22-24 When we come to the Church of the firstborn, we see Jesus the mediator of the new covenant. David spoke of the Church as *“Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King”.* Psalm 48:2

The beauty of the Church is Jesus. In rejoicing we rejoice with joy unspeakable because in the Lord is perfection of beauty in the Church. *“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.”* Psalm 50:2

Just as we rejoice in a Saviour, triumphant over the grave, we must rejoice in him being triumphant in Salvation. This view will bless us to rejoice with joy unspeakable. You just cannot tell it. You must feel it.

--Guy Hunt

(From *“The Pathway of Truth”*, December, 2006)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

ACROSS:

- 1. dormin
- 5. etsah
- 8. emor
- 9. drocca
- 10. tip
- 11. retae
- 13. jo
- 15. tsaeb
- 18. retep
- 20. sa
- 21. noraa
- 24. smaerd
- 26. sruodo
- 28. na
- 29. rekam
- 31. su
- 32. en
- 33. elsi
- 36. nis
- 37. edis
- 39. lanrete
- 40. yrt
- 41. ylrae

DOWN:

- 2. esaercni
- 3. redro
- 4. od
- 5. ereh
- 6. pos
- 7. stae
- 9. baha
- 12. tor
- 14. susej
- 16. tsenrae
- 17. ramat
- 18. roop
- 19. dne
- 22. ksa
- 23. rehtse
- 24. leinad
- 25. ma
- 27. sruo
- 30. live
- 34. tel
- 35. rre
- 36. as
- 38. lli

“Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.” 2 John 12

THE COMMON SALVATION

By Elder Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

"Brethren, when I give all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it is needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Eld Silas H. Durand, who was born in Bradford Co., Pa., June 5, 1833, and died at Southampton, Pa., Nov. 12th, 1918, was one of the ablest ministers and writers that ever lived in the United States. He often attended the Kehukee Association, and was heartily welcomed by our members. His preaching was very deep and experimental, spiritual and comforting. More than twenty years ago he published his early writings in a book called "Meditations or portions of the Word"; and since his death, his two surviving daughters, Mrs. Mildred Durand Gordy of Southampton, Pa., and Mrs. Edith Durand McCall of Winnipeg, Canada, have published his Autobiography and later writings in a book of 353 large pages, called "Fragments by Silas H. Durand," which his daughter, Mrs. Mildred D. Gordy, sends post paid for \$2.50.

Elder Durand was a strong predestinarian, and no one who knew him well and heard him preach and read his writings would ever charge him with the slightest taint of Arminianism. On pages 73, 74, and 75 of his "Fragments," is published an article of his on the above subject, "The Common Salvation," which was first published in the "Signs of the Times," at Middletown, New York, in March, 1900. It is a masterly and accurate exposition of the third verse of Jude, and his views are the same as those given in my article in "The Gospel Messenger" of June, 1897, and republished under the title, "Salvation," in "the Gospel Messenger" of Jan., 1921. For the information and edification of our readers, I will now give some extracts from this article of Elder Durand's, as well as some similar extracts from other parts of this interesting volume.

He holds that the "Common Salvation," of which Jude speaks, is the gracious and everlasting salvation from sin and hell, by the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, of all the elect — a salvation common to the whole family of God. And he says, "There is no other salvation which is common, either to all men naturally or to the saints. Natural salvation, as salvation from wounds or death in battle, from shipwreck, from loss or destruction by earthquake, fire, flood or disease, from misfortune or affliction of any kind, cannot be called a common salvation, for all are not saved from these things. Nor can that salvation of the Lord's people from terror, from a fleshly walk or the loss or death that results from it, from stripes on account of transgression, which may be called a time salvation, be called common, for all

are not saved in this sense. Some do works after the flesh and die; some transgress and are visited with the rod. His liability to wander from the right way, and yield to temptation in some of its many forms, and so suffer, is referred to by all the apostles, and is made the subject of faithful, earnest and tender admonitions and exhortation.

But some do yield to the temptation for a time and suffer the consequences. There is an experience of the weakness of the flesh on the part of all the saints in some measure, so that every one that is received is scourged and chastised (Heb. 11:6). All must learn that they are dependent entirely upon the care and grace of God for the orderly walk which shall secure them this time salvation so that they will not depend on themselves, as Peter did, but upon the Lord. They must learn that we have the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead. Some, through the faithful labors of brethren, are saved from death (James V: 19, 20). Ministers, by faithful labor in the Gospel, save themselves and them that hear them from false doctrines and practice (1 Tim. iv: 16). All this is the work of grace. But some are left to see more fully, and experience more deeply, the corruption, depravity, and untrustworthiness of the flesh, even going so far in an ungodly walk that they are "delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus." All for whom Jesus died are saved with an everlasting salvation, and shall finally be restored from all their wanderings, healed from all their backslidings, and brought home to glory, to the praise of the riches of God's grace. This everlasting salvation is common to all those who are sanctified, set apart, chosen, by God the Father. But the enjoyment of this common salvation, while here in the flesh, is more in some than in others. To enjoy an inheritance which must be divided, the heirs must be as one, must be of one mind and one soul. And so it is with the Lord's people when they are in the Spirit. Then they dwell together in unity, the unity of the Spirit, and find how good and how pleasant it is (Psalm cxxxiii). But when the flesh prevails in the case of any, and they strive to walk by sight instead of faith, then their right to that salvation is not fully enjoyed. Sometimes their birthright is sold for some fleshly good, and they are deprived for a season of the light and comfort. But they cannot dispose of their inheritance, though they suffer loss in their daily experience. It was needful for them, therefore, that the apostle should exhort them to contend earnestly in their daily life, in their walk and conversation, for that faith, that doctrine and order of the Gospel Church, unto the obedience of which they have been called, and that they attend with care to all that pertains to the Church of the living God, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, above all

worldly things. The grace which brought them salvation taught them all this proper Gospel walk (Ttius ii. II, 12). Jesus is our salvation here in time, and to eternal days. On page 178, Elder Durand says: "There can be no turning aside by any of His people from the way of holiness, and from the truth of God's salvation without an experience of pain. The chastisement will surely be felt for every transgression." And on page 270, he says: "Of course the Lord does not regard sin in the same way that he regards holiness. Of course His attitude toward it is not the same. How could one have such a thought? He hates and abhors sin: His infinitely holy nature is absolutely and forever opposed to it; it is obnoxious to Him, and abominable in His sight."

I desire to add two remarks: The Lord, our Heavenly Father, does not unmercifully chastise His children (Psalm 103:13, 14; Isa. 3:9). And sometimes He suffers His obedient children to walk in darkness to teach them solemnly the sinfulness of their natures and their entire dependence upon Him (Isa. 50:10; Job 2:31, 19; 8:25-27; 9:30, 31; 14:4; 40:4; 42:6). S. HASSELL.

(From "*The Gospel Messenger*", February, 1921)

CAN I HELP IT?



By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

If God has predestinated for me to believe what I do believe, also predestinated me to not believe certain doctrine, then He has predestinated for me to not believe the absolute predestination of all things good and evil. But to the contrary He has predestinated me to believe that such is the most damnable doctrine that men have gotten up here in the world. Not don't get mad at me for believing such, I can't-help-it. God has predestinated for me to believe as I do. Not only so, but He has predestinated for me to tell you that I can't-help-it. If I tell you a lie, I can't help it. God has fixed it so that I can't do other wise. If I murder someone, steal, live in adultery, whip my wife, lie on my neighbor, and preach false doctrine, with a hundred other bad things, it is because God has predestinated for me to do it. I can't-help-it.

If such is the truth, I am glad He predestinated for me to not believe it. If such is the truth, then what you believe is not based on what you have found the

Bible *teaches*, but what God has predestinated for you to *believe*. If men always act according to God's predestination, then I know of men that have killed others because God had predestinated for them to do so. Such doctrine is unknown in the Bible, but is the doctrine of men.

Some claim that God directs or predestinates the steps even of the wicked; teaching that all things, good and evil, work together for good to them that love the Lord. I wish to quote an expression from Jeremiah on this point. "Behold, we trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; and come and stand before men in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord."—Jeremiah vii. 8-11.

"And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their son and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart." Now, I want someone to tell me how this is gong to work together for good when the writer says that it cannot profit. These folks might have believed in the predestination of all things good and evil. They said they were delivered to do all these things. God reproved them for their ungodly walks, and said, He "commanded them not, neither came into my heart." If God predestinated what these folks did, then He predestinated something that He didn't command, neither enterrf into His heart. If God teaches us by His commands, and what enters into His heart concerning predestination, then He didn't teach the predestination of all things in this place, because He did not command it neither entered into His heart. I do not believe "no such." But, if it is the truth that God has predestinated for me to believe that, it is rotten as dirt.

A. D. Wood

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", November 4, 1948)

WHO IS GOD OF THIS NATION?

This nation surely has been blessed for a long time and for the most part has been a Godly nation. However, the scripture says. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12) I believe this nation has left the true Jehovah God of the Bible and fashioned other gods that serve no purpose but to the satisfying of the flesh. The Bible says, "Return unto me and I will return unto you." A great deal of returning must needs happen for the LORD to once again bless. God will not continually turn the other cheek without accountability.—*Editor*

HEAR THE LORD AND BE BLESSED

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

The Lord doesn't speak to His children in an audible voice but He does speak to them through His inspired word through Jesus Christ. God spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets but in these last days is speaking unto His children through His Son. (Heb. 1:1-2) Hear the Lord, trust the Lord, hope in the Lord, and do His will and be blessed. "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." (Jer. 17:7-8)

When the children of God hear what the Lord says, they will be blessed. Then, when they put into action what they have heard, they will be further blessed. Trust the Lord for all needs as He has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19) God's storehouse never runs out of blessings but often they are bestowed according obedience unto Him. Isaiah said, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." (Isa. 1:19-20)

Any child of God who trusts in themselves puts them on dangerous ground. Paul taught that if any thinks that he can stand by himself to take heed lest he fall. (1 Cor. 10:12) Children of God often hear the Lord's instruction but do not obey and thus build their house on the foundation of sinking sand. Jesus said that when the floods, rain and winds blew upon such a house it would fall because it was on sinking sand. (Matt. 7:26-27) The song that is often song is so true:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus
Blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly
Lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand: all other
Ground is sinking sand.

The Lord is the hope and expectation of the child of God from day to day with final expectations of seeing Him face to face in glory. Jeremiah bemoaned the

perishing condition of his hope until he remembered: "And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD: Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope." (Lamentations 3:18-21)

Faith is exercised in both trust and hope in the Lord. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) There is hope that today will be better than yesterday, realizing that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Time is of no consequence to God: "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." (Psalm 90:4) Time is everything to the children of God, however, as their life is a vapor that appears for a time and then vanishes away. It would behoove them to take time to hear the Lord and be blessed.

Are children of God rewarded for their trust and hope in the Lord? Hear the Lord and be blessed. He shall be as a tree planted by the rivers of water which will not cause His child to see heat and will bring forth fruit to the honor of God. The minerals of God's grace that come from this river are able to nourish the soul as trust and hope is placed in the Lord. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." (Isa. 12:2-3) So rewards do abound but it is on earth.

All crops that are planted have nourishment, yield ration. Each child of God is not the same in this nourishment, yield ration. Crops that are planted in service to God should be under girded by the right nourishment and in the proper ground, but are they? Are the crops planted being fertilized with the dew of heaven? "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:" (Deut. 32:2)

If the answer to these questions is an emphatic "YES LORD", then the fruit yield will be of a quantity and a quality that will bring the most rewards in the marketplace of God's service. God will not accept the diseased, the blind, lame and halt as sacrifices. The best sacrifice possible is required on the part of God's child as God gave His very best as a sacrifice for the sins of the beloved Bride in the person of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Hear the blessed Saviour calling the oppressed, O ye heavy laden, come to me and rest; Come, no longer tarry, I your load will bear, Bring me every burden, bring me every care. Yes, come and trust His might and put His word into action.

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