

Glad Tidings

January

2017

"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

When it comes to the family of God for whom Jesus died on Calvary's cross, they are always referred to in scripture as many and not a few. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28). When it comes to the population of eternal heaven, it is also always referred to as many and not a few. After John saw the one hundred forty-four thousand in heaven, he saw many, many more: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" (Rev. 7:9). John's language of scripture looks like many in my estimation.

God loved with an everlasting love many people out of every nation on earth who will sing this song before the Lamb: "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;" (Rev. 5:9). There never has been a dialect or tribe of people on earth but what God had a people among them that He loved with an everlasting love.

As many as God loved, He gave to the Son of God as a bride and sent Him to save them from their sins. (Matt. 1:21). God could have given eternal life to everyone on earth or He could have given eternal life to none if He so chose; however, the Bible informs us who are the recipients of eternal life. "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." (John 17:2). The question is: "Did God give many to His Son or did He give a few?" Remember that there is no eternal life outside the death of Jesus Christ; this is the eternal record confirmed in scripture. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." (1 John 5:11). God gave many to the Son as a bride and it is just that many that will be presented to the Father. "And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me." (Heb. 2:13). The blood of Christ was not shed so that just any old sinner could take it or throw it away; it was shed for the many elect children of God and that is the reason no sin can be laid to their charge. (Rom. 8:33-34)

In the Father's house are many mansions and there will be no vacancies because of the effective redemptive work of Christ on the cross and the application of that blood to the heart by the Holy Spirit. However, just a few of the many elect children of God become disciples of Christ and enjoy the abundant life. Jesus said, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Few of the many elect children of God find this narrow way and then we must wonder how many of those actually enter through that strait gate.

There were ten lepers that came to Jesus and were healed of their leprosy through the mercy of God; however, only one returned to give God the glory. When this one saw that he was healed, he turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and he was a Samaritan. Jesus said regarding this situation, "...Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 17:17-18). Where do God's people give glory to the Lord today? Is it not in the church of Jesus Christ? Those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and born of the Spirit of God should enter the strait gate and narrow way of discipleship in the church. "Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place...Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." (1 Chron. 16:17, 29). The church is His place and every child of God should stand in their place.

Gideon and the three hundred chosen by God were divided into three companies to go against the Midianites. He put a trumpet in every man's hand, pitchers that were empty and lamps within the pitchers. Gideon told them to do as he did and at the appropriate time they all blew their trumpets and brake their pitchers and cried, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." (Judg. 7:18). As they all made this victorious cry the scripture says, "And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled." (Judg. 7:21). Notice that every man stood "in his place" as the victory was won. There is a place for every child of God in His church and when everyone is standing in their proper place and following the commander in chief, victory is assured. There is victory in heaven for many but just for a few on earth in His church. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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A LITTLE CAKE FIRST. - 1Ki 17.

(1Ki 17) ELIJAH, the Tishbite, was very jealous for his God, but a man of passions like other saints. He was led, by the spirit, to pray for a sore judgment to fall on the people of Israel, that those who had despised the goodness of God, might be reclaimed by his severity. He prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth for the space of three years and six months. The drought was followed by a want of bread and water, and the prophet, who prayed for judgment, had, in common with his own countrymen, to combat the evils, which arose from the answer of his own prayer.

"And the word of the Lord came unto Elijah, saying, get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is beyond Jordan, and it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there."

In obedience to these orders, the prophet went and dwelt by the brook, which was one of the tributary streams of Jordan. And the ravens, that live upon prey, contrary to the laws of their nature, brought the lonely saint bread and flesh in the morning, and the same at evening, which, with the water of the brook, formed the sustenance of Elijah.

But in process of time, the brook dried up, and the ravens neglected their charge, which reduced the prophet to perfect want, without the least human

appearance of relief: but "the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zerephath, which belongs to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." I do not send thee to king Ahab, nor any of the princes of Israel, for they are idolaters, and seek thy life: nor do I send thee unto the rich, who have wealth, but no hearts to communicate: I send thee not to any man or woman of Israel, for they are so self-conceited of their own advantages, and their pre-eminent virtue, above other nations, that they neglect all humane and benevolent actions: but to a widow woman of Zidon I send thee.

In compliance with those instructions, Elijah arose and came to Zerephath and when he came to the gate of the city, behold! the widow woman was there, gathering sticks for oven-wood, and he called to her, and said, fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. The woman (who had not been civilized to barbarity, nor gospelized to covetousness,) very courteously went to bring him the water for which he prayed: but as she was going, he called to her again, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

The Lord had given commandment to the woman to sustain Elijah, but had not given him any legal orders on the woman; hence he prayed, both for water and bread. Water had not yet grown scarce in Zidon; with this request the woman could easily comply, but when a morsel of bread was called for, it touched the tender feelings of her heart. "And she said, as the Lord thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruise, and behold I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it and die."

The Zidonian woman swore by Elijah's God, that her case was extremely pitiable and indigent, and we have every reason to believe her narrative was true. She had no prospect of any future supply, but expected that after herself and son had eaten one little cake more, they must both of them die.

And Elijah said unto her, "fear not; go and do as thou hast said; but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring unto me; and after make for thee and thy son." How radically different is the doctrine of the text, from the conduct of most of the ancients and moderns! "Let me first get wealth, and then I will be liberal - first lay up enough for myself and my children, and then I will communicate to the servants of the Lord," is the practical language of men and women in general; but the injunction of the text is, "Give the prophet of the Lord a little cake first, and then prepare for thy family." This precept perfectly coincides with the instructions which Solomon has given us: "honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase."

Some suppose the prophets of the Lord will perish, unless legal provision is made for them: this provision, however, was not made for Elijah.

Others imagine that when men are called to the holy and public service of the Lord, that the Almighty will support them by miracles. This is sometimes the case: by ravens, this same Elijah had lately been fed; but in the instance before us, the miracle was not wrought so much for the prophet, who received, as it was for the woman, who gave.

A certain class of men have strong faith, that God will provide for the laborers in the vineyard, and their good faith is all they have, for they never communicate; but in the case before us, the woman did not speak the language that many do in these days: "Never fear, Elijah, your God will feed and preserve you; for my own part, I should never be afraid to trust him: I have but a little, and that I need for myself and my son: no doubt but others will give you, and you will do well enough." No, her language, her conduct was different. She reasoned thus:

"I have a little meal and oil, and but a little; the Lord who gave me this little store, has a right to it. He now commands me to give a little out of my little, and I must obey: otherwise I should be worse than the ravens, who checked their own appetites, to bring bread and flesh to the prophet. Obedience is my work; events belong to God, who can make all grace abound. The Lord has not only commanded me to give a little cake first unto the prophet, but has also promised that my store shall not be exhausted. I will, therefore, trust his promise and obey his command. If my son should ever reproach me, for giving that to the prophet which was his patrimonial or matrimonial right, I will read him a lecture, of what befel old Eli for honoring his sons more than his God, and what judgments likewise fell on his sons."

The widow, therefore, obeyed - made the cake *first* for the prophet and parried it to him - invited him into her house, and entertained him all the time of the drought, and the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruise of oil fail, according to the word of God, which he spake by Elijah.

In process of time, the son of the woman sickened and died. All the human prospect of succor in old age, was now taken away. How pitiable her state! yet she did not murmur, but acquiesced like a saint. She said to the prophet, "O, thou man of God! art thou come hither to call my sin to remembrance and to slay my son?"

It is supposable, but not certain, that this was an illegitimate son, and that now the Lord punished her for her former sin by the death of her son, as in the case of David and Bathsheba. In either case, the woman viewed this stroke as a just punishment for her sins. Elijah was also extremely afflicted, that the woman who had been so hospitable to him, should be thus deprived of her only son. He, therefore,

mourned and prayed to his God, until the soul of the child returned to its clay. The woman was now greatly comforted and confirmed in the word of the Lord, which was spoken by Elijah.

Here we see that the woman was supplied through a long famine, and had her son raised from the dead, because she gave the servant of the Lord a little cake first. Let others learn to do likewise. And let all the servants of the Lord learn from Elijah, to be not greedy of filthy lucre, but content themselves with a little cake.

(From "Writings of Elder John Leland")

GIVING

In the latter part of the 17th century, German preacher August H. Francke founded an orphanage to care for the homeless children of Halle. One day when Francke desperately needed funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for a ducat--a gold coin. Because of his financial situation, he politely but regretfully told her he couldn't help her. Disheartened, the woman began to weep. Moved by her tears, Francke asked her to wait while he went to his room to pray. After seeking God's guidance, he felt that the Holy Spirit wanted him to change his mind. So, trusting the Lord to meet his own needs, he gave her the money. Two mornings later, he received a letter of thanks from the widow. She explained that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day Francke received 12 ducats from a wealthy lady and 2 more from a friend in Sweden. He thought he had been amply rewarded for helping the widow, but he was soon informed that the orphanage was to receive 500 gold pieces from the estate of Prince Lodewyk Van Wurtenburg. When he heard this, Francke wept in gratitude. In sacrificially providing for that needy widow, he had been enriched, not impoverished.

--Source Unknown

GIVING

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.—Winston Churchill

"Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:" (Lk.21:3) Widow's 2 mites.

THE KING'S BUSINESS

Because the king's business required haste.—1 Sam. xxi. 8

The subjects of the king should be faithful, loyal and obedient to His orders. It manifests interest and love, as well as respect, to your leader and superior. One order from the King is to "take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." There is much to learn about the King and His kingdom. One very important thing for His ministers to learn is to rightly divide the word of truth. Most anyone can divide, but to rightly divide is the order. Sometimes the one that divides takes more to himself. That is not right. You might divide things with your brethren for your neighbors, but you might not do it right. Ministers might divide the word of truth, and not do it right. If it is not done right it may result in dividing the flock in opinion.

Another order is to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman (a sober, skilled workman) that needeth not to be ashamed." The order here is not to study to preach, but to study so you can rightly divide the word of truth.

Another order is to be instant in season. I think that will apply to all the subjects of the King—ministers as well as the private members. When your meeting day comes, go there if you can, and go there on time, and take your place and help out in the service some way. Your presence there will help someone, if you don't do much. To come strolling in late, after the service has begun and the minister is speaking to the people is very embarrassing to the minister and to his listeners. If you come in late, get you a seat as quietly and as quickly as possible, and wait until the close of the service to do your social visiting, because you will have more time then to do your kissing, and your quilting, your farming, and where you went last Sunday, and how fast the baby's hair has grown, and the neighbor's calf getting in your bean patch, etc. All that is out of season and out of place when the service is in progress. So there is much for us to learn. The worship and service of God is a divine service, and should be held sacred and apart from everything—not try it mix it up with everything.

Ministers should be ensamples to the flock, is another order. If he is not zealous his congregation will not likely be very zealous. If he gets to dragging in late to his appointments, he will get his congregation in that mood of dragging. Do not be slothful in business, for the "King's business required haste." "So is the prophet, so is the people."

May God help us all to obey His orders; and if we are deprived of going long distances to worship or God, let us worship Him nearer to our homes. We yet have that God-given liberty; and may we be loyal to the great Giver of all good gifts, or else we may be cut off and deprived of it. The dear old church has, all along the way, in the past centuries, undergone a

sifting, and will as long as it is a traveling church; but not one grain will ever bounce over the sieve and be lost forever, for God gave them eternal life, and they shall never perish. May God bless His poor children and this great nation by His strong arm.

In love,
J.R. Wilson

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Compiled by R. H. Pittman and mainly
the work of Elder Sylvester Hassell

Q. PROPHETS AND APOSTLES: Were there many prophets of the Lord besides those whose writings are in the Bible?

A. While the most of the books of the Old Testament were written by prophets, yet Elijah and Elisha, two of the greatest prophets, did not commit their discourses to writing; and Obadiah hid in caves, from the murderous wrath of the idolatrous and wicked Jezebel, a hundred prophets, whose names are not given, and he fed them with bread and water (I Kings 18:4). And no doubt there were, before Christ, many other prophets, whose names are not given, and whose writings, if they wrote, have not been preserved; and so there were, in Apostolic Age, prophets who spoke by the Spirit, and who occasionally foretold the future as Agabus (Acts 11:27, 28; 21:10, 11), and who taught, exhorted, and edified believers in Christ (I Cor. 14:3, 4).

Q. Why was Paul kept a prisoner at Rome two whole years (Acts 28:30, 31) without being tried?

A. To await a convenient time for the Emperor Nero to try him. This first imprisonment, or mild confinement, of Paul in Rome was probably from A.D. 60 to 62. He was cleared at his trial; but was arrested again, it is thought in A.D. 64, and confined more closely and securely (only Luke remaining with him, all others but Christ forsook him), and he was condemned, probably for bringing in what was called "a new and unlawful religion," and beheaded A.D. 64 or 65, or 67 or 68, on the Ostian Way, the road from Rome to its port, Ostia. The Emperor Nero, one of the most wicked monsters that ever lived, was condemned by the Roman Senate and fled four miles from Rome and committed suicide, June 9, 68, A.D.

THE LORD STANDS WITH US WHEN WE ARE IN THE RIGHT

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Nevertheless the Lord stood with me and strengthened me. . ." (II Tim. 4:16-17)

HOSPITALITY

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

1 Pet. 4:9, "Use hospitality without grudging."

The apostle addressed this letter to *strangers*. We are indeed strangers in this world, but I feel to be no stranger in the homes of those that bestow upon me, loving, godly hospitality. The experience one gains in this feeling of hospitality, either in giving or receiving, is one of the greatest blessings of life. This is a blessing that does still exist among Primitive Baptists, but I feel the desire to exhort that hospitality to be put to greater use.

The word *use* certainly denotes action. We cannot *use* hospitality unless there is visitation between us and our brethren. Even the importance of going to church will not bring joy unless we have the desire to be with each other. This is the reason that many times as we accept someone's invitation to lunch, we sometimes end up spending the entire day. Then, maybe, we will go by and visit several others before we journey home late that night. I always have a very empty feeling when the final good-byes have been said, and our little family must leave the company of our kindred in Christ, both members of the church and believers in the Lord, who are not yet members. It is the same in our own home, when these dear ones must leave. This same desire to be together is the reason why we are in no hurry to leave the church.

From the time of my earliest childhood, I can remember the joy of having others to visit us. Many times around the fire at night, I would sit as long as my eyes could possibly stay open, and listen to preachers and others talking on the scriptures. I feel this had a vital part in showing to me some of the beauties of God's people.

Many cannot understand that the pastor is invited to use this hospitality by eating lunch or other meals with the members. Many stare at me with open mouth amazement, when I relate how that often 15 or 20 people will invite, or rather insist, that we go home with them from church and enjoy their hospitality. With many people today, the coming of the preacher is a time of dread, and there is a sigh of relief when the tremendous task of feeding him is over. Not so among the Primitive Baptists. Many times we are asked to enjoy hospitality in the homes of those who are not members. How I enjoy the sweet communion with the saints of God.

I worry, that today, in these changing times, many may begin to drift away from this very basic rule of Christianity. Many families do not use hospitality as they should, and, therefore, miss the joys they should enjoy. Many today must always go home. The younger, blessed with searching minds in their youth, miss more that possibly our older, when hospitality is not used. There are many who have never had the

privilege of sitting around the fire and listening to different brethren discuss the scriptures. This Bible way to show our love for one another must be cultivated. Fine furniture and food are not necessary to have your brethren in your home. We should be thankful for what we have. Better by far, is a bowl of peas with cornbread in true hospitality, than all the finery with a grudging hospitality.

This way we show that we love to be with one another, and share with each other all our possessions. Doesn't this manifest the same feeling that we hope to experience in the resurrection from death and the grave, to be with our Lord and Savior and the redeemed, to share together with them the eternal joys of our Lord. (Feb., 1968)

(From "The Best of Elder Guy Hunt")

SOME PERSONAL DELIVERANCES

In my little book, "Memories of Long Ago," published in 1930, I mentioned some deliverances and quote below from page 18: (Elder R.H. Pittman)

"God has been good to me, even as a boy. His providence and blessings have ever been round about me, for when about two years old I fell into an open fireplace, narrowly escaping death, the scars of which burns I still carry. Later by a fall my arm was badly broken and injured for life; a runaway team turned over the vehicle in which I was driving and I was caught under it; I fell under the edge of a moving train and escaped with bruises and torn clothes. These and other things have happened to me along life's way from which I have escaped and which has caused me to believe that surely God has been my keeper. In no sense would I compare my little life with that of the great apostle to the Gentiles, but I have often read with interest of God's providential care over him, when he "suffered shipwreck, was stoned, was in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils among the Jews, in perils among false brethren." (II Cor. 11:26). Surely God's angels encampeth around about us and delivereth us."

Since the above was written ten years ago, other narrow escapes have caused me to believe that surely God has been my keeper. Once I was forced to run off the road by a reckless car driver in order to prevent a head-on collision, but somehow kept the car from overturning. At another time when wife and I were returning from North Carolina I became drowsy, and just for a moment lost consciousness, and ran my car down a fifteen foot embankment, and why it did not turn over was considered by many who viewed the scene as marvelous and unexplainable; yet little damage was done to the car and neither my wife nor I was hurt. To me this was a remarkable

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. In all their _____ he was afflicted, and the angel of his _____ saved them. Isa. 63:9
2. Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed _____ from Bozrah? This that is glorious in his _____ traveling in greatness of strength. Isa. 63:1
3. Thou shalt also be a _____ of glory in the hand of the Lord and a royal _____ in the hand of thy God. Isa. 62:3
4. Come now, and let us _____ together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as _____ as snow. Isa. 1:18
5. And I will give you _____ according to mine own heart which shall feed you with _____ and also understanding. Jer. 3:15
6. Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath _____ His will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Rom. 9:19-20
7. For who hath known the _____ of the Lord? Or who hath been his _____? Rom. 11:34
8. Be ye kindly affectioned one to another with _____ love; in honour preferring one another. Rom. 12:10
9. God giveth it a body as it hath _____ Him, and to every seed his own body. I Cor. 15:38
10. If any man defile the _____ of God, him shall God destroy, for the _____ of God is holy, which temple ye are. I Cor. 3:17

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.
2. What? Know ye not that which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.
3. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.
4. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

(Answers on Page 9)

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

It is a great blessing to parents to hear their children say "thank you" upon receiving something. We were keeping our grandson Isaac (2 years old) awhile back and I was eating a cracker and asked Isaac if he would like one? He didn't say anything but I gave him one and without any prompting he didn't just say thank you, he said, "Thank you very much!" That blessed his Papa a great deal.—*Editor*

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last? 116 years, from 1337 to 1453
2. Which country makes Panama hats? Ecuador
3. From which animal do we get catgut? From sheep and horses
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? November. The Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours.
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of? Squirrel fur
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? The Latin name was Insularia Canaria—Island of the Dogs.
7. What was King George VI's first name? Albert. When he came to the throne in 1936, he respected the wish of Queen Victoria that no future king should ever be named Albert.
8. What color is a purple finch? Distinctively crimson
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from? New Zeland
10. How long did the Thirty Years War last? Thirty years of course. From 1618 to 1648

(Continued from Page 5)

Providence, indeed...In driving from Washington (D.C.) about a year ago in the dim twilight a little boy on a bicycle ran directly in front of my car, and to prevent running over him I quickly turned the car and ran into a ditch and into a fence,—the bicycle was knocked down, the boy injured and the car almost overturned. To me this was another evidence of God's protecting care.

(From "Remarkable Providences")

CHURCH NEWS

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will host the 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell each 5th Sunday night. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy food, fellowship, singing and the preaching of the gospel.

Elder Rusty Wise, Tupelo, MS will be with New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS the 5th Sunday in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect.

Elder Grady Camp, Germantown, TN will be with Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Peppertown, MS the 5th Sunday in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with service at 10:30 a.m. Pleasant Hill is currently without a Pastor.

Elder Bobby Howell, Amory, MS will be with Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecru, MS the 5th Sunday in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS will be with Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS with 5th Sunday in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

Elder Bob Ward, Columbus, MS will be with Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS, the 5th Sunday in January, 2017 (Jan. 29) with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

There aren't many meetings going on during the winter months that last two or three days. Remember, however, that every Sunday is a special meeting and everyone should look forward to that special meeting of experiencing God's presence and the instruction from the word of God. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:25).—*Editor*

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" (Isaiah 61:1).

This is the story—Give God the glory

1942 GONE INTO HISTORY

By Elder H. L. Golston (Deceased)
(Change the year to 2016 and consider)

With the passing of this year we have passed one more milestone of life's journey. We are all one year nearer the end of our mortal journey. The mistakes we have made as we came along will continue to be mistakes, on and on. The work that we have done, during the past year will either be to our credit or otherwise; none of it can be changed. Let us profit by these mistakes and not repeat them.

To many of us it has been a year of heartaches and hardship. Some of us have given up loved ones that were called on to their eternal abode. Now they are safely anchored, while we are left to battle against the current. Tedious would be the task of naming all the heartrending things that have come our way during this year. Amid it all the Lord has been good to us. Truly, there is no end to the goodness of our Lord. If we have observed very closely, we were compelled to learn that everything did not come from our Master's hand. We learn from His Word that all along through the past ages things have transpired that the Lord He was not in. He leads in the small, still way. As many as are thus led are the children of God.

I am truly glad that I shall not pass this way again. The sad hours that I have spent alone will not be again. True, I may have more experience like this, but the past is gone forever. We have had some enjoyable seasons, some soul cheering meetings. Some friends saw to it that we had the necessary things of life. Some of the brethren have proved themselves ready for every emergency. I am glad that my lot has been cast with some of the faithful ones. Lord, give us knowledge, faith, determination, grit and grace for the problems that await us in 1943 and through this life. In burdens, H. L. Golston

(From "The Primitive Baptist", February 4, 1943)

THE END

Everything has a beginning and an end except God which has no beginning or end but is from everlasting to everlasting. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (Psalm 90:2)

The year of 2016 has ended and it may seem like it just began but time doesn't slow down for anyone. There is coming a time, however, when the real end will come: "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." (I Cor. 15:24) This real end will begin an endless beginning of eternal joy in heaven.—*Editor*

GOD'S POSITIVE AND YOUR NEGATIVE

You say, "It's impossible!" **God says**, "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)

You say, "I'm too tired." **God says**, "I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28-30)

You say, "Nobody really loves me." **God says**, "I love you." (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say, "I can't go on." **God says**, "My grace is sufficient." (2 Cor. 12:9 & Psa. 91:15)

You say, "I can't figure things out." **God says**, "I will direct your steps." (Prov. 3:5, 6)

You say, "I can't do it!" **God says**, "You can do all things." (Phil. 4:13)

You say, "I'm not able." **God says**, "I am able." (2 Cor. 9:8)

You say, "It's not worth it." **God says**, "It will be worth it." (Rom. 8:28)

You say, "I can't forgive myself." **God says**, "I FORGIVE YOU." (1 John 1:9 & Rom. 8:1)

You say, "I can't manage." **God says**, "I will supply all your needs." (Phil. 4:19)

You say, "I'm afraid." **God says**, "I have not given you the spirit of fear." (1 Tim. 1:7)

You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated." **God says**, "Cast all your cares on Me." (1 Pet. 5:7)

You say, "I don't have enough faith." **God says**, "I've given you measure of faith." (Rom. 12:3)

You say, "I'm not smart enough." **God says**, "I give you wisdom." (1 Cor. 1:30)

You say, "I feel all alone." **God says**, "I will never leave or forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)

--Author Unknown

(From *"The Christian Baptist"*, Sept./Oct. 2000)

THE ATHEIST AND THE CHRISTIAN

Two men were fishing in the St. Lawrence River, well above Niagara Falls. Their rowboat was anchored while they fished, but the anchor began to slip, and soon they were moving down the swift current.

When the atheist saw their plight, he yelled to his companion, "God help us, man! Bend to the oars, or we'll go over the falls!"

By desperate rowing, they finally returned safely to shore. But the Christian was puzzled and asked his companion, "I thought you were an atheist! So why did you call on God?"

Well," he replied, "atheism is okay for calm waters, but not when you are approaching Niagara Falls."

(From *"The Christian Baptist"*, 1968, repeated in Sept./Oct. 2000 *"The Christian Baptist"*)

Atheism is never good for any waters, but God is worthy of praise in all waters. He is the only one who can say "Peace be still" and the winds and sea obey His voice. Never use God as a spare tire.—*Editor*

WORDS OF THE WISE

Proverbs 14:4

"Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox."

The ox is a beast of burden and was used for carrying loads but also used in plowing the fields so grain could be planted and then treading out the corn. The scripture mentions that the ox and the ass should not be plowed together. (Deut. 22:10). In the absence of the ox, the fields would fail to be plowed as they should and the final result would be no food in the crib.

The ox is often used to represent the gospel minister who labors to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul taught that the church should support the gospel ministry and quotes from the Old Testament to verify his teaching. "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?" (1 Cor. 9:9). The ox treaded upon the corn and pulled a threshing instrument that separated the corn from the husk and ear; it ate of the corn that was threshed. In like manner, ministers feed the flock of God with knowledge and understanding and in turn eat of the milk of the flock. (1 Cor. 9:7).

In places where there aren't any oxen, the crib is clean without food for the people. Without God called ministers there is no food for the people of God who come to worship the Lord and hear the word of God proclaimed. "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jer. 3:15). These pastors feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28). However, in the absence of a faithful pastor, the flock is apt to scatter because they aren't receiving consistent feeding from an overseer of the flock; consequently, the crib (house of God) becomes clean (empty) of true worshippers.

We have many churches without pastors and we all need to remember the proper course to pursue as taught by the Master Himself. "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). Jesus said this as He saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion; they were as sheep scattered abroad without a shepherd.

We desire a full crib and not a clean crib and without oxen (ministers) the crib will be clean. Much increase is then by the strength of the ox. A faithful minister will expend his strength for the cause of Christ as Paul said he would spend and be spent for the cause of Christ. However, the ultimate increase is all of God as Paul writes, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (1 Cor. 3:6-7). Pray for oxen in the field and for others to come!—*Editor*

THE VOICE OF THE LORD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Isaiah 55:10-11: "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

A voice is distinctive to a person. We know the voice of our spouse, the voice of our minister, even the voice of a child. A Mother knows her child's voice better than anyone. When I left home to be on my own, I would call my mother and when she would answer I would always feel that I should inform her who it was that is calling. She would always say, "Yes I know!" How did she know it was me? Probably from the many long nights I kept her awake from crying when I was a child who had acquired the measles, chicken pox etc....

The voice of the Lord is distinctive to him. His voice is the only one that speaks with an unlimited power. When he speaks his desire, that is what will come to pass.

Here in Genesis we read that God simply spoke the word and it was at his beckoning voice that the earth came into existence. Gen.1:3, 9, 11 "And God said, Let there be light: and **there was light**. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: **and it was so**. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: **and it was so**."

The Lord Jesus Christ came in flesh and blood being God in the flesh spoke his desire and it was so.

Mark 5:35, 41-42 "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, **I say** unto thee, arise. And **straightway the damsel arose**, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment."

In Mark we read of the voice of the Lord speaking to the wind and sea.

Mark 4:37-39 "And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and **said unto the sea**, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

In John we read of what Jesus said at the tomb of Lazarus.

John 11:43-44 "And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud **voice**, Lazarus, come forth. **And he that was dead came forth**, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

When Christ went back to heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father, His voice has not ceased to speak wonders into existence through the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit today speaks the spiritual heart into existence in a still small voice that only his children can hear, when the heart is regenerated.

John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the **voice** of the Son of God: and they that hear **shall live**."

The heart is dead in trespasses and sins. It is totally incapable of doing any good, nor care about serving God until the voice of the Lord turns that stony heart into a fleshly heart, simply by his voice.

And there is coming a time when the Lord shall speak and the dead shall come forth upon hearing his voice.

John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves **shall hear his voice**, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

This day has not yet come for us but oh what a day that will be when it does happen.

Let us wait and look for this day that will be joy for all of the children of God.

Elder Rickey Taylor

ANSWERS IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Romans (Rom. 9:28)
2. I Corinthians (I Cor. 6:16)
3. Philippians (Phil. 3:17)
4. Philippians (Phil. 3:7)

PATIENCE

We all need patience but most people think they must have tribulation to have patience. According to the Bible, patience is a virtue that can be added to the faith of the child of God. (II Pet. 1:5-6). I saw a cute comic strip: She is cleaning up from a child's mess and says she needs patience. "Don't worry mom," says her other child, "I'll get you some for Christmas."—*Editor*

**EXCERPTS
GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Dear Elder Larry,

In this season of “thanks” giving and a close reflection of God and friends, we remember the many prayers that have been prayed and the many words of comfort spoken to us on behalf of our grandson, Landon Waddle. We have been deeply humbled by this outpouring of love and concern. For him and our family, and we wish to thank each person. We know Landon is on the prayer list of many churches, and people who don’t even know him have prayed for him. Many have sent donations for his care. Thank you!

Also your June issue of Glad Tidings was filled with articles which spoke directly to comfort our grieving hearts. Thank you Brother Larry.

Our family has been blessed with a special child that has taught us to find joy in the “little things” in life. At his age of 2 years and 8 months old, we are thrilled if he says a new word or simply takes our hand and shows us what he wants, because he cannot talk to us as a normal child. His disease is Sanfillippo Syndrome, or MPS III A, which effects the brains of these children. Presently, there is no treatment or cure for this condition; however, a glimmer of hope came this summer with the first clinical trial in Ohio. A 5 year old child was injected with a newly developed, untested vaccine which has shown some success in slowing down the progression of this disease. We know with God all things are possible and with his blessings, one day there could be a cure! Until then, we will continue to trust and praise him!

Nahum 1:7 “The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

In Christian love,
The James Waddle Family
Greenwood Springs, MS

(Remember to lift this little boy, Landon Waddle, and his family up in prayer and may God’s grace abound and a miracle cure may be granted.—Editor)

May God bless you Elder Larry!

Your paper is always edifying and encouraging! We appreciate you more than you’ll ever know! Praying for you and that your health is continuing to improve. Praying for your families (natural and church families). Please continue to pray for us too. We love you!

Rehna Boesswetter
Cullman, AL

Brother Larry,

Thanks so much and God bless.

Juanita Dillard, Saltillo, MS

WE ARE LOOKING HOMEWARD

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

“I Am A Stranger Here Below,” “I Don’t Care To Stay Here Long,” I am looking for that “Long Sought Home” “Where We’ll Never Grow Old.” “Where Could I Go?” but to the Lord? “Thy Way, Not Mine, O Lord.”

“I Surrender All.” “Lift Me Up Above The Shadows” “Let Me Stand By The Mountain.” “Lord Lead Me On” “Till The Storm Passes By.”

We are looking homeward. Many songs that we sing attest to that very idea. When we sing, do we listen to the words, feel the emotions, know the sentiment? Often there are sermons in the songs we sing. Sometimes these sermons are more profound than the sermons brought by the minister. God has to bless the minister and the songwriter alike. Without His blessings we are not able to preach or to write poetry.

When the Lord blesses His people to preach, whether in song or sermon, He also blesses His people to hear and receive the messages of His great and glorious doctrine of salvation by grace. When we are receptive to the Word of God, He is faithful to impart its message and meaning to us.

When we are disobedient to the command to assemble ourselves together often to hear the Word of God, we are the losers. We lose the blessings of feasting upon the Word of God, the blessings of fellowship with the children of God, and the wonderful realization that we have done what the Lord has commanded of His children.

We are looking homeward. There are many things I would like to accomplish here in this life. Many of them I will never accomplish. The greatest accomplishment known is the accomplishment Christ made upon that cruel cross at Calvary.

Jesus came into the world to accomplish many things. He, unlike all of us, did all that He came to do. He never balked at the tasks before Him. He never complained. He never procrastinated. He never postponed a single duty. He was obedient to the end of His life on this earth.

Yes, we are looking homeward, but are we journeying through life on the strait and narrow way? Do we sincerely believe that we are children of God and as such will one day be with Him in Glory, time without end? Let us journey as we should, walking along with the Spirit of God as we look homeward.

(From “In The Master’s Service”, April, 2010)

“But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” (Hebrews 11:16)

IN THE MIDST

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

It is a wonderful and glorious time when God's people feel the very presence of the Lord as they gather together to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. The Lord doesn't just dwell in a manifest way with all His people unless they are doing those things that please Him. The apostle John writes, "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;" (Rev. 2:1). Jesus walks "in the midst" of the seven golden candlesticks which are identified as the seven churches to whom John is writing. When Jesus walks in the midst of His church, they are blessed beyond measure as they rejoice in the good news of the gospel.

The church is described as a city of truth with boys and girls playing in the streets and old men and women dwelling in those same streets so the church is made up of all ages. (Zech. 8:4-5). Then the Psalmist tells us of a river, the streams whereof, shall make glad that city of God which is the river of God's grace with the streams of the doctrines of grace that cause God's people to rejoice. The same Psalmist further states, "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." (Psalm 46:4). God is "in the midst" of His church and He has promised that the gates of hell would never prevail against her; consequently, she shall not be moved. (Matt. 16:18).

The fires of Satan's attacks on the church of Jesus Christ have ever been set forth against it; however, when God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is in the midst of her, she will withstand the attacks and prevail. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow down and worship the golden image which the king of Babylon had erected, they were bound and thrown into a burning fiery furnace which was heated seven times hotter than it had ever been heated. Nebuchadnezzar came with haste after a restless night and looked into the furnace. He asked his counsellors if there were not three bound men thrust into the furnace and the answer was yes. Then we read, "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (Dan. 3:25). "In the midst" of the fire, the king saw one like the Son of God. These three Hebrews came forth unharmed with not a hair of their head singed or the smell of smoke on their garments.

These three Hebrews must have had a peace that words cannot describe to be ready to be thrust into a furnace heated so hot. This is the message that the Son of God has for His church as He is our peace

and all in all. The disciples were assembled after Jesus' crucifixion with the door shut for fear of the Jews when Jesus suddenly appeared "in the midst" of them. They didn't open the door so He could come in; He was just suddenly in their midst. Jesus said, "Peace be unto you." (John 20:19). Jesus showed them His hands and His feet and the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. We haven't seen what the disciples saw or eight days later Thomas saw, but we can still rejoice as Peter writes, "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;" (1 Peter 1:8).

Many of the people of God become haughty in spirit and fall from the peace and blessings of God. Judgment comes but the question remains, "Will they receive correction?" Jerusalem had gotten so bad with the priests polluting the sanctuary and the people failing to obey the voice of God, that judgment came. Yet, in spite of the general falling away, the Lord promised, "I will also leave in **the midst of thee** an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD." (Zep. 3:12). There are those that continue to shine forth in the city of truth and trust in the name of the Lord and have their minds stayed on the Lord. Isaiah writes, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3).

If we desire the Lord to walk in our midst, we must shun the things of the world and not be complainers but have our light ever burning bright. Jesus promised those that keep His commandments, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21). Is there anything better than the manifest presence of the Lord as He is "in the midst"?

Hear God's voice and do His will and be a manifest son of God. What will be with result? "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" (Phil. 2:15). In this scenario, it is the people of God that shine "in the midst" of a perverse generation. Now we can understand why Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40)

Barnabas came to Antioch, having been sent by the church at Jerusalem and "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." (Acts 11:23). He saw grace in the people as The Lord was in the midst.

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