

Glad Tidings

August

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

What is a believer and what does it take to be a believer? Elsewhere in this issue is an article entitled "Believers are Blessed" and certainly that is a truth affirmed in scripture. Remember that all blessings start and end in the Lord Jesus Christ, both in eternity and in this time world. Keeping this fact in mind, let us consider what a believer really is and what it takes to be a believer.

When we say "believer", we are usually talking about an individual who believes in Jesus Christ and in the truth revealed in scripture. We can believe other things from a natural standpoint, but we aren't talking about natural things; we are talking about spiritual things. The scriptures are obviously of a spiritual nature but we are told that the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God as they are foolishness to him. (I Cor. 2:14). Thus if someone is to be a believer, the ability to receive the spiritual things of the Spirit of God must be present.

The individual who has been born again by the Spirit of God is enabled by faith to believe the truth in the scripture from a heart that has been changed from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh. Believing in Jesus Christ is without a doubt pleasing to God: however, we are told, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6). Faith is absent in the natural man and is a gift of God that only is received (passively) by being born again. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4)). Faith is then born of God and those in possession of faith can now believe and do those things pleasing to God.

If an individual is to believe in the scriptures and in Jesus Christ, exposure to the scriptures and the preaching of the gospel is a necessity. We are told to call upon the name of the Lord but how can we call upon someone we aren't acquainted with? Certainly all born again children of God are acquainted with Him internally and in the heart but not externally. Paul then would write, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). Preaching tells who we are to call upon.

Jesus healed the blind man in John chapter nine from blindness he possessed from birth. After he had confessed the things Jesus had done for him and that he was able to see and had been cast out of the synagogue, Jesus comes to him and asks him the question, "... Dost thou believe on the Son of God?" (John 9:35). The formerly blind man wanted to know who this Son of God was that he might believe. Jesus told him that he had seen him and that he was now talking to him. Jesus informed him who the Son of God was and after he received this new revelation, we read, "And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him." (John 9:38). This man had the birth, had the faith, and had the information to believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

Paul and Barnabas were preaching in Antioch and the Gentiles wanted to hear the same words the next Sabbath. After Paul preached Jesus and how he (Paul) was turning to the Gentiles now that his kindred (Jews) had judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life, we read the response of those who sat under his preaching, "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48). Once again we have the necessities for believers: They were ordained to eternal life being born again, thus they had the faith. They heard the preaching of Jesus Christ and they believed. This is always the order with life first, then hearing the word and then believing; it is NOT hearing, believing and then life is imparted!

There is finally an acceptance of the preached word required to be a believer. I use "acceptance" because that is what the religious community uses to describe how a person receives eternal life by accepting Jesus. This is contrary to scripture as witness the preceding paragraph. We read of Paul knowing the election of the people in Thessalonica as they heard the gospel and their response was, "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost." (I Thess. 1:6). The word received in this text can also mean "accept" or take. These people had accepted the word and became followers of the Lord. It is possible to be born again, have faith, hear the gospel and still not believe. This doesn't thwart God's faith in saving His people. "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." (II Tim. 2:13). Are you a believer? (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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SELF IMPROVEMENT

Daily Devotion for August 19, 2002

By Elder Louis Culver

Making a fool of yourself does not have to be a permanent condition.

So often we make mistakes which, upon reflection, seem to be so stupid. At the time we made them, however, nothing seemed to be stupid or unwise. We often fail to see the end result of our actions or our conversations until it is too late. Once a word has been spoken it can never be recalled and made as if it had never been said.

We cannot undo our past actions. It behooves us to think twice before acting or speaking. "To err is human; to forgive, divine." Once we realize we have made a mistake we should immediately set our course directly toward correcting that mistake to the best of our ability.

It is better not to have made the mistake in the first place. But, humans that we are, we do make mistakes. When we do, we want others to forgive us. Do we forgive them when they err? We know the Bible teaches that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. This statement is all-inclusive. It does not leave out you; it does not leave out me. We are all represented by this statement.

Let us seek to improve something about our life each day. Find one thing, one aspect of your life, and endeavor to improve upon it. Next day, look for

another weakness and work on it. If you are like me, you might want to double up—work on more than one thing each day. Otherwise, it may take a very long time to make any headway on the list of imperfections!

By the grace and mercy of God we are able to grow in wisdom and knowledge. Let us pray for His leadership and guidance in our lives every day.

--Elder Louis Culver

PRESERVATION VS. PERSEVERANCE

By Elder George Walker (Deceased)

In Jude verse 1, we read, "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called."

This is only addressed to the ones that are sanctified, preserved and called, showing that all that are sanctified are preserved and all that are preserved are called. In order to be preserved, there had to be a setting apart of God's people by God the Father, choosing us and placing us in Jesus Christ before the world began.

Then if we are sanctified by the Father, preserved in Christ Jesus and called out of nature's darkness by the Holy Spirit and granted eternal life we will live forever and forever. The word preservation means the act of preserving, to keep in safety, security from harm, from injury, from decay or destruction. In order to be preserved you have to have a preserver, that is someone that preserves, that saves, that defends, that keeps you from harm or destruction.

This one is the one that we have been placed in that is Jesus Christ, the Savior of sinners. You see, preservation is the work of God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. John says that there are three that beareth record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost and these three are one. Man is not active in this sanctification, man is not active in this preserving and man is not active in this calling. This is the work of God.

In Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 16 through verse 19 we read, "Above all, take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."

To my knowledge the word perseverance as used in verse 18, is only used this one time in the New Testament and it carries the thought as being persistent, to be earnest toward, to be diligent, to

adhere closely, to continue, as to be in consistent readiness. This is indeed a great way to live our lives as children of God, yet there are many times in our lives that we fall and will fall short of this admonition that Paul gives.

Yet Paul says that we ought to be praying in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. He also tells us that through putting on the whole armor of God that we are able to stand.

Yet, we find Paul telling us in II Timothy chapter 2 that there were some false preachers preaching that the resurrection was past already and overthrew the faith of some. He then says that nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His. Then we find Peter speaking in II Peter chapter 1, that we are given some things that we can add to. And says that if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was once purged from his old sins. The lesson today is telling us that we may or may not persevere, that it is possible that we are sanctified, preserved and called from a dead state in sin into a life in Jesus Christ, and we can start out following the Lord Jesus Christ in a way that is pleasing unto the Lord.

Then through the troubles and cares of life or through our lack of devotion to the Lord that we can forget that we were once purged from our old sins. You see, this purging is a one time purging. Paul says that he has perfected forever them that are sanctified.

It seems to me that everything that man is active in, he fails and falls short, he stands, and he falls. Yet we find that what God does, it is done forever. He speaks, and it comes to pass. He says, come and we come; He says hear, and we hear, he says understand, and we understand. The only assurance we have is in Jesus Christ. Even our belief did not come out from our own works.

Jesus says that this is the work of God and you believe on him that thou hath sent. If you believe that Jesus came from God, and that He is the only begotten Son of God, that He is the Son of the living God, and that he is God manifested in the flesh, it is because God has worked a work of grace upon the heart that enabled you to believe.

What a wonderful thing it is to believe that we are saved by the grace of God, that because God loved us with an everlasting love, he elected you and placed you in Jesus Christ, preserved you in him and called you and gave eternal life to you through the new birth and this life really is eternal. This life has no end, you will not be in grace today and out of grace tomorrow, even if you fall and your belief fails you

and you forget that you was once purged from your old sins, you are still His, paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From *"The Banner of Love"*, February, 2002)

OPEN MY EYES

There are times that we read the word of God and hear it preached that our eyes of understanding seem to be very clouded. Perhaps we would do well to pray with the Psalmist David, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." (Psalm 119:18). There are wondrous things to behold in the law of God, but we cannot see them with closed eyes. The Lord opened the eyes of Hagar to see a well of water that quenched the thirst of her and her child that were ready to die. She knew something after her eyes were opened that she previously did not know. What do we know when our eyes of understanding are enlightened? Paul tells us in Eph. 1:18, "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"

Notice the knowledge when our eyes are opened so that we know things we had not previously known. We have a hope in Christ but did not know or understand it until our eyes were opened. Is it then any wonder we hear the brethren pray from time to time to give us spiritual ears and understanding hearts during the course of the service, but perhaps we need to add "eyes to see" to this prayer as well. There is great treasure in God's word, but we will not be able to rejoice until we have found and seen the wonder of it all. The Psalmist also said, "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil." (Psalm 119:162). This is in keeping with a song that we sometimes sing that says, "Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me." May God bless us with better eyesight to behold wondrous things out of His law.—June 29, 2013—Elder Larry Wise. (From bethanypbecrums.com website)

REAL EYESIGHT

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.—St. Augustine

"Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." (Isaiah 6:5)

BELIEVERS ARE BLESSED

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

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John xx. 29.

After the resurrection of Jesus many of His sorrowing saints were blessed to see Him before He ascended to the Father, but many did not see Him. Above five hundred brethren saw Him on one occasion. Since Jesus appeared to Thomas, with others, in a closed room and spoke to him the wonderful message which we give at the head of this article, thousands of His dear people have died without seeing Him as Thomas saw him. Not until He comes with power and great glory to gather all His children home will He appear any more to His people here on earth. Jesus knew the mind of Thomas, and He knows the thoughts of all that dwell on earth today. He knew that dark clouds would often overshadow the poor saints in this world of sorrow. Hence He gave a message that will live on and on for the comfort of His people till He comes again. But what I want to call especial attention to (which has often been my comfort in the dark hours of life) is that if we believe in Jesus we are in a blessed condition, although we have never seen Him. We do not have to believe in Him and the power of His resurrection in order to be blessed, but if we do believe it only proves that we are blessed. Thomas, though doubtful, was a child of God before he believed that Jesus had been raised from the tomb. His believing or not believing had nothing to do with his relation to God as an heir of heaven, but it did have something to do with his joy and comfort here in this life. It enabled him to say, "My Lord, and my God." Just as sure as Jesus arose a mighty conqueror over death and the grave, all that He represented in His death and resurrection were perfectly reconciled to God, and hence (in the mind of God) already have the victory through Him whether they know anything about it or believe in Him or not. Hence Paul would ask the question, "What if some did not believe, shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?" Who teaches it that way today? And who says the faith of God will fail if men do not believe? If I were to say that belief is a condition in order to salvation from sin I would not be teaching it like Paul did. So I prefer to say, as Jesus did, that those who believe are already blessed, and as Paul says in Acts xiii. 39, "justified from all things." How could you ever condemn a man that is justified from all things? What a blessed condition—justified from all things. This certainly means heaven. Though we have not seen Jesus except by an eye of faith we have the promise that some sweet day we will see Him as He is and be like Him. Yes, in a way, we see Him now. We see Him in creation and all His mighty works. We see Him in the starry heavens and in the clouds. We see Him

in the growing of the corn and in the lily of the valley. In the warbling brook and on the mountain side we see Him. The green meadows and the flowers, the hills, the rocks and the mighty waters all declare His glory. Yet we say, "O sirs, we would see Jesus." Poor child of God, if you are sometimes cast down and feel sad and lonely, I think I know how to sympathize with you and would, if possible, share your sorrows and trials, but can we not, as we think of the sweet words of Jesus, look up through our blinding tears and hope for that blessed home where dark clouds will never arise and where sad partings never come? Do we not believe in Him? "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

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

COME

The Saviour said to the Jews, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me that ye might have life." These Jews were well acquainted with the letter of the word, but they could not see that the law and the ordinances pointed to Jesus as the Christ. They thought by keeping the law they were justified before God. But through the fall in Adam and personal sins human nature has become so debased and depraved and corrupt that it is impossible for man to come to Christ while in that condition. Some church members are compared to a wolf in sheep's clothing. The wolf could not enjoy sheep pasture. They might devour the sheep, but could not eat the grass. Their nature must be changed. Unless quickened by grace and drawn by the Spirit, man has neither the will nor the power to come to Christ.

There is life for those who come to Christ. Not that dead men can seek and find life, but the living may find the water of life, the bread of life and the way of life. If we live after the flesh we die, but if we through the Spirit put off the old man with his deeds we shall live. It is the life of pardon, and grace and comfort that we may live in or die to. One meaning of the word life is vigor or vitality.

Those who come to Christ must believe in Him, and the believer is born again. "The just shall live by faith" and faith is the fruit of the Spirit. Those who live in Christ and on Christ as spiritual food are in possession of eternal life. They do not come to Him in order to get the Spirit or to be born again but because they are sons being born again of the Spirit. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." This more abundant life is what we seek.

J. Harvey Dailey
(Deceased)

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*" December, 1942)

THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Jer. 23:6, "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

As the prophet Jeremiah was speaking these beautiful words of our Savior, we recall that God has always been particular in naming individuals. This may not seem like a good name to those who boast themselves in the multitude of their own riches, or trust in their own wealth, but to the poor and needy sinner this is a wonderful name.

This name would be downgrading news to those clothed in their own righteousness, with enough to spare to help others. But to those poor, naked, destitute sinners, knowing if left to their own works, heaven they will never see, this is a wonderful name. To the Pharisee, even the thought of what this name means would puncture his ego like a pin a balloon. To the humble poor it brings tears of joy and shouts of thanksgiving.

To the fleshly mind this name would be no more than four words without meaning. To the spiritual mind, and the hope and revelation of what this name means, it has meaning, day or night, during joys and sorrows, heat or cold, in youth or olden age, in health and in sickness. This knowledge gives us people in the world, of whom the world is not worthy, a little oasis here and there, where those who know the meaning of this name can meet together and shout that his praise is our blessing, because of this Christ our Lord.

As I take stock of myself, my sinfulness, my weakness, I feel depressed, even through these dark clouds I see the beauty of the Savior, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. It causes me to want to serve the people of God in my little way, whether visiting, speaking to God's children of the mercies of God, or printing a little church paper. I am glad that my little service is not necessary to clothe anyone in righteousness, but I am glad of the sweet feeling I receive in my heart, of living with a people who trust in Christ Jesus THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

If this is the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and he is our righteousness, who should we fear? If he is our righteousness, what power or element of time could hinder us from enjoying the everlasting blessings of God? If he is our righteousness, is this sufficient? Is it complete? Do we need a surety for Christ? Did he receive his name, because we helped him by accepting him? Can you think of anything more complete or satisfactory than the righteousness of Jesus?

Do we pause to think how thankful we should be? How can we best show his praise? Are we believers in THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS?

This is in his name. He lived up to his name. Heaven will be populated by the saints of God pure, because of Jesus Christ, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. (Jan., 1965)

(From "*The Best of Elder Guy Hunt*")

Food For Thought For Your Week

June 19, 2017--By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

Not Ashamed Of Our Hope, Ps 119:116-117

In Psalm 119:116-117 we read, "Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually."

Surely, we can trust that the word of God is good counsel. And just as surely, we know that following His counsel is the best way for us to "live" and enjoy the contentment and peace that is the result of fellowship with the Lord. Nothing this world has to offer can compare to the loving relationship we have with the Lord; if indeed, we have first felt His love toward us. (1st John 4:19) No one on this earth can satisfy your every need except Jesus Christ: now, or forever! The very remembrance of His promises holds us up.

So, why then, would we ever be ashamed of our "hope" in the Lord. We could not save ourselves eternally, but He has saved us. (Titus 3:5) We cannot ensure our own daily safety, nor garner all our daily needs by ourselves; yet, the Bible assures us that "He daily loadeth us with benefits." (Ps 68:19) Also, if we will just "seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, all these things shall be added unto you" daily! (Matthew 6:33)

Furthermore, what about the days ahead? Again, there is nothing about our "hope" in which we should be ashamed about the future. In Romans 8:38-39 we read, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." This relationship is sure and secure for all of God's family. It is our sure hope and it is a blessed hope. Further, the "surety" of our hope is none other than the Lord, Jesus Christ, Himself! (see Hebrews 7:22) Seeing then, that following the Lord and trusting in His care and provisions is our best course for joy, happiness, and security, may God bless us to "have respect unto His statutes continually." God is far more faithful to us than we will ever be to Him. You will never find a better way to go than following His word. In the love of Christ,

--Elder Clayton Nowell

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. The night is far _____, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of _____ and put on the armor of light. (Rom. 13:12)
2. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the _____ to fulfill the lusts thereof. (Rom. 13:14)
3. Owe no man anything, but to _____ one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the _____. (Rom. 13:8)
4. Let every soul be subject to the higher _____. For there is no _____ but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. (Rom. 13:1)
5. Him that is weak in the _____ receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. (Rom. 14:1)
6. For whether we live, we _____ unto the Lord; and whether we die, we _____ unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. (Rom. 14:8)
7. As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall _____ to me, and every tongue shall _____ to God. (Rom. 14:11)
8. We then that are _____ ought to bear infirmities of the _____. and not to please ourselves. (Rom. 15:1)
9. Now the God of _____ and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. (Rom. 15:5)
10. That ye may with one _____ and one _____ glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 15:6)

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
2. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
3. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
4. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.
(Answers on Page 8)

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We all have what we consider to be good days or bad days; depending upon what perspective it is viewed. A deacon of Bethany Church asked his grandson after he came in from school, "Have you had a good day so far?" His grandson replied, "Almost a good day." "Why", said his grandfather? A simple reply, "I had to get up early?" Oh, if only a good day or bad day was so simple?—*Editor*

A DIFFERENT KIND OF FOOL
By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

A minister went into a place of business one day and was confronted by an Atheist with whom he was casually acquainted. Desiring to embarrass the preacher, the Atheist shouted "There is no God." The pastor calmly approached the man, gently laid his hand on his shoulder, and said, "My friend, what you just shouted is by no means a new idea. The Bible spoke of it some three thousand years before you."

The man replied, "I was not aware that there was any such statement in the Bible."

The preacher then informed him that Ps 14:1; 53:1 tell us that "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." "But," continued the pastor, "there is a great difference between that fool and you. That fool was quite modest and said it only in his heart; he didn't go about yelling it in public places."

It seems that in our day there are more and more people who are less and less afraid of denying their own Creator. Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "It takes no brains to be an Atheist. Any stupid person can deny the existence of a supernatural power because man's physical senses cannot detect it. But there cannot be ignored the mystery of first life...or the marvelous order in which the universe moves about us. All of these evidence the handiwork of a beneficent Deity. For my part, that Deity is the God of the Bible and Christ, His Son."

Those of us who have felt the love and power of God within our souls cannot, and dare not, deny His glorious existence. And we who have shed many tears of joy and rejoicing as we have been caught up and carried away in the contemplation of the wonders of His inexpressible truth, grace, and love, can hardly bear the thought of a poor, blasphemous creature facing a dreadful eternity with no fear (reverence) of God before his eyes (See Ro 3:18). Unless at some point in time such a man is mercifully brought to repentance under the Almighty hand of the sovereign Deity it will be a horrible shock for him when he awakes to the awesome reality of the great God he has denied and the dreadful judgment that he cannot avoid!—Elder Ralph Harris.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS August 4-6, 2017. Services Friday night, Aug. 4, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Marty Smith, Roswell GA is invited minister. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS August 4-6, 2017. Services Friday night, August 4, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at 10:30 a.m. Lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 6, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Buddy Abernathy, Gordo, AL is invited minister. Antioch is currently without a Pastor.

There is a minister's prayer service every 2nd Sunday night in the month at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 4905, Hwy 346, Pontotoc, MS beginning at 6:00 p.m. Inquiry as to news from the churches are made and then prayer by each minister in attendance. The purpose of this meeting since it started a few years ago is to specifically pray for our churches who seem to be declining in many areas and for the ministry; that God would supply the need for the many churches that are without pastors. Everyone in the area during this time of the month are invited to come. We usually have anywhere from 5 to 8 ministers present. Please join in prayer for the churches and the ministry, even though you cannot be present at any of these prayer services.—*Editor*

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecru, MS the 2nd weekend in September, 2017 (Sept. 8-10). Services Friday night, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, September 9, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, September 10, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The Tombigbee Association of Primitive Baptists will be hosted by Enon Primitive Baptist Church near Fulton, MS off Peppertown exit of I-22 the 3rd weekend in September, 2017 (Sept. 15-16). Services Friday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Same schedule for Saturday, September 16. No night services. For further information or directions contact Elder Bobby Howell, Pastor of Enon, at 662-305-2118. Everyone is invited.

Keep the faith and keep looking up.—Amen!
Strength comes from above—not below!

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Rector Primitive Baptist Church, Rector, AR the 2nd weekend in August, 2017 (Aug. 11-12). Services Friday, Aug. 11, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services; a short break, another service and then supper served. Same schedule for Saturday, Aug. 12. Elder Devon Horton is Pastor of Rector.

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church, Duck Hill, MS the 2nd weekend in Aug. 2017 (Aug.12-13). Services Saturday, Aug. 12, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch & afternoon services. Sunday at 10:00 a.m. This is an open meeting. Elder David Blair Sr. is Pastor of Mt. Pisgah.

You have read several things "Out of the Mouth of Babes" said by our grandson, Isaac Wise, since he started talking. He will be three years old in November, 2017. Here is a picture of Isaac.—*Editor*



Everyone is invited to Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS for their meeting the 3rd weekend in August, 2017 (Aug. 18-19). Services Friday night, August 18, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 19, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. No afternoon or night service. Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO CHURCH?

Probably it has been a long time since you went to church and you may resent anyone's suggesting that you go again. For, maybe, you may say that you were never much on praying and you thought it was dull stuff. Maybe you didn't like the fluttering old ladies, the familiar hymns, the lean-faced deacons. Maybe you preferred to sleep off the effects of Saturday night's reveling. Was this in earlier life when things were different? When religion seemed unimportant because there were too many other more important things to be done?

Perhaps you thought that church was for the old women and pasty-faced folks. That a real person who understood the world didn't need religion. You lived a life of a Christian—that was your argument. At one time that was our argument, too. One didn't have to go to church to let the world know that he believed in God and wanted to live up to all that Christianity means. Didn't you work at being a Christian in your every day life? To you it seemed to be a swell argument—a clincher in fact. But honestly, weren't you a fake? Wasn't the argument something you built up because you did not want to be bothered going to church or were too lazy to try to make it? Then weren't you a failure at living up to the religion you professed? Didn't you, occasionally, covet your neighbor's wife, push aside all who confronted you to get a step ahead of them? In a word, did you love your neighbor as thyself?

Truthfully, you broke with yourself. While you were calling others "hypocrite", weren't you on the hypocritical side yourself? While this may not be an argument for you to go to church, for you may not need to go because you have found out how to be a good Christian without the church? If you have, do not go. But let's get this straight. These are days in which it is easy to lose faith, for courage is undergoing its most severe test, but there is this about the future, things are going to become worse when we get into this war with both feet. Oh! You may say, "I do not need religion," but for the days ahead, stop and think now, you are going to need something to believe in, something upon which you can lean.

Frequently I recall the words of a chaplain at Pearl Harbor, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition." Back in the days of this country's struggle for independence there was a chaplain, James Caldwell, who, when in the thick of battle near Springfield, N.J., and the patriots ran out of paper wadding for their muzzle loading guns, dashed into a country church nearby, returned with an armful of hymn books and said, "Now put wadds into'em boys." Try going to church. See if you do not find that something which has been missing in your life. See if it doesn't help

you to have faith in the uncertain future. See if it doesn't make you warm, happy and proud inside. And see if it doesn't give you something to lean upon when things go wrong. And from now on, lots of things can go wrong.

T. P. Dalton

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", November, 1942)

ANSWERS IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Jude (Jude 21)
2. Colossians (Col. 1:17)
3. Hebrews (Heb. 6:12)
4. 1 John (1 John 5:21)

POISON

"The poison of asps is upon their lips." (Psalm 5:9)

It is possible for an individual to become so righteous that the rest of the world appears out of step.

Nearly all of us are acquainted with some individual who is never known to say a kind word about any living soul, whose tongue is "poison."

The apostle Paul warned the Romans of the danger of too much righteousness. When we put ourselves on a pedestal, we find the only way to stay there is to knock down others.

It is not the Christian way to unthinkingly criticize others, to indulge in fault-seeking, to ridicule, to call attention to shortcomings and weaknesses.

The Christian looks for the good, searches for a kind word to say, and says it whenever possible.

--Selected

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", May, 1966)

KINDNESS

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.—Mark Twain

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness" (Prov. 31:26)

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Eph. 4:32)

FEED NY LAMBS, FEED MY SHEEP

By Elder Herman Clark,
Iuka, Mississippi

The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. In the morning Jesus stood on the shore and asked the disciples, addressing them as children, "...Have ye any meat? They answered him, No." Jesus pointed out that they had cast their net on the wrong side of the ship. He told them to cast their net on the RIGHT side of the ship. They caught 153 fish. Then Jesus said unto them to come and dine. It was while they were eating that Jesus asked Simon Peter a question. "Lovest thou me more than these? Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus answered Peter saying Feed my lambs." Peter acknowledged that he did love Jesus and was grieved because Jesus had asked almost the same question three times. Read chapter 21 of John closely to get a clear picture of all that was said.

We as ministers have a responsibility to do the same. We are to feed the lambs and the sheep. Suppose a farmer goes to a corncrib full of corn, picks up the corn basket, carries the corn basket to the cows, and goes through the motion of emptying out the corn into the trough. There is one problem with the farmer's actions. He had the basket, the crib with corn, and the cows to feed, and yet the thing he lacked was he failed to put corn into the basket. He went through the motion of feeding the cows. Did this satisfy their hunger? Have you ever gone to the feed trough (worship service) and found nothing to satisfy your (spiritual) hunger? You saw the "farmer" (preacher) with the basket and knew his responsibility, and expected him to fulfill his responsibility, and that was to feed. Does this ring a bell? It may be that the preacher had not put any corn in the basket and only went through the motions of feeding. Jesus said "Feed my lambs and my sheep." Paul said to Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

A minister can carry a large basket of corn to the feed trough and yet the sheep are not fed. It seems that all is needed is the corn, preacher, and the sheep. **That is the trap that many fall into.** Many times the most important part of preaching the gospel is left completely out when feeding. A man can step into the pulpit with all that has been mentioned, but without the **HOLY SPIRIT** there is no preaching. Hence, there is no real food for the sheep.
(From "*The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*", August, 2007)

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." (1 Peter 5:2)

MUZZLE NOT THE OX

(From *The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*", March, 2008)

1 Timothy 5:18 "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the labourer is worthy of his reward".

A quote from Elder John Conley, as cited by his son, Elder Philip Conley, explains much. Here we see the labourer and the field of labor as well. "People are always anxious about the money issue. How much? How often? These questions are always best answered by the spirit of giving. If the minister is doing as he should, he is labouring abundantly. If the congregation is doing as they should, they are labouring abundantly. So, when we all labour as we should, the money issue becomes no issue".

Paul mentions Deuteronomy 25:4, where God gives this law. He is taking care of the oxen. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that it would violate the law of God to put a muzzle over the ox's mouth so he couldn't eat as he worked; it is the humane thing to do. The owner of the field doesn't owe him the entire crop. The preacher that comes into the field of his labor demanding a certain amount of financial remuneration just to come into the field violates this entire concept. The Church that denies as much assistance as is reasonable for them to provide also violates the correct principle.

We possibly lose track of the spirit of the law, when we try to determine what we are to do for his family. The Bible does not direct the preacher to abandon the care of his wife and children. If the Church does what it is blessed to do for him, he will see that it is shared by his family.

It is a mistake when a preacher has been Pastor of one Church and feels a call and impression to labour in another Church to expect to be cared for there to the same extent the previous Church did. There are small flocks of sheep that need feeding and to be cared for and they should not be neglected because they have little or no money.

I have heard more fund-raising efforts from some Primitive Baptists in the last ten years than all the other years I have been privileged to know them. There is a proper way to teach the Lord's people the scriptural way of giving from the desires of their heart as God has prospered them, and that is not by trying to take them back under the Law of Tithing.

--Elder Bill Walden (Deceased)

There are four main bones in every organization. The wish-bones: Wishing somebody would do something about the problem. The jaw-bones: Doing all the talking but very little else. The knuckle-bones: Those who knock everything. The back-bones: Those who carry the brunt of the load and do most of the work. (This could be said of some churches I suppose—Editor)--*Bits & Pieces. Oct. 15, 1992. pp.16-17*

COMMAND OF BOAZ TO HIS REAPERS

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Naomi had returned to the land of Judah with her two daughters-in-laws, Ruth and Orpah, from the land of Moab to which she fled along with her husband and two sons because of a famine in the land of Judah. Her husband, Elimelech, and her two sons died in Moab after taking wives of Moab, Ruth and Orpah. Orpah has gone back to Moab but Ruth has followed Naomi desiring that Naomi's God be her God and to lodge with her and her people.

They return in the time of the beginning of barley harvest but they have no field of their own from which to glean. It just so happened that Naomi had a wealthy kinsman of the family of her husband Elimelech named Boaz. Ruth tells Naomi to let her go to the field and glean ears of corn in the field of one in whose sight she would find grace. (Ruth 2:1-2). Ruth told her to go and she went and she is led to the field of none other than, Boaz, the kinsman who has said to his reapers "the Lord be with you", and the reapers have said, "The Lord bless thee." (Ruth 2:4),

It has been made known unto Boaz who this Ruth is and from whence she came. She has come from the Moabites which worship false gods and named after a man named Moab who was the product of an incestuous relationship between Lot and one of his daughters. She has left that spiritually barren place and desires to live with Naomi and her people; she is undoubtedly a recipient of God's saving grace which has instilled in her this fresh desire to come unto a people that she did not know before. Boaz comes to her and tells her to go not into another field but abide fast by his maidens and reap and then drink when she is athirst.

Ruth falls on her face before Boaz when she is told this good news and says, "...Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger." (Ruth 2:10). Boaz explains to her what has been made known unto him concerning her and then gives her this message, "The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." (Ruth 2:12). Boaz is a type of our kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who knows all about His people and from whence they came and is the only One who is able to bless. Ruth has come to trust under the wings of the Lord and that can only describe a born again child of God.

When Ruth has risen from her prostrate position before Boaz to glean in the field, Boaz commands the young men who are his reapers, "...Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also some of the "handfuls of purpose" for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not." (Ruth 2:15-16). It was the law of

Israel that the corners of the field were not to be wholly reaped; neither was every grape of every vineyard to be gathered, but they were to be left for the poor and the stranger. (Lev. 19:9-10).

The command of Boaz to his reapers goes beyond the law of Israel as he commands them to let fall handfuls of purpose for the gleaner Ruth. This was something extra for Ruth than would ordinarily take place. Our kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ, has commanded His reapers (ministers) to drop handfuls of purpose for the spiritually hungry child of God that they might be nourished and strengthened in the vineyard of the Lord. Jesus told His disciples, "...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35). The people of God are His harvest and He will harvest them into heaven on the resurrection morning; however, there is a gospel harvest into the church kingdom here in this world that occupies the service of God-called ministers. Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion because they were as scattered sheep that had no shepherd. "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).

The ministers of God are commanded to enter the vineyard of the Lord and drop handfuls of purpose for the hungry child of God. God has provided many handfuls for His people in the preaching of the word from Genesis to Revelation. Ruth didn't plant the vineyard or the field but she gleaned from that which someone else had planted which belonged to Boaz. The vineyard of the Lord (the Church) was planted by Jesus Christ and it has everything that is needed for the child of God to give them joy and peace in this sometimes cruel world. Paul tells us, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 14:17). A cluster of grapes was brought back from the land of Canaan that was large enough that it took two men to carry but only those who actually entered the land were able to taste of those grapes and enjoy the land of milk and honey.

Ruth was told not to glean in any other field than the field of Boaz. We are not to glean in any other field other than the vineyard the Lord has established for His people. Paul told the elders at Ephesus in his departing message, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." (Acts 20:28). We can glean many things in all the handfuls of purpose that the ministry drops for us in each sermon we hear preached and with our own personal study and meditation upon God's word. Truly we have found grace in the sight of the Lord just as Ruth had found it in the sight of Boaz.

CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Ephesians 4:8

Picture a scene from the era of when Christ was on earth. It is at Rome the capital of the Roman Empire. We hear the trumpet blow announcing the arrival of a victorious Roman Army. This army has fought long and hard, and many men died in the battles to defeat their enemies. Now the war has been won. The victorious army marches before the people and Caesar. In the midst of the parading army are the defeated warriors. Now in chains and shackles, no longer the great warriors who had instilled fear in Rome; now only a shell of the Warriors they once were. The General arrayed in his best for the crowd and his emperor. Proudly he displays the riches and prisoners he has taken from the defeated nation; seeing it all the people shout and the emperor rewards his army with praise of a job well done. These events would be played out many times in the history of the Roman Empire. All that would change would be the name of the emperors, generals, and nations that was defeated. These events would be called **triumphs**. We get the word triumph from the Romans.

Captivity captive can be described by this word triumph. Paul quotes this text to the Ephesians from the book of Psalms (Psalms 68:18). God did promise the fulfillment of these words, when he would send his Son as flesh and blood to fulfill it. Paul quotes it to the church at Ephesus to show that Christ has now fulfilled it, and this was a time of rejoicing for the children of God. We live in an era of the triumph of Christ over the Law of sin and death.

Captive is defined as "**kept within bounds**". This is what is done when a person is put into prison; he is confined to a small jail cell, and is kept from doing any more harm to the public. This is what Christ has done to defeat sin, Satan and all his enemies. He has taken what made us captive, and put it into captivity. When sin entered into the world, it had brought captivity to mankind, and there they would still be if it was left up to them to do something about it. Many of the Lord's dear children are still feeling some of that captivity because they give in to the wiles of the devil through their sinful nature. This comes from their disobedience to the word of God. In this captivity they are imprisoned from the joys of their salvation that they could be enjoying right now on earth. Obedience to God is not required to have eternal life. God's Son obtained that on the cross when he died for you. Obedience is required if we want to have the joys of our salvation here on earth. For one outside our faith to make the statement that Primitive Baptists don't

teach about obedience is simply not true. We just teach obedience in its proper setting as the scriptures teaches it.

Adam's transgression brought separation from us and God because sin entered into the world. (Romans 5:12). Satan brought us into captivity when we became separated from God. It was the worst kind of captivity that could be imagined; Imprisoned from the God that loved us, captive to the beckoning hand of the Devil who cared nothing about us. Helpless to do anything about it, the child of God would have had no hope of being in eternity with God. Thanks be to God however that he sent his Son to die in our place so we would have a place in heaven. We who were imprisoned are now set free.

We ministers of the gospel are to tell his children that the prison doors are open; we have been set free. Come we that love the Lord, step out of the prison of our sinful nature, and let us obediently follow the Lord. The doors have been flung open of the prison, let us now join in the house of God, and let us praise the Lord who has **triumphed** over the Devils and his angels! Let us praise his triumph with songs and prayer and the preaching of the gospel! The old Caesar's never obtained a triumph like Christ did on the cross! Victory in Jesus! He has ascended and sits at the hand of God the Father. What a triumph! He is truly all in all. Thank you our precious Lord for your love and care for us!

Elder Rickey Taylor

VOWS

As the wealthy oil tycoon lay on his deathbed, his pastor talked of God's healing power. "Pastor," he gasped, "if God heals me, I'll give the church a million dollars." Miraculously, the man revived and within a few short weeks was out of the hospital. One day, several months later, he and the pastor chatted on the sidewalk in front of a hardware store. "You know," the pastor said, "when you were in the hospital dying, you promised to give the church a million dollars if you got well. We haven't got it yet." "Did I say that?" the tycoon asked. "I guess that goes to show how sick I really was!"

Today in the Word, July 1990, p. 34.

"I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people, In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD." (Psalm 116:18-19)

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