

Glad Tidings

December

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

2017

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

Jesus came into this sin cursed earth as the faithful high priest to make reconciliation for the sins of the people of God. To accomplish this end, He, the living Word, had to be made flesh and dwell on the earth because it was flesh and blood that brought sin into the world. Man is a flesh and blood individual contaminated by sin but Jesus was a partaker of just part of the same because He was without sin, having been conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of a virgin. (Heb. 2:14). This sinless high priest could then make the perfect sacrifice to take away the sins of His elect family. He was wholly God and yet wholly man. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...” (II Tim. 3:16). Jesus told Philip that he “that hath seen me hath seen the Father.” (John 14:9). However it was as a man that He offered the supreme sacrifice: “But **this man**, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” (Hebrews 10:12).

This faithful high priest that atoned for the sins of His elect family was subject to like passions and was tempted in all points as his children but without sin. He is thus amply qualified to be one who is touched with the feeling of the infirmities of His children. He is the compassionate high priest and even told His disciples as they could not stay awake to watch and pray while he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt. 26:41). As Jesus prayed this prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Bible tells us, “And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.” (Luke 22:43). Why did Jesus need any strength; wasn't He the Son of God? Jesus indeed was the Son of God but He was also the son of man; in His humanity, He needed the strength that could only come down from above to do the will of the Father and bear the cross of Calvary.

If Jesus as a man needed the strength that could only come from above, how much more do His people need the same strength to put all things aside and do the will of the Father! It isn't any wonder then that Paul would say, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil. 4:13). Paul had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content; he didn't learn this by accident but had been taught by a higher authority than himself.

Paul was caught up into the third heaven and the paradise of God and heard unspeakable words that was unlawful to be uttered. There was given him a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan, to buffet him lest he be exalted above measure. He prayed to the Lord for removal of this thorn three different times. The thorn never was removed but He was told, “...My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” (II Cor. 12:9). The Lord's strength is made perfect in the weakness of His children and thus Paul would go on to say that he took pleasure in infirmities and distresses for Christ's sake “...for when I am weak, then am I strong.” (I Cor. 12:10). Sometimes God's children are allowed to get so weak that they have no other alternative than to look up; it is then and then only that they can claim they are strong. Truly Jesus is that high priest that is touched with the feelings of His people and their infirmities.

The Lord's people forfeit much peace and joy because they fail to believe His promises. Do they really believe He will never leave them or forsake them? If they do, then they can depend upon His faithfulness to see them through. Paul again said, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (I Cor. 10:13). Paul was in a ship that was destined to be wrecked and all hope seemed to be lost but the Lord sent an angel with a message to cheer him and the people on the ship. He was told to fear not for he must appear before Caesar and all on board would be spared. Paul then said to everyone, “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.” (Acts 27:25). Paul believed God's promise and so should every one of His people.

Jesus was made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law that they might receive the adoption of sons. (Gal. 4:4). He accomplished that redemption and sat down on the right hand of God and ever lives to make intercession for His people. All need His strength each day as they press toward their final destiny in a departure from this life and may they all be able to say with Paul, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:” (II Tim. 4:7). Trust in the Lord who does all things well. (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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ABIDE

By Elder William T. Daily (Deceased)

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." (John 15:10) What does this mean to one who has the love of God and Jesus Christ, His Son in his heart? Here is a promise of the most wonderful blessing that anyone can have. And it is available to each and every one who has the desire, but there is a condition attached to the promise. The little word "if" puts the responsibility of obtaining this blessing directly upon the child of God. Without the love of Jesus, one would not have the desire to abide with Him, for to abide with Him, would be to be with Him continually, and no one would desire to be with someone continuously unless there was a great affection for him. So, we can safely assume that the above scripture is only addressed to those who love Him.

Jesus has said, "If ye love me keep my commandments." (John 14:15) Now we are promised that if we keep His commandments we will continue in His love in a manifest way. Once He has taken His abode in our hearts, there is nothing that can separate us from His love, but for us to experience His love in a manifest way, we must keep His commandments. How can we do this unless we deny ourselves, and take up our cross and follow Him? To follow Him, of course, means to make a public acknowledgement of our love for Him, follow Him in

baptism, (For this is the very first example He set for us) and continue in His love. "These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11) He proved His love for His people by laying down His life for His friends. How can we afford to do less than keep His commandments? "These things I command you, that ye love one another."

The word ABIDE appears many times in the 15th chapter of St. John. It means to continue in, to live in, to bear, and if necessary to suffer the afflictions of the Lord; feeling thankful to be counted worthy of such afflictions. One thing the Lord has warned us: The world will hate us, that is, they will hate that which we stand for. The unregenerate world cannot know or understand the love of Christ for us nor our love for Him. These things are spiritually understood only. This makes the love of God beyond our comprehension until such a time as He reveals His love in our hearts and makes us to know whom to know is life eternal. "No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him." (Matt. 11:27)

Children of God can only show their devotion by their good works, and how much there is to gain by dwelling (abiding) in Him; for it is only in this way that they can bear fruit. And we are warned that "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." So there is a danger of great loss in not bearing fruit. This, of course, means fruit of righteousness, and we know that Christ is our only source of righteousness, so it follows that we must ABIDE in Him and He in us in order that we bring forth fruit, for He says, "without me ye can do nothing." We have often said, there are no people on the face of the earth that has more reason to believe in good works than the Primitive Baptists, not in order to bring Him under obligation to us, but because of His mercy and grace. For we love Him because He first loved us. May the Lord add His blessings.

W. T. D.

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

Thought of the day: Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus in sincerity. Amen. The Apostle Paul wrote much of the New Testament and his letters usually started with desires of grace and peace for the brethren, then launched into rebuke, instruction and doctrine and then closed with the same desire of grace and peace. When preachers are blessed to speak to the Lord's children or in our discussion with others we would do well to follow this wonderful example of starting with grace and peace and end with the same exhortation. Just my thought!

October 7, 2017—Elder Robert Payne

THE "MADE" EXCUSES

By Elder Walter Cash (Deceased)

Too many excuses are "made" excuses as the Savior said of those who were bidden to the feast, but who had something that they thought was of enough importance to keep them from blame for refusing to be present. Say that this feast was a church meeting. And is not a church meeting a feast when the brethren and sisters meet, and the Lord is with the preacher, and in the hearts of all? The first who offered excuse said that his land was of more importance than a church meeting. There are thousands saying so today. And, strange to say, the more land they have, the better they think the excuse is. The devil said to Jesus, in effect, give up your service in your kingdom and I will give you all the land there is. But Jesus could not be thus deceived, nor ought any of God's children to be so deceived when they have the teaching and example of Jesus.

The next said he had work to do, and he had prepared to do it by buying more oxen. If one could make a million dollars a day he would not be excusable in missing church meetings to work. In fact the more he can make a day the less excusable is he, for he can the better afford to spare time to serve Him who has given him a title to an estate the value of which can never be estimated. But if he can only make fifty cents a day it would seem ridiculous to set so low a value on the service of God and the obligations of the church, to say that one would be excusable for selling it for so little. But in truth it is no more ridiculous than to set any value in dollars and cents as a limit where one would be justified in thinking it should stand to excuse him from his church and its services. The bedrock of all these excuses is a lack of willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of the cause and for Jesus' sake. It shows a willingness to let the church go down rather than take a place with others in sustaining and keeping up the organization. It is shirking the great responsibility of standing in your place, no matter what it costs. The soldier who would keep step in the ranks in time of peace and ease, and then when the lines must face the enemy drop out because it might cost him his life, would die in dishonor. He who would not hazard his life for the sake of the church is not to be trusted in his heart devotion to Jesus. Jesus gave His life. John said, "if Jesus laid down His life for us we ought to lay down our life for the brethren." It is shirking to set a low limit on what you will sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

"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)

**ETERNAL SALVATION
NOT BASED UPON CHANCE**

By Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

"As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given me." (John 17:2).

The teaching of this is plain. And there is no scripture in all the word of God that teaches differently from this. The Bible would not be the word of God **if one part contradicted any other part**. Where there **appears** contradictions, the trouble is with us; we fail to understand, or we just want to wrest some scripture from the true meaning and make it fit our idea of the plan of salvation.

Briefly, let us study the above text:--Jesus taught that God gave him power over all flesh. This is true. Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, and had power over all flesh. Not only did the winds and sea obey him, but devils were subject to his command. All manner of disease fled before Him and the dead arose up and lived at His call. He had power over His own flesh also and laid it down in death. No man could take His life. He laid it down and took it up again. Pilate had no power only as the Lord gave it to him. No man has power except as the Lord gives it. All are lost,--**entirely lost**,--dead in trespasses and in sin,--without strength and without God in the world. But **some** shall be saved. Heaven shall be inhabited by those for whom it was prepared. Election is true, and there is no miscarriage in the **plan of salvation by grace**. Man is a failure, and all the schemes of men fail, but God's plan **can never fail**. And He will give eternal life to some. How many, we do not know. But we do know that Jesus will give eternal life **"to as many"** as the Father gave Him. This number can no more be counted by man than he can count the sands of the seashore or the stars of heaven. It is an innumerable number that no man can number,--God's elect from every nation, kindred, tongue and people. "For whom he did foreknow (as His people), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:29-31).

There is **no element of chance** in this divine plan of salvation from sin. The Triune God is engaged in it. God gave "them" to His Son in covenant arrangement; the Son gives them "eternal life." And the Holy Spirit finds these elect vessels of mercy, quickens them into divine live and to their sin-stained soul applies the blood of Christ "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good

works." (Titus 2:14). Note that God's redeemed children are a peculiar people. One of their peculiarities is that they are zealous of "good works." And all the good works, religiously, they need be concerned about walking in, are mentioned in their guide-book,--the Bible. To "the man of God," the Bible is **a thorough furnisher** "unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:17). Let us labor in His kingdom and trust Him for time and eternity. "For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king: he will save us." (Isa. 33:22).

(From "*Memories of Long Ago*" by R. H. Pittman)

KILL THEM WITH KINDNESS

By Elder Herman Clark
luka, Mississippi

In September of 1969 I began employment with Westvaco Corporation. One of the first things that my supervisor expressed to me was the importance of those people that brought to our collection yard the raw material called "pulpwood". This was shipped to our paper mill in Wickliffe, KY. Without wood producers there would be no wood to ship and hence forth I would be without a job. Another thing that he said to me when working with the wood producers and landowners is to remember: "Kill them with kindness." One can easily say this is a good rule to use in dealing with the public. I often wondered where he came up with such a thought and I did practice this rule to the best of my ability.

It was years later that I began to read the Bible and ran across a verse of scripture found in Proverbs 25:21-22. "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee." When reading these two verses I immediately thought of what my supervisor had said to me. Yep, just kill them with kindness and that is all it takes. However the verses of scripture mentioned above had a much more wonderful teaching than what I had first reaped, I thought, from these two scriptures.

I was laying in my bed early this morning thinking about the words of Jesus as found in Matthew 5:44, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." The Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ said for me to love my enemies. Oh, how weak in faith I sometime find my daily journey in life! As I lay thinking about these words, it dawned on me that Jesus was not telling me to be an enemy to my enemies, but when someone becomes my enemy, I am not supposed to lower myself to the same level of the enemy, with hatred in my heart, and crawl into his boat and we both go over the water fall. If someone

you know has become a bitter enemy to you, then be careful what you say to that person and how you treat him/her.

Solomon said, "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink. For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee." Our first mistake in a situation such as this is that we lower ourselves to that person's level. The second mistake is that "yes, I will give him bread, I have some four day old cornbread and some hot homemade rolls covered with melted butter and some honey in the middle but my enemy will only get the stale bread and stale water instead of a cool drink from the spring and my tasty hot rolls." The third mistake is this: now that I have given him bread to eat and water to drink, then I say to the LORD: "Come on Lord bless me." Big, big mistake!

What did Solomon mean when he said that in feeding my enemy and giving him drink, that I shall heap coals of fire upon his head? In the days of olden times such as the days of Solomon, the woman kept the coals of fire glowing continuously. If the coals of fire went out, there were no butane lighters to start a new fire. The woman would take a vessel and place it upon her head and go to a neighbor's house requesting coals to have a fire that she might provide for her family a hot meal. The neighbor would place the coals in a container and it was placed upon her head and because of the coals on her head she would be "warmed up." Now she felt blessed by her neighbor.

I say unto each of you, and I included, that just maybe your enemy needs "warmed up." Some kind words sometime can melt the coldest heart. Solomon also said in Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger." May I be reminded of Stephen as he was being stoned to death by his enemies how he said as recorded in Acts 7:60 "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." I have often wondered if Stephen felt in his body one stone that had been cast at him.

Remember heaping coals of fire upon one's head does not mean, "I will burn you up." But it means doing that which is righteous, and this is good for "warming up" your enemy. Solomon said that we have a reward in doing these righteous works.

There is something that is more important than having your pockets filled with gold. It is to have a good conscience toward God in doing that which is godly. The hearing of that still small voice of God saying "Well done thou good and faithful servant" and also the warm feeling that God would say "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased" is greatest riches.

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

THE END DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama
Daily Devotion for August 29, 2000

We often hear the expression, "The end justifies the means." This is the thinking of the world. The child of God knows that such is not the case. This expression seems to be saying that, no matter how we arrive at some point, it is perfectly acceptable, so long as the end result is what is desired.

If we take this view of the meaning, it would be totally acceptable for us to rob a bank if the end result we wish to achieve is the personal gain of monetary wealth. Let me tell you this: no bank I know anything about would stand still for one moment for us to rob it in order for us to become more wealthy. I once worked in a bank and, believe me, there were safeguards in place to deter theft of any type.

The end definitely does not justify the means. A slight variation of this expression is: "The end never justifies the meanness." This can mean about the same as the other expression does; yet, it has a different meaning, also. We may desire to climb the ladder of success in life. We may decide to do so by whatever means necessary. If we are mean to those whom we pass on our way up, and if we should become the head of the establishment by such means, it would not be right or proper: the end does not justify the means.

Another familiar expression along this line is: "Be careful how you treat those you pass on your way up the ladder of success—they are the ones you will meet on your way back down that ladder." Because we rise above the level of others is no guarantee that we will remain there. If we must descend that same ladder, it would be nice to have at least a few friends to meet on our way down.

How we treat others is often expressed in our writing and our speaking. How we express ourselves to others is an excellent indication of our own character. One more expression: "If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it." Character can be expressed in many ways.

(1) There is a portion of the 19th Psalm which expresses thoughts contained in the foregoing writing. Read the Psalm and find out what portion is under consideration. (2) Another portion of scripture is relevant. It is known generally as the Golden Rule. Locate and read it. Do you find it to be relevant? (3) Is there a place in the Bible which admonishes us to study to be quiet? What does it mean?

(From "*In The Master's Service*", August, 2012)

"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;" (I Thess. 4:11)

THE POOR HEATHEN

A clipping was handed to me entitled "Baptists Order Missionaries in China to Return Home," and published in the Tishomingo County Paper, *The Vidette*. The article is given here as it appeared in the paper:

Some of the saddest news that comes to us concerning the foreign combat, is that the Southern Baptist Foreign Missionary Board has deemed it necessary to order all Baptist Missionaries and their families in China to return home. War not only destroys the body of man, but is the cause of many souls perishing because of their not finding the Saviour through the gospel.

Poor Heathen! This cruel and bloody hand of war is bad, and the destruction of lives, homes and suffering could not be described, but it only destroys the body. But because these same missionaries refuse to stay at the post of duty, the same poor suffering heathen is plunged into hell. They are not as loyal, as faithful to duty in saving souls of men as the heathen is in the interest of his country. I have heard them use Ezekiel xxxiii. 6 with great pride, and say the blood of the lost will be on them if they fail to warn them.

True, the sword has come, and the missionaries flee. Their interpretation, as given in the above article, is that they will be lost. Just as sure as this is true, in the light of their own interpretation of duty, they will perish with them. They cannot escape. God will require the blood of those whom you refuse to warn. Their blood will be required at the watchman's hands. The Chinaman dies and goes to hell because he is not warned. The missionaries die and go to hell, they quit the field, because of the combat. Stick to your medicine, boys. You have begged, and have worked every scheme that could be invented, under the false pretense that the heathen goes to hell without the gospel. You have begged until you lost your voice for money to redeem the heathen, and lived on a fat salary. Remember, if you have been telling the truth these few years, you have been begging for money for the purpose of saving souls. Since you have forsaken the job, it means the untaught go to hell and those who refuse to teach (or warn) them go to hell. Stick to it! These poor heathen are to be pitied as victims of war, and these fanatics, if they are honest, should be pitied because of downright ignorance. Remember Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and He is the Saviour of sinners—the Missionaries to the contrary notwithstanding.

J. D. H.

(I believe this is J.D.H. Elder J. D. Holder--Editor)
(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", January 2, 1941)

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"
(John 6:37)

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. Being _____ of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good _____ in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6
2. For I am in a _____ betwixt two, having a desire to _____ and be with Christ which is far better. Phil. 1:23
3. And having this confidence, I know that I shall _____ and continue with you all for your furtherance and _____ of faith. Phil. 1:25
4. If there be therefore any _____ in Christ, if any comfort of _____, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies. Phil. 2:1
5. Fulfill ye my _____, that ye be likeminded, having the same _____, being of one accord, and one mind. Phil. 2:2
6. Let nothing be done through _____ or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each _____ other better than themselves. Phil. 2:3
7. Who being in the form of _____, thought it not _____ to be equal with God. Phil. 2:6
8. But made himself of no _____, and took Him the form of a servant, and was made in the _____ of men. Phil. 2:7
9. Wherefore God also hath highly _____ him, and given him a name which is above every _____. Phil. 2:9
10. Wherefore my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my _____ only, but now much more in my _____, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Phil. 2:12

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed so shall it stand.
2. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.
3. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

*(Answers on Page 9)***OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

Two young daughters of one of the members of our church were talking awhile back. The older one said to the younger one, "Yeah part of daddy's thumb got cut off awhile back."

The younger one said, "You mean like in jaws where he bites off the man's leg?"

The older girl said, "Well sort of I guess."

The younger replied, "Well it must have not been too bad or he would be out in a field with his name on a rock."

Posted on facebook

WHEN I SAY I AM A CHRISTIAN

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I am not shouting that I am clean living.

I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now am found and forgiven.'

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting that I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say 'I am a Christian,' I'm not holier than thou, **I'm just a simple sinner who received God's grace somehow!**

(From "In The Master's Service", August, 2012)

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.—Martin Luther

Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon.—Martin Luther.

The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me', or 'help me'.—Billy Graham.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas singing at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS the 2nd Sunday night in December, 2017 (Dec. 10) with singing beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by supper. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany. Come and enjoy singing of praise to our great God and Savior and also food and fellowship. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6)

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have their Christmas Singing on 1st Sunday night in December, 2017 (Dec. 7) beginning at 5:30 p.m. and followed by supper. Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect.

Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS will be with Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, Winona, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder B. T. Strum is Pastor of Friendship.

Elder Ricky Taylor, Booneville, MS will be with Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Elder Jonathan Wise, New Albany, will be with New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect.

Brother Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS will be with Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elder Mark Quarles, Madison, MS will be with Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) with service at 10:30 a.m. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

The 5th Sunday night in December, 2017 (Dec. 31) Fellowship meeting will be hosted by New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. What better way to close out the year than to worship our great God and Savior. Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches. Everyone is invited.

CHURCH NEWS

There are many churches across the land which are without pastors and also many churches whose pastors are growing older and are in ill health. We know God is able to provide but it is necessary that the people of God pray that God would fill this void according to His will. Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep without a shepherd. As a result of this scene, Jesus "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 multitudes were as sheep without a shepherd; of course those who were of the Lord had Jesus Christ as their shepherd; however, they had no one to guide them in the way of peace. Pray that God would call and send forth His labourers into His harvest. He makes His children Sons and the gifts God provides helps make them disciples by preaching the glorious gospel of grace.—*Editor*

There aren't many special meetings during the winter months to announce but remember that every time the saints of God meet in worship service is a special meeting. Remember to pray for every Sunday worship service that the Spirit of God would be made manifest and we can say it was God to be in the house of God. Jacob saw a ladder that reached from earth to heaven and saw angels of God ascending and descending upon it. He awoke and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not." (Gen. 28:16). May we all be able to say with faith that which is much better than that spoken by Jacob! Pray that we may be able to say, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I KNEW it" because I felt His Divine presence moving in my heart and soul!—*Editor*

EXCERPTS GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Elder Larry Wise,

I would like very much to continue receiving your paper. My Mother, Marie Rushing, received it and we enjoyed it together. She has gone to be with our Heavenly Father. I do miss her so much.

Maybe this check will help with your expenses. Thank you for your time and effort with your paper.

God bless you,

Patsy Harrison
Corinth, MS

Bro. Wise,

Thank you for your ministry. Would you please add my parents to your mailing list. I believe they would enjoy it.

Neil & Amy Honea
Elrod, AL

“A GARDEN ENCLOSED”

In Solomon's Song 4:12 the church is compared to a garden enclosed. "A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." A garden is a plot or parcel of ground distinguished from the great fields round about. So the church in this age is not a place of broad acres and expended fields. It does not extend all over the world. It is an inclosure in the world. It is the "treasure hid in the field" (Mat. 13:44). The church is hid in the world. Not all people find this treasure, but some do, and those who do see the beauties of this Garden. In it are trees of our heavenly Father's planting. God plants them, waters and cares for them, and they shall never be rooted up. Others will be rooted up. "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Mat. 15:13).

This garden is indeed *inclosed*,--separated by God's grace in election, redemption, and effectual vocation,-hidden from the world, walled about by His power, cleansed by His Spirit and saved by His grace.

A well kept garden is of great value. Every family that has one knows the value of this special plot of ground, and every child of grace who has walked in the Garden of the Lord knows something of the sweet spices, the beautiful flowers and luscious fruits that are to be found therein.

Elder R. H. Pittman

Advocate and Messenger—1923

(From "*The Advocate and Messenger*", April, 1085)

Mt 5:13 AND Mr 9:49-50

March 9, 1915

March 9, 1915

Brother J. B. Foster, of Settle, Ky., has requested our views of Mt 5:13 and Mr 9:49-50. Mt 5:13 reads, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." This language is in the Saviour's sermon on the mount, and was addressed to His disciples. Salt has a preserving quality, and in that sense a saving quality. Meat is preserved by the application of salt. Salt never has made any meat, but it saves the meat already made.

So, the disciples of the Lord have a preserving quality.. It is for the sake of His people that the Lord preserves the earth today. They have a preserving quality, and for their sake the world stands. In another sense also the disciples, ministers, and witnesses of the Lord have a preserving or saving quality. They do not possess this by reason of themselves or their own merit; but the Lord has seen fit to bestow this upon them. "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear

thee."-1Ti 4:16. This saving is not unto eternal life. It is not a saving in the sense of regeneration, for Timothy was already a child of God and a minister of the gospel. Besides this, those who hear in the sense of this text are those who are already children of God, those who are already born of God-"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us."-1Jo 4:6.

By taking heed unto himself and unto the doctrine, Timothy would save himself and those who heard him with the same kind of saving, or in the same way. By doing this (taking heed unto himself and unto the doctrine) he would save those who heard him in the same way that he would save himself. He would save himself, and those who heard him, from delusion, from false ways, and from false doctrines. In that respect he was the salt of the earth; and so are God's ministers now. But if they lose the savour, or preserving quality, by failing to take heed unto themselves and unto the doctrine, they become worthless. They become good for nothing, but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men.

When one of the Lord's followers, and especially a minister, fails to take heed unto himself and unto the doctrine, thus living a life unbecoming the Lord's children, and imbibes false doctrines, advocates heresy, he loses that saving quality. He is then good for nothing. He should be cast out of the church. We should all take heed unto our selves. We are required to take heed unto ourselves first, not take heed unto others first. Some of us may be so busy trying to get the mote out of our brother's eye that we have no time to get the beam out of our own eye. If we would spend the proper amount of time in taking heed unto ourselves, getting the beam out of our own eye, we might not have much time to even look for a mote in a brother's eye, much less to be spending time trying to get the mote out of his eye.

We do not feel just now to be well enough satisfied concerning Mr 9:49-50 to write upon that text. At least, we do not now feel like writing upon it. We will ask Elder John R. Daily to look into this and the preceding verses in connection with Mt 18:6-9, and write an article on the same. Brother Daily, please examine the original language in these places, and give us your conclusions. C. H. C.

(From "*Editorial Writings of Elder C.H. Cayce*")

Any person worth his salt will stick up for what he believes right, but it takes a slightly better man to acknowledge instantly and without reservation that he is in error.—Andrew Jackson

"But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." (Gen. 19:26) Lot and his family were told to flee Sodom and not look back but his wife didn't follow directions and became a pillar of salt. The Christian looks ahead and not back.—*Editor*

AMBASSADORS AND CITIZENS

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

We are thankful for the country in which we live and the freedom we have and the sacrifices that have been made for its maintenance. We are more thankful for a heavenly country wherefore God is not ashamed to be called our God for He hath prepared for us a city. (Heb. 11:16). This heavenly country will be perfect and inhabited by perfect people made so by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14).

Christ is the light of that city and country and He perfectly represented us on the cross of Calvary. We are citizens of that heavenly country by God's grace and as such we are ambassadors of Christ and that country and city where He dwells. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and said God was in Christ and had reconciled them to God, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and God had committed unto him the word of reconciliation. He was an ambassador for Christ. (II Cor. 5:20) He was an ambassador in his role as an apostle and minister of Christ. An ambassador is a representative who expresses the ideas and values of whom he represents. Paul was a faithful ambassador to publish the good news of a heavenly country that awaited him and other redeemed saints of God after this life.

Paul was an ambassador for Christ and faithfully represented him as a minister. In a similar manner the saints of God are also ambassadors for Christ in their lives and should reflect the values of that heavenly country they will one day inhabit. We should be a shining ambassador and represent Christ in our lives to the extent that our light would shine to the honor and glory of God.

A natural country might need to withdraw its ambassador if he did not represent his country's ideas in a true manner. Saints of God need not worry about their citizenship in that heavenly country being revoked; however, these same saints should not give occasion for their high priest to be ashamed of them in their capacity as ambassador. Paul's desire was, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." (Phil. 1:20).

Any individual born in this country is considered a citizen and those born of the Spirit of God are citizens of a better country in heaven and immortal glory. Paul would say, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" (Phil. 3:20). The word "conversation" in this verse means citizenship and so our citizenship is in heaven where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

Citizens of heaven are looking for something better by the grace of God. Paul writes Titus and says that the grace of God reaches His adopted children and teaches them how to live. They should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (as ambassadors) "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" (Titus 2:13). If someone is not a citizen, he is classified as a foreigner and so it is with the saints of God prior to the saving grace of God which appears unto them. Paul tells the quickened people of God in Ephesus, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" (Eph. 2:19).

Paul tells the Hebrew Christians they have come to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, an innumerable company of angels and most important, "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect," (Heb.12:23). All citizens of that heavenly country will be accounted for without the loss of one because of the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ who promised that none would be lost as He would raise them all in the last day. Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren and all citizens will be effectively conformed to the image of His Son in the resurrection morning. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil. 3:21).

Robert Kennedy once said, "Since the days of Greece and Rome, when the word 'citizen' was a title of honor, we have often seen more emphasis put on the rights of citizenship than on its responsibilities." Saints need to focus on their responsibilities as citizens to show gratitude for being made a citizen of heaven and immortal glory

All saints are just strangers and pilgrims in this land of sin and sorrow traveling to their eternal abode where all will have an abiding citizenship forever. They should make the most of their pilgrimage on earth as good ambassadors for Christ and reflect on the outside what God has worked on the inside. They aren't to be conformed to this world but are to be transformed as beneficiaries of that heavenly country. Thank the Lord for this natural country and especially for a better country in heaven and immortal glory.

ANSWERS IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Isaiah (Isa. 14:24)
2. John (John 5:42)
3. 2 Thessalonians (2 Thess. 3:3)

TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Psalms 92:12: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

The children of God are the apple of his eye. Through Christ's shed blood, God looks upon us as if we never sinned. Understanding that we don't labor to enter into the eternal kingdom of God, then we need to understand the purpose of us doing good works while here on earth. There are two reasons that the scriptures teach that we should walk in obedience to God. One is for the well being of our spiritual lives here on earth, and the second is to bring honor and glory unto the Lord who has been so good to us. The more that we serve him, the more that his name is glorified and the higher we hold his standard. A standard held high, such as obedience to God's word, we become as a high tree in the forest of this sin cursed world. That is what our verse is about. The righteous stand as trees, even as the palm tree or the cedar. Similar metaphors are in the scriptures that say a city that is on a hill cannot be hid, and let your light so shine before other men. Matt 5:14 and Matt 5:16.

With this verse the Lord uses a tree. National Israel was the first that were given the opportunity to stand forth as trees. In its fifteen hundred years history of having the oracles of God, they have some good examples of trees in people such as Abraham, David and Ruth, to name a few. In the days of Christ's earthly ministry, Israel had forsaken the principles in the law, diluted it down by the teachings of men. Thus John the Baptist warned that the trees would be cut off from the roots of righteousness. "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 3:10. In the days of the gospel dispensation, the trees of righteousness will flourish under the Lord Jesus Christ. Psalms 72:7 "In **his** days shall the righteous **flourish**; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."

Imagine looking upon the palm tree in a dry desert, its beautiful trunk and leaves that stand out against the sand arid desert. Welcoming the exhausted traveler who just came across the desert to lie under its shade. The cedars of Lebanon, standing tall in their radiant beauty. How eye catching that would be for people to see and look upon, against all the trees of the forest.

A tree goes through four cycles or seasons throughout the year. The spring and summer cycles which are its growing times and the autumn and winter cycles, which are its none growing or dormant stage. Disciples of the Lord will too experience these cycles throughout their lives. There will be times

when they will experience a growing or flourishing period in their service to God, thus our scripture for this article which reads that the righteous will flourish. These are the times that we are upon the mountain top of spirituality with the Lord. How we wish that all times could be like this, but alas as there is the wintertime for the trees, so too will we go through a dormant stage in our service to God. The winters can be long and hard on the trees; they even look like they are dead in the coldest time of winter. When the spring comes again, then the sap will rise and the trees once again go through their growing stage. Remember that when your spiritual life seems to be in a winter stage.

Sometimes we want to do something for others that God lays upon our hearts to do so. The opportunity however may not be there. When it isn't we should wait and seek for his guidance just as the church did at Philippi when they heard that Paul was imprisoned and they wanted to help him in his time of need. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath **flourished** again; wherein ye were also **careful**, but ye lacked opportunity." Philippians 4:9-10. The word "careful" means to have a mindset. The church had a mindset to help out people in need, but they waited until the right time to do the most good for someone. Hearing the news that Paul was in bonds at Rome. At first the church sorrows and prayed for his release. Seeing this wasn't going to happen anytime soon; they came out of their sorrow, and prayed what now to do for Paul? The prayer was answered when they decided to send Epaphroditus to go to Rome where Paul was in prison. Sending a present which probably consisted of food and money to comfort him, to see after his needs. Here the trees of righteousness **flourished** in their deed toward Paul. They waited for the opportunity and staying faithful in what Paul preached to them. They were given the opportunity to help the minister who had brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them! They stood out as trees of righteousness, and were a good example to all the churches that heard of their faithfulness.

May God grant us the grace and strength to be trees of examples for our brethren.

Elder Rickey Taylor

PREACHING GOOD TIDINGS

"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." (Isa. 61:3)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

Q. When we have small but comforting evidences of our acceptance with the Lord, can we rely on these as coming from Him, or are they the products of an overwrought imagination?

A. If these evidences are in accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, they come from the Lord. If we feel sinful and unworthy of the least of God's mercies, and yet hope that He has given His dear Son to bear our sins in His own body on the accursed tree, and mourn over His undeserved and unparalleled sufferings for our transgressions, and hate the sins that slew Him, and desire above all things else to be conformed to His perfect character, and earnestly wish to obey all the holy commandments of God, and to be resigned to all His providences, however afflictive, and love his dear people because we believe they are His people, and heartily enjoy the preaching of the pure gospel of salvation by grace, we may be sure that these feelings are from the Lord, and that He is our Heavenly Father, and is preparing us by His Holy Spirit and the blood of His dear Son, for a blissful and everlasting abode with Him in glory.

Q. Does God punish His people, and if He does in what way?

A. "The Lord hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his way; according to his doings will He recompense him" (Ho 12:2). "You only (God's people) have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities" (Am 3:2). God says of the children He gave to His Son: "If His children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with a rod, and their iniquities with stripes." (Ps 89:30-32). "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite to the Spirit of grace." (Heb 10:28-29). Various instances could be cited of God's punishment, in one way or another, of His people for their disobedience, and he who does not believe these truths does not believe the Bible. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." P.

Q. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph 6:12). A brother in Galax wants a sermon on this: I can only give a few ideas here, may others preach it out.

A. Paul was one who was not afraid to meet the enemies of truth. On Mars Hill, surrounded by wise

men of the world and worshipers of false gods, he spoke in defense of truth. When false brethren opposed him, he would not be swerved from the truth; and even when Peter gave heed to the clamor of the Jews for the Gentile Christians to be circumcised, Paul "Withstood him to the face, because he (Peter) was to be blamed." (Ga 2:11). But now he is talking about wrestling "not against flesh and blood," but against principalities, and powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world. Satan is called the prince and the god of this world. He is the father of spiritual wickedness, chief of wicked spirits. And there are many such devils, unclean, proud, lying, deceitful and malicious. These devils occupy high places, sometimes in the church, in the affairs of this world, in our flesh, around, about, and above us watching every advantage to lead us astray. "Wherefore" Paul says, "take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day." God furnishes the armour; we should put it on and fight the good fight of faith, overcome evil with good. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (Jas 4:7). P.

DON'T BE LATE

Elder Walter Cash

Getting to church late is an evil that ought to be overcome. It is too much like there is little desire to engage in service. If the heart were anxious to meet the Lord in His service, the feet would hasten. There might occasionally be a hindrance that human foresight could not avoid, but these cases are not the common cause. Generally, it looks like a lack of interest. It is very discouraging to the preacher and looks so much like the members were not at all anxious to hear him preach, and do not consider that his burden is heavy enough without adding to it, making it seem that coming to church is a burdensome duty rather than a delightful privilege.

To see all gathering early shows the spirit and feeling of the Psalmist: "**I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.**" This does not portray an irksome duty, but a heart of expectancy, joyfully desiring to engage in thankful service to the Lord for His many blessings. When one knows he is late for services, it depresses his spirit. It is altogether wrong to grow into this habit.

From *The Christian Baptist*, May 1989

(From "*In The Master's Service*", September, 2012)

"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,..." (Rev. 1:10)

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