

Glad Tidings

January

2018

"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

As we begin a new year, we are all in the dark as what the future holds for us here below. However, we do know and are assured of a future in heaven that is reserved for the redeemed. On the road to that final destination, we encounter troubles that take us by surprise. I am made to think of a quote from Elder Michael Gowens in one of his sermons that says, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." Here on this earth we are taught to walk by faith and not by sight and trust the **known** God to provide when troubles arise. We all need someone strong to hold and to trust when the future turns dark. We read in Nahum 1:7: "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." To get to the mountain top, we must of necessity go through the valley below.

Job's future was bright as he steadfastly served the Lord as one that feared God and eschewed evil but the outlook suddenly took a dramatic turn as the bad news continued to arrive concerning the loss of his worldly goods and servants. The last news was the worst as he was told his ten children had been killed in a terrible wind storm. Job rent his mantle, shaved his head, and fell down on the ground, and worshipped, "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this, Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job 1:21). Job's bright future here below had been derailed in an instant of time but we read in Job 13:15, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." The known God is able to provide even when our lives have been derailed as was Job's.

Job's three miserable comforters didn't do anything to help his situation but seemingly made it worse as they accused him of some grievous sin as the cause of his calamity. We don't know the way we will go but the God of perfect knowledge does know and He especially knows those that trust in him. Job also said in Job 23:10: "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job had just lamented that he could not perceive the Lord on the left hand, right hand, forward or backward but the sovereign God knew the way he would take and in the end would be a bright shiny vessel of gold to honor his maker.

If we knew what the future held, we would know exactly how to pray. Since we don't know, we pray unto One who does know. Paul said, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Rom. 8:26). Paul says we are saved by hope, but hope that is see is not hope. If we didn't have a sweet hope (expectation) of a future in heaven on resurrection morning, we would likely be inclined to faint and give up. With this hope and faith, we are saved from despair and pray unto One who knows us and all about us.

In the midst of all his troubles, Job acknowledges the sovereignty of God as he declares, "But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth." (Job 23:13). Imagine the terrible mind set of those saints who had their faith in the resurrection destroyed by false teaching by Hymenaeus and Philetus who convinced them that the resurrection was past already. However, their future was still intact because Paul goes on to say something was still sure and steadfast. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (II Tim. 2:19). These people evidently were the possession of God as they belonged to Him as He **knows** them that are His. God knows every human being, but He knows His bride in a special way just as a husband knows His wife in a more intimate way than he knows other women.

Abraham didn't know what the future held when the Lord told him to leave his country, his kindred and his father's house and go to a land that he would be shown. By faith he obeyed and went as directed but when the future looked uncertain he asked his wife to say that she was his sister because he feared for his life. This tells us that even the best of men and women have their times of weakness but overall Abraham was strong in faith giving glory to God. Abraham didn't know what the future held for him but was assured that the land of Canaan would be his and his seed. Abraham is referred to as the father of the faithful. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country, but he was looking to another future known only by God. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Heb. 11:10). (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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The Work and Effect of Righteousness

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Isa 32:17, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

As long as there is wrath, wars, depravity, unrighteousness and the works they bring, there is no peace. No wonder man has no hope nor peace with God on man's own works, because all these and the other things that are corrupt are the life story of man. No wonder that those touched with God's grace from the time of righteous Abel to the present time have looked with tears of hope and thanksgiving to Jesus for their peace. They have known that their shoulders were not able to bear their own many sins and iniquities.

This being the condition of man, in order that heaven be populated by those he loved with an everlasting love, that they not be banished forever, and justly so, from his presence, Jesus came in their stead, and by his obedience many were made righteous. We hear often the admonition to *make your peace with God*. Man is incapable of making his eternal peace with God. He does not have the attributes of perfection and righteousness. But, Jesus was given power over all flesh that he should give eternal life to as many as the Father gave him. **Isa 32:1**, "Behold a King shall reign in righteousness." He is our peace with God. He is our righteousness. If a

person is not made righteous by Jesus Christ, then he is not righteous. If he is made righteous, then the work of righteousness is peace which never ceases and never needs renewing.

Although you can never make your eternal peace with God, and don't need to, because Jesus did that for you, you do live in the effects of righteousness, which is quietness and assurance forever. Do you feel the quiet assurance that the blood, righteousness and peace of Jesus is sufficient? Do you see the quietness of his promises to his people, that the gates of hell shall not prevail against his church? That Jerusalem is a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down, not one of the stakes thereof ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords be broken. The effect of this righteousness brings the quietness and assurance that as long as the sun which God giveth and the stars and the moon depart not from him, then the seed of Israel shall never cease from being a nation before him **Jer 31:35-36**. That if heaven above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, then and only then, will he cast off all the seed of Israel for all they have done, **Jer 31:37**. That as sure as not a bone of his precious body was broken, not a one of his loved ones shall ever be broken from the embrace of God's love and justification and surety of heaven after awhile. That God knoweth them that are his, so no one has to make him acquainted with them. That the church is a home and not the stepping stone to heaven, so that those who foolishly miss those precious joys here will not miss the bliss of glory with God. That the gospel is good news that our Father sends is not a vehicle to heaven, so we are assured the little babes, the retarded, the heathen of the lands of the world who can't, and do not hear the gospel do not miss heaven, because of it. We don't have to preach a doctrine that it may be too late, if a person does not do thus and so, because Jesus did it (redeemed them all the way to God by his blood) and he has never been too late, nor has he ever failed.

All of this because of the work of righteousness and the effect of it. We see trouble, we see afflictions, but we are still quietly assured by God's promise that those things will be forbidden in glory. That the joys we receive cannot express nor the mind of man conceive the greatness, the beauty and the joys of living in heaven with God and his family.

These things being true we do not have to preach a religion based and sustained upon the success of scaring little children into the church by telling them they will be sent to hell, if they do not join the church. We hold forth instead the beauty of the smiles of Jesus to those who live and die in his kingdom, his church in the world. We feel that if those of his children, as they view his righteousness, and covering us from all sin is not enough to draw us to

the church and encourage us to live a pure and undefiled religion, nothing will. That, after all he has done for us, we should feel ashamed to live out in the world, when he has given us a home, the church, to live in.

This righteousness did not bring us peace with man or with the world, but with God. If I know my heart, I would not exchange the quietness and assurance, that this righteousness our Lord and Savior gave us for all the world nor life itself. Let us see if the good old hymn harmonizes with our experience.

Here in the vineyard of my Lord,
I love to live and labor.
And be obedient to my God,
Until the dying hour.

If it doesn't harmonize with our experience, may I insist you try going home to your friends, follow your Lord in baptism, and don't just stop there, but let us live faithful to him and his kingdom all the days of our life. Let us wash the saint's feet, and shout his praises amidst a crooked and perverse nation, unashamed with our feet treading happily along the Pathway of truth in honor to God. (Oct., 1965)

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

Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature The Scapegoat

The SCAPEGOAT: C. H. Cayce: In the offering in which there was a scapegoat, two goats were used. See Le 16. Both these goats represented the work of Christ in His atonement and sacrifice for sin. One of the goats was slain. So was Christ slain. The priest laid his hands on the head of the scapegoat and confessed the sins of Israel on the head of that goat, then the goat was carried away by a fit man into the land of forgetfulness. Our sins were laid on Christ; see Isa 53:6. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree; see 1Pe 2:24. He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; see Heb 9:26. The scapegoat, therefore, represented the work of Christ in carrying our sins away into the land of forgetfulness, where they will be remembered against us no more. Our sins are, therefore, atoned for, satisfaction is made for them; and they are also all borne away, in the work of Christ." (CAYCE'S EDITORIALS vol. 1, ppg 271)

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." (Col. 1:20)

THE COURSE OF LEAST OPPOSITION

There is a strong inclination in a preacher to go in the course in which he has the least opposition. If the church has studied doctrine, and all are strong in that direction the preacher feels that the members will be able to follow any discourse understandingly on these points, and the faces of the hearers will show that they are keeping up with his thoughts, when he should take up a practical line of thought, it might not be so congenial to their thoughts and there would be a drawing back, because the members were not so much interested in practical things.

But what would be the duty of the minister in the case? Evidently, to strengthen the weakest places. But it is a very hard undertaking for a minister to try to "perfect that which is lacking." There is the natural inclination in himself to do that which is easiest and which receives the most applause. There is the opposition from without to make any changes in the course of life into which they have become settled. Then if he advocates changes, it will be said that he is trying to introduce "new" things and is trying to overturn the old order of things.

But if the "old order" itself be not in harmony with the scriptures, then it ought to be overturned. And if the habits in which the members have become settled are not right habits, then they ought to be broken up.

It is a serious question that every pastor of a church should ask himself. Where is the weak place in my churches? Where do they lack? Then set a task for himself at once to strengthen that which is weak, though it may require sacrifice and labor. He should not seek for self applause and an easy path for himself.

Elder Walter Cash, 1931
(From "*The Christian Pathway*", April, 1982)

EVER LEARNING

I have joyous peace within my soul,
The blood of Jesus made me whole.
Gave His life for me without a plea,
It's to Him that I must always flee.

Flee for refuge in the time of trial,
Shelter is sure; there's no denial.
I'm glad that I know where to go,
When the stormy winds start to blow.

Does peace in my soul always rule?
I confess it's not so it's back to school.
I must learn to trust all over again,
A God who knows where I have been.

Elder Larry Wise

CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE

“A real Christian is one whose understanding is enlightened by the influence of diving grace, who is taught to behold God as the chief good, the Lord Jesus as the only way to obtain felicity, and that the Holy Spirit is the grand agent in applying the blessings of the gospel to his soul. His heart is renovated, and inclined to revere, honor, worship, trust in, and live to God. His affections are elevated above the world, and center on God alone. He embraces him as his portion, loves him supremely, and is jealous in the defense of his cause. His temper is regulated, his powers roused to vigorous action, his thoughts spiritual, and his general deportment amiable and uniform. In fine, the true Christian character exceeds all others as much as the blaze of the meridian sun outshines the feeble light of the glow-worm.” (Buck’s Theo. Diet.)

A pilgrim is one who travels. a stranger, a traveler. Thus we see that a Christian pilgrim is a true worshipper of God, who is traveling through this life as follower of the Savior, Jesus Christ. The travels of a Christian are not smooth but has his trials and many obstacles along his pathway. It is as one traveling through a mountainous country; some times he is on the mountain top and sometimes in the valley of darkness. Ones passing through the valley enables him to appreciate the mountain top with greater joy. We have had a very dry season in our country and have longed for rain to come and have not enjoyed the sunshine as we would have after a long season of rain and the sun finally appear and the clouds are removed from the sky. So it is needful that we be tried and the dross purged that the gold might be purified.

The apostle Paul relates the many trials that he suffered for the cause’s sake and the last reported was “in perils among false brethren.” (2 Cor. 11:26). No doubt this caused him greater sorrow than all others; and in Acts 20:24 “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” He warned the disciples that some would turn away from the truth and not endure sound doctrine.

The apostle was enabled to finish his course with joy, saying, “I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Tim. 4:6-8)

There are two ways spoken of that the child of God can travel in this life; the broad way that leads to death, or the strait gate and narrow way that leads to

life. The broad way is an enticing way and of least resistance. The multitudes travel this road. The strait gate and narrow way is a difficult way with many obstacles to overcome, but it leads to the spiritual joys. A road that is full of ruts and has been frozen is rough to travel over, but there has been someone who has traveled this road before who made the ruts.

“Let us not be weary in well ding; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.”

Earl Daily

(From “*The Advocate and Messenger*”, Sept. 1966)

WORRY OVERCOME

We are all prone to needlessly worry about certain things that cause us unnecessary pain and perhaps despair. We have a means to overcome that weakness at the throne of God. Paul writes, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” (Phil. 4:6). “Be careful” means to not be anxious about things that happen. If we are too anxious, it means we are in a worrisome state. This doesn’t mean we aren’t to be concerned about certain situations but we take it to the Lord in prayer. We sing a song called “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” which tells us that we often forfeit peace because we do not take it to the Lord in prayer. The following verse in Phil 4:7 confirms this as the truth: “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Prayer produced this peace.

Elder Sony Pyles says he worries “little” over things over which he has no control and he emphasized “little”. If we have control over a situation, then we should be attempting to rectify the situation. If we have no control, then commit it to the Lord in prayer and supplication. The truth is that through the weakness of the flesh, we are all prone at times to throw up our hands and are ready to give up but Jesus gives us the parable of the unjust judge to overcome this tendency. Jesus says as an introduction to that parable: “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” (Luke 18:1). We can come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16). Then Paul tells us that “Mercy” kept him from fainting. “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;” (II Cor. 4:1). There is power available to the faint-hearted just as Isaiah says: “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.” (Isa. 40:29). We must continue to wait on the Lord and look up to the unseen things which are eternal and not to the things seen which are temporal. May God give us grace to realize this and then to put it in action!—*Editor*

WORTHY IS OUR GOD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Colossians 1:10: "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

We are the children of God, his chosen ones. (Ephesians 1:4.) He made us his children though we were enemies. (Romans 5:10) Though enemies we are saved through his grace by the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you feel worthy of such a blessing? I am sure you feel that you are not worthy of such a blessing. We could never hope to be good enough to be his children. However, by his grace we are. Grace means unmerited favor. He chose us as his children. What a blessing, and as his children we are expected to walk worthy of his name. That is how we show a worthiness to be called a child of God. Faith is believing in the Lord, and we should believe that in walking according to the ways that God instructs us. This is done when we walk by faith

Walking by faith is pleasing to God, thus our text uses the expression "**unto all pleasing**". Not everything the children of God do are pleasing to him, but when they choose to walk in faith to him, this is pleasing to him every time they make the choice to do so.

Being fruitful in every good work. This is a depiction of the children of God as trees of righteousness (Psalms 93:12). Trees that were planted by God for the purpose of bringing forth fruits of good works. Here he plants the trees by turning the heart of stone to the heart of flesh in his marvelous work of regeneration. The children of God will show some fruits of that regeneration in some way and some form. Those fruits of righteousness would not be there unless God had first done a work in their hearts.

And increasing in the knowledge of God. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that there are children of God outside the church who have never joined a church of any kind; they may have never followed their Lord in baptism, yet they will be in heaven someday. Thank you Lord for your amazing grace! Everyone that you died for will be in heaven. (John 6:40). The ones that are blessed here in time are those that walk by faith, following their Lord as best they can. God promises to increase their knowledge in a spiritual way. As children we learn from our parents and teachers; by the time that we have reached maturity we have grown both physically and mentally. Likewise the same things happen to us as we walk in his kingdom. We grow in the knowledge of that which we need to serve Him. Our blessings surely will overflow. We feel his Spirit, under the preaching of the Gospel. We learn that he doesn't forsake us when tribulations come upon us.

We feel his confidence as we turn our burdens over to Him. With this knowledge will also come more responsibilities to remain faithful to the Lord. One of the reasons that the Lord was angry with Israel in the Sinai desert was their lack of faith in his power to help them. They had seen his glory and his many miracles after coming out of Egypt by his mighty hand. Yet they spy out the land of Canaan, see the giants there, and they say that we cannot take the land for they are stronger than we are! (Numbers 22:14) Would God not have been their strength to fight their battles? Yes, he would have. They knew this; they had this knowledge because he had been there for them already many times. Yet they failed to trust him in a faithful way.

Let's not make this same mistake. Our Lord is worthy of all the praise that we can give him, through our good works.

Worthy of all our soul's adoration.

Lord, may we come before thee with singing.

Filled with Thy Spirit, wisdom and power, May we ascribe Thee glory and honor.

Worthy art Thou, Worthy art Thou!
Worthy of riches, blessings and Honor. Worthy of wisdom, glory and Pow'r! Worthy of earth and heaven's Thanksgiving, Worthy art Thou!
Worthy art Thou!

Elder Rickey Taylor

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

By Elder Robert Payne
November 25, 2017

Thought of the day:

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me and I did eat. Genesis 3: 12-13. And there you have it, the beginning of excuses and blame. When mankind fell in the garden under the penalty of sin and death, he began to make excuses for his behavior and blame somebody else for his sin. We are no different today, but Lord help us to acknowledge our sins and shortcomings and strive to be like our Savior. We will never attain to that in this world, but it certainly should be our desire, by the grace of God to live better.

He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.—Benjamin Franklin

It is easy for some people to find an excuse to miss church but more difficult to find an excuse to miss work.—*Editor*

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. For we are the _____, which worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no _____ in the flesh. (Phil. 3:3)
2. Concerning zeal, _____ the church, touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (Phil. 3: 6)
3. I press toward the mark for the _____ of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:14)
4. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even _____, that they are the enemies of the _____ of Christ. (Phil. 3:18)
5. Whose end is _____, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is their _____, who mind earthly things. (Phil. 3:19)
6. And the peace of God, which passeth all _____ shall keep your hearts and _____ through Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:7)
7. Not that I speak in respect of _____: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be _____. (Phil. 4:11)
8. But my God shall _____ all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)
9. For the _____ which is laid up for you in heaven whereof you heard before in the word of the truth of the _____. (Col. 1:5)
10. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to _____ for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his _____ in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Col. 1:9)

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
2. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.
3. The things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

(Answers on Page 8)

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Sometimes we see things and miss the obvious. Several weeks ago we were keeping our grandson, Isaac, and we were at the supper table. I don't remember what we were talking about but all at once Isaac starting screaming very loud. It startled me and I said, "What in the world is that?" Isaac immediately said, "It's Isaac screaming." Of course, how could I have missed that?—*Editor*

FOR THE POOR

For The Poor (1951, September)

Dedicated to the glory of God:
For the comfort of those who mourn;
That such might be more able to stand
Life's every tempestuous storm.

This dear little ship, that ply's the seas
With goods from a distant shore,
Each month it brings that heavenly food,
And we often wish for more.

Its well-known name is plainly seen
On beautiful snow-white sails,
A name we love the most to see,
When the postman brings the mail.

A cargo from that heavenly port,
Laden with silver and gold.
Treasures from God's bountiful store
Of things both new and old!

"FOR THE POOR," an appropriate name,
Written across its snow-white sails
A name we always long to see.
Please God—that it may not fail.

H. A. Byington,
Sparks, Ga.

POOR IN SPIRIT

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. " (Matt. 5:3). The poor in spirit surely are blessed which means they are happy. The poor in this text are beggars at the door of God's mercy and are humble as they feel no sense of being worthy of the least of the mercies of God. It is this type of person that has the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said the poor have the gospel preached unto them. (Matt. 11:5). This is listed among the miracles that Jesus told John's disciples to show him. The gospel, the poor in spirit and the kingdom of heaven go hand in hand for the temporal welfare of the saints.—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Stringer, MS would like to invite our brethren and sisters to worship with us for our meeting, Lord willing, on the 4th weekend in January, 2018. Services are to begin Friday, January 26, at 10 a.m. with lunch to follow followed by afternoon service. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. with night service at 7:00 p.m. Services on Saturday, January 27, will follow the same schedule with the meeting ending on Sunday with services at 10:30 a.m. and lunch to follow. If you are unable to come, pray for the meeting.

We would like to invite our brethren and sisters to worship with us. In addition to brethren and sisters hosting guests in our homes, there are numerous hotels in Laurel and a Red Carpet Inn in Taylorsville.. Please contact Elder Mark Quarles at mdqprimitive7@att.net for more information or if you need a place to stay. Elder Mark Quarles is Pastor of Providence.

MINISTERIAL ORDINATION

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 4905 Hwy 346, Pontotoc, MS has called for the ordination of Brother Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS to the full work of the gospel ministry. The ordination is scheduled for the second Sunday afternoon in January, 2018. The date for the ordination is **January 14 at 2:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to the ordination and a special invitation and solicitation is extended to all ordained ministers and deacons of the Primitive Baptist faith to join them in this special service and to sit in the presbytery. Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS has already called Brother Jeremy to be their new Pastor and he has accepted the call.

Pray for the Lord to call and send more ministers into His vineyard as a shortage of ministers exists among various churches among the Primitive Baptists.

“Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.” (1 Cor. 3:5-7)

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having 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. 9:36-38)

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church Ackerman, MS will have their annual open meeting the 4th weekend in February, 2018. More details to follow in February issue of Glad Tidings. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

EXCERPTS**GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Thank you Elder Larry,

I so appreciate receiving “Glad Tidings”—these articles give me strength and encouragement, and I thank God that he is blessing you in this work! Enclosed is a donation to use for your expenses. Much love and prayers for you and yours and may God bless!

Rehna Boesswetter
Cullman, AL

Dear ones,

This is written as I think of Thanksgiving of “In our Dear Lord’s Loving Care.”

We have his great mercy and Special grace no matter what the challenges we face. So we just need to remember as we breathe this precious air. We have so much to thank God for that will never be over. When we try to count our blessings, there is the unseen by our natural eyes and so much in between.

We can never lose in these trials because our Dear Savior holds the keys so there is no need to fret—just take courage the way is set.

Wishing God’s wonderful blessings to you all along the way. He will see us through. Thanks so much for all the good news in Glad Tidings.

With Love and Hope in Christ,

Sister Loreta Lilly
Akron, OH

THE NEW YEAR

Well, the New Year of 2018 is upon us and it seems like we just started 2017 but I wish to extend thanks for the many good comments regarding “Glad Tidings.” Thanks are extended to the churches and individuals that have sent monetary donations to keep this publication going. It seems like when the funds get low, some individual or church sends in a donation to replenish the fund. I encourage sound articles to be submitted for consideration for publication in Glad Tidings. Some reader may have access to writings of the past of sound ministers. If so, then send copies if you feel led to do so.—*Editor*

ENTER NOT

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

As I travel along the highways, I periodically see red warnings signs that say "Do not enter" which usually mark an entrance that a traveler might take but which would cause them to be going the wrong way. We hear of instances where a vehicle was going the wrong way on the Interstate and collided with someone, thus producing injury or death. There is a right way to go and a wrong way to go. Solomon said, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." (Prov. 4:14-15). The righteous are not to enter the path of the wicked; they are to avoid it at all cost. They are even told to not even pass by it which assumes that they know the place of evil and wickedness.

There is a path the just are to take and it doesn't lead into the path of the wicked. The Lord always leads in the right path. When we follow that leadership, our paths will be in the way of the Lord and we won't need to worry about having to stumble. The Lord doesn't cause us to stumble; it is our actions that produce this result. Solomon teaches this lesson in Prov. 4:11-12, "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble." Danger is ever present when we enter the wrong path.

You have heard of people who love to live on the edge; that is they like to go just as far as they can and risk their lives for the sake of the thrill of victory or overcoming some dangerous obstacle. They do this on the pretense that they only endanger themselves; and declare that it is their life and they will do with it as they please. This is all self-deception. We are not our own but have been bought with the price of the precious blood of the Son of God. Sin always endangers not only the practitioner but everyone else that is contacted in the process of fulfilling fleshly desires.

Our young people especially are exposed to pressure that entice them to join the crowd and not be such a prude. Instruction in righteousness comes through the word of God and admonishes them to remember the Creator in their youth before the evil days (old age) draw nigh. When the young, or anyone else, join the crowd just to be one of the gang, there is a failure to remember the Lord; consequently, they expose themselves to the judgment of God and bring reproach upon themselves and the family they represent. Isn't it amazing how the inspired word of God knew just this type of atmosphere as God inspires Solomon to write, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, come with us, let us wait for blood.

We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path." (Prov. 1:10-15). The apostle Paul tells us to abstain from all appearance of evil. (I Thess. 5:22). If something has the appearance of evil, it most likely is evil.

A good name that has been cultivated for many years can be disgraced in a moment by failing to follow the admonition of "enter not." Solomon describes how valuable a good name is in Prov. 22:1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." Perhaps that driver that was going the wrong way on the Interstate was doing so because of drunkenness and failed to heed the warning sign of "Do Not Enter"; consequently, that driver was in danger and everyone else he approached. We cannot be drunk on the world's enchantments and still be able to distinguish the correct path to follow and see the path and warning sign that declares, "Enter not." A good name can be ruined by failure to exercise heavenly wisdom with which the Lord has endowed His children.

We must not think that the people we associate with will not have an influence upon us. This thinking is the devil's lie as the Lord calls upon His people to separate themselves from the world; they are in the world, but they don't have to be of the world. Paul tells the Corinthian church, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." (I Cor. 15:33). This admonition seems clear that we are to be careful about the people we choose for friends. Do we want to be around those who take the Lord's name in vain or who are angry all the time? I trust the answer is no. We have no desire to enter that path as the scripture tells us to, "Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go." (Prov. 22:24). Why would Solomon make such a statement? It is because we would have a tendency to learn the ways of anger and produce a snare to our soul. (Prov. 22:25).

Yes, may we all "Enter not" the path of the wicked and evil men. We are exposed to this way just from the fact that we must make a living for our families in this world: however, we do not have to willingly enter such a path when there is an obvious choice of right to be made. The choice is for this life and not for the life to come in heaven and immortal glory as God has already made that choice before the world began.

**ANSWERS
IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE
ARE THESE VERSES?**

1. II Peter (II Peter 3:15)
2. Isaiah (Isa. 55:6)
3. John (John 15:11)

FAITH ACRONYM

Focus: Focus is a central point of concentration, and faith is concentrated on looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of faith. The concentration is to keep our eyes on Jesus rather than looking to surrounding circumstances which can result in mortal peril in our lives. Peter illustrates a lack of focus and therefore a lack of faith as he walks on the water to come to Jesus. He does fine until he takes his eyes off Jesus and sees the boisterous waves surrounding him caused by the unseen wind; it is then that he begins to sink and cries out, "Lord, save me." (Matt. 14:30). It is a blessing that we have a compassionate high priest as Jesus responds in a way of deliverance and gently rebukes Peter for his lack of focus (faith). "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matt. 14:31). During the year of 2018, may we all focus on Jesus and avoid all the pitfalls that come from taking our eyes off Him. When something is in focus, the image is very clear and distinct. When we focus on Jesus, our walk will be clear and distinct in pleasing the Master because without faith it is impossible to please Him.

Asks: Faith asks the Lord in prayer for the things needed in this life. The failure to ask is a lack of faith because we are told in scripture to ask the Lord. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Matt. 7:7-8). Jesus is talking about asking the Heavenly Father who is much better to His children than any earthly father which possesses only imperfect judgment. James tells us the importance of asking and the reason we don't have, even though we have asked. "...yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (James 4:2-3). Faith always asks and doesn't demand; we cannot demand anything from God. We ask according to the will of God saying as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will but thine be done."

Insures: Faith insures your mind and conscience that you are indeed God's child because only a born again child of God has faith. Faith indeed is a fruit of the Spirit and is only manifest when the Spirit is present. Wherefore, he that has faith and enabled to look up has the Spirit in the heart and soul. The knowledge that we are God's child and heaven bound can be known and insured experimentally by faith and the exercise thereof. Faith works by love and John tells us, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (I John 3:14). Faith is given in the new birth and is born of God enabling us to overcome the world and obtain great assurance. "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)

Trusts: Faith trusts in the Lord to carry through the trials and tribulations that undoubtedly comes to the child of God at some time in this life. Solomon gives us the importance of trust in the Lord rather than in self. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5-6). Faith trusts in the Lord and the heart is kept in peace as focus is directed toward the Lord. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3). There is a reason that faith trusts in the Lord and the Psalmist explains it in Psalm 36:7; "How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." (Psalm 36:7). We trust that he has delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver, and in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us. (II Cor. 1:9-20)

Hopes: Faith not only trusts in the Lord but also hopes in the Lord. Indeed hope is linked to faith in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Paul mentions the great three that abides as being faith, hope and charity with the greatest being charity. (I Cor. 13:13). Faith hopes in the seemingly impossible as faithful Abraham did when he was promised a child in his old age as Paul tells us in Rom. 4:18: "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be." (Rom. 4:18). Hope that is seen is not hope and by faith we have a hope (glorious expectation) of seeing the Lord in glory. When that day comes, we will no longer need faith or hope. However, charity will still live on in the unchanging and endless love of God and Jesus Christ.

As the year 2018 unfolds, may we all focus on the Lord, ask him for help, insure our souls with blessings, trust in Him continually, and hope to the end for the salvation that will one day be revealed in all of us.—Elder Larry Wise

This was written at the beginning of the year 2013 and I believe it would benefit us to have our minds refreshed concerning our faith so I am including it again at the beginning of 2018 with just a few changes. Happy New Year to everyone from the Wise household and may we all keep looking up!

CAUSE AND EFFECT

I trust that I will be led by the Holy Spirit as I undertake to write on this subject, so that what I write will not do any harm to the cause that I love more than anything in this world.

First, let us think about *cause* and what it means and the effect that it has on the object.

In 1 Timothy 1:16, we read: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting." There must be a cause before there can be an effect. As soon as one is born of the Spirit you can see the effects of what the cause has brought about.

I have heard mothers say that they thought their children had the measles. They would try to break the measles out, but they would fail to do so because their children did not have the germ. Just as you can not see the effects of measles (breaking out) unless the cause (germ) is there; so it is with a child of God who is made a new creature in Christ. We can not see the effects until the new birth. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."—2 Cor. 5:17.

We read in Hebrews 13:20: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant." Just as sure as the covenant was made we will receive the new birth, which is the effects of the cause. When someone is made a new creature in Christ, you can see the effects in their lives. I would not give anything for something that would not effect me while I live here in this world of sin and sorrow.

I sometimes use a gourd to show how the spirit affects a child of God. You can put grease in a gourd and for some time you can not see the grease. But it will not be long before you can see the grease coming through the gourd. When you see the grease, then you know that some one has put grease in the gourd. The reason that you can see the grease is because it is in the gourd. That is the way it is when one is made a new creature in Christ. You can see the effect, but the effect is not the cause, but the effect comes from the cause.

If someone does not believe, shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? Let us think about *belief* and see whether it is the cause or the effect. I believe that it is the effect of the cause. I know that we have many good friends that say we must believe to be saved. I say to these friends that you believe that you have to do something to bring the cause about, but when you believe you are too late, because belief is the evidence and not the

cause. We believe because we have been made new creatures in Christ, and not because we believe.

I wish to show God's little children the difference between the words *faith* and *faithful*. One can have faith and not be faithful, but you can not be faithful without your faith! For faith is a gift of God and the act of being faithful is being obedient to God while they live here in the world. I believe that many of God's children miss many blessings by not being faithful to their calling while they live. The Bible says in 1 Cor. 7:20: "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."

I trust these few words will be of some good to the little children of God who are failing to do as they should. You who do not feel like you are fit to join the church, you will never feel fit while you live in the flesh. You who believe that you can do something to bring about the effect—think about what the Bible says about it. The election is over, and the polls are closed, and will not be reopened. Think about it. Is it true or not?

T. E. Majors

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", January 15, 1957)

From the booklet "**A Message of Hope**"

Elder Fred Bethea

October 19, 1978

Jesus had a very troubled life outwardly, yet within he had peace. His inner peace enabled Him to face the cross without complaining. If we could learn to adjust self to the stress of outward things, perhaps the search for a happy peaceful life would not be so difficult.

Jesus introduced a word to His followers that has gathered the family of God together and explained many things concerning God and His people, this word is FATHER. From the time He said, "I must be about my Father's business," until He said, "Father, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." He and His Father were one.

"As many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God." The sons of God today may claim the same relationship that Jesus claimed, for He taught us to pray after this manner. "Our father..." This Father-son relationship presents a difficulty for believers; for, it is more difficult to follow a relationship than a fact. Yet this relationship answers some of the great questions of life.

"I go to my Father." These words of Jesus explained life to Him. It is a statement that explains life to us. It explains the origin of life. I come from my Father. Life is but a preparation for going to the Father. All experiences, good and bad, are a natural part of the path to the Father.

These words of Jesus sustain life. Without them, life would not be worth living. But, when we live by them, life is worthwhile, because, "I go to my Father."

These words complete life. "Where am I going?" I AM GOING TO THE FATHER. While these words complete life, this also presents a great challenge to live like sons of God going to the Father. The life of a son is a simple, uncomplaining, useful, faithful, trusting, and joyful life.

I trust that the simple word, FATHER, may answer many questions for you and give you a renewed hope that better days are ahead under the watchful eye of an ever-loving Father.

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

REIGNING GRACE

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:21).

Now let us reason upon this expression. "Sin hath reigned unto death;" not *near by* or *close to* death, but *unto* death. The entire chapter teaches this as well as other places in the Bible. So we are all agreed on this point, that it was by man that sin entered into the world. Now there is something that follows in the verse in the same manner: "Even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." As was that, so is this, by One, Christ Jesus. You certainly would not take the position that grace might reign a part of the way, and some be lost or saved today and lost tomorrow. Note that as sin reigned unto death, *even so* or in like manner grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. The grace does not come short of eternal life because it is "by Jesus Christ our Lord." To take any other position on the text will contradict the plain statement that grace might "reign through righteousness by Jesus Christ." Keep this in mind how this reigns *by Christ*; not Him *and others*.

As grace reigns through the righteousness of Christ *unto eternal life*, I see no fault or failure, but rather eternal life will be the result of Christ reigning in this manner. Christ said, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish." Now is it going to stop somewhere or fail before it is given? No! in no wise will it fail, for Christ is not a failure. Some will say that the sinner must do his part, or else grace will not reign unto eternal life. Well, the Bible declares that it does not come by works of righteousness which we do. Besides, this text tells us this grace reigns through righteousness of Christ unto eternal life.

Some claim that this reasoning contradicts other statements in the Bible, like this one: "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." But people fail to *study* such expressions. The Bible teaches that God works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure, so our working follows, or should follow, the working of God in us. This would be too late to work in order to have the will. No one could take the water

of life freely except those who have a taste or a hunger for it. All such characters are already blessed. See Matt. 5 on this point.

Elder A. D. Wood

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", December, 1978)

OUR OLD HOME

Elder T. L. Webb Sr. deceased—From "*Little Things*"

After spending two weeks in Tennessee with relatives and filling appointments with Elder Bullard, of Mississippi, we returned home Tuesday evening, all well and feeling that we had much to be thankful for. I was indeed glad to have my little family share with me the joys of this trip in the sacred old hills of our native state and in the dear old homes of our childhood. We could not help but think of the words: "Backward, turn backward, O time, in your flight: make me a child again just for tonight." Solemn memories filled my soul as I met and worshipped with the dear old fathers and mothers in Israel with whom my sainted father and mother were so sweetly associated in the long ago. But many have crossed over to that better home.

The meetings along the way were all pleasant and I can never forget my pleasant association with Elder Bullard and his good preaching. I would like to mention all the dear saints and friends who were so kind to us, also many enjoyable features of the trip, but this might not be of interest to the general reader. By request, I baptized three at the close of the Big Sandy and one more united with the church at the water, where the meeting closed with tears and shouts of praise. The time came too soon to say goodbye. But we hope to meet again, and after awhile reach our final home where all tears will be wiped away. We look back over the trip with fond remembrances and thankfulness for the joys and blessings of each day. Last night we sang "Precious Memories" and seemed to live it all over again. Will anyone remember us?

(From "*In The Master's Service*", January, 2009)

"And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother." (Mark 3:33-35) We all have only one natural mother and father, but we can have many spiritual fathers and mothers in Israel by following the leadership of the Spirit and doing his will.—*Editor*

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