

Glad Tidings

February

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

I am sure that many are concerned with the apathy by the people of God for the church and the truth of the gospel. Many church goers have abandoned their church for other pursuits and there are all flavors of the gospel presented to the populace. What flavor do the people desire is ascertained through surveys and someone is ready to satisfy these preferences, whether it is truth or not. The apostle Paul had the same concern in his day that the people of God would be radically influenced by false teachers. Paul writes to the church of Corinth: “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (II Cor. 11:3).

Eve was beguiled (seduced, deceived) in the garden and Paul reasons that these brethren in Corinth could follow the same course. He fears that the minds of these believers would be corrupted (ruined, spoiled, defiled) from the simplicity in Christ to that which is not “This saith the Lord.” This simplicity is the singleness of mind that is devoted to the cause of Christ and the propagation of his truth. Paul warns them about entertaining anyone that preaches another Jesus than the One he and the other apostles had preached. He warns of false apostles and deceitful workers who transformed themselves into the apostles of Christ. (II Cor. 11:13). If someone adds anything to Jesus and His grace as a necessity for reaching heaven and immortal glory, that is preaching another Jesus.

Paul preached Jesus and the liberty that came with him to the Galatian brethren and they rejoiced for awhile. Then they were bewitched by false teachers. Paul writes, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:” (Gal. 1:6). Paul points out that there is not “another gospel” as there is just “one” but it becomes another when men pervert (corrupt) the gospel to achieve their own glory and objectives. These brethren had been corrupted from the simplicity in Christ and Paul calls them foolish as he asks them this question: “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?” (Gal. 3:1). There should never be “another gospel” nor “another Jesus” but alas, the world is filled with selfish men.

Paul wasn't the only apostle that was concerned about the people of God remaining true to the gospel and contending for “the faith” that was once delivered to the saints. Peter also wrote, “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.” Peter wasn't writing unto people who did not know the truth just as Paul was to the church in Corinth. It was possible they would be led away from Jesus and the truth. They could fall from being steadfast in the faith but not from eternal favor with God.

The gospel is simple and uncomplicated and not a compound of two or more that corrupts the original. The gospel is the good news and glad tidings of salvation by grace and grace alone. Anything added to that becomes a compound that distorts the original and deceives the child of God. This is exactly what Paul feared might happen to the Corinthian brethren. Paul had preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and told them they could “be saved” by keeping in memory what he had preached to them. (I Cor. 15:2). This saving was from perversion of the truth and not from hell to heaven; that surely could not depend upon keeping something in memory. So avoid being led away with the error of the wicked and keep in memory the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that Paul had preached.

Worship in the New Testament Church is also simple and uncomplicated; we need nothing to distract our minds from the Lord of glory as the center of worship. The church gathers in assembly of all ages to sing the songs of Zion, pray to the Father, and hear the preaching of the gospel. Anything added to this clear teaching in scripture is an attempt to corrupt the minds of believers in Christ which is just what occupied the mind of the apostle Paul as he wrote II Cor. 11:3 in admonition to the church in Corinth.

Satan is as subtle and devious as he was in the form of the serpent in the Garden of Eden. However, the scripture tells us that we are not ignorant of his devices. (II Cor. 2:11). Satan will flee any place he is not welcomed so we have this remedy to keep our minds from corruption. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7). Humility in submission is a crowning virtue to all as He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Keep the faith! (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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SELFISHNESS

By Elder John R. Respass (Deceased)

Bro. J. C. Norris, Lutherville, Ga. The scripture to which you call my attention, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others," (Php 2:4,) is simply an exhortation against selfishness; or at least, that is its chief design. Selfishness is an unenviable, not to say detestable trait in any man's character, and especially so in a christian. Selfishness crops out in little things oftener than in big ones. If a friend has a couple of apples in his hand and offers you one and you take the biggest one, you show by so little a thing as that, a selfish spirit. Many other little things might be mentioned in which selfishness is shown at meetings and private houses. Selfishness in a preacher is very bad, because he should be an example in little things, as well as in big ones. A selfish preacher is very troublesome; he is hard to please; if there is soft soap he wants hard soap; if there is a mattress he wants a featherbed. He thinks of himself only, and not of others. In the day of the prophets, Israel was reproved for selfishness. Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labors.—Isa 58. Selfishness is exacting. The servant that owed his Lord ten thousand talents and to whom his Lord forgave the debt, and who, going out from his gracious Lord, found a fellow servant which owed him a hundred pence, took him by the throat, saying, pay me that thou owest; and though his fellow servant fell

down at his feet and besought him, saying, have patience with me and I will pay thee all, he would not hear him, but cast him into prison, (Malt. xviii); that servant was intensely selfish, and thought only of his own things. He cared not who sank, so he swam.

But self-denial, the opposite of selfishness, is taught by the Savior, by both precept and example. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.—Mt 16. The man who looks only on his own things, does not follow Christ, because Christ did not do it.

That minister who will not serve the church, only upon conditions of his own profit, does not follow Christ, he looks only on his own things; that member of the church who fails in his duty to his minister, does not follow Christ; he looks only on his own things: he is selfish, and as a rule, exacting; Will complain the most and do the least. Christians are taught to prefer one another in honor; and that we ought to lay down our lives, even, for the brethren.—i John, iii. Now, of course we love our lives, but nevertheless, we should so look upon the things of others as to lay down that which we naturally love the best, for our brethren. Actuated by such an unselfish spirit as that, we will never, under its influence, bite, devour, or do one another the very least injury; but to the contrary, will do them good.

But this does not mean to teach that we are to forsake any christian principle for them, but it is to maintain those principles, even at so great a self-sacrifice. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.—1Co 10. That is christian doctrine, and the same taught in the text under consideration; but whilst it is christian doctrine, we are ashamed to confess that it is not always christian practice; but charity nevertheless, seeketh not her own.

In the same chapter in which our text is recorded, the apostle says, no doubt with sadness of heart, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." We are not our own; if we be christians, We are the Lord's; and all we have of natural or spiritual things, belong also to the Lord; and are committed to our trust, to be used as his word requires. Of course self is not denied without a struggle; self is craving, impatient, imperious and exacting; self is, so to speak, a son of Anak, a mighty giant like Goliath, encased in armor.

If a brother is in distress, it should be in part our distress too; we should not be indifferent and unconcerned about it, but should show him, as we have opportunity, both by words and deeds, that we care for him and sympathize with him. It will do him good, even affectionate words, if we can do nothing else; Said one of our poets, "— it is a little thing to speak a word of common comfort, which by daily use, hath almost lost its sense, but upon the ears of him who thought to die else unmourned, it will fall like choicest music, to know that another of the great

family is near and feels,” or words to that effect. Above all, we should not join in with the world, in hounding down a brother who may have fallen under a cloud. If, like the man who fell among thieves between Jerusalem and Jericho and was robbed and left half dead, we are taught not to pass him by, but to go to him in his unfortunate condition and bind him up and care for him and be at charges for him. That is the christian spirit. It is a lovely spirit. There is a great writer who illustrates this spirit by an aged hermit, dwelling in a little hut in the midst of a lonely forest; to whose secluded abode some rude boys resorted one night, to taunt and insult him. They knocked at his hut, and upon his asking, “who is there,” they mockingly cried, “your betters sir!” to which he meekly replied, “Else, were your condition sad indeed!” It is easy to imagine those boys slinking away, covered with shame. Selfishness would have prompted railing for railing, as it generally does. I have at times, abhorred myself, because I could not weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice, saying, “surely I am more brutish than any man”—Pr 30. Yet there is even in that, a weeping, and a bitter one indeed: and with such a spirit as that, our brother is sacred, so to speak, in our eyes. We will do him no harm. (*Paragraph—Ed*)

We should not be indifferent about either the natural or spiritual troubles of our brethren. The spiritual troubles of our brethren are, in part, our own; we can't escape the common lot of our brethren, it is vain to expect it. Pitiably is the state of that christian, who would build himself up upon the downfall of his brother; his glory would be his shame, and he himself be greatly fallen. If any of our brethren are in adversity, it is probable that it is the appointed, season to bring forth a crop in our hearts of aid and sympathy for them, that they may thereby be kept alive all the years of the famine; and woe be unto us if we withhold it by selfishness at such a time as that; for such a time have we, like Esther, come to the kingdom. If we do, it shall be for our destruction. Say not unto thy neighbor, go and come again, and to-morrow I will give, when thou hast it by thee.—Prov. iii, 28. Because, none of us know whether to-morrow will come to us; or how long we shall have it by us, if it does come; nor the reason we have it by us at all, save for the present occasion. This is true also, in spiritual things. If spiritual treasures are given us, it is not that we shall lay them up and withhold them from those in need; but that we shall scatter them, and thus increase them. If we sow sparingly, we shall certainly reap sparingly; but on the other hand, if we sow all we can spare, though we begin with but little, it shall increase into much after a while. We thus add to it, but by selfishness, we add nothing, but in withholding more than is meet, we get poorer. A man may start on a peck of wheat, and in a few years, he may sow many bushels. That member of the church,

or minister, who never reads the scriptures, and gives himself to the world and its pursuits, neglecting his duties, will be in knowledge, as a neglected vineyard grown up in thorns and briars. But nothing is to be done for vain glory; that is a wrong spirit; but even in reproof, it should be done in lowliness of mind, esteeming our brethren better than ourselves; that the same mind shall be in us which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he thought it not robbery to be equal with God, made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man, and humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. The brother who is governed by that spirit will be exalted amongst his brethren; nor will his exaltation be gratifying to his flesh, at that; he will not be above them, even the lowest of them, even if they are black, but will condescend to men of low estate and think on their things. Much more might be written, but I stop for the present.

November—1881

(*Misc. Writings of Elder John R. Respass*)

Something To Think About:

by Elder Bobby Willis ... 1-6-17 (Deceased)

"...they bowed their heads and worshipped"

Sunday is not to be a day of rest as the world considers it to be. Sounds strange doesn't it. And, it is not just the Lord's Day as everyday is His day. Now, let me be plainer. Sunday, meaning a day in which Christian believers should be worshipping the Lord at church, is a day to learn more of the gospel and also find rest for our souls away from the toils of everyday life.

"And the people believed: and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped" (Exodus 4:31). So, worshipping doesn't always happen on Sunday, nor in the same way, manner, or reason. Moses had questioned God about his calling to lead the children of Israel. They listened to Aaron of what he spoke which included him being the mouthpiece of Moses. Notice verse 31 after it states that they had believed what they had heard, **"they bowed their heads and worshipped."** Point is, we need to worship at all times as we are always in need of His strength, mercy and grace. Bottom line? Its worship time. Sunday through Monday! Take time today. **"Think About It"!**

Elder Bobby Willis
Editor: ShareTheWord
Mobile, AL.

The Amen Corner:
by Elder Ricky Harcrow ... 1-6-17

He Who Works

There is one thing that is certain in all of God's dealings with the eternal salvation of His people. In that salvation there are Promises and conditions. The promise and its conditions are inseparable. IT IS NOT IF WE fulfill the conditions, HE FULFILLS the Promise. It is not that what HE IS TO US is depending on what we are to HIM. God in His promise of eternal life to his people could not lie therefore God who cannot lie promised eternal life and according to his purpose every condition necessary to that life must be fulfilled and was fulfilled, not by US (fallen man) but by our legal representative the Lord Jesus Christ. The righteousness of Christ is not only God appeasing, but God delighting and God honoring. It so delighted God himself that it is called in Isa. 53, "**The pleasure of the Lord**". Never was the Father more pleased (it pleased the Father to bruise him), more delighted (it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell) or more glorified (I have glorified thee on the earth) John 17:1-4. Then His only begotten Son was crucified and God raised Him from the dead. God's righteous servant and His peoples surety was raised up from the dead, the bible says, "**by the glory of the Father**", Romans 6:4. This tells me and all men that HE was a sacrifice and an offering to God for a sweet smelling savour.

Christ has forever settled the account; neither shall the process need to be repeated. Every condition that God and God's law demanded has been satisfied and fulfilled in HIM who was the very servant of God clothed in the robe of humanity yet sinless and separate from sinners. The express power of His work sets aside any difficulty that many think HE may have in getting the work done.

By the exceeding greatness of His power, He hath in every degree, fulfilled all the designs of the Father; therefore, the promise cannot fail for he who made the promise shall not and cannot fail in the execution of the design HE being the author of the Promise itself; one being bound by the other. The best language by the ablest minister can never soften the heart of the depraved sinner, but the voice of God (St. Jn. 5:25) does that work to perfection. WE must say that ministers preach TO US but GOD WORKS IN US. Amen!

Elder R.D. Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

(From "*Share The Word*", January 6, 2017)

"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?" (Isa. 43:13)

IF A MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

Job 14:14 *If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*

We know that all men (and women) shall die unless the Lord returns before death overtakes us. Only those who are living at His second coming shall escape death. They shall be changed from the natural to the spiritual at the second coming of Jesus Christ. We know from scripture that the dead in Christ shall rise first, then those who remain (who are still alive at His second coming) shall be caught up with them in the air and be taken to Heaven. And so shalt we live with the Lord forever!

We know that the dead shall live again because the Bible tells us so. We have no fear that death is the final end of all things. Some people live under the assumption that death spells the end—that there is nothing else after death. The scriptures tell us differently. Death is but a transition from life on earth to life in Heaven: from a temporary to a permanent life.

There are people who believe that man in his natural state is the highest level of existence that there is. It is a fallacy perpetuated by the uninitiated, the unlearned. There exists a higher level of life than that which man has yet experienced. It is the Heavenly spiritual level of life and man will not experience that life until he has entered into that eternal life with God in Heaven.

There is coming a day when this earth shall pass away, when we shall live here no longer; a time when time shall be no more. When time shall end then eternity shall begin. Before you say that eternity already exists, let me say this: eternity is where God is, where Jesus is; but man has not yet entered into this eternity; therefore, for man eternity is but a vague concept, a far-away something that man has yet to see and experience.

"If a man shall die, shall he live again?" We have been told that this is true—man shall live again. But it is difficult for us to realize this because when our loved ones and acquaintances die they do not return to life. We know this is possible, however, because Jesus did just this: He died and after three days He arose again. We have the assurance that we, too, will one day rise again to a newness of life and that we shall live eternally with God in Heaven above.

(From "*In The Master's Service*", January, 2010)

"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)

FEAR OR TRUST

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

There is a certain fear that is taught in the word of God, but it is not the fear of man. Solomon wrote, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." (Prov. 29:25). Which will it be for us as children of God; will we fear man or trust the Lord? Man is nothing more than a mortal being which does indeed have the power to destroy a natural life; however, there is someone who has far greater power than that; He is God above!

If we fear what man can do unto us, it snares us from depending upon God to deliver us from the evil and the ungodly; and it may bring us to the level of the world rather than being lifted up to the plane where we can behold our God. Fear of man will stifle our view of the Lord in His high and exalted position. We are given something as a gift of God that is far more precious that enables us not to have fear of men or anything else for that matter. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7). The spirit of power, love and a sound mind gives us the ability to have no fear of man.

Even though we are not to have any fear of man, we are told who to fear. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt. 10:28-31). We see the fear of man across the spectrum of our society as some people are afraid to get outside with their children due to increases in violence and crime in certain areas. It is not only the fear of man but also related fears such as economic downturn, disease, terrorism, etc. that may cause us to lose fellowship with the Lord.

We can be content in our situation and state if we trust in the Lord and have our priorities in the right perspective. We need not harbor a covetous attitude in our lives with trust in the Lord. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Heb. 13:5-6). We may fear being cast out of the synagogue as did many of the chief rulers that believed, yet never fully trusted in the Lord in confessing Him and thus missed the blessings of gospel service. This is indeed a snare and is just what the devil wants us to do. This robs us of the joys of our salvation when we lose sight of who is our life and strength.

When the Lord truly is our life and strength, we need not fear any man even though he may have the greatest natural authority on earth. Remember when it comes to power, Jesus said that even Pilate could have no power except it were given him from above. Where there is light, there is power. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear: the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). When we lose our fear of what man can do unto us, we are in a position of completely trusting in the Lord. When this happens, we are told there is "safety" or that we will dwell on high. In the arms of Jesus there is real safety and ten thousand charms that the earth cannot possibly give. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27). The choice is clear; trust and not fear!

The fear of man has another complication other than just the fear of other men. There is the fear of ourselves. We may sometimes fear what we as individuals will do, or not do, in service to the Lord; consequently, we never fully devote our life to His service. We may fear of inability of not measuring up to what the Lord expects of us. The truth is we will never fully measure up to what God expects of us. Only Jesus fully measured up to what God expects as He fully did the will of God that ultimately ended in His death at Calvary to redeem His bride from the penalty of sin. We should not let any fear of not measuring up keep us from taking up our cross and following the Lord in humble obedience.

The Lord promised the land of Canaan to the children of Israel, but fear kept a generation from ever entering that land that flowed with milk and honey. Ten of the spies sent to Canaan came back with an evil report that said there were giants in the land and the cities were walled; consequently, the belief was the land could not be conquered. Where was the trust in the promise of God that it would be the Israelites possession? Only Caleb and Joshua that were among the spies had no fear but a trust in the Lord; consequently, they were the only ones of the twelve that entered the land of Canaan. The Israelites were warned not to covenant with the people of Canaan or marry their women lest it bring a "snare" to their soul.

The spirit of power, of love, and a sound mind will enable not only Timothy to trust and not fear but also us also to do the same. We have "power" through Christ to overcome obstacles in our Christian walk. We have the love of God and our love for Him to walk by faith, remembering that perfect love casteth out fear. (I John 4:18). We have a sound mind that gives us self control and discipline to bring our lives in conformity to the teaching of God's word. We never enable God to do anything; He enables us to not fear and trust Him. May we always utilize this ability!

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. And you being _____ in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh hath he _____ together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. (Col. 2:13)
2. And ye are _____ in him which is the head of all principality and power. (Col. 2:10)
3. Blotting out the handwriting of _____ that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his _____. (Col. 2:14)
4. And having _____ principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, _____ over them in it. (Col. 2:15)
5. If ye then be _____ with Christ, seek those things which are _____, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (Col. 3:1)
6. When Christ, who is our life, shall _____, then shall ye also _____ with him in glory. (Col.3:4)
7. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the _____ man with his deeds. (Col. 3:9)
8. Where there is neither Greek nor _____, circumcision nor uncircumcision, _____, Sythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. (Col. 3:11)
9. Forbearing one another and _____ one another, if any man have a _____ against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (Col. 3:13)
10. And let the peace of God _____ in your hearts to the which ye also are called in one body; and be ye _____. (Col. 3:15)

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts.
2. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
3. The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

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

Sometimes kids say something that strikes us as funny and sometimes they say things that are just sweet and beyond their age. Someone who attends the church I pastor tells this story of his young grandson. They were eating at McDonald's which had a play area and other kids were in there playing as though some kind of party was in progress. His father asked him why he didn't go into the play area and join the others? He quietly responded, "I haven't been invited."—*Editor*

There is a story going around about a man who got to heaven and asked about a crowd he saw. "Oh, it's 'show and tell' time. Would you care to participate?" asked one standing by. "Why, sure," he said, I'll tell about the big flood we had in 1889 when I was a boy in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Twenty-two hundred people drowned." "That will be fine," he was told, "But remember, Noah will be in the audience."

It will be a little hard to tell Noah about Johnstown or for that matter how a wicked world kept us from doing God's will. It will be difficult to tell of our aches and pains to Job. I wonder if Isaiah who spent fifty years preaching to a deaf Israel will appreciate preacher complaints.

There is something very humbling when one tries to match story for story, problem for problem, with God's faithful servants through the ages. What will be our excuse for not attending every service in our high-powered cars when we tell the chariot driving Ethiopian eunuch our troubles? What will Ezra who walked a thousand miles to rebuild the temple think of our inability to get to midweek service? What will Abraham who was willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to God think of the way our boys take us from God to serve little league? What would the widow who "of her want did cast in all that she had" think of our level of giving to the Lord's cause?

Wasn't this what the Biblical writer was trying to say to us when he encouraged, "Seeing that we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith?"

--Tom W. Peckerd, in Firm foundation, via Christian Pathway, July, 1972

(From "*In The Master's Service*", January, 2010)

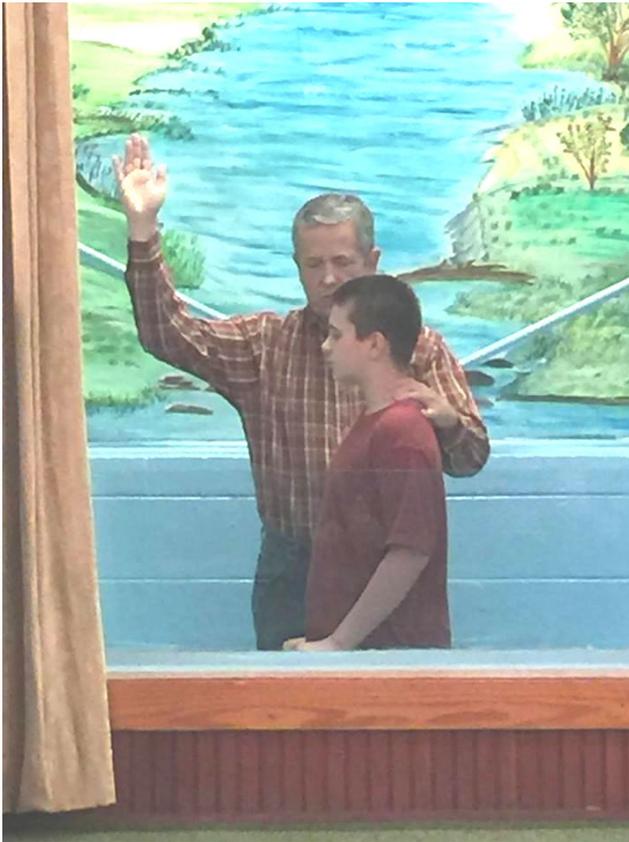
"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10)

Jesus is Light—Oh what a sight!

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will be hosting its Spring Fellowship Meeting during the 4th weekend in February, from February 23-24, 2018. This will be an open meeting, so we invite all minister brethren to come be with us this weekend. Services will be Friday, Feb. 23, at 10:00 am, followed by lunch, 1:30 pm afternoon services. Same schedule and times for services on Saturday, Feb. 24. Meeting will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 25 with services at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Everyone is invited to come worship with us throughout this weekend. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Elder Tim Cunningham, Pastor of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Hatley, MS is ready to baptize Brother Alex Bradley, age 13, on a Christmas Eve service, December 24, 2017.



We are glad to hear of some recent baptisms among Primitive Baptist Churches including one at Bethany in Ecu where I try to pastor. Hope to include a picture of that baptism in the next issue of Glad Tidings. We pray that the year of 2018 will prove fruitful in more good news such as this and some revival among the saints if it be God's will. We need more to follow this young brother's example and take up their cross and follow the Lord.—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to Mt. Hebron Primitive Baptist Church, Hamilton, MS for their meeting 2nd weekend in March, 2018 (Mar. 9-11). Services Friday and Saturday, Mar. 9-10, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Supper Friday night only. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. This is an open meeting. Contact Bro. Leroy Blair for more details 205-495-5310.

Everyone is invited to Enon Primitive Baptist Church, Houston, MS for their annual meeting the 1st weekend in March, 2018 (Mar. 2-3). Services Friday night, March 2, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 p.m. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Nashville, TN is invited minister. Elder Calvin Warren is Pastor of Enon.

THE CHURCH BODY

As a church body of believers, we are taught to pray one for another as the effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Our natural bodies work in perfect harmony as long as its members function as they were designed by God. When your fingers or toes hurt, every part of your body is aware of what is happening. The church body of believers is designed to be like the natural body. There is one natural body but it is made up of many members, so it is with the body of Christ. Paul tells us, "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it." (I Cor. 12:26). We should be so in tune with each other that we can feel and empathize with each member whether it is in rejoicing or in sorrow.

Each member of our body is necessary and with one missing it is not the same. All are necessary to complete the whole. Paul again tells us, "But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you." (I Cor. 12:20-21). Every member of the body of the church is necessary even though one might think they are not necessary. When that kind of mindset presents itself, the body is already in position to be vulnerable to spiritual illness and complacency. God gave us a gift or gifts but are we using them to the glory of God?

When each member of the body is unable or will not function as a member of the body, the body as a whole loses much of its strength. It is like the joints in our natural body that when working properly contribute to the movement of the entire body. Every joint does its part as fitly joined together but what if one joint isn't working. Paul writes in Eph. 4:16: "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and

compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." If the body is decreasing rather than increasing, we might be prone to ask the question then, "Is every joint supplying that which it is capable of supplying?"

Paul tells us that love (charity) is the bond of perfectness. It binds the body of believers together as the body of Christ but what if our love becomes lukewarm? The chain has been weakened at that point and if enough pressure is exerted at that point, the chain may break. We want to avoid that in the body of Christ. Just as exercise strengthens the natural body, so does exercise of faith and love strengthen the spiritual body of believers in Christ. If a natural joint is out of place, the pain is felt in the entire body and so it is (or should be) in the church body of believers.

When Gideon's army of 300 attacked the enemy, each man "stood in his place" and victory was assured. (Judges 7:21). If we all "stand in our right place" and not attempt to usurp the place of fellow believers, victory will be assured. Gideon was the leader and the 300 followed his command. The body of Christ has a commander and believers follow His command as the head of the church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:22-23). Are we doing all we can to nourish the body of Christ or are we lacking in some respect in following the commands of the head of the body?—*Editor*

Thought of the day
By Elder Robert Payne
December 21, 2017

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13. This is a much used scripture by many to say if you will just receive and believe on the name of the Lord you can be saved eternally. But if you continue the thought in these verses you will see that it tells us it is not through your efforts or lineage, and you believe because you have first been born again by God and you have power to believe and understand you are a child of God by his grace. At first thought, many put man's will first in order to salvation but when both thoughts are combined we understand we are children of God by his mercy and grace. "And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins;" Ephesians 2:1 Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: 1 John 5:1. The Bible is in complete harmony.

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S KNIFE

Sometime ago I was wending my way to one of my appointments and on the train I was occupying a seat to myself, trying to rest my weary limbs and thinking of the great mercy of God to even allow such a poor sinner as I, to live on His earth, and how good the dear Lord had been to me through all these weary years, and also to allow me to enjoy the sweet fellowship of His dear people, when a very finely dressed gentlemen entered the train and walked down the aisle looking for a seat, and as I was the only one occupying a seat by myself, I moved over and invited him to be seated. He readily accepted, and in a moment he took his Bible out of his grip and began to read. This I thought to be very commendable.

I remained silent as though not to disturb him, but he did not read long. He closed his book and turned to me with this remark, "Fine weather we are having."

I said, "Yes indeed it is fine weather for this season of the year."

I then said to him, "I judge from appearances that you are a minister of the gospel?"

He said, "Yes, that is my occupation."

I said, "What denomination of Christian people do you preach for?"

He said, "I am a Baptist."

Then I said, "You people date your origin back to the days of Christ and His apostles do you not?"

He said, "Yes, we are the only people that can lay any claim to apostolic succession."

"Then you claim to have kept the church pure in all the ages past, and are today occupying the same grounds, doctrinally and practically that Jesus and His apostles occupied?"

He said, "Yes Sir, we claim that, and we stand ready to prove it if called in question."

I then said, "You must have very strenuous work to keep all the points clear before the people?"

He said, "Yes, but we have the force with us to do it."

I said, "Do you have Sunday Schools?" "Oh yes, we couldn't live without them."

"Can you tell me who was Superintendent of the Sunday School Jesus organized?"

"Oh", said he, "they had none then."

"Ah", I said, "Is that so? You have missionary boards have you not?"

"Oh yes", he said.

"Can you tell me who was President of the missionary board in the days of Jesus and His apostles?"

"Oh", he said, "they had none then."

"Ah", I said, "Is that true? You have Epworth Leagues do you not?"

"Oh yes": he said.

"Can you tell me who was President in the days of Jesus?"

"Oh", he said, "they had none."

"Well, well is that true?"

"Well," I said. "You have young men's Christian associations to help you out do you not?"

"Oh! Yes," he said, "they are a great help to us."

"Can you tell me who was their President in the days of Jesus?"

"Oh", he said, "they had nothing of the kind in that day."

"Now," I said, "If you will allow me, I will tell you a little circumstance. A boy once drew a knife from his pocket with this remark, 'This was my great-grandfather's knife.'"

"Then", said his friend, "It must be very old?"

He said, "It is. My great-grandfather handed it down to my grandfather, and he handed it down to my father, and he then handed it down to me."

"Well", said his friend, "it certainly lasted well."

"Yes", he said, "It has had six new handles and eight new blades but it is the very identical knife my great-grandfather owned."

"You claim to be the old original church the Saviour set up while here, but you have added many new handles to it, and many new blades in it. You claim that it is the same original church that Jesus set up."

He looked at me a moment and then said, "Aren't you a Hardshell?"

I said, "I don't know. What do you mean by Hardshell?"

"Oh! I mean a people that call themselves Old School or Primitive Baptists. They don't have any Sunday Schools or Missionary Boards, or any of these things."

"You said Jesus and His apostles did not have them, and these people you call Hardshells do not have them. Then you being the witness and judge, admit that the Hardshells are fashioned after the original church that Jesus set up; therefore your claim or originality falls to the ground as untrue."

"Well", he said, "I must get off at the next station. I wish I had time to make that plain to you."

I said, "I wish you had for I am in search of the truth."

He said then, "What is your name?"

I said, "Dalton, with no alias, simply Dalton."

"OH", he said, "Is this Elder T. S. Dalton?"

"That's my name, sir."

"Oh! Your name is a household word where I travel. I certainly am glad to have met you."

"What is your name?" I said. But he ran for the door and never told me. I sat there and mused over our conversation and soon caught myself singing: "I love Thy church O God,- Her walls before Thee stand,- Dear as the apple of Thine eye,- And graven on Thy hand.- For her my tears shall fall,- For her my prayers ascend.- To her my cares and toils be given,- Till toils and cares shall end."

--Elder TS. Dalton—March 1924

Preservation of the Saints

By S.N. Redford (Deceased)

I desire in this article to notice the doctrine of the preservation of the saints. This is a most comforting doctrine to God's afflicted poor. We are preserved in Christ. It is taught in God's blessed word that 'We are kept by the power of God.' If we were left alone, if we were our own keepers, we might need be alarmed but if indeed we have been born of God, then our heavenly Father keeps us. His divine power is around us. We are weak, but God is great. It is said that none is able to pluck us out of His hand. The dear Saviour Himself said, 'I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish.' 'I in you, and you in me, and I in the Father.' Before the life of one of God's saints is destroyed, God Himself must be dethroned. 'For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.'--Col 3:3.

Jesus is the head of the body. 'Because I live, ye shall live also.' 'I am the vine, ye are the branches.' Jesus prayed that those that had been given Him out of the world might be with Him and behold His glory, and He said His Father always heard Him when He prayed. Says Someone, 'Do you mean to say that it is impossible for one who has been regenerated, or born of God, to fall away and be lost?' Yes, that is what I mean. What else could I believe with the Scripture before me that I have just quoted? The doctrine of apostasy combats the doctrine of God on this point, while the doctrine of the preservation of the saints comforts and encourages God's people.

He is able to make a way of escape for you, dear child of God, when temptation overtakes you. He will not suffer you to be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow. He is able to comfort in your deepest trials. He has traveled all the roads you are traveling. Persecution may rage against you, but God knows how to deliver. His omniscient eye is ever on you, at home or abroad. His loving hand is outstretched in your behalf; hence he has said that you are more than conquerors through Him that loved you.

As I have shown in a previous article, in regeneration the soul or spirit is born of God, partakes of His divine nature, bears the image of the heavenly, and at death leaves this body and goes to God. (Cor. 5:8) It goes to glory world, the home of the soul, goes to Jesus, its dear Redeemer, and there awaits the resurrection of the body.

Our heavenly Father is a God of providence as well as a God of grace. Though His people are often cast down, they triumph through Christ.

ANSWERS IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. Psalms (Psalm 139:23)
2. Isaiah (Isa. 55:9)
3. Jeremiah (Jer. 8:20)

PRAYING FERVENTLY

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Colossians 4:12: "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

The apostle is speaking of the pastor of the church at Colossi, Epaphras. Epaphras had come to Rome on behalf of the church at Colossi to comfort Paul who was in prison there. Paul had never met the flock at Colossi, yet he felt a kinship to them through their belief in the gospel of Christ. So moved was he by their kindness, he sends back a letter to the church, encouraging them to remain faithful and grow in the gospel of our Savior. In our above verse Paul tells them something that he was an eyewitness of, and believed that the brethren there would be encouraged by knowing this. Their dear pastor while he was at Rome was praying for each and everyone of them **fervently**. Fervently means to "wrest" to be in an agony. Wrest is similar to what we read about Jacob and an angel in Genesis 32:24. And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. In the conflict the angel touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh, and his thigh was out of joint, which is symbolic of how God strips us of all our power that we think that we have of our own. Yet Jacob refused to let go of the angel until he would bless him, Genesis 32:26. Jacob succeeds in receiving a blessing. However, he walks away with a limp, along with his blessing. The angel is none other than the Son of God, for Jacob would call the place where they wrestled, Peniel. Peniel means the **face of God**. Jacob had seen God face to face. How do we know that it was Christ? Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature". Image is something that can be seen. Jesus Christ is the image of the **invisible** God. Invisible is something that cannot be seen. The Father and the Spirit are both invisible, the only visible image of God we have had here on earth is Jesus Christ, the Son. He was made flesh and dwelt among us. (John 1:14) Anytime in the scriptures when we see God coming among men, even in the Old Testament, we know it is the Son. Thus Jacob had seen God face to face.

Similarly Epaphras was wrestling with God in prayer for the church at Colossi. His prayers were intense, consistent, and persistent to the point of even physically affecting his health in some way.

What was his prayer for the church? If we listen to some of the "soul saving" preaching today, one would think that he was first and foremost worried about their eternal souls. However that is not the case, for it says, that ye may **stand** perfect and complete **in the will** of God. Nothing about their eternal life, simply for

them to follow the will of God while they are here on earth.

As ministers of the gospel this is a prayer that we have for all of our flock. That they can see more and more of the revealed word of God while here on earth. The revealed word is the will of God for us to learn and rejoice in. Perfect means complete or ripe as fruit goes through different stages and culminating with the ripe fruit. It is a sign of maturity to stand against Satan and false teachers that had come among them.

God has blessed our churches with God called ministers. It is not only their obligation to preach to them, but also to fervently pray for them to grow in faith as members of the church.

Pray for them for they are praying for you to abound in the Lord's kingdom.

Rickey Taylor

**EXCERPTS
GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Elder Wise,

I am enclosing a small contribution for your great publication.

What a blessed treat for me to open up your paper and see the article by my dear father, Eld. T. L. Webb, Sr.! I shed some tears remembering him. It was so special his saying things about his old home in Tennessee and the Big Sandy Assoc. where I am now.

The other articles were very good, especially yours. The "Glad Tidings" is such a blessing for me here at the Assisted Living place.

Many thanks and God bless,
Doris Webb Smith
Milan, TN

Dear Elder Wise,

Please change my address to Apt. 302. I moved to another apartment and sometimes don't get my mail. I appreciate getting your paper.

Sincerely,
Janice Kennedy
Little Rock, AR

May the grace of Christ our Savior
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.
Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.

--John Newton

GOD BLESS YOU

“And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.” (Ruth 2:4).

Many times I have heard people in salutation, when meeting, or in valedictory in parting, or both, use the expression, “God bless you.” As a rule it has such a pleasing sound. Why not? If spoken from the heart it expresses the greatest wish or prayer we can have toward anyone. According to the above Scripture, it seems to have been a practice in Israel. Surely the Lord’s people loved each other in those days, and of course we rejoice that they love each other now. Our joy is increased by a manifestation of that love. We heartily manifest it when we say, “God bless you.”

Among my birthday greetings was one from Sister Cora Jordan of Grimmell, Iowa, with this poem:

GOD BLESS YOU

Meek in prayerful words, dear friend.
My heart’s true wish to send to you,
That you may know that, far or near,
My loving thoughts attend you.
I cannot find a truer word,
Nor better to address you:
Nor song, nor poem have I heard,
Is sweeter than, God bless you.
God bless you! So I’ve wished you all
Of brightness life possesses:
For can there any joy at all
Be yours unless God blesses?
And so, “through all thy days
May shadows touch thee never,
But this alone—God bless thee,
Thou art thou safe forever.”

It is remarkable that as the “evening shadows gather” my joy in the love of my “kindred in Christ” should increase and become sweeter, and also my love and interest in them should increase. I am glad that it is so. I humbly wish that I may be able to let them know that this is true. And I do find that they become more kind in their manifestation of love to me. I do feel in my heart over and over, “God bless them.”

Now notice the other side, “Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the Lord be upon you: we bless you in the name of the Lord.” (Psa. 129:8). Read the entire Psalm to get the full significance of this verse. I think that will comment enough on that. We do not want to be in that class.

I do try to stir up my mind, sometimes, with reference to the importance of impressing the minds of our loved ones, that I love them, and do desire for them the blessings of the Lord, for we all realize continually that without Him we can do nothing. (John

15:5). An equivalent expression to “God bless you” is, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.” (Rev. 22:21). While the same words are found in other places, it is significant, I think, that the Bible closes with them. I also think that it is significant that Jesus left this world and ascended into heaven blessing His disciples, “And it came to pass, while He blessed them He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.” (Luke 24:51).

So the closing scene of Jesus’ life on earth and the closing words of the Bible, the book of inspiration, have similar meaning. I find that Christian people love the song, “God be with you ‘till we meet again,” emphasizing in the chorus “Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.” As we are taught to come boldly unto the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16), we may feel the same boldness in our greetings, or partings, in assuring each other that our prayer is, “God bless you,” or, “God be with you till we meet again.”

From *Gospel Witness*

S. L. Pettus

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, August, 1966)

BIRTH PRECEDES BELIEF

If the Bible read (1 John 5:1), “If anyone will believe that Jesus is the Christ, he will be born again,” our conditional Christian friends would have the argument. But when we notice carefully the exact wording of the text, how different. “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born again.” Diagram the text, parse the text, analyze the text, treat the text any way you please according to the rules of the English language, and it proves that the “birth precedes the belief.” This is good reason, good sense, and good doctrine. It is according to the general teachings of the scriptures. Life before action! Birth before belief! Salvation before good works! In fact, God’s doctrine is always a reasonable doctrine. “Make the tree good,” and naturally the fruit will be good. “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good. The evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil.” In order for an evil man to become a good man he must be changed. Who can change a man? God, and God only.

Z. Stallings

(From “*The Messenger of Zion*”, October 15, 1934)

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.” (Prov. 10:22)

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