

Glad Tidings

March

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

True love we have for God and mankind cannot originate from our depraved mind and heart which we once possessed because it is incapable of true love. When love for God and mankind is manifest in our lives, it can only mean that we have been born again. The apostle John says, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” (I John 4:7). Also equally important is the fact that we are known of God as Paul affirms in II Cor. 8:3: “But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”

With the love of God instilled in our hearts by the Spirit of God, we then can obey His commandments to love one another and serve our Creator. Anything that is done which is considered outstanding in the eyes of the world but not motivated by love or charity is without any profit. Paul said, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” (I Cor. 13:3). Only the Lord who is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart can discern true motives. Sometimes we are aware of what should be done but for some reason we are slack in our obligation and this becomes sin. “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17). This is a sin of omission rather than commission.

Jesus laid down His life for us because of His great love even when we were enemies toward Him. In view of this we are told we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. The Lord has given us great capacity to demonstrate love but often we may bypass this virtue. John illustrates this failure in I John 3:17: “But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” We may very well have the love of God within but if we just say depart and be warmed and filled without showing love and compassion, we have failed both ourselves and God.

The apostle Paul tells the church at Colosse to put on as the elect of God seven things in the third chapter of Colossians. He crowns these additions with love as he writes, “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” (Col. 3:14). How can we put on something we do not possess? We cannot but we can leave it off.

It is far easier to love those that love us but the love of God extends far beyond that. The Lord loved us even when we were dead in trespasses and sins. In a similar manner we are told by Christ, “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you,” (Matt. 5:44). By following this command, Jesus says we may be the children of our Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:45). This Father and child possibility can only be in a manifest way by following His orders because our eternal relationship has already been determined by the will of God. (Eph. 1:5). For those in Christ Jesus, Jew or Gentile doesn’t avail anything but faith which worketh by love. (Gal. 5:6).

David loved Saul and served him as commander of his men of war; however, the time came that Saul became jealous over David as the women danced and sang “Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” (I Sam. 18:7). From that day forward, Saul eyed David with the intent to kill him and cast a javelin at him twice which David did providentially avoid. Saul became David’s enemy but he continued to play the harp before him at times and had opportunity to slay Saul but he just cut off his skirt saying, “And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.” (I Sam. 24:6). David would not harm Saul even though he had become his enemy as David was a man after God’s own heart.

Some people get peeved when they feel they have not been recognized for some act of love. The truth is we aren’t to do deeds of faith and love with the thought of being publicly praised or patted on the back. The Lord always recognizes any deed that is done out of genuine love for Him and the brethren. “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” (Heb. 6:10).

Some children of God manifest their love for Him in benevolent ways but never unite with the church as true followers of Christ. Solomon said that “Open rebuke is better than secret love.” (Prov. 27:5). Love for the Lord is not meant to be kept a secret but to be openly declared among the people of God by uniting with the church of Christ. (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 AMEN CORNER:
By Elder Ricky Harcrow ... 2-26-14

"First things First"

The words of the poet say, *"He who could for sin atone, must have no blemish of his own"*. We agree with the writer of long ago. Although He had no sin He was made sin (not sinner) for us **"that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"** (II Cor.5:21). He came as it was written of him in the volume of the book to do the Will of God. Thus in all that he did and all that he became the Will of God was manifest. By himself he has fulfilled the law, cancelled its demands, borne its penalty, suffered the vials of almighty wrath, poured out his soul unto death, descended into the grave and encountered and conquered the king of terrors on his own ground in his own house. To add to that, we could say that Christ has despoiled the enemy of his sting and robbed the grave of its victory.

The testimony recorded that, as the children were partakers of flesh and blood, Christ also took part of the same. That through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject unto bondage. He took not on himself the nature of angels but rather the seed of Abraham. **"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren; that he**

might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:14-17).

The captivity and bondage of God's people was in the relation in which they stood with Adam. **"Therefore by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation"** (Rom.5:18). It took a sacrifice above that which the old covenant could provide in the sense that the law was weak through the flesh. It took more than a relationship to Abraham, a worldly sanctuary, the blood of animals and carnal ordinances to emancipate them from that government. The Son of God must be made flesh and dwell among them, he must be made like them in all points and yet be without sin; and although like them in the point of humanity, yet holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners.

It is not hard to understand that His sheep (people) were held captive in the prison house of death and God's Justice kept the door. However, through the suffering and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus the full demands of the law were met and Justice could ask no more. Having done all and suffered all the law could demand and justice could inflict, he could enter into a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands by his own blood. In doing so ONCE He obtained ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR US. Those SHEEP Christ redeemed he does most assuredly CALL. We say that He knows his sheep and CALLS His sheep. He says, **"I know My Sheep and are known of Mine"**. I add also; HE knows those who are NOT OF HIS SHEEP. Romans 8:29 says, **"Moreover, whom he did predestinate them he also CALLED, and whom he called them he also justified; and whom he justified them he also glorified."** It is scriptural to say that this is a holy calling that is not based on the work or obedience of the object (man) but according to his (God's) own purpose and grace which was given them in Christ before the world began (II Tim.1:9). It is an effectual call; that means the call is valid and has power to perform and produce its designed effect. If the call was NOT effectual it would NOT be a HOLY calling and would be defective. BUT A CALLING THAT IS HOLY CANNOT BE DEFECTIVE. It must secure the design of HIM who calls. HIS calls are NOT GENERAL calls to all mankind without exception, as the Missionary Baptists and the followers of Campbellism assert, but rather special and particular to the Sheep without a defective design (Jn.10:27-30).

The arminian will teach that God may call but the will of man may very well render the call INEFFECTIVE and the charge goes up from these same religious teachers, who know not what they affirm, that He may call some that are not his and endeavor to make them his but alas, He may often fail in the enterprise if men are NOT willing to obey.

They say of the Primitive Baptists, "You hinder the preaching of the Gospel, make the church ineffective, destroy the zeal of the young and hinder the unsaved from coming to Christ who might otherwise be saved." I say that such a charge is false and the burden of proof is upon those who levy the charge to prove it.

I do say this and let it be understood in no uncertain terms. There is not a Primitive Baptist Preacher that I know or ever heard of that does not believe in preaching the gospel, but no matter how able the preacher, no matter how blessed the church or how zealous its members, it will NEVER add one soul to heaven's number. The will of man nor the preaching of the Gospel is not designed or relied on to perform such a task. The very thought of dividing the honors of salvation between the savior and the sinner is to say the least, foreign to the Word of God. NO MAN can add to his faith until he is in possession of faith; faith is a fruit of the Spirit and the gift of God and without it we cannot please God. No man can let his light shine who has no light to shine. The breaking of the pitchers of Gideon's 300 men could have produced NO LIGHT if the lamps had not first been in the pitchers. We say, as does the bible, that God has delivered us from the POWER of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; given us an inheritance among the saints in light; constituted us as children of the light; commanded us to walk in the light and let our light shine. The reason; **"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"** (II Cor. 4:6). AMEN.

Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, Alabama
(From "Share The Word", February 27, 2014)

CRUCIFIED FOR OUR SINS

If you were to look at Rembrandt's painting of The Three Crosses, your attention would be drawn first to the center cross on which Jesus died. Then as you would look at the crowd gathered around the foot of that cross, you'd be impressed by the various facial expressions and actions of the people involved in the awful crime of crucifying the Son of God. Finally, your eyes would drift to the edge of the painting and catch sight of another figure, almost hidden in the shadows. Art critics say this is a representation of Rembrandt himself, for he recognized that by his sins he helped nail Jesus to the cross.

--Source Unknown

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Gal. 6:14)

Ro 9:13 AND FUTURE IDENTITY

March 21, 1935

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

Dear Brother Cayce: Please give your views on Ro 9:13 in regard to God's love and His hatred; and also your views on future identity. Subscriber.

REMARKS The text referred to reads as follows: "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." By reading the connection you will see that this was before they were born, "the children having done neither good nor evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand. It was said unto her, the elder shall serve the younger." Then comes the language of the text: "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." The primary meaning of the word here translated hated means to hate, regard with ill-will, to detest, abhor. That is the sense in which the word is here used. Sometimes the word, by extension, means to regard with less affection, love less, esteem less. The word is used in that extended sense where the Saviour says, 'If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.' -Lu 14:26. This last text is the one Arminians run to with the plea that God only loved Esau less than He loved Jacob, just as a man must love father and mother less than he loves the Lord in order to be a disciple of Jesus. But that is not the sense in which the word is used in Ro 9:13. God loved Jacob and did not love Esau is the sense in which the word is used; hence God loved Jacob and bestowed the blessing upon him and passed Esau by. Why? Because He did not love Esau. As to future identity, brethren have differed on that question. Some few have held the idea that we will know each other in heaven just as we know them here. But we hardly think so. Earthly ties and relationships will be done away there. I do not think I will know S. F. Cayce there as my father. It will be one family there. God is the Father; Jerusalem (the covenant) is the mother; the redeemed are the children; Jesus is the Elder Brother. It will be a spiritual and heavenly relationship, and spiritual and heavenly knowledge. Yet we will know that we have been redeemed from sin and its ruinous consequences to God, out of every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people. That will be enough. What's the use of fussing here about what and how much we will know in heaven, if we are so fortunate as to be there? We cannot know here as much as we will know there. We have to walk by faith here; over there faith will be swallowed up in knowledge. No use trying to find out here how much we will know there-it can't be done. C. H. C.

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

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal. 3:6)

SUFFERED A WHILE

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” 1st Peter 5:10

The apostle is telling us that when we suffer from temptation as a result of sin, disappointment, death or any struggle, it is only for a while. As the Lord taught us we are heavy laden as a result of our struggle with sin. The temptation as a result of the death of a loved one is to write life off as not worth living. When a man disappoints us, or a woman, we are tempted to think that all men or women are the same. In the midst of our struggles we are tempted to give up, to throw up our hands.

But the Apostle wisely admonishes us as follows. *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” 1st Peter 5:7-9*

We learn here that these things happen to other people. We are not the only ones who suffer. I was watching an interview with Nancy Reagan about the President's Alzheimer disease. Nancy looked the reporter square in the eye and said something like this. “Listen, I am not the only one who has this illness to deal with. There are millions more people out there caring for their loved ones, and many of them do not have the help I have. We are to live our lives like Christians. We are to resist stedfast in the faith every temptation of the devil to devour our lives by robbing us of that precious promise David spoke of. *“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” Ps. 27:11*

You see, we suffer when our loved ones are sick. We suffer when they die. Because we love them we suffer because of the loss. We do not suffer because we doubt the existence of Heaven. We are thinking of the land of the living. Last weekend I was talking with a brother about the sudden loss of his wife after some 35 years together. He said, “I'm afraid I did not handle it very well.” I could relate to his admission. After the passing of my wife, I lay many a night thinking my life was over. I suffered because I loved her, but the thought that life was over did not come from the Lord, but the adversary. The God who has showered his goodness on us in the past is still the same God today and Peter prays for these brethren that after you suffer a while, that God make you perfect, stablish strengthen, settle you.

When we lose a loved one, we can prolong that suffering by not acting as a Christian. We can forget about the goodness of God and let the Devil ruin the

rest of our life. I had lunch with a gentleman and his wife last week and he was telling of a person who went to the grave of her deceased husband every day, weeping bitterly, and had been doing that for two years. This woman is missing the great joy of enjoying the sweetness of the memory of the one the Lord blessed her with. My father always said, “The best way to remember me, is not a decoration or some other activity, but by being in the Church of the Lord, praising the one who will bring my body from the grave.” I have wept many times at the graves of my parents and my wife, but today when I stand at their graves, I can look toward the heavens and say, thank you Lord for your goodness and mercy to me. I had rather rejoice in having had them, than to grieve at them being gone.

In the 23rd Psalm, after David has laid out the blessings and goodness of the Lord, he ends the Psalm as follows. *“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”* We must never forget the goodness and mercy of the Lord. The Lord has been good to me in the past, he is blessing me above measure today, and I believe in his goodness in all my tomorrows, however short or long they shall be.

Should not I look to and praise the one who has had mercy on my soul and sing, “The Lord has been so good to me, I feel like traveling on”?

Guy Hunt

(From *“The Pathway of Truth”*, June, 2005)

WILL YOU ALSO GO AWAY?

These are the words the Lord asked the twelve after many disciples who had walked with him turned and walked no more with him. It would seem that someone who had ever walked with the Lord would not turn back. We might ask, how could that have been?

Yet, we see many who took up their cross, declaring a love for the Saviour, who have become cold and indifferent toward the Church and the Lord's people. Many do not have time, or the desire to be under the sound of the gospel of Christ. They neglect hearing the message from heaven. Yet, they feel justified as I am sure these felt. They were provoked at what the Lord said. It was to them, hard doctrine. They forsook the Saviour. Have we? Are we walking with him?

(From *“The Pathway of Truth”*, June, 2005)

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor. 10:13)

FRIENDSHIP

Is The Golden Thread that Binds All hearts Together
 By Elder Louis Culver
 Deatsville, Alabama

True friendship is woefully lacking in the world today. Someone will claim to be a friend, but when the time comes to prove that friendship, so often that person is nowhere to be found.

“A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.” A friend is familiar with you and your thoughts and actions. He knows what you are thinking before you speak. Often this friend will finish a sentence that you have started.

“A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up.” True friendship dictates that a friend is willing and eager to help his friend in times of trouble, sorrow, unhappiness. While the friend does not want anyone to be in any of those situations, he is ready to help with his understanding, friendship and faith.

“Friends are like four leaf clovers, hard to find, lucky to have.” There are many “three leaf clovers” to be found; there are very few four leaf clovers. It is an arduous task to search for, seek and find those rare four leaf clovers. It may prove to be an exercise in futility for awhile, but in the end, when we have located one or more four leaf clovers, our diligence in persevering in our search will have paid off.

“If all my friends jumped off a cliff, I wouldn’t jump with them. I would be at the bottom to catch them.” The source of this statement is unknown; however, it demonstrates the mindset of a true friend: he is always thinking about and working towards the benefit of his friends.

Proverbs 18:24 “A man that hath friend must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” The Bible tells us that we ought to be friendly if we are to have friends.

James 4:4 “...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” When we look for our friends, seeking and searching among our acquaintances, we are to seek for Godly people. Worldly people do not make Godly friends. Our searching should never be among the worldly places but among the wholesome, upright places where proper friendships may be cultivated, developed and maintained.

A true friend knows our innermost secrets, thoughts, desires and loves us anyway. He looks over us for good and overlooks things not so good. He strengthens us when we are weak and comforts us when we are sorrowing.

There is nothing better than a friend—unless it is chocolate.

(From “*In The Master’s Service*”, April 2012)

WHAT A FRIEND

Joseph Scriven

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer!
 O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness,
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 Cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;
 In His arms He’ll take and shield thee,
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

(From “*The Old School Hymnal*” song book)

“HYMN SAVED HIS LIFE”

The power of a song is something wonderful at times. This is well illustrated by a story, and a true one, told not long ago:--Two Americans who were crossing the Atlantic met in the cabin on Sunday night to sing hymns. As they sang the last hymn, “Jesus, lover of my soul,” one of them heard an exceedingly rich, and beautiful voice behind him. He looked around, and, although he did not know his face, he thought that he knew the voice. So when the music ceased he turned and asked the man if he had been in the Civil War. The man replied he had been a Confederate soldier. “Were you at such a place on such a night?” asked the first. “Yes”, he replied, “and a curious thing happened that night which this hymn has recalled to my mind. I was posted on sentry duty near the edge of a woods. It was a dark night, and very cold, and I was a little frightened because the enemy was supposed to be very near. About midnight, when everything was very still, and I was feeling homesick and miserable and weary, I thought that I would comfort myself by praying and singing a hymn. I remember singing this hymn—‘All my trust on

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE FILL IN THE BLANK

1. Withal _____ also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the _____ of Christ for which I am in bonds. (Col. 4:3)
2. Let your speech be always with grace _____ with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to _____ every man. (Col. 4:6)
3. We give thanks to God always for you all making mention of you in our _____. (I Thess. 1:2)
4. Remembering without ceasing your _____ of faith, and labour of _____ and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God and our Father. (I Thess. 1:3)
5. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the _____ in much affliction with joy of the Holy _____. (I Thess. 1:6)
6. But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the _____, even so we speak; not as _____ men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (I Thess. 2:4)
7. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse _____ her children. (I Thess. 2:7)
8. As ye know how we exhorted and _____ and charged every one of you as a father doth his _____. (I Thess. 2:11)
9. For this cause also thank we God without _____ because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in _____ the word of God which effectually worketh...(I Thess. 2:13)
10. Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but _____ hindered us. (I Thess. 2:18)

IN WHAT BOOK OF THE BIBLE ARE THESE VERSES?

1. That no man should be moved by these afflictions; for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
2. To the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory, and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

(Answers on Page 9)

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My wife went to pick up our three year old grandson, Isaac, awhile back and in coming back they passed the church where I Pastor. Isaac quickly recognized it as we had brought him there with us several times before. Isaac said, "O, there's Papa's church. I gotta be quiet in there."—*Editor*

(Continued from Page 5)

Thee is staid, All my help from Thee I bring; Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing; After singing that a strange voice came down upon me, and through the long night I felt no more fear."

"Now," said the other, "listen to my story. I was a Union soldier, and was in the woods that night with a party of scouts. I saw you standing, although I did not see your face. My men had their rifles focused upon you, waiting the word to fire, but when you sang out—'Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of thy wing'—I said: 'Boys, lower your rifles; we go home.'"

(From "Advocate and Messenger", November, 1938)

CHURCH NEWS

ORDINATION OF DR. REID BISHOP

(Note: This appeared once already in the November, 2017 issue but this write up is included for those who may have missed the first—submitted by Gordon Cotton—*Editor*)

In conference at Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church near Vicksburg, MS on September 9, 2017 G. Reid Bishop was ordained to the office of Elder.

Brother Bennie Hollingsworth was appointed as spokesman for the church.

Elder David Pyles of Grace Primitive Baptist Church in Brandon questioned the candidate. Elder Charles Holden preached the charge, and Br. Gordon Cotton delivered the ordination prayer.

Serving as clerk of the presbytery was Br. Wayne Shows of Good Hope Church, and Elder Mike Sills served as moderator.

Members of the presbytery included Joseph Shows, Wayne Shows, Randy McCollum, Steve H. Coleman, Gordon Cotton, Bennie Hollingsworth, Tim Williams, Charles Holden, David Pyles, Eddie Grey, B. T. Strom, and Harold Ishee.

Elder Bishop and his wife Kelly and children Clare, Cole, and Ella live in Clinton. He is chairman of the Chemistry Department at Belhaven University and Mrs. Bishop is a physician on the staff of the University Medical Center.

Dr. Bishop is pastor of Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church in Richland.

CHURCH NEWS



These ordained Elders and deacons sat in the presbytery in the ordination of Brother Jeremy Wise to the work of the ministry on Sunday January 14, 2018. They were Elder Larry Wise, Elder Chase Harrison, Elder David Harrison, Brother Wayne Minor, Brother Steve Minor, Elder James Hall, Elder David Wise, Brother Gerald Bishop, Brother Boyce Grisham, Elder Joe Nettles, Brother (Elder) Jeremy Wise, Brother James Caldwell, Elder Jerry Wise, Brother Terry Wise, Elder Calvin Warren, Brother Doug Ewing, Brother Robert Embry, Elder Jonathan Wise, Brother Kenneth Ash, Elder Steve Weaver, Brother Phillip Wise, Brother Eric Coleman, Brother Donnie Ewing, and Brother Matthew Pryor. There was a church house full of saints to support Brother Jeremy and bid him God speed at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church in Ecu, MS on this special occasion. Elder Larry Wise was Moderator. Elder David Wise was clerk. Elder Jerry Wise questioned the candidate. Elder Steve Weaver gave the ordination prayer and Elder Larry Wise delivered the charge. May God bless him and all our ministers as they go forward.

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. Schedule is the same for both Friday and Saturday services. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. This is an open meeting. Contact Bro. Leroy Blair for more details 205-495-5310.

Elder Larry Wise is ready to baptize Brother Tony Langley into the fellowship of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS on January 7, 2018. He had asked for a home in the church at conclusion of Christmas Eve services but baptism had to be delayed due to a water problem.



Follow Christ and you can't go wrong.

CHURCH NEWS

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.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Clear Springs, Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS the 3rd weekend in March, 2018 (Mar. 17-18). Services Saturday, March, 17, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Dwayne Dubard, Ethel, MS and Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS are invited ministers. This is a change from previous years from Friday night to a Saturday beginning and invited ministers instead of an open meeting. For more details contact Brother Bobby Pruitt at 662-258-8332.

Everyone is invited to the March Meeting at New Salem Primitive Baptist Church in Walnut, MS on March 23-25, 2018. Services on Friday night, March 23, start at 7:00 PM. Saturday morning, March 24, service at 10:00 AM followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday morning services start at 10:30 AM followed by lunch. Visiting ministers will be Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS and Elder Jonathan Wise New Albany, MS Elder Dwayne DuBard is the Pastor of New Salem.

God's grace is sure—enabling to endure

CHURCH NEWS

Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Ripley, MS will host its Spring meeting March 30th-April 1st. We will have services Friday night, Mar. 30, at 7:00 p.m. with snacks to follow, Saturday morning, Mar. 31, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow, good Christian fellowship Saturday afternoon, Saturday night we will have dinner at 6:00 with services to follow at 7:00, and we will conclude our meeting Sunday morning with services at 10:30 and lunch to follow. We have invited Elder Chris McCool, Gordo, AL as the guest minister. We invite everyone to come worship God with us in truth and Spirit!. Elder Darren Owens is Pastor of Pine Hill.

JESUS WEPT

By Elder William T. Daily (Deceased)

What a wonderful, true life story of love is told in this the shortest verse in the Bible! How amazing that the Lord of glory, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God," should humble Himself to outwardly show this emotion at the graveside of His friend Lazarus. He went there to demonstrate His power over death and the grave, "For the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." In spite of the fact that "In Him dwelleth all the power of the Godhead bodily."; having power over all flesh, yet when He saw Mary and the Jews weeping, He groaned in the Spirit and was troubled. His were not tears of sorrow for Lazarus' death, for He knew and had told Martha that her brother would rise again; but rather for His concern over all of his people even when they were dead in trespasses and in sins, but more especially at this time for His friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

This demonstrated the fact that He was man as well as God, and had feelings for natural ties, and was in all things like as we are, with sin excepted. He left flesh behind when the work that was assigned to Him was completed, but His love is still the same.

Jesus wept! Those tears are over,
But His love is still the same,
Kinsman, friend, and elder brother,
Is His everlasting name.

Jesus wept! and still in glory,
He must mark the mourner's tear;
Looking still to trace the story
Of the hearts He strengthened here.

Jesus wept! that tear of sorrow,
If a legacy of love,
Yesterday, today, tomorrow,
He the same doth ever prove.

Is it any wonder that when we contemplate the love of God and Jesus Christ, His Son, who gave His life that we might have life, that tears spring from our eyes in love and devotion to Him who died for us? No doubt reams of articles have been written on the subject of "Jesus Wept," but it can never be exhausted, for the love that brought the tears to His precious eyes was born in eternity and is everlasting. For the Lord God, in His infinite mercy looked down upon a people and made choice of a bride for His Son. It is evident that the Word knew what the conditions were when He accepted the responsibility of the people given to Him in this covenant for it is written, He stood as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Yet His love for His people was so great that He faced death willingly for the glory that was set before Him; the glory of having them as constant companions, as brothers, heirs, joint heirs in the royal kingdom of God the Father.

His love for this people was such that while they were yet sinners, Christ died for them. They were all justly condemned; there was no difference. For all have sinned and come short of the law and the sentence of death is passed upon all. Now that Christ has paid the penalty of death for His people and redeemed them from under the curse of the law, His love and His concern for them is no less than when He made the covenant with the Father, for at the present time, He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. (If your unworthy servant could be included in the pronoun US; if my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, then I too have the right to be numbered with His people).

Weeping that is inspired by the feeling of gratitude and love of God is never a sign of weakness, but is a testimony of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the heart. May our hearts never become so hard that the remembrance of His sacrifices would not cause our eyes to overflow with tears and may we never allow our pride to cause us to be ashamed of the tears so inspired. Jesus was not ashamed to weep for His friends and we will never have a friend to equal the one who laid down His life for us. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for his friends" John 15:13. He has surely proved His love for those that were given to Him of the Father. He gave His very life for them.

"Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow;
All for sin could not atone,
Thou must save and Thou alone."

(From "Advocate and Messenger", August, 1966)

Tears are often the telescope by which men see far into heaven.—Henry Ward Beecher

THE DEAD SPEAK

Criminals often times kill any witnesses to their crimes under the old adage that "dead men tell no tales." Actually dead men do tell tales; they can tell tales of good or tales of evil depending upon how they conducted their lives before they passed this life. Consider the case of righteous Abel who was the victim of the first crime when his brother, Cain, rose up and killed him. The Bible says regarding Abel, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Heb. 11:4). Abel has been dead for centuries yet his faith still speaks volumes to the saints today and stands as an example that still motivates the people of God today to "live by faith" to make their calling and election sure to themselves and to other saints around them. I use the term saints because the wicked aren't interested whether they are children of God or not.

King Ahab, his wife Jezebel, and Cain have also been dead for centuries yet they continue to speak from the grave a tale of evil rather than good. King Ahab was one of the wicked kings of his day as was his wife Jezebel and both came to a tragic end. Abel is a man of "faith" but Ahab and Jezebel are examples that speak of evil. Parents today don't name their children, Cain, Ahab or Jezebel whereas many parents name their children, Abel, John, Peter, James, etc. The dead do speak after all and may all our lives speak "faith" only after our decease.—*Editor*

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

1. I Thessalonians (I Thess.3:3)
2. Jude (Jude 25)

LAST WORDS

Last words:

"Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation: God is the Lord by whom we escape death." Martin Luther

"Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death." John Knox

"Thou, Lord, bruise me; but I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from Thy hand." John Calvin

"The best of all is, God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!" John Wesley

"I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness--satisfied, satisfied!" Charles Wesley

--Source Unknown

DEATH

The hymn writer Fanny Crosby gave us more than 6,000 gospel songs. Although blinded by an illness at the age of 6 weeks, she never became bitter. One time a preacher sympathetically remarked, "I think it is a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you." She replied quickly, "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?" "Why?" asked the surprised clergyman. "Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!" One of Miss Crosby's hymns was so personal that for years she kept it to herself.

Kenneth Osbeck, author of several books on hymnology, says its revelation to the public came about this way: "One day at the Bible conference in Northfield, Massachusetts, Miss Crosby was asked by D.L. Moody to give a personal testimony. At first she hesitated, then quietly rose and said, 'There is one hymn I have written which has never been published. I call it my soul's poem. Sometimes when I am troubled, I repeat it to myself, for it brings comfort to my heart.' She then recited while many wept, 'Someday the silver cord will break, and I no more as now shall sing; but oh, the joy when I shall wake within the palace of the King! And I shall see Him face to face, and tell the story--saved by grace!' At the age of 95 Fanny Crosby passed into glory and saw the face of Jesus.

--Source Unknown

**DEATH SEPARATES
BUT NOT FROM GOD'S LOVE**

Death originated in the Garden of Eden when Adam transgressed the law of God and brought sin into the world. The scriptures teach that when sin is finished it brings forth death. (Jam. 1:15). Born again children of God are delivered from death in sin to life in Christ and can walk with God as the separation of death has been nullified. When those same children of God physically die the soul and Spirit is separated from the body and goes to be with the Lord. Regardless of the manner of death and the circumstances surrounding any death of the saints, they cannot be separated from the love of God. Paul said that he was persuaded that "neither death, nor life" could separate the child of God from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 8:38). God's love is everlasting and will finally deliver the objects of that love into eternal bliss on the resurrection morning. Death actually brings God's child into the presence of God as Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21). He had a desire to depart and be with Christ which was far better.—*Editor*

BLESSINGS OF THE UPRIGHT

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

The sense of a child of God being upright will be examined more extensively than standing erect but as walking in a just, moral, clean, and righteous way before the God of glory. David was a great man of God and although he sinned grievously against God in his sin with Bathsheba yet he said the Lord did reward him according to his righteousness and according to the cleanness of his hands he had been recompensed. (II Sam. 22:21). David later declared, "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." (Psalm 37:37).

This perfect man is not sinless but is complete, pious, gentle and undefiled and is manifest by walking uprightly before God. We are told in scripture of the condition of the righteous upright. John says, "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." (I John 2:29). The perfect, the righteous and the upright are born of God and their "end" is peace both here on earth and their final end in eternity; not because of what they have done but because of what the Lord did for them at Calvary.

Contrast the "end" of the perfect and upright with that of the wicked. It pained David greatly to think how he had been plagued all the day long and chastened every morning while the wicked prospered in the world, increased in riches, weren't plagued with trouble as others. This weighed painfully upon the mind of David "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." (Psalm 73:17). The "end" of the wicked is far different than the end of the upright. The righteous judgment of God will finally be meted out on the wicked and they will be banished into the final lake of fire. However, what about folks like David? David said, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." (Psalm 17:15).

The upright have the blessing of knowing that their prayers are heard by the Lord and He delights in such godly activity. Solomon affirms, "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight." (Prov. 15:8). The Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering but to Cain and His offering He had not respect. Abel's offering was by faith, unlike that of Cain. Cain's character and works are described by John. "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." (I John 3:12). The eyes of the Lord behold both good and evil and Peter says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." (I Peter 3:12). The upright have this blessing!

Even though the upright know the Lord delights in their prayers, they may sometimes ask for things they feel in need of but which the Lord does not grant. What the upright think they might be in need of and good for them is sometimes clouded by poor discernment and perhaps the Lord looks at their prayers through the lens of their uprightness. The Psalmist declares how important a day is in the courts of the Lord and then states "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Psalm 84:11). Through the lens of upright living, the Lord knows what is really good for His people and answers according to His will.

The upright are prone to weakness and may be tempted to compromise with their standards because of a covetous nature and thus reap trouble in life. Everyone needs some money to survive in the world but when it becomes an obsession, it brings results that are disastrous. My uncle used to say that some have a Cadillac mind and a model-t pocket book. Paul writes Timothy that, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Tim. 6:10) These sorrows were self-inflicted because the root of love of money had reached too deep. Paul warns the saints not to be conformed to the world but rather be transformed by the renewing of their minds.

The Bible tells of a man named Job who was perfect and upright; one that feared God and eschewed evil. However, trouble came his way and he lost his earthly riches, his family and his health but he didn't lose his integrity. His wife wanted him to curse God and die. His miserable comforters began to accuse him of some grievous sin that had caused his troubles yet had no basis in fact. The Lord Himself brought up the subject of Job to Satan and said there was none like him in all the earth. Job had some ups and downs in his encounter with his miserable comforters but said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15).

Job endured all his afflictions and was blessed twice as much at the end than at the beginning of his troubles. The patience of the upright is a virtue and James gives the example of Job in the New Testament. "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." (James 5:11). Happy in James' verse means "blessed" and no individual can be truly blessed outside God's mercy and grace.

The end of the upright and perfect man is indeed peace here on earth and in the hereafter and the same can be said of God's presence: "Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence." (Psalm 140:13)

LIFE AND LIFE ABUNDANTLY

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

This is a declaration of the Son of God, concerning our eternal life and spiritual life here on earth. This scripture has been a comfort for the children of God for over two thousand years.

The thief in our scripture is anyone claiming to be a leader in the church that is after his own fleshly desires rather than the good of the church. Jesus in his earthly ministry points this out about the leaders of Israel, and why Israel, had many sons and daughters to leave the church. In the long run of things this kind of leadership, though it might enhance his pockets, will only hurt the church as a whole.

Jesus says I have come that they may have life (eternal). Jesus Christ came to do the will of the Father (John 6:38-40) and his will was to blot out any commandments against his children. In his love for them, he likewise took upon him flesh and blood. This is the promised seed of the woman who would come and bruise the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us that Jesus coming in the flesh lived a life of complete and total perfection in the eyes of God. No man has ever done this before or since. Jesus by his death on the cross offered up a perfect life in our place. My dear brethren you were in the mind and purpose of God before the foundation of the world. He predestinated each and every one of his children that they would live in glory with him forever. Satan in the guise of the serpent thought to separate his children from the God that loved them so, by beguiling them to take of the forbidden fruit. Disobeying God brought sin into this world (Romans 5:12), sin was now a wall between God the Father and his children. To tear down that wall between them it would take a man of flesh and blood, who was perfect in every way.

Mankind had been tainted with sin since the fall. No one could be perfect, and have a sinful nature. Thus Satan would prevail if no man could pay the price. Then in the fullness of time God sent forth his Son made of a woman (Galatians 4:4). God became flesh, and the angel tells us that his mother Mary conceived in her womb that which was of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20). No sin inherited, and no sin practiced while here on earth according to the Gospels. A perfect life! When Jesus went to the cross, he bowed his head and said "It is finished" (John 19:30). Here he delivers his perfect life to God the Father for the satisfaction of our sins against the Father. To present it, to offer it on our behalf. God the Father was pleased with the sacrifice, now the wall is torn down between us! Redemption has been obtained! Now

we have this promise of eternal life that is a wonderful blessing in itself. We have a home in heaven waiting for us.

So our labors here on earth should be for a more abundant life in service to God. When Jesus said that they (children) have life more abundantly, it was not just to see the fruits of the Spirit, to let us know we have a home in heaven. But that we might also have an abundance of life blessings here on earth. His shed blood established a New Testament way of worship to any child of God of any nation, to enjoy living closely to the God that loves them. This way of living would surely give them an abundant life. Some have asked me when I have been blessed to tell them what we as Primitive Baptist believe, such as the doctrine of grace. **Well if you don't believe in working your way to heaven, then why go to church?** I would answer them, "To be there with my brethren".

We love to hear grace preached; how our Lord died for us. We believe if we do good works, then society is the better for it, and we will be blessed today. Are these not good reasons? I think they are the correct reasons. Society would improve immensely, if more people walk as God would have them to do. Would we have the same country we have today? No, it would be better I believe. Life abundant is similarly to the scripture that says "surely my cup runneth over" (Psalms 23:5). The blessings that we have with eternal salvation, and when we walk with God is surely more blessings than we can comprehend.

May your blessings truly multiply as you serve him here on earth.

—Elder Rickey Taylor

REMARKABLE PROVIDENCES

"By the spring of 1917 the German scientists had solved the problem of growing food and grain, and perfected it as it had never before been perfected in the history of the world. They announced that Germany would have the potato crop of all time; that they had put in each potato hill that which would kill every enemy of the potato under ground and above ground. And how the potatoes of Germany grew! When those uncounted acres and miles were in blossom, lo, a blight heretofore unknown swept over the potato fields of Germany, and in a day they were scorched, scabbed, shriveled as though fireswept! And hungry Germany learned the bitter truth uttered by Napoleon, ('An army travels on its belly, and will not travel when that belly is empty'.) A mutiny which broke loose in the army forced the abdication of the Kaiser and brought the armistice. Ludendorff, in his history of the war, says that it was the failure of the potato crop of 1917 that lost Germany the war". RHP (From "Advocate and Messenger", November, 1938)

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