

# Glad Tidings

February

*"Buy the truth, and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23)*

2019

**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

There are many precious things recorded in the word of God. There is the precious blood of Jesus by which we are redeemed. There is the precious ointment poured upon the head of Jesus. The lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. Jesus is the precious cornerstone. The trial of faith is more precious than silver and gold. When it comes to the brethren in Christ Jesus, there is something that is equally indeed most precious. David tells us, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). Brethren are to dwell together in unity, as a unit and as one, marching along together to the same drumbeat and together as a unit. Brethren aren't to be doing their own thing at the expense of others.

The Bible says that Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren but I am afraid that He may be ashamed the way some brethren in Christ behave themselves. They are at odds with one another and not dwelling together in unity. Paul beseeches the church at Ephesus to walk worthy of the vocation (calling) wherewith they are called in Eph. 4:1 and then goes on to tell these brethren and saints how this can be done. "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:2). Paul goes on to tell them about this Biblical concept of oneness. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" (Eph. 4:4).

On the Day of Pentecost the scripture tells us that they were all in one mind and in one accord. The Spirit came and filled the house as a rushing mighty wind. The Spirit is prevalent when brethren are abiding together in unity. If there is malice or ill will, it hinders God's presence just as a disjointed marriage hinders the prayers of husbands and wives. "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (I Peter 3:7). Brethren dwelling together in unity doesn't happen by accident; there must be concentrated effort to have and maintain this precious condition among the brethren. How? Peter explains a little more when he writes, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous;" (I Pet. 3:8). Kindness and courtesy never hurt anyone but rather is a healer.

David writes further concerning this precious unity and to what it is compared. "It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;" (Psalm 133:2) This ointment covered his entire body just as the body of believers are to completely covered in the unity of the Spirit. The eye cannot say to the head that I have no need of thee in the natural body neither can the head say to the feet, I have no need of thee. (I Cor. 12:21). Every part of the body is necessary to the health and welfare of the whole. As it is in the natural body, so it is in the spiritual body of believers in the church.

What is the opposite of brethren dwelling together in unity? It is surely division and we know what the scripture says regarding how this comes about. The self righteous Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out devils by the prince of Beelzebub. This could not be possible because Satan would be casting out himself and he would never do that; therefore, Jesus tells them, "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." (Matt. 12:25).

The church at Corinth had division because some were following men rather than the Lord. Some were following Paul and some were following Apollos and Paul said that such was carnality. Paul instructs them emphatically who should always receive the glory of any success in the ministering of the word. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." (I Cor. 3:6). However, God will not bless where there is envy and strife and everyone is doing their own thing. We must be doing what the Lord requires of us as brethren in Christ.

If the church at Corinth or any church desires the Lord to be with them and bless them with peace and tranquility, Paul's farewell message instructs them in that lofty goal. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (II Cor. 13:11). Walk with the Lord and with one another and the Lord will be with us; walk contrary to Him and He will be against us so it might be time for all of us to do an inventory and examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. Our churches are small enough as it is; we surely do not need any conflict that might cause them to be even smaller. Look up; our redemption is drawing nigh. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS  
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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Elder Larry Wise  
12932 Hwy 9 S.  
Randolph, MS 38864

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**GOODNESS**

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Psa. 27:13. "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

David was a man of war and fought in many battles. His enemies were always out to destroy him, his own son tried to kill him and take the kingdom, and he sinned a vile sin.

Many a person in our country has had a beautiful breakfast with the family in a nice, comfortable home, then return in the evening after a tornado to find the house destroyed, maybe even loved ones had perished, his life changed forever.

A young woman seems to have everything going for her, a handsome husband, beautiful children, a nice home, a comfortable income, then her husband comes home some evening and tells her he wants a divorce to marry another woman. She feels she will never be happy again.

Since the beginning of time, husbands have given up their wives, and wives their husbands to death. Many have felt their life ended, that there was no need to go on. We come in each situation to be near fainting. After surveying the situation, I have seen many people stand upon a pile of rubble that was their home, and declare the intent with God's help of rebuilding on the exact same spot. I have seen many a woman, after being mistreated and divorced and abandoned, find that after some time a man would come by, who would treat her like the queen she was.

I did not know how I would cope with losing a wife. I had such a life that I would often tell Helen that I could live with her always in this imperfect world and never tire of her presence. Mine was a marriage of tranquility and peace. I was a very happy man. Then suddenly, all that is gone.

I have had to look at her favorite clothes, her favorite jewelry, her shoes, her sewing machine and instead of weeping that she was no longer here to use them, rejoice that God gave her to me to enjoy these 54 years. Now, when I take a pack of peas out of the freezer to cook, I rejoice to think of those precious little fingers which shelled them, knowing they would probably be for me and Pam.

I had always rejoiced in the fact that in Heaven there will be eternal joys. That has always helped me over the troubles of life. I have so often been comforted by the lines of *Amazing Grace*. "And when this heart and flesh shall fail, and mortal life shall end, I shall possess within the veil, a life of joy and peace."

I think that as Christ looked beyond the cross to the joy that was before him, we in like manner look beyond this life of tears to the eternal joy.

But, just this week, God reminded me with the words of David, that the same God, who has been so good to me in the past, has revealed that his goodness never ends. David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psa. 23:6. Why should I have been so shallow to think that all my happy times were over? That I would never rejoice in his goodness in this life again?

After Moses had found the children worshipping a golden calf, the Lord showed him his goodness as he placed Moses in the cliff of the rock. I am sure that it seemed to Moses that all his efforts had been in vain in delivering the children of Israel from Egypt. Moses saw much of the Lord's goodness after this event.

I do not know what future I have. But this I now see. The goodness of the Lord will never end as long as I live. Why should I think that the Lord, who has been so good to me, would turn his back now that my sweetheart is gone. I know there will be times I will weep, but I believe I would be ungrateful to a merciful and good God for his many blessings, if I failed to rejoice in how good he has been to me.

Helen and I have often wept with joy, when we heard our special child sing, "The Lord has been so good to me, I feel like traveling on." It is a marvel of God that a little special retarded girl can understand this truth in her soul, when I had overlooked it for many sad days.

I am not alone. Many have lost loved ones recently. I pray that God will bless you to remember that the goodness of God has not come to an end. A life in this world has. Just a few days and we will join them in a place prepared for his children. Right now, we need to sing, "The Lord has been so good to me, I feel like traveling on." (Dec., 2004) (From "*The Best of Elder Guy Hunt*")

### THE SURETY OF GOD'S WORD

By Elder Lonnie Mazingo, Jr.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:20-21).

In these two verses the apostle Peter affirms the inerrancy of God's holy word. In verse nineteen he tells us it is a "more sure word of prophecy," more sure than even his own eyewitness account of the transfiguration! For in verse 16-18 Peter tells of seeing the Lord in His glory and hearing the voice of God declare that Jesus Christ is His Son. But, as stated, he goes on to say that the Scriptures were more sure than that experience. How could this be? He answers in verse 20 and 21. In verse 20 he denies that men wrote what they interpreted or privately thought they saw, and in verse 21 affirms that these writers were rather *moved by the Holy Ghost* to write what they did. Someone might say, "Oh, Peter was hallucinating or he only *thought* he only saw this on the mount and *thought* he heard his voice." But not so according to the Bible.

When David says that the Hebrew children were in the fiery furnace and not burned, that's exactly what happened. When Moses says the Red Sea parted, that's exactly what happened. When the Scripture says Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, that's exactly what happened! These were not the hallucinations, fables or private thoughts of smart men. These were men of God speaking as they were *moved by the Holy Ghost!* They were not penning *their* thoughts but the thoughts of the Holy Ghost!

The apostle Paul told Timothy that all scripture was given by inspiration of God and so it is. It is literally, God breathed.

We then can rest in the infallibility of this Divine Book. We can search its pages with the assurance that in it is the truth, unadulterated truth. When it tells us of our hope, the Saviour, the love He has for His people, His resurrection, and by His living we shall live, we can receive these truths with the full assurance that they are true, for so God said it is.

Upon quoting its verses, the one who may have been in error or even opposed to the truth, is silenced. Upon reading its promises the soul rejoices in its consoling truths. By searching its pages the spiritual mind is exercised in those things which come from above. Oh how wonderful is this book! Oh what seas of endless bliss to the hungry soul and instruction to the repenting child of God. No wonder we Old Baptists hold it so dear, and cringe when men try to alter it or tear it down. It is the words of our Lord and Master, our beloved Saviour;--spoken through men yes, but still *His words*,--from Genesis to Revelation, *His words*.

John, in closing out his gospel on the life of our Lord, tells us, that if all the books that could be written about our Lord were written, he supposed the world itself could not contain them (John 21:25). How important, how precious, then is the one book that was written! Let us guard it with our very lives. Other than the gifts of our Saviour and eternal life through Him, it is the most precious gift God has given to poor sinners.

I once saw a sign which said, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it." Although this is a good statement, it is not quite good enough for Peter and the Old Baptists; for they say, "God said it, that settles it, and oh what joy, I believe it!"

*(Editor's Note:* I have also heard it expressed as follows: "God said it, and that settles it, whether I believe it or not.")

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", February, 1986)

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### PROVIDENCE OF GOD

On the front porch of his little country store in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln and Berry, his partner, stood. Business was all gone, and Berry asked, "How much longer can we keep this going?" Lincoln answered, "It looks as if our business has just about winked out." Then he continued, "You know, I wouldn't mind so much if I could just do what I want to do. I want to study law. I wouldn't mind so much if we could sell everything we've got and pay all our bills and have just enough left over to buy one book--Blackstone's Commentary on English Law, but I guess I can't." A strange-looking wagon was coming up the road. The driver angled it up close to the store porch, then looked at Lincoln and said, "I'm trying to move my family out west, and I'm out of money. I've got a good barrel here that I could sell for fifty cents." Abraham Lincoln's eyes went along the wagon and came to the wife looking at him pleadingly, face thin and emaciated. Lincoln ran his hand into his pocket and took out, according to him, "the last fifty cents I had" and said, "I reckon I could use a good barrel." All day long the barrel sat on the porch of that store. Berry kept chiding Lincoln about it. Late in the evening Lincoln walked out and looked down into the barrel. He saw something in the bottom of it, papers that he hadn't noticed before. His long arms went down into the barrel and, as he fumbled around, he hit something solid. He pulled out a book and stood petrified: it was Blackstone's Commentary on English Law. Lincoln later wrote,

"I stood there holding the book and looking up toward the heavens. There came a deep impression on me that God had something for me to do and He was showing me now that I had to get ready for it. Why this miracle otherwise?"

--Unknown

**JUST REWARD**

By Elder S. N. Redford (Deceased)  
**Primitive Monitor—1912**

The Christian cannot serve God for naught. Even Satan admitted that “godliness is great gain,” although he attributed a mercenary spirit to the patriarch: “Doth Job serve God for naught?” In this insinuation falsehood and truth were strikingly blended. “Verily there is a reward for the righteous,” but this reward is of grace. This makes it all sweeter, renders it greater. “Great is your reward in heaven;” says our Saviour. In keeping his commandments there is great reward (Psalm 19:11).

We may be reduced to extreme poverty from a worldly standpoint and yet be rich in obedience. The poor woman who washed the Saviour’s feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair and anointed the dear Saviour for His burial, was commended of the Master. When Judas complained at her service Jesus said, “Let her alone.” “She hath done what she could” (John 12:7 & Mark 14:8).

What a great reward it is to have the approval of heaven’s King! Just one smile is a far greater reward to the child of God than glittering gold. Doubtless this woman gave the very best she had. Our Master is so great He deserves our very best efforts to serve Him. Mary chose to sit at the feet of dear Jesus and hear His sweet words, while Martha was cumbered about with much serving. Jesus said, “Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her.” Doubtless, in all her sad and lonely hours the moments spent sitting at the feet of Jesus served as a sweet consolation to her.

How delightful to reflect over our service to Him! What sweet peace filled our breast when we were baptized! How delightful the seasons we have enjoyed in commemorating His death by taking the supper! What sweet fellowship we have experienced in washing the saint’s feet! What precious moments when we can approach a throne of grace and feel to have a right, through our precious Lord, to approach that throne! What a comfort to sing God’s praise when our hearts have been tuned by grace divine! The apostle could sing even in the dungeon.

Surely God is “a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” But all this is of grace. Our dear Master does not require impossibilities of His children, but gives them grace to serve Him acceptably. Then let us not be weary in well doing, for “we shall reap in due season if we faint not.”

The sweetest moments of my life are those spent in the service of Jesus.

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, February, 1986)

“The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” (Ruth 2:12)

**HIS BY CHOICE OR BY CHANCE?**

*Daily Devotion for Devenber30, 2005*  
 By Elder Louis Culver  
 Deatsville, AL

Are we children of God by choice or by chance? There are some people who believe we are children of God by choice; some, by chance. Let us first examine the “chance system.” When I think of chance, I think of gambling establishments, lotteries, casinos and all other “games of chance”—where it has been simply proven that the individual “participants” have little or no “chance” of gaining anything from these activities. If our being children of God were based on a system of “casting lots into the lap” then we would be on very shaky ground at best and we would have no foundation at all to stand on at worst. To base anything on a “chance system” is to place it on a foundation that is very uncertain. There is no assurance of anything associated with “chance.”

When it comes to my being a child of God, I want the matter to be based on something solid. I want it to be based on fact. A chance system is uncertain.

Are we children of God by choice or by chance? Some people believe we are children of God by choice. They teach that we must choose God in order to be His children. If we fail to make that choice then we are not His children and Heaven will not be our home after death. Where is the comfort in this?

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.

This scripture teaches that we are to comfort the Lord’s people. The reason is because our warfare IS accomplished—already done, complete, paid for, finished. If we have to choose God and thereby become His children, we run the risk of failing to choose Him and so we lose our eternal home in Heaven. Where is the comfort in this?

The truth is, we are His children by choice—not our choice, but His. God chose us in eternity past to be conformed to the image of His Son. We stand today as His children by His choice. We cannot be taken from Him. There is no power strong enough to overcome God or to overthrow His kingdom. Neither can we negate that sacrifice made upon the cruel cross more than two thousand years ago. That sacrifice was the total amount we owed but could not pay. Our debt was satisfied that day. We own nothing today for those sins because we are children of God by His choice, not by our choice. --Elder Louis Culver

(From “*ITMS*”, February, 2006)

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” John 15:16

### The Christian's Refuge

by Elder J. H. Oliphant (Deceased)  
Primitive Monitor, December 1905

I read of a nobleman who was allowed to enter a prison and select one prisoner and set him free. He conversed with many who insisted they were hardly treated, that they ought not to have been imprisoned, and were full of excuses. He finally went to one who said he was justly in prison. He said: 'I deserve to be here; this is better than I deserve. I have sinned in many ways and if justice were meted out to me, worse would be my lot. O what a vile wretch I have been!' His tears and emotions checked his utterance.

The nobleman said to the warden, 'Set this man free. He will know how to use his liberty.'

When we have seen sin enough in self to ruin us, and have felt ruined by it, then we are in a frame to go to our Refuge. All through the 'Christian's life he feels the need of this Refuge, and oh, how often he flees to it! The path is worn smooth to this place of help. When burdened with sin he runs to this Refuge, crying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' When overwhelmed with grief he cries, 'Lord, save, I perish.'

As our best ministers enter the pulpit, they often seem weak as a newborn child-empty-no theme-no subject-no feeling-the people here and I have no message. Then he runs to this city for safety and help. When our hearts are burdened with grief or woe, we almost involuntarily cry to God for help.

I think that to 'come to Christ' means give up everything else. When we go to Him aright, we do not go to Him to do His part in our relief, but we go to Him feeling that His part is all of it. We have learned that 'vain is the help of man, and that all our hope is in Him. To go to Him is to renounce every other aid or system. The woman who touched the hem of His garment expected nothing from those around her; with her it was 'Jesus only.' I am sure I hope in nothing else, yet I fear at times I have no hope in Him. It seems too good to be true that I am a Christian; that heaven is to be my home at last; that the God of the whole earth has heard my cry and pitied my case. O how utterly unworthy am I of all this goodness! I cannot tell so bright a story as Paul; my experience is a feeble one.

But amid all the wrong that is in me I see one jewel-I do 'hunger and thirst after righteousness.' The Lord who knows us altogether, knows that I crave to be free from sin. And I am glad this is true; I am glad there is a 'would do good' within me; I am glad sin has become 'exceedingly sinful'; I am glad that sin gives pain and sorrow of heart; I am glad sin has become a burden to me, and that I feel it as a heavy load. These are sweet signs of life.

Once I saw nothing dreadful in sin; once I could drink it down without regret; once I cared but little for the name of Jesus, but I see - now, as I review my

life, that there has been: a change somewhere along the line. It is not so clear or great as I could wish, but it is a change, nevertheless. The name of Jesus has become sweet to me.

I saw my friends tossed on death's billows. I heard them mention His name with dying lips. I saw there was an unseen Person who could bring solace in a dying hour. It was Jesus that stilled the temper, that silenced the storm; it was the Lord Jesus that quieted the fears of my departing loved ones; I am sure I hunger and thirst after this Sovereign Remedy for despair.

Dear reader, if these be your' feeling, I would say you have a city of refuge; you have already fled to it, and at this moment you are within the strong walls of His mercy. Let us ponder the value of our hope--'The unsearchable riches of Christ'-riches that no scholar can compute. When all created streams are dry, His fullness will be the same. When every other hope or source of comfort is gone, when riches lose their charm; when friends can no longer solace; when physicians turn away and confess that they can do nothing, then the Lord Jesus, whom we have trusted, shall show His skill. Despair shall take its flight, and hope shall be enthroned in our souls. Oh, what a Friend we have in the Savior!

Let me conclude by urging His children to love Him, to obey Him, to honor Him in your life. Some of you have never been baptized. Let me urge you to not put it off. Own Him as your Lord before the world. Let us love the church and seek its good; fill your seat, and urge others to do so. Let us think of all He did for us, and what He is now doing, and what we yet-hope for Him to do, and in this way stir up our own frozen affections and prompt each other to greater faithfulness. Soon the discharge will come to many of us, and we shall lay our arms down and go to the grave. Let us 'quit ourselves like men,' and live for Him upon whom we are to depend.

J. H. Oliphant

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### REFUGEES

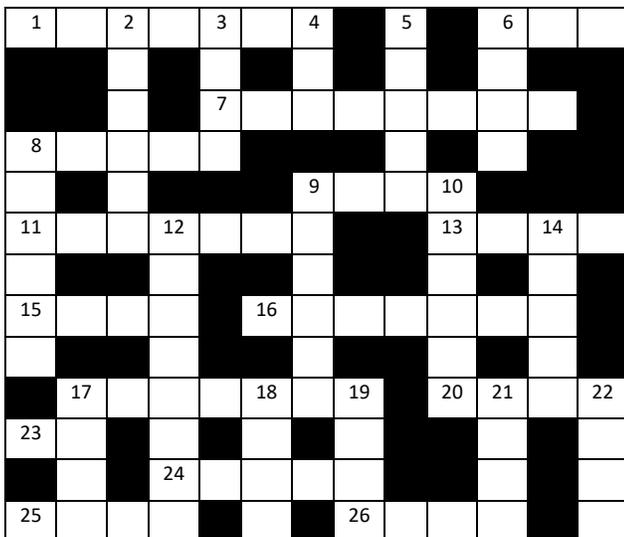
"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" (Heb. 6:18-19)

Refugees are those who have fled from some sort of oppression to some place they believe is a place of safety. Those children of God who are refugees and are fleeing to the anchor of their soul, the Lord Jesus, have One that can and does prevent the ship of the refugee from being tossed to and fro and be safe under the wings of His love and mercy.—*Editor*

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:**

1. There is a river, the \_\_\_\_ thereof shall make glad the city of God.
6. John saw an angel from heaven with the \_\_\_\_ to the bottomless pit.
7. Jesus said in my Father's house are many \_\_\_\_.
8. What are these that are arrayed in white \_\_\_\_ and whence came they? Garments.
9. Judas betrayed Jesus with a \_\_\_\_ on the cheek.
11. Bring up children in the \_\_\_\_ and the admonition of the Lord.
13. Jesus was buried in Joseph's new \_\_\_\_.
15. Woe unto them that are at \_\_\_\_ in Zion and trust in the mountain of Samaria.
16. God hath chosen thee to be a \_\_\_\_ people unto himself above all people on earth. Peculiar.



(Answers on Page 9)

17. If ye have faith as a grain of the small \_\_\_\_ seed.
20. Calling a ravenous bird from the \_\_\_\_, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country.
23. Whatsoever he sayeth unto you \_\_\_\_ it said Mary.
24. Paul said it was unlawful to scourge a man that was a \_\_\_\_ and uncondemned which he was.
25. God is \_\_\_\_ to raise up these stones to Abraham.
26. For my yoke is \_\_\_\_ and my burden is light.

**DOWN:**

2. Barabbas was a \_\_\_\_ and an insurrectionist.
3. God is our refuge, underneath are everlasting \_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus' face did shine as the \_\_\_\_ on the Mount.
5. One of the 12 plagues God sent on Egypt were swarms of \_\_\_\_.
6. Be ye \_\_\_\_ one to another, tenderhearted. Nice.
8. \_\_\_\_ unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.
9. Cain was a tiller of the ground but Abel was a \_\_\_\_ of the sheep.
10. Take the blood of the Passover lamb and \_\_\_\_ it on the two side posts and upper door post.

**DOWN:**

12. For where your \_\_\_\_ is there will your heart be also. Riches.
14. What Absalom was riding when he caught his hair in the boughs of the tree. Plural.
17. Name of the land where Ruth came from.
18. Cornelius' prayers and \_\_\_\_ had come up for a memorial before God.
19. They shall come forth; those that have \_\_\_\_ good unto the resurrection of life in the resurrection.
21. Jesus taketh \_\_\_\_ the first to establish the second.
22. Beasts are tamed but the tongue no man can \_\_\_\_.

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**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

A sister who is a member of the church I pastor has a young daughter who came home from school and told her mother, "The kids at school are making fun of me because I have a boyfriend."

Her mother responded, "Break up with him."

"Noooo, I can't do that. He's going to marry me!"

Our four year old grandson is bad to take off his shoes once inside and even before. The other day he had taken off both his shoes and his socks. I asked him why had had taken off his socks in addition to his shoes?

"Gotta let my piggies breathe", He replied. *-Editor*

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**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

*December 28, 2018*

Elder Robert Payne

Thought of the day:

Yea, and all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and being assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;. 2 Timothy 3:12-14.

God's children will be called trouble makers for standing for what is right. Some start off wanting compromise on principles and then when you do, they become demanding that you follow their way. We see these changes in marriage, homosexuality, raising children and changing of worship in our day.

We are not to compromise our principles, to appease those who desire to live sinful and godless lives.

The last verse tells us, to continue, in those things we have learned and been assured of. Yes, you shall suffer persecution but it is better to serve God than this ungodly world.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31)

**CHURCH NEWS**

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will be hosting its Spring Fellowship Meeting during the 4th weekend in February, from February 22-23, 2019. This will be an open meeting, so we invite all minister brethren to come be with us this weekend. Services will be Friday, Feb. 22, at 10:00 am, followed by lunch, 1:30 pm afternoon services. Same schedule and times for services on Saturday, Feb. 23. Meeting will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 24 with services at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Everyone is invited to come and worship with us throughout this weekend. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Everyone is invited to Enon Primitive Baptist Church, Houston, MS for their annual meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in March, 2019 (Mar. 1-2). Services Friday night, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 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 Mt. Hebron Primitive Baptist Church, Hamilton, MS for their meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in March, 2019 (Mar. 8-10). Services Friday and Saturday, March 8-9, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. This is an open meeting. Contact Bro. Leroy Blair for more details 205-495-5310.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Brother Boyce Grisham, long time member and deacon of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS, passed away to be with the Lord on December 30, 2018 at the age of 76. He was a faithful soldier of the cross and will be missed at the home church he loved and many other churches he visited during their meetings throughout the year. Prayers for his family would be appreciated. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night in March, 2019 (Mar. 31) Fellowship meeting will be hosted by New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. What better way to spend an evening to conclude the month of March than in worship of our great God! Elder Grady Camp is Pastor of New Prospect. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches. Everyone is invited.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)  
Quality trumps quantity every time.

**For the Poor  
AN ALL POWERFUL GOD!**

AN ALL POWERFUL GOD! (1952, January)

How little does the world know of that intercourse which is carried on between heaven and earth! What petitions are presented, and what answers are received at the throne of grace! O the blessed privilege of prayer! O the wonderful love, care, attention, and power of our great Shepherd! His eye is always upon us. When our spirits are almost overwhelmed within us, He knoweth our path. His ear is always opened to us.

Let who will overlook and disappoint us, He will not! When means and hope fail, when everything looks dark to us, when we seem shut-up on every side, when we are brought to the lowest ebb, still our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. To him all things are possible; and before the exertion of His power, when He is pleased to arise and work, all hindrances give way and vanish like a mist before the sun.

He can so manifest Himself to the soul, and cause His goodness to pass before it, that the affliction shall be the golden hour of the greatest consolation. He is the fountain of life, strength, grace and comfort, and of His fullness His children receive according to their occasions. We have, therefore, cause for continual praise.

The Lord has given us to know His name, as a resting-place and a hiding-place, a sun and a shield. Circumstances and creatures may change, but He will be an unchangeable Friend! The way is rough, but He trod it before us; is now with us in every step we take; and every step brings us nearer to our heavenly home. Our present strength is small, and, without a fresh supply, would be quickly exhausted; but He has engaged to renew it from day to day. He will soon appear to wipe all tears from our eyes; and then we shall appear with Him in glory!—John Newton, in *Zion's Advocate*, October, 1898.

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"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. Verily God hath heard me; He hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor His mercy from me."—Ps 66: 16-17, 19-20

I read of one in the Bible who bought a piece of ground and needed to go and see it; one had bought five yoke of oxen and needed to go to prove them; one had married a wife. These were the excuses given for not coming to the great supper already prepared. Come and dine were the words of Jesus.—*Editor*

**For the Poor  
A Christian**

A Christian (1986, January-February)

The name christian (sic) was given to the disciples of Christ, and the Saviour says that "whosoever doth not bear His cross, and come after me cannot be my disciple." A disciple of Christ is one who believes His doctrine and follows His example. No one could be a disciple of Christ without being led by the Spirit and all who are "led by the Spirit of God they are the children of God." So they must be born of God before they can become christians. (sic) It would be impossible, also, for anyone to be a disciple without first hearing the words of Christ and believing on Him, and Jesus says, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life."

So then it would be impossible to become a christian (sic) in order to be an heir of heaven for, none but those who are led by the Spirit of God are His children and when children, "then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ."

"He that hath not the Spirit of Christ is none of His." Truly the Spirit of Christ is the spirit of humility, love, faith, kindness and long forbearance. They that have the Spirit of Christ are dead to the love of sin and desire to follow Christ, therefore the Saviour would say to them, "If any man will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it." Therefore if we seek to keep our honor and standing before the world we will not be truly a disciple or follower of Christ for He did not seek that but sought only to do His Father's will. If therefore we seek fame we will not be known as a christian (sic) because a tree is known by its fruit. But if we seek humility we will show a Christ like spirit and Christ will indeed exalt us.

Then, first, the real christian (sic) is one whose understanding is enlightened by the influence of divine grace, for men by wisdom know not God, and none can know Christ except the Father reveal Him unto them.

2nd. — One who is by the influence of the spirit, convinced of the depravity of his nature, and sees his own inability to free himself from it.

3rd. — One who is taught to see that God is the only One who can help him, and that He alone can forgive sins, and is thus made to beg for mercy. Then the eyes of his understanding is open to know mercy is brought to him through Jesus Christ the Lord.

4th. — That the Holy Spirit is the only One who can apply the blessings of the gospel to him. Therefore the christian will be found going to God in prayer for the blessings that his soul hungers for.

5th. — His whole life is so changed that he worships, trusts in and looks to his God in all times. His entire life is bent toward Godliness and an uprightness. His affections are elevated and centered in God alone.

6th. — He is likewise the one who is willing to deny himself of the things that would be most pleasing to his nature and to publicly profess christianity by following the examples of Christ.

Let us then forsake the fleshly ambitions and let not the flesh lead us and strive to be true disciples.

Elder J. Harvey Dailey

—Copied from The Primitive Baptist,  
March 16, 1909, page 84.

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### TRUE LOVE

A husband and wife didn't really love each other. The man was very demanding, so much so that he prepared a list of rules and regulations for his wife to follow. He insisted that she read them over every day and obey them to the letter. Among other things, his "do's and don'ts" indicated such details as what time she had to get up in the morning, when his breakfast should be served, and how the housework should be done. After several long years, the husband died. As time passed, the woman fell in love with another man, one who dearly loved her. Soon they were married. This husband did everything he could to make his new wife happy, continually showering her with tokens of his appreciation. One day as she was cleaning house, she found tucked away in a drawer the list of commands her first husband had drawn up for her. As she looked it over, it dawned on her that even though her present husband hadn't given her any kind of list, she was doing everything her first husband's list required anyway. She realized she was so devoted to this man that her deepest desire was to please him out of love, not obligation.

--Unknown

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### LOVE IN ACTION

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35)

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:" (I Peter 1:22)

**The Cruelty of Death**

By Elder Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

Romans 5:12: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

When God had finished creating the heaven and earth, he saw everything He created that it was good. Gen. 1:31. It was a different environment from what we have today. It was sweeter. There was no sin and its consequences to have to deal with. Our verse tells us plainly that it was by Adam's transgression that sin came into this world. God did not put sin, nor use it in any way to accomplish his task. It was man alone that brought this terrible curse and its consequences. Notice this verse of scripture that mention how life was before sin came into the world. Genesis 1:29-30: "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so." Man and the animals were not originally carnivorous (meat eaters). They began to eat meat after the Fall. We see that death first came to the animals in order to clothe Adam and Eve, to hide their nakedness. Genesis 3:21: "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them." Some kind of animal had to give up its life in order to clothe them. It is possible that Adam and Eve even knew the animal that was sacrificed. Death happening to something or someone is not a pleasant sight to see. Growing up on a small farm in North Ms I have seen my fair share of it, to animals of all kinds. It was a part of our farm life. It was done for us to have food on the table. You learn to deal with it, but it never gets to be a pleasant sight. Death is not meant to be pleasing to the eyes of God's children. Animal or human. However it is the penalty of sin (Ezekiel 18:4). We are born in sin (Psalms 51:5) and the penalty we pay for it is death. God intended for us to see the cruelty of death, for it is the price that has to be paid. We see very little executions today in most of the U.S. because there are those that have said that execution is cruel and unusual punishment. Yes it is. It is meant to be. That is the purpose in taking someone's life for committing murder. The cruelty and harshness of it serves as a deterrent to stop these crimes. It is also a commandment from God that was given in the days of Noah after the flood. Genesis 9:6: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." It is my belief that this commandment was given for mankind for all generations until the Lord returns. Our neglect

of it is one of the reasons we have such high crime rates in our country.

In the ministry we have to deal with death and its cruelty way too often when it comes upon one of our dear saints in the church. I have seen death come and take away these good people for the penalty of sin. You feel helpless as they take their last breath, for there is nothing that you can do. Mankind brought this upon themselves by bringing sin into this world back in the Garden of Eden. It is not the fault of our Heavenly Father. He made us good. Satan beguiled our Mother Eve, and we brought sin and death into this world. Let us not blame God for this. It was not of his doing.

The cruelest death of all, was what happened to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ . He was sinless. He was gentle and loving and not guilty of a single sin. Yet he was crucified in agonizing death like a malefactor. It was the price that had to be paid for all of God's children, so they wouldn't be separated from the Lord forever. It was the price for sin. Jesus paid it. As Adam and Eve were thankful that the skins hid their nakedness, yet they also had knowledge that life was taken because of their disobedience. We too look upon the cross and there seeing our Saviour take his last breath, while saying "it is finished". In this sad scene we feel the pain and cruelty of death that came because of our transgressions.

We will close with a good note on this .We see death's cruelty. Yet looking beyond that we see that in this cruel death; We now have a heavenly home awaiting us in glory. For with the death of Christ on the cross, our debt has been paid. For as Adam and Eve were clothed in skins, we are clothed in Christ's righteousness through his death on the cross.

Bless and praise his Holy Name!

Elder Rickey Taylor

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**ANSWERS CROSSWORD BIBLE PUZZLE  
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| <b>ACROSS:</b> | <b>DOWN:</b> |
| 1. smaerts     | 2. rebbor    |
| 6. yek         | 3. smra      |
| 7. snoisnam    | 4. nus       |
| 8. sebor       | 5. seilf     |
| 9. ssik        | 6. dnik      |
| 11. erutrun    | 8. redner    |
| 13. bmot       | 9. repeek    |
| 15. esae       | 10. ekirts   |
| 16. laiceps    | 12. erusaert |
| 17. dratsum    | 14. selum    |
| 20. tsae       | 17. baom     |
| 23. od         | 18. smla     |
| 24. namor      | 19. enod     |
| 25. elba       | 21. yawa     |
| 26. ysae       | 22. emat     |

**Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature  
Baptism, John's**

**John's BAPTISM: Sylvester Hassell:** Question: Was John's baptism Christian baptism, and were the baptisms practiced by the disciples of Christ previous to his crucifixion identical with those practiced by his apostles after his ascension? And did John baptize in any name, and, if in the name of Christ, was Christ baptized in his own name?'

Answer: John's baptism was from heaven, and he therefore baptized by the authority or in the name of God. He baptized Christ, although Christ was sinless, to fulfill all righteousness; that is, to do the righteous will of God, to point forward to Christ's atoning death for our sins and his resurrection for our justification, and to show the example we are to follow.

Though Christ had no sin of his own, he was the representative of his sinful people. He was a real man, as well as the real God, and he was baptized and labored and suffered and bled and died and rose as a man.

Some of John's disciples whom he had baptized followed Christ, and were not baptized in water again, so far as we are told in the Scriptures. The baptisms performed by Christ's disciples before his crucifixion were undoubtedly in the name or by the authority of God (Christ is God), and did not have to be repeated, and were therefore substantially the same as those performed by his apostles after his ascension, though the form of words used was not probably the same; the Scriptures do not tell us the form of words used in the baptisms performed by John or in those performed by the disciples of Christ before his crucifixion, and it is, therefore, not necessary for us to know that form of words. An attempt to be wise above what is written, and speculation upon things that the Lord has not revealed to us, are not only unprofitable, but injurious to the people of God, tending, not to edify and unite, but to confuse and divide them." (*Hassell in Questions and Answers by R..H. Pittman 1935*)

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**THE PEAS AND THE POD**

This poem (the first four lines) is an epitaph on a gravestone in a cemetery in Alaska for a Mr. Samuel Peas. Elder Ted Folmar ran across this poem and added the last two lines. Maybe your readers will enjoy it; Brother Ted quoted it at a funeral and it was well received.—Brother Bill Crawford

Here lies Samuel Peas  
Beneath the sod and the trees;  
Peas is not here, only the pod,  
Pease has been shelled out and is with God.  
But Jesus is coming back to get the pod  
According to the word of God  
(From "Gospel Appeal", January, 1999)

**Riches and Pearls of J. C. Philpot  
A continual snare to us**

We feel the world, with all its charms—its attractions—its habits—its temptations—to be a continual snare to us. Our eyes are caught with every passing vanity. The glare and blaze of the things of time and sense attract our eyes. And as the moth flits around the candle until it burns its wings—so are we continually flitting around the glare and blaze of the world—and get often sadly singed!

We ask the Lord, then, that He would—separate us from the world, deliver us from these snares—lead us up into some sweet communion with Himself—bring us out of this carnal frame—and favor us with some blessed enlargement of soul. We ask the Lord that He would enable us to—look to Him—embrace Him in our affections—and love Him with a pure heart fervently. The Lord condescends to answer the prayer—but in a way that we little dream of.

Instead of answering it by bringing in some sweet manifestation of Christ—He lays guilt upon our consciences. Fresh temptations bring us into a state of conflict, until we are forced to cast ourselves at the foot of the cross—as guilty, filthy rebels. Now, when the Lord has brought the soul there, and enables it by faith to get sight of a crucified Savior—there is a power communicated which separates the heart from this world and all its vanities! And getting separated in affection from the world—there is a new and inexpressible pleasure, sweetness, and blessedness felt, in pouring out the heart before Him—which the world with all its vain charms never can produce within. When he is, in any measure, indulged with a sight of a dying Lord—when he gets, by faith, a view of Christ's cross—and faith, hope, and love, tenderness, sorrow, and contrition begin to rise up in his bosom—sin becomes hated—temptation is weakened—spirituality of mind produced—and the carnal mind for a while is deadened to those base desires which before were uppermost!

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**HIS PRESENCE**

The Lord's sweet presence was felt by all,  
Knowing Jesus saved them from Adam's fall.  
Not under the penalty of the fall any more,  
He did it for His people—both rich and poor.

He paid the people's sin debt free and clear,  
This is felt when His sweet presence is near.  
His people will rise from the tomb of the grave,  
His presence tells all they ought to behave.

Behave as those who await their final end,  
Praise forever and fresh as when it began!  
--Larry Wise

### KEEPING IN THE LOVE OF GOD

By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

There is no greater subject in the Bible than the love of God. It is sovereign, unchanging, and everlasting; it is something we can depend on as children of God. Jude writes an interesting verse on the love of God in Jude 1:21: "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Can we do anything to keep ourselves in the sovereign, unchanging, and everlasting love of God? The obvious answer of course is NO, No! We didn't do anything to get into the love of God and no offense can remove us from the love of God. The apostle Paul lists sixteen things in Romans chapter 8 that cannot separate us from the love of God. Then Paul adds a seventeenth and all encompassing thing that cannot separate us from the love of God when he writes, "nor any other creature" can cause this separation.

In view of the above scriptural facts, what are we to conclude concerning Jude's admonition? Remember Jude is writing to those sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Christ Jesus and called but warns them of "mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." (Jude 1:18-19). We as children of God are to separate from such people because when we frolic with the ungodly it separates us from the **manifest** love of God but not the **eternal** love of God.

Sin is the one factor that separates us from God. We were separated from God and dead in sin by virtue of Adam's transgression. Jesus came to earth to bridge that separation by reconciling us to God by His death at Calvary. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Rom. 5:10). There is absolutely nothing that can dissolve that reconciliation; however, sin is still a problem with the reconciled, born again child of God. Sin still causes separation from God but it is of a **manifest** nature and **not eternal**. The prophet Isaiah identifies this separation in Isaiah 59:2: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." God will not hear our petitions if our hands are defiled as the Psalmist says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." (Psalm 66:18).

God never turned down a prayer of Jesus as they were answered according to His will because Jesus never had sin in His life to cause a separation from the Father. It was only in His death at Calvary when he bore our sins in His body that God forsook Him for a small moment but with everlasting kindness had mercy. (Isa. 54:8). Consequently, Jesus tells us about abiding in the love of God and how to

accomplish that. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." (John 15:9-10).

According to the words of Jesus, it is as simple as keeping the commandments of God to keep ourselves in the manifest love of God. It is sweet to hear the Savior say "I love you", now keep up the good work; He will only say that to our inward soul when we are about the Master's business. God's eternal love to always the same toward every child of God; however, His manifest love varies according to the conduct of the child of God. Our love toward our Maker is not always the same because we are prone to sin which once again is the cause of separation that may occur. John writes, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." (John 14:21). This is not when God initially began to love us as His people; He loved us before the foundation of the world. It was when He came and manifested that love just as Jesus says. Oh, how great those moments are!

Jude writes that we are to look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. We aren't looking for justice, we are looking for mercy and to have mercy in our temporal lives, we must also exercise the same because Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matt. 5:7). How can we expect to receive mercy in our lives if we haven't been practicing the same? The wise man Solomon writes, "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh." (Prov. 11 :17). Solomon failed to keep himself in the love of God in his later years and turned to idolatry because he loved many strange women. He sums up his life and advice to others when he said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:13-14). God's people receive judgment for their deeds in this life on earth whereas the wicked receive theirs at the white throne judgment and are banished from God to suffer eternal torment.

May we all press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God and keep ourselves in the manifest love of God and experience the presence of God that could not otherwise be enjoyed. Jesus spoke those admonitions to His disciples that His joy might remain in them and their joy might be full.

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