

Glad Tidings

May

"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

God is certainly worthy to be praised each and every day for just as Jesus told the rich young ruler, "...there is none good but one, that is, God..." (Matt. 19:17). Jesus was God made manifest in the flesh and is the Shepherd, Good Shepherd, Great Shepherd, and Chief Shepherd and as such is also worthy of praise, honour, blessing and glory. There is only one God and as such He is the:

God of Power: Sometimes we think we have the power in ourselves to do certain things, but the truth is all true power belongs unto God. David said, "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God." (Psalm 62:11) God only has to speak once for anything to be true and to come to pass but sometimes we need to hear it repeated whether once, twice or thrice. The scriptures are the Divine inspired word of God as a whole and He spoke it via the writers just once. However, we hear it twice; once in the Old Testament and then in The New Testament. Similar language is used in the book of Job: "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not." (Job 33:14) Man cannot perceive the power of God unless revealed from above.

When Jesus was before Pilate and He gave no answer to the questions of Pilate, he admonished Jesus that did not Jesus know that He had power to crucify him and power to release him? This was Jesus' reply, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." (John 19:11)

When it comes time to experience death, no man has power to retain the spirit in the hour of death. (Eccl. 8:8). Jesus had power over death; He had power to lay it down and the power to take it again. Jesus commended His Spirit into the hands of the Father. We find all three persons in the Triune God involved in His resurrection. Jesus raised His own body from the tomb. (John 2;19) He was put to death in the flesh but quickened by the Spirit. (I Pet. 3:18). God the Father raised Him from the dead. (Acts 10:40). Power belongs to God. What a blessing!

God has power over power. Fire ordinarily has power to consume everything that it comes in contact with. When the three Hebrew children were cast into the fiery furnace, the fire had no power over their bodies because the Son of God was in the midst.

God of Purpose: If God has resolved and thus determined that certain things occur, then who has the power to hinder or turn His hand? Of course the answer is no one. "For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" (Isa. 14:27). God's hand is a mighty hand and none of the children of God can be plucked out of His powerful and loving hand. The purpose of God is clearly made known in the case of Jacob and Esau as Paul clearly writes in Rom. 9:11: "(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)" All the elect will be called (born again) sometime between conception and death and this calling is according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28). The things that work together for the good of them that love God are enumerated in Rom. 8:29-30 and doesn't consist of events but of doctrinal principles that are necessary to bring every heir of promise safely into eternal heaven.

God of Perfection: God is a God of perfection (completion, verification) and will not be satisfied with anything less. That is why the law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did by which we draw nigh unto God. (Heb. 7:19). The better hope of course in Jesus Christ. Perfection did not and could not come by the Levitical priesthood; otherwise, there would have been no need that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec and called after the order of Aaron. (Heb. 7:11). Jesus came to offer Himself without spot to God to satisfy the law of God for the chosen of God. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14).

God's work never has to be repeated as it shall be forever and nothing can be added or taken away from it. (Eccl.3:14). Jesus came to do the work of God and cried on the cross that He had finished that work of redemption which was perfect. "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." (Deut. 32:4). God's work through Christ was a perfect work motivated by His love for the innumerable people of God and this love was perfect "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (I John 4:18). Power, Purpose, Perfection; that is God. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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JESUS—THE GOOD SHEPHERD

By Elder Ralph E. Harris (Deceased)

The relationship which Christ sustains toward His people as a Shepherd is one of the most beautiful, delightful, and comforting that could ever be contemplated by those who have been made partakers of the Divine nature. To David, who was himself a shepherd, and, as such, a type of Christ, it was especially appealing to view His Lord in this light. And, based upon the popularity of the 23rd Psalm we would have to conclude that this appeal has a very broad base and extends to all God's people who are experimentally familiar with His word.

It is particularly pleasing to consider the care the Lord takes of His people and the gracious provisions He makes for them daily; to think of the many wonderful deliverances he was wrought on their behalf; the comfort and rest He has afforded them to feel in His covenant promises; the renewings and revivings He has wrought for them in their seasons of depression, discouragement and fear; His leadership and instruction in the ways of truth and righteousness which has fitted them to serve Him and honor Him acceptably; His watchcare and protection over them in all the dark seasons through which they have passed; the many bountiful feasts He has prepared for them even when surrounded by a cruel and unfriendly world, and the joyous manifestations of His love and mercy to their souls which has given them fresh assurance of future mercies and has brightened their hope of dwelling in His house forever.

There are many characteristics possessed by sheep which make it needful, yea, *necessary*, for them to have a shepherd, and likewise there are many distinctive traits and peculiarities possessed by the born again children of God which makes it necessary for them to have a *heavenly* Shepherd. Sheep are by nature fearful, timid and feeble, and are subject to many harmful and dangerous circumstances. When left to themselves they are virtually helpless and defenseless, and if they should be left unattended for an appreciable length of time they would soon destroy themselves as a result of their own habits. These things can likewise be applied to God's people in a spiritual sense. Though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak, and when the Lord blesses them to see themselves, in a measure, as *He* sees them, they are made keenly aware of their frailty and inability to overcome the onslaughts of sin, Satan and the world in their own strength. Yet, they are prone to stray away from their Shepherd, their heavenly Guardian and Protector, without whose providential care and safekeeping they would soon perish.

Such straying results from their temporary forgetfulness of how greatly dependent they are upon Him and what awful dangers they are exposed to when they are out of fellowship with Him and looking too much to their own strength and ingenuity to guide them through this "present evil world." Seeing that there is sufficient analogy between God's people and sheep for Him to speak of them as such, and for Him to apply the title of "the good Shepherd" to Himself, surely it should behoove them to stay as close to Him as they possibly can and to submit themselves as wholly to His kind care and keeping as they are capable of doing (James 4:7). It is not reasonable to turn from the loving supervision, the attentive providence, and the wise and unerring leadership of One who is all-sufficient, to rely instead upon the weak, unstable and capricious arm of flesh.

There is every reason for God's people to trust *Him*, and every reason *not* to trust in *themselves* and their own strength and ability. He is the *Chief* Shepherd (I Peter 5:4), and we should therefore submit ourselves, in the way of obedience, to His supremacy, lordship and authority. He is the *Good* Shepherd (John 10:11, 14), and we should acknowledge in all our ways that he knows far better what we need than we ourselves, and that is far *better*, and in the end much *easier*, to follow the path in which He *leads* us than to stray off into any other path we might choose for ourselves. He is the *Great* Shepherd (Heb. 13:20), and therefore *can* be, and *should* be trusted in all conditions and circumstances to ably and wisely provide all the care and protection He has promised. It would do us little good for Him to be the *Chief* Shepherd and the *Good* Shepherd if He were not the *Great* Shepherd. He is not only high

above all others and infinitely gracious, but He is also omnipotent and therefore immanently qualified in every particular to direct, protect, and provide for the sheep of His fold. May we humbly acknowledge at all times our deep and abiding need of all the precious things He provides us as an all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-glorious, all-sufficient and altogether suitable Shepherd, and may He help us to ever keep close to Him and not become scattered and entangled in the thickets of worldly care, confusion and strife.

(From "Advocate and Messenger", March, 1985)

EASTER

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand He stands
And brings us life from heaven;
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah.

It was a strange and dreadful strife
When Life and Death contended;
The victory remained with Life,
The reign of Death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly saith
That Death is swallowed up by Death,
His sting is lost forever.

Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the Bread of Heaven;
The Word of Grace hath purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed.
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other.

--Martin Luther

MOTHER'S DAY

A teacher asked a boy this question: "Suppose your mother baked a pie and there were seven of you--your parents and five children. What part of the pie would you get?" "A sixth," replied the boy. "I'm afraid you don't know your fractions," said the teacher. "Remember, there are seven of you." "Yes, teacher," said the boy, "but you don't know my mother. Mother would say she didn't want any pie."

Bits and Pieces, June, 1990, p. 10.

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." (Proverbs 10:1)

HOBbled BY A STAKE

Daily Devotion for February 20, 2006

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

From the time it weighs about two hundred pounds, the circus elephant is hobbled by a chain and stake. With a band securely fastened around its leg, the baby elephant is securely attached by a chain to a ten-pound stake driven into the ground. The elephant grows and grows, until it weighs several tons, yet that same small chain and ten-pound stake still keeps the adult elephant confined within the same radius in which the baby elephant was confined.

Elephants are supposed to have great memories, not ever forgetting anything. And so it is with the elephants. How, then, is it possible for the same weak chain and small stake that restrained the baby elephant to restrain the big adult elephant? The elephant has a very good memory: it remembers that it could not escape the bondage of the chain and stake as a baby elephant. The elephant is very dumb: it has never figured out that it is possible, now that it is grown and very strong, for it to break away from the restraints of its youth, when it did not have strength enough to escape. Freedom is very near, even within very easy reach of the elephant, but it has not figured this out.

We are just exactly like that elephant. We become entangled with sin and find that we are not strong enough to break away from the bondage of it. We stand hobbled by the temptations of the devil when he binds us with his fetters and chains. We grow to fear trying to escape from the "stake and chain" the devil has used to enslave us. As we grow stronger in the Lord, as He imparts His strength within us, we still adhere to the boundaries in which we have been slaves for so long. We, like the elephant, do not realize that our strength has increased many times over. We do not step out of the radius to which the devil has limited us by his acts of bondage.

Freedom is very near, even within very easy reach of us, but we have not figured this out. Today, purpose to step out of that radius, out of that confining circles, and launch out into the deep, into the waters of freedom, waters that will wash away the stains of our life in bondage, and cleanse us for our new walk in strength of the Lord as He has placed His strength within us, His children, who have now grown in strength, and who are, I trust, ready to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the freedom given us by the purchase made by Jesus long ago when He bought us out of bondage.

Through the strength of the Lord placed within us, we are able to break those weak chains of bondage, to pull up those puny stakes, to loose the bands of restraint, and walk away from the life of bondage and enter into that life of freedom by the Spirit of God that indwells every child of God.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (From "ITMS" April, 2006)

CHIEF OF SINNERS

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." 1st Timothy 1:15

When most of us look at our own sins, we are prone to dispute with the Apostle Paul about who is chief of sinners. How would a person feel they were chief of sinners?

Chief means the highest rank or office, or of general influence among your fellow citizens. A chief can bring the greatest good, or the greatest evil or destruction because of his power. This power can come from granted power, or persuasive power.

The men who stoned Stephen to death did not have the stature of the man who held their coats. While their act was wicked, there is no reference to their committing any other hideous crime. There is much about the Apostle Paul. *"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."* Acts 8:3 *"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."* Acts 9:1-2

Paul spoke of his stature among the Pharisees. *"Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."* Philippians 3:4-6 He was chief, even among all the Hebrews.

After the Lord spoke to him on the road to Damascus, he heard Christ preached and was baptized, he straightway began preaching Christ. *"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."* Acts 9:31 This is what happened when the chief persecutor was taken out of circulation. He was the chief persecutor and as the result of the use of his great power, his evil reached more people and caused more havoc among Christians.

He was justified in claiming he was chief of sinners. Because of his stature, he hurt more people. He caused more harm. His sins were multiplied many times because he had such influence and reach over a wider area.

Likewise, persons within the church who have achieved greater influence than others have the distinction of hurting more people when they do

wrong. When the kings of Israel committed sin, the whole nation suffered.

As citizens of the household of God, we have a solemn obligation to behave ourselves, in our walk, our talk, our doctrine. As a little preacher in the foothills, rarely traveling great distances, we would cause smaller harm should we depart from the soundness of the doctrine, than a well traveled man with an exceptional gift.

For the sake of Zion, may our prayer be that we had rather be a doorkeeper, just a humble servant or even an outcast than depart from the doctrine and thereby cause division among the church. Guy Hunt
(From *"The Pathway of Truth"*, January, 2007)

Ro 9:13 AND FUTURE IDENTITY

March 21, 1935

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 by Elder C. H. Cayce")

Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature

Selah

SELAH The word Selah, which occurs so often in some of the Psalms, and in the prayer of the prophet Habakkuk, which may itself be called a Psalm, has been variously interpreted by the learned, and it is probable that in our ignorance of ancient forms of music, we have no means of coming to a certainty as to its meaning. But what cannot be explained in words may be understood by the heart. There are "songs without words," which reveal themselves to the sympathetic mind without need of comment, and thus the Selah, —the holy pause of the Psalmist, coming after some great truth, or some fresh discovery, requires nothing more.

The voice rests; perhaps the harp or the psaltery goes on to repeat in a solemn symphony the latest measure sung to its accompaniment, and our hearts, responding with an inward assent to the truth of God, feel that Selah is our "Amen. So let it be."

There are three Selah pauses in Ps 3. Let us examine them as the examples of the times when such notes occur. In the second verse:—"Many there be which say of my soul. There is no help for him in God. Selah." This is the Selah of wonder.

The child of God stares in amazement at the bare thought of such blasphemy against his God and his father. No help for him in God! His tongue is hushed, his harp is silent with astonishment. He pauses awhile in horror. Then, gathering up his strength, he breaks forth into a burst of holy confidence. "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head;"—a truth to which his own experience bears witness. "I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah." This is the Selah of praise.

Again the voice of the Psalmist in his song pauses, and we seem to see the eye of the singer raised in mute adoration. From his own experience he is led to a grand general truth, and in the last verse he cries, "salvation belongeth unto the Lord; thy blessing is upon they people. Selah." This is the Selah of triumph. He began with complaint, but ends with victory." (From the *Gospel Standard*, reprinted in *Zion's Advocate* Sept. 1898)

STAYING THE COURSE

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62). Once we start something we should see it through to the end. This is, of course, assuming what we have begun is worth finishing. Often we start something without knowing all the ramifications of it, then learn that to finish it would be a grave mistake.

Consider what Paul told Timothy: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy 4:7). Will we be able to say at the end of our life that we have fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith? Or will we have to say that we did not have the time to do those things God expects of His children? God never expects more from us than we are able to deliver. He does not demand the impossible. When He asks something from us, he also provides the way for us to give Him what He wants. We have the strength, knowledge and ability to perform the tasks He assigns for us to do.

Staying the course also means that we are to stay on the course, never veering to either side, but traveling a straight pathway. Men have crooked roads, the Lord's road is always without any twists and turns. Men's roads usually lead nowhere; the Lord's road always leads to a definite place.

It is very easy to begin something, then become distracted to the point of abandoning the first endeavor for the second one. We waste our time if we abandon a perfectly good endeavor before we have completed it. We should be diligent in all our pursuits.

If Jesus had come to earth for the purpose of dying for the children the Father had given Him, but had refused the death on the cross, He would have abandoned the mission in the middle and He also would not have stayed the course. Personally, I am thankful that he stayed the course. He died upon the cross, was buried, arose, ascended and is even now making intercessions for us at the throne of God. Let us all purpose to stay the course as He did.

(From "ITMS", November, 2005)

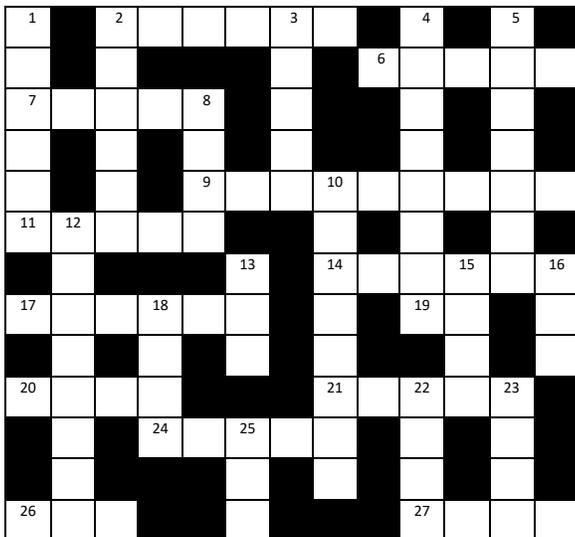
"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." (Josh. 1:7)

Comebacks don't seem likely when your back is up against the wall and your hope is depleted. But if you will stay the course, you will discover God's power to reverse the irreversible in your life.—Tony Evans

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

2. Don't be as the horse or mule whose mouth must be held in with bit and _____.
6. For His _____ endureth but a moment. Fury.
7. David chose 5 smooth stones out of the _____.
9. Jesus is the same _____, today and forever.
11. Ezekiel saw a vision in the valley of dry _____.
14. Jewish queen who turned the tables on Haman.
17. Peter's mother-in-law lay sick of a _____. Plural.
19. ____ ye that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.
20. God hath gives us _____ to see and ears to hear.
21. Elijah sat down _____ a juniper tree ready to die.
24. God confounded language at the _____ of Babel.
26. _____ unto her that her warfare is accomplished.
- 27 Being born again not of a corruptible _____ but of an incorruptible _____. Something planted.



(Answers on Page 8)

DOWN:

1. Barabbas was a _____ and a murderer. Thief.
2. Israel hewed _____ cisterns that couldn't hold water.
3. We _____ Him because He first loved us. Plural.
4. His mercy is everlasting and His truth _____ to all generations.
5. The heavens _____ the glory of God and the firmament showeth forth His handiwork.
8. Jesus has the _____ of hell and of death. Opens.
10. Where your _____ is there will your heart be also.
12. Children _____ parents in the Lord for this is right. Two words.
13. The _____ of Balaam saw angel of God in the way.
15. If in this life only we have _____ in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
16. Will a man _____ God? Yet ye have robbed me.
18. Calling a ravenous bird from the _____. Direction.
22. Some saints wandered in deserts and mountains and in _____ and caves of the earth by faith.
23. Soldiers stripped Jesus; put a scarlet _____ on him.
25. Abstain from fleshly lusts that _____ against the soul.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Grandkids can come up with some very delightful comments, seemingly out of nowhere. One of our church members' four year old grandson told his Nana, "Nana, you are officially crazy!!" She wonders how he found out.—*Editor*

A three-year-old went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother there were two boy kittens and two girl kittens. "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

THE RELIEF OF TEARS

Consecration to God's purpose does not eradicate our deep human love; say, rather, that it brightens, refines, sanctifies, it! Every father is more a father in proportion as he loves and serves the great Father in heaven.

We should be on our guard against any system of religion or philosophy that seeks to cool the fervor of natural and lawful love. It may be very majestic not to shed tears; but it is most inhuman, most ungodly. We have heard of Abraham mourning, of David crying bitterly, of the Savior allowing His feet to be washed with a sinner's tears, and of Jesus weeping, but who ever heard of the devil broken down in pity or mournfulness? Christianity educates our humanity, not deadens it; and when we are in tears, it enables us to see through them nearly into heaven.—Joseph Parker, *Zion's Advocate*, 1914

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

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:5-6)

MOTHERS

Elder Larry Wise

They say a mother's work is never done,
Yet, she finds the time to have some fun.
Under the fun is a diligent heart of love,
Which she knows came only from above.

She loves the Lord first, and most of all,
He came to earth; saved her from the fall.
She loves her family and church on earth,
Gifts to be cherished for all they're worth.

A true mother's virtue is quite a treasure,
Virtue and love only God can measure.
Thank the Lord for mothers He gives,
It's proof positive that ever He lives!

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecpu, MS invites everyone to their annual communion meeting the 3rd weekend in May, 2019 (May 17-19). Services Friday night, May 17, at 7:00 pm. Services Saturday night, May 18, at 6:30 pm preceded by upper at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. with Communion followed by lunch. Elder Michael Gowens, Calabash, NC is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Harmony Primitive Baptist Church, Tupelo MS, invites everyone to come worship our Lord and Saviour during our annual meeting the 1st weekend in May, 2019. The invited preachers are Elder Luke Laird, Tuscaloosa, AL and Elder Tom Griffin, Meadville, MS. Services will begin Friday night, May 3rd, with supper at 6:00 pm and service at 7:00 pm. Saturday, May 4th, morning service will be at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon service. Sunday, May 5th, morning service will be at 10:30 am followed by lunch and communion service. We look forward to sweet fellowship with our beloved brethren and sisters. If you are unable to attend, please remember us in prayer. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Harmony.

Everyone is invited to New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, 60627 Hatley Rd, Amory, MS for their 200th Anniversary Meeting May 10-12, 2019. Services Friday, May 10, at 10:30 am followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm and supper at 6:00 pm and worship at 7:00 pm. Saturday service, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon service at 1:30 pm. No night service. Sunday, May 12, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Contact Elder Tim Cunningham, Pastor of New Hope, at 931-201-7881 for more information.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting with Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Heber Springs, AR the 4th weekend in May, 2019 (May 24-25). Services Friday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Saturday, May 25, schedule of services is the same. Sandwich supper, singing and fellowship at Hopewell church on Thursday night prior to services on Friday. Several visiting ministers are expected. Elder Danny Adcock is Pastor of Hopewell.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting with Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS the 4th weekend in June, 2019 (June 21-23). Services Friday night, June 21, at 7:00 p.m. Services Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Regular services on Sunday with Communion. Elder Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS is invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

MEMORIES OF THE PAST

Ministers who attended the May, 2017 Bethany PBC, Ecpu, MS Meeting: Elders Tom Bouchillon, Jonathan Wise, Grady Camp, Ronald Lawrence (Guest minister), Larry Wise (Pastor), Tony Lester, James Hall, Calvin Warren, Jerry Wise



GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD
Elder Houston Patrick
Died February 16, 2019—age 84



Elder Jesse Phillips
Died February 18, 2019—age 82



Farewell Vain World—I've Gone Home

THE LORD'S JOY

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Matthew 25:21-- His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

We often hear of the joy that one can have in service to God, but God himself also has the trait of joy. We read of his mercy, grace, and love, but do we realize that he has a delight, even joy? In our verse the Lord speaks of the faithful servants that they are rewarded by entering into the joy of the Lord. God shares his joy with us when we are faithful. This is speaking of the kingdom of God here on earth that the faithful can enter into.

An example of this is found in Acts 14:22, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." In my high school days of playing basketball in away games we would ride the bus to the game. Going to the game would be a quiet time to meditate and think upon the game before us. After the game coming back home, the mood would be a lot different if we won, there would be laughing and talking and a sense of joy in victory. Our coach was in a happy mood and this was a way of his sharing his joy with us. If we lost however, there was a very different mood; you could hear a pin drop on the ride home. Losing is not a happy time, the coach was not happy. While this is a wordly illustration of winning and losing in sports; I use that to illustrate how a faithful servant enters into his Lord's joy. What brings God joy is when his children are faithful and what his Son did for us on the cross. It is a time of celebration and joy. The Lord is happy, and we are a part of it. Our faithfulness has brought joy to our Lord. He is pleased with our efforts. By being faithful we get to stand in the court of the Lord. Like John the Baptist we are close enough to Jesus to hear the voice of the bridegroom. John 3:24. Like Esther we are qualified through the blood of Christ to appear in the King's court, and see the smile of the king as he holds out the golden scepter to us. Ester 5:1-2.

When Jesus fulfilled all the work of redemption, it brought great joy to the Father. His Son had torn down the middle wall of partition that separated us from him. It was a time of celebration like when there was a marriage feast. Jesus is the bridegroom, and all his children are the bride. This is illustrated in the parable of the marriage feast. Matthew 22:2-3 "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding; and they would not come." The father is bidding those to come share in this time of his joy.

His son is getting married so come and celebrate with him. This is a beautiful illustration of the gospel church today. Jesus is the bridegroom to the children of God. Every time we come into the house of the Lord it is celebration time. You don't have a celebration unless something has already been done. What has been done? Jesus Christ saved you on the cross; that is what we are celebrating! If you don't come, you won't get to enjoy the celebration. The church calls out to the children, come and partake of the celebration. You are already saved by what Christ has done for you. Come now and partake of the feast of the good news of salvation by grace!

Are you enjoying the feast? Are you celebrating at the marriage feast? If not then come and dine! The master is calling! Partake of the joy of the Lord!

Rickey Taylor

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

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN: |
| 2. eldirb | 1. rebbor |
| 6. regna | 2. nekorb |
| 7. koorb | 3. sevol |
| 9. yadretsey | 4. hterudne |
| 11. senob | 5. eralced |
| 14. rehtse | 8. syek |
| 17. srevef | 10. erusaert |
| 19. oh | 12. ruoyyebo |
| 20. seye | 13. ssa |
| 21. rednu | 15. epoh |
| 24. rewot | 16. bor |
| 26. yrc | 18. tsae |
| 27. dees | 22. sned |
| | 23. ebor |
| | 25. raw |

"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)

"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." (John 17:13)

Despite the circumstances that life sometimes may deal us, we have reason to rejoice and Isaiah tells us why. "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." (Isaiah 61:10)—*Editor*

HE SHALL NOT FAIL

Excerpts of sermon by Elder Walter Cash

But as the Lord showed the matter to Isaiah, it looks like God was in the matter, for He said, "And He shall not fail or be discouraged till He have set judgment in the earth." "Judgment" came into the life of Saul because Jesus brought it there. Saul said, "Who art Thou Lord?" "I am Jesus" came the reply. If all men in the world had the zeal, and influence against Christ that Saul had, would the case be hopeless? The example that was made of him would indicate that it would not. The power that created all worlds, can create a soul in Christ Jesus, and it is the testimony of the scriptures that those who have a hope of salvation in Jesus are "New creatures, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Who God loved, and for whom Christ died and shed His blood, will Jesus fail to claim as His own? It is Jesus' promise that He will send the Holy Spirit to reprove for sin. That was what took place in the conversion of Saul; he was reproved of sin. Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life." If Jesus is to never be discouraged until He have set judgment in the earth, it opens to our view the encouraging thought that God will not fail in his purpose.

But the churches fail. So they do; but salvation does not hang upon the churches. Jesus saves. Ministers fail; indeed they do. But ministers are too unreliable to hang the destiny of immortal souls upon their actions. Parents love their children more than any others do. But what parents, who understand the character of Jesus, would not rather that the salvation of children rested on Jesus than upon their shoulders? They would do all they can, and should do all their children all the good that they can in training them to keep the laws of God. But the children need more than to keep the law, for no soul shall be justified by keeping the law. They need to be born again; they need to have a new life, which parents cannot give. So when parents have done all that they can for their children they will fall upon their knees and pray to God to send the Holy Spirit to convict their offspring, and give them a hope in Jesus.

But what about the heathen who never hear the gospel? Well, according to the idea that their salvation depends upon hearing and believing the gospel, and that it must be sent by the churches, it looks like the system would be a failure in their case, as church people are too covetous to part with their means to send the gospel, and others are not self-sacrificing enough to carry it without being paid to do so. Can Jesus save them without the gospel? Saving a soul means to give it eternal life which shall be in the individual like leaven in three measures of meal, that shall work and work until the whole is leavened. Saving a soul means to free it from all past effect of

sin, from the corruption of present sin, and preserve it in Jesus Christ to eternal glory. Getting people into the church should be understood to be for their present good; it is not saving people to get them into the church. Take an unsaved person into the church and he is still unsaved. If he is saved, it is when the cleansing efficacy of the blood of Jesus is applied, and if he is already a believer in Jesus that has already been done. "He that believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God." This believing is real faith in Jesus as a Savior.

Why do we preach? Not that the salvation of sinners depends upon preaching, for if that were true, the blood of Jesus would have no efficacy farther than we carried the gospel, and that would throw the matter where failure would seal the fate of multiplied thousands. Upon what does the salvation of sinners depend? It depends upon what Jesus does. It depends upon His shed blood to redeem them and cleanse them from all iniquity, and upon His giving them eternal life. But does it depend upon their believing on Jesus? Just as much as the conversion of Saul depended upon His belief, but no more.

All the conditions that have been thought up by men to preach to sinners, but tend to make a system of failures. To preach Jesus as the only reason and the only way is the sure foundation, for He shall not fail. What discourages man has no effect upon Him. He can change the heart of the heathen, and that is what the heathen need. He can cleanse them by His blood, and it can be done in no other way. He can cleanse the Roman Catholic, the Baptist, the Methodist, the Moslem, the heathen, for it is a heart-work, and not a matter of mind, and human teaching, for that would limit it so as to write failure, in a measure at least, on the purpose and plan of God. A plan which has a factor in it that may defeat it, is a failure to the extent at least of the uncertain part of it.

Salvation will not be complete without the bringing forth of the bodies from the grave. Here at least all men stand aside and do not attempt to help, though quickening a soul dead in sin is as great a miracle as quickening a mortal body. Men think they can help or hinder the quickening of the soul, but the human mind staggers at quickening the mortal body; and so, many declare that it will not be done—cannot be done because they cannot comprehend it. But He that broke the confines of the tomb, and robbed death of its sting, can and will raise the sleeping saints, for "He is the resurrection and the life." He who awakened the sleeping Lazarus, can wake any other sleeping one that He has loved, and for whom He poured out His blood. Can it be done? Cannot He who raised up His own sleeping body raise up the bodies of others? "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again," said Jesus. And He did it. Praise His holy name, He is no failure...

(From "Elder Walter Cash Autobiography and Sermons")

FREE WILL

By Elder W.S. Craig (Deceased)

Reproduced from Primitive Baptist Faith and Practice by Elder W.S. Craig.

The will, choice and desire practically mean the same thing. Men act freely in choosing that which is agreeable with their nature, love and desires; but they do not thus act freely with that which is not agreeable, for it is contrary to their real choice. They may be, and very often are prevented from possessing their choice, but not from willing or desiring it. But the Arminian belief that the will is self-determining and that man can of himself change his will is a very great error. In nature's night men act freely in committing sin, because they are willingly in love with it and as willingly bound with its chain, and are willingly haters of God, and they have no power or ability or real willingness in and of themselves to reverse all this.

They may, and often do, claim to make such a choice; but as this can only be an empty profession, what is it but hypocrisy? For without the blessed Spirit's work of grace in the heart, no one can make a genuine profession of religion. And it is very wrong to urge anyone who has not had this heart-change to make such a profession, for of all things surely this is the worst place to practice deception. But when the gracious Lord is pleased to take away the hard and stony heart and give a tender heart of flesh, and shed abroad His love therein, then this regenerated person freely loves God, and can then freely and truly choose to make a profession of His service. For when he is painfully made aware of the awful plague of his heart, he then will freely hate sin instead of loving it as before. And such awakened sinners should certainly always be encouraged and comforted, and it is wrong not to do so.

But man positively cannot of himself reverse his desires, change his heart, and prepare himself for God's service. And all men are quite powerless to aid each other in this line, for "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord."-Pr 16:1. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."-Jer 13:23. "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."-Mt 12:34-35. Lu 6:43-45.

I am very positive that the above is true. But, sad to say, in this proud age of popular profession, free will is so often perverted and "run up to seed," and an acquired head-knowledge is generally substituted for the positively necessary Spirit-given heart-work. The devils plainly possessed quite an intellectual knowledge of Jesus Christ. Lu 4:34,41; Jas 2:19. But historical knowledge alone puffeth up; but God's grace in the human heart humbleth.

LIEN AMONG THE POTS

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold." Psalms 68:13 As we use the word "lien" today, it would mean something in which we have a financial interest. It could fit well, as all we have by nature is the ashes of destruction caused by sin. We are worthless within ourselves. What is there among the pots except that which has met destruction.

We find the meaning of the word as used in this instance is "to lie down". Our condition in nature is the result of our own doing. *"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."* Romans 5:12 It was man's choice to lay down in the gutter, among the pots.

As a child, it was my duty to build the fire around the pots to heat the water to wash the clothes. I tried the best I could to avoid the smut and blackness of the pots. If one had laid down among the pots, not only would have they been black but everything they touched would have been black. It spreads. When Adam laid down among the pots, we as his offspring were blackened. The only cleansing power for the blackness of sin is the blood of Christ.

But, we see grace. Even though that has been our condition, he says ye shall be as wings of a dove covered with silver and her feathers with yellow gold. Oh, what the grace of God brings us. *"...To give unto them beauty for ashes..."* Isaiah 61:3 What a difference. From being as the ashes among the pots, we are made at peace with God in Christ. The dove to me means peace. We do not make our peace with God, Christ made our peace with God.

The dove wings are covered with silver. This means those who were among the pots are clean of all their sins. Each one is purified in Christ. *"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."* Malachi 3:3

Can you visualize that right there among the pots was someone loved with the everlasting love of Christ. *"For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."* 1st Peter 2:25 Oh what grace, that God loved us even when we were dead in our sins among the pots.

I have often heard of the glitter of gold as I have read the history of the great gold rushes. Gold is something precious that reflects the light like no other. There is nothing more beautiful than a life that reflects the love of God. Her wings covered with yellow gold. What a beautiful sight to behold. I have tried to teach my children and grandchildren that

there is no higher seat than in the Church of God, and no greater brightness that the pure gold that covered us and shows we belong to God.

(From *"The Pathway of Truth"*. December, 2001)

HAVE WE FORSAKEN GOD?

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Israel had been blessed beyond measure as they were redeemed from Egyptian bondage, blessed with Canaan's land, given the law to guide them, and countless other provisions. However, they forgot the goodness and mercy of God after they had eaten the fruits of Canaan land, eating from vineyards they had not planted and drinking of wells they had not dug. They forsook the Lord for their own inventions. Jeremiah tells us, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jer. 2:13).

One evil would have been a serious violation of devotion to the Lord; however, two evils make the matter even worse. Not only did they forsake the Lord, they hewed out broken cisterns that could hold no water. That is the way it works when men turn to their own inventions and forsake the clear teachings in the word of God. They were like it was in the time of Haggai as the people were dwelling in their ceiled houses while the house of God lay waste. We can clearly see why everything failed. "Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes." (Hag. 1:6)

We take comfort in the fact that God has promised never to leave or forsake His people. Certainly this is true in an eternal sense as Isaiah declares, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." (Isa. 49:15). The Lord is talking about Zion who is graven upon the palms of His hands. He will not forget or utterly forsake thee because He is faithful that promised. God has promised to visit His people with the rod and their iniquity with stripes when they fail to keep His commandments but something remains intact. "Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail." (Psalm 89:33). God's people suffer the consequences of their sins now in this life but glory hereafter.

When men and women fail to heed the instruction of God and go their own way, they will be broken cisterns that can hold no water. King Asa relied on the Lord and experienced a great victory over the enemy but the Lord warned him, "...Hear ye me, Asa,

and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." (II Chron. 15:2). God did forsake Asa as he made an alliance with Benhadad, king of Syria with silver and gold from God's treasury to break his league with Baasha, king of Israel, who had come against Asa. Asa's intent ultimately came to naught because he relied on someone other than the Lord. Remember this forsaking was only in a timely sense and not eternal. When left to ourselves, we will most surely experience defeat every time.

This nation is seemingly relying on anything and everything other than the Lord and hewing out cisterns that will not stand up to scriptural scrutiny. God is the fountain of living waters, but it seems this country has turned in many ways to the waters coming from the sewers of the world. Babies are being murdered with lawful sanction and even being applauded; Homosexuals, lesbians, sodomites are being given legal precedence whether they infringe on the rights of others or not. There is less national patriotism than ever before as the national flag is desecrated on a regular basis. What does the Bible say about any nation that forgets God? "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalm 9:17)

Satan is being successful in deceiving the people of God and efforts continue to take the seemingly innocent children's programs and stories and turning them into a portrayal of ungodly lifestyles as the norm. Many years ago it was a black mark against a young lady to have a child out of wedlock; today, no one ever bats an eye. Men and women live together outside the bounds of marriage and think that is all right with God. The Bible clearly states, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (Heb. 13:4). The Bible tells us that we are not ignorant of Satan's devices; then why are we so willing to accept anything that is patently against the teachings of God's word? It seems as though we are like the chief rulers who believed on Jesus but did not confess him because they would be put out of the synagogue; the reason being, "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12:43). Is that the scenario in the nation today?

Have we forsaken the Lord? Yes, but to what degree is yet to be determined. Actions have their related consequences and God's judgment, no matter what form it takes, is always just and right. Regardless of what other people are doing, we are responsible for our own behavior.

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