

Glad Tidings

July

"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

We read and hear much about how people must come unto Jesus in order to be saved (born again). The problem with this teaching is that the dead in sin are being asked to do something they are incapable of doing. A dead man has no ability to do anything whether in the natural realm or the spiritual realm.

The dead can not come to Jesus: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:44) The only way the dead in sin can come to Jesus in the new birth is for the Father to draw (drag) him and this drawing is 100 percent successful in every chosen child of God. This drawing is sometimes attributed to the Father, the Spirit, or Jesus. In either case, the drawing is all coming from the same source and that is "from above".

The dead will not come to Jesus: Jesus told some people to search the scriptures for they thought they had eternal life through them but in reality they were just the testimony of Him. Then Jesus tells them, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40) The dead in sin possess not the will to come because they are very content in fulfilling the lusts and desires of the flesh. The only will involved in any person coming to Jesus in the new birth is the will of God. "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." (John 5:21)

All the elect will come to Jesus in new birth: The elect child of God is dead in sin just like the wicked are because all are under the curse of sin by Adam's transgression in the Garden of Eden. They must be born again thus Jesus says, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37) No individual is fitted for heaven and immortal glory without being changed in the new birth and God did not leave this vital act into the hands of sinful men.

Faith is a vital necessity to come to Jesus in obedience: The dead in sin can not come to Jesus in the new birth neither can they come to Him in obeying the gospel because they haven't any faith. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6) Faith is a fruit of the Spirit and implanted in every elect that has been born again by the Spirit.

Rest for elect who come to Jesus by faith: After a child of God is born again, they can respond to the gospel call of obedience because they possess faith implanted in regeneration. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) Jesus said that no man can come but here He gives the command to come. The difference is Jesus' command is not to the dead in sin but to those who have faith and are labouring and heavy laden. Rest is the end result of those who come to Jesus by faith and place their trust in Him.

All the elect will not come to Jesus by faith: Even though all the elect will come to Jesus in the new birth, they will not all come to Jesus by faith. Many will have lived and died without ever hearing the name of Jesus or the gospel. Many have been aborted in the womb of their mother. Those who have never heard the gospel are still the elect of God and will live in glory. Jesus healed ten lepers who all experienced the same cleansing but only one returned to thank Him. Jesus' response to this Samaritan was, "...Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 17:17-18) Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and come follow Him; however, he went away because he had great possessions. Jesus loved this man (Mark 10:21) and anyone loved by Jesus is an elect and will be in heaven.

The elect are an innumerable host whereas those who come to Jesus by faith are few: The elect are chosen out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation and are always referred to in scripture as "many". Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many. (Matt. 20:28). He was the firstborn among "many: brethren." (Rom. 8:29) In contrast, when it comes to those who are faithful servants, they are identified as being a few. Jesus commands to enter in at the strait gate and then says, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14) Only a few find the way that leads unto life in obedience by faith and enjoy the rest in the finished work of Christ.

The dead indeed cannot be born again by coming to Jesus; this is impossible. However, those born again and alive in Christ can come to Jesus in obedience by faith and receive blessings in this life. Jesus came that the elect might have life and have it more abundantly. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, correspondence and contributions to the Editor of Glad Tidings at the address below or call 662-489-5017 for announcements. You may also e-mail to wisepb310@gmail.com; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received prior to the 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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All names and addresses of Glad Tidings will be deleted from the mailing list if an issue is returned as undeliverable as addressed unless proper notification has been received. There is no subscription price for Glad Tidings. We do accept contributions as Glad Tidings is reader supported. **Make checks payable to "Glad Tidings" and send to the Editor at the above address.** They are sincerely appreciated. This is a Primitive Baptist Church publication.

PRECIOUS JESUS

By Elder J. H. Fisher (Deceased)

"Unto you that believe, therefore, He is precious."
1Pe 2:7.

I have heard of persons who, under distressing circumstances, were compelled to continue for some time without water. It has been reported that a certain traveller was lost on the great wide San Jacinto prairie here in Texas, and for a few days was compelled to do without water. I have thought I would like to have seen the poor fellow when at last he got to where he could get a drink. No other matter now could have possibly been of much concern to him. Oh, how he needed the water! How we yearn with compassion for him!

So it is with the poor inquiring, broken, and contrite heart. Here is a poor woman weeping because she is such a sinner. But she ventures to wash the feet of Jesus with her tears and wipe them with her hair.

Then Jesus pours the water of life into her soul and says, "Woman, thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven thee; thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." Then I think she was filled with joy. "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted;" "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled."

It is Jesus who fills the hungry and the needy. He is their last resort. He gives only to the needy and the poor. He is the only friend the poor have.

Once you felt rich, but something came over you and made you feel to be the poorest mortal that ever lived. You had no food and did not know where to go

to get any. You were thinking, and you did not know where there was any water. Oh lonely soul, forsaken and cast off! But after awhile a voice spoke in sweetness and power and said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," and all at once your heart was light and happy. The water now flows in the desert heart, and Jesus is to you the sweetest name on mortal tongue. His name seems to be on the leaves of the trees and on the sky. The animals and trees seem to all be giving praise to His name. Glorious, blessed, and precious Jesus! He is nearer to you than your clothing on your body. Yes, "nigh thee even in thy mouth; joy and praise, both in your heart and on your tongue."

Then when you hear preaching, how sweet and powerful now it seems to come to you!

Jesus now is precious in the doctrine of election and predestination, atonement and the resurrection. Also He is precious in the ordinances and duties of the Lord's house. The mind now is directed toward baptism. The question is asked, 'Oh, can I be permitted to lie down in the beautiful watery grave as did Jesus?' "Oh, yes, dear soul." He says, "take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, and you shall find rest unto your soul." God-given rest first, and now, secondly, a found rest. Jesus first put this yoke of baptism on, and now He holds up His end and calls to you to come under the other end and be yoked with Him. Now you and Jesus are yoked together. Listen to what He says, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Why is it thus? Because Jesus; who has all power, does the pulling of the load. You can't pull that load of trouble and that burden of duty, but you come under His yoke of liberty and find ease, because Jesus does all the pulling. You can't pull it, but He can. He never stalls or balks. Almighty Jesus, how precious Thou art in making the yoke easy and the burden light.

Don't, dear children, put on a yoke of bondage. Paul says, "Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Peter says that the old Jewish system was, "a yoke which neither we nor our fathers were able to bear." And why? Because they had no blessed Jesus to bear up the end where the weight falls. But here now we have. Hence a light load and an easy yoke. O, don't call it heavy, then. It's the heaviest when you haven't got it on.

Put on Christ, then, in baptism. And, further, "Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering."

How precious Jesus will be to you in this! When you can look on, by faith and hope, to that preciousness yet to be revealed. How precious Jesus will be to the believer in death! If He is precious to you it is because you are one of His. He will be precious to you in trials, labors, and cares. How

precious He is in prayer! He who believes in grace also believes in prayer. Is Jesus precious to you when you think of the gathering host around the throne of the Great God? Yes, He will then be more and more precious. He will never cease to be precious.

May these thoughts comfort the hearts of the dear people of God. Jesus has seemed precious to me as I have tried to write what came to my mind here.

Your poor brother in the hope of the precious Lord Jesus.

(Selected Articles by Elder J. H. Fisher)

GOD'S GIFT

By Elder C. M. Mills (Deceased)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," — Ro 6:23.

The Bible clearly states how and why condemnation and death came upon mankind, For by one man's offence death reigned; the race of mankind is only Adam multiplied. Wages are what we get for what we do. The act of Adam, disobeying God, was an offence to God. If it were the will, purpose, and pleasure of God for Adam to act that way, it would not, nor could not, have been an offense to God. Adam represented his entire family and we are all under condemnation and death. That is why we all die, corporally. Every death man is involved in is because of sin. "The wages of sin is death."

Man is to blame for sin, not God. Death and life are not the same; neither do they come from the same source. The cause that brings death does not bring life, but just the opposite. By man came sin, and by sin came death. Christ Jesus said that He did not come to destroy, but to save. Sin has brought condemnation. Justice does not, nor cannot free the guilty. It condemns; demands the full penalty — death. By nature, no person has the right to live continually. For this reason they all die. The suffering, death, and shed blood of Jesus Christ is what frees, and justifies from condemnation and wrath, giving them a right to live forever in heaven, though they die and leave this world. "Much more then, being justified by His blood, we shall be (not may be) saved from wrath through Him."

If only corporal death is for the wicked, and the saints die in body also, and suffer corporal death, and that is the full penalty for sin, why was the blood of Christ Jesus shed? It would be in vain, for the child of God pays the penalty himself, and does not need an atonement for sin. Death, eternal death, is what Jesus Christ saved His children from by His suffering, death, and shed blood. All He represented have a right to live in heaven, and God gives eternal life to

them through Jesus Christ, and by His grace (great favor). They will live with Him; "As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give (not offer) eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him." The Lord said, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." Why? Because they have eternal life that does not, nor cannot, die.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power." And where there is no power to cause death, there cannot be any death. When Christ Jesus raised His children out of death in sin to a state of life and salvation in Him, that is when eternal life is given. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; (not offer, but give) and they shall never perish." Men who dispute the Lord must be ignorant of Him. Perhaps some might do it deliberately. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Not an offer, but a gift; an offer is based on condition, and as soon as the conditions are met, title and possession are given. But the title and possession of the gift are unconditionally bestowed through Jesus Christ our Lord. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth." So salvation is sure to all the seed, the heirs of promise, which make up an innumerable host out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation. In hope of living with Him though I die and leave this world.

Elder C. M. Mills

—From *The Primitive Baptist*, 1956.

(From "Identity of the True Baptist Church" by Elder Wiley Sammons, Volume 2)

HOW TRUE THIS IS!

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

Alexis de Tocqueville.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance." (Psalm 33:12)

HOME

By Doris W. Smith
Milan, Tennessee

When I was a child it seemed there were: only good times with my childhood pleasures—only sunlight, moonlight, and firelight, fireflies, butterflies and rainbows, fun times with family and friends, long days to be merry on and nights without fear. I must have thought that youth and good health would always be with me and life was something never ending—that this world was my home.

Now, the years have slowly taught me: That perfect health is a rarity, that happiness is accompanied with disappointments, burdens, and heartaches; that my earth's costume seems to be stripped down as I try to retain my bodily tabernacle; that Father Time carries me through some troubled seas as the days fly by too quickly; that I have to warfare against the piercing darts of Satan and the tempest winds that disturb my dreamings and sometimes the long night is dark and I seem to be very far away from home.

But through all this, I trust my Heavenly Father has taught me: That I have been so wonderfully and undeservingly blessed! And to appreciate the precious moments 'that hallow my days'; to live each day searching for the good to outweigh the bad, to thank Him for what I feel in my heart and the precious hope He has placed there; to realize I'm just a little pilgrim on a journey; not to fear the time when I shall reach the crossing because I will feel a hand in mine and it will be my Lord's! And then I hope to awake on that beautiful shore in a magnificently beautiful city and find that I am home at last.

Doris W. Smith

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

There is no place like home. When we have been away on vacation, we may have had a great time but it is always a blessing to be back home. The prodigal son left home full and he did not have anything when he returned home; however, he was received with love and compassion by His father. Naomi said, "I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?" (Ruth 1:21) We have a church home where love abides among brothers and sisters in Christ. Don't go out into the world and waste your substance. Stay home and enjoy His love and blessings. If you have left home, you need to return and draw nigh unto the Lord.—*Editor*

Where we love is home - home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.—Oliver Wendell Homes, Sr.

CHOICE OF CONTENTMENT OR DROWNING

Rain, rain, rain, raindrops keep falling on our head and it doesn't seem to want to stop for very long at a time. Floods have devastated, crop fields in various parts of the country; but like everything else, the rain will stop eventually and the sun will shine with more consistency. However, we are all going to complain regardless. It seems like it is too wet or too dry, too cold or too hot. We are going to find something to complain about regardless. We would be much happier if we could all learn with the apostle Paul. "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11). Paul knew it would be by God's grace if He made it through all his difficulties.

When we older ones were growing up, we were blessed to have food on the table. Our mothers would prepare our meals and it may not have been what we would have preferred; however, it was eat it or let it alone. Those mothers and fathers in that day and everyone else for that matter seemed to possess a greater spirit of contentment than the younger mothers and people of today. They have gotten used to the finer things of life and cannot be content with anything less than the best. In our service to God that is an admirable trait; we should not be content with anything less than our best. However, we are instructed to be content just having food and raiment. (I Tim. 6:8). But we have so much more. Thank God!

It is all too often that the desire to have more of this world's goods takes us away from the blessings of serving the Lord. Paul knew this and follows up his exhortation to be content with food and raiment with this warning: "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." (I Tim. 6:9). We are to control what possessions we have; however, it seems many allow their possessions to control them—wrong choice!

We always have the promises of God to sustain us when the cupboard seems bare and the rain never seems to cease; whether it be rains from the sky or rains of trouble. Paul exhorts the Hebrew Christians, urging them to maintain their faith in Christ, having forsaken Judaism to follow Him by writing, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5)

We are all prone to worry about certain things but we have this promise that the Lord will NEVER leave or forsake us. This is a great motivation to be content with what we have; we can always look around and see others that are in worse shape. If we can control certain things, get busy and control. If it is beyond our control, try not to worry. Leave it in God's hands. This choice will lead to a greater degree of contentment and subsequent joy and peace for us all. (Larry Wise)

GOOD WORKS ARE A NECESSITY

For the reason that the Baptists do not believe that good works do not procure eternal salvation, it has been said that they do not believe in them. While we do not wish to be regarded in a false light, or by our silence admit the charge to be true, but rather to the contrary, we would refute the slanderous accusations made against us, and put to silence the mouths of gainsayers, yet it is of infinitely more importance to the child of God to know that he has a conscience void of offence toward God, and men. There is a *form* of godliness which consists of certain requirements, of which the apostle says, "Touch not; taste not; handle not; which all are to perish with the using." It is "after the commandments and doctrines of men" and has an appearance of humility and wisdom, but "not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." It is after the manner that the Pharisees worshipped, who did all their works to be seen of men. They "loved the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi." But the Savior says of them, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for ye devour widows' houses, and for pretence make long prayers: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." Again he says, "Ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so ye outwardly appear righteous unto men but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity;" (Matt. 23:27, 28). A profession in the absence of a becoming practice is but the form of godliness.

The motive that prompts feigned obedience is but will worship. It does not arise from the love of God being shed abroad in the heart. But those who have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, delight themselves in the precepts of the Master, and rejoice to do His will. He requires our cheerful and unreserved obedience. Infinite wisdom has dictated that service which is acceptable in His sight, and it is enforced by the strongest ties of love and gratitude. Hence, dear brethren, we should "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Cor. 7:1). A knowledge does not supply the place of obedience. But as knowledge is necessary to practice, so is practice to happiness. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them." "That servant which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."

As Christ performed every command of His Father, so should we obey every command given us. Not that absolute perfection can be attained to in this life, for the children of God know that they are carnal, and that in them, (that is, in their flesh) "dwelleth no good

thing," and they have felt the force of the apostle's language when he said, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" But notwithstanding all this, they "delight in the law of God after the inward man."

Elder R. W. Thompson
Primitive Monitor—1836

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", Feb. 1986)

AN UNUSUAL PEACE MONUMENT

At Winter Park, Fla., there is an unusual monument on the Rollins College campus. It is a German shell. On the stone base supporting the shell is the following inscription:

"Pause, passerby, and hang your head in shame".

"This engine of destruction, torture and death symbolizes the prostitution of the inventor, the avarice of the manufacturer, the blood-guilt of the statesman, the savagery of the soldier, the perverted patriotism of the citizen, the debasement of the human race. That it can be engaged as an instrument in defense of liberty, justice and right in no wise invalidates the truth of the words here graven".

How true it is that "The inhumanity of man makes countless thousands mourn". God blesses men with inventive ability for good to mankind and Satan uses it for destruction. But it shall not always be thus. God is able to make the wrath of man praise him, and "the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain". Surely He permits, allows and restrains wickedness, and just as surely will He punish for it. Let us therefore "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it". (Psl. 34:14). In the end "Evil shall slay the wicked; and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate". But "The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants; and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate". (Psl. 34:21-22). R. H. P. (Elder R. H. Pittman)

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", Dec. 1938)

AMERICA CONSIDER

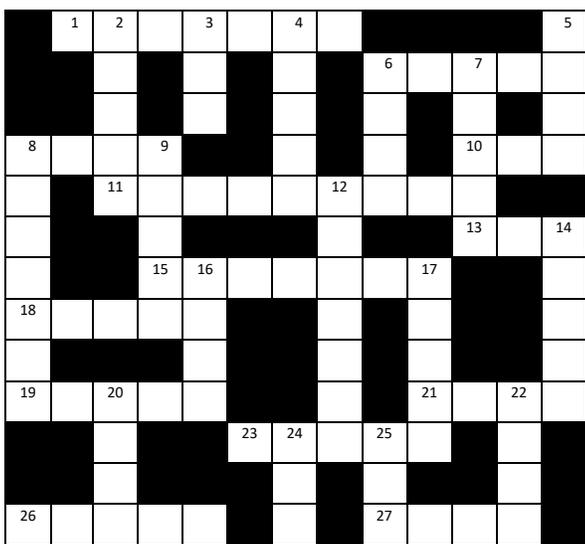
Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion--faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. John was to ____ ye the way of the Lord.
6. Jesus beheld Satan as lightning ____ from heaven.
Plural.
8. The poison of ____ under their lips. Vipers.
10. God told Hezekiah he would ____ 15 years of life.
11. The ____ kept watch over their flock by night.
13. God called Moses up to the ____ of the mount.
15. Ye are the body of Christ and ____ in particular.
18. Absalom ____ Amnon because he raped Tamar.
19. One mediator between God and _____. Up ____ this rock I will build my church. Two words.
21. Why do heathen ____ and people imagine vanity?
23. To be ____ not to be, that is the question. ____ us draw near in full assurance of faith. Two words.
26. No fountain can yield both salt water and _____.
27. A living dog is better than a ____ lion.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

2. Whatever a man sows he also _____.
3. Elisha's widow woman had only a ____ of oil.
4. ____ hither thy finger & behold my hands Thomas.
5. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have ____ deceit.
6. Perfect love casteth out _____. No ____ in love.
7. Paul felt to be less than the ____ of all saints.
8. Father of Isaac and great example of faith.
9. Jesus endured the cross despising the _____.
12. Wages of sin is death but gift of God is ____ life.
14. ____ out the old leaven in order to be a new lump.
16. A flaming sword guards entrance to garden of _____.
17. All have sinned and come ____ of the glory of God.
20. Holy and reverend is His _____.
22. Silver and ____ have I none but such as I have give I thee; rise up and walk.
24. Will a man ____ God? Yet ye have robbed me.
25. Jesus having loved His own, He loved them unto the _____.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

The question of whether it would be better to be single or married was asked to some youngsters: Here are a couple of their answers. "It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them." Anita, age 9.

"Single is better, for the simple reason that I wouldn't want to change no diapers. Of course, if I did get married, I'd just phone my mother and have her come over for some coffee and diaper-changing." Kirsten, age 10. Serve the Lord whether single or married and the Lord will bless.—*Editor*

**EXCERPTS
GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Dear Elder Wise,

We receive Glad Tidings and enjoy it.

Enclosed is a check to help defray some of the expenses.

We are members of Little Miami Primitive Baptist Church in Cincinnati, where Elder Don Wheat is the pastor.

May God continue to bless you in this work.

By God's Grace,
Brother Wilbur Harris
Trenton, OH

Elder Wise,

I am enclosing a small contribution to your good paper which I enjoy so much reading here in my lonely room at the Assisted Living.

Am also enclosing one of my past articles if you want to print it.

Doris W. Smith
Milan, TN

Dear Ones,

Thanks so much for the Glad Tidings real good reading.

Wishing our Dear Lord's blessing to you all.

In Dear Hope & Love
Sister Loreta Lilly
Akron, OH

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

Peter Marshall, Before the U.S. Senate.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2019 (July 19-21). Services Friday night, July 19, at 7:00 p.m. (no supper). Saturday, July 20, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon service. Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch. Elder Calvin Warren, Tupelo, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July, 2019 (July 26-28). Services Friday night, July 26, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 27, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Supper at 5:30 p.m. with worship at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. followed by communion and lunch. Elder Chase Harrison, Memphis, TN is invited minister. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS the 1st weekend in August, 2019 (Aug. 2-4). Services Friday night, Aug. 2 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Elder Darren Owens, Ripley, MS is invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Antioch.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS August 2-4, 2019. Services Friday night, Aug. 2, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 3, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 5, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Josh Winslett, Moody, AL is invited minister. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

Everyone is invited to Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS for their meeting the 3rd weekend in August, 2019 (Aug. 16-17). Services Friday night, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, August 17, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. No afternoon or night service. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla. (Psalm 107:1-2)

Elder Ed Easley of Pittsboro, MS and his wife, Jo are in very poor health and haven't been able to attend church in over a year. He asked me to thank everyone for their concern and prayers; in case anyone wants to call with words of concern his number is 662-414-0011. His address is not definitive at the moment.—Editor

Let us sing—Let freedom ring

CHURCH NEWS

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jer. 3:15)

Ministers attending Saturday night, May 18, 2019 of Communion meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS (L-R): Elder Rusty Wise, Elder James Hall, Elder Jonathan Wise, Elder Larry Wise (Pastor), Elder Michael Gowens (Guest minister), Elder David Wise, Elder Dwayne DuBard (Not pictured Elder Jeremy Wise.) Other ministers attending Friday night were Elder Calvin Warren, Elder Rickey Taylor, and Elder Jerry Wise. Good singing, praying, preaching and fellowship make for a Spirit filled meeting.



Bethany PBC Ecu, MS will celebrate its 100th anniversary with its annual meeting the 2nd weekend in September, 2019 (Sept. 6-8). Services Friday night, Sept. 6, begin at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at 10:00 a.m. with recap of church history followed by regular services and then lunch. Concludes on Sunday, Sept. 8, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

We all need to pray for all the Primitive Baptist Churches that are without pastors. Pray that God will provide them an overseer of the flock. We also need to pray for God to give the church more gifts in the ministry of the word. Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion because they fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep without a shepherd. Then He said, “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38)

WHY DO WE GO TO CHURCH?

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Romans 12:1: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Primitive Baptists have the most wonderful doctrine than any other church has here on earth. The doctrine of salvation being by the grace of God. Our eternal salvation is not of our works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:9). That means that you don't have to go to church or be baptized in order to be saved eternally. Isn't this a wonderful teaching of God's word? We rejoice in this good news every time we gather in the house of the Lord.

When I have attempted to share this good news with others outside the church, some of them reply that "That's too good too be true", and others have made this statement to me. "Well if you believe that then why do you even bother to go too church?" Because we want to I answer. I love to go to church and hear the good news and sing praises, and pray to the Lord that has been so good to us. The church does give us many advantages when we attend the service.

Our text tells us that it is within reason for us to attend church. If we went to church to work our way to heaven, which is impossible, then that would not be a reasonable thing for us to do. We are not capable of earning our way to heaven. Thus God would be asking an unreasonable thing of us. In asking us to attend church to worship him is a reasonable thing we can accomplish.

There is something else that one is saying when they ask that question of someone who believes in grace. They are saying they are going to church because they don't want to go to hell, so they have to go and punch their card every Sunday. If a person is there because they have to be threatened with hell fire and brimstone, then are they really getting anything out of the service? I wouldn't think so. They would be just as well off staying at home or doing something else. Bless their hearts I feel for them, and I have been right there where they are at now, until God revealed his wonderful truth of salvation by grace. A child of God when revealed the truth of grace will love the preaching of the gospel that tells him what a sinner he is, but he is saved by grace, which means unmerited favor. A favor God gave him because he loves him. I don't know about you but I cannot hear enough about this glorious truth! Church is where we will hear about this wonderful truth. So we don't go to church to work our way to heaven because that is already taken care of. Praise God!

Another reason to go to church. Is that it is the right thing to do. It helps us from being a bond slave

to the devil. Romans 6:12:"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof". When we understand how good the Lord has been to us, then do we want to continue to serve the lust of our flesh which is contrary to given praise to God? No. We want to dedicate our lives to serve him and praise his name. This is something that we can do. It is not always easy, but it is something that we can reasonably do. If we continued in the flesh, then our ungodly ways would bring no honor or praise to God. This kind of living shows no gratitude for what God has done for us. It will also lead to another pitfall. Romans 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Are we a servant unto God or unto the Devil? We don't want to serve the old Devil for all he has done for us is separate us from God and deny us a life of perpetual joy we could have had here on earth, not having sin in our lives. In every example in the word of God where we read of people choosing to serve the Devil it always brought them pain and misery. By choosing the flesh over God we are serving the Devil and not God. No good will come of this choice! It will only bring us pain and misery.

We choose to be obedient unto God which leads us to a godly timely life of righteousness here on earth. Look at what he has done for us. He chose us before the world was, to live with him in everlasting glory. He sent his Son to ensure that we would be with him forever in glory. He gave us the gospel church to hear his word preached. He gave us his written word so we could read about our salvation. The advantages are endless.

We have a home in glory waiting for us because of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing will ever separate us from his love. You have that if you never go to church. Which is your choice to do so, but it will be a bad choice. You have another choice that you can make. That is the choice to serve the Lord even though you already have a home in glory. In making that choice you will have chosen to serve God, who has been so good to you. Make this choice and you will never regret it.

Let's join together in the house of God and sing praises to Him. Let's sit together under the sound of the gospel. Let's put our trust in Him who has always been closer than a brother to us. Is he not worthy of it?

Rickey Taylor

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem." (Psalms 122:1-2)

God deserves—so why not serve?

No, this love exceeds our comprehension
 By Elder Hylton Crain (Now Deceased)

Greetings:

This is the time of year with the shortest days of the year. Oh, help us to better: utilize our time. Our Savior, even at 12 years of age seemed anxious to get to the work He came to do!

For, at 12 years old, he was found speaking to the elders, answering, and asking questions. When Mary and Joseph thought to rebuke Him, He remarked "Don't you know that I must be about my father's business!"

Please see an excerpt from the December issue of the Gospel Standard. "What wonderful were these visits of the shepherds and the wise men! Even secular painters were fascinated by these visits" – "The visits of the Shepherds", – "The visits of the kings", as divinely led they went to Bethlehem to worship Christ the new-born King".

But the vital thing is the visit of the King of Kings himself!

"He left His radiant throne on high, left the bright realms of bliss,

And came to earth to bleed and to die.

Was ever love like this?"

No, this love exceeds our comprehension. Nevertheless, it dwells in the heart of all that are born of the Spirit of the living God! May this love lead us and guide us the rest of our days.

Do you remember when you first felt it in your heart? It might be in your case that it happened as it did with John the Baptist: "while he was yet in his mother's womb..."

It is time to pray for the leaders of our nation, and that they would think more about the good of the nation, above themselves.

It is time to continue in prayer for the church and one another.

We in the Dallas Primitive Baptist Church invite you to make prayerful visits to our assemblage, as we meet in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.

After more than 93 years, my body and mind is failing, especially my mind. Nevertheless, I want to let dear friends and brothers and sisters in Christ know that they are in my thoughts and prayers.

Our merciful Lord, still caring for us at 1811 England Court, Arlington, Texas. We have been in this little house for near 50 years!

As I look back, my failings have made me to feel to be the chief of sinners, like the Apostle Paul felt ... less than the least.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, and his ways past finding out! For whom hath known the mind of the lord? Or whom hath been his counsellor?

Or who hast first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. "

Written in Love,

Brother Hylton Crain (elder)

(From "The Banner of Love". January, 2013)

ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. eraperp | 2. spaer |
| 6. sillaf | 3. top |
| 8. spsa | 4. hcaer |
| 10. dda | 5. desu |
| 11. sdrehpehs | 6. raef |
| 13. pot | 7. tsael |
| 15. srebmem | 8. maharba |
| 18. detah | 9. emahs |
| 19. nonem | 12. lanrete |
| 21. egar | 14. egrup |
| 23. telro | 16. nede |
| 26. hserf | 17. trohs |
| 27. daed | 20. eman |
| | 22. dlog |
| | 24. bor |
| | 25. dne |

LOVE OF GOD

A certain medieval monk announced he would be preaching next Sunday evening on "The Love of God." As the shadows fell and the light ceased to come in through the cathedral windows, the congregation gathered. In the darkness of the altar, the monk lighted a candle and carried it to the crucifix. First of all, he illumined the crown of thorns, next, the two wounded hands, then the marks of the spear wound. In the hush that fell, he blew out the candle and left the chancel. There was nothing else to say.

--Source Unknown.

The love of God goes past that which our finite minds are able to comprehend as we consider what Paul writes: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:7-8). We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.—*Editor*

God's Grace Is Amazing

By Sister Carol Rushing
Bartlett, Tennessee

As long as I have had memory, I never doubted that there was a God. My parents, grandparents, and everyone I knew believed in God. We went to church regularly; that was the way it was, and it was just part of my life. I grew up grounded in the Primitive Baptist Church, attending singing schools, and going to all-day gospel and Old Harp singings. That way of life shaped me and influenced my entire life.

I don't remember having a born-again experience like some have had; however, some incidents where I felt the presence of God speaking to me came later in my life. I knew I loved the Lord and the Church, though. So when The Holy Spirit convicted me to make a public statement of my faith at an association meeting one second weekend in September at the age of thirteen, I asked for a home in Bethany Primitive Baptist Church. (*Ecrú, MS—Editor*) My younger sister, Judy, followed suit. We were both baptized in the chilly waters of a local pond by Elder J. D. Holder the next month on the second weekend in October, 1959.

From that time forward, I went through many changes in my life. After I graduated from high school, I married Wayne Dacus, and we were blessed with two boys, Joey and Tim, who have always been the lights of my life. When Wayne was called to heaven at an early age, leaving me with two little ones to raise, mostly alone, I know I would never have gotten through it all without the grace of God.

I made many mistakes along the way; sadly, far too many to list here, and some I wouldn't want to list here. But God has been so good to me, even when I wasn't obedient. I drifted from my religious teachings, and I heeded more to the ways of the world for many years. It was much easier to follow the crowd, spend more time than necessary working, and spend weekends having fun that didn't include going to church. Never once, however, did I quit believing in God or the sweet doctrine of salvation by grace without works that I had been taught early in my life. I went to church on and off, just not consistently. I let too many other things become more important in my life.

When Joey and Tim were almost grown, I married the love of my life, Art Rushing. When he received a diagnosis of lymphoma cancer just a little over four years after we married, we felt certain he would beat it. However, God called him away from his earthly pain three years later, so once again, I buried a husband, and once again God gave me the strength and grace to continue on. And the days and years that followed would certainly not be easy.

I left my husband's grave and went to my mother's bedside. She had been very ill for many years, and

not long after Art's death, she required 24-hour care. God's grace made it possible for my sisters and me to work together, without issue, to take care of our mother, without putting her in a nursing home, until she lost her battle here on this earth and went to be with her Savior the year after Art died.

During all this time, I was juggling, working, handling my late husband's estate, and trying to take care of his business. Eventually, I had no choice but to quit my Postal Service job and manage Art's business. God's amazing grace gave me the strength to make that life-changing decision.

Not long after that, I started attending church again, once or twice a month at first, then every Sunday. Daddy (*Bro. Lee Wise—Editor*) and his cousin from Mississippi were meeting with Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church one night a month to help the members learn more about reading music, and my sisters and I would go most of the time. I know, now, that God placed me there at a time when I needed it. He was working on me to become a better disciple, and I was fighting all the way. Guess who won? After a couple of years, I requested that my letter of membership be moved from Bethany to Raleigh. My youngest sister, Barbie, did the same, and Dave, Barbie's husband, asked for a home in Raleigh Church at the same time. Judy had moved her letter several months prior. So, I had now committed to follow closer to my Lord and Savior, and I had part of my family there, as well as a new church family. My oldest sister, Willa Dean, had moved her membership to Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church around the same time, and not long after that, her husband, Bill, asked for a home at Chewalla. God was there leading and guiding all of us all the way.

In the late 1990s, Willa Dean began having serious health issues and suffered a stroke that paralyzed her right side and took most of her speech. God was with us all during that time, fulfilling our needs and giving Bill the strength and grace to be Dean's caregiver. He devoted his life to her until she traded her wheelchair for a crown and went to be with her Savior seventeen years later.

A couple of years after Willa Dean had the stroke, my precious little granddaughter was born at just 28 weeks' gestation. When we saw her for the first time, I knew without God's divine healing she would never survive. Well, survive she did, and I now have a beautiful and perfect teenage granddaughter. Just more proof that God was there to continue developing and making that little child whole. Can't you just see God's amazing grace in my life?

For a few years, the business flourished and all was well. Then, the economy did a downturn, and we began to lose customers, and the ones we had wouldn't pay. After struggling for several years, I finally had to cut my losses and get rid of the business.

During all this turmoil of losing the business and everything I owned, my daddy became very ill, and my younger sisters and I were blessed again to work together and take care of him. But after a few months, he left this world for his eternal Home. There came that grace again, always sufficient, and there to carry us through losing our wonderful daddy.

My son and my grandchildren were living with me, so after losing our house, I began to look for another place for the four of us to live. I found a little three-bedroom rental house, about a third the size of the one we were leaving. Once again, though, thanks to God's amazing grace, He provided that shelter for us.

It had never occurred to me through the years that I was depressed. I continued to go to church regularly, worked, helped take care of my grandchildren, and led what I considered to be a normal life. Looking back now, it really scares me just how depressed I was. I slept almost all the time and even looked forward to days off so that I could sleep more. After almost three years in that little house, I had never put pictures on the walls, and boxes remained unpacked in my room. How my heavenly Father continued to bless me is more than I'll ever understand. It was mercy overflowing.

Then one day as I sat at my computer, I actually felt the presence of someone or something almost shaking me and asking me, "What's wrong with you? Have you ever gone hungry? Have you ever been without a roof over your head? Haven't you always had clothes to wear? Don't you have everything you need? Wake up, child, and look around you!" I can't begin to describe the feeling I had, and no one will ever convince me that it wasn't God making me hear those words. I may have never had a born-again experience, but I had certainly had an awakening experience.

I got up immediately—yes, it was immediately—and starting to finally make that dwelling our home. From that moment on, I felt like a totally different person and have had indescribable peace and joy in my life. I knew God was the only reason I had made it that far in my life, but because of my disobedience and self-pity I had shut out my joy.

My life didn't change because of that spiritual awakening. But I did. I have gone through much adversity since that time and still struggle daily. But through my faith and support from my family and friends, after several years, God blessed me to be able to buy a larger house so my grandchildren could have room to grow. God's grace was always sufficient.

Even though I still face many difficulties in my life daily and I may be sad or anxious for the moment, I know now that no matter what happens to me God is guiding me and the Comforter is always with me. One of my favorite hymns is, What a Friend We Have In Jesus, and that's the way I try to live now. Whatever

happens, I take it to the Lord in prayer and know that He is in control. What a blessing to know that all those years I turned from God, He never once left me. What mercy and amazing grace!

My intent in sharing some of my life's story is not to make anyone feel sorry for me. I realize there are many people who have gone through much worse in their lives. I just want to let everyone know how good God has been to me and that I'm blessed far better than I deserve. My hope is that you'll see how faith gets you through the storms of life and will show you the sunshine and rainbows afterwards. And the best blessing ever is that I did nothing—I performed no act of any kind—to gain God's love, grace, and mercy. Had he not chosen me before the world began, died on the cross for my sins, and sent the Holy Spirit to quicken me into a new life here on earth, I never would have had that faith. He loved me first, or I would never have loved him. Grace, grace, and more grace!

When you experience the peace and joy that I have found, you just want to shout it to everyone you know and love and pray they will have it, too. Nothing you do or don't do in this life can ever change your eternal salvation, because God has already finished that work for you. But walking with Him daily can certainly result in blessings and having that peace and joy while you sojourn on this earth. All it takes is trusting God, putting Him first in your life, giving Him what you can't control in prayer, and having faith that He is with you always. How amazing is that?

(This life story and testimony by Sister Carol Wise Rushing should make us all more aware and thankful for blessings that we often take for granted.—Editor)

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

David was a great man of God and faced many enemies during his lifetime, but He had a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He knew the shepherd and declared he would not want. Later he says in Psalms 23:5: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." The Lord fed the Israelites in the wilderness and prepared a table of blessings for King David. His head was anointed with joy and gladness by the oil of the Spirit. His cup was not just full but running over, indicating a most overwhelming abundance of blessings. Jesus fed the 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes and had 12 baskets of fragments left over. Physically, their cups ran over and spiritually our cups run over with joy, peace, and gladness when we know the Lord is with us and has promised to never leave or forsake us.—Larry Wise

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