

Glad Tidings

June

“Buy the truth, and sell it not.” (Prov. 23:23)

2020

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

Primitive Baptists believe that the inspired word of God is the only rule for their faith and practice. God places tremendous importance on His word which is the cornerstone of New Testament worship. Jesus said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24). We get the truth from the inspired word of God by which we govern our lives and which He has promised to preserve from generation to generation. David said, “The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (Psalm 12:6-7). We understand that not only is the Lord’s people sanctified and preserved but so is His truth.

God is a God of truth and His doctrine drops as the rain, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass. (Deut. 32:2). The Psalmist said repeatedly that His truth endureth unto all generations. Things and fashions come and go in this life but not so with the pure words of the Lord. Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35). When God has said something in His word, we can rest assured that it will come to pass. It may not be in the time frame we envision but it will always be on God’s time table. Isaiah said, “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.” (Isa. 14:24).

There are many teachings today about what the word of God (the scriptures) accomplishes. Some think no individual can be born again without hearing and believing the word of God, but this is not what Jesus taught. Jesus said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” (John 5:39). The word of God testifies to our eternal life but it **does not** give the same. We need to search the scriptures for sure but not to obtain eternal life but to learn the truth. Paul and Silas preached unto those in both Berea and in Thessalonica; however, it is written about the Bereans: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11). What is taught from the pulpit must harmonize with His word.

Some say it is not the word of God but belief in the word of God and Jesus as Savior that gives eternal life. This also is erroneous because belief NEVER causes anything to come into existence but testifies to that which already exists. Jesus taught, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24). The believer has already passed from death to life and thus in full possession of eternal life. We must understand that even unbelief will not hinder the faithfulness of God in giving eternal life to His chosen redeemed as Paul wrote to Timothy, “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.” (II Tim. 2:13)

I’m sure most people wouldn’t want to condemn every individual to hell before there ever was any word of God or maybe I am making an assumption that is erroneous. There aren’t any barriers to the Spirit of God by which one is born again and given eternal life regardless of whether there is access to the word of God or not. Paul and Timothy were forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia on one occasion. (Acts 16:6). Did that restrict anyone in that locale from eternal life? It surely did not. These preachers were led of the Spirit to a place called Macedonia and into the city of Philippi where God had a prayerful people ready and waiting to hear the gospel. One of those women was Lydia whose heart the Lord opened to attend unto His word. (Acts 16:16). Lydia’s heart wasn’t opened by Paul or Timothy, but the Lord of glory did all the opening.

God’s people need to hear and believe the truth of the gospel after being born again as it gives them freedom from bondage of any law they may have been trying to keep to obtain eternal life. The churches of Galatia were under such bondage until they believed the truth and Paul urges them to “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” (Gal. 5:1). Someone came to them and taught them another perverted gospel and led them astray. (Gal. 1:7). The word of God is intensely important for the child of God. I like what Elder Sony Pyles said regarding the gospel. “It is to locate and educate the regenerate.” The Spirit sent Paul and Timothy to a location to educate those in truth whom the Spirit had already regenerated. Rightly divide the word of truth and its purpose. (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:

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

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.

THE AMEN CORNER

By Elder Ricky Harcrow

From ShareTheWord: 4-15-13

Give God a Chance

It was brought to my attention, by a dear friend of mine, when she had seen a sign that said "Give God a Chance", that this world in it's perception of God has equated him with men no doubt. Oh, to say that to them they would surely deny such but in essence they have lowered God to the state and standard that he has to be given a chance in the lives of men and his creation. I am thankful to day that the God we serve does not have to be GIVEN A CHANCE to do anything. He is indeed the all-sufficient one, the ruler of all. We do not worship a God that is limited, one who can only do things when men cooperate or work under special circumstances.

Because He is able, God can do **"exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"**. This phrase is what is called a "double compound". It means "over, beyond and above". It wasn't enough that Paul could say He can do more than enough but he teaches that GOD DOES AND CAN DO ABOVE AND BEYOND MORE THAN ENOUGH. How can one do MORE than enough? Of course that is beyond our comprehension but yet it is truth. The full thought is then, not only can God do more than enough and above and beyond More than enough but EVEN MORE than beyond MORE THAN ENOUGH. In short God can do infinitely more than what any of us ask or think or even what we think about asking or thinking. All that is still inadequate to describe the power that God possesses. We can add

them together, multiply them and multiply them again and still we will not succeed in describing his power and authority. Remember this one fact that this is the same power that **"worketh in us"**. We could exhaust the language and still not describe him who WORKS His Will.

Get now a glimpse at what Paul has taught the Ephesian Church in Eph. 1:19 when he speaks of **"The exceeding Greatness of His power"**; not only is it just that statement but he goes on to say **"to usward who believe according to the working of His mighty power"**. How do we believe? it is according to the working of His mighty power. What picture! Paul is teaching us the surpassing, super-abounding greatness of his inherent, overcoming power; a power that is in action proving the strength of His might and the excellency of his will and purpose. Paul does not have to include what God's power exceeds. The obvious implication is that his power exceeds everything. What instrument in the universe could measure his ability? God's ability and power is described with the word "DUNAMIS"... FROM WHICH COMES OUR WORDS... DYNAMIC AND DYNAMITE. It is used over 100 times in the New Testament and speaks of literally a RAW POWER, the ability to do wonders and that which overcomes any resistance. He heaps one word upon another to express this truth.

GIVE GOD A CHANCE...I tell you such is unthinkable to me. I cannot understand the thinking of supposedly CHRISTIAN THINKERS but in reality such is not worth thinking too much about. The average pulpit gives a shallow sermonette, motivational talks, feel good discussion and contemporary theology. The Gospel is no such thing. It is the POWER of GOD unto salvation to everyone that BELIEVETH. Notice it is to the believer not the UNBELIEVER. The gospel says **"Our God is in the heavens He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased"**. Rev. 19:6-7 says, **"the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth"**. GIVE GOD A CHANCE...PUTS GOD ON A LEVEL WITH MEN AND DILUTES HIS POWER to the degree that a man's will has power to derail the purpose of God. GIVE GOD A CHANCE...says that God may have a plan but the possibility exists that there is not a successful conclusion or purposeful end to it. GIVE GOD A CHANCE...says God has to take into consideration many factors in order to do what he intends to do. GIVE GOD A CHANCE..Tells me that sinners cannot and will not be saved unless a co-operative agreement is reached between God and men. GIVE GOD A CHANCE...tells me that God must WAIT. How unthinkable are such things.

When the gospel is preached we are not talking about entertainment, pop-psychology, felt-needs, or popular notions and not a prize or gold star for Sunday School attendance. God's Sovereignty has

been RE-DEFINED for better acceptance so that the masses have a view of God that THEY MAY UNDERSTAND. GIVE GOD A CHANCE.....I've got a better story than that. God Works; He works in the salvation of sinners, works in affairs of men, works with his overseeing authority and it is NOT by CHANCE but on purpose! God's plan does not have to be understood to be effective. Aren't we thankful for such a blessed understanding of Him. AMEN

Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

THE SIGN OF JONAH

By Don R. Richards

At this time each year we witness a lot of attention to Easter Sunday and the various traditions which different religious groups observe.

With it comes the usual array of news stories regarding the relevant traditions: Palm Sunday (which gets its name from John 12:13 with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem) to start off the week prior to Easter when people laid palm leaves in his path. They have a different name for each day of the week (including "silent Wednesday" because they can find nothing of scriptural reference); but the traditional one is "Good Friday" immediately prior to Easter Sunday.

Under traditional belief, Good Friday is the day when it is commonly believed that Jesus went through his trials before Jewish and Roman authorities, was brutally beaten, was crucified, and laid into the tomb prior to sunset when the weekly sabbath began under Hebrew law.

If that is correct, it would mean that Jesus was in the tomb Friday night, all day Saturday, and arose in the glorious Resurrection before sunrise Sunday. While "Friday", "Saturday" and "Sunday" encompass parts of three different "days"; Friday night to Saturday night is one full day, and Saturday night to early Sunday is half a day. In addition, that would also mean Christ actually spent only two "nights" in the tomb.

That does not fit with Christ's very clear statement at Matt 12:39-40 as to the "sign" we are given -- that of the prophet Jonah:

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (See also Jonah 1:17)

Jesus was very specific with the "three days and three nights". He repeated the phrase twice in the same verse.

It is not unusual under Hebrew writing for a statement of "three years" to actually involve only parts of three years. But a different construction of meaning applies when it is expressly specific as to "three days" AND "three nights." -- and then

repeated. Jesus repeats the full phraseology so that we cannot mistake its meaning.

There are at least a dozen references to His three days in the tomb in the four gospels (including Matt. 12:40, 27:63, 16:21, 17:23, 20:19, 26:61, 28:63; Mark 10:34; Luke 9:22,13:32-32, 24:6,7 and John 2:19). However, the other clear reference for us in addition to Jesus' "sign of Jonah", is at Mark 8:31. There, Jesus is talking about his trials before the Jewish leadership where He references that He will be "killed, and AFTER three days rise again."

Please note that Jesus emphasizes that he will rise "AFTER" three days. That ties in directly with His "sign of Jonah" statement that it will be three full days. When the Pharisees remind Pilate of Jesus' statement, even they again emphasize "After" three days. (Matt. 28:63)

So, how do we get three full day and three full nights into Friday night to Sunday morning. We don't. It just doesn't work.

So, where are we going wrong.

As Jesus told the Pharisees: *"ye do err, not knowing the scriptures . . ."* The error, in our opinion, comes because people assume the "sabbath" being referenced is the weekly "sabbath" at the end of each week. We do not believe that it a correct reading of scripture.

It is true that the Lord established the last day of each week as a weekly sabbath and forbade the nation of Israel to work on that weekly holy day. Exodus 20:8. However, there were also other "sabbaths" established by the Lord. The "sabbath" that the Jews were attempting to accommodate on the day of Jesus' crucifixion was, in our opinion, not the weekly "sabbath."

Go to the book of Leviticus, chapter 23. It is there that the Lord proclaims not only the weekly "holy convocation" "sabbath" (verse 3); but He also proclaimed seven additional annual sabbaths, or "holy convocation" days. The first one mentioned is the Passover and Feast of the Unleavened Bread (verses 5-7). Note at verse 5 the Lord refers to the annual "passover" on the 14th day of the first month (Nisan) of the Hebrew year (in our March/April).

There are a lot of scriptural references to document this point, but quickly refer to Matt. 26:17-18 or John 11:55-56; or John 18:39 wherein the Passover is recognized as being "at hand" at the time of Jesus' final day, last supper with disciples, and by Pilate immediately prior to His crucifixion.

The point is that there were two "holy convocation" days ("sabbaths") the last week of Christ. The "sabbath" relevant just before Jesus' crucifixion (the annual sabbath at passover) which began at sundown Wednesday; and the second "sabbath" (the weekly 7th day of rest) being three days later on Saturday (beginning at sunset Friday). There are

references to both “sabbaths” -- make sure you understand which one is in context.

In my reading of the Scripture, the Last Supper of Christ, including the washing of the apostles feet was Tuesday night, followed by the midnight visit to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested. He was tried and tortured in the early morning hours of Wednesday, and nailed to the cross by approximately 9 a.m. The skies turned dark at noon, and Christ died by about 3 p.m. He was hastily buried before sundown on Wednesday to beat the deadline for the start of the annual sabbath required at Lev. 23:5-7.

My study indicates Christ was in the tomb Wednesday night and Thursday day, Thursday night and Friday day, Friday night and Saturday day (three days and three nights). The Resurrection occurred after sundown on Saturday (after the conclusion of the weekly sabbath of Lev. 23:3) and before sunrise Sunday. (See Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

He arose after three days. But more importantly though -- “Christ arose!”

(From “*The Banner of Love*”, April 2012—Don. R. Richards—Publisher and Editor)

If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.—Saint Augustine

MUCH COMFORT

By Elder S. N. Redford (Deceased)

Brethren, pray for us.—1 Thess. V. 25

This text was written by that great apostle, Paul; that is, he desired the prayers of God's people. I wonder if Paul did not, at that time, and in this time, and will, on down to the end of time, have companions in this desire. I know I can truthfully say in this, at least, I can company with Paul. I have, years ago decided that God's people pray when they are in trouble and sing when they are happy. But the most of our time the way is rough and rocky. The children of Israel came to twelve wells and seventy palm trees. What an inviting place to rest in that terrible wilderness; but soon the command came, “Up march.” So is the experience of a child of God—no continuing city here. Grace, and grace alone, can support God's people in a spiritual way. They need grace to preach, to pray, to bear afflictions and persecutions. No wonder Paul wanted the prayers of the saints. We need grace to support us in old age and even in death. Brethren, remember me, and pray for me, for I am poor and needy. S. N. Redford

(From “*The Primitive Baptist*”, Sept. 17, 1942)

GRACE-God's Riches At Christ's Expense

VIEWING OURSELVES SOBERLY

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

The nature of man being what it is, exhortations to humility are needed, even by the household of faith. It is all too common even in the church of God for people to at least temporarily lose a proper perspective with regard to themselves and to begin thinking of themselves more highly than they ought to think. Notice the apostle's caution with regard to this (Romans 12:3). We are shown here that if we are not thinking rightly of ourselves and what we truly are in and of ourselves, we are not thinking *soberly*. We are not rightly considering those things that we have been blest to know and understand by faith, such as the fact that in our flesh, or that part of us that exists prior to the new birth, *dwelleth no good thing* (Romans 7:18).

It should certainly keep us sober and humble to always be mindful of the fact that the only good principle we have within us is the principle of grace that was implanted in our heart in the new birth, and that nothing good ever emanates from us that is not a product, or fruit, of that spiritual principle. Faith is one of the fruits of that principle, and the apostle tells us that “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). This is why the true worshippers of God, “Rejoice in Christ Jesus” (not in themselves), “*and have no confidence in the flesh*” (Philippians 3:4). It is foolishness of the highest order to put our confidence in something that *has no good in it*.

Men think of themselves more highly than they ought to think when they imagine that there is something good in their flesh, and this is one of the most common faults among men. The natural man is literally bulging at the seams with vain pride, and likes to think of himself as innately good, when in fact just the opposite is true, he is innately *evil* (Psalm 39:5). And even the enlightened saints, if they are not careful, will sometimes find themselves, almost subconsciously, taking credit, at least to some extent, for the good that is in them. This is a case of the flesh warring against the spirit, because they are contrary the one to the other (Galatians 5:17).

It is an indication that the person is thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think when he becomes over-critical of others, or when censoriousness becomes a vice with him. Every man has within himself the seeds of all the evil that he has ever criticized in others, and in most cases he has been guilty, by actual practice, of that which he condemns in his fellows (Romans 2:3). Such shall not escape the judgment of God.

When we find ourselves becoming over critical, may we have grace to turn introspectively, and consider how well we ourselves are measuring up in those things wherein we are condemning others. May our lives be characterized by self-examination and

meekness, rather than by censoriousness and self-exaltation. "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:3).

May the Lord help us to always give Him all the credit for any good there is within us, and may we ever be blest to see and feel the evil of that spirit which causes men to *trust in themselves that they are righteous and to despise others* (Luke 18:9). There is nothing that is merely a product of our flesh that we should be proud of. Read Paul's list of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. You will not find one single good work mentioned there.

Elder Ralph Harris

(From "In The Master's Service", May 2001)

TEMPTATION

What settings are you in when you fall? Avoid them. What props do you have that support your sin? Eliminate them. What people are you usually with? Avoid them. There are two equally damning lies Satan wants us to believe: 1) Just once won't hurt. 2) Now that you have ruined your life, you are beyond God's use, and might as well enjoy sinning. "Learn to say no. It will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin."

Charles Spurgeon.

On the TV show "Hee Haw," Doc Campbell is confronted by a patient who says he broke his arm in two places. The doc replies, "Well then, stay out of them places!"

He may have something there. We cannot regularly put ourselves in the face of temptation and not be affected. When faced with the problem of temptation, we need to take the good doctor's advice and "stay out of them places."

Source Unknown.

The people of God can be tempted in various ways. The words tempted and temptation is primarily used in the sense of a test, trial, entice, proof of either good or evil. Jesus was tempted in all points as His people yet without sin. One thing God cannot do is to be tempted with evil. James says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." (James 1:13-14). Jesus had nothing inside for Satan to entice Him with but He set the example for His children to resist by saying "As it is written" in every response to Satan's ruses. The word of God is the truth that sets free from succumbing to the wiles of Satan and become entrapped. When faith is tested, people of God must rely on the promises of God to endure.—*Editor*

TOUCHED

Jesus is the friend of sinners and knows all our strengths and weaknesses and He was in all points tempted as we were yet without sin. In view of this, we can understand how He is touched when our weakness manifests itself and we are about ready to throw up our hands and give up. Paul tells us in Heb. 4:15: "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:15).

Jesus was touched when the woman who was a sinner came behind Him and washed His feet with the tears from her eyes and wiped them with the hairs of her head. He knew she was a sinner and in need and was thus touched. He desires us to feel our need and recognize that they which be whole need not a physician but they that are sick. He gave her some good news when He, told Peter, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." (Luke 7:47) Then he specifically told the woman, "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48). "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." (Luke 7:50).

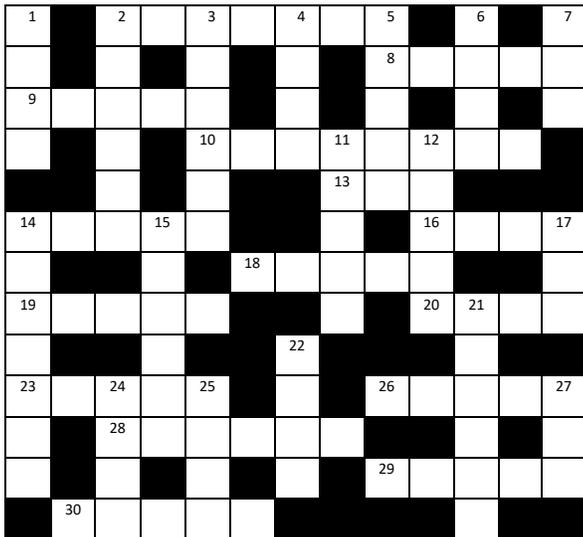
Jesus was touched with the heartache of Martha and Mary when their brother Lazarus died and they lamented their loss with much weeping. Jesus tarried for some two days to manifest His glory and power and groaned in the spirit when he witnessed their sorrow. This is the first place we find where Jesus wept and it was at a death scene. We may also be weak when we have lost a loved one and wonder if we will make it through the loss. However, Jesus is touched and promises us grace to bear up. Paul tells us, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13).

Paul knew from first hand experience that Jesus is touched as he prayed that his thorn in the flesh might depart from him. The Lord tells him, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (II Cor. 12:9). The thorn in the flesh was an infirmity and our high priest is touched. When are we at our strongest? It is when we are at our weakest for Paul goes on to say, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." (II Cor. 12:10). What a high priest we have who is perfect in knowledge and power but yet is still touched with the feelings of our infirmities!—August 17, 2012—Elder Larry Wise

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

2. Now unto Him who is able to keep you from ____.
8. Naaman washed 7 times in the ____ of Jordan.
9. By nature men loved darkness rather than ____.
10. Where your ____ is there will your heart be also.
13. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on colt, foal of an ____.
14. Peter denied Jesus and began to curse and ____.
16. They that have ____ the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree.
18. Be not a forgetful hearer but ____ of the word. two words.
19. ____ him and let him go said Jesus about Lazarus.
20. Men ought always to ____ & not to faint said Jesus.
23. There was an outer court and an ____ court.
26. Refuse profane and old wives' _____. Singular.
28. For this Agar is Mount Sinai in _____. Saudi ____.
29. The Jews kept the feast of unleavened ____.
30. Thou shalt keep the ____ of unleavened bread.



(Answers on Page 8)

DOWN:

1. Man is born like a wild asses' ____.
2. The like ____ whereunto baptism doth now save us
3. I know that my redeemer liveth and he shall stand at the ____ day upon the earth.
4. John was exiled on the ____ of Patmos.
5. All flesh is as ____ and the flower of the field.
6. God made the sun to rule ____ the day.
7. Gideon wanted a sign of either wet or ____ fleece.
11. Brother of Moses and maker of a molten calf.
12. Suffer not a woman to teach or ____ authority over a man.
14. Endure hardness as a good ____ of Jesus Christ.
15. Baptism is the ____ of a good conscience to God.
17. The evening and the morning were the first ____.
21. Barabbas was a thief and a _____. Bank ____.
22. The ____ of the temple was rent in twain.
24. And thou shalt call his ____ Jesus who shall save.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

25. All our righteousness is as filthy ____.
27. Then cometh the ____ when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Our grandson Isaac doesn't like dogs very much after a couple of unpleasant experiences with them. We have a dog that is playful but plays rough at times. When he was leaving our house several weeks ago, there was the dog barring his way to the car with his parents. My wife heard him say, "Oh no, a dog, that is my latest nightmare!" I don't know what his other nightmares were. Where did he learn about nightmares?—*Editor*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Do vessels occupy the Dead Sea?

A. They do not, nor can fish live in its waters, which are seven times saltier than the waters of the ocean, one-fourth of its waters being composed of solid matter, so that a human body easily floats upon its surface. Only a few microbes (microscopic vegetable organisms) are found in waters of the Dead Sea. Other names of this body of water are the Salt Sea, Sea of the Plain, East Sea, Sea of Lot, Sea of Sodom. It is nearly fifty miles long and nearly ten miles wide. From the top of the tableland around the sea to the bottom of the sea the distance is about a mile. It is the lowest, hottest, and most desolate region on the face of the earth. The Jordan and several smaller streams flow into it, but it has no outlet, the seven millions of tons of water that it receives every day being carried off by evaporation. It is believed that Sodom and Gomorrah stood near the southern end of this sea, a pillar of salt there is still called Lot's Wife. The Dead Sea seems to be a most appropriate emblem of the second or eternal death.

(From "Collected Writings of Sylvester Hassell",
Volume Three)

A story making the rounds concerns a Biology I examination in which the students were asked: "Suppose you could take to Mars any of the laboratory equipment used in this course. How would you determine if there was life on Mars?" One student responded: "Ask the inhabitants. Even a negative answer would be significant." The student got an A.

Carl Sagan, Other Worlds.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the summer meeting at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS the 1st weekend in June, 2020 (June 5-7). Services Friday night, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night, June 6, supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS is invited minister. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting with Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS the 4th weekend in June, 2020 (June 26-28). Services Friday night, June 26, at 7:00 p.m. Services Saturday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Regular services on Sunday with Communion. Elder Steve Weaver, Shannon, MS is invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

ANNOUNCEMENT

<http://gracealoneradio.net/connect>

You can now listen to GraceAlone Radio streaming the message of God's sovereign grace 24 hours a day, around the clock and around the world. The daily content of Grace Alone Radio consists of Bible teaching and preaching from Primitive Baptist ministers, Acapella hymn singing and Daily Bible readings from the King James Version of the Bible, and more. Grace Alone Radio is an affiliate of Sovereign Grace Publications and is produced by Elder Michael Gowens of Calabash, NC. You can also download an APP to listen on a smart phone. Listen online at: <http://gracealoneradio.net/connect>

(Announcement by request)

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2020 (July 17-19). Services Friday night, July 17, at 7:00 p.m. (no supper). Saturday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon service. Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch. Elder Bobby Howell, Amory, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

The COVID-19 virus has caused great disruption in regular church worship services and in the annual meetings of Primitive Baptist churches in an effort to halt the spread of the virus by preventing gatherings of more than ten people. We are thankful the Lord has still blessed His people to have access to singing and preaching by way of live streaming services but nothing can effectively substitute for the assembly gatherings of the people of God. May God bless us to never miss an opportunity to assemble to worship for we never know when that privilege might not be readily available. Think about it!—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

We mourn the passing of a precious saint of God with the death of Sister Pebble Ewing on March 24, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 81 years of age and the widow of the late Elder Max Ewing who was Pastor of Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS when he was called home. Both she and her husband were faithful members of the church. She had asked me some time ago to hold her funeral along with her current Pastor, Elder Jeremy Wise, and I was honored that I could comply. May God's grace continue to uphold and sustain those who mourn the passing of their loved ones.—*Editor*

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:” (II Cor. 5:1-2)

“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:” (Psalm 78-5-7)

MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

(July 2019 Glad Tidings)

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*

That I am not a member of any Christian church is true; but I have never denied the truth of the Scriptures, and I have never spoken with intentional disrespect of religion in general, or of any denomination of Christians in particular.—Abraham Lincoln

TWELVE MARKS OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

1st Mark. The apostolic church consisted only of those persons who had been convicted of sin by the Holy Ghost, and who had given signs of repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

2nd Mark. True baptism,—the **immersion of believers in water**, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

3rd Mark. The members being baptized believers, came frequently around the Lord's table, to commemorate the sufferings and death of their precious Redeemer, by partaking of the common bread to represent His broken body, and common wine, to represent His shed blood for them.

4th Mark. The maintenance of strict discipline.

5th Mark. The independent polity or government of each local church, subject only to the Headship of Christ; all the local apostolic churches being united by no outward bond of force, but by an inward bond of love.

6th Mark. The religious liberty, social freedom, a complete separation of church and state, the entire independence of each church from all state control, so far as regards the membership, ministry, organization, faith, worship and discipline of the church.

7th Mark. With a few exceptions, the members were generally poor, obscure, unlearned, afflicted, despised and persecuted.

8th Mark. The fraternal equality, the essential priesthood, of all the members, in accordance with which fact they choose to office among them those of their number whom they perceive to be already qualified thereunto by the spirit of God—there being but two classes of officers, bishops, or elders, or pastors, and deacons; the fraternal equality of all the members involving the eternal equality of the ministry.

9th Mark. Possession of an humble, God-called and God-qualified ministry.

10th Mark. That while the ministry received **voluntary** help from the churches, they were **not salaried**, but labored themselves, more or less, for their own support.

11th Mark. The sending out of the divinely called and qualified ministry by the Holy Spirit in themselves and in the churches, their going forth, withersoever the Lord directed them, in simple dependence upon Him, and their preaching the gospel to every creature, whether Jew or Gentile, and especially shepherding the lambs and sheep of Christ.

12th Mark. That it—the church—was absolutely the only divinely recognized religious organization in the world.

These marks, as applied to the apostolic church, are fully sustained by the New Testament, and for

proof the reader is referred to the standard of faith and practice—**The Bible**,—and as a help to this investigation see ninth chapter of Hassell's History.

Question: Is there a church today that bears these marks? Measure the denominations around you and answer the question in your own conscience, and if you should conclude that there is such a church and that the Primitive or Old School Baptist is that visible church then may you walk with us, choose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season. Better be like Noah and his family, a few with the Lord and dwell in the **Ark of safety**, then run with the world and perish with wicked.

(From "Rare Gems", Edited by R. H. Pittman)

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

ACROSS:

- 2. gnillaf
- 8. revir
- 9. thgil
- 10. erusaert
- 13. ssa
- 14. raews
- 16. desu
- 18. reoda
- 19. esool
- 20. yarp
- 23. renni
- 26. elbaf
- 28. aibara
- 29. daerb
- 30. tsaef

DOWN:

- 1. tloc
- 2. erugif
- 3. rettal
- 4. elsi
- 5. ssarg
- 6. revo
- 7. yrd
- 11. noraa
- 12. prusu
- 14. reidlos
- 15. rewsna
- 17. yad
- 21. rebbor
- 22. live
- 24. eman
- 25. sgar
- 27. dne

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Elder Robert Payne
April 3, 2020

Many today say, God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. Well whether you ever believe or not, if God said, it settles it whether you ever believe it or not.

Some people's minds concerning religion are like cement, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Some people think they know more than the Bible teaches.

No where in the 66 Books of the Bible is the sinner commanded or instructed to accept the Lord as your personal Savior in order to make you a child of God.

Some things in the Bible are open to different interpretations, but among the many that are not is: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

A FEW GODLY ATTRIBUTES OF ABRAHAM

By Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)

All of us have those things about us which make us who we are. A person's attributes are those things such as our character, specific traits we have, and features which make us recognizable to others. Abraham was a man of many attributes, too numerous to mention perhaps, yet most are noteworthy.

In Genesis 18 we find rendering of the LORD visiting with Abraham and eventually telling him that "Sarah thy wife shall have a son" (vs. 10). In Genesis 18:2 Abraham exhibits the first attribute we will notice in this chapter. As he lifts his eyes up from the tent door in which he was sitting, he saw three men standing (one of them the Lord) and he ran to meet them. Any time the Lord sees fit to pay us a visit, we should be ready to run to meet Him ("be not slothful"—Hebrews 6:12). Notice this point! It was the heat of the day and yet Abraham at his advancing age, ran to meet the Lord. That is what I call a faithful servant.

Next pay attention to what Abraham did when he met them. He "bowed himself toward the ground" (Gen. 18:2). The Lord is always to be shown respect and reverence. Failing to do so is a mockery to the very one who saved us from our sins.

In verse 3 he asks the LORD to "pass not away"; meaning Abraham desired to be with the Lord and wanted Him to not leave his presence. What a great attribute to have. A godly desire to dwell with our Savior and to have the opportunity to be hospitable, which is a wonderful attribute within itself.

Abraham will now do that which many of God's children are unwilling to do and that is to be a faithful "servant" of the Lord. He wanted to give them a cup of cool water, wash their feet which would refresh them, and desired they rest under a tree (indicated he had compassion for them as they traveled).

He continues to prove that other attributes abided in him as he sought to "fetch" them a morsel of bread, and then comfort them in any way that he could, even having a young calf (the best he could provide) killed and dressed. Now comes "butter, and milk, and the calf" which he readily sets before them and stood by ready to do whatever may be required of him. What a true and faithful servant of the Lord.

Please notice what Abraham did which we all need to pay attention closely; he stood by quietly under the tree with them as they did eat. My, how respectful to not bother them with unsolicited chit-chat. Nor did Abraham grab his cell phone from his trousers and start texting while they ate. How rude it is to text while company is sitting at your table eating at your home or out under a tree. No cost for that comment.

In conclusion, we must see Abraham as the Lord saw him for he knew Abraham's heart, being the Lord was the one who gave him a heart of understanding.

Notice what the Lord said, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he had spoken of him" (Genesis 18:19).

In verse 16 through 23, we find Abraham in conversation with the Lord concerning the welfare of others. Abraham knew that Sodom was a wicked place, and yet he had compassion on those who may have been godly; of which were faithful to God though he himself did not know how many saints dwelled there.

"The LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place" (Gen. 18:23). Chapter 18 of Genesis provides a number of godly attributes of Abraham, one of which is that Abraham never questioned the LORD concerning why he was destroying Sodom, but rather again showed compassion for the sanctity of life; which is far more than many have for life in our society. Perhaps it would be good if we consider these things.

(From "Zion's Lamp", October 2016)

SHOUT

By Guy Hunt ("Pathway of Truth", December 2004)

We are told in the Bible that we are the apple of the eye of the Lord. Songs of Solomon tells us that his desire is toward us.

It is easy for us to think of wanting to be in the presence of the Lord. Either in his church kingdom here or in glory when we shall see the saviour with our own eyes.

But to think that his desire is toward us! That he desires our presence in his church kingdom. This is more than a command. It comes from one who loves us, and desires that we be where his presence is known and felt.

When you love someone and they love you, it is true contentment just to be with them. We are showing ourselves unappreciative of their love when we deny them our presence.

The anticipation of being with those you love brings great joy. Mom always knew we would try to be with her on her birthday. She looked forward to that day and had great joy in thinking about it.

I have often watched Helen approaching me from a distance and enjoyed my feelings for her as her face came closer. I always felt like shouting when we were apart and she would drive up in the car and wave at me.

We think of being with the Lord and his Saints in heaven and our very soul and being may shout.

But to think the Lord is going to shout as he returns and opens the graves. Just think, the Saviour is going to shout as he comes for me, a poor sinner.

What manner of praise should we give our saviour?

GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Glad Tidings—Elder Larry Wise,

I am enclosing a small contribution for your good publication.

I am 91 years old and still reside in the 'Assisted Living Place' here in Milan, TN and want to let you know how good it makes me feel when my mail is delivered to my room and see the 'Glad Tidings' to cheer me up! I need that, since lately (I'm sure you've heard about it) we are locked in and can't even get out and go to church and the visiting ministers are not allowed to come here. But I do get to hear my pastor, Eld. Mike Roberts on the computer on Sunday mornings. We are allowed to get out of our rooms occasionally and sit on the back patio as long as we stay 6 ft. apart.

I feel sure that since this virus is prevalent like a plague that more prayers than usual have gone up to Heaven for God to have mercy on us and heal our land.

It probably is teaching us to realize what blessings we have had in our past lives. I am so thankful for my three children who are so good to call and check on me often.

I just want to let everyone know that one of my greatest pleasures here now is getting my church papers. May God bless.

Doris Webb Smith
Milan, TN

Dear Bro. Larry,

I enjoy your newsletter, Glad Tidings. Enclosed is a contribution to help with expenses.

In this day and time of trouble and sorrow, isn't it wonderful to know we have an Almighty God. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

May God be with you and keep you in His loving care.

Sister Carol James
Winona, MS

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for sending Glad Tidings to me these many years. I certainly appreciate receiving them and reading them!

Love,
William Lienhard
Orland, CA

Dear Ones,

It's so good to think of think of the songs Amazing Grace, Better Farther On, How Great Thou Art, What A Friend We Have In Jesus, How Firm A Foundation. Ps 43:5; Rom. 8:37-39. . .

Wishing our Dear Lord's Blessings of good health to you all. Thanks for praying for my sister Wilma; she has had the Flu.

Sister Loreta Lily
Akron, OH

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

Elijah enjoyed a great victory over the prophets of Baal when he summoned fire down from heaven to consume the sacrificial bullock. Then when his life is threatened by Jezebel, he flees for his life, sits down under a juniper tree and asks the Lord to take away his life. However, the Lord has more work for this prophet, and He sends an angel that touched Elijah and said, "Arise and eat." (I Kings 19:5). Elijah sees a cake baked on the coals and a cruse of water at his head. He ate and drank and lay down again. Elijah did not draw the water or bake the cake but the Lord provided it all.

The Lord doesn't want him where he is so the angel comes again to Elijah and we read, "And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee." (I Kings 19:7). The journey is too great for Elijah so the Lord provides the means to sustain him in the journey he is about to undertake. The Bible tells us that Elijah ate and drank again; then went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. This was supernatural food and drink for no man can (naturally speaking) go that long without food and drink.

The journey of serving the Lord is too great for us to go in our own strength. The Lord thus provides food and drink to strengthen us for the journey. It is also supernatural because it comes down from the Father of lights. It is the inspired word of God that is full of spiritual food and drink to sustain us in the journey of serving the Lord. Job said, "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12). Elijah thought he was the only one left to serve the Lord but the Lord assured him, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." (I Kings 19:18) This was told him after arriving in Horeb and had heard the still small voice of God and was told what he needed to do after leaving the cave in which he resided after arriving in Horeb.

Elijah was told to go to the wilderness of Damascus and anoint Hazael to be king over Syria and Jehu to be king over Israel. He was also to anoint Elisha as a prophet to succeed him. The Lord still had work for Elisha to do and provided that which was necessary for the journey until he ultimately was taken into heaven in a whirlwind amidst chariots and horses of fire. Elisha saw this and was given a double portion of the Spirit.

The journey of serving the Lord is too great for our own strength. Abraham's servant prayed the Lord would prosper his journey to find a bride for Isaac; the Lord provided in Rebekah. We must pray also for strength to make our journey prosperous.—*Editor*

THE DELIGHT OF THE LORD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Psalms 40:8: "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."

The scriptures tell us that even before the foundation of the world was laid God choose his beloved children to live with him in eternity Ephesians 1:4-5. The Father covenanted with the Son to come in the flesh and insure that everyone of his chosen ones would live in eternity with him. It was the determination of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit so much that they would all take a part in this covenant with his children. In particular I would like to write about the part that the Son took in this covenant. In Genesis 3:15 we read about the first scripture of the coming of the Son of God in the flesh, of the seed of the woman Eve.

Genesis 3:15: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Keep in mind that just like the Father the Son has an all knowing mind (Omniscience). He knows everything past, present, and future. Nothing is hid from him.

Now this brings us to our above scripture where the the psalmist is speaking through the inspiration of God in the character of the Son of God. We see in the preceding verses that it identifies the character as the Son of God, Psalms 40:6-7 "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me." More detail is given in Hebrews 10:5-7. Since the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, God sent his Son, whose blood could and did take away our sins. What was the Son's reply to the Father to come and die for us? I delight to do thy will! Jesus Christ knowing full well the pain and afflictions that he would undergo yet it was his delight to do the Father's will.

He describes the Fathers will as John 6:38-39 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day". It was Jesus Christ delight to carry out the Father's will. Every thought that he takes of the children of God is a joy to him. It is with joy and anticipation that the Son looks forward to the day that all the children of God will be gathered together in the realm of heaven to be separated no more from them. He secured all of that on the cross. Yes dear child of God you bring joy and happiness to the Lord that loved you enough to die for you. If God be for you who can be against you? He is not only for us, but he delights in us!

With the same zeal that he delighted to do the Father's will he went about in the flesh to accomplish redeeming the Lord' chosen ones. John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." The word meat is defined as food, nourishment. The human body needs food in order to sustain itself, practically everything mankind does in some way relates to him having food to sustain him. It is his most important thing in his life. Yet Jesus in the body of a man said that food took second place to him finishing the work that God gave him to do. The redemption of his children meant that much to him!

In the same verse Christ uses the word **finish**. Christ finished his work. To say that One needs to still do something in order to be saved, is ignoring that Christ finished what the Father gave him to do. It was Christ's delight to take on and finish the work of redemption.

Rickey Taylor

THE FATHER DELIGHTS IN OBEDIENCE

King Saul was told by God to go and smite all the people of Amalek and spare neither man nor beast. He returns to Gilgal but he has the king of Amalek, Agag, as prisoner and the best sheep, oxen, lambs and fatlings as spoil. The prophet Samuel is sent to him and asks him if he had done what was commanded. Saul replies that he has done what was commanded. Samuel then replies, "What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? (I Sam. 15:14)

If Saul had complied with the commandment, these animals which Samuel hears would have been destroyed. Saul tries to deflect blame to the people who wanted these animals for sacrifice. Then Samuel confronts him directly, "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (I Sam. 15:22),

The Lord delights in His people doing what they have been commanded to do just as He had delight in His Son's obedience unto death for the salvation of His people. Obeying is better than sacrifice but obedience is a sacrifice; it is not a dead sacrifice of animals but a living sacrifice of daily proportions as living stones in the kingdom of God. The body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and is used as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God, thereby proving what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God. Saul should have obeyed and so should we as recipients of His saving grace.—*Editor*

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