

Glad Tidings

October 2021

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

2021

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

When the people of God are working together for the glory of God, it is always a blessed occasion. There aren't any big shots or little shots because in reality as new creatures in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, but all one in Christ Jesus. This is such a blessed occasion that David wrote long ago, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1) David had his share of strife with the rebellion of his sons, Absalom and Adonijah, but he knew what could be accomplished when Israel was united together.

This dwelling together in unity was such a special occasion that David tells us what it is like. "It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;" (Psalm 133:2) This precious ointment permeated the whole and when brethren dwell together in unity it is precious just as the anointing David mentions. This isn't enemies being unified; it is brethren being unified and in the same mind and same spirit. The scripture cites this spirit many times as on the Day of Pentecost when they were all in "one mind and one accord." That day three thousand souls were added to the church.

Paul instructs the brethren at Ephesus to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they have been called. (Eph. 4:1) Part of that worthy Christian walk was "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:3) This lofty attainment cannot be accomplished without manifestation of love toward one another. The church must look over one another for good and not for evil and that allows each believer to forbear and maintain the unity of the spirit. The church members are to be likeminded toward one another for the ultimate goal of glorifying God. "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 15:6) Notice that principle of "oneness" that Paul uses as "one mind" and "one mouth".

Hebrews 13:1 says to "Let brotherly love continue." This love cannot continue unless it presently exists which falls in line with Paul's exhortation to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" (Rom. 12:10) Paul felt to be less than the least of all saints and so should all His people.

For brethren to dwell together in unity, they must walk together. How can that be accomplished? Amos 3:3 tells us that two cannot walk together except they be agreed. Where there is envy and strife, brethren cannot dwell together in unity and peace. Every minister rejoices when all the flock is in agreement and working together. The apostle Paul writes to the church at Philippi how they can fulfill his joy. "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Phil. 2:2) Nothing was to be done through strife and vain glory but each brother was to esteem the other better than themselves. When this is the prevailing attitude, brethren can dwell together and the church prosper.

The apostle Peter also exhorts the elect saints to be courteous and love as brethren unified in Christ. "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." (I Pet. 3:8) Brethren will always be in agreement when these qualities are manifested and the cause of Christ will be enhanced. Brethren who don't love one another will be biting and devouring one another and not fulfilling the law. Paul writes about this tragedy and division in Gal. 5:14-15: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

Satan is ever ready to drive a stake between good brethren, convincing them that their way is the only way which results in division rather than unity. Dwelling together in unity doesn't come by putting our service on auto pilot. It must be constantly a work in progress looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. Consider Jesus who exhibited the greatest love ever toward His brethren that were His enemies by nature. In view of this sacrificial love, John tells us, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (I John 4:11)

We will all dwell together in heaven as sanctified brethren and united in Christ. We rejoice in that precious truth and it is guaranteed by Jesus as our surety. It is not guaranteed that brethren will dwell together in unity while they live here on earth. This can only be enjoyed by loving and keeping the commandments of God. "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." (Jude 21) This scripture can only be enjoyed in obedience. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS



By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi
March 13, 2001

Many years ago, longer than I like to think, our pasture where the milk cows graze was plagued with a weed that I despised. It showed its head in the spring, coming to full bloom a few weeks later. This flower polluted our fresh milk with a terrible taste. One could eat an onion and drink the fresh milk when the ole' cow ate a good crop of wild onions. However, I remember nothing that could sweeten the milk when the cow ate the weed with a yellow-orange flower known by us children simply as a "bitter weed." The bitter weed ruined the milk for those that milked the cows as well as other members of the family and those that were invited to drink with us.

One might ask, "Why are you writing about a bitter weed growing in the cow pasture?" Sometime in the realm of nature we find things that ruin a good meal and those things should be avoided. So it is in the realm of Spirituality.

We are taught in Hebrews 12:15, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;" Oh, dear friends, how bitterness springs up in our souls and defiles us. How many families do you know that have been divided because of bitterness? I have seen those that have lost their parents and bitterness takes hold of the hearts of the children when they begin to divide the inheritance. Family members go the rest of their days in bitterness toward each other when we should realize that we came into this world with nothing and we shall leave carrying nothing of this world.

Brothers and Sisters, may I say at this time, "We have an eternal inheritance, heaven and all that heaven is, waiting for the elect family of God." There will be no dividing of the great elect family of God. The elect family of God is the body of Christ.. Christ cannot be divided.

For one heir of promise to be left out of that heavenly inheritance would be saying that Jesus Christ did not do the will of the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, who cannot lie, came into this world not to do His own will but the will of the Father. John teaches us this great truth in John 6:37-39. For one to say that Jesus did not do the will of the Father is to say my precious Lord failed. My Lord did not fail! He paid the redemptive price. The price was that He must lay down His life for those given unto him in the great covenant of grace. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world according to the teaching of Paul in the first chapter of Ephesians. Let us remember not only are we heirs of God, but joint heirs with Christ. Romans 8:16-17, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together." I assure you that on the resurrection day there will be no root of bitterness in the hearts of the family of God. Why is there no bitterness? It is because we will be made liken unto the Son of God, perfect in every way. Oh, Happy Day!

Job teaches us in Job 21:23-26, "One dieth in his full strength, being wholly at ease and quiet. His breasts are full of milk, and his bones are moistened with marrow. And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure. They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them." How terrible to go to our graves with bitterness in our soul! I encourage you to read Isaiah 38:1-20. What a great blessing for one to die wholly at ease and quiet. I have known in my lifetime of some that have gone to their graves with great bitterness even to the point of cursing God. The Apostle Paul spoke of some folks in Romans 3:14, "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." Oh, How terrible!

When the root of bitterness springs up in our hearts we find ourselves not able to drink of the milk of the word for we have filled our drinking cup with the milk of bitterness. When bitterness springs up in the hearts of God's little children, not only does it affect those that drink of this terrible cup, but others around them.

We may find ourselves as Jeremiah when he wrote in Lamentations 1:4, "The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness." Have you seen the situation mentioned in the above verse? Does Zion mourn? How sad! How many church doors have we seen closed in our lifetime? How many children have we as Primitive Baptist lost to other people? God of heaven please forgive us of our sins. Yes, friends, she is in bitterness, that is, Zion; or the congregation that remains of Spiritual Israel is in bitterness of spirit, in great affliction and distress; her name might be rightly called Mara (*bitterness*, see Ruth 1:20).

God help us as members of the church to take heed unto ourselves and if we find a little plant beginning to grow in our hearts and comes forth with a bitter taste, let us immediately dig it up, root and all, casting it into the fire. Let us remember there are little ones growing in the stalls of the Kingdom of our Lord. Let us not feed them with bitter milk, but with the sincere milk of the word that they may grow thereby. 1 Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Remember, "Bitter milk is not good for the stomach."

May God bless and keep you is my prayer.

"YE HAVE NEED OF PATIENCE"

Hebrews 10:36

William Gadsby--1800

Moses believed God had raised him up to deliver Israel; so when he saw the Egyptian smiting the Israelite (being a strong and important man), he thought the time and place seemed favorable to him. But God's time had not come. Moses must have more patience, wisdom, and humility. The Lord sent him forty years to the desert to QUALIFY him for HIS WORK. The Lord was teaching him patience, humility, and wisdom. After forty years in the wilderness, he did not run so zealously; for he said, "O Lord, send by whom Thou wilt send. I am not eloquent. I am slow of speech." THERE WAS NOT A WORD ABOUT ALL THIS FORTY YEARS AGO! But now that the Lord has been qualifying him for His ministry, Moses shrinks back and does not want to go; but the Lord had determined to send him. Moses had need of patience before the Lord made known His truth to him and brought him forth to lead His people out of bondage.

--William Gadsby, 1800

DUTY TO PASTORS

For the first three centuries the ministry were unsalaried, and received only irregular voluntary contributions from the private members, who themselves were comparatively few and poor. But Constantine instituted the worldly and corrupting practice of paying the Catholic ministry a fixed salary from church funds and from imperial and municipal treasuries. This custom, says Prof. Schaff, "favored ease and luxury, allured a host of unworthy persons into the service of the church, and checked the exercise of free-giving among the people."—Hassell's History, page 384.

"Ministerial support," says Elder W. M. Mitchell, of Ala., "is a point not to be regulated by agreement between church and minister, but it is a standing law regulated by the authority of God. Let churches and ministers see that they do not add to it, nor diminish from it. The minister may and ought to do some work if able to do it, and ought to use every lawful effort of industry and economy so far as he can without impairing his pastoral duties, and he should not use the liberality of his brethren to foster pride, vanity or idleness, neither in himself nor in his family, but for a decent support, and for relieving his own mind and hands, that he may be the more serviceable to his brethren and churches. He should do this even for the sake of example, if nothing else (2 Thess. 3:7-12). When the turning point of pastoral services is placed on a money basis by any preacher, it would be best for the church to withhold from him."—Hassell's History, page 316

The corrupt hireling system has put worthless men into the pulpits for filthy lucre. We are glad that our people have ever condemned such a system. In condemning the hireling system there is danger of going to another extreme of doing almost nothing. No true gospel preacher makes demands, or could be hired to preach; but the church that calls him to serve them should feel under obligations to care for him freely, cheerfully, and in love as God has prospered them. Deacons are set apart to see that the pastor is cared for and that the burden is equalized. The deacon can mention this matter in Conference at each meeting, as there will be some members present that may not be there Sunday, and on Sunday, he can do the same. Make no demands, but let all know they have an opportunity to aid their pastor freely and in love. The pastor, then, should devote as much time as possible among his churches, visiting the homes of all members, and friends possible, speaking words of comfort to them. The responsibilities and trials of a poor pastor are great. He needs the prayers and aid of the saints. He should be willing to labor and teach his children to work for support and to use economy. When members do their duty, they feel better and by so doing they enable their pastor to render more efficient

service to them. There is danger, however, of the pastor becoming covetous and wanting too much—to be eased while others are burdened. There should be equality among the Lord's people. Let all the service be done in love. When a man demands a salary, or setting a price on himself, let him alone. This is a business that should be carried out in a Scriptural way. Read carefully these Scriptures. Isa. 56:11; Ezek. 34:2-10; Acts 4:32-37; 20:33-34; 1 Cor. 9:4-16; 2:7, 12; 13-15; Gal. 6:6. Let all preach the truth in love, freely—walking by faith. L.H. Elder Lee Hanks
(From "Gospel Messenger", Aug. 1920)

SAVED BY HOPE

By Elder R. W. Thompson—*Primitive Monitor*—1915

Hope is the Christian's anchor. He is saved by hope, (Rom. 8:24) but not in the sense that he is saved by the blood of Christ. The distinction is very broad and easily seen. However he is not saved by hope independent of the blood of Christ, but he is saved by the blood of Christ independent of hope in Christ as his Saviour. He is the hope of all who believe in Him. Hope is that precious God-given grace that has for its origin the gift of eternal life. It is born of eternal life.

The blood of Christ saved at the cross all for whom it was shed. It was in order that he should save His people that He gave His life a ransom for them. Time will develop through the gift of eternal life who they are. Hope lays hold upon the work finished on the cross and rejoices in the victory through the Lamb of God that was slain. This is salvation by hope; it saves the believing one from gloomy despair, from unbelief, but does not save a soul from death in sin or from eternal perdition. Doubts and fears oft times seize the child of God and he feels he cannot claim the promises of God; feels he is a stranger and without hope. But, nay, hope is the anchor that is sure. "It rests in nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." Men must and will ever fail to provide such refuge for the faint and weary ones. God has set before you a hope which is sure and steadfast and it enters into that within the veil, and that is to Jesus your Saviour.

This hope of homeward-bound saints has stood amid the storm of centuries an unflinching support, an impregnable fortress, the imperishable rock of safety. It is the one "hope of their calling," and will abide until death shall remove them, and they shall "know as they are known." Then they will have passed beyond the power of hope to save, but not beyond the efficacy of the blood of Christ, the redeemed sinner's only plea. By the patience of hope they here wait the fulfillment of the promise of God, and though it tarry, they wait for it, knowing that he who promised is faithful and true. Is this my hope? It is the Christian's beacon light, reaching out over the dark clouds of sin and death; abides amidst the wreck of thrones and kingdoms of men, and finds its victory over every obstacle in the one God and Father of all, to whom be glory and dominion for evermore.

AFFLICTIONS



Elder T. L. Webb Jr. (Deceased)

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word" (Psalm 119:67).

There is an old song that has this line in it: "Afflictions tho' they seem severe,--are oft in mercy sent..." I have often thought of the sore trials and conflicts many of the Lord's people have encountered in their lives. Some of the best of His saints seem to have suffered the most. If we could only see the glory that is to follow, our light afflictions would not be worthy to be compared with it. We would not be as envious of the prosperity of the wicked if we could see as God sees.

When we turn our eyes toward Jesus and see His sufferings, His grief and how He willingly bore the cross for us, all of our afflictions seem as nothing. "In all their afflictions he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old" (Isa. 63:9). Our bleeding Saviour knew all of our sorrows and was acquainted with all the grief of His afflicted children.

We might ask the question, why the Psalmist went astray "before" he was afflicted and "after" being afflicted he kept God's word? He said in verse 71: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." Afflictions bring us to the realization of our needs and by them are made to trust Him for deliverance. If this life was a continual mountain of good health and material prosperity we would not be taught the need of reaching forth in prayer to the God of mercy. In such a state of plenty we would not feel any desire for heavenly bliss or a release from this world and its pleasures. The quickened soul finds no lasting joy in earthly treasures because Divine grace has afflicted him and made him thirst for the living God. Grace causes us to acknowledge our sins and pray for mercy. This spiritual affliction makes us realize our pitiful condition before an holy God.

The prophet Zephaniah says in Chapter 3:12, "I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord." A strong and rich people will not likely trust in the

Lord. When we see our insufficiency and are brought to the depths of poverty we then look upward for help and strength. We need the cloudy days to appreciate the bright, sunny ones and the valleys to know about the mountains.

The apostle Paul spoke of the revelations and exaltation which he experienced, but then said a “thorn in the flesh” was given him that he might not be exalted above measure (II Cor. 12). In *our* lives there must be something to “keep us humble” that we might experience the strength of our Lord made perfect in our weakness.

A chosen vessel of the Lord will be given great things, maybe not in the degree of Bible characters such as Paul, but there must be something to “keep him down” in order to keep him in the right way. When Jacob wrestled with the angel of the Lord (Gen. 32:24-32) and prevailed, he did not come out of that experience without being crippled. The Lord touched the hollow of his thigh and when the day broke, he was made to halt upon his thigh. No one could experience in mortal flesh what Jacob experienced without remembering it, and he remembered it by being crippled. We may not be afflicted in body, but we will experience a stricken soul that will lean upon the Lord for life and salvation. Nothing is more important for a poor crippled soul than to have the Lord to lean upon! “Who is this coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?” (Song of Sol. 8:5). What a true picture of the Church leaning upon her Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ! How sweet it is to trust in Jesus, our Beloved, as we travel along with many tribulations and afflictions through this wearisome land of sorrow! We are looking for a City of God above the starry sky where sin will not molest us and afflictions are unknown.—Elder T. L. Webb, Jr.—Milan, Tenn.

(From “*The Advocate and Messenger*”, Oct. 1985)

THE LORD’S HAND NOT SHORTENED

Advocate and Messenger 1981,—Eld. Ralph Harris

“Behold the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save” (Isaiah 59:1). But if, as most religionists say, God is *trying* to save but He cannot unless men will let Him, then His hand is shortened that it cannot save. And how can it be that God does “according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand” (Daniel 4:35), and yet men can keep Him from saving them simply by *not letting Him* save? Either God is crossed up in *His* thinking, or man is crossed up in *his*. I rather think it is *man* who is crossed up, don’t you?

God asks, “Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot save? Or have I no power to deliver?” Then in the following lines He gives the answer: “Behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness” (Isaiah 50:2). His word is good enough for me.

Food For Thought For Your Week



July 19, 2021

By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

Misery Must Have Truth For Comfort

Misery can come to us for many reasons. But it is certain, our merciful God is never the cause of our misery. Granted, if we stray from the paths of righteousness, there will be the chastening rod of our Lord as He lovingly rebukes us for our error to bring us back where we should be. (Revelation 3:19) And in such a condition, you can be in misery; but, God is not the cause – you are. You were acting in rebellion, while God is merely responding with what you really need to restore peace - because He truly loves you.

Today we take a look at three passages that address some miserable conditions to glean something from each for our learning to better equip us – and hopefully, to avoid such.

The first is found in the Book of Job; and, while the life of Job had much misery, God declared him to be “perfect and upright,” who “feared God,” and “eschewed” (abstained from) evil. If God himself says that of Job, this is not a man practicing or harboring evil. Plus, James 5 instructs us that he was one of the prophets who was an “*example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*” And yet, his friends who came to comfort him, who sat with him for seven days and seven nights (Job 2:13) not able to speak because of his condition, only added to Job’s misery when they did speak. Job 16:2 says, “*I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.*” Why? Because what they had to say was not based upon truth. This is a powerful point that desperately needs to be regarded. If we are not abiding in truth as it is declared in God’s word, then we are on shaky ground and sinking sand, not the rock-solid foundation of truth. (see Matthew 7:24). And when we try to help others in their misery, the only true help found will be from God’s word.

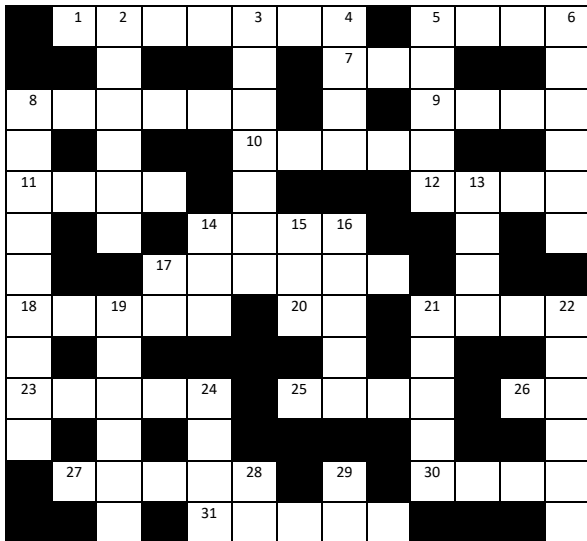
Next, when the Lord confronted the church at Laodicea, they were in a miserable condition and didn’t even know it! Jesus said, “*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and*

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. The tree Elijah sat under wishing himself to die.
5. Jonah said out of the belly of ___ he cried to God.
7. There is ___ Lord, ___ faith and ___ baptism. #
8. ___ not with them that are given to change. Mingle.
9. I swore in my wrath they wouldn't enter into my ___
10. ___ your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.
11. Doth a fountain ___ forth at the same time sweet water and bitter water?
12. Jesus is the ___ yesterday, today and forever.
14. Jesus made the ___ to hear and the dumb speak.
17. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the ___ manna. Not revealed.
18. ___ with thy adversary quickly whiles thou art in the way with him.
20. District Attorney.
21. Jesus opened the ___ of the blind. In the head.



(Answers on Page 9)

23. A bishop must not be greedy of filthy lucre and a ___ of hospitality and a ___ of good men.
25. The wise men saw Jesus' ___ in the east and came to worship him.
26. ___ I come in the volume of the book written of me.
27. No fountain can yield both salt water and ___.
30. Touch not mine anointed; do thy prophets no ___.
31. Languages were confounded at the ___ of Babel.

DOWN:

2. Elijah sat down ___ a juniper tree.
3. It ___ the Father that in him all fullness would dwell.
4. Soldiers put a purple ___ on Jesus. Garment.
5. The devils wanted to be cast into the ___ of swine out of the wild Gaderene. Plural.
6. Job said his redeemer liveth and that he would stand at the ___ day upon the earth.
8. Job called his three friends ___ comforters.
13. The Lord doeth his will in the ___ of heaven.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

14. It is appointed unto man once to ___ and after this the judgment.
15. We are to ___ to our faith, virtue, knowledge etc.
16. Jews were to observe the ___ of unleavened bread.
17. ___ that is least in the kingdom is greater than he.
19. By the ___ of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion. Nile & Jordan.
21. Heaven and ___ shall pass away; not my words.
22. Jesus was on a ship with disciples and there did arise a ___ of wind filling ship with waves. Plural.
24. Treasures in heaven neither moth nor ___ corrupt.
28. ___ ye that thirsteth come ye to the waters.
29. ___ ye holy for I am holy. To ___ or not to be.

Food For Thought For Your Week

(Continued from Page 5)

have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" (Revelation 3:17) So, here is another powerful point to regard: choices/actions that lead us away from God's truth will deceive us into thinking we are prospering, when just the opposite is true. They WERE rich, but not in the right things; and, they had begun to rely upon those things instead of the Lord and His truth. No matter how good you feel about it, if it's not godly, it's not good.

Finally, God's truth says, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (1st Corinthians 15:19) Without hope that there is a better and eternal day awaiting those of us who believe that Jesus died and rose again for us, we may as well "eat and drink" and get all we can from this life. Sadly, many live according to that thinking. But, just as the resurrection of Jesus is a fact, so also is the fact of the coming resurrection "of all that are in the graves" who shall come forth at His command. (John 5:28) There is no reason whatsoever for any who believe that Jesus died and rose again to have any concern or misery about our resurrection to life and eternal joy. We will not be disappointed in our trust. What God has promised, He is able to perform. (Rom 4:21)

Friends, the only solid ground for reasoning we have to stand upon to face life's struggles is God and His word of truth. It will never let us down, nor ever lead us astray. Many things we are told may sound good, our heart can be deceitful, and there are plenty who do not know the Lord, yet who are quick to give advice. May God help each of us to read and apply His word to guide in us in the right ways - for His glory, and for our comfort.

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Stateline Rd, in Tremont, MS the 3rd weekend in October, 2021 (Oct. 15-17). Services Friday night, Oct. 15. at 7:00 p.m. with preaching by Elder James Hall and Elder Steve Weaver. Saturday, Oct. 16, at 10:00 a.m. with messages by Elder Bobby Howell and Elder Larry Wise in a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 with lunch. James Creek is currently without a pastor.

Everyone is invited to the Anniversary Meeting at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, Echola, AL the 1st Saturday weekend in October, 2021 (Oct. 2-3). Services Saturday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Elder Larry Wise, Elder David Wise and Elder Jonathan Wise are invited ministers. Elder Tim McCool is Pastor of Bethlehem.

Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS will be at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS the 5th Sunday in October, 2021 (Oct. 31) with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS, will be with the Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 5th Sunday in October, 2021 (Oct. 31) with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in October, 2021 (Oct 31) will be hosted by Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS with services beginning at 5:30 p.m. No supper at 5:30 but services begin at 5:30 p.m. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches in Northeast, MS. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The *Christian Post* reports that the Southern Baptist Convention lost some 400,000 members during 2020 and although some of this was due to the pandemic, it just continued a 14 year decline in the largest Protestant denomination.

Other disturbing trends from Pew Research found that Americans who describe themselves as Christian dropped from 77% to 65% from 2009-2019 and church attendance also declined over that decade. Pollsters designate as “nones” those who claim they are either atheist, agnostic, or religiously unaffiliated and the “nones” grew over that same time period from 17% to 26%. (From the *American Family Association* August 2021 newsletter.)

I fear that the Primitive Baptist are experiencing the same decline in interest in church attendance and membership but thank the Lord we aren't plagued with disturbing atheists and agnostics.—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the October meeting at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS the 2nd weekend in October, 2021 (Oct. 8-9). Services Friday night, Oct. 8, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is the invited minister. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will have its annual meeting November 13-14, 2021. Services Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at 10:00 a.m. with communion. Elder Ben Winslett, AL and Elder Chris McCool, AL are invited ministers. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia. Everyone is invited to come and worship.

IN MEMORIAM



Elder Truman Keel, DeRidder, LA passed into glory on Sunday August 8, 2021 at the age of 90. He died of Covid as body wasn't healthy enough to fight the infection. Graveside services were Aug. 13, 2021 with Elder Jeff Moseley and Elder Pat Young officiating in Merryville, LA. He was a faithful soldier of the cross for a long time and retired in glory. Pray for his family and all those who mourn his passing.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Moses died before he ever reached Canada.
- As the offering plate was being passed, a 4-year-old said, "You don't have to pay for me, daddy. I'm under 5."
- When you get scared, God will bring you your quilt. He said the Comforter would come.
- It says "the Lord thy God is One." But I think He is a lot older than that.

AMEN

"For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (II Corinthians 1:20).

The word "amen" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Koine Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best-known word in human speech. The word is directly related--in fact, almost identical--to the Hebrew word for "believe" (aman), or "faithful." Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly," an expression of absolute trust and confidence. When one believes God, he indicates his faith by an "amen." When God makes a promise, the believer's response is "amen"--"so it will be!" In the New Testament, it is often translated "verily" or "truly." When we pray according to His Word and His will, we know God will answer, so we close with an "amen," and so also do we conclude a great hymn or anthem of praise and faith.

The word is even a title of Christ Himself. The last of His letters to the seven churches begins with a remarkable salutation by the glorified Lord: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14). We can be preeminently certain that His Word is always faithful and true, because He is none other than the Creator of all things, and thus He is our eternal "Amen." As our text reminds us, every promise of God in Christ is "yea and amen," as strong an affirmation of truth as can be expressed in the Greek language.

It is, therefore, profoundly meaningful that the entire Bible closes with an "amen." "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (Revelation 22:21), assuring everyone who reads these words that the whole Book is absolutely true and trustworthy. Amen!

Source Unknown.

IS THIS NATION RIGHTEOUS?

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34) God blesses a nation that is righteous and exalts (lifts up) it when it adheres to the precepts of God; otherwise, the Lord will hide His face. The reason God always hides his face is because of sin and He can do it individually or collectively. The book of Job says, "When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:" (Job 34:29) When God hides His face there aren't any blessings to be had just as Job said, "Who can behold Him? God grant repentance!--*Editor*

WHAT WE NEED

In this age of confusion of tongues, while all the world is "wandering after the beast," while crime is on the increase, while hypocrisy clothes herself in the showy part of pretended piety, and while even the state of the apostolic church seems to be deplorable because of the depredations made by designing men, do we realize our poor, needy condition? Or do we vainly imagine ourselves to be rich in faith and good works?

Let me say, first of all, that we need grace to sustain us, to keep us humble, and to fill us with sincere devotion to God and His cause. Too much cold formality characterizes our public worship. We meet too much in the spirit of the world, and are too much engrossed with the cares of life as we vainly endeavor to "tune our formal songs." As we meet, it ought to be with prayerful desire to worship God in Spirit and in truth, rather than to indulge in conversation about secular things. Feeling our utter dependence upon the Lord, we would do well to pray constantly, "Lord help this once more." Each one should earnestly inquire for light to illuminate the path of duty, and for spiritual ability to walk in the same. Then with the glow of His love in our hearts, we could sing the sweet songs of Zion with the spirit and understanding; and our souls would rejoice under the sweet rays of divine light, as we speak of the unsearchable riches of His grace, and hear of Him out of His sweet word.

To qualify to engage thus, we need the personal presence of the Holy Ghost, without which our songs are a chattering noise, our prayers are lifeless forms, and our preaching is a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

We need constantly to be mantled in the spotless folds of the dear Redeemer's garment of righteousness, to see Him above us crowned with immortality, to view Him beneath us as The Rock of Ages, the firm foundation of our hope, to behold Him all about us as the hills are about Jerusalem, that we may rest in the sweet embrace of His love, secure from all our adversaries. The lamentable absence of such unshaken faith in Christ leads men into the channels of idolatry, and they are naturally led to look to the gods about them, which others worship and says, "These be the gods that brought us up." Some of our own precious brethren are so forgetful of the great Arm that sustains them, that they vainly imagine that unless we adopt the inventions of men we must languish and die. Hence the cry is raised, "Get out of this old rut." Dear brethren, what we need is to inquire after the "old paths" and walk therein.

Elder John R. Daily

Primitive Monitor 1891

(Reprinted in "Advocate and Messenger",
January 1980)

GOD’S PLACE FOR WOMEN

The woman was not made from the superior part of man, that she might not be thought to be above him; nor from any inferior part as being below him. She was not taken from his head, that she might not be supposed to reign over him; nor from his eyes, that she might not be supposed to see for him nor diligently search for his imperfections; nor from his ears, that she might not be supposed to listen to false accusations against him; nor from his mouth, for fluent as she may be in speech, she is not to be her husband’s spokesman; nor from his arms, or hands, for she is not to fight his battles for him; nor from the front part of his body, for she is not to be set at the front of dangers and difficulties; nor from his back, for she is not to be treated with contempt, and set behind him; nor from his legs, or thighs, for she is not to bear the principal part of his burdens; nor from his feet, for she is not to be trampled upon by him; but out of his side, and from one of his ribs, that she might appear to be equal to him; and from a part near his heart, and under his arms, to show that she should be affectionately loved by him, and be always under his care and protection.

From Gadsby’s *Marriage Union*
 (From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, January 1980)

**ANSWERS
 BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

(Read from right to left)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. repinuj | 2. enodnu |
| 5. lleh | 3. desaelp |
| 7. eno | 4. ebor |
| 8. elddem | 5. sdreh |
| 9. tser | 6. rettal |
| 10. dnema | 8. elbaresim |
| 11. dnes | 13. ymra |
| 12. emas | 14. eid |
| 14. faed | 15. dda |
| 17. neddih | 16. tsaef |
| 18. eerga | 17. eh |
| 20. ad | 19. srevir |
| 21. seye | 21. htrae |
| 23. revol | 22. smrots |
| 25. rats | 24. tsur |
| 26. ol | 28. oh |
| 27. hserf | 29. eb |
| 30. mrah | |
| 31. rewot | |

“And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” (Matt. 19: 5-6)

EXCERPTS--GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Dear Ones,

These thoughts are on my mind. Sure hope it’s not tiring to you all.

United States History is really interesting and it is always interesting to think of the Pilgrims coming to America to be free to worship God and have freedom from State Church in Britain which was an operation of everyone having to pay taxes to the State Church. They could not choose. The State ruled what they could say (no free speech).

It is my understanding that what is called separation of Church and State is that there is to be no State Church in America. Americans are free to worship in the way we choose. Those who don’t believe there is a God are free not to attend to anything concerning the church.

Ministers and everyone in America are free to say the words written in the Bible.

American Freedom is a Very Precious Special Gift of God to us in which everyone is free to read the Bible and worship God as we choose, also freedom to vote for the political candidates and issues that we choose.. So precious that the Pilgrims were blessed to come to America and we are enjoying blessings beyond our counting. It’s really special we are free to own property—land—houses—cars etc. as we choose. Freedom to choose schools—jobs—health care—plant gardens and trees etc. . . .

Wishing our Dear Lord’s Blessings to you all. He will see us through.

In Precious Hope & Love,
 Sister Loreta Lilly
 Akron, OH

Bro. Larry,

Praying that Sister Wise will soon recover. (My wife had Covid. She was blessed to recover—Editor)
 May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

Wayne Crocker
 Cottondale, AL

Brother Larry,

Thank you for publishing “Glad Tidings”. I enjoy the articles, the information, and your thoughts. May God richly bless you.

May God bless,
 Dale Kennedy
 Tremont, MS

It is good to receive notes and letters from time to time along with a donation. Letters were means of communication even in Bible times. Paul and the apostles were well known and did not need letters of commendation. “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?” (II Cor. 3:1) These believers in Corinth were the apostles’ epistle written with the Spirit in fleshy tables of the heart and read of all men.—*Editor*

STAND FAST

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

In this world in which we live, we see children of God compromise their beliefs and be conformed to the world. This is contrary to the word of God as we are called upon to be transformed by the renewing of our mind rather than to be conformed to the world. This is part of our reasonable service to God. We are called upon to stand fast and not be moved from the solid Rock of Jesus Christ. Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica and says, "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." (1 Thess. 3:8).

Paul isn't teaching that we will live in heaven if we stand fast in the Lord but that we'll live an abundant life in this world filled with blessings. If heaven were dependent upon our steadfastness, we would all fail to reach that lofty abode. The enjoyment of eternal life beyond the grave has been secured by the perfect obedience of Christ for us as the sanctified. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14) These believers in Thessalonica were suffering intense trial and persecution for their faith, but Paul had been comforted by the news from Timothy of their faith and charity. Paul was comforted in his distress by the faith of someone else. These believers faith and charity was growing in the midst of persecution for their faith rather than abandonment as we see all too frequently in today's world.

Paul would go on to write to this church in his second epistle to remain steadfast in the truth they had embraced, having come from idolatry. Solomon said long ago, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." (Prov. 23:23) These believers had believed the truth that made them free from the slavery of idolatry as they obeyed the command of scripture to come out from among them. (2 Cor. 6:17) Considering what the Lord hath done for them, Paul would exhort them, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." (2 Thess. 2:15) These traditions were Biblical traditions and not traditions of men that required their adherence. Paul would encourage them with a prayer that God and Jesus Christ would "Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." (2 Thess. 2:17)

Contrast these believers in Thessalonica with those in Galatia. These believers in Thessalonica did as the believers on the Day of Pentecost who "... continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42) However, some of the believers in Galatia had left the freedom they had in Christ's fulfilling the law and were ready to revert to serving under the bondage of the law. Paul would write to this church and exhort them as he did the church in Thessalonica "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." (Gal. 5:1) These people had been bewitched by some who had perverted the true gospel in teaching that adherence to the law was necessary for justification before God. In reality that justification took place at the cross with the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Truth is truth regardless of what the pundits would have you believe that it is only relative. What is truth to one person may not be truth to another; it just depends on the situation. That is deception, just as the church in Galatia had been deceived by false teachers. The belief of the truth had freed these Galatian brethren from the bondage of the law. Rather than standing fast, rooted and grounded in the truth, they are ready to reverse course. Jude felt that the body of truth was important enough to write to the sanctified, preserved and called and exhort them to earnestly "contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

Paul writes to the church in Corinth and tells them they can be saved (delivered) if they keep in memory what he has preached unto them. Paul preached the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ according to the scriptures. This church was in danger of embracing the falsehood that there is no resurrection of the dead. Some were already saying that; they had failed to keep in memory what Paul had preached and thus failed to be saved from this false teaching. Such a miserable condition it would be if Christ had not risen from the grave, having justified us before God. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (1 Cor. 15:19) We can be saved from this misery by believing and standing fast and contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Christian people today are not standing fast and are compromising the word of God in the name of tolerance. They are not speaking out against same sex marriage; they are ordaining homosexuals as priests and ministers, ordaining women as ministers, turning worship into a concert, and the list goes on. Paul concluded his thoughts in 1 Cor. chapter 15 with these words: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58) Stand Fast!

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Paul instructs the young minister Timothy to study the word of God, hence enabling him to be able to correctly divide the truth. According to Strong's Concordance the word divide means to make a straight cut, i.e. (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly. A skilled carpenter would for example know precisely where to cut the lumber in order for it to correctly fit into the house he is building. It is because he is a skilled carpenter that he can do that. Now Paul is telling Timothy that he cannot be negligent in his studying for the ministry of the word of God. There is a great many of God's children that will be counting on him to correctly instruct them in the word of God.

I remember a story that was told to me by a skilled roofer of his experience when he was young and his father was teaching him how to place shingles on a roof. To impress his father on how well he had learned the craft he quickly laid the shingles on one side of the house forgetting the finer points that he was shown about lining up the shingles. When his father came to inspect his work, rather than congratulating him on a job well done, he told him that he would have to take up everyone of the shingles all the way back to the point where he had started laying the shingles off-center. Now laying shingles is hard, but taking shingles back up is even harder! Just one shingle laid inaccurately bungles up the whole process. A lesson he never forgot!

Let's apply that principle to the word of God. Let's use the doctrine of salvation by grace. God sent his Son to redeem everyone of his chosen children Matthew 1:21; John 6:38-40; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-5. Jesus Christ came in the flesh John 1:14 because his brethren are flesh and blood Hebrews 2:13. Jesus Christ finished the work that God the Father gave him to finish John 19:30. This is the truth that God gave to his apostles and disciples at the start of the gospel church on the day of Pentecost. They were expected to deliver this

through preaching and dialogue with the brethren of the church. Not to save souls but to inform them that they were saved by the work that Christ did on the cross.

At first the church added many at Jerusalem. However in a short time there were ministers who began to come among them and teach a little different than what God had delivered to the apostles. Some were teaching that you had to follow all the ordinances of the Mosaic law to be saved These Jews were not rightly dividing the word of truth. They said there was a lot more than just a man dying for them to save them. They had to get saved by several different kinds of works. Here as the young roofer that had misapplied the singles they were not correctly laying out the word of God to benefit his children. They were preaching the truth off-center. It was not straight. Jesus either did or didn't save his people. We cannot have it both ways. Jesus said it was finished when he gave up the ghost and died on the cross. Finish is another word for completion. Now if Christ finished the work of redemption, then there is no work left to be done for redemption. This teaching is not rightly dividing the word of God, nor does it give the full glory to Christ to say that he needs help to finish his work. Once you start laying just one part of the truth inaccurately it will offset the rest of the teachings. It must be divided correctly to help our brethren. If the doctrines of men were a house, we would have one wobbly looking building that had a leaking roof and off-center and ready to collapse to the ground at any moment! When it's put to the test, it won't measure up.

We ministers I pray will rightly divide the word of truth, so that our brethren that read and study their bible to know how to serve God, and bring glory. We all need to know how to rightly divide the word of truth. This is just too important a subject not to give adequate time to study. We are soldiers of the cross. It is the duty of a soldier to apply himself to correctly learn to divide and apply the word of truth as God gave it.

Elder R.L. Taylor

GOOD ADVICE

There aren't any contradictions in the inspired word of God. If one portion of scripture seems to contrary to another, it is our understanding that is faulty and not the Bible. I have heard Elder Sony Pyles say in a sermon that Elder J. D. Holder told him he should not preach on any particular subject unless he was acquainted with what the Bible had to say as a whole on that subject.—*Editor*

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