

Glad Tidings

December 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

The greatest birth in redemptive history was the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without it the scriptures would be defective and God would have been proven to be a liar which of course we all know is impossible to happen. God promised a sign in the birth of Jesus Christ by the prophet Isaiah. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) If it was just a "young woman" who conceived and bore a child, that would be no sign at all; it is a common day practice for a woman to bear a child.

Conversely, a virgin had never given birth to a child prior to Mary giving birth to Jesus. The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin named Mary and told her she was highly favoured above women. She was troubled at the angel's saying and then we read, "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." (Luke 1:30-31) Mary knew how conception and birth took place. She wondered how this could be since she had not known a man. Ordinary births take place with conception as a result of the physical union of a man and a woman. This conception produces a sinner. David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost; therefore, He came forth as a clean thing out of an unclean thing. He could not have done that except He was born of a virgin. Without the virgin birth, Jesus would have been born a sinner and could not have made the perfect sacrifice for the sins of His people. He offered Himself "without spot" to God and The Father was satisfied with the offering whereas God wasn't satisfied with the offering of bulls and goats. "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities." (Isa. 53:11)

The sovereignty of God is displayed in choosing Mary to be the vessel to bring forth the Son of God. There surely were other virgins in the land beside Mary, but Gabriel told her she was highly favoured. We are highly favoured as God's sheep and have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. God has the right to choose whom He pleases.

It is hard to believe but there are people in the realm of Christianity that do not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Sinners could never be saved from the gulf of sin without our high priest who was holy, harmless, and separate from sinners. (Heb. 7:26) The priests of the Old Testament offered up sacrifices for "their own sins" as well as those of the people. This is not the case with our faithful high priest, Jesus Christ. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Heb. 10:12)

It was flesh and blood that violated the law of God in the garden by Adam. It had to be a flesh and blood man to satisfy the law of God, but one without sin. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;.." (Heb. 2:14) The part Jesus took was the flesh and blood but without the sin of flesh and blood. Adam was a figure of Him (Jesus) that was to come. (Rom. 5:14) "The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven." (I Cor. 15:47) By one man's sin many were made sinners; so by the obedience of one (Jesus) shall many be made righteous. (Rom. 5:19)

Mary, though a virgin, was a sinner and thus she needed a Saviour as all the family of God. She even recognized Jesus as Saviour and God encased in one sinless body. "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:46-47) We don't worship the virgin Mary as do some but the One she was blessed to bring into the world as a man who did something no one else could possibly do. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:8) Hallelujah, what a Saviour we have!

David after he had served his generation fell on sleep and saw corruption. However, He whom God raised from the dead (Jesus) saw no corruption. (Acts 13:36-37) Just as Jesus came forth at birth as a clean thing out of an unclean, He came forth from the grave without seeing corruption (consistent with His Divine nature) caused by sin The Bible says as we have borne the image of the earthly, we also shall bear the image of the heavenly. We'll have no corruption but incorruption, no dishonour but glory, no weakness but power, not natural but spiritual. This climax of redemptive history would not be possible without the virgin birth. (Elder Larry Wise)

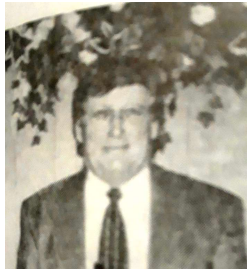
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THE HOUR



By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi
June 7, 2010

60 minutes is a long time if you are bored. 60 minutes is a short time when one is trying to maneuver through a large airport from one gate to another. I use 60 minutes because it is the measure of time in an hour.

In scripture the word "Hour" can mean the measure of time as a part of the 24 hour day. It can mean also a summation of a moment. It can also be referring to a time span of several years. In many cases the hour is referring to a period of light or darkness. Light can refer to knowledge and darkness as ignorance. I may be in darkness trying to write this article. That means I may be just flat out dumb. I am amazed when reading the scriptures at the many "two opposites" are set forth such as light and darkness, two opposites.

Jesus said in John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The hour** is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." This hour does not cover 60 minutes

but is a continuous hour. It is an hour coming and now is. From righteous Abel to the last heir of promise, that is conceived, is or will be born of the Spirit when God directs the Holy Spirit to do so. Notice in verses 28-29 that Jesus speaks of another hour. He does not use the words "and now is" but says "Marvel not at this: for **the hour** is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." I believe this is speaking of that glorious day, the hour, when God shall speak and time will be no more. The day of separation will come when He shall separate HIS sheep from THE goats. The sheep are set on the right hand, but the goats on the left. It will also be the hour (moment) when the "goats" are judged by their works. The sheep, heirs of promise, are already judged and found righteous by the imputation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Our (the sheep) sins were carried into the land of forgetfulness to be remembered no more. How long until that hour?

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of "the hour" when he prayed unto the Father. John 17:1-2 "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, **the hour** is come, glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." The hour had come. Was this a 60 minute hour? No, read the scriptures. From the time these men came to the garden of Gethsemane and he submitted himself unto them, it was several hours until that time was fulfilled on the cruel cross, His crucifixion, and death was more than 60 minutes. It was several hours of men's trials, and then being nailed to the cross, and finally giving up the ghost. He said "it is finished." There is not a man alive today that can describe all that took place in "that hour" of the final hours of Jesus on the cross.

We read in the book of Luke 22:50-53 "And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far; And he touched his ear, and healed him. Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come to him, Be ye come out, as against a thief with swords and staves? When I was with you daily in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is **YOUR HOUR**, and the power of darkness." Oh, the hour of men! If not for God's grace we would all be carried away into the gulf of sins and transgressions.

We read in John 2:1-5 "And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to

do with thee? **Mine hour** is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

On this occasion of the marriage in Cana of Galilee, Jesus began His miracles. He did not choose to go into the city of Jerusalem but rather his first miracle would take place among a "lesser" people during this marriage ceremony. Jesus could have spoken earlier and changed all the water into wine, but "**Mine hour**" had not yet come. There were many occasions in the life of Christ as he walked on the face of this earth in which He could have done many miraculous things. He could have made himself of great reputation in the eyes of men. But He was lowly and meek as a lamb. Now comes the hour in which he will openly turn water into wine. Mary, His mother, said "...they have no wine." Jesus said words, which in the mind of some were words of disrespect towards His mother. Certainly that was not the case.

Should we think that this was the first time that Mary would recognize her Son as being the Son of God? Certainly not! She knew this was the Son of God because of the words spoken to her being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. Why then would Jesus say "... Woman, what have I to do with thee?" It was because **His hour** was not yet come. The hour of miracles was not yet come. Yet Mary knew whatsoever she would ask, He would fulfill. Shouldn't we have the same attitude concerning our requests of God through Christ?

Everything that Jesus did was at a "certain" time and it was to the honour and Glory of His Father. The changing of the water to wine was for the good of those present at the marriage ceremony and most of all in honor of the Father. Jesus could have asked the bridegroom before hand if he had a sufficient amount of wine for the occasion. However, His hour was not yet come. It is when we have reached the end of our "rope", when we are at our time of greatest need for something, that the Lord answers us. To some, to have water changed into wine would not mean much, even to those who were drinking of such. But here to the lowly people, and the governor, and the servants, which He had instructed to fill the waterpots to the brim with water, they drew out of the waterpots with that which they had filled the waterpots and gave it to the governor of the feast, the water being changed to wine was and is a great miracle.

Friends we should remember "...**We must against hope believe in hope.**" I am thankful that our Lord sits at the right hand of the Father and is making intercessions for us. **His hour** is come and **His hour** will come. There is coming a day when the final hour for you and I will come. An hour in which we will lay this body down to sleep in the dust, but we look forward to **HIS HOUR** knowing when the time is **HIS HOUR**, He shall speak and our bodies will come forth and once again unite with our soul which in the hand of God and we shall be changed, in a moment and made liken unto the Son of God. "...Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

THROUGH BACA'S VALE

By J. C. Philpot (Deceased)

December 25

"Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." - Philippians ii.6,7

The humanity of our blessed Lord was actual flesh and blood from the moment of its conception, a perfect human body, to which was united a perfect human soul; both without sin, or else he could not be the Lamb without blemish; both without sin or his pure humanity would not have been that "holy thing" born of the Virgin, which should be called the Son of God. Thus he came forth as the Lamb of God, without spot or blemish. Well indeed might the Apostle Paul say, "Great is the mystery of godliness." Here as in a glass we see the wonderful love of Jesus that he who is the Son of God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Ghost, a sharer of the Father's essence, of the Father's glory, should stoop so low to lift us up on high; that he should condescend to unite to his glorious Person our nature, flesh and blood; to wear a human body like our own; to feel as we do, to speak as we do, to eat, drink and hunger and thirst and weep and sigh and mourn as we do; yet all the while be the Son of God, and should have a divine nature in as close union with human nature as our soul has with our bodily frame. We cannot tell how our soul is in union with our body. We know it is so, but how we cannot tell. We only know the fact, but we cannot explain the mode. So we cannot tell how Christ's divine nature is in union with his human nature; we know it is so by the testimony of God, by the express revelation of his word. That revelation to a believer answers all inquiry. But if any man say to me, "Can you explain the mystery of the two natures in Christ?" I ask in my turn, "Can you explain the mystery of your own existence? Can you explain to me how you are able to lift up your own hand, see with your own eye, hear with your own ear, move with your own foot? No man has ever yet been able to explain this apparently simple thing; a feat which every child can perform, but a fact which no philosopher can understand. Can you tell me how mind can act upon matter? How you wish to do a thing with your mind, and can do it instantaneously with your body? When, then, can you explain your own existence and unravel the mystery of your soul acting in union with your body, then I will allow that you may unravel the mystery of the union of Deity and humanity in the Person of the Son of God, as he lived upon earth, and as he now lives in heaven." Beautiful upon this mystery are the words of Hart:

"How it was done we can't discuss;

But this we know, 'twas done for us."

Happy those who can use these words without a wavering tongue!

CHANGE AND DECAY

By Elder Roland Green (Deceased)

“Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.” This is a line of a prayer poem written by Henry Lyte (1793-1847) (See hymn number 367 in the OLD SCHOOL HYMNAL). “Change and decay in all around I see describes the condition that existed with men ever since he disobeyed God for the first time—in the Garden of Eden.” “...of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

The truth of this warning was changed by Satan, the father of lies, to “Ye shall not surely die.” Satan’s work of deception was so effective that it brought death by sin upon the whole Adamic race. Sin is the transgression of God’s law. This trait of rebellion against regulation became a part of man’s nature. If you want someone to touch your newly painted wall, put a “WET PAINT” sign up by it. The Law of God says, “Thou shalt not kill”, but man has not stopped killing since Cain killed his brother Abel. (See Genesis 4). “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14) is regarded less and less by mankind, especially in the so-called Christian world.

Thus we do not wonder at the truth of “change and decay in all around I see”. Man changes; God does not. Only that which is dead decays. Man is rotten because he is dead—dead in sin. Look at it from a human morals viewpoint. The theory of man today is that everything is relative, especially morals; nothing is absolute. So in this relativity we have change and decay all around us.

Another statement of the modern world is: “There are no eternal truths”. Such a statement is outright blasphemy, because God (Christ) is truth and is eternal. Besides, “He changes not”. He being truth, eternal, and unchanging, then his truths are eternal and unchanging. They will stand against all mockery, flouting, and ridicule of those who want to do away with them.

Such unchanging truths do not suit the vain imaginations of men: “who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped the creature more than the Creator...they do not like to retain God in their knowledge...; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness..., murder” etc. (Rom. 1:25-30)

Such trends of thinking have carried over into our schools. So that instead of accepting the things of education that have been proven to be of lasting value for all, some educators want to throw all the “eternal truths” out and just experiment with educational novelties. But such principles as honesty, respect, patriotism, morals, and yes, even religion, are the foundation of our education; and when replaced with “social adjustment to our peers, group

acceptance, unhampered freedom so as not to thwart personality” and so on, then we have lost the sense of values that has stood the test of time; and we are on shifting, sinking sand—and a most unsafe footing.

“O Thou who changest not, Abide with me”. In the midst of all the adversities of change and decay, one MUST have something of an absolute, eternal, unchanging stability to which he can turn for security and refuge. Such is available in Christ the TRUTH and the WAY. He is the eternal Rock of ages. He is the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In contrast to the rotten decay of this dying world of mankind, Christ is so alive that there is not a speck of decay about Him. “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption.” (Psm. 16:20) He was without sin; no guile was found in him. He is life in its fullness, vibrating with pulsating throbs of abundant life which He bought for us when He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

Yes we have a place of refuge from the decaying world. We can hide in the mountains of our Lord’s holy hill; in the cleft of the rock.

Flee as a bird to your mountain. Thou who art weary of sin.

Go to your clear flowing fountain, Where you may wash and be clean.

Fly for the Avenger is near thee: Call and the Savior will hear thee.

He on His bosom will bear thee. Thou who art weary of sin.

He will protect thee forever, Wipe every sad, falling tear;

He will forsake thee, no never, Sheltered so tenderly there.

Haste, then, the hours fast are flying. Spend not the moments in sighing;

Cease from your sorrow and crying; the Savior will wipe every tear.

(From “*Glad Tidings*”, June 2002)

CHANGE—CAN YOU IMAGINE?

When the railroads were first introduced to the U.S., some folks feared that they'd be the downfall of the nation! Here's an excerpt from a letter to then President Jackson dated January 31, 1829:

As you may know, Mr. President, 'railroad' carriages are pulled at the enormous speed of 15 miles per hour by 'engines' which, in addition to endangering life and limb of passengers, roar and snort their way through the countryside, setting fire to crops, scaring the livestock and frightening women and children. The Almighty certainly never intended that people should travel at such breakneck speed. Martin Van Buren Governor of New York.—Unknown

REPENTANCE

By Elder J. A. Monsees (Deceased)

“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.’” (Acts 2:38)

Peter was speaking to those characters who manifested by external signs a godly sorrow for sin. Like John, the first baptizer, the apostles required proof of sincerity. There were some who came to John, demanding baptism at his hand, when John turned them away, saying, “Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come; bring forth, therefore, fruits meet for repentance,” characterizing them as “vipers and hypocrites.” There was a line of demarcation between those who knew God and those who knew not God, and John evidently knew their hearts were not right. It is one thing to know God as the result of the operation of His Holy Spirit, and another thing to engage in the service of God, which necessarily follows the quickening by His Holy Spirit. Repentance is one of the works that the children of God perform, and it, like all other work done, necessarily follows life.

Repentance follows a godly sorrow. “Godly sorrow worketh repentance not to be repented of.” We understand from this expression that those who perform the work of genuine repentance must do so because of a sorrow which is of a godly nature. Evidently, the expression “godly sorrow” was used to describe the difference between that kind of sorrow and the sorrow which comes through an earthly source.

[*Advocate and Messenger*, December 1924]

(via “*The Christian Pathway*”, November 2000)

It is true that the child of God hates what he once loved, and how one can claim to be a child of God and still manifest a love for the world the same as the unregenerate do, is something we do not understand. If we love the church and the service of God, and hate the world and its vanities and sinful pleasures, we should prove it by our lives. We should show our faith by our works. May the good Lord help us all so to do, is our humble prayer.

[Elder C. H. Cayce, Editorials, Vol. 3]

(via “*The Christian Pathway*”, November 2000)

SORROW OF THE WORLD

Whereas godly sorrow worketh repentance, the sorrow of the world worketh death. (II Cor, 7:10) The sorrow of the world is not from God; it is a sorrow only from worldly considerations. Many times the violators of law express some kind of sorrow for their actions but in reality they are only sorry they got caught; no deliverance with this type of sorrow.—Editor

DISCOURAGED

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

After the Lord had shown his great power in the prophet Elijah in the many miracles he performed, even the slaying of the prophets of Baal, Elijah fled for his life from the evil Jezebel. From the height of seeing the glory in God revealed, he now wanted to die.

“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.” 1st Kings 19:4

Elijah showed the human nature we all possess. How soon we forget that the God who delivered us so many times in the past is just as able to deliver us today.

In the book of Judges we see where Gideon was discouraged. The Midianites had overcome the land and had impoverished the land so there was nothing to eat. Gideon himself was threshing wheat by the winepress to hide it. From the seemingly hopeless situation that Israel found themselves in, the deliverance was not too hard for the Lord. By the hand of Gideon and 300 soldiers, the Lord put to flight the Midianites which were large in number.

Jacob was discouraged when he thought his son Joseph had been devoured by wild animals. For 20 years he mourned for him, while the Lord was providing a deliverance for all of his family by blessing this man of integrity to be Governor of the land of Egypt. It was only when he saw the wagons and provisions that Joseph had sent that he said, “It is enough.”

When Helen died, I just assumed that my life was over. Anne felt the same when she lost her husband. I had forgotten that the Lord in the olden times is the same Lord today. That the same Lord is just as able to bless as he had in the past. Then when cancer reinvaded my body, I thought as many who hear those words, that this is it. Until I remembered that God is just as able to heal me of cancer as he was the leprosy that was dreaded when Christ walked the earth.

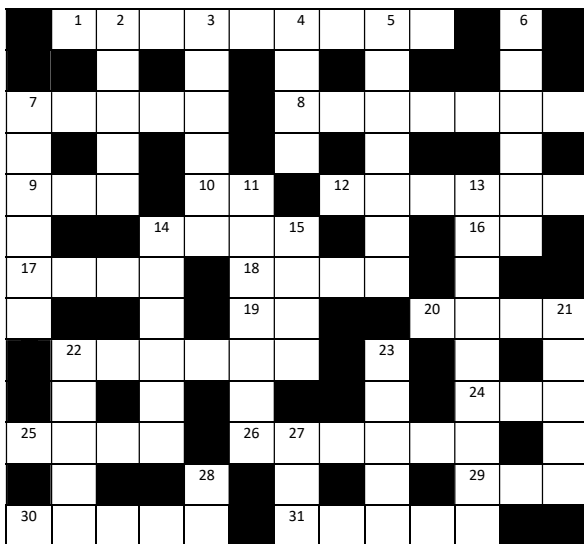
To all of those who read this, who cannot walk as

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. The Lord answered Job out of the ____.
7. God told Moses to make a serpent of ____.
8. Peter fished all night and caught ____.
9. There is a ____ that seemeth right unto a man.
10. The end thereof are the ways ____ death.
12. Barabbas was a thief and a ____.
14. The ten lepers that met Jesus stood ____ off.
16. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law ____ by the hearing of faith?
17. The first shall be ____ and the ____ shall be first.
18. There was a time when the ____ of God married the daughters of men.
19. Jacob saw a ladder whose top reached ____ heaven.
20. Noah found grace in the ____ of the Lord.
22. John said the ____ and the bride say come. Holy ____.
24. On Day of Pentecost they were all in ____ mind and in ____ accord.



(Answers on Page 9)

25. ____ is an anchor of the soul both sure and stedfast.
26. The Israelites dwelt in this land during the Egypt plagues and they didn't experience any.
29. The Israelites were to ____ the Passover in haste.
30. Women are to ____ themselves in modest apparel.
31. The apostles were to ____ in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high.

DOWN:

2. Come unto me all ye that labour and are ____ laden.
3. I am the ____ Sharon and the lily of the valleys. Two words.
4. The Spirit came at Pentecost as sound of a rushing mighty ____.
5. The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the ____ that forget God.
6. Better is a ____ of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Meal.
7. Judas fell headlong, burst asunder and all his ____ gushed out.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

11. This kind goeth not out but by prayer and ____ on healing a lunatic.
13. This is my ____ which is broken for you in unleavened bread. Love of ____ is the root of all evil. Two words.
14. Can a maid forget her ornaments or a bride her ____? Garments.
15. If ye gather up the tares, you ____ up the wheat.
21. In the ____ of thy face shalt thou eat bread Adam.
22. The word of God is the ____ of the Spirit. Knife.
23. Don't be a busybody or an evildoer in ____ men's matters. ____ sheep I have not of this fold.
27. How ____ shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? till seven times?
28. ____ my Father's house are many mansions.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

Our grandson when he was about 2 years old was watching an animal program that showed chickens laying eggs. He said, "Look, they're pooping eggs."

DISCOURAGED

(Continued from Page 5)

good as once they did, who have high blood pressure, cancer, heart problems, diabetes or other dread diseases. God is still on his throne. He never leaves or forsakes us. He may not deliver us but he is able. As long as we live, we have some purpose here on earth. Let us make the most of our days, remembering that **one day** in his courts is better than a thousand beside.

May the Lord bless us all to be as Jacob. "By faith, Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." Hebrews 11:21

We know we shall have the blessing of our Lord to be in his presence when we die. Let us be as conscious of the blessings of the Lord while we live, even if we suffer disease and troubles.

The Lord's mercy endures forever. He is worthy of all our praise, all our lives.—Guy Hunt
(From "The Pathway of Truth", June, 2007)

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Singing at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS the first Sunday night in December, 2021 (Dec. 5) starting at 5:30 p.m. and followed by refreshments. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas Singing at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecrú, MS the 2nd Sunday night in December, 2021 (Dec. 12) starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

ORDINATION SERVICE

Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS will have an ordination service for Brother Brad Rogers to the office of deacon on Sunday afternoon, December 5, 2021, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and be with them on this special occasion, especially all ordained elders and deacons to sit in the presbytery. Elder Neil Honea is Pastor of Pleasant Hill.

My sons, Elder Jonathan Wise and Elder David Wise and myself enjoyed being in a Spirit filled meeting at Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church in Echola, AL on Oct. 2, 2021 where Elder Tim McCool is the Pastor. The singing was great among a large congregation, prayers were effectual and the Lord seemed to bless the preaching of myself and my two sons. The food and fellowship was outstanding as well and got to see some fellow ministers in the gospel such as Elder Chris McCool, Elder Shannon Whipp, Elder Bryce Lowrance, Elder Buddy Abernathy, Elder Neil Honea and maybe some others I failed to mention.—*Editor*

I also enjoyed being in the annual meeting on Saturday with James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Tremont, MS the 3rd weekend in October, 2021. There was preaching on Friday night by Elder James Hall and Elder Steve Weaver. Saturday morning preaching by Elder Larry Wise and Elder Bobby Howell; Saturday afternoon by Elder Jackie Smith and Elder Joe Nettles. This church is currently without a Pastor.

“These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (I Tim. 3:15) The church isn’t the bricks and mortar of a church building but it is the people of God. Without the truth the church will crumble having no pillar or ground.—*Editor*

A CHOICE BETWEEN THE GODS

By Elder Ralph Harris (Now Deceased)

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve?” *Joshua 24:15*.

Popular religionists make an unenlightened use of this text when they direct it to the unsaved and exhort them to choose whom they will serve. This is not who Joshua was addressing. He was speaking to Israel, and the choice they were to make was not between God and the devil, but between the gods of the Amorites. If they were going to refuse to serve God then it did not matter which of the heathen gods they chose to worship. One would suffice as well as another, and none of them had any merit.

All unregenerate men, without exception, choose to serve Satan. They do this because they are dead in trespasses and sins, and consequently they *walk according to the course of this world*, “according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). Paul shows us here that all of us, prior to the new birth, had our conversation (or activity) in the lusts of the flesh, and our only inclination was to fulfill the desires of the flesh and of the mind. That was our choice. We were “the servants of sin” (Romans 6:17) and were in bondage to it. We therefore could not choose to serve the Lord, for our foolish heart was darkened (See Romans 1:21). We did not, could not, choose to serve the Lord until He gave us a new nature. We could not have *spiritual desires* until we had the *Spirit of God*. We did not even exist in the spiritual realm until we were “created in Christ Jesus unto good works” (Eph. 2:10).

All the gods of this world are basically the same. None of them have any power and none of them can do us any good. But if we are serving any of these we are essentially serving Satan. The world is saturated with people who *think* they are serving God, but in reality they are the servants of the devil. Matthew 7:22 proves this to be true. See also John 16:2.

Elder Ralph Harris

(From “ITMS”, July 1999)

STOLEN GODS

Jacob fled from Laban after twenty years of serving him and took Rachel, Leah and all his cattle and etc but Rachel had stolen the images (gods) of Laban and hid them in the camel’s furniture. Laban pursued Jacob and asked him why he had stolen his gods? (Gen. 31:30) These were false gods of course but the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot be stolen. He is the one that found Jacob and all of us in a waste howling wilderness of sin and had kept him as the apple of His eye. False gods have to be moved from place to place but God goes where He pleases and when He pleases.—*Editor*

DO YOU KNOW THE VALUE?

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Matthew 13:44: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

Hidden treasure has always made for a lot of good stories in books and movies. For example, I was watching an antique show on television where this very kindly lady had bought a vase that had been passed down through her family for generations. She told of wonderful memories when she was a child of how she and her brother had used the vase to play with, fortunately never breaking it, and she had also recalled how her mother had used the vase for a doorstep. The expert chuckled at that and then told her that her mother’s doorstep was a vase from an ancient royal dynasty and was worth several thousands of dollars! Startled the lady replied “I had no idea of its value! No one in my family did.” I am sure that having now learned the true value of the vase, its doorstep days were over and it was treated with a lot more care! Such is the nature of people when they learn of the true value of something.

Our hidden treasure under consideration is also of great value. It is a figure of the scriptures and its contents. The story of Jesus Christ and him crucified. It is of immense value to the believing child of God. We should treat the good news with respect and take care to lay it up in our hearts. In its contents we learn that salvation is by the grace of God, not merited but given as a gift to us from God’s love for us. It tells of his only begotten Son coming and taking upon him flesh and blood just like his brethren. **Hebrews 2:14** “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;” It tells of his agonizing pain that he endured while here on earth to pay the price for them. It tells of him nailed to the cross, and bowing his head and saying “It is finished”. **John 19:30** “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” The scriptures tell us that

through the finished work of Christ we have a home in heaven. The children of God are known as sheep. Christ the good Shepherd has told us that he gives unto us eternal life and we shall never fall. **John 10:28** “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” This is the inheritance that is given to the children of God, what a great value it is to us!”

That is just the inheritance the scriptures speak of, but the scriptures also speak of other things as well. Some of God’s children neglect the church that they should attend. Notice Christ refers to the treasure as hidden treasure. Hidden is figurative telling us to find it we must search and dig as we would a buried treasure in the ground, it requires effort on our part. Yes, God gives us a home in heaven without any obligation on our part. The searching and digging is for here in this time world, for our spiritual life here on earth. This life is of great value to us. It requires effort on our part to reap the blessings of the kingdom of God here on earth. We as the gospel church labor to show the great value of dedicating our lives to serve the Lord. We should discipline our body and mind to come to church, to reading our bible, to meditation, to have a consistent time of prayer everyday. To faithfully follow the teachings of Christ and learning that we have a God who will never leave us or forsake us. There are so many things that we can learn through looking through the eye of faith that our lives in faith to Christ is worth more than precious stones, gold or silver. National Israel stumbles at the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. They could not see the value of believing in him, for the law hid it from them. Not knowing the value of Jesus Christ and his holy scriptures.

Do you know the value of God’s written word? Many treasures await you there!

Elder R. L Taylor

VALUE

A story is told of a man who loved old books. He met an acquaintance who had just thrown away a Bible that had been stored in the attic of his ancestral home for generations. “I couldn’t read it,” the friend explained. “Somebody named Guten-something had printed it.” “Not Gutenberg!” the book lover exclaimed in horror. “That Bible was one of the first books ever printed. Why, a copy just sold for over two million dollars!” His friend was unimpressed. “Mine wouldn’t have brought a dollar. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it in German.”

Our Daily Bread, June 7, 1994.

“A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.” (Psalm 37:16)

GOD'S JUDGMENT

Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death.—Rom.i.32.

Our God is angry with all manner of sin, and He is just if He punishes them. God's judgment is not designed to change human hearts, but to change human ways. If God's laws and punishment are sufficient to change human hearts, God's grace is not employed, would not be needed, if punishment for sin inflicted is sufficient for the eternal salvation of sinners. But the Apostle Paul wrote God's grace was sufficient for him. God's children, corrected by God's judgments, are saved from errors often here in time. Sometimes the gospel saves the believer; however, there is only one way to be saved eternally, and that is by God's grace through His blessed and only Son. Paul said, in his letter to the church that grace brought salvation. Christ Jesus brought the grace and grace teaches those that possess it to deny ungodliness and worldly lust; that we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God—looking for something we have in part, but want in full. We will not be satisfied until we see Him in full—see Him as He is, and get that portion of His promise that is yet to be verified. Some of His promise has been verified and some has not, but it is sure to be as God exists. So, dear ones, look to Jesus in these trying times. As we look at the light, our shadow is behind us; Christ is our spiritual light. This light appears at times when we are in the dark, and the war clouds are thick. We hope our blessed Lord is in those clouds with our dear boys in the armed forces, to protect and deliver them, many of whom are calling upon His sweet name at this moment. He will hear them, and He will save them. He is the only one who can save them, He has power over all the world, and all creatures, therefore He cannot fail. I get some good sweet letters from the boys, and try to comfort them the best I can. I am pleased that many of them get Elder Cayce's good paper, THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST. It has been a great comfort to me for nearly forty years. Dear ones, encourage Elder Cayce in this publication. He, together with his dear wife and children, are doing lots of hard but free work. May God bless and keep all of his loved ones in that straight and narrow way so they will escape His judgment.

Afflictions, though they seem severe,
In mercy oft are sent;
They stopped the prodigal's career,
And caused him to repent.

This did not make him a child of God, but because he was his father's son before he left home. He did not need sonship and relationship but repentance,

and that we all need. Unless we repent, we will all perish. Living folks are the ones that perish, not dead ones. Yours in love and affection. J. R. Wilson
(From "The Primitive Baptist", September 7, 1944)

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

ACROSS:

1. dniwlrhw
7. ssarb
8. gnihton
9. yaw
10. fo
12. rebbor
14. rafa
16. ro
17. tsal
18. snos
19. ot
20. seye
22. tirps
24. eno
25. epoh
26. nehsog
29. tae
30. nroda
31. yrrat

DOWN:

2. yvaeh
3. foesor
4. dniw
5. snoitan
6. rennid
7. slewob
11. gnitsaf
13. yenomydob
14. eritta
15. toor
21. taews
22. drows
23. rehto
27. tfo
28. ni

MALACHI IV. 5, 6

February 2, 1939

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.—Mal.iv.5, 6.

About two years ago Sister A.W. Law, of Marvell, Ark., requested us to write some on Mal. iv. 5. We have quoted both verses 5 and 6 above. This is a prophecy of the coming of John the Baptist, and of the work he was to do. The same prophet spoke of him in iii. 1. "Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me." The Saviour lets us know in Matt. xi. 7-14 that the coming of John was a fulfillment of this prophecy. In verse 14 He says, "And if ye will receive it, this is Elias. which was for to come." But John said he was not Elias; and he was not Elias in person; but he was Elias in that he came in the spirit and power of Elijah's God. Concerning John the angel said, in Luke i. 16,17. "And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

C.H.C. —(Elder C. H. Cayce)
(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist", by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 6)

The Crucifixion and the Atonement

By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, Tennessee

We also need to point out that the atonement and the crucifixion were not the same thing, and perhaps, that is the most important lesson to learn. **The crucifixion was man's work; the atonement was God's work.** They are entirely different things, and we must never confuse the two.

Men had nothing to do with redemption, but he had everything to do with the crucifixion of the Lord. It was men who took him through the mock trial. Men beat him with whips. Men beat him until his form was more marred than any man. Men cut the timbers. Men assembled the cross. Men drove the nails. It was a man who pierced his side. Men mocked him, and ridiculed him. That was all man's work, but nothing man did had any part in redemption. **At the very most all those men did was a reflection of what God was doing—out of their sight.**

The climax of man's rebellion

Question: If nothing the soldiers did contributed anything to our salvation, what is the significance of the crucifixion? **The significance of the crucifixion is that it was the ultimate climax of man's rebellion against God—his war against God.**

Never in time or eternity did the ultimate good and the ultimate evil come face to face the way they did at Calvary. In the very face of the greatest evil this world has ever known God worked out the salvation of his people, and nothing they could do could stop him.

When a jeweler is showing a diamond he will often display it on a black velvet cloth. The beauty of the diamond is seen all the more clearly against the black background. God contrasted all he did on behalf of his people against all the wickedness that went on that day. **The glory of God's grace is all the more resplendent against the blackness of man's sin.**

Man has been at war with his Maker ever since Adam sinned. All during the public ministry of the Lord the adversary did all within his power to destroy him. He could not destroy him. But when his time was fully come, the Father delivered his Son into their hands, and suffered them to do their worst.

"Him being **delivered** by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." Acts 2:23.

Far from participating in the work, man was raging against his Maker at the very moment God was working out the salvation of his people.

Two different forces; two different causes

Again, there were two different forces, and two different causes at work that day. The cause of the atonement was the purpose, the grace, and the mercy of God. **The cause of the crucifixion was the**

hatred and corruption of man's corrupt and depraved heart.

It was not God that put such hatred in their heart. We are told plainly, **"They hated me without a cause."** That is, they did not need God to cause them to hate him. Those who claim God is the cause of everything those wicked men did that day have God to argue with. God tells us in no uncertain language, **"They hated me without a cause." Their hatred flowed naturally and freely from the corruption of their own heart.** It did not flow from the purpose and grace of God.

The crucifixion was not the Atonement

The crucifixion was no part of the atonement. Nothing those wicked men did was any part of the atonement. **Rather the crucifixion was the time and place where God worked out the atonement.** It was the context in which God did his work; but it was not part of that work.

God had determined from all eternity that he would work out the atonement in the context of the crucifixion, and he prophesied that he would do just that. He would display his grace against the dark background of their wickedness. But their wickedness would play no part in what he was doing on behalf of his people, and there is no way anybody can show that he predestinated their wickedness—nor any wicked thing they did.

We are simply told that God delivered his Son into their hand. Their wicked depraved heart did the rest. "Him being **delivered** by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." Acts 2:23.

Old Elder Benjamin Lampton used to say, "It was not necessary for God to predestinate wickedness; man has done a very good job of that all by himself." God delivered Jesus into their hand, and they did what their depraved heart moved them to do.

God inhabits eternity; he is not bound by time

But somebody wants to know, "How could God purpose to work out redemption in the context of the crucifixion, if he did not fix and predestinate all those men did?"

God is the eternal one; he inhabits eternity. He is not bound by time the way you and I are. All is one eternal now with him. He can look across time as easily as you and I can look across a room. But he is no more the cause of all he sees, than we are the cause of all we see.

(From *"An Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature"*, Volume 1, edited by Elder Harold Hunt)

"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)

WILL THE LORD FORASKE HIS PEOPLE?

.By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

There aren't any contradictions in the word of God but we might begin to wonder if the Lord will forsake us when we read scriptures like II Chron. 15:2: "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

The Lord spoke to Asa through the prophet, Azariah, and told him not to forsake the Lord or He would forsake him. In the eternal love and mercy of God He will not forsake His people for His great Name's sake. If He did it would be a denial of Himself and the Bible. In Heb. 13:5, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Psalm 125:2, "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his children henceforth even for ever." The Lord never moves from His eternal love for His people. If one moves away, it is the sinner and not God.

The Lord asserts He will not be with His children and bless when they walk in disobedience. When they walk away, His presence is removed and He will not dwell with them in this condition. "...I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Man made cisterns cannot ever hold the reviving spiritual water of God. "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jer. 2:13). God will forsake by simply leaving you to yourself if you fail to do what pleases Him. Jesus said, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 8:29)

Asa was doing those things that pleased God and had taken away the altars of strange gods, broke down the images and cut the groves down. He had experienced a great victory against the Ethiopians as he cried to the Lord, "And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on

thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee." (II Chron 14:11) Asa relied on the Lord.

Asa had already heeded the advice of the prophet. Even his own mother didn't hinder him from serving the Lord. "...he removed her from being queen, because she made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron." (II Chron. 15:16) Asa had the people of Judah in unity to seek the Lord and there was not any war in Asa's reign until the 35th year of his reign.

Asa then begin to move away from the Lord by relying on other sources than Him. Asa became concerned that Baasha, king of Israel, would prevail in keeping people from coming to Judah. He went to Benhadad, king of Syria, and convinced him to break his alliance with the king of Israel and make an alliance with him. He even took silver and gold out of the treasuries of the house of God to purchase this allegiance. The Lord always knows what are the intents of the heart and sent Hanani the seer to Asa who tells him that he has not relied on the Lord as he had in previous times. He pronounces judgment on Asa as he declares, "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." (II Chron. 16:9)

Asa had forsaken the Lord so much that he had forgotten the advice of Azariah and was wroth with Hanani. He was in such a rage he put Hanani in the prison house and oppressed some of the people. The Lord was not with him any more; Asa had moved away from the Lord but the Lord was still in His original position. As a consequence, the Lord had forsaken him and removed His presence so that he now experienced defeat instead of victory. Asa became diseased in his feet which I believe was because he was not walking in the paths that God had instituted and in which he had formerly walked. The disease had become exceedingly great, but Asa sought the physicians in his distress instead of the Lord. It is indeed regrettable for a life to end on such a sad note for one who had done so much good in the eyes of the Lord. It did not need to be this way if he had just remembered what Azariah had spoken and had taken heed to that which he had heard.

The New Testament also tells us to take heed and not neglect the things of God. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip...How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;" (Heb. 2:1, 3) Lord, let the rod of your chastisement be soft and stripes few as we try to serve.

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