

Glad Tidings

January

2022

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

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION
Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Philippians 4:13

1 Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

We all make certain plans from time to time. We may plan on taking a vacation at a certain time. We may plan to work until a certain age and then retire. However, God is the only One whose plans are certain and never go awry. We are told explicitly about our life on earth: “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” (James 4:14) Only God knows what shall be on the morrow so we must live our life from day to day and trust Him for deliverance because now is the day of salvation. (II Cor. 6:2)

We may have made the mistake at times by saying our life is like a vapour but that is an error. The scripture says our life “is even a vapour” that is here just a little while and then vanishes away. A vapour is a mist, smoke or exhalation that quickly dissipates and our life is the same. We may live to be sixty, seventy or eighty years old and beyond but it is still a short time as a vapour is. My Aunt Urea Wise Just passed away on December 4, 2021 at the age of 101. That is a long time to live on earth but in the scope of God, it is still a vapour.

My aunt Urea made many plans during that 101 years she lived; some came to fruition and some didn't. What are we instructed to say or do? The same writer that says our life is a vapour gives us the answer. “For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” (James 4:15) This shows a dependence and trust in God to deliver us each day as we cannot boast of anything that may transpire other than the return of Jesus Christ. We can scripturally boast of Jesus and all the work He did but not about tomorrow. The wise man Solomon wrote, “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” (Prov.27:1)

Job didn't count on having all the troubles he encountered as one that feared God and eschewed evil. However, we have this testimony and his resolve, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.” (Job 13:15) The book of Job also tells us about our days and what we might expect. Whoever wrote the book of Job didn't know this but God did and all scripture is given by the inspiration of God. “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.” (Job 14:1) Our days on earth are few but heaven is endless.

Even though our physical life on earth is a vapour, the abundant life we can possess in obedience to our Saviour doesn't need to be a vapour. Jesus said, “...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10) The abundant life is one that can be entered into by following the Lord in obedience. Jesus taught the disciples to enter into the strait gate and why the strait gate? It is because this gate leads unto life just as Jesus taught. “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt. 7:14)

This narrow way leads unto that abundant life of joy and peace; a far cry from the broad way that leads to destruction. Paul writes about this abundant life in the kingdom, “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Rom. 14:17) This abundant life doesn't have to vanish away; it can be maintained until our vaporous natural life ends. We are exhorted, “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” (Heb. 3:6)

Notice that it is few that find and enter this abundant life out of the tremendous multitude that will live with God in heaven. Solomon says our natural life can be cut short: “Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?” (Eccl. 7:17) Just as our natural life can be cut short by abusing the body with drugs, alcohol and riotous living, our abundant life of joy and peace can become a vapour and cut short by ignoring the necessary commandments of God. We lose something when we go after the things of the world. Jesus said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt.16:26)

We have no control over the events that may unfold during the year. Regardless of the things that may occur, we are duty bound to abide in the narrow way where there is joy and peace because that is where Jesus abides. Paul recognized what he needed to do to remain in joy and fellowship with His Lord. “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (I Cor. 9:27) My Aunt Urea was blessed with a long life and she also had an abundant life as a faithful servant in the kingdom. May we all be so blessed as she! (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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

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ALMOST PERSUADED

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28)

The Apostle Paul had been brought before this great king to answer the charges, the Jews had brought against him and after he had answered for himself, and related such a wonderful experience, it caused the king to have great compassion on Paul. The influence was so great that the king was almost persuaded to be a Christian. The king must have heard Paul, for Paul said, "I know that thou believest," and further said "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day were almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds."

Paul must have believed that King Agrippa believed in Jesus experimentally and he said to the King that he would to God that he was both almost, and altogether persuaded.

There is a vast difference in being a child of God and being a Christian. A Christian is a true follower of God. The gospel has a persuasive influence on God's children. The gospel does not persuade men to become children of God. There is no instrumentality on earth that will make children of God. This is a creative. Work, which is of God, but the gospel in its simplicity and fullness is instrumental in making Christians out of children of God. It teaches them what to do; it points out to them their duty; it **persuades them** to be **obedient children**. Paul says, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;" God's children are no more threatened with eternal death. They are no more under the law of sin and death, therefore they cannot violate this law, because they are above the law, but

they are under law to Christ and subject to all of its penalties and the penalties of this law are in time and not in eternity.

The Gospel is the power of God unto believers. It is a means of bringing God's children together in an organic sense. There must be a saving efficacy in the Gospel. Paul said, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. This is a specific application. It can only be applied to the believers. It has no effect whatsoever on the dead, alien sinner. The commands of the Gospel are only to the believers. The Gospel is foolishness to the dead sinner. The carnal mind is enmity against God and not subject to His law, and neither indeed can be. "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness, but unto us, which are saved is the power of God."

The commands are to God's children. If not, where are we to apply them and if the Gospel has no persuasive power in it, why the admonitions given by Christ. God's children are creatures of influence; they are able to do right. God has given them the ability, and why should we say they cannot comply with conditions. Christ says, "Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you." What does he mean by this? Is it not a fact that God's children can draw themselves away from Jesus in paths of disobedience? "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above." Do we find where we are admonished to seek the things of the world? When we seek the things of the world, are we not going contrary to His admonitions? Seek means to inquire; it means to do something. We should walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called. There is some walking for God's children to do. Who is going to do the walking? There is some running to be done. "Let us run with patience, the race that is set before us."

Personal pronoun us. The Gospel persuades men to run. The Gospel persuades God's children to be Christians, and if they ignore these admonitions, and walk contrary to their experience, or desires, what is the result? They are beaten with many stripes. If we walk after the flesh, we shall die, not eternally, but die to the joys of our salvation in time, but to walk after the spirit is life and peace.

Many of God's little children that are living out in the world are almost persuaded. If almost, why not altogether, that peace might abound in their hearts. If they desire to be baptized and walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they have been called, why should there be any delay? Today is the day of salvation? "Be ye not hearers only, but doers of the word."

It is one thing to be a child of God and it is another thing to obey His commandments. The natural man is active in the natural state. He is passive in being born into the natural realm. It is the same with the man that is born into the spiritual realm. He is absolutely

passive in this new birth, but after he has been regenerated, and born of the spirit, he is under a new law, the law of Christ, and he has been given the ability to obey this law. It is true that God's children never reach a state of perfection in this world because they have a carnal nature about them, that is imperfect, but it is their duty to walk after the spirit, that life and peace may abound, and that they will be enabled to reap the joys of their salvation. Z. Z. Hull
(From *"The Gospel Messenger"*, February, 1921)

RECOVERY

At this writing (February 17, 1977), my wife and I are slowly recuperating from the worse spell of the flu we have had since 1918, or so it seems to us. We do hope and pray that the recovery (seemingly very slow to us) will continue until we are fully restored to our usual state of health.

As for me, my complaint goes deeper than natural health and prosperity! Not only have I been racked with bodily pain and physical strength brought to a low ebb, but I have been brought to spiritual poverty! My soul languisheth in sorrow, and I wonder, do I really know the Lord? I have never had a personal encounter with Him in the way and manner described by many. I have never, at any time, "seen His shape nor heard His voice"! I cry for true spiritual wisdom and knowledge and fear that the best I can muster is only that which *"Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears."* (Job 28:22) So, I sometimes fear that all I know is just "about Him"! *"Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour."* (Isaiah 45:15) *"Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but cannot perceive him. On the left hand where he doth work, but I cannot behold him; he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him;..."* (Job 23: 8,9)

If my complaint seems to be bitter (and sometimes it is), let me hasten to say, thank God, it is not hopeless! Although I cannot claim the "personal encounter" that I sometimes long for, I can, at times, truly cry, "What is this that in my soul is rising? Is it grace? Is it grace?" Sometimes, "I am cast down in body and soul!" But, again, why is it that, *"Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib!"* (Song of Solomon 6:12)

Truly, many other such things I can bear witness to. From whence, then cometh such feelings? Such hopes and aspirations? Surely, they do not grow on nature's soil! I do not wish to continue at length, but will sum up with the words of an old hymn, which is a paraphrase of Job. "What shall I do? Shall I lie down and sink in deep despair? Will he forever wear a frown, nor hear my feeble prayer? No, He will put His strength in me. He knows the way I've strolled, and when I'm tried sufficiently, I shall come forth as gold."

Cast down, but not destroyed!

From "The Banner of Love"—February 17, 1977

(From *"Autobiography of Elder Virgil F. Lowrance"*)

RAINBOW

Q. When did God first set His bow in the cloud, and how is it a sign of His covenant/ (Gen. 9:13)

A. In the King James Version, God says, "I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth," but the original literally reads, "I have set my bow in the cloud." As God and His laws (or modes of operation) are unchangeable, the white light of the sun shining on falling drops of Water is always refracted and reflected in the seven beautiful colors of the rainbow—violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, and red; and this, we suppose, has always been the case; but after the great flood in the days of Noah, God said that the rainbow should be a token of a covenant between Him and the earth or all flesh—a promise the He would never again destroy nearly all living creatures with a flood of water. The rainbow shows that the clouds are broken, and that the sun is hinging through them, so that there will no more be a universal deluge. The bow in the cloud is the offspring of storm and sunshine, and is indicative of the retiring wrath and the advancing mercy of God. It has its arch upward, and has no string or arrow—a bow, as it were, hung up to look at and not to use for war, a bow of peace. It is seen and admired by all who have sight and minds.

And it also has been appointed by God as a sign of His everlasting covenant of peace with His people, for whose sins Christ has made an atoning sacrifice. (Isa. 54:7-10; Ezek. 1: 26-28; Rev. 4:3: 10:1). Jesus, the Holy Son and Lamb of God, has endured the wrath of the Father for all the sins of all His loved and chosen people, and thus made an end of their sins, and reconciliation for their iniquities, and brought in for them an everlasting righteousness (Dan. 9:24-27), and, as their Surety and Head and the Prince of Peace, He blesses them with the benefits of the everlasting covenant of peace, and makes them the children of the God of peace. (Isa. 9:6, 7; 54:7-10; 55:3,12,13; Matt. 5:9, 43-48). The rainbow is chiefly symbolical of peace—delightful peace after a terrible storm. And so, after the Holy Spirit assures us that Christ has borne all the storm of God's wrath, for our sins, we enjoy that peace of God which passeth all understanding (Philip. 4:7), and enter into His glorious rest. (Isa 32:2; 11:10; 26:1-4; Matt. 11:28-30; Heb. 4:3; Rom. 5:1). In the rainbow it is signified that mercy rejoices over judgment (James 2:13); heaven and earth are united; God and man are at one (Eph. 2: 2:11-22).

(From *"The Collected Works of Elder Sylvester Hassell—Part Three"*)

If our house is built upon the solid Rock of Jesus Christ, (hearers and doers) we can withstand the rain, the winds and floods; this is the promise of God's word along with the rainbow.—*Editor*

DEFINITIONS

By Elder W. S. Craig (Deceased)
 ("Primitive Baptist Faith And Practice" by W.S. Craig)

The name "Primitive" Baptist (sometimes called "Predestinarian" or "Old School" is our denominational name, which distinguishes us from other denominations calling themselves Baptists, and the name "Mount Zion" is the name of our local organization at Cozad, Nebraska.

"A church is a congregation of regenerated men and women, publicly professing faith in Christ Jesus, and being regularly baptized by immersion, who have covenanted to meet together, having given themselves up to one another in the Lord, to be governed by His Word, and to be guided by a regular and proper discipline, agreeable to the Holy Scriptures."—Elder Walter Cash.

Our Church is expressly intended to be a home for the spiritually poor, wounded and needy, where they can publicly meet together and, with one mind and heart in experience and fellowship and love, sing the sweet songs of Zion, talk of the blessed Lord's mercy to them, and feast on "the gospel of the grace of God." Surely such a home is a most valuable and precious resting place for the people of God while traveling through this world of sin and sorrow. Its importance to them is very great, but its blessings belong to this life. Only Jesus Christ can fit and prepare them for that eternal home above where all is full joy and bliss, and where heartaches and sorrows never come, and the weary are at rest.

We extend the privilege of our Church for membership and gladly welcome those desiring a home with us that give evidence of a work of grace in their hearts, fellowship Primitive Baptist experiences, believe our doctrines, and are willing to be governed by our practices. And those things are absolutely necessary to church fellowship, harmony and peace, we positively cannot have this indispensable fellowship, harmony and peace with those differing from us in any of these respects. Were those who so differ from us to become members of our Church, they could not be expected to really feel at home among us, or that they would benefit us, or that we would benefit them; and consequently a loose practice in this would only be inviting confusion and disorder into our body. So our peace and safety compels us to be carefully consistent and orderly.

We think many of those having an experience of grace would be Primitive Baptists if they only correctly understood our doctrines and practices. We love these doctrines and believe these practices to be scriptural. And surely the Predestinarian possesses a decided advantage over the Arminian, because having first been an Arminian himself, he understands Arminianism doctrine; but the Arminian never having been a Predestinarian, does not correctly understand Predestinarian doctrine, and so always considers it more or less as being hard, unjust and repulsive.

A MAN'S GIFT



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men." Proverbs 18:16.

When a person's gift is manifest, it is appreciated and adored by great men. Great men would likely mean those who would not know you if not for your gift. Great gifts are given to imperfect men, men of humble backgrounds, sometimes insane minds, and more especially to those who when you look at them, you could imagine no wonderful gift within them. You cannot tell the gift by looking at a person, but rather observing those exercising their gift.

Each time I went to a dinner at the White House, they had someone with a gift to entertain. The person may not look as important as the man on the street, but when they began using their gift, you knew the difference. Nothing in their background, or life, would have brought them before the most powerful man in the world, but their gift did.

When I became the Governor of our state, I was attending a celebration at an Alabama town and while making a stop at a bluegrass festival, I observed a little five-year-old girl playing the violin so beautifully. She looked every bit like any other five year old girl, but what made her so special was the gift. Afterward, I invited her to the Governor's mansion to play for one of our state dinners we had each month or so. The people were from all walks of life: doctors, lawyers, educators, farmers, and factory workers. I had it arranged that as dinner was about to end she would walk into the room playing one of her songs. You can imagine the hushed silence as this five-year-old played perfect on the instrument. Her gift had brought her before the best talent in the state and they were in awe. It was her gift that did it.

When king Saul was rejected of the Lord for his disobedience, it was the cunning gift of David to play the harp that brought him before King Saul. 1st Samuel 17.

When God gives the gift of ministry to a poor mortal, it is given to be manifested to his people. Though these people may be poor and unworthy, they are great because Christ dwells within them. There is no greater blessing than for your name to be written in heaven.

It is the gift that makes room for itself. It is not pushing, shoving, or playing politics that brings the gift of the ministry before great men, either on the part of the minister or the part of sometimes well-meaning friends. When I grew up as a young minister, the older ministers were in the forefront, usually baptizing, holding weddings and funerals the majority of the time. These older ministers who had been with the families in their troubles over the years were still very needed and appreciated.

A person would do well to ignore the encouragement of people who urge the young minister to make room for himself. It is the gift that does it. Impatience will destroy not only the gift but the vessel. The Lord who gives the gift, does not make a mistake. Every gift is needed and will make room for itself. The Lord does not send gifts that are not needed. Should a church ordain a person who does not have a gift from the Lord, such a person will never be profitable to the Church.

I was ordained when I was 25 years old. We had so many wonderful and able ministers who I could follow their humble pattern, and observe the wisdom they manifested. I saw men of peace who wanted to serve and praise God. They preferred each other and respected the gift God had given to the other.

The next ten years would greatly reduce my comfort level and thrust much responsibility upon me. We lost in that period of time Elder Will Cook, Elder H. P. Copeland, Elder W.D. Green. And my father Elder W.O. Hunt. I was still a young minister, but I felt a great vacuum with the departure of my older brethren. I found greater responsibility as people began coming to me for advice and counsel. I found that when trouble raised its ugly head, I could no longer wait on my older minister brethren to fight the battle, but I had to charge ahead to protect our Churches.

Now I have grown old. And I am so thankful for the younger brethren, zealous in their desire to serve the Lord's people. I can now better understand how my older brethren felt about me. They were so kind and gentle, even though I realize how often I stumbled. They loved me and encouraged me beyond measure. The encouragement I received from the brethren whose lives seemed too short to a young minister, together with Elder C.O. Woodley and Elder E.B. Watts, who were blessed to live longer years, molded my whole life into what it is today. I have a desire to be as Jacob, worshipping the Lord, even if need be leaning on my staff in my last hours.

The Lord has been so good to me. He blessed me to spend wonderful years with some of the most able and wonderful gifts of years past, and now to bless me to be among, and watch grow, young gifts whose humility and dedication to the Lord are shining examples. May God have mercy upon us continually.

We need to continue to pray that God send laborers into the harvest. (From *"The Pathway of Truth"*, June, 2007)

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.—Psalm i. 3.

What a sweet expression made by the inspired pen! Trees do not plant themselves at any time or any place. They are passive in that work. They are a lower order of life. They are inferior to the one that plants them. The higher order of life has to plant them. They bear the fruit after they are planted by the rivers of water as it is mentioned in that chapter. The Lord plants new life in the heart of the dead, alien sinner, and then he bears fruit, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred-fold. This fruit-bearing is an evidence of the new life, and not the cause of life. Christ said, "Make the tree good, and his fruit good." The dead sinner's heart must first be made good by the new life which is a gift from God before that tree can bear good spiritual fruit. Then after all this gracious work of God by His grace, it is possible that the tree could be too close to the wild, unfruitful trees, and the fruit would not be the best fruit. God's children, some of them, try to live too close to the world, and their fruit is bitter, yet this would not be a change in the tree, but in the fruit. It remains the same tree in heart as God has made it. Christ said relative to His sheep, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish."

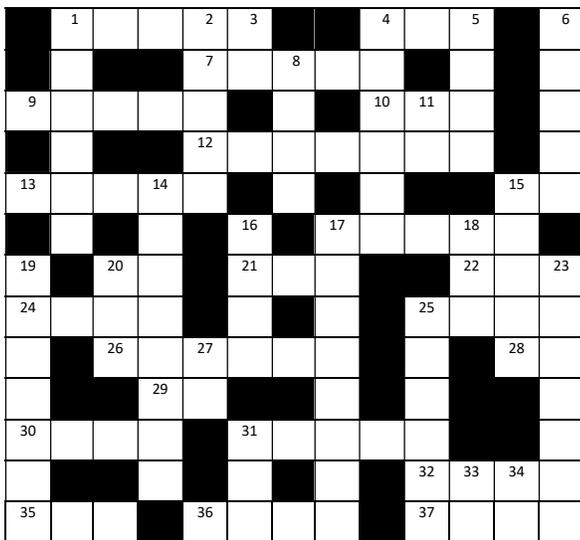
This new life is not accepted by the dead sinner. It is very unreasonable and illogical to preach such doctrine, but it is done every day somewhere. The sinner, before God gives him that new, highest order of life, before he is born of God, is dead—not just a little sick—but dead in sin, and has to be acted upon instead of acting and accepting Christ as his personal Saviour; such a statement implies there might be another Saviour somewhere else the sinner could accept as his personal Saviour, as they call it. There is only one true Saviour and only One between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. He is our life forever. The dead, unsaved sinner accepting Christ is equivalent to the meal or flour accepting those of the family who will work it into service or bread, or the tree saying which lumber company will cut it up for a building, or the clay in the potter's hand saying, "Why hast thou made me thus?" The potter has power over the clay, but the clay has no power over the potter. The potter made it a vessel as it pleased the potter, not to please the clay. The clay is passive in the hands of the potter—absolutely passive. So is the dead, unchanged sinner. This type of sinner in the lower element is as passive in doing things in that higher spiritual element as a corporal dead man in the grave doing anything out of the grave. He is in that lower element. God, by His Holy Spirit, raises the dead sinner out of that lower, dead element into a higher element to spiritual things. Then the sinner is

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Ruth went to ___ ears of corn in the field of Boaz.
4. God could swear by no greater, he ___ by himself.
7. ___ not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
9. Let the women ___ in silence with all subjection.
10. Israel was to ___ with fire the Passover in the night and eat the flesh thereof.
12. And the ___ and the morning were the first day.
13. Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with spikenard and the house was filled with the ___ of the ointment.
15. Let nothing be done through strife ___ vainglory.
17. He was converted on a housetop & denied Jesus.
20. The initials of Bathsheba and Barabbas.
21. The chastisement of ___ peace was upon Jesus.
22. A minister must be qualified by being ___ to teach.
24. Ye shall know the truth; the truth makes you ___.
25. The wise men saw Jesus' ___ in the east.
26. ___ to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will to men. First letter of Cornelius' name.



(Answers on Page 8)

28. ___ ye that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.
29. ___ ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good.
30. A good ___ is better than precious ointment.
31. As a hen doth gather her ___ under her wings.
32. Don't put new wine into old bottles ___ the bottles break.
35. Having loved His own He loved them to the ___.
36. Unto him be glory unto the church throughout all ___ world without end.
37. Evening, morning and ___ will I pray unto thee. 12.

DOWN:

1. The minister is not to be ___ of filthy lucre.
2. The captain of Saul's army and killed by Joab.
3. ___ man can come unto Christ except drawn.
4. By Jesus' ___ we were healed, Singular.
5. The king of Amalek taken captive by king Saul.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

6. Samson said out of the ___ came forth meat.
8. Same as 36 across.
11. Up ___ this rock I will build my church.
14. Lord I believe, help thou my ___.
15. It was Ruth and ___ who came back with Naomi.
16. Father the ___ is come glorify thy Son. Time.
17. We're redeemed with the ___ blood of Christ.
18. Be willing and obedient and ___ the good of land.
19. Moreover the law entered that the ___ might abound.
20. The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore he shall ___ in harvest. Plead.
23. I have ___ the winepress alone was Jesus' lot.
25. When they shall say peace and safety then ___ destruction cometh upon them. Immediate.
27. Nothing can separate us from the love ___ God.
31. Judas was a thief and had the ___. Purse.
33. ___ I come in the volume of the book written.
34. God ___ loved the world that He gave His Son.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Kids have sharp ears. Our two year old grandson, Eli, likes to play Baby bumps videos on youtube but his Nana had cut him off and put the phone in her back pants pocket. He wanted to know where the phone was. She didn't answer but as he was leaving the room, she whispered to me, "It's in my pocket", as she pointed. We heard him down the hall say, "it's in the pocket."

We couldn't get him to eat some beans at the table the other day. We kept saying, "Don't you want just a bite or two of these string beans?" He just continually shook his head from side to side violently. I said, "Now what is that supposed to mean?" He said with gusto, "It mean no!" How could I be so confused?—
Editor

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

(Continued from Page 5)

alive and not dead or passive in obedience, but active in obedience; not active in regeneration or receiving new life, but after new life is imparted by the Holy Spirit, then he is a lively stone and active in obedience. He should walk in the ordained good works. Be followers of God as dear children; walk in love, seeing that ye have purified your heart by the unfeigned love of the brethren that is God's love. See that you love the brethren, not the world or the things of the world, but the brethren of the church of God with a pure heart fervently. May God help you see and enjoy these truths is my poor prayer. Please pray for me, a poor, afflicted pilgrim on earth. Affectionately yours, J. R. Wilson.

(From "The Primitive Baptist", July 4, 1946)

CHURCH NEWS

Elder Calvin Warren will be with Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecpu, MS the 5th Sunday in January, 2022 with services at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in January, 2022 (Jan. 30) will be hosted by Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS with services beginning at 5:30 p.m. No supper served prior to services. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church and everyone is invited to come and worship the Lord. Speaker to be chosen from attending ministers. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches in Northeast, MS.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isaiah 52:7)

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS is hosting an open meeting the 4th weekend in February with services on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 beginning at 10:00am followed by lunch and afternoon services. We will have regular Sunday worship on Feb. 27, 2022 at 10:00am. We invite all our friends in Christ and especially our local ministers to visit us during our meeting. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS baptized his wife’s nephew, David Keith Machiavello into the Tyler Primitive Baptist Church in Tyler, TX on Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. Tyler is currently without a Pastor.



“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;” (Eccl. 12:1)

“But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:14)

IN MEMORIAM



Elder Freddy Boen of Fordyce, AR passed into glory on October 30, 2021 at the age of 83. He was Pastor of Mt. Paran Primitive Baptist Church for the last 14 years of his life. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ella Boen, and two daughters. Elders Dub Hatten, Jeff Winfrey, Troy Barrington, and Joe Asbell officiated at the funeral on November 4, 2021. Pray for his family and the church he did pastor as another soldier of the cross has gone home.

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.” (1 Tim. 5:17-18)

IN MEMORIAM



Elder William Herman Clark and his wife, Martha Dell (Mot) Clark, luka, MS passed into glory on November 15, 2021. They entered into glory almost simultaneously as they died within an hour of each other. Brother Clark was 78 years of age and Sister Clark was 79. They are survived by one son, Chris Clark and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. They had been disabled for a number of years. A Celebration of Life Memorial service was held at Little Flock PBC, Burnsville, MS on Nov 20 with Elder Rickey Taylor and Elder Garland Broadway officiating.

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:” (II Timothy 4:6-7)

IN MEMORIAM



Elder Gene Thomas, Scottsboro, AL passed away on November 26, 2021 at the age of 92. He had been a Primitive Baptist minister for 73 years and was the long time Pastor of Union Primitive Baptist Church in Woodville, AL. He is survived by his wife, Ann Thomas and two sons, Troy Thomas and Mark Thomas. Funeral was November 29 at Union PBC with Elders Darrell Chambers and Sam Etheredge officiating.

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. naelg | 1. ydeerg |
| 4. eraws | 2. renba |
| 7. tsaob | 3. on |
| 9. nrael | 4. epirts |
| 10. tsaor | 5. gaga |
| 12. gnineve | 6. retae |
| 13. ruodo | 8. sega |
| 15. ro | 11. no |
| 17. retep | 14. feilebnu |
| 20. bb | 15. hapro |
| 21. ruo | 16. ruoh |
| 22. tpa | 17. suoicerp |
| 24. eerf | 18. tae |
| 25. rats | 19. ecneffo |
| 26. cyrolg | 20. geb |
| 28. oh | 23. neddort |
| 29. fi | 25, neddus |
| 30. eman | 27. fo |
| 31. doorb | 31. gab |
| 32. esle | 33. ol |
| 35. dne | 34. os |
| 36. sega | |
| 37. noon | |

C.H. Spurgeon poignantly stated it this way: "A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you, and were helped by you, will remember you. So carve you name on hearts, and not on marble."

RECEIVING THE WORD

February 5, 1942

A brother has written and requested that we write on receiving the Word. He says a preacher told him that receiving the Word was a condition on the one receiving it. We are sure that preacher has sometimes received word of something, or concerning something, which he did not want to receive. Why did he not refuse to receive it, and not do so, according to his free-will doctrine? A man receiving the word of a thing is absolutely passive in receiving the word, or news, of the thing. If one is passive in receiving a thing, then it ceases to be a condition on the part of the one receiving it. Performing a condition, or complying with a condition, requires activity on the part of the one performing or complying with the condition. If the preacher knows anything about grammar, as he claimed to know, he knows this is a fact; and if he is an honest man, he will admit it.

How can the unregenerate sinner receive the word, or receive the gospel, since Paul has said (1 Cor. ii. 14) "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned?" How can he receive them, since he cannot know them? If this is a condition which he must perform in order to receive eternal life, he cannot perform the condition, how could he ever receive eternal life? This would forever close heaven's doors to the last one of all the race of Adam—unless they do that which they cannot do; or unless they perform that which they cannot perform. Poor preacher! He is trying to get people to do what God's Book says they cannot do, thinking they will get to heaven by doing that which inspiration says they cannot do! Poor preacher! He sure has a hard job on hand—trying to get people to do the impossible thing.

C. H. C.

(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist", by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 7)

A few Sundays ago, after eating lunch, I asked some of the men, deacons and others, sitting at the tables next to where I was sitting a question. It was concerning Jesus instructing those 12 disciples as written in Luke 9:1-6. Jesus said in verses 4 and 5 "And whosoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them." Some were giving their thoughts and a young boy spoke up and said, "They were shaking the dust from their feet to show their cleansing themselves from the sinful things of that city." I just sat back in my chair and I was truly amazed. "For out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."

(From an article by Elder Herman Clark, 4/7.2009)

CRY UNTO GOD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Galatians 4:6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

This is an interesting verse of scripture that brings comfort to the child of God. Maybe the only downside to this verse is that a lot of God's children don't know about its comfort because of their lack of understanding about how a person is regenerated or born again. The evidence is shown right in our text for today showing how we are born again; it is found in the words **God hath sent forth**. God sent forth the Spirit, not the gospel, not water baptism, not our good works, but the Spirit. Therefore the work of regeneration or being born of the Spirit is totally the work of God. Next let's examine the definition of the word Abba. It is an Aramaic word that means **father**. Abba is usually the first word that a baby would utter when it began to speak. In doing this it would show that its brain was developing and that his muscles were getting stronger, and he began to understand who was his guardian and provider. That tells us that the regenerated have a feeling that there is someone somewhere that is a father unto them. Those that are informed through the preaching of the gospel understand that it is God the Father that we feel in our hearts; that is one of the good things about having the oracles of God known to us as the truth.

Not every child of God has that knowledge; those that do are comforted and understand that someday they will be with the father. So now we see that when a person makes a commitment to God he is in essence showing that he is a child of God. God gave him the ability to cry out unto God when he caused him to be born of the Spirit. Is this the only way that one can cry out unto God and pour out his feelings toward his creator by being in church and following the ordinances? No.

I remember reading a story on a community that was hard hit by a tornado; there were ruined houses everywhere. Houses that didn't even belong in the neighborhood were sitting flat in the middle of some streets. The tornado had blown them there. One highway officer was out of his vehicle surveying the damage the tornado had done. Suddenly he could hear a tiny whimper like coming from the rubble of

one of the houses. At first he thought it was some kind of house pet like a dog or kitten. But as he came nearer to the sound he could tell it was a baby that was crying. Quickly he began to throw aside the rubble where the crying was coming from, finally he saw his little face with his mouth open and crying away. He was the only survivor unfortunately; the parents were killed. He was still alive by the grace of God. That trooper knew that the baby was alive the whole time because he could hear him crying. If he was dead there would be no crying from the baby to lead him to where he was. Dead people don't cry. They are just dead with no sign of life. A person born again is alive to the things of God, which is a sign of life in them. Those that care not about the things of God are the unregenerate; they are dead to the things of God

Ephesians 2:1-3: And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked 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: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Spiritual life comes when God regenerates one of his children. Only then are we able to acknowledge him and have the ability to serve him. Before that we were dead in trespasses and sins, and we walked according to the course of this world, according to the power of the prince of the air (Satan). There was nothing in us to make us desire to seek God or his assistance in our lives. In fact if God had not sought us out and changed our vile heart, we would still be following the prince of the air and saying depart from us God we desire not your ways. Are we not blessed that God the Father chose us before the foundation of the world and entered into covenant with his Son to save everyone of his children, not a one of them shall be lost. John 6:40. Thank you Lord for your sweet love that chose us, regenerates us. The love that your Son came to die for us and to insure not a single one shall be lost.

R L Taylor

HEAR OUR CRY

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 61:1-2)

We are thankful the Lord hears the cries of His people when they are overwhelmed (faint, failing, feeble) and gives them grace to sustain them in the midst of their trouble. He does this because He is faithful to every word He has promised.—*Editor*

GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Elder Wise,

I am enclosing another very small donation to your good paper which I enjoy reading in my room at the Assisted Living.

I just want to share a little experience that I had recently. Sometimes I walk down to the end of the hall to look through the back door at the night sky, especially when there is a full moon. I was doing this a few nights ago, even though there were many dark clouds above. When I got there I saw a huge black cloud with a small light above it bordering on the edge. And as I watched; the light rose into a beautiful big moon and the black cloud quickly moved away—as the moon rose above it—what a sight!

I compared it to the Lord rising above our dark troubles. I want soon forget that beautiful scene.

Doris Smith
Milan, TN

BAPTISTS AND BASEBALL

“Behold, a ball team went forth to play a game of baseball....Just as the umpire was saying, “Batter up!” the catcher for the home team arrived and took his place. The center fielder didn’t show up at all, but he later sent his regrets, and said that he had to go to a chicken dinner at Aunt Mary’s. The third baseman failed to come to the game, having been up late the night before and desired to spend the day in bed. The left fielder felt that he needed to visit another ball game across town. The short-stop was present, but left his glove at home. Two of the substitute fielders were away on a weekend trip and couldn’t make it, but they were there in spirit.

Verily, when the pitcher went into the box, he looked around for the teammates, and lo, his heart was heavy, for their places were empty. But the game was announced and the visitors were in the stands. This there was nothing to do but pitch the ball and hope for the best. So the pitcher tightened his belt, and stepped into the box and did his best, for he had to serve as pitcher, first baseman, and third baseman. There were loud boos from the stands while the home team was beaten. It was a disgrace to the noble game of baseball. When the absent members of the defeated team heard that their team lost, a decision was made to get a new pitcher. But WHO lost the game??? (The Baptist Companion, via The Christian Pathway, April, 1966)

The end of the gospel and all preaching is that men may learn in all their actions to regard God more, and man less; to be less earnest and careful for earth, and more for heaven. How high and how lasting a good is God’s approval and approbation! How poor and vanishing is man’s good opinion!—*Selected*

(From “*The Advocate and Messenger*”, Feb. 2007)

ANOTHER CHURCH SIGN

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

In January A & M we published a little piece that I wrote in response to a sign in front of a local church that read: “We determine our eternal destiny by how we respond to God’s doctrine.” I showed that this statement is a blatant denial of God’s word. Well, another one later appeared on the same signboard that was just as blatant a denial of the truth as the other one. It read: “It all started when Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’”

Now, the first definition I find in my dictionary for the word *finish* is “to bring to an end.” And for *finished* the definition is “*perfected* or *accomplished*.” But we need the wise men of the world to let us know that *finished* actually means *started*. So you see how confused we Old Baptists have been all these years. We thought *finished* meant *completed*, *accomplished*, or *perfected*, but we now learn from modern religionists that it really means, *just the beginning*. What they are actually telling us is that instead of Christ saying, “It is *finished*,” He should have said, “*It has just now started*.”

As for me, I will take the time-honored and true meaning of the word *finished* and will contend that Christ said what He meant, and meant what He said. He said He had *finished* the work that His Father gave Him to do (John 17:4) and we believe Him. He said He came to save His people from their sins and we believe He did it (See Matt. 1:21). The apostle Paul said Christ came into the world to save sinners (I Tim. 1:15), and since we feel ourselves to be sinners we have a sweet hope that we are among those that He came to save. If He came for the purpose of saving His people, He either *did* it or He *didn’t*. If He *didn’t*, then He was a failure—He failed to do what He came to do. We Old Baptists do not believe He failed. We believe He *finished* the work that His Father gave Him to do. We do *not* believe He just *started* it when He died on the cross.

(From “*The Advocate and Messenger*”, Feb. 2007)

Christ sometimes concealed His miracles because He would not indulge that pernicious conceit which existed among the Jews that their Messiah should be a temporal prince, and so give occasion to the people to attempt setting up His kingdom by tumults and seditions (John 6:15). As to the miracles which Christ wrought among the Gentiles and the Gadarenes, He never imposed silence on them, probably because those things would prepare them for the preaching of the apostles.—*Whitby*

The Christian will ask bread for his soul as well as his body. Christ is to the believer’s soul what food is to the body. He is the Bread of Life, and if we are born of God, we shall daily desire to feed upon Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.—*Selected* (The “A & M”, Feb. 2007)

PRESSING AHEAD

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Once time has elapsed, there isn't anything that we can do to recapture it or change it. The past has passed. We may wish that we had not done certain things or that we had done certain things; however, we cannot undo the past. The apostle Paul wrote the church at Philippi, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14)

Paul was pressing ahead toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. The mark alludes to a line made by placing one substance upon another and hence a goal or finish line at the end of an Olympic race. Paul feels to not have apprehended that which he had been apprehended of Jesus Christ. Paul had been apprehended by force on the road to Damascus and arrested by the grace of God. This is why I believe he wrote that He was a prisoner of Jesus Christ and could exhort the brethren at Ephesus to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they were called. (Eph. 4:1)

Paul definitely remembered how he was a Pharisee of the strictest sect and trusting with confidence in the flesh. All this boasting in self is now replaced with one who feels to be the chiefest of sinners. (I Tim. 1:15) Paul could not dwell on his past and continually look behind or else he could not serve the Lord in the present. Paul said "this one thing I do". There were other things to do but now this "one thing" was uppermost in his mind just as David had "one thing" uppermost in his mind when he said, "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple." (Psalm 27:4)

David felt there was one thing necessary and to have that it would have to be sought. He couldn't look behind and count on his past victories other than to encourage himself in the Lord. He was pressing ahead with no confidence in self but in the God that had delivered him from the paw of the lion, the bear and the uncircumcised Philistine, Goliath. David had a mark or goal and finish line just as did Paul.

Jesus set up a spiritual kingdom while on earth and it is entered by pressing ahead. The scriptures tell us, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." (Luke 16:16) The word "presseth" means to obtain by force or seize, indicating activity. Those that enter into this kingdom must press into it, not looking behind but looking ahead to Jesus as the author and finisher of faith. This is how we run with patience the race set before us. What is at the end of the finish line? Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (II Tim. 4:7-8)

We cannot rest on past accomplishments but must continually add to our faith the things Peter mentions in (II Pet. 1:5-7) to make our calling and election sure to ourselves and fellow believers. Then Peter says that if we lack these things that need to be added to faith we have become blind, cannot see afar off and "...hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." (II Pet. 1:9) We surely do not want to forget where we come from, having been purged from our sins, but that should motivate us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. Grace teaches this earnest desire. (Titus 2:11-13) However to fulfill this teaching, we must apprehend our still carnal inclination just as Paul needed to apprehend and attain unto perfection (accomplished, completed). (Phil. 3:12) May we all press on whatever the obstacles that might stand in our way.

God delivered just Lot and his family from the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah before they were destroyed by fire and brimstone. They were told to not look back. Lot even lingered but his wife looked back. What happened to her? "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." (Gen. 19:26) Then the New Testament tells us to "Remember Lot's wife." (Luke 17:32) Time is of the essence; no time to continually dwell on the past for it will not change anything. Change what we can control but if we cannot control it, leave it in the capable hands of a loving God.

It would be a good time to take an inventory of our lives and see if we have pressed toward the mark as we should have done. Even if we have done a capable job, we still must confess we are unprofitable servants because we have only done that which was our duty to do. (Luke 17:10) Remember that man in his best state is altogether vanity. (Psalm 39:5)

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