

Glad Tidings

March

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

2022

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 apostle Paul charged Timothy to study to show himself approved of God, rightly dividing the word of truth. Then he gives the example of Hymenaeus and Philetus who erred from the truth saying the great resurrection had passed already and overthrew the faith of some. There still was good news in spite of this overthrow. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (II Tim. 2:19) Those deceived may have had their faith overthrown but their names were still in the book of life.

Paul charges Timothy to flee youthful lusts and to follow righteousness, faith, charity and peace with all those that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (II Tim. 2:22) If he purged himself from these lusts, he would be a vessel unto honor and meet for the Master's use and charges him also as to his obligations as a minister. Paul follows all this urgent charge to tell Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." (II Tim. 3:1) The word "perilous" means, dangerous, violent and fierce with the idea of reducing strength of the child of God.

There have been perilous times before such as in the days of Noah when the imagination of man's heart was only evil from his youth. However, we have been in the last days since Christ but we may be in the last days of the last days. Paul goes on and tells Timothy and the people of God what would be the character of men and women in the last days that would constitute these perilous times. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" (II Tim. 3:2-4)

These people have a form of godliness as did Philetus and Hymenaeus but deny the power thereof; he and the people of God are charged to turn away from such. This reaches even to the religious elite as there is no real regard for the truth of God. Men and women want to do their own thing and it doesn't matter who gets in their way. There isn't any regard for "this saith the word of God." This surely would be a most perilous time for the people of God.

Notice that it is perilous times for the people of God; it is not perilous for the people who comprise the characters that Paul describes. These are the ones who make it a dangerous, fierce and perilous time. The people of God, however, are instructed to be steadfast and unmovable and abounding in the work of the Lord. God will not accept anything that is not in keeping with His word, even among the religious establishment. The Lord charged the priests in the book of Malachi of offering polluted bread upon his altar which was not honoring Him as their Father and showing no fear as their Master.

What constituted this polluted bread upon the altar of God offered by the priests? God said, "And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts." (Mal. 1:8) God wasn't pleased with less than the best then, and He is still not satisfied with the leftovers. I heard Elder Sony Pyles say that the people of God sometimes treat the Lord like a spare tire. The spare stays there hidden in the trunk until a flat is encountered, and then the spare tire is brought out and used. The Lord is not to be used only as crisis management and to be utilized only in case of an emergency. He deserves more than that from His people because of His great love and sacrifice on the cross of Calvary to save them from their sins.

Jesus went into the temple and overthrew the tables of the money changers and the seats of those that sold doves for sacrifice. He gives us the reason for this righteous indignation, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:13) Sometimes I wonder what the Lord would overthrow in some houses of worship today in light of all that has been added and subtracted from that authorized in the New Testament Church.

Paul says that in these perilous times evil men shall wax worse and worse, deceived and being deceived. But what are you to do Timothy and what are the people of God to do in these perilous times? "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;" (II Tim. 3:14) Timothy was to continue steadfast and not follow the crowd down the primrose path. He had known the scriptures from a child and so have we; use them. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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IS GOD UNJUST

By Elder Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

Q. How can God vindicate His justice in pardoning and redeeming some of the sinful race of Adam from the law, and in punishing others of the same sinful race by the law?

A. Foolish and sinful man must not arraign a wise and holy God, his Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor, before his poor, little, erring tribunal. The Scriptures teach that God is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works, the Eternal and Infinite Sovereign of the universe, who cannot do wrong, who is accountable to none of His creatures, while all of them are accountable to Him, and that the whole race of Adam are sinful and guilty and condemned by His righteous law, and that the endless and Incarnate Son of God, in accordance of the stipulations of His eternal covenant with His Father, lived on earth and died and rose again for His chosen people, as their Head and Surety, doing all the law required them to do, and suffering all the law required them to suffer, bearing all the wrath of God and all the curse of the law for them, magnifying the law and making it honorable, dying for and making an end of their sins and reconciliation for their iniquities, and rising for their justification, bringing in for them an everlasting righteousness, so that God can be just and yet justify the ungodly who believe in Jesus Christ; and that those sinners of the race of Adam for whose sins Jesus did not atone, who are not quickened by the Holy Spirit, who do not repent towards God and believe in Christ, will have their sins and the wrath of God for their sins forever abiding upon them, and will, at last be righteously consigned by a Most Holy God,

who never even tempted much less compelled them to sin, but always forbade them to sin and threatened them with death for sinning, to everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels, the first transgression of God's holy law. The justice of God shines, in the case of the elect, in His punishment for their Surety, His holy Son for their sins; and, in the case of the nonelect, in His everlasting punishment of themselves for their willful and inexcusable sins; while His mercy shines in the everlasting salvation of the elect.

Why God chose to save some from their sins, and to leave others to perish in their sins, the Scriptures do not reveal. The clearest expression on the subject is the reverent exclamation of the holy and wise and humble Son of God "Even so, Father, for so it seems good in Thy sight" (Matt. 11:25, 26; Luke 10:21). But the Scriptures do repeatedly and emphatically declare that God chose His people not because of their holiness or their work of righteousness (for none of the race of Adam are holy or righteous by nature), but that they should be holy – elected them, not because of their obedience, but unto obedience (Eph. 1:4; 2:1-10; I Pet. 1:1-5). The greatest of all wonders to the true people of God is why he should have loved them, chosen them, redeemed them, renewed them, and prepared a bright and everlasting home in heaven for them; and when they are at last taken to heaven, they will unanimously and joyfully and thankfully ascribe every particle of the glory of their salvation to the Divine Father, Son, and Spirit.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Who are "the all-men-everywhere" whom Paul says in his discourse at Athens "God commands to repent?" (Acts 17:30)

A. The whole world of human beings, the whole human race, whom Paul says, in the next verse God will judge by Jesus Christ. God is the same since the fall of man that He was before, and His holy law, which requires all His intelligent creatures to love and worship Him exclusively and supremely, is the standard of all creature obedience, and cannot change, even if man, by his own will and sin, has rendered himself unable to obey that law. If a man owes another a thousand dollars, and is not able to pay him a cent, he owes him just the same. Ability is not the limit of obligation. If it were, no human being would be under any obligation to God; for no human being in the present state can spiritually and perfectly fulfill any commandment of God. All men should be told as Christ told His hearers, that "unless they repent they will perish." (Luke 13:3-5).

(From "*The Collected Works of Sylvester Hassell—
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THE CHILDREN OF PROMISE

“Now we brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise”—Gal. 4:28. The question is: Who made the promise? God promised Abraham a son, “And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, He was able to perform,” Rom. 4:21, but Abraham had grown old and his wife well stricken in years. He knew, according to the course in nature, that Sarah could not bear him a son. Here we see doubt in his mind. I can imagine his thinking: I know God will fulfill His promise, but it is useless for me to think Sarah will have a son at 99 years old. So, I will have to look for some other way for God to fulfill His promise.

It is akin to what the world is thinking and teaching today. They say: I know God will fulfill His promise, but He expects us to do our part in bringing it to pass.

So, Sarah comes up with the idea that Hagar was not past the age to bear children. So, Sarah said: You take my handmaid. So, Abraham consented that they bring God’s promise to pass through the handmaid.

But, thanks be to God, Abraham learned that he had not brought God’s promise to pass through natural course. When the child was born, Abraham could see the evidence of his trying to help God fulfill His promise—the best he could do was a mocking Ishmaelite. The world is still engaged in bringing Ishmaelites into the world today. They are saying: If we don’t help God fulfill His promise, all will be lost. It is heart-rending to see God’s children led away in this fallacy.

Let us see what the Bible says about God fulfilling His promise. “Blessed be the Lord, that has given rest unto His people Israel, according to all that He had promised: there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant”—1 Kings 8:56.

God would not be perfect if He failed to keep His promise, but He did not fail; “In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began”—Titus 1:2. I think that is enough to convince people that are searching for the truth that God will keep His promise! All that God has promised to do, He will do!

So, if God has promised eternal life unto all the race of Adam, then He will give eternal life to all the Adamic race. If He should fail to give one eternal life that He promised, could it be said He kept His promise? Seeing that God kept His promise to Abraham in the face of natural impossibility, could we not be comforted in believing there is nothing too hard for God to do that He has promised?

Now, let us look at the heading of this article: “Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.” If we have the love of God in our hearts it is evidence that we are one of the promised children! For, He hath said: He that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.

When we think of what our friends teach: That God has promised to make the heathen His children, and that He wants them to be His children, but He has left it in the hand of man to carry it out, and because man has failed, God cannot keep His promise—so how could we believe the Scripture? Let God be true and every man a liar! So, in man failing to reach those that God has promised eternal life to, man makes God like unto himself—a liar! But He is not like man. He is truth!

I gather so much comfort from believing: “For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” God’s promises are not yes and no. They are all yea! What a comfort it is to believe that God will do what He said he would! How different from man. Peter was an apostle, yet he said: “If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.” So, let us remember: “Let God be true and every man a liar.” I am satisfied with the promise of God! Remember this needy one in prayer. R. E. Maughmer (Elder)

(From “*The Primitive Baptist*”, April 6, 1961)

A DRY GOURD AND A BLACK COCOON

The food certain worms consume determines the color of the silken cocoons they spin. So also the kind of spiritual nutriment we digest will be reflected in our attitudes and activities. In earlier times people kept their grease in gourds. Such gourds could easily be detected because the grease would seep through and show on the outside. Thus it is with grace in the heart, it will make itself manifest by what shows on the outside in word and deed. If no spiritual fruits are borne it is evidence that the tree is not spiritual.

In II Cor. 6:1 The children of God are besought to receive not the grace of God in vain. This does not indicate any failure on God’s part, or any weakness or inferiority in His grace. The final salvation of all His people is secured to them *through* His grace and is just as sure as God Himself. But when this grace is manifest to them and they are brought out of nature’s darkness this “new creation” is unto good works. It was not bestowed only that they might some day live with God but it was also conferred that they might be capacitated to walk with Him in *this* life; that they might enjoy and rejoice in fellowship and communion with Him and His other enlightened sons and daughters; and that they might worship Him in spirit and in truth and bring honor to His name. When they fail to do this they get no more out of their relationship with God than if they had never *had* such a relationship so far as their enjoyment of it is concerned. So far as their value to the cause is concerned they might just as well still be in a state of death in sins.

This state is the same as that mentioned in II Pet. 1:8, which is a state of barrenness and unfruitfulness. No grease is seen on the outside of the gourd. No *grace* is manifest in the individuals outward conduct and conversation. He feeds upon the things of the world and therefore spins an unsightly cocoon; a cocoon of darkness. I don’t think any little child of God really *wants* to occupy such ground. May we all strive to avoid it. Elder Ralph Harris (“*Advocate and Messenger*”, Feb. 1977)

BEHOLD HE PRAYETH!

“And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth.”—Acts 9:11.

The above words are a Divine enunciation of the greatest importance to mortal man; the significance of which reaches into the starry skies, from whence it came. No mortal tongue can fully proclaim or portray its meaning. I hope, by the grace of God, to be able to make a few remarks that will, at least, hint at it. Despite the fact that one praying is generally taken as a common-place thing and nothing to be excited about, this announcement is a startling one filled with wonder and amazement! And so it is with all true praying souls. Why? Because it indicates a miraculous change has been wrought in the one thus praying. Hence the note of attention.

Behold! Not only so, but further emphasized by the word *for* which in this instance is a conjunction and means *because*, thus assigning a reason for the instructions that were to follow, Viz.: You go to this man “For, behold, he prayeth.” Even this servant of God did not understand the true significance of this, for he remonstrated: “Lord, I have heard by many of this man!” And what he had heard was not a pleasant story, as you know or can learn by reading this entire account given in the Scriptures. Also, no doubt he had heard and knew that Saul was a very religious man as well as an evil one. And, therefore, in his Pharisaical way, had “stood and prayed thus with himself.” But, Ananias, you don’t understand! In all of that there was not a spark of a real prayer; neither is there any in all others like it, for prayer does not consist of words piously spoken, whether they be many or few. John Bunyan said, “In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.” That is all his former utterances were; just words without any heart!

But, *behold*; This is different! He doesn’t seem to have any words. But, oh! The heart of them! This is significant because this is the first time in his life that he has ever really prayed! “Arise and go *for, behold, he prayeth!*” Not only so, but this time his cries have reached up to heaven, and God has taken notice of them, and Himself proclaims the startling news; “*Behold, he prayeth.*” I do not think it is vain imagination to say that the angels of heaven also took up the blessed refrain and sang together “*Behold, he prayeth!*” “For there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth than ninety and nine that needeth no repentance.” If some want to say that this has reference to the church and the saints here below, I have no objection. But who will contend that the heaven above is excluded from it? When Cornelius’ prayers and alms “came up for a memorial before God,” and an angel was dispatched

to tell him about it, do you suppose that the angels in heaven had no pleasure in the matter?

But back to this praying one: What is the meaning of all this? Why, Ananias “Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me.” Here then is the import of this announcement, “Behold, he prayeth,” “*He is a chosen vessel!*”

Many have tried to disparage the doctrine of election by picturing it as leaving out many poor penitent souls who were earnestly desiring to be saved, but such is not the truth. Just as truly as it can be said: “Behold, he prayeth* conveys truth it can be said: “He is a chosen vessel!” Will you wonder then that I say that the angels in heaven rejoice with the glad refrain; “Behold, he prayeth!” That God also took notice of it and called it to the attention of one of His ministers that he might go to him with much needed information, and glad tidings of great joy!

*Poor mourning soul, in deep distress,
Just awakened from slumber,
Who wanders in sin’s wilderness,
Out of the condemned number,*

*The thunder roars from Sinai’s mount,
Fills him with awful terror;
And he like naught in God’s account,
All drowned with grief and sorrow.*

*Come, hungry, weary, naked soul,
For such I ne’er rejected;
My righteousness sufficient is,
Though you have long neglected;*

*Come, weary soul, for right you have,
I am such soul’s protector;
My honor is engaged to save,
All under this character.*

The above lines are taken from The Good Old Songs, and this is number 381. They express better than I can the thought that I am trying to convey.

There are many other thoughts on prayer, and, the Lord willing, I hope to write some more along this line later. I beg an interest in the prayers of everyone who finds a heart to pray for me and mine.

V. F. Lowrance (Elder)

(From “*The Primitive Baptist*”, January 17, 1957)

Know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation may be on the Lord’s side.--Abraham Lincoln

Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life.--Jonathan Edwards

Food For Thought For Your Week
January 24, 2022



By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

More Glory To God And Power In Prayer

In a time of great concern, the psalmist had this comfort, saying, "*Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.*" (Psalms 42:8) In this verse, it is evident that the psalmist kept his mind upon the Lord and all of the blessings that come in knowing Him. If we would follow this pattern, we would also find more joy for our days and our nights.

First of all, "*in the daytime*" we have opportunities to do our activities "*heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*" (Colossians 3:23) And, as we go about doing them, we should remember that the Lord is watching over us and is our helper and shield for every step of the way. We don't deserve such help, but in His love and kindness, God blesses us for the sake of His dear Son. But, rather than just thinking of how God watches and protects us, He is far more pleased to help us accomplish things that bring glory to His name, are a blessing to others, and allow us to reflect His character as we do them. As someone has recently said, "We shouldn't let our light shine just so that others can see us doing good works, but do them so that others can see Christ in us." Each day (in the daytime), we have fresh opportunities to do this. So this week, what will you do in the daytime to be a blessing to others and show the love and kindness of God to those around you?

Next, by keeping the Lord in the forefront of our thoughts and being diligent to show His love and kindness to others throughout our day, "*in the night his song shall be with me.*" This is the Spirit of the Lord rejoicing in our spirit because we have walked in paths of righteousness and endeavored to do His will. There is nothing that cheers the heart more than feeling that you have followed the leadership of the Spirit and that you have done something that showed the love of God to someone who needed a helping hand or who was encouraged by your unexpected deed of kindness. When you lie down at night, that

joy in your heart will continue to "sing to you" of God's goodness and mercy.

And finally, with such a presence of mind, we will have more power in our "*prayer unto the God of my life.*" Friends, consistent fellowship with the Lord adds holy power to praying. And, this is greatly needed by each of us: by our families, by our communities, by our churches, by our nation, and in our world. Daily, we should do whatever we can to acknowledge God more, to show forth more thanksgiving to Him, and to show God's love to others. This is walking in the Spirit! This is letting your light shine! This is denying glory to ourselves and lovingly giving it to God! After all, He is the only One who is actually worthy of glory anyway!

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

ARE WE THANKFUL?

By Elder Freddy Boen (Deceased)

One sore spot with me is the time of year we call "Thanksgiving". We say we are being thankful, but are we? Our sisters spend hours upon hours cooking and getting ready so that we can bow our heads and spend maybe one minute thanking God, then proceed to fill our stomachs to excess, then watch a football game until we feel we can eat some more. Is this what thanksgiving is all about? Why not spend that day worshipping instead of gorging? According to Romans 1, one of the first signs of downfall in a nation, church, or family is that we become unthankful. Notice the pattern in Romans chapter 1.

1. Unthankful, verse 21.
2. Loss of common sense, verse 22.
3. Corrupt religion, verse 23.
4. Uncontrolled lust, verse 24.
5. Sexual perversion, verse 26.

I will now make a very strong statement; The above is where America is today, and in some (too many) cases the church is in this same boat. Is this hard to believe? Think about it as you apply Psalm 51:6.

We have replaced God's Word with man-made traditions. This has resulted in a non-dependent attitude on God. We are depending on ourselves and nothing could displease God more. "We've never done it that way before." Have you ever heard this phrase? It makes no difference to me if it has been done that way before, or even if our religious friends down the street does it that way. If the Bible teaches it, then this is the way I want to do it. After all, our Articles of Faith state that we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the ONLY rule of faith and practice.

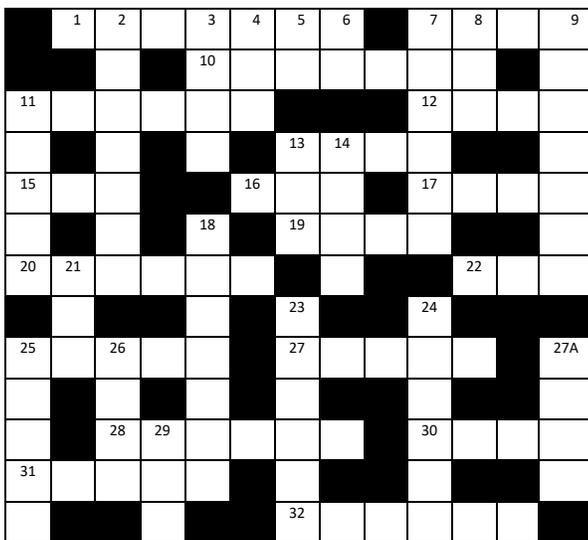
Well, lest this get too lengthy, I will close. I do earnestly beg you to consider these thoughts in the

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Weapon Saul cast at David to smite him to wall.
7. Consider the lilies how they ___ they toil not.
10. A certain men drew a bow at a ___ & smote Ahab.
11. A sinner woman ___ the feet of Jesus with tears.
12. Adam and Eve were in the garden of ___.
13. I am the ___ of Sharon and lily of the valleys.
15. ___ the Father giveth men shall come to me.
16. Will a man ___ God? Yet ye have robbed me.
17. Well ___ thou good and faithful servant.
19. God abideth faithful, he cannot ___ himself.
20. In building of Solomon's temple there was not the sound of a ___ or axe.
22. I once ___ lost but now I'm found.
25. Paul felt to be less than the ___ of all saints.
27. As an ___ stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, so the Lord alone led Jacob.
28. They crucify the Son of God ___ and put him to an open shame.
30. King of Israel the dogs licked his blood & his wife.
31. The ___ of God's people are written in book of life.
32. Simon Peter ___ thou me then feed my sheep.



(Answers on Page 8)

DOWN:

2. David's son with long hair who rebelled and fell.
3. He that believeth on the Son hath ___ lasting life.
4. As many as are ___ by the Spirit are sons of God.
5. ___ my Father's house are many mansions.
6. New Testament abbreviation.
7. A minister is not to be ___ of filthy lucre.
8. God delivered Israel safely across the ___ Sea.
9. Stephen was a man full of faith and power and did great ___ and miracles among the people.
11. Who hath warned you to flee from the ___ to come said John the Baptist to some people.
13. Thy ___ and thy staff, they comfort me said David.
14. The name of the child born unto Ruth and Boaz.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

18. Saul desired ___ of the high priest to bind the saints in Jerusalem and put in prison.
21. Sarah bare Abraham a son in his old ___.
23. Hath not the potter power over the clay to make one ___ unto honour and another to dishonour.
24. A man must leave father and mother and shall ___ unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.
25. Daniel by faith stopped the mouths of ___.
26. The first man ___ was made a living soul.
- 27A. The soldiers put on Jesus a purple ___.
29. I have ___ you with milk and not with meat for you were not able to bear it being carnal.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Our grandson Eli is two years old and is in process of potty training. His Nana had bought some pull ups (actually by mistake) and she told him he was going to have to be a big boy and use pull ups and go to the potty. He said, "I want a diaper." His Nana said, "But we don't have any." He had the answer, "Then buy some more," he said.—*Editor*

EXTREME TRADITION

A very poor holy man lived in a remote part of China. Every day before his time of meditation in order to show his devotion, he put a dish of butter up on the window sill as an offering to God, since food was so scarce. One day his cat came in and ate the butter. To remedy this, he began tying the cat to the bedpost each day before the quiet time. This man was so revered for his piety that others joined him as disciples and worshipped as he did. Generations later, long after the holy man was dead, his followers placed an offering of butter on the window sill during their time of prayer and meditation. Furthermore, each one bought a cat and tied it to the bedpost.

Source Unknown.

ARE WE THANKFUL?

(Continued from Page 5)

light of God's word and our present day circumstances. We all should pray that God would be merciful to us poor sinners, grant revival, and give us the wisdom to recognize it when it comes. Marantha, Elder Freddy Boen

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", Feb. 2001)

CHURCH NEWS

Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Maben, MS is having a one day meeting on Saturday, April 16, 2022. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow, then afternoon services. Elder Buddy Abernathy, Gordo, AL is our invited speaker. Everyone is invited. Clear Springs is currently without a Pastor.

Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in Saltillo, MS would like to invite everyone to our annual meeting. It will be the weekend of the 5th Sunday in May, 2022. Friday night May 27th, supper at 6pm and worship services start at 7pm, then Saturday morning May 28th starting at 10am with lunch and a afternoon service starting at 1:30pm. Then Sunday May 29th services starting at 10:30 with lunch following worship services. Lord willing we are to have Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN and Elder Gary Rhodes, Little Rock, AR with us--Elder Tony Lester, Pastor of Beulah.

Everyone is invited to Harmony Primitive Baptist Church in Tupelo, MS the first Sunday weekend in May, 2022 for their annual meeting. Friday night April 29th supper at 6:00pm and worship services starting at 7pm, then Saturday morning April 30th starting at 10am with lunch and then services at 1:30pm. Sunday morning May 1st services at 10:30am with lunch and then communion following lunch. Lord willing, we plan to have Elder James Conley, Meadville, MS and Elder Jeb Owen, Lockhart, TX with us. We would love to have everyone come and worship with us and we desire your prayers for the meeting.—Elder Tony Lester, Pastor of Harmony

Mt Hebron Primitive Baptist Church at Hamilton, MS, invites everyone to join us for our annual meeting starting on March 12, 2022. Saturday services will begin at 10:00 in the morning followed by lunch and afternoon services. Services will resume on Sunday, March 13, at 10:30 in the morning with lunch following. The invited preachers are Elder Jackie Smith, Fulton, MS, Brother Ben Shettles, Counce, TN and Brother John Morgan Owens, Aliceville, AL. Please pray for our meeting and come fellowship with us.

The Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS is planning a meeting for the 2nd weekend in April, 2022 (Apr. 8-9) with Elder Gary Rhodes, Little Rock, AR as invited minister. Details to follow in April issue. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Pray for the service each time the assembly meets to worship the Lord. Pray the word of the Lord will have free course and the flock will be edified.—*Editor*

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

A new book by Elder G. Wayne Crocker is now available: The book is entitled **SENSE or NONSENSE**. It deals with how today's prevailing nonsense in religion and society should be and can be counteracted by the truths of God's word and returning to common sense in all aspects of life. The book is 5 1/2" x 8" and contains 224 pages with a nice paper-bound cover. It is priced at \$10 per copy for 1-4 copies and \$8 ea. for 5 or more copies. Order from G. Wayne Crocker, 1330 Scotts Dr., Cottdale, AL 35453.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder David H. Blair, Sr., Kosciusko, MS passed away to be with the Savior he preached about for so long on January 28, 2022 at the age of 87. He pastored Mt. Hebron PBC, Hamilton, MS; Mt. Pisgah PBC Duck Hill, MS and Clear Springs, PBC, Mathiston, MS through the years. He had been disabled for a number of years. Funeral was Feb. 1, 2022 with Elder Paul Blair officiating. I personally enjoyed many good meetings with him through the years and counted him a very good friend and fellow yokefellow in the ministry. Remember his wife Sara, his two children and family in your prayers.

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” (1 Tim. 5:17)

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have its annual summer meeting and an ordination service June 2-4, 2022 to celebrate its 175+1 anniversary. Services Thurs. night, June 2 and Fri. night June 3 at 7 pm followed by refreshments. Sat. June 4 at 10:00 am with lunch and the ordination of Bro. Ben Shettles to the full work of the ministry in the afternoon. Sat. night service at 6:30 pm. Elders Chris McCool, David Wise, Darren Owens, Charles Kitchens, and Joe Nettles are to speak along with Bro. Ben Shettles. More details to follow as the time approaches. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

James 2:20: But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The definition of the word **dead** in our text above means “destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative. which is the equivalent of the state of dormancy such as the trees have in the winter time.” They look dead, but are just dormant until the spring comes and they revive and start growing leaves again. They are not really dead, they are just inactive. This is a symbol of a child of God that though born of the Spirit yet you have to really look hard to see if they are. That is sad. A lot of blessings are being missed by that individual. He should labor to always show the life that we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is a different kind of death that we had before we were born of the Spirit. Before that we were dead in trespasses and sins. **Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;** an unregenerate person cannot show forth any spiritual life because they are not just dormant, but they are completely void of any life. They are dead to the things of God; they have no desire to love God or want to do any of his good works. They are completely void of any sense of doing right. If it was not for the grace of God you and I would still be in that state. If you have ever desired to do good in your life, then you have the evidence that God has quickened you from that terrible state of death that only the dead alien sinner has. Thank you Lord for your wonderful grace!

Since God has shown his grace to us by causing us to be born of the Spirit. Then we should show our gratitude to him by walking by his Spirit here on this earth. It is our choice to make. God does not require it for us to go to heaven. His love took care of that. But a choice to not serve him is a bad choice to make here, because it is really the only life for us to have, to have a sense of fulfillment of what we are supposed to do while here on earth. That life does not need to be inactive.

An inactive life has very little meaning to it. A child of God who has seen the goodness of God in sending his Son to die for him is a glorious thing. Yet

the joy will be short lived if he doesn't follow his Lord in baptism. That doesn't have to be the only joy in his life, many more joys can come if he will just get busy in his spiritual life by joining the church, and regularly attending the church he has joined. The many blessings that will come just by doing that. How many times have we seen and heard about an individual who at first is just so happy to know about the wonderful doctrine of grace, joins and then shortly thereafter he just slowly fades away back into the world. It is because for one reason or another he just lets his faith become inactive by not pursuing the joy of his salvation by keeping his commitment that he made to God. He is like a spiritual dead person because you rarely see the fruits of his regeneration. This is what James means by faith without works are dead. The lack of works through faith is an inactive spiritual life. It's the little things that matter, the charity, the kindness to one another. Making a commitment and keeping it to the God who has been so good to you. Taking your place in the pew is faith with works. It is an encouragement to your fellow church member to see your presence in the pews. We need this spiritual life to be active and showing other people the hope that is in us. Let us enjoy the spiritual life that we have by showing our faith in Christ by the good works that we do.

R.L.Taylor

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. nilevaj | 2. molasba |
| 6. worg | 3. reve |
| 10. erutnev | 4. del |
| 11. dehsaw | 5. ni |
| 12. nede | 6. tn |
| 13. esor | 7. ydeerg |
| 15. lla | 8. der |
| 16. bor | 9. srednow |
| 17. enod | 11. htarw |
| 19. yned | 13. dor |
| 20. remmah | 14. debo |
| 22. saw | 18. srettel |
| 25. tsael | 21. ega |
| 27. elgae | 23. lessev |
| 28. hserfa | 24. evaelc |
| 30. baha | 25. snoil |
| 31. seman | 26. mada |
| 32. tsevol | 27A. ebor |
| | 29. def |

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” (James 2:14)

IS THE LORD FINISHED WITH YOU?

By Don R. Richards



As the years creep up on us it is many times easy to get discouraged because we cannot do the things we once did.

As we get older, none of us are able to physically do what we once did just a few years ago. As we lose our physical ability, too many times we equate that to our usefulness in life.

Have you ever felt like your usefulness in this life is about over. When we look back we see the many times we could have done; but when we look forward we see the many things we will not be able to do. It becomes even more discouraging for those of us who may have lost a spouse, or one of our precious children. What use can there be of me?

Have you seen, or will you soon see, that your usefulness to the Lord is about over? Is the Lord finished with you, and you are just biding time? Are your current burdens overwhelming you? Would it not be easier if the Lord would just take you home?

If you feel that way, you are not alone. You are not the first to have those thoughts. We have several examples in the Bible of men who felt their usefulness in life was passed its time, and wished they could just die.

Job was beset with such severe medical problems that he just wanted to die. He saw no further use for himself in life: "Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant me the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me..." Job 6:8-9. Job said he "longed for death, but it cometh not..." 3:21-22.

What was the Lord's response? God questioned Job's depressed attitude, and told Job to "gird up now thy loins like a man." Job 38:1-4. God went on to challenge Job's ignorance of the Lord, and told him, basically: *Job, I'm not finished with you yet.*

At Numbers 11:13-18 Moses says: "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me..." Moses then asked the Lord: "kill me, I pray thee." The Lord responded, saying basically: *Moses, I'm not through with you yet, but I'll get you some help.*

Elijah had been blessed of God to accomplish one of the Bible's great miracles in the confrontation with the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-40). But when Elijah lost faith and was scared and on the run from Jezebel. He was in the wilderness and exhausted when he requested of the Lord that he might just die. "O Lord, take away my life..." (1 Kings

19:4). The Lord spoke to Elijah in a "still small voice", fed him and gave him rest. Then the Lord told Elijah, *I'm not finished with you yet. I will give you help, but I have more for you to do.*

After Jonah disobeyed the Lord's instructions and went to hide from the Lord, he found himself in worse shape in the "belly of hell" when the whale swallowed him. Jonah went on to ask the Lord to just kill him. "O Lord take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live." Jonah 2:2, 4:3. The Lord's response: *I'm not through with you Jonah. Consider the 120,000 who repented after your preaching. (3:3-10; 4:11).*

If you have ever felt down, depressed, or discouraged like these men, and may have even wanted to die, but yet you realize you are still alive, the Lord is not finished with you yet.

Maybe you are an older brother in the church and unable to do physically what you once did, yet you need to know that the Lord still has a job for you.

Solomon advises us that our duties and talents change as we age; we just need to adapt. At Proverbs 20:29 Solomon advises: "The glory of young men is their strength, but the beauty of old men is the gray head."

As we get older (and gray headed), our service to the Lord changes. We should back off and let the younger men do the physical labor, and we start to apply our experience to provide training, knowledge and seasoning to the young and immature. In the same vain, the younger ones should step forward for the physical chores, but should pay heed to the advice and counsel from the experienced.

It is the same with the older sisters in the church. Their duties change from one of physical work, to the counseling, training and advice and as a role model to the young children and younger sisters—not only in the kitchen, but in the sanctuary and in counsel with their husbands. Many of our blessed sisters in the church, through their experience and maturity, provide a "big picture" view of so many of the short-term problems and personality issues that can hurt the church.

You may not be able to do what you once did, but your value to do the Lord's work remains. When your abilities change, then perhaps you should examine yourself and pray the Lord to reveal what He would have you do. There are a lot of poor and sick that need help and encouragement; there are a lot of kids that just need attention and encouragement and confidence.

There are many contributions to be made that do not involve the physical attributes you once had. For example, if your are sick and the pastor or a church member comes to visit, maybe you should pray for them, instead of always having the pastor pray for you.

If you are still here, regardless of your age or medical condition, the Lord has a job for you. He is not finished with you yet. (From "*The Banner of Love*", March 2013)

REAL BEAUTY AND STRENGTH

A Tribute to the Elderly

Dr. Donald E. Wildmon, President, American Family Association

Cast me not off in time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. (Psalm 71:9)

Ours is a youth-oriented age. We stress youth as beauty and strength, two of the things we covet the most. A tremendous amount of our time and money is directed toward the “adults of tomorrow.” And that, in itself, isn’t all wrong. For we should take stock in our youth, help them make this a better world than it is, give them opportunities we never had.

The only trouble is that we have done so too often at the expense of the elderly person. Perhaps the most neglected person in our society is the elderly person. Too often there seems to be no room, no place for those who are in their golden years.

In our quest for beauty, we have looked only upon the outside. This has caused us to turn to youth, for it is true that they are physically prettier than the elderly. But beauty, real beauty, is to be found on the inside. And here many of our older adults put Hollywood’s beauties to shame. Perhaps the most beautiful sight in the world is an elderly mother sitting and thinking about the time when her children were young. She cared for her children, worked like a slave for them, gave up many things she wanted in order that her children could have something. We too often forget the many meals she fixed us, how many nights she lay awake while we were sick, how many new dresses she would do without so we could have new clothes.

Then, too, an elderly gentleman is perhaps our best illustration of a real man. The magazines, you know, say that you have to be young and muscular to be a real man. But that is only superficial. For real manhood belongs to the man with the walking cane who has given his life working for his family, friends and community. But now that he is slowed, now that his strength is weakened, now that his hair is gray, we forget about him and his outstanding deeds.

All of us, without exception, are indebted to the elderly. Few of us could begin to match the real beauty and strength that is theirs. They have worked and worried, slaved and sacrificed that our world would be a better one for us.

Now they are often neglected, unwanted, forgotten. I guess more often than anything else in the whole world, an elderly person just wants to be appreciated instead of ignored. It appears that it is not asking too much for youth to give up a few hours, a few wishes, a few dollars to say to the elderly, “You are still loved, wanted and appreciated. We have not, and will not, forget your great love and sacrifice for us.”

The Creator, in all His wisdom, saw fit to reserve real beauty and strength until our golden years. What we call beauty and strength in our younger years is

but a fainting, fading, passing resemblance of the real thing. It takes years to develop those traits.

Why should we hesitate to sacrifice so little for those who have given so much?

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, March/April 2001)

THE BUTTERFLY

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. One day, a small opening appeared. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then, it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further.

So, the man decided to help the butterfly. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were God’s way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. WE COULD NEVER FLY.

Author Unknown

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, March/April 2001)

WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF A CHRISTIAN

The important thing is not what the church or the minister expects of a Christian—but what GOD expects. Here are some expectations that come straight from the Bible:

1. He expects us to *grow* (2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Pet.3:18)
2. He expects us to *glow* (Luke 8:16)
3. He expects us to *sow* (Mark 4:1-20; Gal. 6:7)
4. He expects us to *show* (Psa. 92:1, 2; 1 Pet.2:9)
5. He expects us to *know* (2 Cor. 5:1)

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, March/April 2001)

“Let her alone...She hath done what she could:”
(Mark 14, 6, 8) Just do what you can.—*Editor*

THE FIERY TRIAL



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Children of God often go through fiery trials during their lifetime and each child may react in a different way. These difficulties and trials are necessary I believe to further prepare His children for service to Him and to be steadfast. The story of the butterfly earlier in this issue shows that the difficulties in getting through the tiny opening of the cocoon was necessary for his maturity and living as other of his fellow butterflies. The Bible always tells us what to expect so that we want be taken unawares when the trials of adversity come our way. Peter writes to the elect strangers, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you." (I Pet. 4:12) These children of God were told this to be prepared when those times came.

Furthermore, Peter goes on to tell these saints not to be discouraged but to rather rejoice because there is something far better down the road. Rather than brood under the fiery trial, Peter says, "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." (I Pet. 4:13) The apostle Paul uses similar language of the sufferings experienced in this life which is only temporary compared to the endlessness of eternity. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:18)

The book of James says we are to count it all joy to fall into diverse temptations, knowing that the trying of faith worketh patience. (James 1:2-3) No one is eager to sign up for the fiery trial brigade but just do not think it strange when it comes because eventually it will come; however, the good news is that God is faithful. Paul writes, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13) God's child may not realize it at all times but the grace of God is sufficient for the trial just as it was sufficient for Paul to endure the thorn in the flesh which the Lord saw fit not to remove even though Paul prayed three times for its removal.

There are many precious things in the word of God and the most precious of course is Jesus Christ, without whom nothing good could ever be done, and surely the fiery trial would engulf if not for Him. According to Peter the trial of faith is also precious as he writes to those who are in heaviness through manifold temptations, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (I Pet. 1:7)

There were certain Hebrew Christians that helped and befriended the apostle Paul in his bonds for the cause of Christ. They placed their lives on the line to help him and Paul takes note of this in Heb. 10:34: "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance." These people knew that their goods were temporary and would not endure; however, they had in heaven a better and enduring substance; this is an inheritance reserved in heaven that fadeth not away. This commendation is followed up by the hall of faith chapter of Hebrews 11 in which men and women of faith wrought promises, quenched the violence of fire and were sawn asunder. These were seemingly trials that could not be endured but those afflicted were enabled to endure or whose spirit was carried to heaven when it resulted in the death of the body.

Jesus finishes up His preparation of the disciples for His going away into heaven after completing the work of salvation on the cross by telling them what to expect. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) There isn't any true and lasting peace outside the Lord Jesus Christ. There isn't any peace in the world because it brings tribulation but comfort (cheer) comes when it is understood and believed by faith that Jesus has overcome the world. We face three enemies in this life: 1. the world 2. the flesh 3. and the Devil. Jesus has overcome and defeated all three for the elect.

There isn't anything that can separate the children of God from His great love. Paul says that not even tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword nor any other creature could separate His bride from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35-39) Jesus told His disciples they would be scattered and leave Him alone, but He was not alone because "the Father is with me." (John 16:32) When the Father is with His children, they are never alone and can face the fiery trial looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of faith.

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