

Glad Tidings

September

“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

Everybody today seems to want to play the blame game; that is they blame anybody and everybody but themselves for the condition they are in. The blame game has been played ever since the Garden of Eden when Eve blamed her eating the forbidden fruit on the serpent. Adam then tried to blame his eating the fruit on his wife which indirectly blamed it on God because He had made Eve from one of his ribs.

All mankind has sinned and come short of the glory of God and are to blame for every sin they commit which deserves eternal banishment from God. The good news is that there is a multitude of mankind who will be without blame as the chosen of God: “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and **without blame** before him in love.” (Eph. 1:4) For anyone to be without blame (unblemished, innocent, faultless), there must of necessity be one to pay the ransomed price that the justice of God demands. Since we could not possibly pay the price as sinners, Jesus Christ had to assume our debt and pay it in full on the cross.

We were ten thousand talents (really much more) in debt and without any ability to pay the ransom price. Then we read of Jesus as the mediator who could and did meet the demands of God’s justice. “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a **ransom** for many.” (Matt. 20:28) We were all headed for the pit of hell but we have been delivered from that wrath by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. “Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a **ransom**.” (Job 33:24) The ransom was the redemptive price which the chosen could not pay. We are bought with a price; we are not our own and are to glorify God. (I Cor. 6:20)

For God’s chosen to be without blame (spotless, unblemished), Jesus became the Lamb of God and our unblemished Passover sacrifice. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and without spot:” (I Pet. 1:18-19) Jesus assumed the blame for our sins as God laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6) so no one or anything will be able to condemn His own. (Is.54:17)

The scriptures tell us that husbands are to love their wives even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it that He might present it to Himself a glorious church “without spot” or wrinkle. (Eph. 5:25-27) Since fallen man is not able to present himself without blame by any good deed, there is One who is able to do this very thing. “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you **faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” (Jude: 24) When we as the triumphant church are presented to the Father, we will be faultless (without blame) before Him in Love; that is what we were predestinated to be as children conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Paul tells us, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved **blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Thess. 5:23) What a day that will be!

There is a sense in which we can be blameless in our devotion to God as we keep His commandments. Paul has great commendation for the church at Philippi; so much so that he thanks God upon every remembrance of them. He would write later on in Phil. 2:14 to do all things without murmurings and disputings. What would be the result of doing this? “That ye may be **blameless** and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;” (Phil. 2:15) These brethren were already sons of God but through their obedience they would be manifest as sons of God. When we do what God has commanded, we aren’t to blame. Adam did not do what God had commanded and he was to blame.

The Bible tells us of a priest named Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth and notice the Biblical description of them. “And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord **blameless**.” (Luke 1:6) This husband and wife manifested that they were sons of God and were found blameless. They may not have been blameless in the eyes of some in that generation but they were blameless in the eyes of God.

Though we were enemies toward Christ yet He hath reconciled and brought us into a state of divine friendship with God. This was accomplished “In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and **unblameable** and unproveable in his sight;” (Col. 1:22) We’ll be blameless in the glory world. Why not try to be blameless on earth? (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 2 days 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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WHAT WILL WE KNOW IN HEAVEN



By Elder David Wise
Starkville, Mississippi
(Continued from August)
(August 11, 2021)

Heaven in Revelation: Much of the language and imagery in the Book of Revelation is very figurative by nature. However, we ought to consider each passage in the Bible – the book of Revelation included – as literal as possible unless there is another scriptural reference that would indicate that passage being figurative. There are multitudes of possible interpretations of most of these passages in Revelation, but I believe we can see there is certainly a knowledge of past and current events on the earth in the throne room of God in heaven. Let us consider together a few verses in Revelation that give us a glimpse into heaven and heaven's interactions with the earth.

In Revelation 4, we have a beautiful depiction of an eternal worship scene in heaven. The 4 beasts and 24 elders in Revelation are figurative of all the elect family of God because they are "the redeemed out of

every kindred, tongue, people and nation" (Rev. 5:9). What are the activities of the elect in heaven? We continually sing praise to God day and night. *"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* (Rev. 4:8) Notice the worship is described as day and night, an earthly term of time, even though this worship is taking place in eternity. Also, God is described as being "which was, and is, and is to come". That is an earthly reference to time as well. Time appears to be in some way included and encapsulated in eternity. Eternity is outside of time, but time is included in eternity. That is how these spiritual eternal beings can still be enjoying eternity with God but still have knowledge of events on the earth and future events in this world.

The elect chorus of heaven sings praise to God for his creation. *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* (Rev. 4:11) There is a knowledge in heaven of God's creation of all things. I believe this includes the creation of earth and the creation of each of the elect now in heaven. We see a further description in heaven of the creation of God in Rev. 5:13: *"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."* Heaven is praising God for his creation and for every creature on "the earth", in heaven, and even under the earth. It appears there is knowledge of the creation of this world in heaven, and it is an object of praise unto Almighty God.

In Revelation 5, we see another worship scene of the elect children of God. *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."* (Rev. 5:5) One of the elect elders describes Jesus as being the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the seed of David. The tribe of Judah and the lineage of David are earthly family designations that are still being referenced in heaven. There is still a remembrance of things of this world in heaven. We see multiple references to *"a Lamb as it had been slain"* (Rev. 5:6,9,12). The death of Jesus Christ being slain for our sins is the central theme of the worship in heaven. There is a remembrance of the death of Jesus that occurred on earth in heaven. The elect praise the Lamb for redeeming them by his blood. *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people,*

and nation.” (Rev. 5:9) Redemption means a “buying back”. For the elect to be praising Christ for redeeming and buying them back, there has to be some remembrance of what we were “bought back from”. There has to be some remembrance in the worship of heaven of the past sins of the elect that we were bought back and redeemed from.

From an earthly perspective, the death of Jesus on the cross was a horrific, brutal, and sad event. From heaven’s perspective, the death and blood of Jesus is the primary source of greatest praise because that event can be viewed from God’s heavenly perspective. I feel like that is how we will view many things we now see as sad in this world. Many people think they can’t have any knowledge of bad events that happened in this world and still be happy in heaven. Instead, we see that once we view those earthly events from God’s perfect will and perfect eyes, we can view the most tragic events in the proper perspective. We can praise God for saving us from those events, instead of solely being sad that they occurred. Heaven views the death and blood of Jesus as the ultimate triumph and source of praise. We need to have that perspective as well, and not think we won’t have any knowledge of bad events in this world. We will then be able to see those bad events in this world perfectly through God’s eyes.

We also see in Rev. 5:9, and again in Rev. 7:9, that in heaven there is a remembrance of the elect’s earthly kindred, people, tongue, and nation. The elect four beasts are singing a new song that included them affirming their redemption “out of every kindred, tongue, and people, and nation” (Rev. 5:9). The elect church in heaven is in perfect unity, but there is still a remembrance of their familial, national, and lingual identities that God’s people had on the earth. The distinction of nationality and families and languages is solely an earthly designation, but we can clearly see there are some reminders in heaven of our past unique identities and lives on the earth.

Even in the midst of an eternal worship scene in heaven, the prayers of the saints come up before God as golden vials full of sweet odors. *“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”* (Rev. 5:8) The prayers of the saints are being offered up here in time on earth, but then we see those prayers arrive in the throne room of God as a sweet-smelling fragrance. *“3) And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4) And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.”* (Rev. 8:3-4) Heaven is aware of the prayers of the

saints that are being made here in our lives in time on the earth. I do not know if the elect hear the actual words of the saints’ prayers or if the Holy Spirit and Jesus make intercession with the Father directly, but there is clearly a knowledge in heaven of the prayers of the saints made here in our lives on earth.

In Revelation 6, we see the souls of the martyrs requesting God to return and avenge them of their blood on the earth. *“9) And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10) And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11) And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”* (Rev. 6:9-11) Here we see eternal souls in heaven, but yet they have a sense of time on earth that their murderers had not yet been avenged. These souls in heaven still have a remembrance of their martyrdom and their enemies on the earth that are still not yet judged for their sin. They are looking forward to a future judgment that has not yet occurred in time. There is also a reference here that someone in heaven told these martyrs that their fellow servants and brethren “should be killed as they were”. There was a knowledge and discussion in heaven of the upcoming martyrdom of some of their brethren in the church.

We see a description by one of the elders of those in white robes and those who “came out of great tribulation” (Rev. 7:14). There is a discussion in heaven of the “great tribulation” that God’s people endured in their lives, coupled now with praise to God for deliverance from their earthly tribulation. The tribulation of this world is not white-washed or erased in heaven, but now that tribulation is replaced with perfect joy in Jesus Christ. We see here another declaration in heaven that the works of the saints do follow them into heaven. *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”* (Rev. 14:13) Now, the scriptures do not support rewards in heaven. If we are more faithful in discipleship and have more good works in our lives, that does not mean we will have a better station or more enjoyable experience in heaven. However, this scripture indicates that in some way the good works of the faithful will follow them to heaven. Again, another example that there is a knowledge and remembrance of the works of this life in heaven.

(To be concluded in October)

“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” 2 Tim. 2:7—Editor)

LAW AND GOSPEL

By Elder J. D. Shain (Deceased)

In the twenty-first verse of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the apostles, we find this statement: "For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath day."

In the second verse of the second chapter of First Corinthians we find this language: "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

We would like for the reader to contrast these two statements and see if you cannot readily discover that there is a vast difference between the law and the gospel. Evidently when Paul referred to those in every city, he preached Moses. He referred to that group of people who were opposed to the gospel, and therefore opposed to Christ. Paul cannot mean by this language that Moses was opposed to Christ, for Moses wrote and spoke of Him. Yet, the people who preached Moses were arrayed against Christ. The only conclusion one can draw from this is that the people who preached Moses did not understand his readings and teachings. Moses, by the word of prophecy, warned the people of Israel that God would raise up a prophet under them like unto himself, and that they would hear him in all things whatsoever he said, and here was where the disciples of Moses made a colossal mistake when they refused to do the very things Moses commanded them to do. Jesus told the Jews upon one occasion that if they believed Moses, they would believe on Him also; and at no time did Christ ever put the stamp of disapproval upon everything that Moses taught. Yet, those who proclaimed Moses as their leader were the bitterest enemies of Christ. This again evidences the fact that the disciples of Moses did not really know or understand what Moses taught.

Paul was at one time a disciple of Moses when he was an advocate of the law. Paul himself denied the Christ that he afterwards preached; and Paul was among the group that he mentions in Acts as being the ones who preached Moses; but now, here in our second quotation, captioned in this article we find him "determined to know nothing else but Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Paul had not since discarded the teaching of Moses, but he had simply been brought to an understanding of it as Moses taught the truth; was a servant of God, and was faithful in all of his house; but Moses never was sent into the world to be a Saviour. The law came by him, and as Christ warned His disciples upon one occasion that while He did not accuse them, but Moses did, saying, "I accuse you not, for you have one that accuseth you, even Moses in whom ye trust." It was through Moses that the law by which men are condemned was published, and he stands out upon that side of others accusing and condemning those that violated that law.

When Christ came into the world He found no fault with Moses, nor with the law that he published, but instead acknowledged it to be the law of God—conceded to its righteous demands, and honored it in every respect by rendering perfect obedience to it.

Not only did He honor the law by rendering obedience to its every precept, but He honored the law in its penal sanctions, by voluntarily yielding Himself up to die instead of those whom the law condemned. He did not alter or change any of its requirements, nor modify the penalty. He simply answered it in its fullest demands. Now, Paul is determined to know no other representative from God except Jesus Christ. Christ did not destroy Moses, nor the law of Moses, but he simply came and offered Himself as a sacrifice, by which He paid the debt incurred under the law, and released them from its curse, perfectly agreeable to the flawless and inflexible righteousness of the law. He died that others might live. He paid the penalty in its fullness. Therefore every believer becomes a disciple of Christ and not of Moses. --S.

(From "*The Messenger of Zion*", June 15, 1934)

THINGS TO PONDER

During his courtship with a young woman named Julia Dent, Ulysses S. Grant once took her out for a buggy ride. Coming to a flooded creek spanned by a flimsy bridge, Grant assured Julia that it was safe to cross. "Don't be frightened," he said. "I'll look after you."

"Well," replied Julia, "I shall cling to you whatever happens." True to her word, she clung tightly to Grant's arm as they drove safely across. Grant drove on in thoughtful silence for a few minutes, then cleared his throat and said, "Julia, you said back there that you would cling to me whatever happened. Would you like to cling to me for the rest of our lives?" She would, and they were married in August 1848.

Source Unknown.

WHAT IS LOVE?

What is love?

It is silence--when your words would hurt.

It is patience--when your neighbor's curt.

It is deafness--when a scandal flows.

It is thoughtfulness--for other's woes.

It is promptness--when stern duty calls.

It is courage--when misfortune falls.

Source Unknown

"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matt. 19:5)

BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

When we start out on any trip in our automobile, we are admonished to “buckle up for safety.” That would be great advice each day we live. Only we need not buckle up and use a car seat belt but buckle up with the promises of God to enable us to endure the trials that may come our way in whatever form they may take. The Bible tells us, “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.” (II Sam. 22:31) The word “buckler” means protection and a shield and you will find this same verse in Psalm 18:30.

Buckle on the word of God and be protected against the assaults of Satan and his crew. Use that sword of the Spirit and wield it when Satan comes calling which is every day. This word when it is accompanied by the shield of faith is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked and enable us to be victorious in our daily service to our loving Savior.

The Lord was the protector of Israel in the Old Testament and He still protects us today; we just cannot see it many times. Trust the Lord to deliver in His own way and time. We are also told about what the Lord does for us and the value of our trust in Him, plus His revealed truth, and its use as a buckler. “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” (Psalm 91:4) We are soldiers in the Lord’s army and a soldier is very defenseless without a shield and a sword. Timothy was told to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ and not to be entangled with affairs of this life and so please Him who hath chosen him to be soldier. (II Tim. 23-4)

The promises of God are always reliable and are in Him yea and Amen. They are found in the buckler of the word of God. What a wonderful promise that He said, “I will never leave thee or forsake thee.” His everlasting arms are always there to embrace us. Moses wrote long ago, “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.” (Deut. 33:27) That is a buckler that will surely withstand any sudden crash in our lives. However, we are only human, and it is sometimes difficult to have our eyes focused on the Lord instead of the situation.

The Lord is always the place of safety just as the buckler says, “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” (Proverbs 18:10) The Lord holds us up and keeps us from drowning in the muck and mire of this unfriendly world. When He wondrously does this, we should be motivated to be more devoted to his statutes in the inspired buckler of the word of God. The Psalmist said, “Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.” (Psalm 119:117)

The grace of God is a mighty shock absorber for the child of God in their pilgrimage here on earth. Just as shocks on a car makes the ride much smoother, so does the grace of God make our race here on earth a little smoother, just as long as we are looking to Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. We need faith for life here on earth as we walk by faith and not by sight. We’ll not need faith or the buckler of His word in the glory world. So buckle up for safety each day and all year long!

BUMPS IN THE ROAD OF LIFE

There are rough spots and bumps in the road as we serve the Lord, but it is sometimes the means by which we are able to appreciate and thank the Lord for the good times with which He has so blessed us. Peter writes, “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). The Lord has not promised skies always blue and flower strewn pathways all our lives through but has promised strength as our day. We are told to rejoice, not FOR the bumps but IN them. “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)

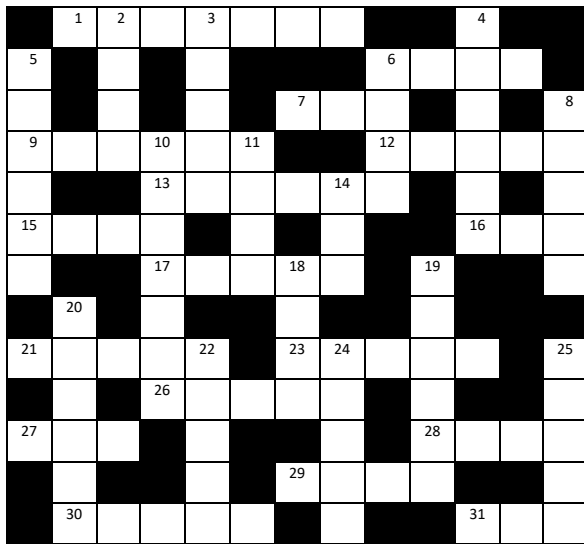
None of us look forward to the trials that may come our way, but we take comfort that the Lord has surely promised to “never leave us or forsake us” which helps us endure until the sun shines once more. We always appreciate the light much more after we have been in darkness for awhile. We can expect some adversity along the pathway of servitude but the wise man Solomon has written, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.” (Eccl. 7:14)

Bumps in the road of life should not deter our zeal for the Lord to seek first the kingdom of God but rather it should inspire us to keep pressing on. The words from a sermon by Elder Don Richards on three philosophies of life seem appropriate; they are: 1. Hope for the best. 2. Prepare for the worst. 3. Accept it as it comes. After all is said and done, Paul was told “my grace is sufficient”, Amen!—*Editor*

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Heal the sick, ___ the lepers, raise the dead.
6. The king that wanted the vineyard of Naboth.
7. Judas was a thief and had the _____. Sachel.
9. Prophet who ran from the threat of Jezebel.
12. Fathers provoke not your children to _____.
13. Some seeds fell ___thorns and was choked and first letter of where Israel dwelt in Egypt.
15. ___nigh unto me and I will draw nigh to thee.
16. The memory of the just is blessed but the name of the wicked shall _____. Decay.
17. Man shall not live by ___alone but by every word out of the mouth of God.
21. The night is far ___the day is at hand. Done with \$.
23. All shall know me from the ___ to the greatest.
26. Samson's riddle, out of the _____came forth meat, out of the strong came forth sweetness.
27. Abraham's seed would be as the stars of the ___ in multitude.
28. The wicked hatch cockatrice' ___and weave the spider's web. Buy a dozen.



(Answers on Page 8)

29. The virtuous woman holds out her hand to the ___.
30. God will ___leave thee or forsake thee. Not at all.
31. ___ unto them that call evil good and good evil.

DOWN:

2. The priesthood had to be of the tribe of _____.
3. The former name which Abraham went by.
4. He that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost is in _____ of eternal damnation.
5. A minister is not to be _____ of filthy lucre.
6. Name of the Amalek king taken by king Saul.
8. The ___of man worketh not righteousness of God.
10. Samson slew 1,000 men with the _____ of an ass.
11. These three abideth, faith, ___ and charity.
14. ___ said let there be light and there was light.
18. Now unto him who is ___to keep you from falling.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

19. Be ready always to give an ___ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope within.
20. O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have _____. Uttered words.
22. Dogs eat of crumbs that fall from the masters' _____said the woman of Canaan.
24. Beware lest ye be led away with the _____of the wicked and fall from your steadfastness.
25. The _____of Manna was like wafers made with honey. Sample food.

**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES
KID'S PROVERBS ON SAYINGS**

Better be safe than.....punch a 5th grader.
Strike while.....the bug is close.
Don't bite the hand.....that looks dirty.
A penny saved.....is not much.
Two's company, three's....the Musketeers.
The pen is mightier than...pigs.
When the blind lead the blind...get out of the way.
Where there's smoke.....there's pollution.
You can't teach an old dog...new math.

Is it better to be single or married? Answer: "It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them." Anita, age 9

THE STARS

God promised Abram (Abraham) of the multitude of his seed which had its fulfillment in Jesus Christ when He said, "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be." (Gen. 15:5) Abram couldn't tell (tally, count) the stars and neither can we. God, however is a different story. We read about our Creator and His infinite knowledge. "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names." (Psalm 147:4) God created all the multitude of stars and is able to count them and call them all by name because He named them. God is able to count the innumerable host of His children and call them by name because He gave them names which are recorded in the Lamb's book of life. We cannot count them nor call them but God can and we trust that we are among those that He will count as chosen in Christ before the world began out of every kindred, tongue. people and nation.(Rev. 5:9)—*Editor*

Jesus is the bright and morning star and we must look to Him for light and direction.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecru, MS the 2nd weekend in September, 2022 (Sept. 9-11). Services Friday night, Sept. 9, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch to follow. Sunday at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The Tombigbee Association of Primitive Baptists will meet with Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Caledonia, MS the 3rd weekend in September, 2022. (Sept. 16-17). Services start on Friday night, Sept. 16, (not day as usual) at 7:00 pm with supper at 6:00 pm. Services Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Everyone is invited to come and worship. Elder Joe Nettles is Pastor of Sulphur Springs.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Friendship Primitive Baptist Church, Winona, MS the 4th weekend in September, 2022 (Sept. 24-25). Services Saturday, Sept. 24, at 10:00 a.m followed by lunch and afternoon services. This is an open meeting. Elder B. T. Strum is Pastor of Friendship.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Stateline Rd, Tremont, MS the 3rd weekend in October, 2022 (Oct. 14-16). Services Friday night, Oct. 14, at 7:00 pm with Elder Steve Weaver and Elder Jerry Wise preaching. Saturday, Oct. 15, at 10:00 am with Elder Larry Wise and Elder Bobby Howell preaching. Lunch served at noon followed by afternoon services with Elder Joe Nettles doing the preaching. Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:30 am followed by lunch.

Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS was blessed to have Chris and Judy Easterling come forward asking a home in the church on July 24, 2022 and were joyfully received. It is our prayer that more of the Lord's children would follow the footsteps of Jesus, take up their cross and follow Him in the watery grave of baptism, depicting His death, burial and resurrection. We pray for Zion and may she increase in numbers and knowledge.-*Editor*

October meeting at New Prospect PBC, New Albany, MS. (Oct. 7-8), 2022. Friday night, Oct. 7, at 7:00 pm Followed by refreshments. Saturday at 10:00 am Lunch & Afternoon singing and service. Elder David Pyles Grace, PBC Pearl Ms & Elder Guna, India are guest ministers.

Why go to church? There are a number of reasons but the main reason is that the Lord said go!—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

The following comprised the presbytery that ordained Brother Robert Easterling (Brother in the center of photograph) to the office of deacon at Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS on July 3, 2022. Left to right: Robert Embry, James Waddle, Elder Larry Wise, Matthew Pryor, Elder James Hall, Robert Easterling, Elder Steve Weaver (Pastor of Laodicea), Elder Rusty Wise, Elder Joe Nettles, Doug Ewing.



Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church, 35457, Echola, AL will have their annual Anniversary Meeting the first weekend in October, 2022 on Saturday and Sunday. (Oct. 1-2). No details available at this time. Elder Tim McCool is Pastor of Bethlehem.

A special time of fellowship is held Saturday evening/night at the McCool farm.

MORNING OR EVENING

It was in the evening that the children of Israel did "eat flesh", but it was in the morning that they were "filled with bread." It was in the evening that Jacob married Leah, but it was in the morning after the sun came up that he married Rachel. Those of our brethren who marry secret orders, marry in the evening after the sun has gone down, while those who are espoused to Christ, married Him in the morning after the sun came up.

We are not children of the evening, or of darkness; we are children of the day and should walk as children of light. The moon, or the law, has gone down and the sun is now shining, and some of the children of God are so foolish as to be looking for the moon while the sun is shining.

J. S.. Newman (Elder)
(From "The Gospel Messenger", July, 1920)

HEREIN IS LOVE

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

If we seek to arrive at a proper concept of love, we will not be successful as long as we are looking at *our* love for God; but rather we must look at *God's* love for us. There is a vast difference between our *having* love and God's *being* love. Not only is love of God (1 John 4:7), but God is love (v. 8). God is so much a part of love that He may rightly be said to *be* love. But by contrast look at the description of ourselves as we are by nature, "hateful and hating one another" (Tt. 3:3). There is nothing about us that is lovable, there is nothing in us to cause God to love us. All of the reasons for God's love toward us are in Himself, not in us (ref. Dt. 7:6-8). The unconditionality of God's love for His people is seen in Romans 5:8: "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

We are told in Psalms 14:2 and 53:2 that "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God." And did He find any love or any desire toward Him among the whole lot of us? No, but rather he saw that we were "all gone aside" and were "altogether become filthy." He saw that there was none that did good, no not one. How different is this picture from the way in which men by nature view themselves! How contrary to the exalted view man has of his own value and worthiness! The apostle Paul elaborates on this in Romans Chapters One and Three and concludes that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. He shows that the only way any of them will ever see God in peace is by "being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Therefore it is clear that the only way anyone will ever love God is His loving them first (1 John 4:19) and His shedding abroad His love in their hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto them (Rom. 5:5). Man's love for God is in no way an ultimate and sufficient illustration of love; but rather it is His love for man and even then it passes understanding. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1). One of the greatest questions that can ever be posed is: Why did He love any of the fallen and corrupt race of man? And the only viable answer that can ever be given is, "Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight" (Mt. 11:26).

Herein, then, is love—not that God's people loved him, but that He loved His people. By nature they were children of wrath, just as the non-elect people are in actuality (ref. Eph. 2:3); and there was nothing about them that was lovable, yet He loved them. *That* is love. We cannot now fathom this kind of love. The love we have for God is a God-given love, and there is everything in Him to make Him lovable to those of

us who have seen ourselves as the poor, wretched sinners that we truly are. To us He is "altogether lovely" (SS 5:16), and He has made Himself precious to us.

It is therefore easy to see why we love Him, but to our finite minds it is impossible to fathom why He would love us. Our love for Him is not to be compared to His love for us. In view of all this then, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (1 John 4:10).

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", March 2019)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

(Read right to left)

ACROSS;

1. esnaelc
6. baha
7. gab
9. hajile
12. regna
13. ggnoma
15. ward
16. tor
17. daerb
21. tneps
23. tsacl
26. retae
27. yks
28. sgge
29. roop
30. reven
31. eow

DOWN:

2. ivel
3. marba
4. regnad
5. ydeerg
6. gaga
8. htarw
10. enobwaj
11. epoh
14. dog
18. elba
19. rewsna
20. nekops
22. elbat
24. rorre
25. etsat

STATEMENTS OF TRUTH

While the faith of some may be overthrown by false teachers, yet this blessed foundation stands sure. The divine stamp is indelibly given to it, "The Lord knoweth them that are his." The very ones he knows in this sense in time he will know in the same sense in eternity. To those on the left hand he will say, "I never knew you." This proves that there will be none on the left the he ever did know. None that are his, then, will ever apostatize, fall away, and be lost with those on the left hand.—*Elder John R. Daily, 1899*

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", March 2019)

Paul attributed his evil to his corrupt, unregenerated flesh,, with which he sinned—served the law of sin. He felt wretched, so do I, and unworthy; but it is not a valid excuse for disobedience.—*Elder John M. Thompson, 1937*

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", March 2019)

“THOU SHALT NOT COVET” ROMANS 7:7

By Elder P. D. Gold (Deceased)

This language cannot be narrowed to less compass than “thou.” It limits it to *one* and that one is thee—not some third person off yonder, but it is to thee, to you—not the speaker, but the one spoken to. Do you hear?

If I love my neighbor then I will not covet his property, nor any thing which is his, for love works no ill to his neighbor, not to any one. But suppose I am a violator of the law, then I will covet or lust after and desire any thing that belongs to my neighbor.

In the 20th chapter of Ex. is the law given. It singles out and is personal to each one saying, “Thou art the man.” Paul wrote, “I had not known sin but by the law; for I had not known lust except the law had said thou shalt not covet.” If I covet any thing that belongs to another I sin. But does not the scripture say, “covet earnestly the best gifts?” Yes, but gifts do not belong to men as property.

The trouble with us is that we love property, money, the things that others possess. That is so different. Love worketh no ill to your neighbor. Why do men steal, rob, plunder, murder, wrong another? Because they covet their possessions—their property.

You find or come across something another lost. You pick it up, claim it, saying, “It is mine.” If you were honest you would say, “I wonder whose this is. It is not mine. *I know it is not mine.* Let me see what name is on it, or by what mark may I know whose it is.” You seek to find some mark by which you may know whose it is. You find a name on it. You know from this who the owner is. You are glad you have found the owner. You love him more than you love his property.

But another finds a piece of property. He knows it is not his. He does not care for that. His covetous nature at once plans to keep it as his own. He picks it up, seeks to keep it, to hide it, does not try to find the owner. The principle controlling him is sin. The thief, the liar, and every other sinful principle is wrapped up together in that wicked nature.

How pleasant it would be to live in this world, if there were no thieves, no liars, no robbers, no murderers! One of the sweets of heaven is that nothing unclean, no thief, no liar, no drunkard, no murderer, no fornicator can even spiritually desire to enter, much less be found there. “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie’ (Rev. 22:14, 15).

Elder P. D. Gold
Zion’s Landmark, Aug. 1915

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, March 1980)

THINK FOR YOURSELF

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

There are many religious leaders who are fixing up prayers and expressions to be used by lost sinners so they can “approach unto God and be saved or born again.” Here is something similar to what they advise them to say: “Jesus, I admit I’m a hopeless and lost sinner. I need you. Forgive all my sins. I confess them all to you right now; I know you can and will forgive them; I believe on you Jesus; I accept you in my heart now as my Saviour. Thank you Jesus for hearing a sinner’s prayer and for the gift of eternal life you have just now given me. Amen.”

Christ taught it *this way*; “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13). If a man can save himself to the above outline then it is “of the will of man,” and the Bible says it is *not* that way. In nature it is not of the will of the child that he is born into the family of his father and mother; Likewise it is not of the will of the creature that he has eternal life or that he is born again. *Life must precede action.* Action is *evidence* of life; and *not in order to have life.*

“No man can say that Jesus is the Christ but by the Holy Ghost,” so, if a man is able to say of a truth that Jesus is the Christ, he is *already* a child of God; he *already has* the Spirit. If it is not of the will of the flesh, nor of blood, nor of man, then the man is not the one to say, “I want to be born again.” That is, he is not the judge in the matter as to whether he were saved or not, then the *salvation* of man would *depend* upon man.

The Bible declares plainly that there is none other name given in Heaven or among men whereby we must be saved. The above outline would take the attribute of sovereignty away from our Saviour. He would be depending on man to accomplish this great work of salvation. This idea put forth by man is deceiving many of the Lord’s people. They make it so simple unto men; just repeat something like the above and be saved. God’s will and ways taught in the Bible are ignored from every angle. Do some thinking for yourself.

Elder A. D. Wood
Glen Rose, Texas
(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, March 1980)

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;” (Titus 3:5)

BUCKLE AND BUCKLER



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

2 Samuel 22:31: “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”

If you will take a look at our above title for this writing, you will see that the two words are similar except that one word has an extra consonant the letter r. That letter r shows the distinction between our words. Though our words look similar, yet they have very different meanings.

There is the story that a friend told me once about an experience that he had one day at a local flea market. He walked upon a vendor and was looking over the many products that were on it. Suddenly his eyes spotted a box of whatnots, old chains, cheap jewelry etc... Something had caught his eye; it was a watch without a band on it, and the second hand was running and it had the correct time. And it had Bulova wrote across the face of it. Bulova watches are a good brand of watch and you can find them at the local jewelry store for a pretty hefty price. Now my friend's thinking was he could get it for a small price; find a band for it, and have a good watch for a low price. He asked the vendor what was the price to buy the watch head? Five dollars the man said. Now my friend was always taught to never give the first price that was quoted to you. So he haggled a little and offered him three dollars. The man said four dollars. My friend said “no” three dollars, and that's all he would give for the band less Bulova watch. The man just smiled and said you drive a hard bargain my friend. Three dollars it is. Victory for the great haggler! My friend left with his watch and a smile on his face and was excited to show it to his father that had a collection of Bulova watches; now he had one just like his Dad. The next day he took it to his father and proudly showed him the watch that he had got for just three dollars. The father took the watch and looked at it. The father examined it for a few minutes and said “sorry son, it is not a Bulova watch”. It looks like one, even the lettering is similar, but it is not spelled Bulova; it's spelled Bolivia. It was a knock off imitating a good American made watch. No wonder the vendor was willing to sell it for three dollars! He probably got the watch for nothing, found it in some other junk. And worse yet his father said the watch

was running slow; it no longer had the correct time. By the next day the friend said the watch had completely stopped running. Three dollars for nothing, simply because he didn't pay attention to the writing on the watch, and didn't find out more about it.

For years I would read the scriptures and when ever I came upon the word **buckler**, I just thought that it was talking about something that you put around your waist like a belt and fasten it at the buckle. So let's look at the two words and see what they mean.

This is the definition for the word **Buckle**- 1. An instrument made of some kind of metal, for fastening together certain parts of dress, as the straps and bands, as in a harness. The forms are various, but it consists of a ring or rim with a chape and tongue. Example: This device is used on our automotive seatbelts when we fasten them around us for protection in case of an accident. Buckle up they say! Buckler- Now it looks like the same word as buckle, but it does have that r at the end.

BUCK'LER, n. A kind of shield, or piece of defensive armor, anciently used in war. It was composed of wood, or wickers woven together, covered with skin or leather, fortified with plates of brass or other metal, and worn on the left arm. On the middle was an umbo, boss or prominence, very useful in causing stones and darts to glance off.

So it is a kind of shield that men used in battle. It was small and light and could be carried with one hand for defense against the sword or spear in hand to hand combat. It was perfected by Phillip of Macedon the father of Alexander the Great. Alexander would take his armies with their buckler and conquered the world. Ironically, the ancient city of Philippi where Paul established a church on his second journey is named after the very same Phillip. Acts 16

So you can see that even though the two words are almost alike, yet they have a very different meaning. That is why we need to take nothing for granted when reading our bibles and just assume we know what a word means and we go on to the next word. If we do that we are cheating our selves out of some of the joy of our salvation. Never take a word's definition for granted, look it up and see what it means. I have had my share of surprises. God is a buckler to us; he is a shield for us to defend ourselves in the battle with Satan and his armies here on earth. He will not leave us or forsake us; he will shield us in the day of battle. That is worth knowing. As children of God chosen before the foundation of the world to live with God in heaven, we are here to bring praise, honor, and glory to the name of God. We have our battles to fight, and when we do God will be our shield or buckler to help us beat the fiery darts and arrows of Satan and his armies. Thank you Lord for being with us in our battles that we must fight.

(Bro. Taylor and I had similar thoughts on our minds this month but with no consultation—Editor)

THE AMEN CORNER

(2-13-2013)

(From Share The Word)



By Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

Christ the Surety

It is necessary that we understand that Christ's redemption and sufferings are of the same extent; He died to redeem those and only those whose debt (as their surety) he undertook to pay. Christ is the pledge and is expressly said to be the "Surety of a better testament". (Heb. 7:22). There was and is an exact agreement between Christ's Payment and purchase, between the price He paid and the persons He redeemed; He paid the full payment for all for whom He was surety and secured the eternal redemption of everyone for whom he made payment. We could neither pay the debt he took on himself nor purchase the inheritance which we had forfeited nor claim the promises which are YEA and AMEN in Christ. It is therefore by the means of His death, in our room and stead, that we "Receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Heb.9:15).

It is a fact, that if Christ had been the surety in the salvation of all mankind, then all men will be saved and enjoy the benefits of Christ's death. The reason is His covenant cannot be broken nor his purpose altered. **"My covenant will I not break nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips"** Ps.89:34. I will say that the holy bible no where speaks of a universal covenant of GRACE. As Christ did not die for all men alike we can say with the apostle **"To the praise of the glory of his grace wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His GRACE"**. (Eph.1:6-7). I ask the question; On what grounds can a demand be made that He die for any except those for whom He was made the surety? If he was the surety of a universal covenant and died for all men equally and alike and if He made satisfaction for all the sins of all men then all men without exception must be saved or else he cannot be said to be faithful in his promise to either God or men. If such is true then HELL IS DIS-PEOPLED, all men will be in heaven and the doctrine of ELECTION is made void.

The Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.... Why? Because the bible tells us and describes Him as the SIN-BEARER. **"Lo I come to do thy will O God"**. He put himself in the place of his own, to redeem them from death, suffer in our stead; the just for the unjust, he was our peace and by His stripes we are healed. (Isa. 53). If he died for all men conditionally, to save them provided they would repent and believe and if all men do not repent and believe, the work of Christ fails and the intent of God through Christ fails. This means that man is the IMMEDIATE CAUSE of his own salvation. Christ is the potential but Man is the actual cause of his own redemption. In other words, whatever God the Father and God the Son intended to do cannot be done because men have over-ruled the intentions of a Holy God and derailed His purpose or intent. This simply makes the will of man superior to the will of God.

The bible declares, Grace reveals and common sense asks; who hath resisted his Will? What ever God the Father and God the Son intended to do SHALL BE DONE. The matter is not left to uncertainties. Christ's redemption is absolute, certain and perfect for all those He was made a surety for. There is not a scripture in the bible that teaches or implies that Christ's redemption exceeds or falls short of the Father's election. The truth of the proposition is that the Father's election and the Son's redemption are of the same extent. It is a perfect work and the application cannot be hindered. This is the doctrine of salvation by Grace and celestial glory called the BLESSED HOPE. It is not suspended on the mud-sills of human agency but on the purpose and absolute sovereignty of a Holy God who demanded a perfect offering for sin and received that perfect offering as a complete payment for the sins of his people in Christ. AMEN.

Elder R.D. Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

When Joseph wanted to see his brother Benjamin while he was in charge of affairs in Egypt. Jacob was reluctant to let him go lest he die as he thought Joseph had been slain. But one of his brothers, Judah, spoke up, "I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever: (Gen. 43:8) Judah agreed to be "surety" for Benjamin. He pledged to bring Benjamin back safely or else he would bear the blame for ever. Jesus was surety for His people and will bring them all safely to heaven, "And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me." (Heb. 2:13)—*Editor*

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