

Glad Tidings

October

"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

Sometimes the people of God think they can do anything all by themselves so they say, "I'll do it all by myself." Such thinking can only be detrimental to the child of God when Jesus plainly says in John 15:5 "...without me ye can do nothing." Oh, we can surely sin all by ourselves and do it very well but we cannot do anything spiritually good in the sight of God without His help. We also need, not only His help, but the help of other people of God. Solomon said in Eccl. 4:9-10, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up."

From the very beginning after God formed man from the dust of the ground, He said it was not good that man should be alone so He made an help meet for him by taking one of Adam's ribs and making a woman, He brought her to Adam. (Gen. 2:21-22). Adam called his wife's name Eve and so Adam was not alone any more. Just as Solomon said decades later, two are better than one for when one falls he has another to help him up. However, when Adam fell by bringing sin into the world, Eve could not help him up because she was in the same condition of condemnation as Adam.

Death and condemnation was brought into the world and the elect family of God by the sin of Adam which necessitated that the last Adam (Jesus Christ) come into the world and fulfill the law of God in His obedience. Paul writes, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Rom. 5:19) Two was not better than one in making anyone righteous before a holy God. Thus it is only by "one man" and "one sacrifice" that anyone could be presented holy and without blame before God on judgment day.

Only one man (the high priest) could enter behind the veil into the holy of holies and offer the same continual sacrifices which could never take away sins. Now we read what actually worked to take away sins. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Heb. 10:12) "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14) Jesus was a perfect man who offered the perfect sacrifice.

Jesus was the one perfect man who could enter and win the battle against sin all by Himself. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by **himself** purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," (Heb.1:3) When we enter the battle against our enemies (the world, the flesh and the devil), we do not desire to enter it alone. Thus Solomon says, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." (Eccl. 4:12) Two can withstand the enemy better than one and threefold is even better.

We are to be united as brethren in Christ against our common enemies before mentioned and need the prayers of each other to assist us in this daily battle. United we stand but divided we fall thus "unity" is precious in the eyes of God. "It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;" (Psalm 133:2) This is a depiction of how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell "together" in unity. The gospel is precious and we must "together" stand for truth and right. Paul writes to the church at Philippi, "...that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel;" (Phil. 1:27)

Two are better than one but the threefold cord is not quickly broken. When it comes to the standing of God's people as redeemed sinners, nothing can break their legal position before God. Why? It is because of a threefold cord. Cord number 1: God the Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. (Eph. 1:4) Cord number 2: Jesus Christ finished the work God gave Him to do and saved those same people chosen in Christ from their sins. (Matt. 1:21; John 19:30) Cord number 3: The Holy Spirit quickens and gives eternal life to as many who were chosen. (John 6:63; John 17:2)

This threefold cord not only cannot be quickly broken, it CANNOT be broken at all. For this cord to be broken, God would have to fail, Jesus would have to fail, and the Spirit fail. Nothing can separate a child of God from His love manifested in choosing His children, sending His Son, and sending His Spirit to quicken them. We are sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Christ Jesus and called. (Jude:1) Yes, two are better than one but nothing exceeds this threefold cord of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. (L. W.)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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WHAT WILL WE KNOW IN HEAVEN



By Elder David Wise
Starkville, Mississippi
(Concluded from July-Sept.)
(August 11, 2021)

Heaven in Revelation-Cont'd: The angels in heaven are declaring remembrance of the wicked's sins from the earth. "5) *And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.* 6) *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.* 7) *And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.*" (Rev. 16:5-7) Here we see the proper perspective of sin that we will have in heaven. We are not angered by sin in heaven when we have God's perfect perspective. We can see that sin as paid for either by Jesus or the wicked. We will be able to view the sin of this world, not as unfair or unpunished, but we will then view sin through the perfect judgment of God – "*Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments*".

There is also a pronouncement from heaven of the judgment of Babylon. "4) *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.* 5) *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.* 6) *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*" (Rev. 18:4-6) *In heaven, the sins of Babylon and her iniquities are able to be viewed through the perfect judgment and righteousness of God. Those sins have been properly paid for by Christ or the wicked, according to the perfect justice of Almighty God.*

The description of the final destination of the elect in the new heavens and new earth is characterized to a large degree by the things "not there". A great voice from heaven *declared the former things of this earth are passed away.* "3) *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying...4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*" (Rev. 21:3-4) There is a discussion in heaven of the former things of this world: tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain. However, all of those sad things in this world are now viewed in heaven through the conquering power of Jesus Christ. While we still might have knowledge of the past sorrow of this world, it no longer causes us pain because every tear has been wiped away by the perfect Son of God. We will have knowledge of the events of this world, but the pain and sorrow of those events that we experience here are taken away in heaven by the Lamb of God.

Conclusion: I think we can see from these scriptures that we will have special knowledge in heaven. We will most likely even have knowledge of events that have not yet occurred in time in this world. From our current perspective with mortal minds, we think if we knew a bad event would occur to a loved one in the future and saw it coming, we would be afraid or sad for them or try to stop it. Instead, we will be able to see those events through the perfect will of God and the triumphant grace of God. Yes, our earthly loved ones might endure tribulation for a brief period in their lives, but in heaven, we can then see perfectly that it is only a temporal, short, light affliction compared to the eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:17-18). We will still have memories of our lives here in this world, but in heaven, we will be able to view those events through the perfect perspective and will of God. We will not dwell on the pain that bad events might have caused in this world, but we can view them now through the blood of Christ. Essentially, the blood of Christ is the filter through which in heaven we will be able to view all events of this world. In heaven, there is no event

in this world that is not made joyful when viewed through the blood of Jesus Christ. We will know our earthly loved ones in heaven, but the relationship of the spiritual family of the bride of Christ will take precedence over our earthly relationships of spouse or children. We will not love our spouse or children or earthly loved ones any less in heaven. Instead, our love for them will be elevated to the perfect love of Christ. We will love our spouse more perfectly in heaven than we ever could on the earth, but that perfect love will be the same for all the elect family of God.

I am certainly not dogmatic about any of the points I presented in this article. I am currently looking at heaven through a glass darkly with a finite mind, just like you. It is true that it does not yet clearly "appear what we shall be". Our vision now is dim and limited. However, this is what we do know: "We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2) We do know that we shall be like Jesus. We know we shall see Jesus fully as He is, face to face. We do know that we were predestinated "to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom. 8:29). It has been God's will from all eternity past for his elect to be conformed to the image of Jesus. When we are made one with Jesus in heaven, no doubt, then we will see him "face to face" and we shall "know even as we are known" (1 Cor. 13:12). In heaven, we will be one with Jesus; we will see Jesus perfectly; then, we shall have Jesus' knowledge imparted unto us. When we see Jesus face to face and have his knowledge, we certainly won't be concerned or saddened about anything in this world because we can then view this world through Jesus' eyes. We can view this world through Jesus' blood and know that our short lives on earth are just a small droplet in the vast ocean of eternity. How could anything so small in our lives on earth diminish the joys of heaven in eternity with Almighty God? When we view this world and our lives through the eyes of Jesus Christ, we will only see the joys, grace, and blessings of God, and sing the new song with all the rest of the elect for all eternity, singing with a loud voice forever "Worthy is the Lamb"!

HEAVEN

We are very shy nowadays of even mentioning Heaven. We are afraid of the jeer about "pie in the sky," and of being told that we are trying to "escape from the duty of making a happy world here and now into dreams of a happy world elsewhere." But either there is "pie in the sky" or there is not. If there is not, then Christianity is false, for this doctrine is woven into its whole fabric. If there is, then this truth, like any other, must be faced, whether it is useful at political meetings or no.

C.S. Lewis in *The Problem of Pain*.

LUKEWARM



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

(*"Pathway of Truth"*, Nov. 2005)

"I now thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Rev. 3:15-16

This chilling message to the Church of the Laodiceans was likely a surprise. They thought they were doing well. They thought they were rich but they were poor. They were members of the Church, and probably thought they were so much better off than people who did not know the truth. Their zeal was lacking. Zeal is the enthusiasm, drive or vigor with which we attack a challenge and overcome it. Lack of it is the reason churches become cold. It is not far from lukewarm to cold.

But, the Lord's message was he would they were hot or cold. So what would be wrong with being a cold church?

Yesterday, I had some thoughts about this scripture I had never had before. I remembered that some things are better hot and some things are better cold. Very few things are good lukewarm. Coffee is good hot, terrible cold, and not much better lukewarm. Ice cream is good cold. The Bible speaks of cool water to a thirsty soul. Cool water is not like warm. I found that out when I did not hurry to the field with the water for my dad after I had drawn it from the well. If it had become lukewarm, I received a tongue lashing.

This church had evidently become lukewarm about the things they should be hot or fervent toward, and lukewarm to the things they should find coldness toward.

The Apostle Peter instructs us to love one another with a pure heart fervently. Our awe and praise of God should always be fervent. Our defense of the faith once delivered to the saints should be without compromise to error. Many people today have been lukewarm toward error in thinking it is not too bad if they say the name of Jesus.

We should be cold toward abortion, homosexuality, adultery, lying, stealing and all manner of things being accepted in society today. Many people have come to look on abortion as only the business of the woman. Have we become lukewarm rather than cold toward sin?

We are to be hot or fervent toward goodness and right. We are to be cold toward sin in any form. To be lukewarm toward either will destroy us and our nation!

ETIQUETTE IN PEW AND PULPIT

By Elder Don Richards
Lubbock, Texas

While the worship service is always to be as directed by the Scriptures and Holy Spirit, the following is a recommended list of “etiquettes” for the persons sitting in the congregation, as well as for the song leaders, and worship leaders occupying the pulpit:

Etiquette in the Pew . . .

1. Come prepared. Prepare yourself for the worship service with prayer. Arrive early and in a worshipful state of mind. Be in your seat, quiet and ready for the first song. All visiting should cease with the first note of the first song. Follow the song leader in pitch and pace.
2. Dress for the Lord. Dress appropriately, being mindful that the purpose is to worship our Lord whose very presence is desired. Do not allow worldly dress fashions become your clothes coordinator. Dress expecting the Lord to be your personal fashion critic. Dress as you would decorate the “temple”.
3. Cell Phones off. All cell phones should be turned off; or at least silenced and only if needed for emergency availability.
4. Food, candy, drink. There should be no eating or drinking in sanctuary during the service. (medicine and medical conditions excepted; i.e. cough drops, bottled water). If/when you do eat candy, cough drops, etc. clean up your wrappers and any litter before you leave.
5. Disrupting children. The presence of children in the service is very important, and parents/grand parents are encouraged to help teach them to understand the service; but babies and children causing extended disturbances should immediately be removed from the sanctuary to available “cry rooms’ or the lobby/foyer.
6. Help others. Provide help to those in need of assistance. Make sure attendees in wheel chairs, walkers, etc. are comfortable, have song books/bibles so they can enjoy and fully participate in the service.
7. Personal behavior. Be aware of personal (i.e. nervous) habits that may be annoying or disturbing to others (i.e. foot tapping, coughing, trimming/polishing fingernails).
8. Be aware of others. Observe general courtesy and thoughtfulness to others. Always be aware of how your behavior may be disturbing those around you.

Take seats that will allow late arrivals enter quietly and effortlessly (i.e. choose front pews, and interior pew seating). Be prepared to quickly share with others (especially visitors) the pews, song books, bibles.

9. Welcome visitors. Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome all visitors; be sure they are invited to lunch, and have overnight accommodations when required. 10. Church traditions. Inform the visitors sitting near you of any church traditions (i.e. lunch, hand shake following service), and that their participation is welcome, but voluntary.

Etiquette in the Pulpit . . .

1. Be guided by the Spirit. Always be guided by the Holy Spirit, not the pride or ambitions of any man, yourself included. Speak as the Spirit guides you; stop when the Spirit does not. Recognize the needs and traits of the audience. There are very appropriate messages that may be inappropriate at the wrong time for the wrong congregation.
2. Do not assume your role. Do not assume your role in either song leading or speaking. Be observant and listen to the specific request or directions when asked to song lead, or speak.
3. Song leaders. If requested to lead singing, announce loudly at least twice, the name and/or number of the song, and provide the congregation ample time to locate it in their songbooks. In the absence of specific instructions, limit your song leading to two songs.
4. Be aware of request. Be aware of the pastor’s/moderator’s specific request of you regarding speaking from the pulpit. Do not go beyond the request, especially the amount of time specifically referenced. Always come to church prepared to read and comment on a bible verse; however, if asked to introduce unexpectedly, do not be afraid to speak “from the heart” for 10 minutes or less.
5. “Introduce”. If you are asked to “introduce” the preaching service; that means take a maximum of 10 minutes. If you feel especially guided by the Holy Spirit, then feel free to take 11 minutes.
6. “Share the time”. If asked to “share the time”, be especially observant of the time allotted for preaching, and do not exceed half of that allotted time.
7. “Preach for us”. If requested to “preach for us”, then you may feel free to use the majority of the allotted preaching time, but relinquish the pulpit back to the pastor/moderator prior to the end of the allotted preaching time.

8. Invited guest minister. If the church has an invited guest minister, the pastor should gracefully allow the visitor the large majority of time and opportunity to speak. The church hears the pastor regularly; and the visitor may have a special blessed message that day, but not if he does not have sufficient time to develop and deliver it.

9. Do not delay invitation. If a visiting minister is especially blessed of the Lord, the invitation to join the church should be quickly provided. The "spirit" in people that have been moved by the message should not await an unreasonable delay for the song and invitation. The spirit that leads non-members to join can be quickly killed by a drawn-out moderator's monologue following a spirited message.

10. Preach to sheep, and to lambs. Remember you are speaking to the entire congregation: not to just the ministers in the first row, not to just the members, and not to just the adults. Awareness of the congregation, along with continued study and prayer will bless a minister to feed the sheep, and the lambs, and the members, and the visitors.

(From *"Banner of Love"*, February, 2012)

PREACHING

Theodore Epp, founder of Back to the Bible radio ministry, realized something was wrong when he stopped receiving critical mail. Convicted that he was not challenging the flock enough, he changed his preaching. "I'm afraid that when I'm pleasing everybody, I'm not pleasing the Lord," he later said, "and pleasing the Lord is what counts."

This is not to suggest that a pastor is only successful when he is upsetting people! But he must be certain that he is first and foremost faithful to the One he serves. He is fulfilling a divine commission when he preaches. Just as an ambassador is entrusted not with his own message but with his superior's message, so the minister is entrusted with the Word of God. Before it is delivered, therefore, every message should be laid at the foot of His throne with one question: "Is it faithful to You, my Lord?" Or as one German pastor would always pray in the pulpit, "Cause my mind to fear whether my heart means what I say."

Charles W. Colson, *The Body*, 1992, Word Publishing, p. 121.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10)

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (II Tim. 4:2)

MERRY HEART

Something To Think About:

By Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)... 6-25-14

Proverbs 17:22: A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Ever seen a dog with a broken spirit? – one that is beaten down to the point the dog no longer sees any reason to live so just mopes about. Normally, you can judge the spirit of the dog by the wag of its tail. I remember such a dog that even the wag of his tail had ceased. We can get that way too. The pressures of life get heavy. We find ourselves beat down with financial problems, severe illnesses where there may seem there is no hope, depression, stress of every kind; even to the point our very bones seem to have dried up within us. These are signs of a broken spirit; a spirit that needs hope and encouragement, even a merry spirit that would cause the old dog to lift his head and once again wag his tail. What do we do when we find ourselves like this old dog? We need someone to come along and pat us on the head, maybe rub us behind the ears a little, and give us encouragement. Our spirit is so broken we feel alone, so alone we think there is no one to help; not even ourselves. Solomon, a very wise man, once said "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine!" Hard to be merry when our spirit is broken. Maybe if someone came along and just grabbed us by the nap of the neck, pulled us up, and said, "Come on old boy, lets eat, drink, and be merry", it would help. This would be really good, but it would not work unless the old dog could see the benefit of it all. A merry heart does wonders for the body. It helps to give us hope and the encouragement we need to press on and to deal with whatever comes our way. Life is not a joke, it gets really serious at times; even to the point of us crying Woe is me, Woe is me! Why not go find an old dog who needs cheering up and give him a pat on the head (encouragement – remind him of his blessings). Then, rub him behind the head a little (don't give up, our hope is based in Christ), speak to him in a merry, joyous tone of voice (usually results in tail wagging – even in humans), and help to renew his spirit.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:23, "be renewed in the spirit of your mind.." Like the old dog, we need our spirit renewed from time to time. Don't wait till tomorrow. Start the process now! Lift up your head! Meditate on God's blessings. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you in life. Let a smile come on your face. Pray for others who need a pat on their head or a rub behind their ears. Then – Renew your own spirit by taking the right medicine prescribed by the Great Physician.

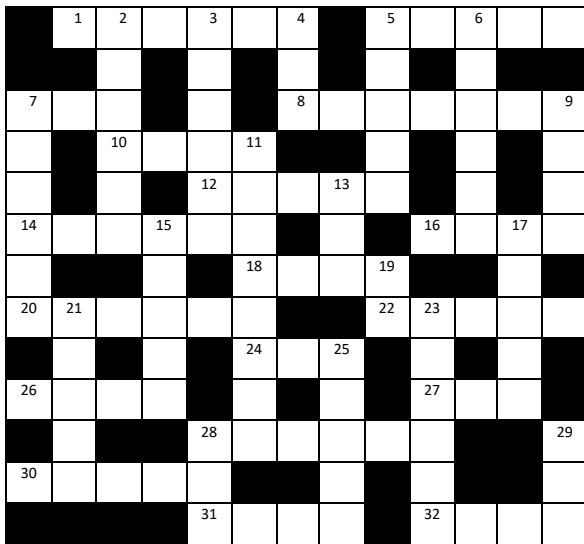
Okay, here it is! Here are the three pills we all need to take daily:

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. There is a ___ that sticketh closer than a brother.
5. Charity shall ___ the multitude of sins. Hide.
7. Will a man ___ God in tithes and offerings?
8. Ruth ___ barley in the field of Boaz.
10. Judge of Israel, left handed, who stabled Eglon, king of Moab to death.
12. A ___ was never to come on the head of Samson.
14. Relationship of Miriam to Moses and Aaron.
16. Simeon said mine ___ have seen thy salvation.
18. Now unto him who is able to ___ you from falling.
20. For nation shall ruse against ___ and kingdom.
22. Young man who spoke after Job's 3 friends.
24. Is there any taste in the white of an ___. Fried.
26. The second type of bird that Noah sent out.
27. Thou shalt not ___ to God's word nor take away.
28. In the storm Jesus was ___ in hinder part of ship.
30. Peter's wife's mother was sick of a ___. 101.
31. Ye shall abide in my love as I have ___ my Father's commandments and abide in His love.
32. Ten thousand talents in ___ with nothing to pay.



(Answers on Page 9)

DOWN:

2. Hear ye ___ must we fetch you water out of rock.
3. Weeping may ___ for a night but joy cometh.
4. Mephibosheth felt to be a dead ___ before David.
5. A pure river of water of life ___ as crystal.
6. All is ___ and vexation of spirit said Solomon.
7. Come let us ___ together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they'll be white like wool.
9. By faith they wandered in ___ & caves of the earth.
11. I form the light create ___ I do all these. Not light.
13. One Lord, ___ faith, one baptism.
15. The priesthood was from the ___ of Levi.
17. David was girded with a linen ___ Priest garment.
19. Physical Education.
21. Ye are from beneath but I am from ___.
23. John the Baptist ___ for joy in his mother's womb.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

25. Show how ___ things the Lord hath done for you.
28. In the ___ of the covenant was the shewbread.
29. ___ us hold fast the profession of our faith.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A pastor was teaching some boys some things about the Bible. His lesson was about like a sermon. The lesson was about Philip and the eunuch. He was anxious to impress the boys with the joys of being a Christian so he asked, "Why did the eunuch go on his way rejoicing?"

One boy answered promptly, "Because Philip quit preaching."

MERRY HEART

(Continued from Page 5)

First Pill – John 16:33, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Second Pill – Matthew 9:2, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee."

Third Pill – Matthew 14:27, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

Remember!: A spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down. Here's to a better and sweeter spirit. Think about it!

Elder Bobby Willis

Editor: ShareTheWord

WAKE UP CALL

A friend of mine posted the following thought on her facebook page, and I believe it would be good for us all to consider. The scripture I include seems to concisely state what we should be doing as children of God. "When I woke up this morning, I asked myself, "What is life about?" I found the answer in my room...the fan said, "Be cool." The roof said, "Aim high." The window said, "See the world!" The clock said, "Every minute is precious." The mirror said, "Reflect before you act." The calendar said, "Be up to date." The door said, "Push hard for your goals." The floor said, "Kneel down and pray". "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)–July 28, 2011–Elder Larry Wise

CHURCH NEWS

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 Fri. night, Oct. 14, at 7:00 pm with Elders Steve Weaver and Jerry Wise preaching. Saturday, Oct. 15, at 10:00 am with Elders Larry Wise and Bobby Howell preaching. Lunch served at noon followed by afternoon services with Elders Joe Nettles and Charles Kitchens doing the preaching. Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:30 am followed by lunch.

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.—Elder Rusty Wise—Pastor

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). Elder Martin Onyoni from Kenya will be one of the ministers. Elder Tim McCool is Pastor of Bethlehem.

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

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in October, 2022 (Oct 30) will be hosted by Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS with supper at 5:30 pm and worship service at 6:30 p.m. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches in Northeast, MS. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will have its annual meeting November 12-13, 2022. Services Saturday, Nov. 12, at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch. Elder Silas Ford, Atlanta, GA and Elder Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS are invited ministers. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia. Everyone is invited to come and worship.

Yalobusha PBC, Water Valley, MS will have their postponed meeting the 4th weekend in October, 2022 (Oct. 21-22). Services Fri. night, Oct. 21 at 7:00 pm. Sat., Oct. 22, at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. Elder Jerry Wise, Pontotoc, MS is invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

Everyone is invited to New Salem PBC, Walnut, MS for their annual meeting October 22-23, 2022. Services Sat., Oct. 22, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sun., Oct. 23, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elders Darren Owens, and James Kimbrough, are invited ministers. Elder Dwayne DuBard is Pastor of New Salem.

CONTENTMENT

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

We are living in a society in which there is little contentment with the children of God in the world. They aren't satisfied with their wages; they aren't satisfied with the car they drive or the house they live in but are always wanting more. If it were not for the grace of God, we would have none of these things that we take so much for granted. Paul made tents to provide for his necessities but there were those saints that assisted him in his ministry. The church at Philippi had delayed their assistance to him but Paul asserts that he is not angry or dissatisfied. Paul says, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11). It would be wonderful if we all would learn this lesson. Whether we are in a state of prosperity or in a state of adversity, yet we have the Lord who is all sufficient. These two opposites, prosperity and adversity, teaches something that could not otherwise be learned. Solomon says, "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).

When there is discontentment, it leads to the sin of covetousness which we are commanded to avoid. There is no need to be covetous because we have the promises of God that are yea and amen. The Hebrew letter declares, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5). Here in this scripture, we are instructed in something to be without and that is covetousness. Then we are commanded to be content with that we "have" so it is not that we do not have anything. We may not have anything but life itself but that is something to praise the Lord for and result in a form of contentment. How can we have this contentment? We have it by remembering the very promise of God who said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." We may be forsaken by mother, father, sister or brother, but we will not be forsaken by the Lord Himself. He has promised, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up." (Psalm 27:10).

It is a blessing from God to have this world's goods for our temporal enjoyment but let it not be our first love. Solomon tells us, and he should know, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity." (Eccl. 5:10). Job was blessed with earthly wealth and a large family but that was all taken away in his trial of affliction but he maintained a trust in God. He said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15). Paul writes to Timothy and informs him what true gain is in this life which continues to be brief, no matter how long we may live. Paul writes, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (I Tim. 6:7-8).

If we have food and raiment, we should be content but the children of Israel weren't content with this. They began to loath what God had provided in the form of "manna" and desired flesh to eat. God gave them that, so much that it ran out their nostrils but still they were not content. God gave them footwear and clothes that lasted forty years in the wilderness, but were they ever content with this ample provision? No, they even began to question God by asking, "...Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?" (Psalm 78:19). God can furnish a table anywhere He chooses and David even says, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." (Psalm 23:5).

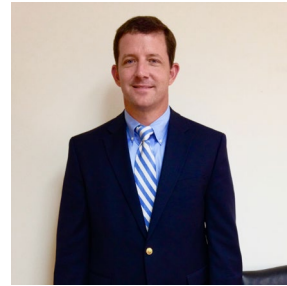
We are all prone to not be content at times because the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. However, when we apply the word of God in our lives and trust in Him, we will be more content as we trust in Him and he will direct our paths which possibly will lead to contentment. Solomon tells us, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5-6). May God give us grace and may we use that grace to be more content in our lives and thus avoid much worry and distress.—October 10, 2014—Elder Larry Wise

CONTENT?

A number of years ago there was a popular program called The Goldbergs. In one episode, Jake Goldberg came home for supper and excitedly told his wife, Molly, about a great idea he had. He wanted to go into business. Molly had some money put away, anticipating just such a thing, and she gave it to him. As they sat at the dinner table, enthusiastically discussing the future, Jake said, "Molly, some day we'll be eating off of golden plates!" Molly looked at him and replied, "Jake, darling, will it taste any better?"

--Source Unknown

DON'T BUILD A FIRE IN THE TENT



January 26, 2017

Practical Christianity
By Elder Tim McCool

Pastor Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church
Echola, Alabama

When I was in high school I spent a lot of time camping. On one occasion, a few of my friends were camping out with me. It was a cold time of year, so we planned on building a fire to keep warm. As we walked out the door, Mom called to us with her usual goodbyes and warnings to be safe. But this time she added, "Don't build a fire in the tent!" We were almost out of ear shot but we paused and looked at each other. What she said was worth a trip back inside. I walked in and looked at her and asked, "Are you serious?"

She said of course she was serious! I told her (kindly) that I had enough sense to know not to build a fire in the tent. Even if I didn't have any sense I would know not to do that. We all laughed that night and many days to come about what she said. It became a slogan when we were going to do anything – "Hey, don't build a fire in the tent!" It was always used in the context of using common sense – things so obvious it didn't have to be said. Thank you Mom for a great common sense slogan!

Everybody knows you don't build a fire in the tent. But today it seems we need that kind of basic wisdom to bring us to our senses. "Hey don't let a man go into the ladies' restroom!" That seems like the most common sense thing you could say. Or, "Marriage is between a man and a woman." That made perfect sense for thousands of years. Or what about, "Men should fight our wars and not women." If I was 95 years old, I would stagger or be wheeled onto any battlefield before I let my mother, wife or daughters fight physical wars for me. Would you?

In reality, all of the common sense statements above go far beyond common sense. The type of non-sensical thinking around today is called "cutting edge", "new age" or "progress of man." But it is not progress at all, but outright rebellion against God. His word makes a clear distinction between male and female (Gen.1:27; Mt.19:14), and male and female are different, according to His design. It is plain old common sense to use different restrooms.

God's word states plainly that marriage is only marriage when it is between a male and female (Mk.10:6). And to deny the glorious differences between male and female in terms of strength and gifts is to deny nature itself! Think about it—every female is not a Rhonda Rousey and every male is not an Arnold Schwarzenegger (or at least what he used to be!). Being described as the weaker vessel does not mean that females are inferior (I Pet.3:7). Personally I consider my own wife greatly superior to me!

So it is more than common sense, it is spiritual sense. Where has our common spiritual sense gone as a society? People are building fires in their tents left and right! And guess what happens when you do that? Your tent burns up! May we return to common sense, which means to return to spiritual sense that is clearly laid out in God's Word.

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

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. dneirf | 2. sleber |
| 5. revoc | 3. erudne |
| 7. bor | 4. god |
| 8. denaelg | 5. raelc |
| 10. duhe | 6. ytinav |
| 12. rozar | 7. nosaer |
| 14. retsis | 9. sned |
| 16. seye | 11. ssenkrad |
| 18. peek | 13. eno |
| 20. noitan | 15. ebirt |
| 22. uhile | 17. dohpe |
| 24. gge | 19. ep |
| 26. evod | 21. evoba |
| 27. dda | 23. depael |
| 28. peelsa | 25. taerg |
| 30. revef | 28. kra |
| 31. tpek | 29. tel |
| 32. tbed | |

COMMON SENSE

It is inaccurate to say that I hate everything. I am strongly in favor of common sense, common honesty, and common decency. This makes me forever ineligible for public office.--H. L. Mencken (Mencken was a confirmed atheist and I don't like to quote atheists but this makes sense in today's political environment.—*Editor*)

If a man has common sense, he has all the sense there is.—Sam Rayburn

LEGAL AND PARENTAL JUDGMENT

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

It is not *election* but *sin*, which lies at the root of men being cast into hell. All humanity are by *nature*, children of wrath—even the elect (See Ephesians 2:3). If Christ had not died for the sins of His people they would have finally perished, just as will the wicked. But due to His taking their sins, and the penalty thereof, on Himself, those sins will not be charged to them so far as eternal judgment is concerned.

When God's people sin, they experience "a fearful looking for judgment" (See Hebrews 10:27) because God judges them here in time in a parental way. And being a parental judgment, it is not administered with the intent of devouring them, as it does "the adversaries," but in love, for their correction, improvement and restoration. This, however, should not encourage anyone to take this judgment lightly, for depending upon its severity the subjects of it may experience a hell on earth. Therefore, "to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Samuel 15:23). God is *pleased* with His people when they obey His precepts, and He blesses them with peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). But He is *displeased* when they violate His commandments, and He consequently punishes them in a parental way.

We might illustrate it this way: If a child should violate a civil law that requires a \$500.00 penalty, which he cannot pay, his father pays his fine, but that does not alter the fact that the father must still administer *parental* punishment in order to rightly fill his station as a good father to the child. By the same token, God's people had a legal debt to divine justice that they could never have paid, and their heavenly Father paid that debt *for* them. But that does not change the fact that when they disobey His law He must, in love, administer *parental* punishment for their correction and betterment. Therefore, let us never despise the chastening of the Almighty (Job 5:17, Proverbs 3:11 & Hebrews 12:5), but remember that the Lord is dealing with us "as with sons."

Elder Ralph Harris

(From "ITMS", October 2001)

NO LOOPHOLES IN THE BIBLE

Just before the death of actor W.C. Fields, a friend visited Fields' hospital room and was surprised to find him thumbing through a Bible. Asked what he was doing with a Bible, Fields replied, "I'm looking for loopholes."--Source Unknown.

People looking for loopholes are trying to avoid something. Can you think what it might be?—*Editor*

SINNING BY CEASING



By Elder Sonny Pyles (Deceased)

We can sin by doing things that are wrong. These sins are sins of commission. We can also sin by failing to do things that we should do. These sins are sins of omission. Read Matthew 23:23 for a good description of the sin of omission. In 1st Samuel 12:23, we read of a sin of cessation, which is a form of omission. The text says, *"Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way."* The prophet tells a rebellious people that he can sin against God by ceasing to pray for them. The scriptures teach us to pray for our rulers and leaders. I confess that I have complained and fretted over their shortcomings in governing our nation. Lord, give us the grace to complain less and to pray more.

We are told to pray for those who revile us and persecute us. The Lord, when reviled, reviled not again. I confess that I sometimes have reviled in return when I should have been praying for the one who reviled first.

Have you ceased to pray for the pastor of your church? If you receive nothing from his preaching, try praying for him. If your heart is filled with malice, wrath, and criticism toward a fellow church member, try praying for a better feeling toward that person. My experience has taught me that most of our ill feelings toward each other involve this sin of cessation. It is hard to harbor a grudge against someone you are really remembering in prayer. I once heard of two preachers that had met to discuss their differences. The one who was in the wrong asked the other: "Brother, will you stop right now and pray with me that God will give me the grace to receive what I know is coming?"

The request and the prayer that followed melted the heart of the other brother.

In my humble judgment, our ministry is in critical need of the prayers of God's people. Elder Tolley's articles on the ministry are excellent and have been published at a time when greatly needed. I wish every minister could study them together with Elder J. M. Bullard's booklet entitled "Ministerial Qualifications." The booklet was written many years ago, but is still valuable reading today. It is so heart-breaking to see God's servants beset on every side

with doctrinal pitfalls, the temptations of the flesh and with the ever-present opportunities to advance in the world of business and materialism at the risk of burying their spiritual talents. Do not commit the sin of cessation! Pray without ceasing for your pastors and for God's servants across the land. So many have fallen victim to the things already named that those who are left on the firing line can feel to be as lone sentinels gazing across a bleak horizon. Pray for the men who fill your pulpits. Perhaps their preaching will improve along with your perception. They need the prayer and you need their preaching.

Our relationship in the family of God can be compared to a story I heard recently about two porcupines who lived in northern Canada. They became very cold and drew close together because they "needed" each other. When they drew close together, they began to "needle" each other. They separated and became very cold again. They decided that their "need" was greater than the "needling", so they got together again. God's children "needle" each other. Ministers must bear many "needles". However, the world is very cold and my need of you and your prayers is so great that request that you remember this unworthy writer, and all of God's servants, in your prayers, without ceasing.

(From *"The Christian Baptist"*, November 1978)

WHEN THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU ARE GOING TO DIE

When the doctor says you are going to die,
There is a greater Physician watching from on high.
He never sleeps; He is always awake.
He never leaves and never forsakes.
You can rest assured and never fear.
There is no diseases He cannot cure.
The Greatest Friend in all my life,
And this includes my darling wife,
Is this Dear Friend, I'm proud to say,
Who answers when I am blest to pray.
Be with our family while we are away,
Watch over them, Lord, from day to day.
We are proud of their kindness, we are proud of
their love,

But place their minds on things above.
Please let them know, please let them feel,
There is a God
And life is real.
And when they close their eyes in death,
Let them lay their head on Jesus' breast.

Dana L. Harrell

(From *"The Christian Baptist"*, December 1978)

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Source Unknown

MAGNIFY



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Philippians 1:20: "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

The Apostle Paul was imprisoned at Rome for his preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified. Imprisonment has to be a terrible experience for someone like Paul who traveled from place to place preaching the gospel. Now his freedom had been limited to the walls of a jailhouse; depression could of got the best of Paul, but by the grace of God it didn't. The church at Philippi had sent a gift to Paul to help him in his time of need. This made the Apostle a very happy man to hear from them and to be consoled by a fellow minister from the church there named Epaphroditus. Paul was happy not so much as for the gift that they had sent him, but the fruit of the Spirit that they had shown through the gift and concern they had for Paul. For Paul had established the church at Philippi and now to see his work of preaching the gospel now be shown through them and their generosity.

In our above verse Paul uses the word **magnified** to show to the church brethren that though he is in prison, yet the word of God is not bound. Magnify means to make clearly visible, to shine.

In science we have today, the microscope can look at living organisms that are too small for the naked eye. Set one under the scope and look with those same naked eyes that just seconds before could not see them and they become magnified many times larger so they can now be seen by the eye. Amazing machine the microscope; it has helped us with finding cures for generations now by magnifying those little germs that make us sick hidden in our bodies because common eyesight cannot detect them. Now Paul was telling the brethren that whether he would live or die the gospel would be exalted. Paul was often seen in the palace with chains on him. A man in chains is an unusual site. An emperor would be wearing fine silks as others would be that worked there. Those chains would stand out even shine among all that silk in the palace. People are naturally inquisitive, and they want to know the stories of the

gentleman wearing chains. People talk and find out why he is attired in chains. They hear about Jesus, Paul, crucifixion, resurrection, church, righteous living, helping one another, looking after others more than your own self. All of this magnifies the gospel of Jesus Christ. And to think that the conversation got started by an old man in chains. Paul had complete confidence that this situation he was in would be used to forward the gospel to the Gentiles at Rome. This was another thing that brought him immense joy.

Another interesting note about our word **magnify**. One of the synonyms for it is the word **shine**. We understand that lights are what shine in the darkness. We need light to see our way around. Jesus speaks of letting our light shine so others could see it. For the world we live in is a sinful world; that sinful world is depicted as darkness in the scriptures. When the children of God walk obediently in this world, with humility and love for their fellowman they are letting their light shine for others to see and inquire about. As light sticks out in darkness, so does godly examples in this sinful world. There work is magnified and stands out for the children of God to see. It is hard to miss these lights for Jesus says: Matthew 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." This we must keep on doing here in this present world. The world is different than what our forefathers had in their day. Now it seems that the world of darkness is exalted on the media and other outlets. We must fight this battle while here on earth. We as born again children of God are to let our lights shine and show those looking that there is a better way to walk than in darkness. Walk in the light of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, be that city on the hill and you will be exalting and glorifying our Father which is in heaven. Lord help us in this great cause. R. L. Taylor

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,"
(Luke 1:46)

"Divine justice, poor sinner, has accepted the person of Christ as thy surety, the work and obedience as thy righteousness and the sufferings and death of Christ as the atonement for thy sin. It is passed current in the account of God and filed up in heaven; and God says, "I am well pleased for His righteousness' sake" He will magnify the law, and make it honorable. There it is "The acceptable year of the Lord." What Christ, as the head of the Church, has done is received in Heaven with Divine approbation."
Wm. Gadsby

(From "The Gospel Messenger", August, 1920)

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