

Glad Tidings

February

2023

“Buy the truth, and sell it not.” (Prov. 23:23)
FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION
Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

In our weakness, sometimes we might say that no one knows what I'm going through. However, if we are familiar with the scriptures we know that is not true. The Lord knows everything about His people:

Your heart: The heart is the innermost part of a person and is the seat of affection. The prophet Jeremiah describes the heart as desperately wicked and asks who can know it? He answers by saying it is the Lord that searches the heart and tries the reins. (Jer. 17:9-10) The heart is one of stone prior to being changed by the new birth. The Lord knows men cannot change their sinful, stony heart because their seat of affection is on earthly and fleshly things. “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;...” (Rom. 8:5) The Lord changes the heart from stone to flesh by writing His laws in the heart and mind and the seat of affection can now be directed toward heavenly things. (Ezek. 36:26)

Your thoughts: We ourselves are not mind readers but not so with the Lord. We cannot hide anything from the Lord even though we might make the attempt. Ezekiel tells us, “...Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.” (Ezek 11:5) “The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.” (Psalm 94:11) The Lord knew that the thoughts and imaginations of man was only evil continually in the days of Noah and destroyed all but Noah and his family on the ark. David said that there was not a word in his tongue but what the Lord knew it as well as knowing all his down sitting and uprising. Such thoughts were too wonderful for David to comprehend with his finite mind. (Psalm 139: 2-6)

Your need: We think we need many things but many times our judgment is warped. However, the Lord is able to know what is best for us and what we really need. A need is a necessity such as food, clothing and shelter. Jesus teaches the disciples to take no thought what to eat, drink or what to be clothed with. Why did Jesus say this? “...for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” (Matt. 6:32) These things were the necessities that the Gentiles sought such as food, drink and clothing. Remember what Paul wrote about need at Philippi. “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19) The Lord's supplies are limitless.

Your weakness: Abraham was strong in faith giving glory to God knowing what God had promised He was able to perform. (Rom. 4:20) Sometimes our faith is weak and many a time the Lord did not stir up His full wrath against Israel as they deserved because He remembered something. “For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” (Psalm 103:14) “For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.” (Psalm 78:39) Just because we understand the Lord knows our weakness, that isn't any excuse to remain there as the Lord showed Paul that His grace was sufficient for every circumstance.

Your way: Job had his faith tried as much as any man in the Bible. He lost all his earthly possessions and even his ten children. His wife wanted him to curse God and die. Job had his moments of indecision and even cursed the day he was born but never God. Job did not know the outcome of his ordeal but the Lord did. We read, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” (Job 23:10) The Lord knew the way Job would take because He even brought up to Satan to consider His servant Job whom He described as none like him in all the earth, perfect and upright and one who feared God and eschewed evil. (Job 1:8) He knows our way also so maintain trust in Him as did Job. (Job 13:15)

Your life: Jesus told the woman of Samaria whom He met at Jacob's well all about her five husbands and the one she was living with at the time. She left her waterpot that she had brought to draw water and went into the city and said, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (John 4:29) We have heard people say that their life is an open book; they have nothing to hide. I suspect if that book was opened and read they would have plenty to cause them shame.

Your destiny: Our final destiny can only be one of two places heaven or hell and the lake of fire. The Lord knew His people in Christ before the world began and predestinated them to be conformed to the image of His Son. (Rom. 8:29) The Lord told Jeremiah that before he was formed in the belly He knew him and ordained him. Paul writes Timothy, “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.” (II Tim. 2:19) The Lord knows everything about you and will see you with Him in heaven. (Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST



(September 30, 2022)

By Elder David Wise
Starkville, Mississippi

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3)

In such a complex, busy and fast-paced world we have today, it is refreshing to have a few things that are simple. One of the most important things to keep simple is the church and the worship of God. The apostle Paul was very concerned about the Corinthian church getting beguiled and corrupted by Satan to complicate the *"simplicity that is in Christ"* (2 Cor. 11:3). Thankfully, God keeps things simple in a world that is increasingly complicated and constantly fluctuating.

God has simple truths of his character that we can rely on. In a world where it seems that everything changes at a breakneck pace, it is a great comfort to

trust in a God that *"cannot change"* (Mal. 3:6). Jesus Christ does not change with the times or culture, but Christ is the *"same yesterday, today, and forever"* (Heb. 13:8). With the media influence today from all directions, we many times wonder who is really telling the truth and what sources can be fully trusted. In the midst of possible confusion and deception at any hand, it gives great peace to trust in a God that *"cannot lie"* (Titus 1:2). If we encounter confusion from the noise and complexity, we can rest assured that is not from the Lord. God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Cor. 14:33).

God knew that in the midst of a complex world his people needed simplicity. Satan makes things complicated, but Christ is simple. Satan is always attempting to corrupt the simple ways of the Lord with complexity and confusion. God set up his original church in such a simple way. Salvation is simple. We are saved to heaven by grace alone (Eph. 2:8-9). What action of man is necessary to go to heaven? Is it a prayer, belief, faith, confession, baptism, a good enough life? It can be complicated to know which of those "works" is really the one that gains us eternal life. However, the Lord makes things simple in the salvation of sinners. We are not saved by any work we perform, but we are saved to heaven by God's grace alone (2 Tim. 1:9, Titus 3:5). Jesus Christ finished the work of eternal salvation alone on the cross (John 19:30). That's simple.

God made his church simple for his sheep. The New Testament pattern for worship is simple. We find in the New Testament the original church had three simple components of worship: singing, praying, and preaching. Singing is simple. We ought to sing with our voices unto God (Col. 3:16). What instruments or additions to singing are acceptable to use in worship – piano, organ, guitar, drums, etc.? Well, the New Testament scriptures make it simple. We are commanded to sing with our voices to God with no mention of other additions to singing (Eph. 5:19). Praying is simple. Do you have to go and find the right person or a priest to be able to pray for you? No, we have the right and ability to simply pray directly to God in public worship and in private devotion. Preaching is simple. While we teach the whole counsel of God, ultimately the message of preaching is simple. The ministry is called to preach the simple message of *"Jesus Christ and him crucified"* (1 Cor. 2:2).

God ordained worship in the New Testament for the entire family to worship together. What room is each person supposed to be in again? Segregation in worship can be complicated and confusing. Children to the left, pre-teens to the right, young adults in another room, and seniors in another building. "Oh wait, I think I might have accidentally gone the wrong way, and I might be in the wrong room." Sounds complicated. God ordained worship that the whole

family sits down to worship together in the same room and hears the same preaching and teaching. That's simple.

God ordained for church government to be simple. Who is it that needs to approve this decision by our church? Does this go to the regional director or state director, or is this a big enough decision that it needs to be approved by the national organization? Actually, no higher levels of approval are necessary for a local church to make a decision. God ordained the authority and structure of his church very simply. The local church governs its own affairs. There is no higher church authority than the local church body and congregation. Each local church body submits directly to the headship of Jesus Christ. There is certainly no higher level of authority or approval than Jesus Christ.

While some might disparage it, I believe it's a great blessing to just simply live a *"quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty"* (1 Tim. 2:4). God's church is simple. The gospel is simple. Worship is simple. Church government is simple. God knew we needed simplicity. You may know that sheep are not very intelligent creatures. God consistently describes his people as sheep for a reason – we are not the best at making highly complicated decision making. We mess up a lot. Therefore, to protect his vulnerable sheep from Satan, the Lord thankfully made things simple for us. What a blessing to just live the "simple life" that God has ordained for his people.

(From <http://macedonia-pbc.org>)

MODERN WAY TO START A NEW CHURCH

When a group wants to start or organize a new church in today's society, they will often survey the area and find out what the people want in a church rather than the truth which should be preached. This is definitely not the Biblical way. They might ask questions such as the following:

Community Survey Questions:

1. Are you an active member of a nearby church?
2. What do you think is the greatest need in this community?
3. Why do you think most people don't attend church?
4. If you were looking for a church in the area, what kinds of things would you look for?
5. What advice would you give me as the pastor of a new church?
6. Are you interested in getting more information about this new church?

Source Unknown.

THE IDEAL CHURCH



By Elder Kenneth Watts
Boaz, Alabama

What would identify the ideal church (local congregation) to you? In order for all aspects of the local body to be ideal or perfect, I think some, or all, of the following things must be in the church. I will deal with the three categories of members of the local body.

PASTOR

The pastor's message at each service will consist of what every (no exceptions) member wants or needs to hear. This will be accomplished by having the pastor to spend all his waking hours in prayer and study of the gospel, constantly communicating with all the members as to their needs and desires. All the thoughts of the pastor will be of the preaching of the gospel, with no distractions, no physical or emotional pains of any kind. Each sermon will be full food for all the flock, from the very young, who need the simplicity of the milk of the word, to the mature members who know the word, but don't know how to conduct themselves daily, to the aged members who rejoice in the glorious prospect of a not-too-distant future of going home to be with the Lord. The pastor will know all the illnesses of all members, both physical and spiritual, and will be constantly working to be a comfort for them in this old world. He will not be discouraged at any time by any thing said or done toward him.

DEACONS

The deacons will know the welfare of all members at all times, distributing to the welfare of the saints as needed. They will know the condition of the pastor: is he suffering financially, spiritually (if he is the ideal pastor above, this won't happen) or physically; are there issues in the church that the pastor can't handle alone (not if he is perfect as above)? They will be reminding the members of their responsibility of financial support of the church (see below). The physical appearance of the church and its grounds will be taken care of without fail. They will be a constant source of encouragement or exhortation (if he is not as above) to the pastor.

MEMBERS

These are what is known as “lay members”, as distinguished from ordained members. However, ordained members (pastors and deacons) must meet these same requirements in many aspects for the ideal church to exist. They will be in attendance in every service unless providentially hindered. Family outings, sporting events, vacations of the like will not prevent their attending their local church. They will know the welfare of, and have godly concern for the other members of the church. They will be to church on time for each service, showing at least as much respect for that as they do for secular jobs. They will sing with melody in their hearts, praise to their Savior. As the pastor is delivering his ideal sermon (see above), each member will be paying close attention to the preached word so that they will not miss that portion that is to feed them. They will have been in earnest prayer ever since the last meeting that the pastor’s welfare is as it should be and that all his needs are met. They will visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction. The financial needs of the church will be taken care of cheerfully, the members having laid by in store as the Lord has prospered them. They will weep with them that weep, rejoice with them that rejoice, mourn with them that mourn. This will be done because of the great love for each other, not to satisfy the self or to fulfill self-righteousness. None of the things found in Galatians 5:19-21 will be found in these ideal members. All the things found in Ephesians 4:31-32 will be found in all these ideal members. A perfect church member will not look on his/her own things, but on the things of others; “self” will take a far, far back seat to the needs of the other members. “Let nothing be done through *strife or vainglory*; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves”.

CONCLUSION

I find, in writing this article concerning the Ideal Church, that I am neither an ideal pastor, nor am I and ideal member I am persuaded that as long as we are in this world, we will not be perfect. We can certainly be much better than we are. If you read this and find that you do, without doubt, fill the requirements of a perfect pastor, deacon, or member, then you are certainly a blessed character. If, however, you read this and find you come up short in some measure, understand that your fellow members also fail to be perfect or ideal. We have a tendency to expect more of others than we do of ourselves. This ought not to be. Do you consider your home church to be perfect? If not, in what may, if any, do you contribute to her imperfection?

Submitted prayerfully for your consideration,
Elder Kenneth Watts

(From “*The GOOD NEWS* Newsletter”, August 2007)

THROUGH BACA’S VALE DAILY WORDS FOR ZION’S WAYFARERS

J. C. Philpot (1802-1869)

February 27

“O that thou wouldst bless me indeed!”—1 Chronicles iv. 10.

An “indeed” blessing is what the soul is seeking after which has ever felt the misery and bitterness of sin, and ever tasted the sweetness of God’s salvation. And then “indeed” blessings are seen to be spiritual and eternal. Compared with such blessings as these, it sees how vain and empty are all earthly things, what vain toys, what idle dreams, what passing shadows. It wonders at the folly of men in hunting after such vain shows, and spending time, health, money, life itself, in a pursuit of nothing but misery and destruction. Every passing bell that it hears, every corpse borne slowly along to the grave that it sees, impresses it with solemn feelings as to the state of those who live and die in their sins. Thus it learns more and more to contrast time with eternity, earth with heaven, sinners with saints, and professors with possessors. By these things it is taught, with Baruch, not “to seek great things” for itself, but real things; things which will outlast time, and fit it for eternity. It is thus brought to care little for the opinion of men as to what is good or great, but much for what God has stamped his own approbation upon, such as a tender conscience, a broken heart, a contrite spirit, a humble mind, a separation from the world and everything worldly, a submission to his holy will, a meek endurance of the cross, a conformity to Christ’s suffering image, and a living to God’s glory. As, then, the gracious Lord is pleased to indulge it with some discovery of himself, shedding abroad a sweet sense of his goodness and mercy, atoning blood, and dying love, it is made to long more and more for the manifestation of those blessings which alone are to be found in him. For his blessings are not like the more temporal mercies which we enjoy at his hands, all of which perish in the using, but are for ever and ever; and when once given are never taken away. They thus become earnest and foretastes of eternal joys, for they are absolutely irreversible. When Isaac had once blessed Jacob in God’s name, though the blessing had been obtained by guile, yet having been once given, it could not be recalled. He said, therefore, to Esau, “I have blessed him, and he shall be blessed.” So when the Lord has blessed his people with any of these spiritual blessings which are stored up in his inexhaustible fullness, these blessings are like himself, unchanging and unchangeable; for “he is in one mind and none can turn him;” “The same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.”

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.” (Proverbs 10:22)

FAITHFULNESS

“Am I therefore your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16) It is not always the smoothest words that come from the truest heart. *“Faithful are the words of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”* It is never right to use deceitful and flattering words. It is better to wound a friend with the truth than to flatter him with praise. *“A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet.”* Pure, simple truth spoken in plain words will conduce to the good of all. *“Words fitly spoken are as apples of gold in pitchers of silver.”* Such is the glorious gospel of Christ. Paul was not an enemy of the Galatian brethren, but was their unflinching friend. Their happiness was his joy. Hence, when he saw them becoming entangled with the law service thereby turning from the gospel of Christ, his soul was troubled, and he proceeded to point out plainly their faults. In this he manifested the spirit of true friendship and brotherly love.

It is not a sign of enmity in the servant of Christ to oppose error and rebuke wrong doing. *“Rebuke a wise man and he will love thee.”* Words of reproof may smart for a time but they will serve to be as seeds of kindness sown in love. *“Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.”* It is not always a pleasant task to tell one of his faults, but faithfulness demands it. *“Them that sin rebuke before all that others also may fear.”* *“Open rebuke is better than secret love.”* *“Speak the truth in love”* is the duty of all of God’s servants. *“Reprove, rebuke, with all long-suffering and doctrine,”* is the divine commandment. Not as an enemy but as a loving friend.

Paul withstood Peter to his face, because Peter was to be blamed, and none accused Paul of preacher jealousy. It has become very common if an older minister rebukes, reproveth, or corrects a younger one, to hear of preacher jealousy, bowing to the pope, etc. All this is wrong and shows a bad spirit. Nathan told David of his sin and rebuked him sharply for it. God’s government of his people is parental and as such He visits their transgressions with a rod, and chastises with stripes of loving kindness. All this with the rebukes and reproofs in the gospel is for their good and comes from their best friend. I remember when my father had chastised me, he told me it was for my good, because he loved me. I then thought it a poor way of manifesting love. Later on in life I realized the truthfulness of his words. He had not become my enemy because he had told me the truth. Brethren, do not count your faithful pastor an enemy if he tells you the truth. Accept his rebukes as evidences of tender love and friendship for you and of fidelity to the Lord.

Elder W. C. Arnold
“Primitive Monitor” 1911

(From *“The Christian Baptist”*, May 1978)

GALATIANS VI. 7
AND EPHESIANS V. 6

July 16, 1936

Sister Alma Pate, Avant, Okla., has requested our views on Gal. vi. 7 and Eph. v. 6. Gal. vi. 7,8 reads as follows: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” This language was written to the church at Galatia. It is not addressed to alien sinners. But it is true in nature, that “whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” We know that this is true in the vegetable kingdom. If a man sows wheat, he will reap wheat if he reaps anything. If he sows oats, he will reap oats. If a young man or a young woman sow their “wild oats,” they will reap the same. It is sure to bring sorrow to them some day—when the reaping time comes.

A person cannot sow something he does not possess. He must have wheat in order to sow wheat. If he sows wheat, he will reap wheat. He not only reaps what he sows, but he reaps from the same field where the sowing was done. If “he sows to his flesh,” he “shall of the flesh reap corruption.” He does the reaping from the same field where he does the sowing. In order to do the sowing, he must first have both the seed and the field, to which he does the sowing. If one sows to the Spirit, he must first have the Spirit. It cannot be true, then, that he must do the sowing in order to obtain the Spirit; but he must have the Spirit, first, in order to sow to the Spirit.

One reaps the same thing that he sows. In this case, “he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” As one reaps what he sows, if he reaps life everlasting he must have life everlasting and sow that. That is what he sows, if he reaps life everlasting, because he reaps what he sows. Hence, one must have life everlasting in order to do the sowing and reaping here mentioned by the apostle. The sowing here mentioned is the doing of the things the Lord has commanded, for the ninth verse says, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” The sowing to the Spirit is doing the things the Lord commands—“well doing.”

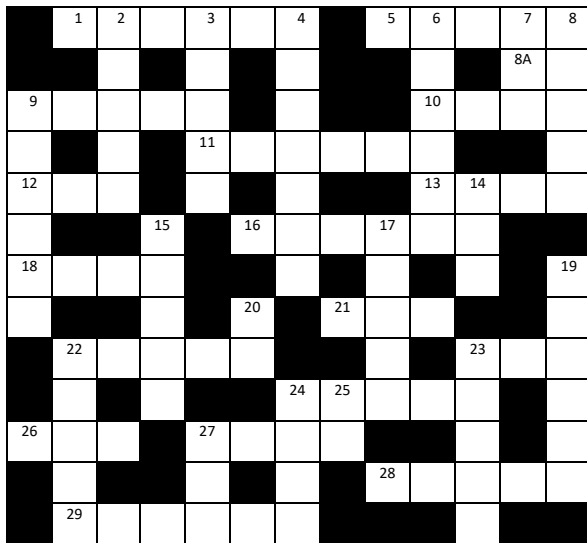
Eph. v. 6 reads, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” To see what “these things” are, get your Bible and read, beginning with the first of the chapter. Here is a plain warning that the wrath of God will be poured out upon His children who walk after and engage in the things that the apostle mentions in the preceding verses. It is a sowing to the flesh, and they will sure reap corruption. They will reap what they sow.

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Paul wanted to present the church at Corinth as a ___ virgin to Christ.
5. ___ goeth before destruction. Opposite of humility.
- 8A. ___ my father's house are many mansions.
9. We are chosen to be holy and without ___ in love.
10. Don't love in word or tongue but in ___ and truth.
11. When Peter saw the wind boisterous he was ___.
12. Believe not every spirit but ___ the spirits if of God.
13. ___ me not into temptation but deliver me from evil.
16. David walked through ___ of the shadow of death.
18. Left handed judge who killed the king of Moab with a dagger.
21. ___ no man anything but to love one another.
22. In the resurrection they neither ___ nor are given in marriage.
23. The betrayer of Jesus was one he gave the ___ to.



(Answers on Page 8)

24. Jesus was the ___ begotten from the dead.
26. Beasts that divided the hoof and chewed the ___ could be eaten by the Israelites.
27. Trumpet Israel blew was made from a ram's ___.
28. Blood of the Passover was to be put on the two side posts and the ___ door posts of the houses.
29. A camel cannot go through the eye of a ___.

DOWN:

2. Come all ye that labour and are ___ laden.
3. What soldiers used to pierce the side of Jesus.
4. My sheep hear my voice; I give to them ___ life.
6. What Samson put forth to solve about his strength.
7. It is appointed unto men once to ___ then judgment.
8. On the 7th day God ___ his work which he had made.
9. Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth ___.
14. The hearing ear and the seeing ___ God has made.
15. Women are to ___ themselves in modest apparel.
17. Jesus was made a little ___ than the angels for the suffering of death.

DOWN:

19. Jesus arose from ___ and laid aside his garments and washed the disciples feet.
20. Nicodemus came to Jesus ___ night.
22. Blessed are they that ___ for they shall be comforted. Grieve.
23. The ___ of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way. Walking.
24. Ye shall know the truth and it shall make ye ___.
25. Same as 8A across.
27. In Christ are ___ all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

This is not exactly out of the mouth of babes but it has to do with correcting your children. Recently I preached a sermon about the "need to remember" and in that sermon I said that parents tell their children to do certain chores but they fail to obey. After failure to obey a time or two, the parent may say, "If I have told you once I have told you a hundred times to do what I said."; maybe they did and maybe they didn't. After church, one of the members, which shall remain anonymous, said to me, "Bro. Larry, telling children not once but a hundred times also can apply to husbands."

**GALATIANS VI. 7
AND EPHESIANS V. 6**
(Continued from Page 5)

May the Lord help us turn from the weak and beggarly elements of the world, and help us to live in such a way as to honor and glorify His name while we live in the world. C. H. C.
(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist"
By Elder C. H. Cayce, Volume 6)

HUMOROUS CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

1. Dear God, my mom tells me that you, have a reason for everything on Earth, I guess broccoli is one of them.
2. Dear God, I need you to make my mom not allergic to cats. I really want a cat and I really don't want to ask my mom to move out.
3. Please make my parents understand that if I don't eat salad, I do better in school.
4. I saw my big brother walking out of the shower on accident, God, can you erase that from my brain.

CHURCH NEWS

Unity Primitive Baptist Church, 11500 MS 63 Moss Point, MS will have its annual meeting January 27-29, 2023. Fri: Supper 5:30 pm, Worship 7:00 pm. Sat: Worship at 10:00 am and 2:00 PM. Sun: Worship at 10:30 pm. Elder Chris McCool, Gordo, AL is invited minister. We wish also to preach other visiting Elders. For more information contact: Elder Mike Ivey, Pastor, at 940-453-8867. Come worship with us.

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will host an open meeting the 4th weekend in February, 2023 (Feb. 25-26). Services Sat., Feb. 25, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services about 1:30 pm. Sunday at 10:30 am. Everyone invited to come and worship. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

SIX WISE MEN: Left to Right: Elder David Wise, Elder Rusty Wise, Elder Larry Wise, Elder Jonathan Wise, Elder Jeremy Wise and Elder Jerry Wise. Picture made at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church during their meeting in November, 2022. All these ministers were ordained from the same church; Bethany Primitive Baptist Church 5 miles West of Ecru, MS on hwy 346.



There aren't very many special meetings going on during the winter months, mostly because of the real possibility of winter weather but we encourage everyone to take advantage of attending as many meetings as possible. We especially encourage everyone to not neglect the assembly of your home church which is also a special meeting. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

When Jesus fed the 5,000 with five barley loaves and two fishes, He had the disciples divide the people into groups of hundreds and fifties. He blessed and gave the food to the disciples and they gave it to the multitude. God gives the spiritual food in the word of God to His ministers and they give it to His people and they are fed and nourished.—*Editor*

TAKE A DAY OFF?



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

People who are employed in a secular profession are able to take a "day off" every now and then if they have built up time based upon the benefits of their employ other than maybe a normal day off such as Saturday and Sunday. The business goes on uninterrupted even on their day off. A "day off" is one in which someone doesn't have to work; someone else takes their place. What if the Lord took a day off, a half day off, an hour off or even a second off? No one works or can work in His place. We are told about God and His Son in Heb. 3:1 that He is, "...upholding all things by the word of his power..." If He takes time off, there is no automatic pilot to keep the universe running as He upholds all things by the word of His power. Everything would fall apart worldwide and universe wide if God and His Son were to take time off.

People work continuously on their job, perhaps seven days a week at times, and they get tired and exhausted and need a day off. The Lord never gets tired or weary and never needs a day off. Isaiah said, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." (Isa. 20:28). Notice Isaiah says that He "fainteth not, neither is weary" to which all people are subject but not God. Then how great is our God? The truth is we will never know until we arrive in heaven's pure world. However, His greatness is to be praised in a particular place and way as Psalm 48:1 declares: "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness." Praised in the church Jesus established upon the Rock of Ages cleft for us. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion.

The Pastor of the church where God is praised never takes a day off as he is always on call twenty four hours a day. Firemen and policeman are also on call but not always; they do get a day off from work but not so the ministry. And by the way, it is a work and labour as Paul calls their calling to be the "work of the ministry" in Eph. 4:12. Many also need to work in a secular job to make a living for their families as the church may not be able to fully support them and

their families in a financial way. Paul describes all the things he endured for the cause of Christ in preaching the gospel such as shipwreck, beatings, stoning and all kinds of perils. Then besides all this that came upon him daily, Paul says there was bestowed upon him “the care of all the churches.” (II Cor. 11:28). Pastors that are true to their calling, however, seldom complain about being on call and never taking a day off as they are ready to minister to the Lord’s people when called upon. They are to be instant in season and out of season as Paul admonishes Timothy. Oh, they may go on vacation now and then, but even then there is no true vacation as they are cognizant of their flock continually and praying for their welfare and cut short any so-called vacation many times to minister to those in need.

As a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Christian never gets a day off. It is a continuous work of faith and labour of love. If a day is taken off from serving the Lord, the devil is ever ready to pounce upon this opportunity to rob the Christian of the joys of their salvation. Paul describes this as forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, pressing toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God. (Phil. 3:13-14). This is a daily service that isn’t to be taken lightly and Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23). Notice how Jesus says that our cross is to be taken up “daily” and not just on Sunday. In my estimation, Christians are taking a day off when they absence themselves from the worship service of God on Sunday without a valid reason.

The next time we complain about never having a day off, just think what would happen if the Lord ever took a day off or even a second off. Then we would really have something to complain about. Count it a blessing and privilege to be worthy of serving the risen Lord through His shed blood at Calvary.—February 15, 2016—Elder Larry Wise

WHAT HAPPENED TO TIME?

- When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept.
- When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked.
- When I became a full grown man, time ran.
- And later as I older grew, time flew.
- Soon I shall find while traveling on, time gone.

Source Unknown

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” (Romans 13:11)

HARD TO BUILD—EASY TO TEAR DOWN

This is true from the children’s brick house to the noblest character. That which has cost a life of service may be destroyed in a moment. Our reputation for honest dealing, gained after years in the business world, may be forever marred by one day’s loose transaction. The young man, esteemed for his moral worth, may, in an unguarded moment, lose that which it takes years to gain. The virtuous maiden may listen to the tempter but *one hour* and lose a *lifetime* of purity. How careful then should we all be not only in guarding well, but also in zealously guarding the fruits of our labor? These ideas can consistently be applied to our Christian character.

Many run well for a season, through sowing to the flesh, fall out of the Christian race, and begin to reap what they have sown. Many, by a faithful attendance upon worship for years gain the confidence and esteem of the household of faith, and then because of some trivial matter between themselves and some other member, drop out of the ranks of duty, and lose all they have gained.

How many, in an unguarded moment, listen to the suggestions of the devil or the advice of the world, and in following such suggestions or advice, become cold and careless in duty, estranged from their brethren and lose the fellowship of the church and the joys of salvation. Little foxes destroy the vineyard. “Little” sins breed big errors; a little slackness in church duties often develops into a total abstinence from attending upon Divine worship. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. A little listening to the devil will lead into his service. A little carelessness, slothfulness, coldness, pride or jealousy will sometimes destroy, in a day, that which has required years to build. May God help us to both *watch* and *pray*, and so run that we may win.

Elder R. H. Pittman--*Zion’s Advocate*—1914
(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, March, 1980)

ANSWERS

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 1. etsahc
- 5. edirp
- 8A. ni
- 9. emalb
- 10. deed
- 11. diarfa
- 12. yrt
- 13. dael
- 16. yellav
- 18. duhe
- 21. ewo
- 22. yrram
- 23. pos
- 24. tsrif
- 26. duc
- 27. nroh
- 28. reppu
- 29. eldeen

DOWN:

- 2. yvaeh
- 3. raeps
- 4. lanrete
- 6. elddir
- 7. eid
- 8. dedne
- 9. rettub
- 14. eye
- 15. nroda
- 17. rewol
- 19. reppus
- 20. yb
- 22. nruom
- 23. spets
- 24. ee]rf
- 25. ni
- 27. dih

**Will Jesus be Satisfied
with the Number of People in Heaven?**

June 13, 2016



By Elder Tim McCool
Gordo, Alabama

Ever thought about that? Will Jesus look down from Heaven when it is all said and done and say I am satisfied with the amount of people that are here, or will he walk the streets of Heaven gazing into Hell, heartbroken over the 'near misses' and 'could of beens'?

In order to come to the correct conclusion we have to consider what it means to be satisfied. To be satisfied means 'to have enough'. We may say after a big meal that we are full and have had enough. That means we are satisfied. No more is required.

For this question, we are not trying to determine if Jesus had enough to eat, but rather was he satisfied with his work of salvation on the cross.

Consider this scenario. I have four children. Suppose I came outside one day and saw all four of them struggling to swim in our pond. It appears that drowning is rapidly closing in on them. I jump in the water and swim out to the first one. I bring them to shore and return for another and another. Suppose after I safely deliver the third one to the shore I turn around only to find the last one has slipped under. I frantically search for them to no avail. Is it reasonable for me to return to shore and say, "Well I got three out of four and I'm satisfied with that"? God forbid! I would mourn the loss of that child every day I live. The only way I could ever say I was satisfied with my efforts and the outcome is to have safely delivered all my children from drowning.

So is Jesus satisfied with his saving efforts?

Isaiah 53:10, 11 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

This tells us that our Savior, as he hung on the cross at Calvary, could see all his seed. In the omniscient mind of Christ he could see the faces of all those that he was dying for. It says he could see

what the travail of his soul, the suffering of his labor was purchasing and he was satisfied. That day on the cross Jesus Christ knew exactly who would be the recipients of his atonement and he said 'it is enough'.

If I, a fallen human being, cannot be satisfied unless I have saved all of my own children from drowning, how much more should the one who has a perfect love be dissatisfied with the loss of one of his?

The only conclusion we can come to is that the reason Jesus Christ is satisfied with his work on the cross is because he saved every one that he set out to save. The eternal salvation he brought about on the cross was not something that was going to be left up to chance. That should be no surprise to us when we consider the scriptures.

Mt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

John 6:39 "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

The scripture tells us that Jesus was going to save his people...not make them savable...but save them. It also tells us that it was a certainty that none of them would be lost.

Jesus Christ was given a people by his Father and it was his purpose to come to earth and die for the sins of those the Father had given him and he did just that.

Jesus set out to save his people and he did. That is why Jesus is satisfied with those that are in Heaven. Everyone that he intended to be there will be there and not one will be lost.

What we want in Christ, we always find in Him. When we want nothing, we find nothing. When we want little, we find little. When we want much, we find much. But when we want everything, we get reduced to complete nakedness and beggary, we find in Christ God's complete treasure house, out of which come gold and jewels to enrich us, and garments to clothe us in the richness and righteousness of the Lord.—Sears

Borrowing trouble is a most foolish piece of business; for if a man will only wait awhile he will have trouble of his own that he would like to give away.

When you help a fellow traveler up the mountainside, you get nearer the top yourself.

If a person truly calls upon the Lord it is evident they are already a child of God. They do not call upon Him in order to become children, but the fact that they call upon Him shows they are already children.—Elder Ralph Harris
(All the above "Advocate and Messenger", May 1994)

INFANT SALVATION

Elder Jim Turner, Jr. (Deceased)

When I was just a small boy growing up around some of the old servants of God, I would hear them discuss in conversation about some of the enemies of the truth accusing them of preaching infants in hell “not a span long” because of their preaching the doctrines of election and predestination. They emphatically denied such charges. I have even been accused in recent years of advocating the doctrine of infantile purity. This is an Arminian phrase and is not found in the Bible. I vigorously deny preaching any such heresy. I believe we are all born with the sinful nature inherited from our federal head, Adam. The Bible plainly states that when sin is finished, it brings forth death. Many babies die, some are stillborn, and many are murdered while yet in their mothers’ wombs. They have not lived long enough to practice sin, but they have the inherent sinful nature, and it brings forth death. If they were pure, as some say, then they would never die in infancy. . . .

One of the most vivid descriptions of the eternally wicked that we have in the Bible is found in the 21st chapter of Job. Beginning with verse seven, Job asks the question, “Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power?” If we had no other Scripture on the subject, this one, in my opinion, would be enough to prove that the eternally wicked do not die in infancy. The wicked live, they become old, they are mighty in power. Can you fit an infant, or even a young child, into this description? But there is more. Verse eight: “Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes.” I believe Job is telling us that they do not have the worries in this life that God’s people many times endure. I was asked the question a number of years ago: “How do you know that Job was talking about the eternally wicked? Could not this be referring to God’s people who have not yet been born again?” Look carefully at verse nine: “Their houses are safe from fear, neither is the rod of God upon them.” In Hebrews 12:6 we find, “For whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.” The class that Job is describing are free from the chastening rod of God. This class of people is described as bastards, and not sons, meaning without a Heavenly Father. . . .

Now we turn to another Scripture in the Old Testament which we believe will prove the doctrine of infant salvation. In Chapter 12 of Second Samuel, we find the account of the birth of David’s son as a result of his adulterous affair with Bathsheba. In verse 15, we find that God struck the child and it was very sick. No doubt, some of the enemies of the truth would ask, “What kind of God would do such a thing?” In the first place, God was about to take this child home to Heaven to be with Him forever. Secondly, few

people recognize that we are all His creation, and if He smote us all with death this very moment, He would still be a just, merciful and sovereign God.

After David had fasted and prayed for his child for seven days, the child died and the servants feared to tell David. However, when he perceived that the child was dead, he washed and anointed himself, changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord and worshipped. He then required that food be set before him. His servants did not understand this, but David explains it in verses 22 and 23: “And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” David did not have a special insight into the Lamb’s book of life, yet he comforted himself with the thought that he would someday go to join his little son. Only the Triune God has access to the Lamb’s book of life. It would have been no comfort to David to think that he would follow his little one only to the grave; therefore he must have been looking forward to the time when he would rejoin his little one in the very presence of God. Another thought comes to mind at this point. No name is given in the Scriptures to this little baby who lived only seven days. I believe that is an indication that every little one that dies is embraced in that same hope that David had for his little one. *From The Christian Pathway, submitted by Elder Mark Green.*

(From “*Primitive Baptist Anthology*” Third edition—
edited by Elder Harold Hunt)

BOTH A CHILD AND A MAN

Naturally speaking we do not remain a child but grow up from having ingested first milk and then more solid food. Spiritually speaking there are some things that we should remain children but in others it should not be. Paul wrote, “Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.” (I Cor. 14:20) These people were resembling children concerning the gift of tongues whereas they needed to be men and understand that there was confusion present. When it comes to malice, however, we should be like a child who seldom harbor malice against their playmates but quickly forget and are back playing with some whom they had been angry. We are to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and not remain babes in Christ. (II Pet. 3:18) We read of those who should have been teachers but really they needed to be taught again the first principles of the oracles of God. They were unskillful in the word of righteousness and thus a babe. (Heb. 5:12-14) But we are also to humble ourselves as a little child to enter the kingdom. Which are you—child or man?—*Editor*

BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

2 Pe 1:5 — 2 Pe 1:7: “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

So many of our church brethren have shared with me about their experience of grace. When they saw that salvation was by the grace of God. That it was not by their works. But by Christ’s shed blood for them. They felt such a feeling of gratitude for what God had done for them. I bet that you feel the same way about our loving God. So how do we show our gratitude? By living a godly life in service to him. Our above scriptures tell us how that we can do that. So I ask that you consider these definitions that Peter gives us in our texts.

Our first word that we begin with is faith. Where does faith come from? Are we born with it naturally? No we are not. So how did we come to have faith? We received it when we were born of the Spirit. Only those born of the Spirit have the ability to have faith in God. Notice in our text that Peter doesn’t say “add faith” but rather he says add to your faith.

Our next word is virtue. Virtue means a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action. Thought is something that we feel in our heart toward God. Feeling is something that motivates us to serve God. Action is what we take beyond our thoughts and feeling and put it into action. The actions are in service to God. Knowledge means knowing. The more you serve God the more knowledge that you learn about God. We strive to know God better by serving him. Knowledge is the science of God. Temperance means self control. We need to govern ourselves against the temptations of the flesh. We have two natures in us. One is from God, the other is the flesh. The flesh wants the things of this evil world. To serve God we need to control the desires of the flesh and bring forth the inner man that God gave us at regeneration. Patience means steadfastness, endurance and patient continuance. No matter what may happen we continue to serve God. Waiting patiently on God to help us, to answer our prayers. This all takes patience. The more we do the stronger God will make our patience. Godliness means

reverence, respect and piety. The word reverence is always in reference to God. The word Reverend should not be a title for men; that belongs only to God. That is why we use the word Elder for gospel ministers. When people have their eyes open to the truth of salvation by grace, they learn a respect for God that the world knows nothing about. Our deeds and tongue should show our respect that we feel for God. Piety which is another word for godliness is a goal we all should endeavor to attain here on earth. I love the story that I was once told by a dear sweet brother, who was asked if he was a “Christian”. His reply was “maybe that is something you ought to ask my neighbor or those that know me. They can give you the best answer to that question!” It is better to show that you love God, than it is to just talk about it. Brotherly kindness means love of the brethren, fraternal kindness or brotherly love. To be kind to your fellow man is such a wonderful thing to have. Kindness comes easy for some, for others it is not so easy, and we have to work at it. Kindness is truly something that glorifies God here in this evil world that we live in. Pray that God will give us the gift of kindness. Our Lord was kind while here on earth. He remained kind even when men hated him for who he was. Through his kindness we have a home waiting for us in heaven. Charity means love in action. Our respect and love for God should be shown through action of good deeds to God. Love is charity in action. It was love in action when Christ came as flesh and blood and gave his life upon the cross. It was love in action when the Spirit turned your heart from stone to a heart yearning for the living God. May God bless and keep you.

R.L.Taylor

ELECTION SURE TO WHO?

In Elder Taylor’s article above about building on faith, Peter also says to give all diligence to do this. If we don’t add these things to our faith, Peter says we are blind, cannot see afar off and have forgotten we have been purged from our old sins. Then Peter says to give diligence “to make your calling and election sure.” (II Pet. 1:10) God’s people are chosen (elected) in Christ before the world began. (Eph.1:4) They are called from death to life with a holy calling by the Spirit. (II Tim.1:9) This election and calling cannot be surer to God than it has been from eternity. Since we cannot make it more sure to God, it must mean that we can make it sure to ourselves and those who know us by the life we lead bringing forth fruit unto the glory of God.—*Editor*

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