

Glad Tidings

December

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

2019

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

Where would we be without our Saviour, Jesus Christ? We would still be unsaved from our sins and hell bound. We could not do anything good because Jesus said, "...without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5) We would be without the gospel because there would be no good news to declare. We would be void of the church because Jesus was the Rock upon which the church was built. However, thanks be to God that we do have the miraculous conception, birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Miraculous Conception: Every human being brought into this world is conceived by some kind of union between a man and woman. Sin is transmitted through the man to their offspring. David himself said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5) Jesus, however, was not conceived in sin as he would have been had it been because of union of Joseph and Mary. The angel told Joseph, "...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 1:20) She would bring forth a son which would be called Jesus for He would save His people from their sins. He could not accomplish this mission without being sinless. He was the clean thing that came out of an unclean (Mary) thing.

Miraculous Birth: Millions of men have been born since the first birth of Cain and they have all been born of sinful parents; therefore, they had to be sinners. Although Jesus was born of a sinful, unclean woman, this woman was a virgin who had never known man in a carnal way. This miraculous birth had been prophesied hundreds of years before it actually happened. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isa. 7:14) Matthew tells us that this Immanuel is to be interpreted "God with us." (Matt. 1:23) Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. Paul tells us about this miraculous birth and the purpose for which it was intended: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4-5) Jesus was a child born and a son given and His name was to be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. (Isa. 9:6)

Miraculous Death: Every individual's death is a result of sin; there's nothing miraculous about that except that the Spirit returns to God for the child of God. Man is without any power in the day of death as the scripture declares, "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death..." (Eccl. 8:8) The enemies of Jesus had attempted to seize Him and kill Him more than once, but He slipped right through their midst because "His hour was not yet come." Jesus had all power in heaven and earth and had power over His own death. Jesus said concerning His life and death, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10:18) Jesus died before the normal time it took a man to die under crucifixion. When Joseph of Arimathaea came and begged the body of Jesus, we read, "And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead." (Matt. 15:44) Every man's death is a result of sin; Jesus' death was a result of sin, not His but the sins of His people which were laid on Him and thus He died.

Miraculous Resurrection: There had been other people resurrected from death in the Bible, but all these lived only to die again. Not only was this true, but it was another power exerted upon them to restore natural life. Jesus had power, not only over His death, but over the grave. He was always the Son of God; however, His resurrection declared Him to be the Son of God. "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:" Rom. 1:3-4) Jesus was never to die again because what He did never had to be repeated, contrary to Old Testament practice for sin atonement. "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God." (Rom. 6:9-10)

Miraculous Return: Jesus' return from heaven will be just as miraculous as his conception, birth, death and resurrection. His home going was visible and in His return the Bible says, "...every eye shall see Him..." (Rev. 1:7) Praise God! (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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JESUS CHRIST WAS A MINISTER

By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi

I often read in history of Primitive Baptists Ministers' lives which consisted of many hardships, trials, and tribulations they faced. It makes me ashamed of myself in many ways. Of all the ministers that we have a history, the apostles, even the prophets of old, there is one that stands out as the greatest among men. This man was also a minister. Of all the ministers down through the pages of time there has never been nor ever will be a minister liken unto this man. He was/is the Son of God and the Son of man. His name is Jesus Christ, The Son of The Living God. Paul gives us an exhortation found in Romans 15:8, "*Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:*" Paul taught that Jesus was a minister of the Jews and that was for the truth of God. John said, in 1:10-11, "*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*" According to man's reasoning, the Jews should have been the happiest people in the world; to have Jesus as their minister. But they received not the minister that God sent into the world. This shows the depravity of man. Much could be said along this line of thinking.

When Paul stated "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers;" And if that was all that was said, then we Gentiles would be of all people most miserable. Christ did confirm the

promises made unto the fathers. Those fathers were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The promises were not only to the fathers of the Jews but to a people that were alienated from God. Eph. 2:11-12, "*Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*" Once again what if Paul had stopped writing at the end of verse 12? Ah, but dear children, Paul wrote more. Paul wrote in verse 13, "*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*" Read the rest of Eph. Chapter 2, to see the promises fulfilled and how we as Gentiles were brought in and included in the promises of God. Paul said that we were made nigh. He did not say that we are to make ourselves nigh, but teaches us that we were made nigh by the BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Oh, what a message for God's dear children. We have been made nigh unto God. The word "*nigh*" has the meaning; "*of place and position.*" Where is our place today? Where is our position? We are at the right hand of the Lord; we are the sheep of his pasture. Jews and Gentiles are as one in Christ Jesus. What a great message manifested by the greatest minister of all, Jesus Christ, which message of olden times was fulfilled when Jesus took upon Himself flesh and was made in the likeness of men, (without sin) died on the cross, planted in the tomb, but was raised again on the third day which declared that we were made just in the eyes of the Heavenly Father. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

In Romans 15:9-12 teaches more about Jesus Christ who was a minister. Paul said "*And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.*"

I am glad that Paul spoke of the promises made unto the fathers, but also he did not stop teaching that Jesus was just a minister to them, but also to the Gentiles. Read all of Matthew 20th chapter. Jesus said in 20:20-22 "*Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask...*" Jesus addressed this woman concerning her request and summed it up with the words in verse 23 "...but

to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.” Jesus taught her in verse 26 “But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Paul teaches us in his letter to the Philippians 2:5-8, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* I read in history of those that willingly gave their lives to stand for the truth and not deny the Lord Jesus Christ. I wonder sometime if I were put to the test would I stand. I would hope so.

I close with verse 13 (Rom. 15) as Paul states these words: *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* May we be joyful and lay down in peace along life’s way because of our Minister, Jesus Christ.

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

THINGS SAID TO MINISTER AFTER SERVICE

Parishioners hard pressed for something to say to the clergy after the service have, according to one minister’s friend, said to him, “You always manage to find something to fill up the time.” “I don’t care what they say, I like your sermons.” “If I’d known you were going to be good today I’d have brought a neighbor.” “Did you know there are 243 panes of glass in the windows?” “We shouldn’t make you preach so often.”

Arthur Myers in Berkshire Sampler.

IT’S WHAT THE MINISTER SAYS NOT HOW LONG IT TAKES TO SAY IT

Long-winded speakers exhaust their listeners long before they exhaust their subjects. Recognizing this danger, one speaker began his talk this way: “I understand that it’s my job to talk to you. Your job is to listen. If you quit before I do, I hope you’ll let me know.”

Bits & Pieces, May 28, 1992, p. 13.

I certainly respect other people’s opinions, but I would not vote for a woman to be the pastor of a church.—Charles Stanley (I agree—Editor)

DEPARTURES

By Elder Jim Turner, Jr. (Deceased)

The dictionary defines depart or departure: “go away; die; diverge; stray from.”

Paul in his first letter to Timothy says, 1st Timothy 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” In the above two verses, Paul says much about departures which we have seen introduced among the Lord’s people down through the generations. It is no great surprise when one of the religious orders of the world takes hold of one of these departures. What hurts and causes much distress is when one or more of the membership of the Primitive Baptists begins to believe and advocate one of these departures. One of the most disturbing of these departures is the idea that is being advocated, that all the elect of God will eventually hear and obey the gospel. Nothing could be further from the truth. The mainstream Primitive Baptists have always believed and taught that God reaches His elect by His Holy Spirit, even in the far distant heathen lands of this earth. I well remember when I was a youngster growing up on the farm, when we were not having services at our home church, I would attend services with my buddies at a little country church of another faith. The Sunday school teacher was a WWII veteran of the Seabees (the engineering branch of the Navy). He would tell us stories about the natives of the South Pacific who were so unlearned that they did not know their name or how old they were. Yet they had a beautiful altar where they went and worshipped on a regular basis. I have often wished that I could be in that Sunday school class again. I could now tell them that God had given those natives a heart to know Him. See Jeremiah 24:7. No doubt, those natives of the South Pacific had never heard a gospel sermon, yet because God elected them and by His Holy Spirit, touched and tendered their hearts, they will enjoy Heaven and all its glory.

When we hear a once sound preacher begin advocating one of these departures, we cannot help but wonder why they are no longer satisfied with the goodness of the Lord’s house. Whether it be a strange doctrine or a foreign practice, it is a departure. Solomon called these departures “little foxes that spoil the vine, for our vines have tender grapes.” A little fox is a cute little creature, but he is still a fox. Give him half a chance, and he will steal your chickens. Corner him and he will bite you. The vine, of which Solomon speaks, is no doubt, prophecy of the coming of the New Testament church. The tender grapes I believe are the babes in Christ who are the most easily influenced by those

seemingly harmless departures, (little foxes), The spoiling of the vine must be having reference to the corrupting of a local church by the introduction of false doctrines and practices.

Christ and the Apostles gave us the order of worship, preaching, praying, singing, the communion service and the feet washing service. I believe if all who profess to be Primitive Baptists, would be satisfied with the example Jesus and the Apostles left on record for us, and the preachers would be content to preach Christ and Him crucified, we would see great peace reign among our people.

(From *"The GOOD NEWS Newsletter"*, June, 2007)

LUKE VII. 28

September 5, 1935

In 1928 Brother J. E. Willis, Saultillo, Tenn., requested our views on this text. It reads, "For I say unto you. Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." There was no greater prophet than John. But he was not in the church. He made ready a people the Lord had prepared. He made them ready for the organization of the Lord's kingdom, or church, by baptizing them. Jesus took the material John baptized—such of them as He pleased—and organized His kingdom. Jesus was baptized by John. Hence Jesus Himself was a member of that church or kingdom; and He was greater than John the Baptist. John said, "He must increase; but I must decrease." Jesus placed Himself as servant—as least—in the kingdom; and He was greater than John, C. H. C. (From *"Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist"*, by Elder C. H. Cayce, Volume 6)

BIRTH OF JESUS

On a plaque marking Abraham Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky, is recorded this scrap of conversation: "Any news down 't the village, Ezry?" "Well, Squire McLain's gone t' Washington t' see Madison swore in, and ol' Spellman tells me this Bonaparte fella has captured most o' Spain. What's new out here, neighbor?" "Nuthin' nuthin' a'tall, 'cept fer a new baby born t' Tom Lincoln's. Nothin' ever happens out here." Some events, whether birthdays in Hodgenville (or Bethlehem) or spiritual rebirth in a person's life, may not create much earthly splash, but those of lasting importance will eventually get the notice they deserve.

--Source Unknown

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

ACTS 26:7-8

By Elder C. M. Mills (Deceased)

The Apostle Paul, in pleading his case before King Agrippa, referring to the sacred promise of God: "Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" The promise of redemption, and deliverance from death and the grave, was in Christ Jesus, whom God promised to send into the world! This was according to the eternal purpose, which God the Father, promised in Christ Jesus our Lord! Hosea 13:14, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes." The Spirit of Prophecy is the Spirit of Christ. When he said, "Repentance shall be hid from mine eyes," That means, Christ Jesus will not turn away, forsake and leave undone, that which He said "I will do!" He gave His life a ransom for many when He offered Himself up to suffer the wrath due His people, and by coming forth alive from death and the grave, He broke the chains of death! He said, "I **will** redeem them from death!

Not only coming forth alive Himself, but redeeming them (His people) from death. Paul asked the question, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" God did that very thing, when He raised Himself from death and the grave. Paul told the Church at Corinth, 1st Cor. 15:3 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep."

The Scriptures, which came by holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; prophesied of this very fact! It is in harmony and according to the Scriptures that Christ should die and be raised again the third day, from death and the grave! Bible readers, who pay any attention to what they read **would not** deny that Jesus Christ was crucified, and that He was buried, and on the third morning was **raised alive** from **death** and the **grave!** Jesus said Himself (Rev. 1:18): "I am He that **liveth, and was dead**; and, behold, I am **alive for evermore, Amen**; and have the keys of hell and of death!" Jesus Christ is Lord and Master and is reigning over death and the grave, even has the keys of hell! He is Lord of lord, and King of kings! Jesus Christ has been raised from death and the grave, and

this is not called in question or disputed by His Church today! And, as sure as He has been raised from death and the grave, this proves, without question, that all His ransomed and redeemed **will be raised in His likeness and image!**

I Cor. 15: 49-58: "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **then (not before)** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, (because of this) my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

If the bodies of God's children are not raised up from death and the grave, and fashioned like the body of Jesus Christ, all the Christian service and labour of love toward God and His people in the Church, and on the outside of the Church, are all in **vain**, and we are yet in our sins and will never see God; because there is not another delivered promised! It is Jesus Christ or nothing! If He has not been raised out of death and the grave, we have no living Saviour to deliver us from death and the grave! It is not **vain** to rejoice in the hope of the resurrection of the dead! "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?"

In love and hope,

C. M. Mills

--Copied from **The Primitive Baptist**, May 21, 1959
(From "*Identity of the True Baptist Church*", Vol. II
By Elder Wiley W. Sammons)

DEATH

When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death, so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home.

--Tecumseh

GIFTS AND GIVING

By Elder Jerry McMinn
Linden, Tennessee

Christmas is a season that leaves me in a state of religious confusion. The Bible does not tell us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Instead, we are told to celebrate his death. This is done by observing the Communion Service. Millions have never seen nor been in a communion service, but wouldn't miss out on Christmas if they had to crawl for miles on their hands and knees. However, you will search in vain to find any scriptures teaching Jesus' disciples to give expensive gifts to one another so that Jesus may be honored.

Since I was a small child, I have heard people ask hundreds of times, "What are you going to get for Christmas?" Indeed, I often find myself wondering just what I am going to get! TV commercials, newspaper ads, and signs displayed in stores everywhere are doing their best to raise my level of expectation. Will someone give me one of those fancy gadgets?

To make sure that gifts are given, a guilt trip is carefully laid upon each of us by these advertisers. We are made to wonder how we can possibly show our love for one another if we don't put lots of bright packages under the tree. Families, friends, and business associates will strain or break their budgets to buy many things of doubtful value to demonstrate the spirit of Christmas.

The business world, the news media, and many who never give a thought to Jesus Christ the rest of the year wrap themselves in a gaudy layer of religious tinsel during the holiday season. They prayerfully and religiously want you and me to spend every possible dime and dollar during Christmas. Furthermore, they will be very upset and consider you a heretic if you don't show your "Christmas spirit" at the cash register.

God showed His love for us with a most personal gift, His son Jesus. The Lord Jesus showed His love for us by giving His life for us. Jesus also taught us to do likewise. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

When you next make a gift list, do as Jesus did. Give of YOURSELVES! There are people around you every day who genuinely need your love. It might be your companion, your parents, other kinfolks, your neighbors, or your friends.

Although you may give each of these a gift in a package, the best wrapping for it will be your loving interest in them. To give your love—give your time, your concern, your prayers, your smiles, your tears, or whatever attention is needed by the other. This is how love is given.

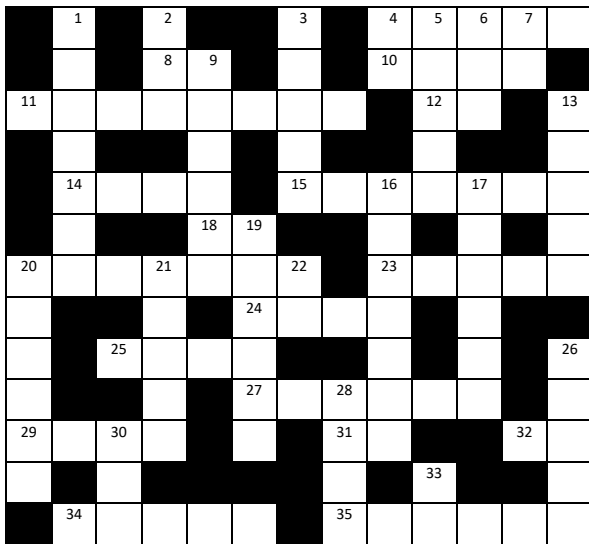
Elder Jerry McMinn

(From "*The Southern Sentinel*", December 17, 1992)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 4. Behold, to ____ is better than sacrifice. Plural.
- 8. God told Adam I will make ____ help meet for him.
- 10. The ____ of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- 11. God made a wind and the waters ____ after the flood that drowned all but Noah and his family.
- 12. Cain, if thou doest not well sin lieth ____ the door.
- 14. Man struck dead by God as he put forth his hand to steady the ark of the covenant on a cart.
- 15. ____ this temple and I will raise it in three days.
- 18. Judgment must begin ____ the house of God.
- 20. Jesus ____ obedience by the things he suffered.
- 23. God confounded languages at the tower of ____.
- 24. Ruth followed Naomi from the land of ____.
- 25. Instrument David played to soothe Saul's spirit.
- 27. David wrote a ____ to Joab to send Uriah in the heat of battle to be killed.
- 29. Utter by the tongue words ____ to be understood.
- 31. ____ that I had wings like a dove, I would fly away and be at rest.
- 32. ____ many as I love I rebuke and chasten.



(Answers on Page 8)

- 34. Samson is bound between two pillars that he may make ____ for his captors.
- 35. Easier for a camel to go through the eye of a ____.

DOWN:

- 1. We are his people and the sheep of his ____.
- 2. The ____ and the prophets were until John.
- 3. Cast your ____ upon the waters; find it much later.
- 4. Jesus is the bread ____ life. Preposition.
- 5. The ____ and false prophet are cast into lake of fire.
- 6. Mephibosheth was able to ____ at the king's table.
- 7. Abbreviation for year.
- 9. The Syrian leper who was cured in Jordan River.
- 13. Ye are a chosen generation, a ____ priesthood.
- 16. Remember the ____ day and keep it holy.
- 17. Barabbas was a murderer and a ____ Thief.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

- 19. Our bodies are the ____ of the Holy Ghost.
- 20. The Spirit said that in the ____ times some would depart from the faith.
- 21. John made ____ a people prepared by the Lord.
- 22. Whatsoever he saith unto you ____ it.
- 26. And Obed begat ____ and ____ begat David.
- 28. Israel was not to eat any flesh ____ with beasts.
- 30. Jesus gave the ____ to the one that betrayed him.
- 33. ____ ye perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Elder Wise,

I am enclosing a small donation to your good paper which I enjoy reading in my room here at the "Assisted Living. Here is an item for the "Out of the Mouth of Babes".

When my 3 children were small, I tried to sing songs to them including some hymns. Then, once my little 3 or 4 year old girl was sitting in her rocking chair, she was singing "Amazing Grace that saved a wretch like Mama." (She thought that I meant me when I sang the words to her.) But I really felt like one (a wretch) trying to raise those 3 little ones.

Later, I must not have been a bad wretch (or should I give credit to my gracious Lord)—those 3 children are all married to good mates and have very good lives and all three are members of the Primitive Baptist Church!

Doris Smith
Milan, TN

CHRIST

John Newton was a rough, dirty sailor with a foul mouth and an appetite for rotten living. He hated life and life hated him. He was captain of a slave ship. Then someone placed in his hands a copy of Thomas a Kempis' The Imitation of Christ. He also had the gift of a good mother who told him about the Savior when he was young. And then he was saved. He went all over England sharing his faith. Well past his "retirement" age, he had to have an assistant stand in the pulpit with him on Sundays. He was nearly blind and spoke in whispers, but nothing could keep him from preaching while he still had breath.

One Sunday, while delivering his message he repeated the sentence: "Jesus Christ is precious." His helper whispered to him: "But you have already said that twice." Newton turned to his helper and said loudly, "Yes, I've said it twice, and I'm going to say it again." The stones in the ancient sanctuary fairly shook as the grand old preacher said again: "Jesus Christ is precious!"

--Source Unknown

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas singing at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS the 2nd Sunday night in December, 2019 (Dec. 8) with singing beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by supper. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany. Come and enjoy singing of praise to our great God and Savior and also food and fellowship. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9:6)

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have their Christmas Singing on 1st Sunday night in December, 2019 (Dec. 1) beginning at 5:30 p.m. and followed by supper. New Prospect is currently without a Pastor.

The 5th Sunday night in December, 2019 (Dec. 29) Fellowship meeting will be hosted by Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. What better way to spend an evening as the year begins to draw to a close than to worship our great God and Savior. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches. Everyone is invited.

Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS will host their annual Christmas singing 3rd Sunday night in Dec. 2019 (Dec. 15) with singing at 5:30 p.m. followed by supper. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Elder Jerry Wise, Pontotoc, MS will be with Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2019 (Dec. 29) with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elder Larry Wise will be with Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2019 (Dec. 29) with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Tremont, MS enjoyed a blessed meeting Oct. 18-19 with singing, preaching, praying, food and fellowship. Ministers attending on Saturday, Oct. 19 were Elders Mike Ivey, Joe Nettles, Larry Wise, Bobby Howell, Cris Hollingsworth, Bobby Payne, Charles Kitchens, Kenneth Watts, Jerry Wise, James Hall, Calvin Warren. James Creek is currently without a Pastor.

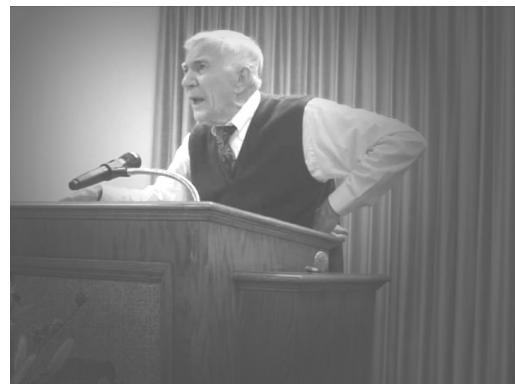
"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jer. 3:15)

CHURCH NEWS

Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS will be with Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Peppertown, MS the 5th Sunday in December, 2019 (Dec.29) with services at 10:30 a.m. Elder Neal Honea is Pastor of Pleasant Hill.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Sonny Pyles, Graham, TX entered into heaven on Sunday Nov. 3, 2019 at about 11:00 a.m. at about regular preaching time after a short battle with cancer. He was 80. He was a spiritual giant among the Primitive Baptists and will be greatly missed. Pray for his wife Sarah, daughter Lynne Bruce and sons Elder David Pyles and Danny Pyles.



Mt. Hermon Primitive Baptist Church, Vardaman, MS enjoyed a good Spirit-filled meeting Oct. 25-26 with singing, praying, food, fellowship and preaching by Elders Rusty wise, Jerry Wise, Bobby Howell, James Hall, Larry Wise and Calvin Warren on Sunday. Saturday morning services was attended also by a severe storm with heavy rain and high winds but there was peace in the midst of the storm



Elder Bobby Howell

as Elder Howell preached about the gifts of God. Picture was from another pulpit other than Mt. Hermon. Surely peace and safety is a gift from Almighty God.

CHURCH NEWS

The annual meetings of churches are winding down during the winter months but hopefully we all look forward to our regular Sunday meetings to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. The same also applies for those who worship on Sunday night or maybe on a Wednesday night. The church, I believe, is really a small taste of heaven on earth; heaven being wherever Jesus reigns. On earth He reigns in the midst of sinners but in eternal heaven He reigns where no sin exists; consequently, there is no sorrow, pain, tears, heartache or death. This is the great inheritance that awaits the saints on the right hand of the majesty on high.—*Editor*

WHERE IS THE DEVIL?

Some people wonder whether Primitive Baptists believe in devils? Yes, we believe in devils. I have a little poem about devils; maybe you need to remember it:

That the devil is, there can be no doubt,
But is he trying to get in or trying to get out?

I've had two or three times in my broad experience, being acquainted with hundreds of churches, there was some church I visited in the past; I mean it was dead and dry, and you didn't feel any spark of the Spirit if you went there. You know one reason you didn't feel a spark of the Spirit? It would have been a fire Hazard. If there had been a spark of the Spirit that church would burn up like a torch. Then I would get the report, some good brother would tell me that church had a bust up; the devil got in it and tore it up. Well, I don't know if the devil got in it and tore it up or the devil got tired of it and tore it up on the way out. So the devil is, there can be no doubt, but is he trying to get in or trying to get out?—*From a sermon by Elder Sonny Pyles*

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Pet. 5:8-9)

That there is a devil is a thing doubted by none but such as are under the influence of the Devil.—Cotton Mather

It is wonderful how much time good people spend fighting the devil. If they would only expend the same amount of energy loving their fellow men, the devil would die in his own tracks of ennui.--Helen Keller

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By Sylvester Hassell (Deceased)

Question: Who are the false teachers among the Lord's people, that were to bring in ruinous heresies and pernicious ways which many would follow? (2 Peter 2:1, 2)

Answer: The Apostle Peter says that, as there had been under the Old Testament dispensation, among the people of Israel, false prophets (see 1 Kings 22:11, 12) so there would be, in the New Testament dispensation, among the professed people of God, false teachers (Matt. 24:11; Acts 20:29, 30; Jude 4) who would stealthily bring in, along with some truths, destructive errors, destructive of fundamental principles of the gospel, contradicting even the Lord who they claimed had redeemed them, denying either His divinity or His humanity or His relationship or His messiahship or His atonement or His saving power, and who would bring upon themselves and their followers sudden destruction; and these false teachers are described, in the same chapter, as covetous, presumptuous, vain, corrupts, sensual, and unclean, like dogs and swine. Paul, in Acts 20: 29, 30, describes these same false teachers as grievous wolves, destroying the flock, and speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. The apostles, Paul, Peter, and Jude warn us solemnly and earnestly against all such false and highly injurious teachers.

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, August, 1966)

ANSWERS

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 4. syebo | 1. erutsap |
| 8. na | 2. wal |
| 10. raef | 3. daerb |
| 11. degawssa | 4. fo |
| 12. ta | 5. tsaeb |
| 14. azzu | 6. tae |
| 15. yortsed | 7. ry |
| 18. ta | 9. naaman |
| 20. denrael | 13. layor |
| 23. lebab | 16. htabbas |
| 24. baom | 17. rebbor |
| 25. prah | 19. elpmet |
| 27. rettlet | 20. rettal |
| 29. ysae | 21. ydaer |
| 31. ho | 22. od |
| 32. sa | 26. essej |
| 34. trops | 28. nrot |
| 35. eldeen | 30. pos |
| | 33. eb |

UNLIMITED WORK OF GRACE

By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi

God sees no limitation in working His grace in the hearts of individuals. He does not look at the color of one's eyes, hair, skin, or any other marks and see a limit in His work. Our great God of love can and does manifest His great love to and in those that He chose in Christ before the foundation of the world. His choosing was according to His will and purpose. I am glad that He made choice. God's choosing is His choice.

Must there be two in order to make a choice? IN the minds of men that may seem correct. But that is not so with God. If there is only one object chosen, it is chosen because the one doing the choosing chose. Our sovereign God would be just if the entire race were cast into everlasting hell.

Sometime men say, and I have been guilty, that God chose the elect out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. I cannot find that in the scriptures. I find redemption is spoken of as our being redeemed "...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Read Rev. 5:9-10. Choice of His people was already made. He was not obligated to choose one to be redeemed for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God! I rejoice in the fact that God does not look upon one as men sometime do. God works inside out and man tries to work outside in. Men see the outside of a person and sometime makes judgment that that person, because of a physical condition, could never know or show the love of God like others. Oh, Shame on us for doing such!

My mind has been very heavy on three people that I have been blessed to know that have/had a physical condition known as Downs Syndrome. I will mention their names, as in my mind I can still see their faces. One is still living and recently had a birthday. Her name is Sister Julie Bates whom I have known for many years. She has been a great blessing to me and so were the other two. The other two have deceased, a member of my family Waymon Clark, and my dear friend, Leo Hendrix. As long as I have my right mind I will not forget these three. They were/are blessed with a way of showing the love of God that men of great learning cannot understand.

I read the following verses in Psalm 22:9-11 this morning and I am thankful that there are no colors of skin, eyes, hair or any other physical features that have to be met for God to work. The verses teach, "But thou art he that took me out of the womb; thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breast. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help." Think

about it. God's work of grace was manifested when one was upon his mother's breasts. This is not the work of men but entirely the work of an almighty God. Notice that David said that trouble is near; for there is NONE TO HELP. Oh, how many times has the Lord reached down His mighty hand, yet with a soft touch guard those are helpless? We cannot begin to number such blessings. Much could be said along this line of thinking. The three mentioned with their physical disabilities surely were made to hope in their hearts upon their mother's breast. They each had their own daily goals. Their goals might have been and may still be for Sister Julie only as their thoughts are brought forth in their minds, to accomplish something at this moment.

Below is a short article that was written by Sister Julie's Mother, Sister Fairy Bates, widow of Elder Roy Bates, concerning Sister Julie. Oh, what a merciful God. Sometime we have to search to find the most beautiful rose in a bouquet of roses.

A MOTHER'S REACTION

Yesterday, Julie participated in the Special Olympics. Today my heart is humbled and rejoicing from what I saw.

I watched love in its greatest form. This was truly GIVING, the children who gave their all and workers who gave their all.

As I watched from the bleachers, I observed children performing the almost impossible task of racing with wheel chair, crawling short distances, commanding a body and mind to perform that would not at the same time. There were NO small accomplishments.

I was a part of an atmosphere where there was no squabbling, contention or jealousy. There was a "oneness of all—the joy of belonging". Surely God's Great Spirit touched all there and blessed them. I realized I was not alone. There are many people who really care. For this I am thankful.

As Julie ran the 50 yard dash I shall never forget the joy in her face, nor shall anyone who watched her. Tears of joy shed unashamed as she finished. This was my child. I also felt love and concern for all that were there. Yes, through Julie, God has permitted me to experience something unmeasurable—a special love that one can only feel from this kind of experience.

Yes, she won a gold medal that meant so much, but the real joy was in the performing. Written by Fairy Bates

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", July, 2010)

(Note: This special sister in Christ, Julie Bates, passed away October, 20, 2019 at the age of 61. Her mother, Fairy Bates, is still living but unable to attend church any more.—Editor)

THE TEMPLE IS RAISED

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

John 2:19: "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The Temple in the life of an Israelite was a very important thing. It was on his list of highest achievement to walk into the glorious Temple at Jerusalem. It was there where God met with his children and communed with them. At first he met with them in the Tabernacle in the wilderness as we read in the book of Exodus and Leviticus. Then in the days of Solomon, God blessed them with a Temple at Jerusalem. Israel now had a permanent place in the land of milk and honey to worship their precious Lord. This permanent Temple was what the Pharisees thought that Jesus was speaking about when he said temple in our above verse. It took Solomon and Herod considerable more time to build the respected temples of their time. Stone upon stone takes time to erect. Jesus however was not speaking about a temple of stone, but he was speaking about his body (John 2:21). Jesus Christ came into this world as flesh and blood in a body; God literally in the flesh. If they could take his life, then they were destroying a temple. Jesus would raise it again in three days.

We read what Jesus said about this in John 10:18 "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. This commandment have I received of my Father." Jesus Christ willingly, not by force, laid down his life, and took it back up again. This was the sign he would give them that he was the promised Messiah that Israel was waiting for.

When Jesus said to them "destroy this temple" it was not a command, nor a grant, nor was it an exhortation, but it was a prophesy of what they would do to him. He having the foreknowledge of God was telling them just how it would be. And the scripture tells us that he rose again from the dead after three days. Upon his rising the third day became fulfilled prophesy. Upon his resurrection he appeared with power, no longer putting self limitations upon himself. There are other places in the Bible where the body is mentioned as a temple. For example in 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" and in 2 Corinthians 6:16 "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jesus came in a body, just like his children. Though it looked like a sinful body, yet he was without sin, and in that body he condemned sin (Romans 8:3).

So the temple is raised, and now sits at the right hand of God, always making intercessions for us, as you dear saints send up your sweet prayers unto his Father. He knows you, loves you and awaits the day that you will be with him. Till then let us search His word to find comfort and help in our time of need.

Now our bodies, should the Lord tarry, will someday succumb to death. There is nothing we can do to stop that from coming. We don't have the power that Christ has. However, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead shall also quicken our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). Yes, the same one who said I will and did raise his body (temple) in three days will raise our little tabernacles on that great and wonderful day. And as the song says "what a day that will be!" So we labor not in vain, for we know a better time awaits us.

Elder R L Taylor

HELP WANTED

By Elder Jerry McMinn
Linden, Tennessee

There are many jobs to do around the church. We might first think of such things as raking leaves, painting the building, or washing windows. There are things that need to be done at our MEETING HOUSE; however, to help our CHURCH, we need to be found HELPING ONE ANOTHER. The CHURCH is not the BUILDING we meet in but the PEOPLE who make up the membership.

What work should be done among the membership of your church? Are there people who are sick, lonely, in need, in trouble? What are YOU doing about it? If you don't have any idea whether anyone is in need, you are NOT INVOLVED ENOUGH in the church of your membership!

The scriptures describe the church as a body and states that we are "members one of another." (Romans 12:5) We are also told that "the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it." (1 Corinthians 12:25-26) We should be so well acquainted with one another that if you hurt, it gives me pain also.

WHEN should I help and HOW? "Whatsoever THY hand findeth to do, do it with thy MIGHT..." (Eccl. 9:10) The opportunity to help may come at any time. If the Lord brings the needs of a person to your attention, that person is probably your assigned spiritual work at the present time. That someone represents your opportunity to pray, to visit, to minister, to assist in any way you have the ability.

May God bless us to prove our discipleship to Him by answering the call when we hear that HELP IS WANTED!

(From "Southern Sentinel", August 26, 1993)

IS THERE ANYTHING TO DO?

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

There is an old accusation hurled at Primitive Baptists that they believe in sitting on the stool of “do nothing.” While it is true that we can “do nothing” to cause the Lord to save us for heaven’s pure world since we are dead in trespasses and sins, it doesn’t follow that we are to “do nothing” after being delivered from our death state in sin. The dead cannot do anything; it is only the living that can do something, whether it is natural or spiritual. Isaiah said, “For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day...” (Isa. 38:18-19). We cannot do anything to extract ourselves from the grave (the earthly grave or grave of death in sin); only the life-giving voice of the Son of God can accomplish this resurrection.

Once life has been instilled, activity can ensue, whether it is natural or spiritual. The Sovereign Grace of God doesn’t lead us to sit on the stool of “do nothing.” It leads us into active obedience and work in the vineyard of the Lord while we sojourn here below. Once we have stood still and witnessed the salvation of the Lord, it is time to move forward, rather than “do nothing.” Primitive Baptists have never taught this, but they may have given that impression by giving emphasis (and rightly so) that we can “do nothing” to save ourselves for heaven. This is God’s work and His alone! Some Primitive Baptists may have sat on the stool of “do nothing”, but is not because it is taught or preached by their ministers.

Jesus spoke a parable to those that thought the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He spoke of a nobleman who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and return. “And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13). The ten servants were told to “occupy” until the nobleman returned. The word “occupy” means to trade or remain busy. We do not know when our Lord will come the second time to take His ransomed bride home; however, we are to busy ourselves (occupy) until He does. The Lord could come at any time. Peter tells of a day when the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Peter talks about looking and hasting unto this coming day of God. (II Pet. 3:12)

What should be our response to this unknown coming day of God? Peter tells us, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,” (II Pet. 3:11). If we are going to be this kind of person in holy conversation (behavior) and

godliness, we can’t remain on the stool of “do nothing.” Peter goes on to finish out this third chapter by exhorting the saints to not be led away with the error of the wicked and thus fall from their steadfastness, This is Peter’s exhortation: “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (II Pet. 3:18).

Those pounds that were given to the ten servants were to be used; likewise, we are to use what God has given us to honor Him in our daily walk. This necessitates that we be vigilant in working in the kingdom of God here below. Solomon went by the field of the slothful and considered it well as the vines and nettles had it covered. What was his conclusion as he made this observation? “Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” (Prov. 24:33-34). When we fold our hands and just hope the Lord will come soon and take us home, we fail to “occupy” as instructed and are in danger of our adversary, the devil, robbing us of the joy of our salvation. Many of the saints are busy enough and occupying, but they are busy occupying the wrong place. Their hands are active in the world but idle in the Lord’s vineyard. What a tragedy! Some people haven’t got anything better to do than to occupy the streets and freeways to protest something with which they disagree.

It appears that all forms of civility to any respected office have become a thing of the past. Paul did call Ananias, the high priest, a whited wall and said God would smite him. However, he did so not knowing that he was the high priest because he knew the scripture forbade him to speak evil of the ruler of the people. (Acts 23:3-5). He would charge Timothy to pray for all those in authority. When we have done or are doing our duty as commanded, we are occupying as commanded.

The second coming of the Lord isn’t anything to scare anyone into doing what God commands. Rather, it is a great motivation for godly living to honor Him for loving us enough to send His only begotten Son into the world to suffer as the just for the unjust. Jesus was always about His Father’s business while on earth; He did what we could never do and that is save us from our sins. We in like manner are to about our Father’s business by diligently “occupying” our place in the kingdom, in the church, until the last heir of promise has been quickened into divine life. Then it will be time for the Lord to return from heaven and finally claim His bride.

God be with you until, by God’s grace, we meet again in the next Glad Tidings which will begin in a new year which we pray to be full of God’s blessings.