

# Glad Tidings

October

2020

*“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*

*1 Corinthians 15:19.*

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords and as God dwelleth in the light that no man can approach unto. As the King, He must have a kingdom that He governs and rules. There is an eternal kingdom that was appointed to Jesus and all the elect will enjoy the blessings of the kingdom in heaven some glorious day. They will inherit that kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. (Matt. 25:34) The elect are translated into that kingdom by the sovereign power of God. “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” (Col. 1:13)

Then there is the kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven that Christ rules over that exists here on earth and the residents of this kingdom enter in by faith. Jesus said He appointed to the apostles a kingdom as His Father had appointed unto Him a kingdom. (Luke 22:29) Whereas the occupants of the eternal kingdom are there by passively being translated, the occupants of the visible kingdom of God must constantly strive to enter in. The Bible tells us, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.” (Luke 16:16)

This kingdom is royalty, a realm and a rule and is governed by the King. Anyone that enters this kingdom presses into it which indicates force and effort. This is a spiritual kingdom that doesn't comprise any earthly commodities other than the earthen vessels of born again saints. Paul writes, “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Rom. 14:17) Once the child of God has experienced this righteousness, peace and joy, in the kingdom, they should desire more of the same.

If the children of God are going to fulfill this desire, they must continually press into the royal rule and presence of the Lord. A part of this enjoyment is assembling with the saints of God to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Hebrews 10:25 says, “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.” Just as the Lord promised to meet and commune with Israel from above the mercy seat between the cherubims, He has promised to be in the midst of two or three who are gathered in His name.

The land of Canaan was promised to the Israelites but they had to go in and possess what belonged to them. Ten spies brought back an evil report of the land stating it could not be taken because of its giants and walled cities but another spy had a different testimony. “And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” (Numb. 13:30) Caleb urged everyone to go up at once and “possess” the land. This land was a type of the kingdom of God on earth which can only be entered and enjoyed by an exercise of faith.

There are many obstacles the world offers that often prevent someone from entering and pressing into the kingdom but they are able to be overcome by faith. John writes, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4) Caleb told the people they were well able to overcome the giants and walled cities because the Lord would be with them. Those that failed to enter into the land of Canaan all failed because of a lack of faith (unbelief) in the promise of God.

The scribes and Pharisees had no interest in the kingdom of God but they were an obstacle for anyone else who might desire to enter. Jesus said, “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” (Matt. 23:13) Thank God that man cannot shut up the eternal kingdom of God against men to enter but they can be an obstacle to pressing into the kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus tells a parable of a certain nobleman that went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. The nobleman called his ten servants and delivered them ten pounds and instructed them to “...Occupy till I come.” (Luke 19:13) The word “occupy” means to busy ones self and to trade. There isn't any time to remain idle in the kingdom of God because Paul said he was reaching into those things before him as he pressed toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. When the children of God think they have gone as far as they can and their strength is almost gone, keep pressing on and be able to say with the apostle Paul that they have fought a good fight and have kept the faith. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS  
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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**HE WHO OWNS THE VINEYARD**



By Elder Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

**"Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country;" (Mt. 21:33)**

Many times our precious Lord taught in parables, as in this particular one. While this is a teaching on how the Lord would take the kingdom of heaven away from national Israel, I believe in this parable we find some principles which shows the blessing we can find today.

The kingdom of heaven under consideration is not that eternal kingdom that all of God's children will go to some day, but rather this kingdom is an earthly, timely one. It is that kingdom our master has given to us to enjoy while we are here on earth. A kingdom that is not a literal certain place, but one that we feel from the heart. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in

the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 14:17). Peace and joy is something that you feel in the very depths of your hearts; that is why we say that it is a kingdom that we feel.

The word "householder" means a land owner. In other words this man owns the land; he can do with it as he pleases, because it is his. So in this particular parable the land owner chooses to use it for a vineyard, a place where fruit is to be found in due season. The owner after he has prepared a wine press, and built a tower, lets it out to husbandmen. The word husbandmen means in our English language today "tenant farmer." These were people that would work on the householder's land and would assist him in bringing the crop to harvest. They agreed to faithfully keep up their end of the deal, so that all involved from landowner to themselves, would reap a harvest in due season. I feel that the householder or landowner in this parable is our Lord, the creator and owner of the heavens and earth, who can do with them whatever he pleases. He also owns the kingdoms that are mention in the Scriptures, whether it is a timely or eternal one, my Friends, he owns them all. It is he that opens the gates to all of them. It is he that allows a portion of his children to work in his spiritual vineyard. He also owns you and me, my beloved. It is indeed a great honor to be able to glean in our redeemer's field while we are here on this earth.

Lord willing I will share my understanding of this parable here, but Beloved take the time to read further in greater detail of this parable, and pray the Lord to lead you to even more understanding.

Now at first in the Old Testament, God gave this spiritual vineyard to National Israel, he separated them from all other nations. He brought them out of Egyptian bondage, gave them a land called Canaan. They were his chosen people, to bear his name among the inhabitants of the earth. For over fifteen hundred years, they labored and enjoyed the sweetness of his vineyard, and were blessed above all nations. We read in the books of the Old Testament how they often would forget the God who had been so good to them and been a comfort in their time of need. God would send his prophets and they mistreated them, ignored them, desiring to be more like the other nations of the world. When they would fall to other nations, and be carried away captive, time and again he would raise up a deliverer among men, to bring them out of bondage. And time and again they would soon forget his kindness to them.

Then at last he sent his only begotten Son among them, who came in the bodily presence of man, and would be of he same nationality as they were, of the seed of Abraham. Yet they would reject and receive him not. "He came unto his own, and his won received him not." (John 1:11). He would now take the kingdom (vineyard) away from them and give it to

others who were bringing forth fruits. "Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." (Mt. 21:43) Under the New Testament dispensation the children of God that are faithful, now have this vineyard to live and labor in. Not every child of God will be faithful, but to those that are an added blessing they have today in God's vineyard. It is his vineyard, to give to whomever he desires.

Are you living and laboring in the master's vineyard? If not my Beloved, remember that in the vineyard a blessing awaits you. For it is the Master's good pleasure to give you this vineyard to enjoy! "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Lu 12:32)

*Here in the vineyard of my Lord  
I love to live and labor.  
And be obedient to my God  
Until my dying hour.  
I love to see the lilies grow,  
And view them all a standing  
In the right place while here below,  
Just as the Lord commanded!*

Rick Taylor

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", Oct. 2006)

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### **It Seems...**

Written by Sister Eileen Waddle  
Member of Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church

**It seems too high to try to reach the  
mountain top today.  
It seems my help would come if I would  
bend my knees to pray.  
It seems the burdens always prove  
much easier to bear,  
When I draw nigh to one that says He  
is always there.  
It seems that when I remember this, my load  
feels lighter soon.  
It seems that I am rising from my  
misery and gloom:  
It seems as I look down from mountain  
tops once far away,  
That everything got better when I  
bowed my head and prayed.**

From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", Oct. 2006)

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### **PRAY**

You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.--John Bunyan

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart.--John Bunyan

## **THE LORD LEADS US IN THE RIGHT WAY**



By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

When the children of Israel began their departure from Egypt, the Lord went before them in a pillar of a cloud to lead them on their way and to give them light by night. He could as easily have led them by a much shorter and less difficult route from the north of Egypt to the south of Canaan, but for wise purposes, not known to the Israelites at the time, and, certainly not to the Egyptians, He chose to lead them through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea.

To the carnal mind, this would have appeared to be an extremely unwise tactical maneuver. In fact, as a result of their turn toward Pihahiroth, Pharaoh was convinced that the Israelites were entangled in the land and that the wilderness had shut them in (Exo. 14:3). But what appeared to Pharaoh to be working to his advantage was, in fact, God's chosen method of overthrowing him and his host (Psa. 136:15).

The wilderness was to be a testing ground for the Israelites where they would be humbled and proven in order to reveal what was in their hearts (Deu. 8:2).

**And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.**

They were suffered to hunger and then were fed with manna, so that they would be made to know that:

**...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord...(v. 3)**

They were chastened of the Lord, "...as a man chasteneth his son...," in order to teach them to keep his commandments, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him (v. 5).

There was an **easier** way by which they could have been led, but, ultimately, it would not have been a **good** way for them. The Lord led them forth by the right way (Psa. 107:7), and that is the way by which we all should desire to be led; not by the **easiest way**, but by the **best way**, the **right way**, no matter what difficulties it may entail.

Many of us can look back on our own wilderness travels and think of numerous painful straits and adversities that we would certainly have avoided at the time if we had been given a choice, but now, as we reflect upon them, we would not exchange the lessons we learned in those struggles for the world and all its treasures. Our pathway may often have been fraught with bitter tears and sighings, and, while we were in the midst of those trials, we may have almost despaired of hope and may have even been tempted to murmur against God, but, in His Own time and way, He delivered us, and then we could sing as did Moses and the children of Israel,

**Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy** (Exo. 15:6).

If Israel had not been led by way of the Red Sea, they would not have witnessed and been a part of an event that stands out in the history of God's people as one of the greatest and grandest deliverances ever witnessed by human eye, and, **if we had not been led in a path of trial and affliction, there are many blessings we also would have missed.**

Let us not complain of our lot.

**Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord** (Psa. 107:43)

*(Advocate and Messenger, January 2005)*

*(From "The Christian Baptist", Nov. /Dec. 2003)*

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**EVERYDAY**

Everyday I need You, **LORD**,  
 But this day especially  
 I need some extra strength  
 To face whatever is to be.  
 This day, more than any day,  
 I need to feel You near,  
 To fortify my courage  
 And overcome my fear.  
 By myself, I cannot meet  
 The challenge of the hour;  
 There are times when  
 humans help,  
 But we need a Higher Power  
 To assist us bear what must  
 be borne,  
 And so, dear **LORD**, I pray:  
 Hold on to my trembling hand  
 And be near me today.

--Author Unknown

*(From "The Christian Baptist", Nov. /Dec. 2003)*

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"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)  
 The Lord told Paul "My grace is sufficient".

**Our Daily Prayer**



By Elder Rusty Wise  
 Tupelo, Mississippi  
 July 30, 2020

John 3:1 KJV "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

Have you ever paused and thought about all the things that our Saviour did. When he was twelve he answered questions in the temple from doctors and lawyers. These people were the most astute people in the knowledge of the law, and they were astonished. If this happened today we would parade that person through every million dollar game show known to man.

At a wedding feast he turned water into wine. He healed people that were lame, that were leper's, that were blind, those that were impotent, sick, and dead. Yet his own people rejected him, and on a few occasions they even desired to bring harm upon him.

Have we not witnessed and participated in declaring if we had been there, we would have recognized him and his gifts. Yet we would deny him wholly, and his holiness, by ignoring his commandments, scoffing at such nonsense as public worship, and its importance, and teaching our children the same. Placing no emphasis on the assembly of the saints, but rather declaring such foolishness can be performed anytime.

It is no wonder that the world does not recognize us as the sons of God, after all we don't much emulate him. We drag stuff into the house of God that would not be proper in the streets. Yet we will declare that it is ok, if we do it in the name of God. There are so many ways we can profane his name, and we not only profane it, we encourage others, and we take pleasure in it. Jesus was not happy with those at the temple, turning the house of God into a den of thieves, God was not happy sharing a room with a pagan god, God was not happy when a man brought a strange woman into the camp of Israel, God was not happy when Aaron's sons introduced strange fire, God was not happy with man's substitution of offerings, so why do we think he will be happy with all these things now. In many cases there has become no difference between the house of God and the

Saturday night honky tonks, except for meeting times. Yet through his longsuffering and his tremendous love, he still calls us his sons.

In the infant church the disciples of Jesus Christ acted like him and walked like him, and desired to know more about him. So much that the world took notice, and proclaimed them "Christians." They truly acted as they were the sons of God.

Is it time that we started praising him? That is, is it time to show how much he means to us? That nothing else in this world is more important than worshipping him; not birthdays, family reunions, sporting events, or entertainment. Because of the love (charity) that he was willing to bestow upon us, is it too much to praise him for it? The reality is that if we did it for all of eternity, it would not be enough. Yet we find some of the lamest excuses not to attend public worship; little Suzy got the sniffles, and the whole family has to be there to blow her nose.

Are we ready to lay the world aside and come into the place where Jesus promises to meet us? Are we ready to be submissive to his will, and not our own? Are we ready to follow his commandments, and his way of worship? Are we ready to make the necessary sacrifices? Are we ready to act like his sons? Our Lord was.

Remember the world will only notice you for only two reasons: if you supply free entertainment of their choosing; if you do anything that interferes with the entertainment of their choosing.

Our prayer today is that we will take up our cross and follow him. That we may honor him as our Father. and that we might forsake the foolishness of this world, that we may walk as the sons of God. Amen,

Here our heavenly Father knows all we need before we ask, Here our heavenly Father knows and he cares; Here our heavenly Father sees every sparrow when it falls, Here our heavenly Father sees, and He cares. . .

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**



July 26, 2020

By Elder Robert Payne

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he said that he would do unto them; and he did it not. Jonah 3:10 Oh that God's children would bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and he would spare and heal our land.

**GRIEVOUS WOLVES**



By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

I have often heard, and myself have often used the verse in Acts 20:28 in which the Apostle Paul admonished the elders to feed the church of God which he had purchased with his own blood, and to take heed of themselves. I fear I may not have preached the following verses as often as I should, nor followed the pattern of Paul.

*"For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."* It has always been the tactic of error to bide their time until the seasoned warriors have passed before entering in to devour. Can you imagine how all the enemies of the doctrine of Paul were waiting until he was no longer among the church? Or, as the next verse indicates it may have been those who were willing to speak perverse things, or contrary to the doctrine Paul preached from among the church itself. *"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them."*

Paul was concerned that the Elders be watchful whether the destroyers were from without or within. *"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years, I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."* Acts 20:31. Paul not only was watchful, he was also faithful to warn them of the dangers.

This is where I feel I have failed. Often, when a problem develops, I am ashamed for our people to know that such a doctrine is even being preached by those we have loved and worshipped among. I do not want to be like the little boy crying wolf. There are those who thrive and talk all the time about troubles. Neither do I want to be the person who wrings his hands, sticks his head in the sand and waits for it to go away. The thought that something can affect sister churches and not affect us is very faulty reasoning.

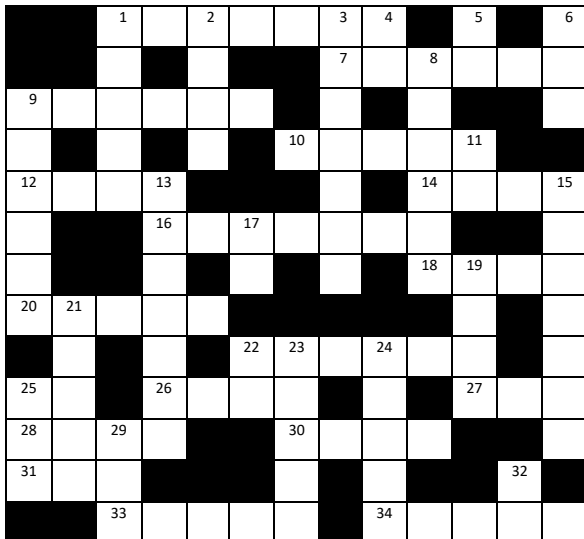
I remember sitting in a Decatur, Alabama restaurant and listening as a Cuban patriot, who had fled Cuba after Fidel Castro came into power with nothing but his life and the shirt on his back. He said when Castro came to power, he did not say anything when he went after big business because that did not

*(Continued on Page 6)*

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:**

1. My \_\_\_ is in heaven and my record is on high.
7. Let every soul be subject to the higher \_\_\_.
9. To the hungry soul every \_\_\_ thing is sweet.
10. Though he slay me, yet will I \_\_\_ in him.
12. Instrument played by David to refresh Saul's soul.
14. The disciples laid the body of Jesus in a new \_\_\_.
16. \_\_\_ rebuke, exhort with longsuffering & doctrine.
18. Jesus arose and sat \_\_\_ on the right hand of God.
20. He that hath \_\_\_ hear let him hear. 2 words.
22. Husbands give honor to wives as the weaker \_\_\_.
25. \_\_\_ Christ the solid rock I stand, not sinking sand.
26. They that be whole \_\_\_ not a physician.
27. For no man ever \_\_\_ hated his own flesh.
28. A woman washed the \_\_\_ of Jesus with her tears.
30. Why stand ye here \_\_\_ in the marketplace?
31. \_\_\_ the spirits whether they are of God.
33. Jesus was risen \_\_\_, the first day of the week.
34. I once was \_\_\_, now am old said David.



(Answers on Page 9)

**DOWN:**

1. God opened Hagar's eyes & she saw a well of \_\_\_.
2. In the midst of Garden of Eden was the \_\_\_ of life.
3. I watch and am as a \_\_\_ alone on the housetop. Bird.
4. For God \_\_\_ loved the world that He gave His Son.
5. \_\_\_ ye holy for I am holy wrote Peter.
6. \_\_\_ and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find.
8. The prodigal \_\_\_ his substance with riotous living.
9. Charity doth not \_\_\_ itself unseemly. Act mannerly.
11. \_\_\_ us a child is born, \_\_\_ us a son is given.
13. Absent from the body is to be \_\_\_ with the Lord.
15. Ye are from \_\_\_ I am from above, Jesus told some.
17. \_\_\_ all things, hold fast to that which is good. Test.
19. Worship the Lord and Him \_\_\_ shalt thy serve.
21. Saul's army Captain who died as a fool dieth.
22. Initials of Vashti and Elijah
23. All things are lawful for me, but all things \_\_\_ not.
24. Some have a form of godliness that creep into houses and lead captive \_\_\_ women who lust.

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**


**DOWN:**

25. How \_\_\_ shall my brother sin against me, and I Forgive him? till seven times?
29. The hearing ear, the seeing \_\_\_; God made both.
32. Christ left us \_\_\_ example to follow His steps.


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**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

This isn't out of the mouth of babes but from a babe in action. My son, David Wise, was married recently and he had two ring bearers, one of which was my grandson. The other ring bearer is encouraged to do

good by being given a "thumbs up"  sign from his father and grandmother. He kind of sauntered down the aisle in rehearsal and held the pillow cushion very uneven.

During the actual wedding that lad walked down the aisle straight and tall. He held the pillow level. Half

way down the aisle, he gave the "thumbs up"  and his grandmother responded in kind. When he was on the pulpit stage and standing in his spot, he again give the "thumbs up" sign to his grandmother who responded in kind; mission accomplished. By the way, my grandson did really well also.—*Editor*

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**GRIEVOUS WOLVES**

(Continued from Page 5)

affect his business. He did not say anything as they were knocking on the doors of the rich and famous, for that did not affect him. They were not brave enough to take on all who disagreed with them at once but one at a time, so that by the time they knocked on his door, there was no one or power left to defend him.

False doctrine is patient, does not take hostages, but seeks full control. As one famous Elder stated, "Error only asks for tolerance in the beginning."

Paul warned them with tears. He loved the church of God which once he persecuted. He gave his life to it. He was not a trouble-maker but fought error with the power of truth. His warning should be taken with great sincerity and gravity by the Elders of today. Or else, after the passing of sound and able brethren, many will be devoured who could have been saved by the proper warning of what lurks ahead.

Let us be faithful and not be like the Cuban patriot.

(From "The Pathway of Truth", June, 2007)

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As for our great King, when we venture into His presence, let us have a purpose there. Let us beware of playing at praying; it is insolence toward God.— Charles Spurgeon

**CHURCH NEWS**

Everyone is invited to the annual fall meeting at Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS the 1st weekend in October, 2020 (Oct. 3-4). Meeting begins with services Saturday, October 3, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon services. Brother Adam Frost will be ordained to the office of deacon in the afternoon service. All ordained Elders and Deacons especially invited to sit in the presbytery to assist in this ordination service. Sunday service, October 4, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Elder Paul Blair, Lexington, TN is invited minister. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

We extend congratulations to Elder David Wise and Sister Bethany Machiavello who were married in Tyler, TX on August 15, 2020. We pray for God's richest blessings to abide on this union. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder:



Mr. & Mrs. David Wise

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Eph. 5:31-33)

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:36-38)

Pray for all the churches for a reviving in Zion. Especially pray for those churches that are without pastors that the Lord would send them the right overseer of the flock to feed the sheep and lambs. Don't miss an opportunity to assemble with the saints. You might not have it again.—*Editor*

**CHURCH NEWS**

Everyone is invited to the meeting at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany MS the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October, 2020 (Oct. 9-10). Services Friday night Oct. 9 at 7:00 p.m. Saturday night services at 5:30 p.m.—No supper. Concludes on Sunday. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Everyone is invited to Mt. Hermon Primitive Baptist Church, Vardaman, MS for their meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in October, 2020 (Oct.24-25). Services this year only on Saturday morning, Oct. 24, at 10:00 a.m. with no lunch. Concludes on Sunday, Oct. 25, starting at 10:30 a.m. This is an open meeting. Elder Calvin Warren is Pastor of Mt. Hermon.

Unity Primitive Baptist Church, Moss Point, MS has called Elder Michael Ivey as Pastor and he has accepted the call and will be assuming pastoral duties and be living in nearby Ocean Springs, MS with anticipated residency some time in October, 2020. May God bless his new field of labor.

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**GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS**

Dear Ones,

Our Dear Lord made me able to write the following 12-08-2011:

**Someday Our Dear Lord Jesus We Will See**

In this sad vale of tears below  
The cares of life would press us low  
But our Dear Lord Jesus gives us cheer  
To press on and not to fear.

He gently guides our steps along  
Gives us a cheerful song  
So while we tread along the way  
Our Hope grows brighter each new day.

Though things look grim here in this vale  
This can not last or ever prevail  
Contented we should always be  
Someday our Dear Lord Jesus we will see.

Wishing you all the Blessings of our Dear Lord. He will see us through.

In Dear Hope & Love,  
Sister Loreta Lilly  
Akron, OH

“And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat,...” (Ex. 25:22)

**NICODEMUS**

By Elder Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

John 3:1-3-- There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

The story of Nicodemus is one of delight and sadness combined in one story. Delight because the Lord told Nicodemus that he was one of his children, and sadness because Nicodemus never took up his cross and followed the Lord completely in discipleship.

Nicodemus came to Christ at night in a secret way so that the people would not know that he was speaking to Jesus of Nazareth. Nicodemus was a high ranking Pharisee. These Pharisees were considered by the people to be the elders of Israel for their insight into the Law of Moses. This gave them admiration and prestige among the Jews. Nicodemus was risking his reputation coming and talking to this man Jesus for Jesus was considered a radical by preaching things that was considered opposed to the Law. Nicodemus had felt that Jesus was more than a man, for as he said to Christ "no man could do these miracles that you do, except that God is with him". A clear evidence that Nicodemus was born of the Spirit and could possibly see Jesus as the Christ, the one who had been promised to come to Israel. For the Lord tells Nicodemus that truthfully (verily) a man cannot see the kingdom of God unless he be born again.

Nicodemus was seeing the kingdom of God coming in the person of Jesus of Nazareth by the miracles he did. Christ began his ministry by saying "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17. It had to have been a huge delight for Nicodemus to recognize this God sent man. Nevertheless Nicodemus seems to only have been a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, as long as he didn't have to defend the belief that Jesus was the Christ to the people and other Pharisees. His fear of man and

losing his prestige cost him the joys of his salvation while he was here on earth.

I have no doubt that Nicodemus is in heaven today. His joy at the coming of Christ shows he was born of the Spirit Galatians 5:22. However he did not reap the full benefit of being a child of God while here on earth. He failed to exalt and give glory to the one that died for him on the cross.

We see further evidence of Nicodemus being on the side of Jesus. John 7:50-52 "Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." Nicodemus takes up for Jesus in saying at least give him a fair trial before finding him guilty which is a fair and reasonable request. He is answered with insults by fellow members of the Sanhedrin, by asking him "are you from Galilee?" Galilee was considered a ghetto like city that had an ill reputation with the Jews at Jerusalem. This was an insult to Nicodemus. We further read about Nicodemus upon the day of Christ's crucifixion he is partnered with Joseph of Arimathaea in preparing Christ's body for the tomb. John 19:38-40 "And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury." These two were followers of Christ but they did it in secret, and thus lost out on many blessings they could have had, had they went public with their belief in Christ, but their fear of the Jews robbed them of those blessings.

There are I fear a lot of people like Nicodemus, who won't make their beliefs known because of fear of reprisal is stronger than their love for the Lord Jesus Christ. They robbed themselves of enjoying the kingdom of God right here on earth. A person goes public by asking for a home in the church and following his Lord in baptism. Baptism is showing publicly their belief in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a wonderful blessing to show your love for the Lord in baptism. Unfortunately fear keeps us from having a lot of joy while here on earth, by not doing the will of God here on earth. It is a blessing to come into the kingdom here and enjoy laboring in the vineyard of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us not neglect these wonderful blessings. We can learn from what Nicodemus didn't do as well as what he did do.

R. L. Taylor



**INFANT SALVATION**

By Elder C.H. Cayce (Deceased)

Now, let us say that God's elect are all saved. Those who are not of God's elect are not saved. Then, if all who die in infancy are saved, it necessarily follows that all who die in infancy are of the elect of God. Then the question would necessarily be, Are all those saved who die in infancy? To this we would most emphatically say, YES. Then, we say that those not of God's elect do not die in infancy. Those who die in infancy are embraced in the number of God's elect, and all of God's elect are saved; hence, all that die in infancy are saved.

In Mark 10:15, the Savior says, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." You must receive the kingdom of God just as a little child receives it, or you shall not receive it at all. If you receive the kingdom of God as a little child, and a little child misses it, then you will miss it, too. If one of Adam's race receives the kingdom of God, then every little child receives it. Not only is this true, but the language carries with it the very idea that a little child receives the kingdom of God—not simply that one special little child receives it, but *a little child*. That expression embraces every little child. It is therefore true that every one who dies in infancy is saved. (Cayce's Editorials vol. 2, ppg 394)

**INFANT SALVATION**

By Elder S. A. Paine (Deceased)

The following article was written in response to the Church of Christ denomination, whom Elder Paine refers to as *Campbellites*. **h1h**

The Bible says the "wicked are born," therefore every claim of infantile purity is subverted forever. Campbellism says: "The holy are estranged from the womb, they (the holy) go astray as soon as they reach **the age of accountability** and as a result become wicked."

Friendly reader, which will you have, the Bible or Campbellism? I speak of Campbellism in its latter day dress, as it is today. Tradition may tell you to choose the latter, but which is true? Remember "If the truth make you free you shall be free indeed."

The only turn our friends endeavor to make here is to charge infant damnation upon the advocates of depravity, not because we believe or advocate it, but to prejudice the mind of others against us. Is it conclusive that, because an infant is by nature a sinner, that those of them that die, die in their sin and go to torment? By no means. While we believe in original sin, we also believe there is a reigning, all-prevailing remedy for sin, which is sent to the heart of every infant that dies in infancy, preparing it for glory.

This is sovereign grace. Grace saves every infant that is taken from us. The child is saved like the adult and the adult like the child. Proof: "Verily (truly) I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom as a little child, shall in no wise enter therein," Luke 18:17.

If the child receives it upon its original purity, so does the adult. And if the adult receives it conditionally on their part so does the little child. The Bible declares they must receive it alike. As the adult can not receive the Kingdom upon inherent purity, and the child can not receive it conditionally, we conclude that neither plan is correct, as neither can save both classes.

But God's plan can and will save both classes, which plan is grace. Grace is so well adapted to the needs of sinners that it is like a mighty river, flows to the hearts of all for whom it was prepared, regardless of their conditions, stations, or environments of life. It saves heathens, idiots, infants, yea, all the Son received in the gift of the Father. "All the Father giveth me shall come to me," says Jesus. (*Writings of Elder S. A. Paine*)

(The preceding two articles on Infant Salvation are from "An Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature", vol. 6—Elder Harold Hunt, Editor)

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**ANSWERS**

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

**ACROSS:**

- 1. ssentiw
- 7. srewop
- 9. rettib
- 10. tsurt
- 12. prah
- 14. bmot
- 16. evorper
- 18. nwod
- 20. otsrae
- 22. lessev
- 25. no
- 26. deen
- 27. tey
- 28. teef
- 30. eldi
- 31. yrt
- 33. ylrae
- 34. gnuoy

**DOWN:**

- 1. retaw
- 2. eert
- 3. worraps
- 4. os
- 5. eb
- 6. ksa
- 8. detsaw
- 9. evaheb
- 11. ot
- 13. tneserp
- 15. htaeneb
- 17. evorp
- 19. ylno
- 21. renba
- 22. ev
- 23. yfide
- 24. yllis
- 25. tfo
- 29. eye
- 32. na

David ate, changed clothes and worshipped after his child died and said, "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." (II Samuel 12:23)

### FOR THIS CAUSE



By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

Jesus is the Lamb of God who was foreordained before the foundation of the world to shed His precious blood for the redemption of His chosen people. (I Pet 1:20) He was wholly God and wholly man in a human body that was not subject to sin because He was conceived of the Holy Ghost. In His humanity as His hour approaches in which He will suffer a cruel crucifixion, He tells some of His disciples, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but **for this cause** came I unto this hour." (John 12:27)

Jesus is troubled in His humanity as He realizes as a man (not as God) that His hour is at hand. He thinks as to what He should say. Should He ask the Father to save Him from this hour as He had willingly agreed to be their mediator before the world began? He quickly answers that reasoning by declaring that "for this cause" He came unto this hour to save His people from their sins. Then Jesus answers with this prayer, "Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." (John 12:28) The people that were standing by heard that voice and some said that it "thundered" while others said that an angel spoke to Him. It was on to the cross to do the will of God.

Jesus was the only one who could win the battle against sin and its damning effects. No Israelite would fight the giant Goliath in a winner take all match but David was ready to fight. David was rebuked by his oldest brother Eliab for leaving the sheep he had tended to come to the scene of the Israelites battling the Philistines and Goliath. David responded to this ridicule by saying, "...**Is there not a cause?**" (I Sam. 17:29) The God that had delivered him from the paw of the bear and the paw of the lion in protecting his flock would, he believed, deliver him from the hand of an uncircumcised Philistine named Goliath and God surely did as that one smooth stone found its way to the vulnerable forehead of the giant.

David experienced a great victory over the giant, Goliath, and the Israelites were the beneficiaries of that victory. Jesus comes through the lineage of David to fight the battle against sin and its damning

effects that no other individual could fight and win because they were under the curse of sin. Paul writes, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Gal. 3:13) Christ was cursed that sinners would be blessed—a worthy cause indeed but in order to accomplish this, He would necessarily have to die on Calvary's cross.

Jesus offered Himself without spot to God and redeemed His people from the curse of the law. It is for this cause He became the mediator between God and men. "And **for this cause** he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." (Heb. 9:15)

Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane three different times saying the same words each time. "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42) After this agony the Bible tells us there appeared unto Him an angel of God from heaven, strengthening Him. (Luke 22:43) In His humanity, He needed strength to do the will of God and do what He had been foreordained to do before the foundation of the world.

Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down on the right hand of God. He did all this for His bride who was steeped in sin. The bride has been saved from the wrath to come because that wrath came on Jesus Christ. When those people which constitute His bride are born again and hear the good news of the gospel, they should be thankful enough for His great love for them that they forsake the cares of the world and follow Him as a disciple. Marriage is an ordained institution of God that requires certain things when a man has found God's helpmeet for him in this life. Paul writes, "**For this cause** shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Eph. 5:31-32)

Not only are husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church, but the wife is to reverence her husband. Jesus is the husband (bridegroom) and the bride should reverence her husband and follow him in the Lord. That natural husband can and does make mistakes, but Jesus Christ makes no mistakes. So when He is loved and followed, the bride will always be going in the right direction and enjoy the blessings that accompany such obedience.

For this cause of love for Christ, the bride is constrained to take up their cross and follow Him in baptism and discipleship. There was a joy set before Christ on the cross and there is a joy set before the bride in taking up their cross. That joy no man can take away but it can be forfeited in disobedience.

**MINE EYES SHALL BE OPEN**

By Elder Jim Turner, Jr. (Deceased)



This verse is found in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:15: “Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent to the prayer that is made in this place.” Many times have we heard and read the 14<sup>th</sup> verse of this chapter in teaching the Lord’s people the necessity of praying, humbling themselves, seeking His face and turning from their wicked ways. The Lord promises that He will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land. I had never really paid any attention to the next verse until today when I had that scripture on my mind and turned in my Bible to read it. This is when the 15<sup>th</sup> verse caught my attention. It seems to me that the Lord is telling His people that His eyes are always open and His ears are ever attentive to their prayers. If there ever has been a time when we need to be heeding the lesson that is taught in these two verses of scripture, it is now. We see wickedness and greed all around us, and at the same time, we are seeing economic chaos and collapse all around us. Yet as we see all these things happening, we see a great indifference among the people known as the Primitive Baptist. I am thankful that we still see a little band here and there that is not willing to compromise the principles and practice which our forefathers have left on record for us.

James said in James 5:16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Certainly we know that the righteous he refers to are those who have been made righteous by the free grace of God. We have no other righteousness to plead. Have you ever stopped to wonder what would happen, if every God believing individual in this nation would humble themselves in fervent prayer before God on behalf of this nation? He plainly tells us in verses 14 & 15 of our test, that He will hear us, that His eyes will be open and His ears attentive to our prayers. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, what are we waiting for? It is time for us to be in humble prayer, for our churches and our nation. God has never told us to pray for anything that He would not give us if we pray as we should.

I believe the church is the preserving power of this nation. God has always protected His church and blessed the land that has made the church welcome. Let us pray that we may continue to enjoy this freedom.

(From “*The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*”, June, 2009)

**STILL NEED THAT SAME INTENSE PRAYER**

Times have not improved since Elder Turner wrote the preceding article but rather have grown worse. Have we lost our saltness or savour? “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.” (Matt. 5:13) Saltness and savour means insipid while savour also means to become a fool. What a sobering thought!—*Editor*

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**GOOD FOR NOTHING**

There was a time in Jeremiah’s day that Judah and Jerusalem had drifted away from God and become very evil in the sight of the Lord. They were serving other gods and had forsaken the fountain of living waters and hewed themselves out broken cisterns that could hold no water. The Lord told Jeremiah to go and get a linen girdle and put it on his loins but not to put it in water. Then the Lord told him to take the girdle from his loins and go to Euphrates (a river) and hide it there in a hole of the rock. Jeremiah did as the Lord commanded him and hid the girdle by Euphrates.

After many days the Lord told Jeremiah to go and get the girdle from where he had hidden it. Jeremiah went and dug up the girdle from where he had hidden it and behold it was marred and profitable for nothing. Finally the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, “Thus saith the LORD, After this manner will I mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is **good for nothing.**” (Jer. 13:9-10) What a terrible condition!

Just like the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, the Lord would cause the whole house of Israel and Judah to cleave unto Him that they might be for Him a people, for a name, for a praise and for a glory; however, they would not hear. (Jer. 13:11) They would not hear, let alone obey. They had become good for nothing in the service of God because they were severely marred, just like the hidden girdle of Jeremiah.

Pray that the salt of the earth has not so become marred that it is good for nothing and to be trampled under foot of men. We know God will always have a remnant just like he told Elijah but let us pray we will remain faithful and be a part of the remnant, that preserving remnant. As Elder Bobby Willis would say—**Think About It.**—*Editor*

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