

Glad Tidings

March 2021

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

2021

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 15:1

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

We are all conceived and then born into the world as polluted sinners because of Adam's transgression. We are not pure and it is beyond our ability to change that condition. Solomon wrote, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (Prov. 20:9) For anyone to be **pure** they must be clean and only the Lord can cleanse from sin so no man, woman or child can say they have made their heart clean and are pure from their sin. We read of how we are purified from our sin by Jesus Christ: "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14)

God is a pure and holy God and He looked down and saw sinners corrupt to the core but chose a great number of them to live with Him in glory. We read in Hab. 1:13, "Thou art of **purer eyes** than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:..." God looks on sin and iniquity every day from His lofty heights in heaven. However, He cannot look upon sin in the glory world; it is a place where no sin can enter. Sinners chosen by God will be in glory because they have been saved from their sins by the blood of Jesus Christ. God will with His pure eyes look on His people through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Not only must the people of God be pure in the eyes of God, they must also be **pure in a heart** that has been polluted by sin. The Bible tells us that even the heavens are not clean (pure) in His sight; then it gives the contrast of the sin of mankind. "How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" (Job 15:16) What changes the desire to drink iniquity like water and indulge in the wages of sin? It is of course the grace of God through the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught that "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:12) Job said in his flesh his eyes would behold him and David said he would be satisfied when he awoke with His likeness. (Job 19:27, Psa. 17:15)

Peter instructed the elect strangers to love one another with a **pure heart** fervently. How could these people do this? They had been born again. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Pet. 1:23) This word of God in this text is the Living Word in the person of the Son of God who is the Word that was made flesh.

When the heart is made pure, the mind is also made pure. That is why Peter could write two epistles to the saints of God. Peter said, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your **pure minds** by way of remembrance." (II Pet. 3:1) The Spirit imposes the mind of Christ which is able to absorb spiritual things just as the pure heart.

Once the heart and mind of the chosen sinner has been made pure by the life giving voice of the Son of God, it is now capable of hearing and believing the good news of the gospel because he or she now has faith implanted in the new birth. The gospel is comprised of the **pure words** of God and God breathed (inspired) for the people of God. The Psalmist tells us, "The words of the LORD are **pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." (Psa. 12:6) Not only are they pure words but God has promised to keep and preserve them. "Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:7) Thank the Lord for the legacy He has left us.

We have a lot of religious people in the world. These are usually described as those who attend worship and read their Bible and other activities associated with church, but is this **pure religion**? The Bible gives a different definition of what constitutes pure religion. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) Ministering to others is visiting the fatherless and widows and keeping unspotted from the world is ministering to self by bringing in subjection the members of the body which is still prone to sin.

Those who have the hope of heaven and desire to be like Christ and to see Him as He is are commanded to **purify** themselves by obeying the **pure words** of God. John verifies this assertion by stating, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth** himself, even as **he is pure**." (I John 3:2-3) Then Peter writes, "Seeing ye have **purified** your souls in **obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren..." (I Peter 1:22) We strive the best we can to be pure but the only way we can do that is to keep our minds and body in subjection. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, correspondence and contributions to the Editor of Glad Tidings at the address below or call 662-489-5017 for announcements. You may also e-mail to **wisepb310@gmail.com**; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received prior to the 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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LAYING HOLD UPON ETERNAL LIFE

As we think upon the "things most surely believed among us," that salvation is by the grace of God through the shed blood and imputed righteousness of our merciful Saviour and not by the works of men, it seems to me that this is clearly set forth in I John 5:20; "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life." We read where the Son of God *did* come about two thousand years ago, and both He and His apostles declared that He would come again to take His children home to be with Him in heaven. But John is writing here of our experience of grace, when the Son of God is come in the present tense, "and hath given us an understanding," etc.

From the apostle Paul came the charge to the young minister, Timothy, to "fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life..." (I Tim. 6:12) Also, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Now if Timothy obeyed this charge (as I feel confident he did), and if those who heard him continued in the gospel of their salvation, was this a promise that they would be saved in eternity as a result? No! certainly not; but this salvation was, and is, while we are living in this time world. It is a salvation from the errors that would wreck our lives and cause us to be troubled and worried the rest of our days. Certainly, if we fall

by the wayside along our journey here, others will have "laid hold" on eternal life, but not us.

Jude says, "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." This cut short and stopped the lives of these unbelieving Israelites and they lost the blessings which lay ahead in the promised land. Then after Jude had written of the wicked, and God's judgments upon them, he writes of some things which give promise and encouragement. In verses 20 and 21 he says, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Here he cites four beautiful things that can cause God's people to continue to praise Him. 1. Building up themselves on their most holy faith; 2. Praying in the Holy Ghost; 3. keeping themselves in the love of God; 4. Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Doing these things constitutes "laying hold on eternal life."

David's cup was said to "run over" as he related his experience in the 23rd Psalm. Although the Lord had caused him to "lie down," it was in "green pastures," and it had given him the strong conviction that goodness and mercy would follow him all the days of his life and he would dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Was this not *laying hold on eternal life*?

The apostle Paul told Timothy to, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed." (I Tim. 6:7-19). Now, who would enjoy fellowshiping a greedy miser in the church? Such an one would justly find himself on the outside looking in. But viewing it the other way, who could shut the door on a scripturally qualified person who had means and who relieved the poor, sick and needy, and helped with many other worthy causes? This is what we believe to be "laying hold on eternal life," and such people will last in the church.

There are many other proofs in the Scriptures, such as the first commandment with promise, for children to honor their father and mother, that it may be well with them, and that they may live long in the earth (Eph. 6:1-3). Many are the exceeding great and precious promises that God has given His people, and our prayer is that we might live long in the spiritual Canaan that the Lord has given us.

Elder A. J. Hylton

(From "The Advocate and Messenger", Feb. 1987)

JOSEPH A TYPE OF CHRIST

There are many types and shadows of Christ in the Old Testament, each one representing one or more characteristics of him. The rock in the wilderness from which the Israelites drank, and which Paul says was Christ, was certainly a picture of the life sustaining nature of Christ. Water sustains our natural lives, the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us and our knowledge of Him as our spiritual food and drink sustains us in our travels here below.

The scapegoat on whose head the sins of Israel were confessed, and who then was led into the wilderness by the hands of a fit man, to be remembered against them no more forever, is a type of Christ bearing our sins away.

The ark of the covenant overlaid with pure gold, and in which was placed the golden pot of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant, represents Christ in at least four different ways. First, gold represents something very precious and many times it is spoken of as a standard by which other things are judged. We have all heard and used the expression, "As good as gold." Christ is the most valuable of all things in a believer's life. The manna by which the Israelites were sustained during their travels on the way to Canaan Land is another type of Christ as our food and drink. Aaron's rod that budded perhaps represents the resurrection, and the tables of the covenant representing that the law was kept by Christ.

Joseph, Jacob's son, who was sold by his own brethren to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and then carried to Egypt to again be sold to Potiphar, was perhaps the most striking of all human characters as a type of Christ. Christ was also sold for thirty pieces of silver. Jacob had made Joseph a coat of many colors. As he wore that coat he must have been an outstanding person in any group of people. Christ, of course, is the most outstanding person that the world has ever seen or ever will see. Joseph was falsely accused and put in prison; Christ was also falsely accused and apprehended by the authorities. Joseph had the gift of interpreting dreams; Christ knows the very thoughts and intentions of the heart. Joseph's own brethren hated him and sold him; Christ's own brethren, the Jews, had him crucified. He came unto His own and His own received Him not.

Joseph did not take any credit to himself for his ability to interpret dreams but gave that honor and glory to God; Christ continually took no credit to Himself but said He did only those things that the Father had shown Him and said only those things which the Father had told Him. Joseph became the most important and powerful man in all Egypt next to Pharaoh himself; God gave Christ power over all

flesh. "God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ,"

When Joseph's brethren came to Egypt to buy corn he recognized them but they did not recognize him. On their second trip he revealed himself to them. Christ has known His people from before the foundation of the world, but they do not know Him until He revealed Himself to them by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was sent to Egypt to preserve life by his interpreting Pharaoh's dreams of the coming prosperity and famine and then being put in charge of the storehouses of food. When his brethren came to buy food he sold it to them and then gave them their money back. He returned good for evil; Christ on the cross asked the Father to forgive the ones who were putting him to death, "for they know not what they do." Joseph was the very bread of life to his brethren; Christ declared Himself to be the very bread of life sent down from heaven. As Joseph was sent to preserve life so was Christ.

God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Joseph told his brethren that when they sold him into Egypt they had meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. The crucifixion of Christ was the most wicked deed ever done by man, but God meant it for good; the eternal salvation of His people.

Elder Everett Beavers

(From "*The Advocate and Messenger*", Jan. 1977)

GOD IS NO DOUBLE—CROSSER

If there were no such things as conditions, why were the words *condition* and *if* invented? If we are but passive and helpless instruments in carrying out what God determined that we should do, then where and on what principle of justice could we be punished for our sins?

If I tell my child not to do a certain thing, and then *compel* him, by physical force, to do the thing I forbid him doing, and then severely punish him for it, what kind of a father would you judge me to be? I would be a tyrant!

God told Adam not to partake of the forbidden fruit. Then, do you believe God *predestinated* him to do the thing he told him not to do? Do you believe God commanded him to do one thing, and then predestinated him to do something else? If you want to lay such stuff off on God, you can do so, but deliver me from such. My God is not guilty of double-crossing the sinner—commanding him to do one thing and then determining that he do something else. Absurd! Ridiculous!

—Elder M. A. Norman, *The Primitive Baptist*, 1953

(From "*The Advocate and Messenger*", March, 1994)

LONGSUFFERING

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote unto you;" II Peter 3:15 "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Romans 2:4

Both Paul and Peter are warning us not to mistake the meaning of the longsuffering of God. In our sinful way we may consider his longsuffering to mean we can continue disobeying the laws and commandments of God, or that we have gotten away with it so many years, we will continue to get by without consequence.

Peter calls the longsuffering of God "salvation". Paul relates the purpose of the goodness of God is to lead us to repentance. His longsuffering keeps him from zapping us every time we fail him. His goodness to us should make us ashamed to disobey his commandments.

God is a loving father. An earthly father will be longsuffering to a child, hoping that he will consider his goodness to him and be ashamed of his wayward ways. The father of the son who wanted his inheritance, and then wasted it, used much longsuffering in his dividing his inheritance with him. He came to his senses and realized what he had done and returned to his father in all humility and sorrow.

When I think of how wonderful God has been to me, I am so ashamed I have failed him so many times. When I think of his goodness to me, I know God has never failed me as I have failed him. When I am reminded of his goodness, I determine to do better, to correct my course, to repent and turn from the errors I have committed. I am reminded that God can remove a sweet spirit from me as he did King Saul. He can require our life as he did the man who planned to tear down his barns because he sought the riches of the world and was not minded of the need to be rich toward God.

I am afraid we look at the goodness of our heavenly Father much like the spoiled brat does his natural

father. The more he receives, the more he expects without any show of respect in return. He comes to think it is owed to him because his father is so good and he loves him so much.

God will never quit loving his children. This does not mean God will overlook our lack of repentance which should come as a result of the loving longsuffering of God.

"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that worketh evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Greek; but glory and honor and peace to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek: for there is no respect of persons with God." Romans 2:8-11

We should not account that the longsuffering of God approves of all we do, but that we should search and seek to do his will and bidding, knowing how much he loves us. He loved us with an everlasting love, sent his only Son to die for us, and he will return with a shout for us at the end. We should ever be mindful of the commands of God, and follow them.

Guy Hunt

(From *"The Pathway of Truth"*, May, 2007)

SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE

A Definition

By John Newton (Author of *Amazing Grace*)

"Salvation is wholly of grace, not only undeserved but undesired by us until God is pleased to awaken us to a sense of our need of it. And then we find everything prepared that our wants require or our wishes conceive; yea, that He has done exceedingly beyond what we could either ask or think. Salvation is wholly of the Lord and bears those signatures of infinite wisdom, power, and goodness which distinguish all His works from the puny imitations of men. It is every way worthy of Himself, a great, a free, a full, a sure salvation. It is great whether we consider the objects (miserable, hell-deserving sinners), the end (the restoration of such alienated creatures of His image and favor, to immortal life and happiness) or the means (the incarnation, humiliation, sufferings and death of His beloved Son). It is free, without exception of persons or cases, without any conditions or qualifications, but such as He, Himself, performs in them and bestows upon them."

John Newton

(From *"ITMS"*, March 2001)

"Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:2-3)

DIARY OF AN UNBORN CHILD

OCTOBER 5: Today my life began. My parents do not know it yet, I am as small as a seed of an apple, but it is I already. And I am to be a girl. I shall have blond hair and blue eyes. Just about everything is settled though, even the fact that I shall love flowers.

OCTOBER 19: Some say that I am not a real person yet, that only my mother exists. But I am a real person, just as a small crumb of bread is yet truly bread. My mother is. And I am.

OCTOBER 23: My mouth is just beginning to open now. Just think, in a year or so I shall be laughing and later talking. I know what my first word will be: "MAMA."

OCTOBER 25: My heart began to beat today all by itself. From now on it shall greatly beat for the rest of my life without ever stopping to rest! And after many years it will tire. It will stop, and then I shall die.

November 2: I am growing a bit every day. My arms and legs are beginning to take shape. But I have to wait a long time yet before those little legs will raise me to my mother's arms, before these little arms will be able to gather flowers and embrace my father.

NOVEMBER 12: Tiny fingers are beginning to form on my hands. Funny how small they are! I'll be able to stroke my mother's hair with them.

NOVEMBER 20: It wasn't until today that the doctor told mom that I am living here under her heart. Oh, how happy she shall be! Are you happy, mom?

NOVEMBER 25: My mom and dad are probably thinking about a name for me. But they don't even know that I am a little girl. I want to be called Kathy. I am getting so big already.

DECEMBER 10: My hair is growing. It is smooth and bright and shiny. I wonder what kind of hair mom has.

DECEMBER 13: I am just about able to see. It is dark around me. When mom brings me into the world it will be full of sunshine and flowers. But what I want more than anything is to see my mom. How do you look, mom?

DECEMBER 24: I wonder if mom hears the whispering of my heart? Some children come into the world a little sick. But my heart is strong and healthy. It beats so evenly: tup-tup, tup-tup. You'll have a healthy little daughter, mom!

DECEMBER 28: Today my mother killed me.

--Author Unknown

(From "ITMS", July 2009)

(Although the above account is fiction, yet it is so true of what might have been as millions of babies are being aborted just because they are in the way; just in the way of a mother or father who want to indulge desires without having any accountability. God is longsuffering as Elder Hunt writes, but it eventually comes to an end and then.....)—Editor

A FORTRESS AND STRONGHOLD

The children of God legally were all delivered at one time.

The infinite demands of the infinite law of justice were all satisfied fully for all of God's children. "By blood of the covenant hast thou sent forth the prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water." Singularly and without help the blood of the covenant did all the sending forth out of this dark and deep pit. No works, no faith on the part of God's people necessary to the accomplishment of the greatest of all events of time.

This great work was all accomplished by the blood of our Saviour. What a friend.

But let us note after they were delivered and God Himself said they were delivered He then said "Oh ye prisoners of Hope turn ye to the stronghold." A prisoner cannot deliver himself. He cannot save himself. It takes a power greater than he to deliver them.

Before grace and the blood, which of course is grace, when the poor prisoners were in bondage to sin, prisoners of sin and in sin they were unable to deliver themselves. But after this miraculous deliverance of grace then they became prisoners again, no not to sin but prisoners of the Lord.

This teaches infallibility that poor sinners cannot bridge the chasm of sin and death and deliver himself. They were prisoners in sin. But when saved by grace they are prisoners of Jesus. Any one knows that no prisoner can deliver himself. He cannot escape the dark prison walls of sin. And it is equally true they cannot escape from Jesus. Well, the fact is, they do not want to. Neither do they want to escape from sin before regeneration. If they could escape from either one, they would not be prisoners.

After regeneration they are commanded to turn to the strong hold. The greatest fortress ever built is the old Church.

Here we can take shelter from the raging storms of life. The poor prisoners of hope are commanded to take refuge: to take refuge in the clefts of the great Rock of Ages. Oh, the sweet rest that I have found there. Surely I am a prisoner of hope. And have turned to the stronghold. The day I went to the stronghold, the old Church I found joy, peace and sweet rest. When I shook hand with the preacher he said "You will never forget this." I have not. The Church and its grand doctrine of free grace is sweeter to me today than it was when I was a little lad of nineteen.

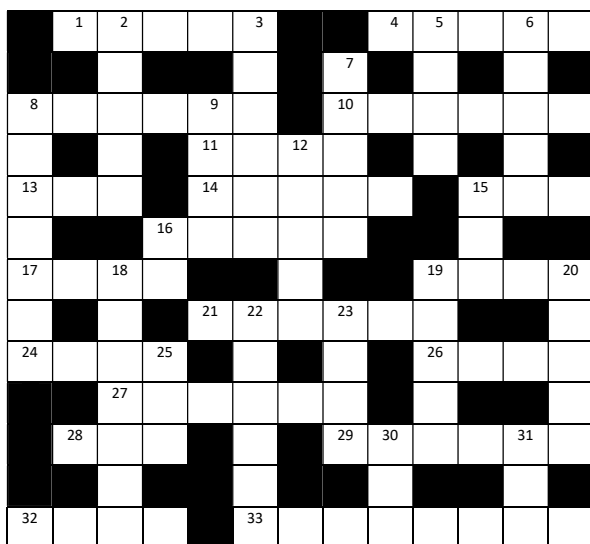
I feel to need the Church more than I did then. And as the shadows fall around me and the storms rage on it is sweeter to me to trust in God's free and reigning grace. IN the stronghold there is safety. Abide there children of hope. There is weeping and

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Blind guides strain at a gnat and swallow a ____.
4. All have sinned and come ____ of the glory of God.
8. The widow told Elijah she had not a cake but an handful of meal in a ____.
10. The first man is of the earth, ____.
11. Abraham was circumcised when he was ninety years old and ____.
13. Beloved ____ are we the sons of God.
14. By the ____ of the law shall no flesh be justified.
15. A nickname for someone named Abraham.
16. Job had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 she ____.
17. When thou doest ____ let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth. Cornelius gave this.
19. Jesus is described as the bright and morning ____.
21. The ____ made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter and he made it again as seemed good.
24. David cut the ____ of Goliath off with his own sword.



(Answers on Page 9)

26. John was in the ____ that is called Patmos.
27. The angel told Peter in prison to gird himself and bind on his ____.
28. ____ the truth and sell it not and also wisdom.
29. Daniel had understanding in all visions and ____.
32. Ye shall know the truth and the truth makes ____.
33. The chief priests gave large money to the ____ to say the disciples stole the body of Jesus.

DOWN:

2. Jehu shot Jehoram with an ____ from his bow.
3. Consider the ____ of the field that don't toil or spin.
5. There is nothing too ____ for the Lord. Not soft.
6. She and her family were saved in city of Jericho.
7. Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with diverse ____.
8. Jesus said to some Jews they were from ____ but He was from above and they were of the world.
9. Cherubims were at the two ____ of the mercy seat.
12. For we must ____ die and are as water spilt on ground.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

15. A qualified minister must be ____ to teach.
16. ____ many as I love I rebuke and chasten.
18. The messenger of Satan to buffet me lest I should be exalted above ____ said Paul.
19. Moses' ark was daubed with ____ and pitch.
20. They put a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and a ____ in his right hand and bowed the knee. Plural.
22. By faith the ____ obtained a good report.
23. Joseph was ____ into slavery by his brothers.
25. The evening and the morning were the first ____.
30. Color of the heifer offered as a sacrifice. Blood.
31. The nearer kinsman did not want to redeem Ruth lest he ____ his inheritance. To blemish.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A couple of years ago I had picked up our grandson, Isaac and taken him home with me. He seemed out of sorts a good while, different from his usual good humor so I asked him what was wrong? He said, "Oh, I've just had a long day?" If children four or five can have a long day and be out of sorts, what about we adults? He must have heard someone say they had had a long day.

PRAYER

We read much in the scriptures about prayer. Jesus taught his disciples the manner in which they should pray.

Jesus himself, the Holy Son, prayed unto his Father. His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane is a notable prayer and shows brightly his eternal love for his people. It also teaches us there was no other way for his people to be saved for heaven.

In his prayer to the Father in the 17th chapter of John, Jesus acknowledges that the Father had given him the power to give eternal life to those the Father had given him.

The publican's prayer shows the humility we must all bring to the moment of prayer, if our prayer is to bring relief.

I am deeply disturbed at the attitude of our nation. When a majority of our population adore a president who violates all the moral laws of God, when half of our nation approves of abortion, when 30% of our people approve of same sex marriage, our nation is in trouble.

Once these sick people elect their own president, our nation, in my opinion, will have the evidence of being under the judgment of God.

We need to stay on our knees until we have corns on them, praying that God will have mercy and deliver America in this 2004 presidential election.—Guy Hunt

(From "The Pathway Of Truth", July, 2004)

CHURCH NEWS

The Big Sandy Fellowship Meeting will be held with Buffalo PBC, Bodine Loop, Hurricane Mills, TN on Fri. – Sat. March 5-6, 2021 with services Fri. & Sat. at 10:30, afternoon at 2:30 and evening at 6:30. We will provide all meals and do our best to make everything safe as possible. We will do our best to maintain social distancing and mask and hand sanitizer will be available for all who want them. No formal handshake lines but feel free to fellowship as conscience allows. We look forward to worshipping our God and fellowship with you all. If any questions call Elder Kevin Lofton at 931-535-3223 or 931-264-8340

ANNOUNCEMENT
NEW BOOKLET AVAILABLE
By Elder Wayne Crocker

Lord willing, a new 58 page booklet entitled **“How Shall We Live? In Bitterness & Conflict As Enemies Or In Harmony As Friends & Neighbors”** will be ready for shipping by January 20.

It corrects much of the misinformation and deliberate deception being circulated by the media and educational establishment regarding racialism. It admits and deplores historic and current racism while emphasizing how the black and white races have often lived in harmony and mutual respect even when we whites, to our shame have at times practiced some degree of racism. I have written about my experiences, both good and bad, for the past 80 years, confessing my sins and those of my ancestors. I have attempted to “tell it like it is” and how it was. I have tried to show how God’s word reveals our sins, and how by its teachings can save us from destruction and lead us to walk together in godliness and brotherly love. In spite of my failings, I sincerely believe the booklet should be widely read by God’s people.

Prices (incl. ship. & handling, etc.) are 1-5 copies \$7 ea., 5 or more copies \$5 ea.

Orders may be by mail, email or phone:

G. Wayne Crocker, 1330 Scotts Dr., Cottondale, AL 35453

Email: waynecrocker41@yahoo.com, phone 205-292-1338

A FORTRESS AND STRONGHOLD

(Continued from Page 5)

gnashing of teeth on the outside in outer darkness.

Lord help us all to abide in the stronghold of thy grace.

Love

M. A. Norman
 Oden Ark.

(From “*The Banner of Love*”—Nov. 15, 1961)

(In “*Glad Tidings*”, September, 2004)

CHURCH NEWS

Mt. Hebron Primitive Baptist Church, Caledonia, MS regrets to say they will not have their customary annual meeting 2nd weekend in March, 2021 due to the Covid-19 virus. Elder Cris Hollingsworth is Pastor of Mt. Hebron.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Sydney Shows of Mendenhall, MS passed into glory on December 9, 2020 at the age of 87. He had been disabled for some time due to a stroke. He is survived by one son and three daughters. He was faithful Pastor of Macedonia PBC in Ackerman, MS for many years.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Danny Adcock, Heber Springs, AR passed into glory January 24, 2021 after a short battle with known cancer at the age of 67. Be in prayer for his wife, Dorothy, his daughter, Tracey Emerson, son, Barry Adcock, his parents, Harvey and Sandra Adcock and the rest of the family. Pray also for Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Heber Springs, AR where he faithfully served as pastor.

EXCERPTS GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Brother Larry,

Thank you for sending us Glad Tidings. Enjoy the articles plus the church news.

Merry Christmas to you and family.

Ken and Ladean Goodrich
 Pontotoc, MS

ROMANS VIII. 8-10

May 21, 1942

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

To be in the flesh, in the sense of this text, is to be in an unregenerate state. One who has not been [pg 350] born from above is in the flesh, in the sense of this text. If one has been born from above, that one has the Spirit of God dwelling in him, and he is then not in the flesh. That is, one who has the Spirit of God dwelling in him is not in the flesh. When the Spirit of God takes up His abode in the heart of a poor sinner, then that person is no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."—1 John v. 12. That one who has been born again, born from above, who has the Spirit of God dwelling in him, can please God—can do something other folks cannot do. They have been capacitated to render acceptable service to God. They have been brought into the spiritual realm and are thereby capacitated to do spiritual works. Spiritual works are such things that the Lord has commanded to be done in the spiritual realm, and it is pleasing to the Lord for them to do the things which He has commanded. Without the Spirit of God it is impossible for one to please God, for "they that are in the flesh cannot please God." If those who are in the flesh cannot please God, then what can they do in order to be born again, or in order to become children of God? Who can tell us about what time one can do that which he cannot do? If one cannot do a certain thing, is it not impossible for him to do that thing? When will, or when can, one do that which is impossible for him to do? If the unregenerate sinner, one who has not the Spirit, must do something pleasing to God in order that he be born again, or in order that he enter heaven, is it not a fact that heaven's door would be forever closed against the whole race of Adam? Does it not look like [pg 351] it is a hard doctrine to teach that one must do that which he cannot do in order to become a child of God? What could possibly be a harder doctrine than that? Are you not glad this is not the doctrine of the Bible?

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." In this statement the apostle affirms the negative side of the question. "He is none of His" simply means that he is not one of His. He has not been brought into divine relationship with Him; he has not been born into the heavenly family. The other side of the question, the affirmative side of the question, would necessarily be, "If any man have the

Spirit of Christ, he is one of His." He has been brought into divine relationship with Him; he has been born from above; he has been born into the spiritual realm; he has been born of God; he has been raised up out of a state of death in sin to a state of life in Christ Jesus. He has been capacitated to do that which he could not do before; he has been capacitated to do that which is pleasing to God; he can now please God, by doing the things which God has commanded to be done in the spiritual realm. He now has the Spirit of God dwelling in him.

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin." It means "in case that; granting, allowing, or supposing that;—introducing a condition or supposition."—Webster. Hence, "in case that Christ be in you, the body is dead." Then, in case Christ is not in you, what then? If the apostle meant that "if Christ be in you the body is dead in sin," then the body is not dead in sin if Christ is not in you. To be dead because of sin and to be dead in sin are two different things entirely. To be dead in sin is one thing, and [pg 352] to be dead because of sin is another thing. Jesus was once dead because of sin, but He was never dead in sin. He died for our sins—He died because of our sins, and to make satisfaction for our sins; but He never did die in sin—He was never dead in sins. Neither does the apostle teach any such thing as that the body is dead in sin. There are two things the apostle brings to attention here—one of those things concerns the body and the other concerns the spirit. If he means to teach that the body is dead in sin—apart from the spirit—then the spirit is not dead to sin. There is one thing brought out concerning the body and another thing concerning the spirit. What are they? The true literal meaning of the apostle's teaching in this text is that "If Christ be in you, though the body dies on account of sin, yet the spirit lives on account of righteousness." This text is an everlasting death knell to the soul sleeping doctrine. But the apostle does tell us in Romans vi. 11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." The one who has the Spirit of Christ dwelling in him, the one who has been brought into divine relationship with God, has been killed to the love of sin, and is, therefore, dead to sin. Yet, although he is dead to sin, the body is still mortal and corrupt and subject to physical death, and will die that physical death, and will return to dust from whence it came. Although the mortal body, the physical body, of the child of God does die, and goes to dust, yet the spirit does not die. The body dies on account of sin; but the spirit lives on account of righteousness—righteousness of Christ. The spirit (or soul) goes to God who gave it, and continues [pg 353] to live as a conscious entity in the presence of God and Christ, where it will remain until Jesus comes back to this earth again to raise these

bodies from the grave.. He will raise their bodies again, and they will be changed, and made spiritual, and the child of God will then, in soul, body and spirit, be given to dwell with the Lord, and be like Him, and sing perfect praise to Him, in all the ages of a never ending eternity. May this be the happy lot of the reader, is our humble prayer, for Jesus' sake.

(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist", by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 7)

NEW WINE: NEW BOTTLES T. S. Dalton

In the days of the Savior's advent here on earth, history informs us they used bottles made of leather, which after they had *been* used awhile and become old and worn, would not admit of being filled with any strong substance, and we think the Savior used this to illustrate the idea that he intended to convey, and if you will read the two preceding verses, you will see that Jesus was talking to John's disciples on the subject of fasting. The 14th verse says, "Then came to him John's disciples, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?" Verse 15, "And Jesus said unto them, can the children of the bride-chamber mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then shall they fast."

This, we think, the Savior introduced to show that they (the Pharisees) were fasting, because it was in keeping with the tradition of their fathers, or in other words, because the Jewish law and the Jewish form of worship required it, simply showing them that they were still keeping up the forms of the old covenant. But now the bridegroom (Christ) is come and introduced the new covenant, in which his people are to worship (not in ceremonies, or formal fastings), but in spirit and in truth, for Jesus says, "he seeketh such to worship him, as do worship in spirit and in truth."

"Therefore," says the Savior, "we put new wine into new bottles." The idea is whatever belongs to the new covenant should not be put in the old, which necessarily cuts off every Arminian Creed from Dan to Beersheba, for they all take the stipulations of the old covenant, and try to bring them into the new, and every time they try to blend the new and old together, they make the rent worse.

Therefore we would suggest, that all cease trying to mend the old garment with a new piece, but accept the new bottle (new covenant) in which is found the rich treasure of God's grace, which is freely and graciously bestowed upon the subjects of promise, and we are made the happy beneficiaries of it, without the performance of stipulated conditions on our part. The stipulations of the old covenant were, "if you will, I will." "If you are willing and obedient, ye

shall eat the good of the land," etc., etc. In the new covenant God says, "I will and you shall."

Oh! How different, and yet there are multiplied millions of people who have never yet discovered the difference and are still trying to mend the old garment with the new piece of goods, or to put the new wine into the old bottle, and I have been made to wonder why they could not see it. Oh! That God in his infinite goodness and mercy may open their eyes to the truth, and lead them out of Babylon into the green pastures of his grace, that they may feast their souls on the rich promises found in the "new and everlasting covenant, which is ordered in all things and sure." (T. S. Dalton in *Zion's Advocate Sept 1893*)

(From "Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature", Volume 7—Edited by Elder Harold Hunt)

ANSWERS BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE READ RIGHT TO LEFT

ACROSS:

1. lemac
4. trohs
8. lerrab
10. yhtrae
11. enin
13. won
14. sdeed
15. eba
16. sessa
17. smla
19. rats
21. lessev
24. daeh
26. elsi
27. ladnas
28. yub
29. smaerd
32. eerf
33. sreidlos

DOWN:

2. worra
3. seilil
5. drah
6. bahar
7. sdees
8. htaeneb
9. sdne
12. sdeen
15. tpa
16. sa
18. erusaem
19. emils
20. sdeer
22. sredle
23. dlos
25. yad
30. der
31. ram

CRITICISM

Being criticized is not a problem if you develop a positive way of dealing with it. Winston Churchill had the following words of Abe Lincoln framed on the wall of his office: "I do the very best I can, I mean to keep going. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me won't matter. If I'm wrong, ten angels swearing I was right won't make a difference."

Bits & Pieces, April 29, 1993, pp. 15-16.

If anyone is looking for criticism, they can always find it because no man or woman is immune from making mistakes.—*Editor*

THOUGHTS AND RESPONSE TO A READER CONCERNING THINGS THAT BOTHER HIM AMONG THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

The following are quotes from the reader's letter of some of the things that bother him:

1. "The Primitive Baptist should ask God for forgiveness for shutting down the church. You should never listen to the government to tell you how and when to worship because of a virus or anything else."

Response: The first thing I would say is that you cannot shut down the church. The gates of hell shall not prevail against the church Jesus established. It is true that the assembly of the saints was shut down for awhile; shut down not just because of any rules of government but because of concern for the safety of members of the church. This same scenario has also happened before in the history of the church. Some churches continued to meet as before the virus without any precautions and the church all became sick of the virus and many died.

2. "Where and when did open meetings come about? To me, that is an invitation for anyone to preach anything in order, out of order, or in no order at all?"

Response: I cannot give the reader a definitive answer to this question. It might have been on the Day of Pentecost. There was more than one speaker on this occasion and they declared the wonderful works of God. The only ministers that usually attend an open meeting are those who have been invited by the pastors or deacons of the church who have proven themselves sound in faith and practice. To my knowledge, no minister would be invited into the pulpit that was suspected of advocating an unsound doctrine. As far as speakers are concerned, even pastors have preached disorderly doctrine in the past and had to be dealt with. The church is autonomous and has the authority to govern itself as thus saith the Lord. Have mistakes been made? Most assuredly, they have because you won't find a perfect church.

3. "Another thing, do PB preach on duty anymore? Not just to mention abortion, murder, stealing, the gay movement, lying, remarriage and divorce, and many other ungodly things that people need to know?"

Response: The fact is that more Primitive Baptist preachers preach more on duty than in any other time in their history. Fundamental doctrine was the theme of most preaching of by gone years and very little duty and practical godliness. Maybe this reader just hasn't been present when the minister was led to preach on duty; you'll never know unless you are there on a regular basis. Most ministers attempt to teach a balance of doctrine of grace and the duty that should be exhibited in response to the goodness and mercy of God. Most try to follow Paul who said, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27)

4. "In a few years if not already, the PB probably will let women lead singing and preaching. I can see this coming very clearly because seemingly there is no resistance to worldly practices."

Response: I certainly don't advocate women lead singing, especially when there is a man available who is capable of performing the task. Most sisters do not desire to stand and lead singing; they realize the man is to take the lead; if they attempt to start a song, most of them do it from their pew with some Brother in Christ standing before the congregation. In some churches there is a void of men who are capable of leading singing and sisters are present who are capable of starting a song. Once a song is begun and the tune established, the congregation can usually follow along. In any case the church is to sing with grace in their hearts. Primitive Baptist preachers are adamantly opposed to so-called women preachers.

5. "I know in your paper you mentioned Lincoln a lot. You quote a lot of his sayings, but I ask you, please read the book "The South Was Right" which is the truth of the Civil War. Lincoln did a lot of evil things that people don't realize."

Response: Lincoln may well have done many evil things, but some of the things he is reputed to have said were the truth and relevant in his day and also in our day. Matter of fact he is quoted elsewhere in this issue of Glad Tidings. The Bible even uses less than exemplary characters to utter things for the people of God to consider. Balaam (not the best of characters) said, "...Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." (Numb. 23:10) He also said, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numb. 23:19) I also quote Benjamin Franklin and Mark Twain and they had their faults as well so have a measure of charity. Solomon said, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Eccl. 7:20)

These responses are just my comments and not a standard for approval or condemnation and above all things may we follow the scripture that says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." (I Cor. 14:40) Hopefully this has, at least partially, answered the concerns of the reader and may we all adhere as best sinners can do to the article of faith that says the scriptures are the inspired word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.—*Editor*

There is an old analogy that I have heard Primitive Baptist preachers use and I have used myself to illustrate what worldly practices do to the church. The church is compared to a ship and as long as the sea is outside the ship then all is well but let the sea inside the ship and it begins to sink. The church is in the world but woe to the church that lets the world get into the church; it will be in grave danger.—*Editor*

THE APOSTLE PETER

Part 5



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

We now come to the time of Peter's ministry after the Lord's ascension and being endued with the Holy Spirit. The word endued does not mean being born again for Peter was certainly already born of the Spirit. But it means to be endowed with spiritual gifts, directly from the Holy Ghost. This was a special out pouring of the Holy Ghost that was meant for the Apostles that they were given on the day of Pentecost Acts 2:1. This gift would make them able ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; they were also witnesses of his ministry, death, and his resurrection. Furthermore we read in Acts 2 that when the people saw the gift of the Holy Ghost come upon the Apostles such as the speaking in tongues, some speculated that they were just drunken on new wine.

It was Peter that would reply to this charge. **Acts 2:14-17 "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"** Peter was bold for a man that had just shortly before this time been too frightened to even admit that he knew Jesus of Nazareth, now he was publicly preaching that same Jesus was the Christ. What had changed? The gift of the Spirit had given him boldness, courage, and an excellent understanding of the scriptures, for God is certainly able to endue men with these gifts. This gift

of the Spirit was given to Peter to further the cause of the gospel kingdom. His boldness and courage was noted by the Jewish court at Jerusalem **Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."**

We read another story of Peter in the book of Acts when Peter was arrested and placed in prison for preaching the gospel. **Acts 12:6-7 "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands."** Here this same Peter who was too afraid to even admit that he was with Jesus was now boldly and courageously preaching Christ, arrested put in prison and chained to two soldiers. For all that Peter knew he could be executed at any time, most people wouldn't sleep a wink that night, yet Peter was soundly asleep. How do we know that? To awaken Peter the angel had to smite him on his side. The bright light didn't wake him up, for his eyes were closed in sound sleep, so the angel had to awaken him. That's sleeping sound! How well do you think Peter slept on the night that he denied his Lord? Probably very little or none at all. Yet here since the gift of the Holy Ghost was given him, he slept well. This should be an encouragement to us as we read of how God helped people like Peter to become more bold and courageous by his gifts to him. Can the Lord not give us that same boldness and courage that he gave Peter? I believe that he can.

We should ask the Lord to give us these gifts as we labor in his vineyard here on earth. The world is a sinful place and the gospel kingdom and its occupants are constantly under attack by Satan and sin. Lord gives us these gifts so that we can better serve you.

R.L. Taylor

- Worry pulls tomorrow's cloud over today's sunshine.
- When you make your mark in this world, watch out for the folks with the erasers.
- He who never makes a mistake never made a discovery.

(From "ITMS", July 2013)

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