

Glad Tidings

January

2019

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

**FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR RELIGION
*Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow***

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Whether we see the dawning of a new year or the dawning of a new day, we see the compassions and mercies of the Lord and are reminded of the faithfulness of our God and what He has done for us as undeserving sinners. "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22-23) Without any intervention by God, we would ultimately be consigned to the fires of hell, but God is rich in mercy and had a great love for His people, dead in sin, and raised them up to sit together in heavenly places in Christ. (Eph. 2:4-6) Jeremiah wasn't acquainted with Paul's scripture but yet he was inspired to write of the mercies and faithfulness of God and his hope was renewed.

The year has a beginning and an end; the world had a beginning and it will have an end. The faithfulness of God is involved in both and so is light. The Bible tells us concerning God by the apostle John. "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." (I John 1:5) God is the One that vanquishes darkness as He did in the very beginning of time as darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." (Gen. 1:3) God speaks and it is done; He commands and it stands fast.

There can be no darkness in God or He would not be God. In fact the scripture says, "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." (I Tim. 6:16) No man can approach this light but only by the giver of light can this approach be made because men loved darkness rather than light. The Psalmist says, "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple." (Psalm 65:4) There is a cause that allows any man, woman or child to approach unto God and that cause comes from God, in whom is no darkness at all. It is only by this Divine intervention that we ever have a desire to dwell in the courts of the Lord and be satisfied with the goodness of His house. The faithfulness of God performs this great work.

Jeremiah was blessed to be in the light of the Lord and had been formed, sanctified and ordained a prophet from his mother's womb. The only way we can see true light is to dwell in the light of the Lord. David said, "For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." (Psalm 36:9) While dwelling in the darkness of depravity, we cannot behold the light of the gospel; we can behold the light of the day while in this state but we cannot love and honor the creator of that day. We must be delivered out of our darkness of depravity to truly render praise to the Father of lights. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (I Pet. 2:9) Praise to God who hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.

If we are void of light, we cannot walk in the light. If we haven't any faith, we cannot walk in the light so where does faith come from? Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, without which it is impossible to please God who dwelleth in the light no man can approach on his own. Now we are in a position to experience what John wrote about: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7) The one thing that breaches fellowship with God is sin; however, if we are walking in the light, there is no sin. It is the same with walking in the Spirit. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16)

Each day brings new mercies, compassions and light and we find these naturally and spiritually they are revealed in the gospel which brings life and immortality to light. (II Tim. 1:10) At the close of the day we can thank the Lord for His mercy and grace; if and when we awake in the morning we can echo the Psalmist, "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me." (Psalm 3:5) The new day is a new opportunity to serve the Lord and not walk in darkness; only one way to do that. "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) One day we will all awake with His likeness being preserved, body, soul and spirit. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (I Thess. 5:24) Yes, what a day that will be! (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 UP TREASURES

By Elder Rufus Blackshear
(From "**Good Will**" Feb. 1959)

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:20, 21.

This was the instruction of Jesus, given in His sermon on the mount, but only His disciples in that day who followed Him into the mountain heard the lesson; others of His children mixed with the multitude at the foot of the mountain, did not hear His words because they did not go to the place of instruction. Many of the practical and experimental truths of the Bible are not learned by God's children except as they walk in the path of duty.

The work of laying up treasures is done by the Lord's children, but eternal life is NOT one of the treasures they lay up; eternal life is the GIFT of God, and it forms the foundation upon which every other spiritual treasure rests. Unless and until the dead sinner is made alive by the Spirit of God he WILL NOT and CANNOT be interested in spiritual things. Paul taught this in 1st Corinthians, 2:14. Read it for yourself. Then again Jesus taught it in John 3:3. Read this passage also. So the above lesson has nothing to do with becoming the children of God, nor with obtaining a home in heaven eternal. It only

concerns God's children, who are capable of understanding and obeying the instructions.

Treasure is something valued highly, something that makes the lives of those who have it happier, and God gives His people grace sufficient to enable them to lay up these treasures in heaven, which to me is the spiritual kingdom set up for a home for God's children here in the world.

The first cause for God's children having an interest in the church is God's Spirit in their hearts, which comes in regeneration, for without His Spirit there could be no interest whatever. But after the Spirit has given them a love for the church, they are then commanded to serve God in the kingdom, and in doing so they lay up treasures there which will benefit them while they live.

'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Heart, as used in the text, means their desire, their interest, their love. Let us look to a natural illustration that may help us to better understand the lesson taught above. The farmer does not create the land upon which he plants his crops, God has done this, but after he has the land he does have something to do with the yield it bears. Suppose he has a rich piece of soil into which he sows his seed, and then after he has planted his crops he sits down in the shade and fails to cultivate them as he should, the result will be next to nothing; but if he is faithful to cultivate the land as he should, and God sends the seasons, he will reap a bountiful harvest. The better prospect he has of reaping a good yield, the more interest he will have in his farm, because he will have more to gain; but if he has failed to take advantage of his opportunity, the crops will be poor and he will lose interest. Then, again, the greater his prospects, the greater his disappointment if a hailstorm should come and destroy the labor of his hands.

The same is true in the spiritual field with one who has labored hard for the welfare of the church. The more faithful he is to the cause, the more treasure he will have in it, and greater is his sorrow, if and when storms arise to disturb the peace and prosperity of the church he loves so well. God's children can have great treasures in the church if they lay them up, and they lay them up by constant prayer and faithful service in the kingdom. Selfishness and greed, or a lack of interest in the prosperity of the church will cause one to have less and less treasure there, and the less treasure he has in the kingdom, the less he will love it.

By self-denial, humility, and a manifestation of fellowship for Christ and His faithful followers we lay up treasures in heaven that cannot be stolen, nor corrupted. If the farmer does not work his land as he should, the result of his inactivity will show plainly, and should he try to make people think he had worked hard, one glance at his fields will give him away. And so he could not deceive his neighbors

very long. This is also true in the service of God. Our inactivity will be known without us telling anyone we have been lazy, and when we come up lacking in the time of harvest, we CANNOT borrow nor steal from those who have been so active, and for this reason we will walk a poverty stricken trail.

Many Old Baptists wonder why they are not loved and appreciated as others of their brethren and sisters are, why they don't seem to have the influence others have, but the answer is very simple: They have not laid up of themselves treasures in heaven, they have been careless and unconcerned about the church, and as a result they go hungry while others feast bountifully. God gives to each of His children an even start in the spiritual kingdom, and if we fall behind we cannot say that it is because others were more fortunate than we. We are loved and appreciated by the faithful servants in the Master's kingdom according to the interest we manifest in it, and we must believe that God does not require more of us than His grace enables us to do.

Is the church our treasure? In its beauty, its soundness, its sending forth the precious aroma of righteous living our pride and joy? Do we eagerly look forward to every opportunity we have of attending its service? Are we willing to spend and be spent, both in material wealth and spiritual strength, for its betterment? Do we prove by our lives that our treasure is there? Do we love humbly and unpretentiously before our brethren, or do we show by our actions that we want to be looked up to and considered as a leader? Do we advance new interpretation of the Scriptures, something Old Baptists have never advocated, and hold to those ideas to the dividing of the flock? We cannot deceive our brethren for very long, because our interest and concern for the church is proven MORE by our WALK than it is by our TALK! Our tongue is sometimes deceitful, but our feet tell the true story. Let us lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, that we may have a richer heritage there.

(From "ITMS" April, 2010)

WHAT A TREASURE!

We worship the Lord with praise and song,
It is to Him, mighty and strong, that we belong.
In the Lord's house we worship and find relief,
Relief from worry and care by faith of our belief.

Belief that with Him there is nothing too hard,
Bows down His ear and gives us His regard.
He lifts us up in Spirit and power of His might,
We want to come back for this glorious sight.
--Larry Wise

Come hear His word—Have your spirit stirred

THERE IS A RIVER

Elder Everett Beavers

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High." Psalm 46:4.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

The blessings of God to His people in the Church are here compared to a river. As we look at a natural river, we see that the water just keeps coming, coming, coming, in an inexhaustible supply. This is a miracle to us as we wonder where all the water is coming from and where it is going. Solomon said all the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full. This too is a mystery. I have often thought of the river in the above text in two different ways, which are opposite to each other yet both true. The city of God surely represents the church, the dwelling place of God in the hearts of His people. Natural rivers start small and grow larger and larger as smaller streams empty into them. These small streams represent the truths of God as they are expounded by the gospel minister, each small stream representing one fundamental truth, and when all these are considered and added up we have a great river of truth, attesting to the promises, the blessings, the mercies, and the surety of God's purpose to and for His people. This would be like a natural river.

However, in spiritual matters things are often just opposite to what they are in nature. So as we think of these spiritual streams let us suppose this river starts as a great one, flowing out from the throne of God. It does not get any larger or smaller, but it does send out its small streams flowing through each individual church. The minister then uses these truths to proclaim the good news of salvation. He cannot tell it all at one time, but each time he uses some of these truths. Surely there is nothing more comforting to God's people than for them to know that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; that it is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; that grace and truth came by Jesus Christ; that we have received from the Lord's hand double for all our sins; that our warfare is accomplished, our iniquity is pardoned; that Jesus Christ is the one Sure Foundation of our hope of salvation; that he shall not fail, and that he shall save His people from their sins.

I believe this is the same river that John saw in Rev. 22:1. This river was crystal clear, (no pollution here). The truths and blessings of God are not polluted. And where does truth originate if not from the throne of God? He is very truth itself, and it is impossible for Him to lie. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and Jesus and God are one.

So, in times of trouble, doubts, discouragements, sorrows, and other problems, we have something to make us glad; the great river of truth, love and mercy.

(From "Advocate and Messenger", February, 1977)

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi

Not once did I ever enjoy seeing a fight while attending school all the years of my young life. Witnessing some boys that went around the school playground, and especially when there was visiting schools, during certain school activities, it seemed on every occasion there were troublemakers. Their main goal was to start a fight. Most of the time, they showed their great skill of being a bully, picking on someone much smaller than themselves.

When I was in third grade, my family and I moved to Arizona. I had not seen a Mexican, nor had I ever met an Indian. Being a "runt" most of my life, and not knowing how to protect myself against the bullies, set up a target for the bullies to show off their episodes.

I despised bullies then and I despise bullies today. On a certain occasion, a white kid, much larger than I, threw me to the ground for no reason at all except to show his great abilities to hurt someone much smaller. He used this opportunity to show off to other kids. There was no chance for me to defend myself. This is as plain in my mind this day as if it was happening at this moment. In my mind, I see the playground, the school, and the face of that white boy and I cannot erase it. Oh, how each of us needs to remember that sometimes things we do linger within people's hearts and minds all their life time, whether they are good or evil. (Now back to the bully) On that occasion as the bully was beating upon me, suddenly it stopped. I shall never forget as I got up and looked around. There stood a Mexican boy, and an Indian boy, real friends that came to my rescue. The Indian boy was a large boy for his age and I do mean large. He had reached down and removed the bully. When the Indian, whose name was Emmitt Pablo, came around there was no bullying going on. The Mexican kid's name was Francisco Valenzuela. We remained good friends for several years. They were peacemakers. The bully was a trouble maker. I remember only the name of the peacemakers. I wonder if they have had a good life; I wonder if they are still living in the area of Coolidge, Arizona. That was in 1953-54. I have forgotten the date but not the name of my protectors.

The Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 5:9, "*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*" Friends, I am so glad that Jesus referred to some as being "peacemakers." Notice, that there is no certain number given, but they all are blessed. I am glad that Jesus did **not** say "Blessed are the **peacemaker**..." (Singular), but said, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." (Plural). The word "peacemakers" is found one time in the scriptures. It is in Matthew 5:9. It means pacific, loving peace.

Jesus said a Peacemaker is blessed. A peacemaker is *happy: joined to names of God.*

This verse declares that the peacemakers shall be called the children of God. Just think of what a great blessing we have, having God's grace upon us and a warm feeling in our hearts to be called a child of God. Seems like I take such a blessing ever so lightly. Oh, a child of God! I do want to live my life to be a peacemaker. There are some in our day that are known as troublemakers. They disturb the little flocks of God's sheep across the land. There must be peacemakers to bring flocks of sheep together.

It is easy to be a troublemaker but not so easy when it comes to reconciling two parties, to bring them together so as to be one.

The greatest peacemaker is not from Washington, D.C., nor any head of state. He is not from another nation across the globe, but from a far country called Heaven, His home and our home. This man, the Son of God and Son of man came to give and make peace. Peace was made between two opposing parties. God was one and the elect family of God the opposing party.

One man caused the entire lineage to be sinful. This was by one man's disobedience. His name was Adam. The one breaking of the commandment of God brought the curse of death on the entire human race. However the gift of one man, His obedience to His Father, God of Heaven, brought peace for those that were reconciled to the Father by His Son Jesus. Oh, what a wonderful peacemaker. His name was and is, and shall always be Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul said, "*For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father*" Eph. 2:14-18

Adam shut the door of peace to us, but Jesus Christ opened that door eternally, legally satisfied the divine justice before God the Father. On the cross He cried aloud, "It is finished." The apostle John used these inspired words: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, STOOD A LAMB AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN..." Do you believe in the finished work of Jesus? I hope so, for outside that peace that Jesus has secured for us, there is no peace. Men try to make peace in the world, but the Lord gives peace to individuals. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God...

("The Good News Newsletter" September, 2011)

AC 22:16

By Elder John R. Daily
October 1899
Zion's Advocate

Acts 22:16 And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Ac 22:16. The washing away of sins in baptism is figurative and ceremonial and not literal. Peter speaks of two figures, the ark and baptism, saying, 'Wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.' 1Pe 3:20-21. He tells us that baptism is not the putting away the filth of the flesh. The word filth does not refer to literal dirt, but to a sinful nature. This is clear from the Greek word (rhupos) from which it is translated. This word is found in its adjective form in Re 22:11. 'He that is righteous, let him be righteous still and he that is filthy (rhuparos), let him be filthy still.' The word is used as the opposite of righteous in this text. It must, therefore, mean sinful. These are the only places in the New Testament in which this word rhupos is found. Its use in Revelations must be regarded as a correct interpretation of its meaning as used by inspiration. The irresistible conclusion is that Peter meant sinfulness of the flesh. Baptism is not the putting away of the sinfulness of the flesh. Flesh is used here in reference to ones state before being born of the Spirit, because that which is born only of the flesh, or born only once. is merely flesh. (Par.Ed)

Then baptism is not the putting away of the sinfulness of unregenerate sinners. Josephus, the learned Jewish historian, who lived in the first century, wrote the following statement concerning the doctrine taught by John the Baptist: 'Now, some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God, and that very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, that was called the Baptist, for Herod slew him who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism; for that the washing [with water] would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away [or the remission] of some sins [only], but for the purification of the body; supposing the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness.' Antiq. Of The Jews, Book xviii., Chap. v., Sec. 2. This is a fairly good statement of the doctrine of our church as taught then and now. Though written by a Jew it harmonizes remarkably well with the teaching of Peter. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God. It is not to answer the conscience, as some say, but the answer which

the good conscience gives. The conscience must be good before it can give an answer as a good conscience. If a person is baptized having an evil conscience he does not give the answer of a good conscience in the act. In Heb 9:14 we are told how the conscience is made good. 'For if the blood of bulls and goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without Spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.' Serving God follows the purging of the conscience by the blood of Christ. The conscience being purified is made good, and can give the answer of a good conscience in baptism. Besides being the answer of a good conscience, baptism saves us in a figurative sense. It is a figure of our salvation. Salvation by the ark was a figure of salvation in Christ, and baptism being a like figure is a figure of the same thing. Sins are washed away by baptism, therefore, in a figurative or ceremonial sense. In being baptized we renounce our former course and conduct, and thus we practically and professionally put our sins away and start on a new course. What a lovely sight it is to witness a humble, devoted, sincere follower of the Lamb going down into the water, just as our Saviour and his early disciples did! How happy are those who thus sincerely walk! The day of our baptism is so fresh in our memory! Our dear parents, now sleeping in the grave, were there. The old fathers and mothers in Israel, a few younger soldiers of the cross, and many of our youthful associates were there. Above all and best of all, we realized that our precious Savior was there.

Reader, if you have never obeyed, arise, and be baptized.

J. R. D.

CONTENT FOR THE FAITH

By Elder T. L. Webb Sr. (Deceased)

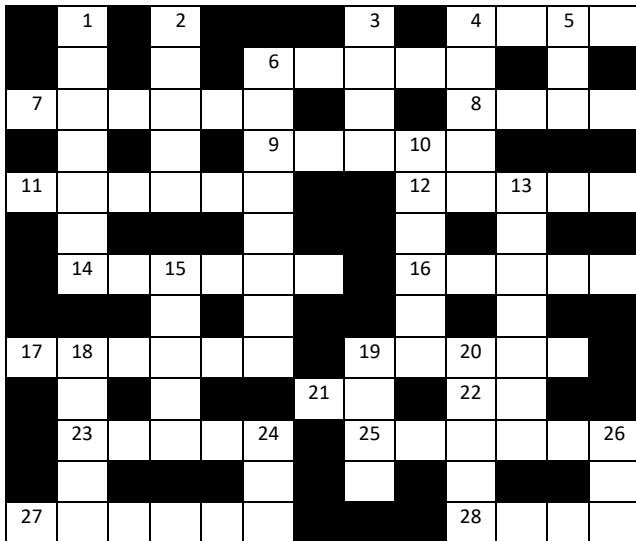
If it was needful that Jude and other saints of his day be reminded and exhorted to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints, is it not just as necessary now? Does this not imply that there is danger of these things being neglected? If so, how could it be a matter of eternal fixedness? God's work in preparing people to live in the glory world is according to His eternal purpose and will be accomplished whether we earnestly contend for the faith or not. He says, "I have purposed it, I will also bring it to pass." This does not mean that He will bring it to pass if people will let Him, or if people will accept it and believe it, but it means what it says. When the apostle asked the question, "How shall

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

4. Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he _____.
6. The scourged apostles rejoiced they were counted worthy to suffer _____ for his name.
7. In the year king _____ died I saw the Lord high and lifted up and his train filled the temple.
8. Surely I come quickly _____. End of prayer.
9. Ready for the Passover, Jesus told disciples to go into the city and find a large _____ room furnished.
11. Jesus is high _____ that passed into the heavens.
12. Jesus rode on a colt the foal of an _____. Plural.
14. Jesus ariseth from _____ and took a towel and basin of water and began to wash disciples' feet.
16. Paul was given a _____ in the flesh to buffet him.
17. _____ the word, be instant in season and out.
19. Thy watchmen lift up the voice, sing together for they shall see _____ eye, Two words.



(Answers on Page 9)

21. First two letters of name of Jesus' mother.
22. First two letters of the tribe producing priests.
23. Joseph's brothers hated him because he had a _____ and told it to his brothers.
25. Color of sacrificial heifer. Aaron had a _____ that budded. Two words.
27. There is a _____ that sticketh closer than a brother.
28. As a man soweth so shall he _____.

DOWN:

1. Man Jesus raised from the dead after 4 days.
2. _____ goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.
3. Instrument David played to comfort king Saul.
4. We were troubled on every side, without were fightings, within were _____. Frights.
5. In hope of eternal life which God that cannot _____ promised before the world began.
6. God openeth and no man _____.

DOWN:

10. As we have borne the image of the _____ we shall bear the image of the heavenly.
13. The bed is _____ than a man can stretch himself on it and the covering too narrow.
15. If I go to prepare a _____ for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself.
18. At the Red Sea; the horse and his _____ hath he thrown into the sea. Someone on a horse.
19. He that hath _____ to hear let him hear.
20. It is written the _____ shall serve the younger.
24. I am not _____ most noble Festus but speak the words of truth and soberness. Insane.
26. It is appointed unto men once to _____ after this the judgment.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

The family of a member of our church were all gathered together to celebrate her grand-daughter's 4th birthday. They all joined hands around the table as usual and her grand-daughter was going to say the blessing. She prayed, "God is great; God is good...Happy Birthday to me. Amen!" No use messing around, get to the point.

Our grandson Isaac was looking at an old car shed across the road from our church with a big S over the entrance. He commented unto his Uncle Joseph who was with him, about this building "That is unique." Very sophisticated word for a 3 1/2 year old.—*Editor*

(Continued from Page 5)

we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" he was not discussing eternal things. No man can show where God has ever neglected His work. Our neglect regarding the things He has commanded us to do inevitably brings distress and sorrow to us here in time. There is no escape from the just judgments of God. It is the purpose of God to correct His children through chastisement, for their good and His glory. They are under His parental government, and their enjoyment of the life that He has unconditionally given them depends, in a great measure, upon their conduct and the way they respect His law.

But this in no way conflicts with the fact that "We are saved from wrath through Him." So it is evident to my mind that we will be saved from the wrath to come and from eternal death by the faithfulness of God, through the Lord Jesus Christ; and I know, by experience and by the Bible, that our unfaithfulness to Him deprives us of many joys and blessings here in this time world. The sovereignty of God does not destroy the accountability of man. But to say that God predestinated for man to sin and to do the very things that He commands him not to do, would not only conflict with the accountability of man, but would make God arrayed against Himself, and would give no room for the idea of neglecting anything. Such teaching is not the "faith which was once delivered to the saints." Therefore it is necessary that the truth be contended for in order that God's people be saved from such errors.

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will have their annual open meeting on Friday and Saturday of the 4th weekend in February, 2019 (Feb. 22-24). More details to follow in February issue of Glad Tidings. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

Providence Primitive Baptist Church, Stringer, MS would like to invite our brethren and sisters to worship with us, Lord willing, the 4th weekend in January, 2019 (Jan. 25-27).

Services will be begin on Friday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch to follow, afternoon service, supper at 6:00 p.m. with night service at 7:00 p.m.

Service on Saturday, January 26, will follow the same schedule with the meeting ending with service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday with lunch to follow. If you are unable to come, please pray for the meeting.

In addition to brethren and sisters hosting guests in our homes, there are numerous hotels in Laurel which is about 18 miles away from the meeting house.

It appears these two hotels have the best ratings.— Hampton Inn & Suites, Laurel, MS 1509 Jefferson St. Laurel, MS 39440, (601) 399-0659

--Best Western Laurel Inn, 309 S 16th Ave. Laurel, MS 39440, (601) 425-4455

Please contact Elder Mark Quarles (Pastor of Providence) at mdqprimitive7@att.net; for more information or if you need a place to stay.

EXCERPTS GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Dear Ones,

Due to winter, decided to mail Christmas greetings early.

Wishes for a very special Thanksgiving to our Dear Lord for His blessings beyond counting!

With Love,
Sister Loreta Lilly
Akron, OH

WINTER TIME

We are in the time of winter across the land with its accompanying freezing cold temperatures, snow and ice in different locations. I hope that it is not winter time in our spiritual lives in which we have become cold and complacent in the service of God. When one is cold, there is a desire to get to a place of warmth. If we are cold toward the church and the service of God, we need to return to the place of warmth where God's love abounds in the assembly of the saints and the preaching of His word. Amen!—*Editor*

NEW HYMNAL ANNOUNCEMENT

It is our pleasure to introduce to you a new hymnal for public worship: **Worship the King: An Old Baptist Hymnal**. This book has been brought into being by the **Worship the King Hymnal Corporation**.

We have attempted to glean rich hymns of praise that are found in a number of hymnals including the *Good Old Songs, Harp of Ages, Primitive Baptist Hymnal, Old School Hymnal*, and some Sacred Harp songs (converted to the grand staff). The hymnal also has a few new songs not appearing in the hymnals listed. It is our hope that the book is Biblically sound in content as well as edifying to the body of Christ and glorifying to our Father in heaven.

We have labored to produce the compilation of 450 hymns that we hope you will enjoy singing to our Great King while building each other up in our most holy faith. This fruit is now being presented to your kind hands in the hopes that it will produce abundant praise and glory for many years to come in the churches of God.

We hope to have the hymnal ready and available for public worship around the New Year. Please visit our website at www.wtkhymnal.org for updates.

In Hope,

The Worship the King Hymnal Corporation Board of Directors:

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Pricing Structure: 1-5 books: \$10 each + shipping
6-75 books: \$9 each + shipping
76+ books: \$8 each + shipping

(Published by request from above directors—Editor)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

By Elder Robert Payne
November 27, 2018

Thought of the day:

The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deut. 29:29

Man in his quest to know all things cannot stand the idea that some things are known only to God and God alone. If we would strive to better understand and follow the things that are revealed we will have a full time job. It's better to give an answer of, I don't know, than some out words without understanding. We all know those that are "know it alls" and some that know more than the scriptures teach. We all could probably understand more of the Bible if we would study, pray and meditate upon the scriptures.

A PATTERN

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." Titus 2:7-8

When I was a young boy I would oftentimes observe my mother laying a pattern on a piece of cloth and begin to cut the cloth. There were many different parts to the pattern which made it necessary of each to be laid carefully on the cloth to get all the parts necessary to make the dress or other garment. The garment was not so simple as to be cut by one pattern but instead took many. Life is the same way. Life is complicated and each thing we deal with needs a pattern.

The pattern of good works including doctrine, gravity, sincerity, and sound speech, each of which is involved in the first six verses of the chapter. A pattern is used to cut out the real garment. Are we a pattern?

Are we a pattern in our marriage life, that we would want our children or others to follow? Are we kind and tenderhearted to one another, always thinking of the other is a love that is our first love? Are we a pattern as parents, and rearing our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Are we good patterns as children in the home, or do we act like we are visitors in the home requiring the services of our mother and father to make us happy? Or, do we do our part to make a happy home and show respect to our earthly parents as the Bible instructs us to do? Are we a pattern that other young people can follow by giving courage to those who avoid drugs and alcohol? Do we do the best we can in school and try to always be obedient and respectful to our teacher? Do we even know how to be polite and say yes ma'am and no ma'am to our parents, teachers and older people?

Are we a pattern of wearing dresses of the right length to show modesty? Do we guys wear our hair short and neatly trimmed?

Are we known as honest in the community in which we live, or is every merchant afraid we will bankrupt and steal their merchandise without paying for it?

Are we a pattern to our family by confessing the Lord is our Saviour and being baptized, or do we put off following our Lord as if we are unconcerned about the commandments of the Lord? As church members, are we so neglectful in attending our worship service, we seem more like a visitor who has no obligation to our church?

Are we a pattern for Bible reading and study, and prayer? Are we a good pattern of praying in the home and before every meal? Do we humbly bow our head

and pray in a restaurant no matter how much noise there is?

Remember, Christ is the perfect pattern. If we fashion our lives by the pattern of Christ, we will have a wonderful life, even in the midst of trials and sufferings. Paul tells us to what extent we are to follow him as our pattern. *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."* 1st Corinthians 11:1

Do we remember the saying: "What kind of church would my church be, if every church member was just like me?"

(From "Pathway of Truth", January, 2007)

FATHER IS IN THE SON

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." John 17:23

Since the Father is in the Son, we know there is perfect unity and perfection in their work. *"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."* Hebrews 10:14 Jude wrote to *"...them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Christ Jesus, and called."* Jude 1:1 The same ones sanctified by the Father were preserved in Christ.

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;..." 2nd Corinthians 5:19 Since God was in Christ, as soon as his blood was shed, his people were reconciled, or justified by God the Father. Their trespasses will not be charged against them. They were wiped out. The Son made the sacrifice. The Father reconciled. His people were saved on the cross.

(From "Pathway of Truth", January, 2007)

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR OWN WORK

For many years Monterey, a California coast town, was a pelican's paradise. As the fishermen cleaned their fish, they flung the offal to the pelicans. The birds grew fat, lazy, and contented. Eventually, however the offal was utilized, and there were no longer snacks for the pelicans. When the change came the pelicans made no effort to fish for themselves. They waited around and grew gaunt and thin. Many starved to death. They had forgotten how to fish for themselves. The problem was solved by importing new pelicans from the south, birds accustomed to foraging for themselves. They were placed among their starving cousins, and the newcomers immediately started catching fish. Before long, the hungry pelicans followed suit, and the famine was ended.

Bits & Pieces, June 23, 1994, p. 17.

SINGING

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

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Psalms 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

Do you have a favorite song? Most all of us do. My favorites are the ones that we sing in church to praise God. I enjoy sitting in a congregation of people of like faith and singing with praise in my heart to God. With the advent of the internet you can hear a great deal of songs on sites such as YouTube to help you learn the tune to a new song that you are not that familiar with. Each church has their favorite songs that they sing often. I have found visiting these churches is a good way to hear a new song and learn the tune by singing along with the congregation. Let's look at a few lessons on the subject of singing in the scriptures. We begin with the children of Israel after the crossing of the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:30 - 15:1: "Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses. Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."

When the Israelites saw their tormentors laying dead upon the seashore, They sang a new song of deliverance. No more would Israel be under the yoke of bondage. No longer would their afflictors pursue them. The horse and his rider lay before them dead. And as Moses had said they would see them no more! Imagine their delights as they were now feeling a liberty that thought they would never have. Imagine the joy in their singing. Egyptian bondage was behind them; now they headed for the promised land. Do you not have in your heart a song of freedom? Of course you do! The horse and his rider is symbolic of sin and death. When Jesus offered his perfect sinless life on the cross of Calvary, he conquered the law of sin and death for everyone of his beloved children. You are among that number which no man can number. Sing the song of deliverance! You have been set free. Think about this as you sing with your brethren in the congregation of your local church.

God has blessed us to not only sing with our brethren at church, but also when we are at other places as well. Notice in this verse of scripture where Paul and Silas sang a song. Acts 16:25: "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." The preceding verses tell us that Paul and Silas were

thrown in jail and had their feet fastened to stocks. They had also been beaten with many stripes. In such a sad place, in pain and in the still of the night; They began to sing a song of praise to God. I would be willing to bet that when they started to sing, their spirits were lifted up to feel joy in that desolate place.

There is a lesson for us here. Ephesians 5:19: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" I have often found when I am feeling low, and the Lord seems a hundred miles away from me. I start to sing a song of praise to God. It helps me immediately. I don't always sing the same song, for thankfully I have been fortunate enough to hear many good songs over the years. I recommend that you set aside time to sing praises to God. When it is just you and the Lord it will put you into a spiritual frame of mind. If you don't have a songbook, then get one. Usually your church will have some extras. If not you can always order one from the publishers of our songbooks. Commit them to memory. That way you will have a treasure to carry with you anywhere in the depths of your heart. You will get a blessing out of it.

Thank you Lord for giving us a heart to sing praises unto you.

Rickey Taylor

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

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 4. llaf | 1. surazal |
| 6. emahs | 2. edirp |
| 7. haizzu | 3. prah |
| 8. nema | 4. sraef |
| 9. reppu | 5. eil |
| 11. tseirp | 6. htettuhs |
| 12. sessa | 10. yhtrae |
| 14. reppus | 13. retrohs |
| 16. nroht | 15. ecalp |
| 17. hcaerp | 18. redir |
| 19. oteye | 19. srae |
| 21. am | 20. redle |
| 22. el | 24. dam |
| 23. maerd | 26. eid |
| 25. dorder | |
| 27. dneirf | |
| 28. paer | |

EXCERPTS GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Bro. Larry.

We thank you so much for the paper and all you do on behalf of Primitive Baptists everywhere.

Martha McElroy
Cordova, TN

THE LIVING BREAD

By Elder Jim Turner Jr. (Deceased)

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” John 6:51-52

It does not take the wisdom of Solomon to understand that this is a spiritual and not a literal lesson that Jesus is teaching. The Jews that heard Him thought that He was speaking literally about giving of His flesh to eat, as would appear to any natural mind. We hope in this writing, to point out a spiritual lesson we believe is contained in this text.

In the last sentence of verse 51, Jesus says the bread that I give is my flesh, which I give for the life of the world. This could only be referring to the world of His elect, just as in John 3:16. Earlier in this chapter in verses 37-39 Jesus says: **“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”** I wondered for a long time, why He used the word “it” in this text, and then it occurred to me that the “it” He is referring to is this mortal body in which we must live while we travel this low ground of sin and sorrow. When he gave His life on the cross, He not only bought our soul and spirit He also bought our bodies and when he returns on that resurrection day He will raise their bodies, and changes them to spiritual bodies, reunited with soul and spirit and fitted to forever live in His peaceful presence.

We have endeavored to establish who they are that are the beneficiaries of the giving of His flesh, all that the Father gave to Him. Now, we look who they are that spiritually feast on the flesh and blood of Jesus. As we have already pointed out, This is a spiritual and not a literal lesson. When we see a little band of the Lord’s people sitting under the sound of the gospel, shedding tears of joy at the preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, then you have found those who are spiritually feasting on that bread of life, the flesh of Jesus. All of the elect of God will be safely at home with Him in the winding up of all things, but only a remnant will feast on these blessed truths while they live here in time.

Elder Jim Turner, Jr
Little Rock, Arkansas

(From *“The GOOD NEWS Newsletter”*, October, 2008)

A FRIEND REMEMBERS

Daily Devotion for December 21, 2005

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”—Proverbs 18; 24

How many times has a friend remembered a special date or a particular instance in your life and then mentioned it to you in a very friendly way? Our friends do remember those times that are so special to us: birthdays, anniversaries, marriages, promotions, and other events. It is always pleasant to know that our friends do care and do remember.

True friends also remember other dates and occurrences in our lives: illnesses, deaths, divorces, etc. While we do not enjoy remembering the sad and disappointing things of life, they are there, nevertheless, and our minds bring them to our remembrance from time to time. We sorrow over such memories, but we are comforted when our friends also remember and share the sorrow and grief with us by their kind words of remembrance.

There is a Friend who remembers and never forgets us. That is God, who has our names graven in the palm of His hand. Elder Mark Green stated that he once wrote notes on the palm of his hand when he wanted to remember something. Those notes will disappear after a short time, either being rubbed off by use of the hand or by being washed off with soap and water. The names of the children of God are graven—they are etched—in the palm of His hand and they will not wear off nor will they be washed away. Those names are there forever. What a friend!

Today as we go about our daily activities, let us think about our friends, If there are any that are suffering for any reason—who may need to hear words of comfort—let us pause in our daily activities long enough to share a few moments, at least, with them in a friendly way and manner so that they, too, may enjoy the day better than if no one shared any time with them. Remember: we will have similar times of unrest when a few kind words will mean the difference between a day of extreme sadness and a day with at least a little bright spot in it. None of us are immune to the effects of loneliness, sadness or weariness.

Elder Louis Culver
(From *“ITMS”*, February, 2006)

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” (John 15:13-14)

“A friend loveth at all times...” (Prov. 17:17)

SOMEONE IS WATCHING

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

It is easier to behave when we are in the presence of someone else than when we are alone and we think no one is watching, Moses saw an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew and he looked this way and that way and saw there was no man; then he slew the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. (Ex. 2:12) There may have been an absence of any man to witness Moses' action but God is always watching. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3) All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Heb. 4:13). The day after Moses killed the Egyptian he tried to intervene in a fight with fellow Hebrews; one of them asked if he intended to kill him as he did the Egyptian. Moses knew his deed was known and fled into Midian from the face of Pharaoh.

Moses would be prepared for great service to God in Midian as he kept the sheep of his father-in-law, Jethro. He would be chosen by God to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage and would receive the law from God on Mount Sinai. While he was absent in Mount Sinai, the people asked Aaron to make them gods to go before them for they knew not what had happened to Moses. Aaron complied and ultimately a molten calf was fashioned to be their god. These people paid for their behavior just as all children of God do when they misbehave our great God. What did Moses do once he came down from the mount and saw them dancing around the molten calf? "And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it." (Ex. 32:20) This potion surely could not have been very tasty. God was busy with Moses but He was watching their actions at the same time. This is God's omniscience (perfect knowledge) in prominent display.

Paul taught many people of God in His ministry, both in person and by way of letters. He was happy when the people of God he taught obeyed and was distraught when they disobeyed. God is also pleased when His children obey and is displeased when they disobey. Paul taught the church at Philippi in person but then he writes to those same people and says, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2:12) These people were more prone to behave and obey when Paul was present but now he is absent. He exhorts them to continue their obedient course as God works in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Always remember however, that God is always watching whether there is some one present or not.

Not only is God watching as we go about our daily lives as followers of the Lord, other people are watching and taking note either for good or evil. If we are church members, we are representative of our church. If we are lovers of the Lord, we are representative of Him. Do our lives reflect the values of the church and of the Lord? When we are observed in activities not conducive to Christian behavior, we cast a hypocritical shadow against what we profess to be the truth. Contrast this with what happens when the following scripture is obeyed: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) Someone is watching our light or the lack of it; which will it be?

Those that were scattered abroad after the persecution and death of Stephen eventually went to Antioch and spoke unto the Grecians. The hand of the Lord was with them and a great number believed. When this news came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, They sent forth Barnabas that he should go to Antioch. This is what he observed when he arrived: "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." (Acts 11:23) Grace isn't something that we can hold in our hands and see so how did Barnabas see the grace of God? He saw it in the believers as they reflected the grace that resided within.

We are thankful that our missteps do not alter our eternal destiny but they do alter our blessings in this life reflected by our good deeds. The Lord knows whether we are doing good or evil. We are to do good and do it fervently and not just so we can say that we have done our duty. Paul writes, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Col. 3:23) There is also a negative side because the Lord sees the evil as well as the good and Paul addresses that in the next verse: "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." (Col. 3:24). The saints of God are recompensed for their good or evil deeds here on earth and not in heaven.

Moses never entered into Canaan's land because of unbelief yet he and Elijah was seen by Peter, James and John in the Mount of Transfiguration talking with Jesus about His decease. He missed out in this life but didn't forfeit heaven. We're on the honor system whether anyone is present or absent. May we honor Him each and every day because He is watching? Who knows; this might be the day when Jesus returns to take us home to be with Him. Amen!

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