

Glad Tidings

February

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

2020

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

There was brought to Jesus a man who was blind and dumb, possessed with a devil. Jesus healed this man so that the blind and dumb both saw and spoke. (Matt. 12:22) When the Pharisees heard of this, they accused Jesus of casting out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. This was not hidden from Jesus as we read, “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?” (Matt. 12:25-26) Jesus knew how to refute their blasphemy and taught a great truth concerning a divided kingdom.

Jesus said every city or house divided against itself would not stand. Everyone will be working at cross purposes for selfish reasons and eventually will result in the fall of the city or house. Our nation seems to fall into this predicament as division apparently has taken the day. From our national leaders to our state houses and even the local level, there is abounding division. The forces of evil seem to outweigh the forces of good but God is in control and that is the solace of the believer. We are told in scripture, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (I Cor. 10:13)

Even in the midst of division and ultimate fall, the Lord can and does make a way of escape for His children. It did not look good for the three Hebrew children who were thrust in the midst of the fiery furnace for refusing to bow down to a false god. However, they knew that their God was able as they said to king Nebuchadnezzar, “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Dan. 3:17-18) When certain political correctness and laws require us to bow down and compromise our beliefs, we can have confidence that God is still “able” to do exceeding abundantly above all we are able to ask or think. If we are faithful, He has promised to give us strength to press on, looking to Him and not man.

When God is the center of attention in a nation, city, house, or kingdom, there will be blessings bestowed. When God is relegated to the back seat, we can be sure God will respond in the appropriate way. The Bible plainly says, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17) When God and the mention of Him is banned in schools, public places and replaced by sanctioning same-sex marriages, homosexuality, and the things God forbids, how can we expect God to bless us as a people or as a nation? Amos said, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3) When Israel walked in agreement with Him and His commandments, they were blessed. When they walked contrary to His statutes, repercussions came in the form of judgments which the scriptures describe as evil sent by God. “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” (Isa. 45:7)

When we stand in our own might and strength we are ready and vulnerable for a fall just as Paul said, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (I Cor. 10:12) The Israelites in the wilderness serves as an example of this great truth. The church at Laodicea evidently was afflicted with this syndrome as they had the attitude of invincibility and didn’t need even God. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” (Rev. 3:17). There was a remedy for this attitude: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:10) This has to do with God’s fellowship with His people and not with their relationship.

Just as there was a remedy for the church at Laodicea, there is a remedy for this nation and the church as well. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (II Chron. 7:14) A nation or individual cannot forget God unless they have known Him previously so return unto Him and He has promised to return unto us. Remember a kingdom divided cannot stand so may we draw closer to one another and closer to our God and endeavor to hold fast Biblical principles despite hostility. (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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Something To Think About:

by Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)... 12-14-16
Some Rejected - Some Received

The Jewish people, for thousands of years, had been looking for a Messiah. At the time of Jesus coming into this world, they wanted a great leader who would overthrow their enemies and bring Israel to its former glory and greatness. His weapons would be mass armies, numerous horsemen, and great armament as in times past.

They never expected that His (Christ) weapons were not that kind. He would have no army (though He could have legions of Angels at His disposal), and no political power. The death of a king often meant defeat. However, to think that the death of their King (if they had not rejected him) would mean Victory was just plain unthinkable.

While the Jewish nation as a whole rejected Jesus as The Messiah, (**John 1:11 - "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not"**), there were some who did and were blessed beyond measure to have that fellowship and intimate relationship with their Lord. When those in the city saw Jesus riding a donkey, many probably thought very lightly of it. After all, what king rides on a donkey and not some fancy chariot? Romans who witnessed this did not see Him as a threat to Roman power. Many of the Jews probably wondered why this One who would be King was riding a lowly donkey. Even Christ's own Disciples did not understand the importance of what they were witnessing. However, anyone in the crowd who knew the prophecy of Zechariah when they saw Jesus entering the city on this particular day, would know

exactly what was happening, **"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."** (Zech. 9:9.). Jesus presented Himself just as the prophet had said that He would. **HE CAME AS THE KING!**

While during His crucifixion, there was so much rejection of who He was. We remember the words of Pilate in his response to the chief priests in John 19:21-22, **"Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."**

We are told in Matthew 10:40 that, **"He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me."** In speaking to the Apostles, Christ was relating to the gospel which they were and would be preaching, long after He had ascended back to the Father. Those born again children of God who would hear the blessed gospel and would receive it and believe it for what it was, would be receiving the intimate relationship and fellowship of those who truly believed. In the parable of the sower, (Matthew 13:23), the Lord said, **"But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."**

Let us now as children of the King, stop and meditate on the many benefits and blessings which the Lord has so mercifully bestowed upon us. After Jesus had cast out the devils into the swine in Luke 8:33, He told the man who was now free of those devils to return to his own house and **"shew how great things God hath done unto thee."** Notice verse 40 and how it gives us great admonition and instruction, **"And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him."**

May He find us waiting for His return, whether it be waiting for Him to **"pass by"** and visit with us by His blessed Spirit, or for His return to carry us home to be with Him in Paradise. Which ever, we wait in great anticipation. **"Think About IT!"**

(From *"Share The Word"*, December 14, 2016)

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: "It's a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians--and I am one of them."

Today In The Word, June, 1988, p. 18.

INSIGHT INTO WATER BAPTISM

By Elder Steve Weaver

Shannon, Mississippi

(Continued from January, 2020)

What must we understand?

How do we move from one position to another?

What is required of God to enter into his kingdom (the True visible church)?

1. There must be a repentance (turning away) from the errors of the old doctrines, practices, and beliefs. A turning away to the New. (Hence a repentance, reformation, reversal, turning away from). The exact same situation as the first time someone "Repented and was Baptized".

2. If the first doctrines were wrong and incorrect according to the "Word of God" then it would be error, therefore causing one to have an unsure or troubled conscience because we have been worshipping and serving in error. We must come before God with a good conscience fulfilling all righteousness. 1 Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

3. If the first two are correct then the third must require a new baptism, as the old baptism was unto false doctrines and incorrect practices.

Baptism being an open profession of our Faith (beliefs, doctrines, and practices) can be compared to a marriage, whereby we obtain a license to marry one person, should that person die, it is needful that a new/another license be obtained in order to marry someone else. The marriage is a legal (state ordered) ceremony to publicly show forth whom and what you believe, practice and serve, (or married to), after all we are members to the body of the bride of Christ.

Matthew speaks of two baptisms, one by water, the other by the Holy Ghost; Mat. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

This is what John the Baptist was referring to when he said "I have need to be baptized of Thee." John was baptized or filled with the Holy Ghost before he was born, but I don't find where he had been baptized of water, and Christ was the only one with authority to baptize John.

I would not have any to be confused, if at the time you were first baptized by water you were a born again child of God then you have been baptized by the Holy Ghost and you were clean ever wit. That baptism is of God through the Holy Spirit in regeneration and the new birth unto Christ, in the name of Christ and in His blood. The baptism by water is the answer of a good conscience toward God, (1 Peter 3:21) if we truly feel that we have in the

past served God under false teachings, and we have repented from those false beliefs, should we not openly profess those errors and be baptized again unto a good conscience toward God? 1 Peter 3:21 also states that there is a salvation (deliverance) in baptism.

In our previous life, before the new birth; Eph. 2:2 Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

Eph. 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

In that state we were wrong in our beliefs and practices, even though, if, after the new birth if we continue in error (false doctrines) there is still another conversion that must take place. Luk 22:32 **But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.** We must worship in "Spirit and Truth" John 4:24 **God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** If we were willing to be baptized unto a false doctrine as our open profession of our beliefs, why should we not be baptized again unto an open profession of the truth?

2 Co 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Act 24:16 And herein I do exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

1 Ti 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 1 Ti 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

My Dear Brother Dalton:

I so much enjoy the A. & M. Your writings and others are good. I have been trying to preach going on 64 years and been writing for our papers 60 years, but have never preached a discourse or written an article I was fully satisfied with. The reason I have been trying to portray perfect things with an imperfect tongue which cannot be done here. But I thank God for the sweet hope He has given me of being like Him as He is. In a blessed hope.

—Lee Hanks

(From "Advocate and Messenger", December, 1942)

**EXHORTATION
REMARKABLE PROVIDENCES**

Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

The God we worship is a God of providence as well as a God of grace. "Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." (Psa. 121:4). David again said, "In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me." He ever hears the cries of His children, and He will help them when all other help fails. He cannot fail. All power, both in heaven and in earth, is given unto Jesus. He is the Captain of our salvation. He conquers all enemies. The last enemy is death. This enemy, Jesus also conquered. He arose a mighty conqueror over death, hell and the grave, and will bring off more than conqueror every one the Father gave Him. And in this life; in this time state, He is not unmindful of us, and tells us to ask of Him. "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." If we as parents know how to give good gifts unto our children, "how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him." The wise parents do not give to their children every thing they ask for. The parents know better what is good for the child. And this human wisdom and human love is but a faint type of the wisdom of our heavenly Parent and the love He Has for His children. Paul said, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things." (Rom. 8:32). If God gives us the greatest gift—the gift of His darling Son—will He withhold lesser gifts His children need?

David exclaims, "The Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." (Psa. 84:11). Are we walking uprightly? Do we not sometimes suffer because of our evil deeds? God said, "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments, if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquities with stripes." (Psa. 89:30-32). Peter said, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters." (I Pet. 4:15). I cannot for a moment believe, either from experience or from teaching of the Bible, that God's children always do as He bids them, that all they do is according to His will and they could do otherwise. I believe they sometimes suffer as evildoers, and God does not predestinate, order or even tempt them to do evil. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." (Jas. 1:13). I believe Old Baptists sometime neglect their own duties and become busybodies in other men's matters—and suffer for it. "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (I Pet. 4:16). Rather than be ashamed, we

should rejoice if we suffer for the truth. Jesus said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven." But before we rejoice let us examine ourselves and be assured that the vile things said against us are false. If they should be true, we should hang our head in shame and mourn. But the Lord is good to us. Even when we disobey Him and bring reproach upon His dear name, his loving kindness will not utterly fail. For surely "He has not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." But "as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust." And His mercy "is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them." (Psa. 103:17-18).

PROVIDENCE OF GOD

John Wesley's father, Samuel, was a dedicated pastor, but there were those in his parish who did not like him. On February 9, 1709, a fire broke out in the rectory at Epworth, possibly set by one of the rector's enemies. Young John, not yet six years old, was stranded on an upper floor of the building. Two neighbors rescued the lad just seconds before the roof crashed in. One neighbor stood on the other's shoulders and pulled young John through the window.

Samuel Wesley said, "Come, neighbors, let us kneel down. Let us give thanks to God. He has given me all my eight children. Let the house go. I am rich enough." John Wesley often referred to himself as a "brand plucked out of the fire" (Zech 3:2; Amos 4:11). In later years he often noted February 9 in his journal and gave thanks to God for His mercy. Samuel Wesley labored for 40 years at Epworth and saw very little fruit; but consider what his family accomplished! W. Wiersbe,

"Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers,"
Moody Press, 1984, p. 251.

Four leprous men sat outside the gates of Samaria afflicted by famine. They say if we remain outside as law required by law, we will die. If we go inside, the famine is there and we die. We will fall into the hands of the Syrians; they can only kill us; This they do and lo, there are no Syrians. God had made them hear the noise of horse, chariots and a great host so they fled and left everything behind. They said that was a day of good tidings. (II Kings 7:3-9)—*Editor*

JOHN VIII 1-11

October 21, 1937

Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

We have been requested to give our views concerning the case of the woman brought to the Saviour, which instance is recorded in John viii. 1-11.

We will not take space here to quote the language recorded concerning the case. Turn to your Bible and read it. We have heard this matter referred to as proof that persons guilty of adultery should be forgiven and retained as members of the church. If this proves that, then will you please tell us what any person should be excluded from the church for? The matter of adultery is set forth in the Scriptures as the capital crime against the marriage vow and against the marriage bed, and is the only Scriptural ground upon which one may put away the companion and marry another.

Note, here the language of verses 4, 5 and 6: "They say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting Him, that they might have to accuse Him." Observe that they said this tempting Him, "that they might have to accuse Him." The evident fact here is that they thought they had Him "cornered", so that no matter what He might say they would have Him entangled in His speech. Jesus had said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you. Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."—Matt. v. 17,18. This being true. He was not to sit as a judge, to administer the law [pg 321] If He should have said for them to do what the law said do, He would have been sitting as a judge, to pass sentence, and to administer the law; and this would have been a contradiction of his statement that He came to fulfill the law. If He should have said, that He forgave the woman, that would have been to set the law aside, and not a fulfilling of the law. In either case, He would have been entangled in His speech; and this is just what those Pharisees and scribes thought He would have to do. But in this, as in all other instances when they tried to entangle Him, they were foiled in their purpose, and their efforts in that direction were a failure.

Note that Jesus says, in verses 10 and 11, "Woman, were are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her. Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." In this He does not say that she is forgiven, and the law thereby set aside or dishonored and trampled under foot. Neither does He pass sentence, and sit as a judge. Thereby the scribes and Pharisees are thwarted in their purpose and design.

The foregoing all being true, it is a twisting of the Scriptures to apply this as an example to justify the

forgiveness of the sin of adultery by the church. No such lesson is taught in this circumstance, and to apply the matter that way is a flagrant misapplication of the Scriptures. Just as well make a misapplication of the commandments and exhortations in the Scriptures, and give them to the unregenerate and ungodly world, as the religious world does, as to make such an application of this case as is sometimes done. Let us remember to rightly divide the word of truth, and put a lesson where it belongs.

After writing the above we had the impression that we had expressed our views on this matter once before in the columns of this paper, hence we looked that up. For the benefit of our readers we refer you to page 179 of Volume 1 of our Editorials—or Selected Editorials, which was the title given for the first volume. That article was written and published in THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST of May 7, 1907. C. H. C.

(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist",
Volume 6 By Elder C. H. Cayce)

THROUGH BACA'S VALE

By J. C. Philpot (Deceased)

February 5

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."—Jeremiah ii. 13.

There is nothing so cutting as the remembrance of backsliding against a good and holy God. There is nothing so wounded to a tender conscience as having sinned against manifested mercy and revealed salvation. It seems almost like doing despite to the Spirit of grace; almost like trampling under foot the blood of the covenant whereby we were sanctified, and treating our best Friend worse than his very enemies treated him. And as these things are brought to mind, and laid upon the conscience with weight and power, they will sometimes sink us very low into despondency and gloom so as almost to take away our very hope.

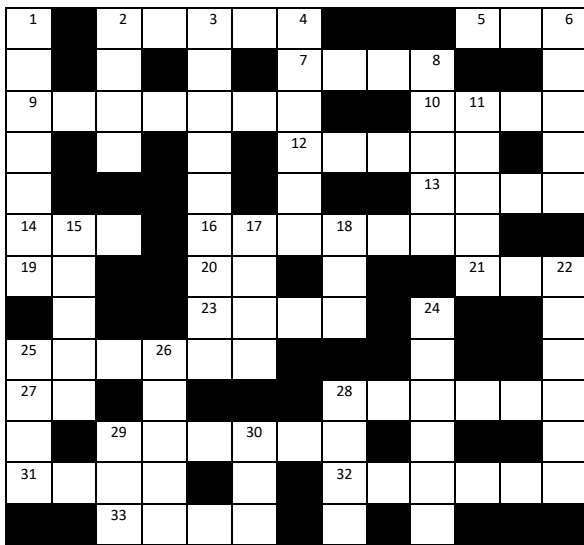
But the Lord is very merciful and compassionate to those who fear his name. He regards the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their cry. He listens to the sighs and confessions of the penitent heart, and broken, contrite spirit; and thus, though he will ever abase him that is high, he will exalt him that is low. He will never give up his rightful claim to his people. If he has bought us with his precious blood, he will never suffer that purchase to be annulled by the malice of Satan or by the wickedness of our own nature. How striking are these words, "Thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the Lord." And again, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord, for I am married unto you." "Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 2. Jealously is as ____ as the grave.
- 5. ____ the Father giveth me shall come to me.
- 7. Throat of the depraved is an ____ sepulchre.
- 9. ____ thy son while there is hope. Discipline.
- 10. Lame man at the beautiful gate wanted ____.
- 12. Jacob set a pillar upon Rachel's ____.
- 13. Your fathers did ____ manna in the wilderness and are dead. Plural.
- 14. Having loved his own he loved them unto the ____
- 16. Esau sold birthright for one ____ of meat. Plural.
- 19. ____ I come in the volume of the book to do thy will.
- 20. God rested ____ the seventh day after His creation.
- 21. Veil of the temple was rent from ____ to bottom.
- 23. Swift to hear, ____ to speak, slow to wrath.



(Answers on Page 8)

- 25. Jerusalem is builded ____ a ____ that is compact together. Two words.
- 27. ____ still and know that I am God. Bumble ____.
- 28. Took 2 men to carry these from land of Canaan.
- 29. Queen who petitioned the king to save her fellow Jews from destruction.
- 31. Profane fornicator who sold his birthright.
- 32. Stephen saw the heavens ____ and Jesus was standing on the right hand of God.
- 33. I swore in my wrath they shall not enter into my ____

DOWN:

- 1. Archangel who contended with the devil about the body of Moses.
- 2. Jacob gave his son Joseph a ____ of many colors.
- 3. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the ____ parts of the sea; even there thou shalt lead.
- 4. Drink no ____ water but a little wine for infirmities.
- 6. He that findeth his life shall ____ it. Plural.
- 8. As for thy nativity in the day thou was born thy ____ was not cut.
- 11. Paul felt to be the ____ of all the apostles.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

- 15. Make a joyful ____ unto the Lord all ye lands.
- 17. I am the Lord and Him ____ shalt thou serve.
- 18. They that ____ in tears shall reap in joy.
- 22. We have a great high priest that is ____ into the heavens.
- 24. Thrice the apostle Paul was ____ with rods.
- 25. No man is ____ to pluck them out of my Father's hand. God is ____ to save to the uttermost.
- 26. Jesus healed a woman who was afflicted with an ____ of blood twelve years.
- 28. ____ in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
- 29. He that hath an ____ to hear let him hear.
- 30. If you are not lukewarm or cold, you are ____.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

We were keeping our 5 year old grandson, Isaac, recently while his parents took care of their 3 month old who was sick and in the hospital. My wife had fixed breakfast but he only ate a few dry frosted flakes, even though there were bacon and eggs. Our son, Joseph, got his share of eggs and left two slices of bacon on the plate for my wife and a few scrambled eggs. Isaac came back in the kitchen, saw the two pieces of bacon on the plate and said, "Don't mind if I do" whereupon he took the two pieces of bacon. My wife (Isaac's Nana) came back into the kitchen. Her eggs Joseph left were still there but the bacon was gone. I told her someone named Isaac had taken it. Isaac heard me in the door way and said, "Just call me a bacon robber."—*Editor*

MAJESTY OF GOD

How deep is the ocean; how high is the sky? At its deepest, in the Mariana Trench, located in the Pacific, the ocean reaches 6.856 miles. The troposphere, which includes the layer of air we breathe, is about 10 miles high, but the atmosphere extends upward more than 600 miles. If this is true, just imagine how great God is and the heaven of heavens which is His dwelling place.—*Editor*

THROUGH BACA'S VALE

(Continued from Page 5)

backslidings." And shall we not answer, "Behold, we come unto thee, for thou art the Lord our God? Truly in vain is salvation hope for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel." (Jer. iii. 23).

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS will be hosting its Spring Fellowship Meeting during the 4th weekend in February, from February 21-23, 2020. This will be an open meeting, so we invite all minister brethren to come be with us this weekend. Services will be Friday, Feb. 21, at 10:00 am, followed by lunch, 1:30 pm afternoon services. Same schedule and times for services on Saturday, Feb. 22. Meeting will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 23 with services at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Everyone is invited to come and worship with us throughout this weekend. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

The Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting will be held with Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Headland, AL March, 19-22, 2020. For more information contact Elder Clayton Nowell, Pastor at 334-693-5700.

Elder Bob Ward will be with Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 5th Sunday in March, 2020 with services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting will be held with New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS March 29, 2020 with supper at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. New Prospect is currently without a Pastor. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell churches. Everyone is invited.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church was blessed with a new member recently as a Brother Shelton was baptized by Elder Rusty Wise into the church fellowship of New Prospect. May the Lord prosper our churches with spiritual and numerical growth during the year 2020. "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." (Psalm 50:2)

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Hatley, MS will hold its annual winter meeting on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020 with services at 10:30 a.m. with lunch served and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. Elder Josh Winslett, Pastor of Beulah PBC in Leeds, AL is the invited minister. Everyone is invited. Elder Tim Cunningham is Pastor of New Hope.

Elder Michael Gowens, Calabash, NC has available a continuous 24 hour streaming Primitive Baptist network consisting of sermons by Primitive Baptist elders, radio programs, and acapella singing of hymns. There is also an app you can download on your smart phone and listen. You can connect at gracealoneradio.net.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found..." Isa.55:6

BEGINNING OF STRIFE

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Prov. 17:14, "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water; therefore leave off contention before it is meddled with."

Strife, like illness, is easier to prevent than it is to treat. Like illness, it leaves a system run down, and some organs of the body damaged, so that they do not function like they should, strife divides close brethren, lays waste the place of habitation of the Lord's people and makes unbearable monsters of the Lord's children.

Many people have worn themselves out trying to settle trouble. When trouble comes and fellowship goes, and the congregation with it, many begin wanting to fix things. That can be done in a generation or two. The trouble could have been prevented in this generation. One thing to be remembered, it will not be the same anymore after strife and trouble begins. Many of the best brethren we have, have gone and tried to settle troubles. After it is supposedly settled, the most often occurrence is one group getting their letters and setting up another church. This shows it will never be the same again. Just like water let out of a container. There is not a human alive that can put all the water back in a container after they have let it out. It is the same way of strife among the people of God.

Many people will let themselves lose confidence in their brethren by making much of an unintentional, poorly spoken word or deed that appears to mean something it does not. I constantly try to keep before my eyes my own imperfections, so that if a brother or sister says, or does, something that does not appear to be right or sober, that I can better remember that we are all imperfect. How well you or I keep our own imperfections before our own eyes will determine the peace and fellowship in the church of God.

I do not mean we should close our eyes to those conditions that the Lord has forbidden in the church. I do not mean we should try to avoid those circumstances and disputes that turn brethren into monsters that cannot reason, and turn in anger upon those things they love the most, and those people that love them the most.

1 Pet. 4:8, "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

If we manifest our love for one another as we should, we can overlook the faults of the people of God. If we cannot overlook the faults of those we love, can we really have much evidence that the love of God abides in our heart. Do we really love the doctrine and power of God? If we do, then, we can look overlook one another's little faults. Again, I am not talking about those things forbidden in the church of God. I am talking about contention that bringeth

strife. This kind of contention divides up, splits, and destroys unity and peace. When most people come to their senses, they wonder how it ever got started. I have even known it to begin over a dog or the calling of a pastor.

Rom. 16:17, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

I have known of some people who caused divisions and contentions in several different churches in their lifetime. The church is more important than the petty ways of the contentious. Neither forbearance, pity, nor kindred in the flesh, should hinder us from following the scripture. You cannot avoid a trouble maker, and keep him in the fellowship of the church. Those who don't avoid the divider love trouble more than they love the church. (March, 1966)

(From "The Best of Elder Guy Hunt")

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

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 2. leurc | 1. leahcim |
| 5. lla | 2. taoc |
| 7. nepo | 3. tsomrettu |
| 9. netsahc | 4. regnol |
| 10. smla | 6. sesol |
| 12. evarg | 8. levan |
| 13. stae | 11. tsacl |
| 14. dne | 15. esion |
| 16. slesrom | 17. ylno |
| 19. ol | 18. wos |
| 20. no | 22. dessap |
| 21. pot | 24. netaeb |
| 23. wols | 25. elba |
| 25. yticsa | 26. eussi |
| 27. eb | 28. worg |
| 28. separg | 29. rae |
| 29. rehtse | 30. toh |
| 31. uase | |
| 32. denepo | |
| 33. tser | |

UNITY

In a Peanuts cartoon Lucy demanded that Linus change TV channels, threatening him with her fist if he didn't. "What makes you think you can walk right in here and take over?" asks Linus.

"These five fingers," says Lucy. "Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold."

"Which channel do you want?" asks Linus. Turning away, he looks at his fingers and says, "Why can't you guys get organized like that?"—Charles Schultz

FEAR GOD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

"Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." 1 Peter 2:17

What does it mean to fear God? Many preachers today define it as to come forward and ask for forgiveness, because you may have very little time to do so. If you linger and the Lord comes back, or you should die, then you will go to hell. Is this the way the Lord expects us to fear him? I don't think so. The word fear means to "reverence" "honor" "respect". as it says in the 111 Psalms, holy and reverend shall be his name. This doesn't appear to be the stark raving fear that one would have if a man eating Lion was roaming nearby. God is to be revered; he is to be honored, and respected in our hearts. To do this is right and good in the eyes of God. If you do these things, then you believe in a God you have never seen, yet you respect his authority as the God of all power. You believe, and respect that he has the power to cast both body and soul into hell, yet will not because his Son paid the price for you on the cross Matthew 10:28. To respect and honor God is evidence that you are born of the Spirit. For the dead alien sinner has no fear of God Romans 3:18. To the wicked the preaching of the gospel is foolishness, for they fear not God 1 Cor 1:18. This should be a comfort to those out there who are concerned about their eternal salvation. Do the wicked have concern about this? No, they could care less. Just the fact that you are concerned about going to heaven, is proof that you are born of the Spirit, and heaven will be your home someday. So put aside those concerns and go about serving your Lord who gave you a home in heaven. The wicked think that they will never have to answer to anyone for their evil. The informed child of God knows better. God will not punish his child with eternal hell, but he will punish him if he does wrong with chastisement. Hebrews 12:5-11

To pray to God is a form of fear; it shows that you have respect that he has the power to help you in your time of need. You are placing your hope in him; this is an honor that he deserves. You fear God when you believe that he is a just and Holy God, this is a form of reverence. Reverend is a word that we do not apply to our ministers because it is meant for God Psalms 111:9. We use Elder instead because the scriptures instruct us to do so. 1 Timothy 5:1; 1 Peter 5:1 We fear God and want to keep his commandments.

We sincerely believe that this puts the fear of God in its proper context.

R L Taylor

We fear men so much because we fear God so little.--William Gurnall

Like Daddy use to say: "About Work"

- Work is said to be accomplished, when a force is exerted and an object is moved. Moving hot air don't count.
- Work is the most natural thing people do, and the one thing most of em don't like.
- Getting kids to work is like getting a donkey to pull a cart: It all depends on how much of a carrot is in front of them.
- Getting quality work done has a recipe:
 - A. When Momma kept track of how good we were doing our work: The work generally got done better.
 - B. When Momma kept track of how good we were doing our work and told Daddy: The work got better a lot faster.
- People are usually willing to be first in pointing out how important it is to get something done; but last in showing up to do it.
- People say us Old Baptist don't believe in works. Not so, the best way to kill time is to work it to death.
- Good works are not things that are wrong, which we have learned to do better.
- Good works are good works: Things that have always been right but just needed somebody to do 'em.
- People usually know, more about the one who is always talking, than they do the one who is hard at work.
- Working hard is not always hard work, and honest work is not always easy, but both are the good way to work.

(From "Zion's Lamp", July, 2013)

GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Dear Ones,

Our Dear Lord made me able to write the following:
Life is a sacred Gift of God

No human mind can measure

A gift that's very precious

A very Special Treasure

May we thank God each day

Along this timely pathway.

Thinking of God being all Powerful, Marvelous and Mysterious is really precious.

Wishing our Dear Lord's Blessings to you all throughout the New Year.

In Precious Hope & Love In-Christ,

Sister Loreta Lilly
Akron, OH

"(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)" (Psalm 49:8)

THE VICTORY

But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,--1 Cor. xv. 57.

The life of God's children here in this world is filled with wars and bitter conflicts, ceaseless and without cessation, and we become very discouraged and long to find rest from all our troubles. We know that we are too weak to ever gain the victory over our enemies who besiege us from every side. Here is a thought from the Apostle Paul, which should fill our poor weary souls with fresh courage, "God will give us the victory." Paul was telling the wonderful news of Christ's resurrection, and the summing up in this verse takes place, that God gives the victory. This is good news to the war weary saint of God, who feels like sinking down in despair. The victory is assured, because God gives the victory. The victory is not won because we are good, but is something which is bestowed upon us by a God who has a great love for us through Christ. There is a victory which we can win here in this life, but it is also by God's help, for without His presence we could never hold out faithful to the end of life's little day, nor exclaim with Paul, that we have fought a good fight. We would not be fighting a good fight if we ran away when the enemy appears. Soldiers who desert in time of war are sometimes shot, and the same thing is true of God's servants, who flee when the church needs them; they forfeit their church life and become cast away. It is surely God's ultimate purpose to bring the church conflicts to a victorious end, when our Lord shall appear again. It shall stand forever, and although her foes are many and wage a constant warfare, yet there will be a faithful few fighting on when he comes to claim her as His bride.

In this great conflict which is bathing the world in the blood of our finest young men, there were traitors, known as fifth column. This is no new thing; the church had to contend with that class for many centuries, and sometimes they have wrecked havoc among us—those cruel and designing men whom Paul described as ravenous wolves, arising among us. This great victory which Paul stated that God would give us, or rather giveth us, is final. There will never be a renewal of hostilities, for it is not an armistice, but a complete and deciding victory over all our foes. Victory over sin is certain; victory over the foes of the church, complete; victory over our weakness, sure, for we shall be raised in strength. Let us, with Paul, give thanks to God, who giveth us the victory. The battle will soon be over, little child of God; fight on; fight on, while the heat of battle rages in this life. Think of the sure promises of God; just a while longer and our King shall appear and shall put down all powers, and all our foes will then be vanquished. Oh, how I long to be found fighting beside faithful men when that time shall come, those

who are earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

After the battle, the soldier longs to go home, and that is our desire, if we are not deceived in our poor hearts—home, to mother and father and loved ones; home to where Jesus, our elder Brother dwells, where we can forget life's battle and rest forever with Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Pray for us.

J. A. Rowell

(From *"The Primitive Baptist"*, April 5, 1945)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

By Elder George Walker
1943-2011

In the gospel of John chapter 5, verses 39 through 40 we read where Christ speaks, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."

Sometimes we get the wrong idea of how life comes to a child of grace that is dead in trespasses and in sin. There are so many ideas in the religious world today of how we get ourselves born again. Jesus has said in the 3rd chapter of John and verse 8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." This passage of scripture is telling us that this work is the work of the Holy Spirit. That we cannot control the wind anymore than we can control the Holy Spirit. We cannot even tell from whence it cometh or whether it goeth, that it blows where it pleases and the only knowledge that we have of it is that we hear the sound thereof and are able to see the effects of it.

When my son Tony was small he came running into the house and told me that the wind was blowing. I said son, how do you know that the wind is blowing? He said because I saw it. My son really did not see the wind, he was able to hear the wind and to see the effects of the wind by the moving of the leaves that were moved from place to place by the wind, but could not see it or control it. In like manner we cannot control the Spirit and command it to blow upon this person or that person or even to blow upon us. This is the work of God, he speaks and it is done.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." Here are some people that Christ said, "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you." This life does not come from searching the scriptures, this life does not come through the preaching of the scriptures and this life does not come through us being obedient to the scriptures, because life must

come before action. This reminds me of the old saying, which comes first the chicken or the egg? The life is in the chicken, not the egg, so the chicken is first, then the egg.

A dead man cannot act upon anything, he cannot see, hear, understand, move, think, nor command because he is dead. A man dead in trespasses and sin cannot see, hear, believe, understand or comprehend spiritual things because he is dead. Yet we find that a live person can act upon things because life comes before action. A dead man cannot act upon anything until life has been imparted to the heart and soul. So this life does not come through the searching of the scriptures, but searching the scriptures will testify of the work of Jesus Christ once the Spirit has done a work upon the sinner's heart. Jesus says, "They are they which testify of me." The scriptures testify to the finished work of Jesus Christ. They testify to the fact that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. That Christ came and fulfilled the law to a jot and to a tittle, that he suffered the just for the unjust, that his blood covered our sins, putting our sins as far away as the east is from the west and remembers them against us no more.

In verse 42 Jesus says, "but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you." You can see that this is teaching us that in order for us to love God we have to have the love of God already dwelling within us. If we love God it is because he first loved us, that he set his love upon us and that we have an indwelling of that love in us. We have Christ in us, the hope of glory. When we begin to search the scriptures and when we hear the gospel preached it testifies to us that Christ has done a work upon the heart. That he has taken out the hard and stony heart and gave us a heart of flesh, a heart that feels and knows that Jesus is the friend of sinners.

No wonder that John could write and say, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 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... And we know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

As I search the scriptures from day to day it increases my hope because it testifies to the finished work of Jesus Christ. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

(From *"Zion's Lamp"* July, 2013)

Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel; light so we might see and know we are children of God.—*Editor*

MAY BE SMALL—BUT BLESSED

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Everyone seems to be fascinated by huge things, whether it is a large mansion, theme park, football stadium and that is the standard by which most will distinguish success. However, the scripture takes a much different perspective than this short-sighted outlook. The prophet Zechariah writes, "For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth." (Zech 4:10) Zerubbabel was blessed to be instrumental in building the second temple which was much smaller than the first temple. It was despised by the enemies of Judah and by many of the Jews themselves, especially those who had seen the first temple and all its glory.

The providence of God has allowed this second temple to be built and although not as large or boldly magnificent in size as the former, but was not to be despised. According to scripture, the true church of Christ will not be a huge number of people who are worshipping in Spirit and in truth. Jesus said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32) The kingdom of God is a "little" flock when compared to the mass of humanity that exists in the world. We find this principle taught in the Old Testament. The prophet Elijah thought he was the only one left to serve the Lord. He said the children of Israel had forsaken God's covenant, thrown down His altars, slew the prophets, and he was the only one left. However, God said, "Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." (I Kings 19:18) Seven thousand was a small number in relation to the population of Israel so don't despise the day of small things.

Imagine all the people that Jesus preached to and taught during His three and a half year ministry. Yet there were only one hundred and twenty disciples, including the eleven apostles, assembled in a large upper after His departure into heaven. However, they were all in one mind and one accord. On the Day of Pentecost the Lord poured out His Spirit and those present began to speak with tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance. Peter preached boldly causing many to be pricked in their hearts and they were told to repent and be baptized. The end result was, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41) The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Three thousand is a large number but small in comparison to the populace.

The presence of the Lord can be with three people or with three thousand if they are there in the right spirit and for the right purpose. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) Although this verse is in connection with proper way to reconcile brothers and sister, who can doubt that it also applies to the assembly of the saints when He walked in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks which were the seven churches of Asia. (Rev. 1:20) The Lord can and does make His presence known in small congregations as well as larger.

The church and the truth taught by it will never attract the masses that are looking for something to appease their own ideas of what is right; right in line with the prevalent view today that truth is relative and not absolute. The church should grow both in spiritual growth and in numbers, but Satan is ever there to deceive and hinder those with a desire to serve. It is alarming and disheartening to see such small numbers sometimes assemble to worship the Lord but as Zechariah says, "Despise not the day of small things." Seeds sown today do not immediately spring up and bear fruit but hopefully, with the right, attitude and prayer, they will eventually spring forth, grow and bear fruit. Regardless, we are to do as did those on the Day of Pentecost. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)

There was a poor widow who gave into the treasury only two mites whereas others gave much more. How did Jesus measure her contribution? "And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had." (Luke 21:3-4) Although small was her giving, Jesus recognized it as more than all the rest.

There were ten lepers that had been healed by Jesus but only one returned to give him thanks and to glorify Him. This is how Jesus responded to that gratitude. "And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 17:17-18) One out of ten is only a small percentage to truly give thanks and so it is with the true church of Jesus Christ on earth. In contrast, the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven are a great multitude which no man can number out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people. (Rev. 5:9)

Despise not the day of small things but rejoice that you are counted worthy to be a part of the militant church kingdom on earth and looking forward to the final culmination of all things in eternal heaven.

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