

Glad Tidings

July

2020

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

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

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

There are many things happening in our society and the world today that tend to cause us to have our minds elsewhere other than the Lord. The corona virus that has caused such devastation is just one of many factors that have caused minds to be distracted from trusting the Lord. I find however, in the Bible where Isaiah said, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3)

When our minds stay on the Lord and trust in Him for deliverance, we are kept in perfect (complete, wholly,) peace which no one can deny is a true blessing from the Lord. If our minds are consumed by fear and anxiety, we lose our peace and act in a way that we would not normally act. We act in an irrational way that not only affects our happiness but also our loved ones that we see on a daily basis. Fear and anxiety can be contagious and infect others as well.

Ten of the twelve spies who spied out the land of Canaan came back with an evil report that they could not take the land because of the greatness of the people and fortifications in the land. How did this affect others? Joshua and Caleb were two of those spies who believed God that if God would be with them, they could take the land. This is the account of Joshua of the effect of the evil report; "Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God." (Josh. 14:8) The ten caused the heart of the people to melt.

When our hearts melt as did the people of Israel at the evil report of the twelve, we lose the peace and comfort that comes with trusting in the Lord. Our minds have been focused elsewhere than above and we are like a cube of ice that dissolves under the heat of the sun. We dissolve in the cares of the world and the word of God is choked out so that no fruit can be produced. Jesus taught in the parable of the sower of the lot of the word falling among the thorns, "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." (Mark 4:19)

Satan is ever ready to hinder our faith from being focused on the Lord. By faith we can have our mind and eyes on the Lord and avoid sinking into the drowning waters of this world as Peter almost did when he took his eyes off Jesus walking on water.

We don't know what the future holds for us on earth; but we do know what the future holds for us in heaven. This knowledge should cause us to have our minds stayed on the Lord. I don't believe it is humanly possible to have our minds concentrating on the Lord 24 hours a day. If someone is operating on me, I want his mind concentrated on the issue at hand in asking for the right instruments and not making a slip with the scalpel. However, in the subconscious mind, the surgeon, as well as us, should trust the Lord.

Each day is a day of salvation (deliverance) so may we keep our minds focused on the Lord as much as is humanly possible but remember that with the Lord all things are possible. I have lost much peace by my mind being distracted with undue worry over things which I have no control. If we can control the situation, do something about it. If we have no control, trust the Lord to take care of the situation and avoid undue anxiety and worry. Keep your mind on the Lord.

We will always have peace with God legally by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross: however, our inward peace to trust Him is prone to wane when under the stress of coping with trials that come our way. The prophet Habakkuk tells of a time when everything seemed to fail. The fig tree, vineyard, fields, flock, and herds were empty and had not produced. What was the reaction to this dilemma? "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." (Hab. 3:17) Only a mind that is stayed on the Lord could make that statement.

Faith looks upward and not downward. Faith looks to the unknown as did Abraham when he was called out of Ur of the Chaldees by the Lord to go to an unknown place. (Heb. 11:8-9). We walk by faith and not by sight in this life which produces a perfect and upright individual. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." (Psalm 37:37). There is peace in this life and in the life to come where there will be everlasting peace and joy.

We still have a carnal mind as born again children of God but is coupled with a spiritual mind. Paul said, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Rom. 8:6) Our minds are completely foreign from God while dead in sin but now as grace recipients we must channel our minds to the One who is worthy of praise. Trust the Lord in both bad and good times. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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THE WOMAN OF CANAAN



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

"But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to the dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (Mt. 15:26-27)

I can still remember the feelings that I had when I first came to the church. I was in the midst of some excellent preachers, and saints which were loving, caring, and well read individuals. All of these in a single environment made me feel so unworthy to be with such good people. Who was I that I should be allowed to fellowship with such people that were so much better than I, in serving the Lord, years later I still feel so unworthy of this wonderful blessing, my Lord has given me. I like this Canaanite woman feel as a dog in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In our above text the woman had come to the Lord seeking for him to help her daughter who was vexed with a devil. When the Lord said nothing to her, she

persisted until finally Jesus said to her that it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.

Yes our Lord called this woman a dog, and I would like to share with you a few thoughts that I have on this story in the Bible. The Bible teaches us that she was a woman of Canaan, a Syro-Phoenician to be exact. These people and the Jews had no dealings with one another for the Jews (they are the children here in this story) considered them as "unclean" dogs. The Bible teaches us that when Christ first came in the flesh, he was sent only to the Jews (John 1:11). This is what Christ meant when he told her that it was not meet to give the children's bread to dogs. The bread was originally intended for Israel, not the Gentiles.

History tells us that this woman was likely a worshipper of the goddess Ashteroth, an idol known to them as the queen of heaven. Her cries to the goddess had failed. She had no where else to go but to the Lord Jesus, and so she came ready to take whatever abuse the Jews would heap on her, to turn to the Christ of Heaven and Earth for her daughter's relief.

She openly admitted that she was a Dog, or at least felt like one, when she said "truth Lord" and then she proceeds to tell us what kind of dog she is. She said she was a "dog" that ate scraps from her master's children's table. History tells us of two different kinds of dogs that were in Palestine at that time. One was the dogs that were outside the house that were wild and half wolfish, that had a domineering presence, and ferociousness about them. These kinds of dogs could take care of themselves, tough enough to find food on their own. But the woman does not identify herself with these kinds of dogs. The word "dog" that she uses means: "puppy", a small dog that eats scraps from the children's table, a house dog. A little dog that would take no food from the children's table, just the scraps or crumbs that they didn't want, would be more than enough for her and her daughter. Not only did she agree that she was a dog, but she was not even a very big dog at that!

At the woman's moving description of herself and with the great humility that our Lord had not seen, yea even among Israel our Lord with loving kindness and excitement that one of his little sheep was coming home to the church that he was setting up, proclaimed "Oh woman great is thy faith"! You shall have as you desire, and her daughter was healed at the same hour! This is what the Son of Man had hoped to find in Israel, but no proclamation of "great is thy faith" would be found among his own people. The little puppy (helpless) had received her crumbs from the master's table and there would be more for her to come.

Let us remember this humble attitude of the Canaanite woman who approached her Lord and we

too shall be as the helpless dog waiting for scraps to fall from the master's table, and our spiritual souls be fed today in the house of the Lord.

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", Jan., 2008)

Our Daily Prayer



11 May 2020

By Elder Rusty Wise
Tupelo, Mississippi

Ecclesiastes 9:10 KJV "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Have you ever heard children whine and complain about being bored or not having anything to do? Generally in this day in time children more often than not are pacified by their parents. A new toy will keep them occupied and out of sight and out of mind. All the while the only lessons they learn is to be selfish, persistently nagging, and uncaring (that is for anyone else). They are only happy at that moment for what you may provide. And as life goes on the toys have to be bigger and better (more expensive).

What better lesson can we teach our children and others of good work ethics. To remind them that the only important things in life come not from holding our hand outs, but by putting our hands on. By learning the value of something. An old saying is that you can give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day, but if you can teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime. And the learning does not stop but that it is continuous. Working learning teaching go on through out a lifetime, always attaining to perfection. Striving to get the most satisfaction and joy from a job well done.

Is there work to be done in the kingdom of God? Plenty my friends. Keep in mind the work of Jesus Christ is finished and complete, with nothing left to be done. But our work here in this life continues. The work of disciples, the work of followers, the work of teachers, the work of setting examples, the work of being good citizens, the work of being good husbands and fathers of good wives and mothers of good children, the work of being good workers. Our labor is for the life we now live. To teach us how precious is the life to come. We cannot labor to obtain that life, because that work has already been

finished. However we can labor in the vineyard of the Lord to know more of the joy of our salvation and our elder brother that made it possible. And labor to live our lives in humble obedient adoration and appreciation for our Lord and master.

Our labor is not that we may be pacified; but that we may be satisfied with his perfect work and that we may have an abundant life full of joy.

Our prayer today is that our Father in heaven might bless our hands to do the work of the husband man to keep the vineyard to root out corruption, to prune back the old growth that new growth and fruit may be more abundant to water and to plant and fertilize and nurture, that our eyes might see more of the precious kingdom, that our tongues may taste of its sweetness, that our hearts may derive great pleasure in our labor, that our souls may be overjoyed in the wonderful knowledge of our Saviour. Amen!

Here in the vineyard of my Lord
I love to live and labor,
And be obedient to my God
Until my dying hour.

I love to see the lilies grow,
And view them all a standing
In the right place while here below,
Just as the Lord commanded.

We oftentimes meet both night and day,
A faithful band of soldiers;
We read, we sing, we preach and pray,
And find the Lord most precious.

But while we sing this mournful song
Our hearts are deeply wounded,
Perhaps we all may meet no more
Here in a congregation.

But if on earth we meet no more,
I hope we'll meet in heaven,
Where congregation ne're break up,
But dwell in sweet communion.

Where all the ransomed church of God
Shall meet no more to sever,
With not a sorrow, sun or tear,
But shout his praise forever.

WORK

The work of a Beethoven, and the work of a charwoman, become spiritual on precisely the same condition, that of being offered to God, of being done humbly "as to the Lord." This does not, of course, mean that it is for anyone a mere toss-up whether he should sweep rooms or compose symphonies. A mole must dig to the glory of God and a cock must crow. -- C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory.

WORDS FROM THE PAST



By Elder Herman Clark
Iuka, Mississippi

On this day, December 25, 2007, I rose early to read some from the Holy Bible. I was reminded of Elder John Leland and some remarks he made concerning the Bible. The following is a portion of "EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO REV. JOHN TAYLOR OF KENTUCKY, DATED DECEMBER 10, 1830". Elder Leland made a statement that really caught my eye. One needs to read the letter as found in "The Writings of The Late Elder John Leland," to understand the fullness of the topic that he wrote to Rev. John Taylor. On page 601, in the 6th paragraph, Elder Leland wrote: **"A great part of the Bible carries such evidence with it that it is of divine origin, that when I read it, I feel, is possible, more than certain, that it is a book of God; and, like its author, incomprehensible. How dim the golden verses of Pythagoras, and the morals of Seneca appear, when the true light shines from the Holy Scriptures. Let all the legislators, philosophers, wise men and wits, that are now living, combine together to from a code of laws, and place it beside Romans 12. 9, 21 (which can be distinctly read in a minute and a half, containing hardly two hundred words.) and it will sink into insignificance and folly."**

The words of Elder Leland still stand concerning God's written word. I encourage each to read the 12th chapter of Romans. Here we find the simple laws of God laid out, that if followed, the world would be wonderful every day. However, we know we live, and as all generations past, in a world filled with sin and sinful creatures. There are the wicked, and has always been since Cain that slew his brother Abel, even to this day and shall always be that care nothing about the laws of God.

Paul writes in 2nd Timothy 3:5-7 of some **"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, EVER LEARNING, AND NEVER ABLE TO**

COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."

These words do not excuse us that know the truth that all scriptures are given by inspiration of God and in the scriptures are laid out the greatest of rules of living that one can find.

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", Jan., 2008)

THE MODERN OLD BAPTIST PULPIT



By Elder Hulan Bass
Katy, Texas

The pulpit today should still be the same; however, I do grant that it SEEMS very different than when I was a youngster growing up in the Old Baptist Church. It could be that WE HAVE CHANGED "ourselves," it being so very gradual, since we daily and year by year grow IN GRACE and IN THE KNOWLEDGE of Him—2nd Peter 3:18. That is, the PULPIT, generally speaking is a man-made tangible material entity, yet it REPRESENTS in PRINCIPLES a FIGURATIVE factor of an Office Work of the Ministry, whether in a building or not. On a mountain, in the Valley or down by the Riverside, Preaching the Gospel IN TRUTH is the "pulpit."

Now, just, maybe, we have LEARNED MORE, at our more mature age, and this knowledge has now stifled our innocent attitude toward the Pulpit of 2007.

I believe WE HAVE LOST that humble, meek and sincere respect for it ourselves. When I was a very young child my parents taught me to RESPECT the Church, and at the very moment that we drove upon the grounds, walked through the front door, and took our seats, there was a DIFFERENT, sacred, humble, reverential attitude that settled in over me in this special convocation. This FEELING lasted until the last AMEN. Then upon leaving this sacred place as we drove back to our secular abode, the lingering feeling of that Worship Service still prevailed and was an abiding factor in my memory for the next several days. I could easily tell the difference in THAT DAY OF THE LORD, and the days back to school or at work.

We should strive to retain that SEPARATION of Church Worship, and that of Daily Chores. It SHOULD STILL be our place of refuge, where light shines in and darkness recedes.

The HIGH POINT of the Worship Service seemed to be that moment that the Minister entered the Pulpit. Attention was centered upon the WORDS to be spoken from God's Word, and not just "on the man." That was and now is what the FOCUS SHOULD (STILL) BE, and not be lost in the shuffle of other distractions. We should always be keenly aware of the difference when "common language" is spoken and the Holy Divinely Inspired "Written Word" of the Lord is quoted.

Sunday morning was then, and still is, a most SPECIAL, consecrated area of our life. It is not and never should be a place of worldly attraction and entertainment.

It is that SPECIAL concerted attentiveness of our Souls, and our bodies are to be presented during this "separate moment" as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to our Lord. Rom. 12:1-3

Hulan Bass

(From "*The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*", Jan., 2008)

THE SANCTITY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Abraham Lincoln---Copied

Abraham Lincoln's

Ten Guidelines

Abraham Lincoln left us some guidelines, too, to help us in maintaining the framework of democracy in this nation of free men. They are:

- You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.
- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.
- You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
- You cannot further brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
- You cannot establish security on borrowed money.
- You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
- You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

(From "*In The Master's Service*", December 2008)

MAKING THE CHOICE

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

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua xxiv. 15.

I have often heard the above Scripture used to try to prove that the salvation of sinners is hinged on them making choice between God and the devil. Just how anyone can get such an idea from this Scripture is strange indeed, since neither God nor the devil is mentioned in the choice at all. The choice in the text is between two classes of gods (idols) and not between God and the devil. Examine it for yourself and see that it was a choice between the gods which their fathers served on the other side of the flood and the gods of the Amorites in whose land they dwelt. This choice was not only restricted to these two classes of gods, but was not to be made unless it seemed evil unto them to serve the Lord. Not only this, but anyone who will take the time to read the chapter, or even the preceding verses, can see for himself that it was God's people (the children of Israel) under consideration, and not alien sinners. They had already been delivered from Egyptian bondage, had seen their enemies destroyed and had been blessed of the Lord in many ways. So it was simply a matter of service, with God's people under consideration, and not an eternal "soul saving" proposition, as some would have you believe. The idea is, as Joshua taught it, if God's people are not going to serve the Lord and are determined to yoke up with the world and serve idol gods, then they can make their choice between these gods—not much difference in them anyway.

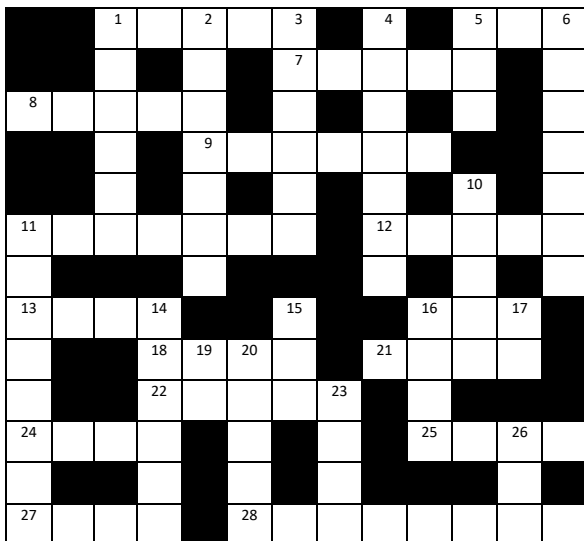
A child of God might make a mistake when it comes to service. This depends in a great measure upon how he is taught. Yet there is no such thing as the salvation of lost souls being hinged on the choice of the sinner. Such an idea is not only without Scriptural authority, but unreasonable. Who ever heard of anyone making choice of something that he did not like? If the salvation of sinners were based on them making choice of the Lord, then none would ever be saved. No one will ever make choice of the Lord until he loves the Lord. If he loves the Lord, he is already a child of God. "For love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."—1 John iv. 7. Some one might say in reply to this, "We can teach the sinner and get him to love God, and then he will make choice of the Lord." If you could do that, he would be a child of God before he made choice of God. There is no escape from the fact that if one loves God he is already born of God.

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Salvation is not of works lest any man should ____.
5. Poison of ____ is under their lips in nature Singular.
7. Man took spoil at Jericho & cursed Israel at Ai.
8. Sheba came to ____ Solomon with hard questions.
9. Cain was a ____ of the ground; Abel kept sheep.
11. Jesus often ate with publicans and ____.
12. They that feared the Lord spake ____ one to another and a book of remembrance was written.
13. He doeth His will in the ____ of heaven and in earth.
16. Moses sent 12 men to ____ out Canaan's land.
18. Cherubims were at the two ____ of the mercy seat.
21. There's a time to get and a time to ____--Solomon.
22. Jesus said ____ him, let him go after raising his friend Lazarus from the grave.
24. Jonah cried unto God out of the belly of ____.



(Answers on Page 9)

25. I will put my ____ in their minds and their hearts.
27. ____ nigh unto me and I will draw nigh unto thee.
28. Where your ____ is there will your heart be also.

DOWN:

1. Not a bone of the Paschal lamb was to be ____.
2. The law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of ____ hope did. Two words.
3. God gave Moses the law written on ____ of stone.
4. We are His people and the ____ His pasture. Two words.
5. Go to the ____, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise. Pests at picnics.
6. Peter was in Joppa ____ and in a trance when he saw the vision of great sheet down from heaven.
10. The ____ of a good man are ordered by the Lord.
11. Bereans ____ the scriptures daily; thus were noble.
14. Color of the hair the priest looked for in a leper to determine if he was unclean.
15. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt the foal of an ____ and many spread branches in the way.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

16. God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and he became a living ____.
17. ____ men of Galilee why stand ye gazing up into heaven as Jesus ascended to glory.
19. ____ man can come to Jesus unless drawn by him.
20. O thou of little faith wherefore didst thou ____.
23. Take thine ____ eat, drink, and be merry say some.
26. Abstain from fleshly lusts, which ____ against the soul. Armed conflict.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

This is a rerun but still brings back memories

Elder Roland Green directed the Harmony Valley Singing School that was held for over 30 years at Bethany PBC, Ecu, MS. In general assembly of the students and in class, there was a rule that no gum was allowed. One afternoon in assembly, Bro. Green was instructing those in attendance. He suddenly stopped talking, waited a minute, then spoke to a young student on the front row. Bro. Green said sternly, "Young man, do you have gum in your mouth?" The young man didn't say anything at first, then he swallowed hard and said, "Not any more, Sir." Bro. Green was not pleased but he let him off the hook and all learned a lesson.—*Editor*

INTERPRETATION OF LOVE

PATIENCE is love on the anvil, bearing blow after blow of suffering.

ZEAL is love in the harvest field, never tiring of toil.

MEEKNESS is love in company, when it vaunteth not itself

PERSEVERANCE is love on a journey, pressing on with unflagging step toward the end.

JOY is love making its own sunshine, where others see nothing but gloom.

POWER is love driving soul's chariot wheels over all opposition.

GENTLENESS is nothing but love in her own sweet voice and charming manner.

The Lord's sheep have no business playing around with the Devil's billygoats.

(From "In The Master's Service", December 2008)

MAKING A CHOICE

Continued from Page 5)

so when you find a scripture in the Bible implying spiritual activity of any kind, you may rest assured that it is God's people under consideration.

T. L. Webb, Sr.

(From "**Little Things**", and printed "In The Master's Service", February 2009)

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2020 (July 17-19). Services Friday night, July 17, at 7:00 p.m. (no supper). Saturday, July 18, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and afternoon service. Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with communion and lunch. Elder Bobby Howell, Amory, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July, 2020 (July 24-26). Services Friday night, July 24, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Supper at 5:30 p.m. with worship at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. followed by communion and lunch. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

ANNOUNCEMENT

<http://gracealoneradio.net/connect>

You can now listen to GraceAlone Radio streaming the message of God's sovereign grace 24 hours a day, around the clock and around the world. The daily content of Grace Alone Radio consists of Bible teaching and preaching from Primitive Baptist ministers, Acapella hymn singing and Daily Bible readings from the King James Version of the Bible, and more. Grace Alone Radio is an affiliate of Sovereign Grace Publications and is produced by Elder Michael Gowens of Calabash, NC. You can also download an APP to listen on a smart phone. Listen online at: <http://gracealoneradio.net/connect>
(Announcement by request)

Some meetings may still be cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 virus so check with the pastors or other contact people to verify the meeting.—*Editor*

The COVID-19 virus has caused great disruption in regular church worship services and in the annual meetings of Primitive Baptist churches in an effort to halt the spread of the virus by preventing gatherings of more than ten people. We are thankful the Lord has still blessed His people to have access to singing and preaching by way of live streaming services but nothing can effectively substitute for the assembly gatherings of the people of God. May God bless us to never miss an opportunity to assemble to worship for we never know when that privilege might not be readily available. Think about it!—*Editor*

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Gal. 6:9)

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS wasn't able to have its annual meeting the 3rd weekend in May, 2020 due to COVID-19 virus. Elder Mark Quarles was scheduled to be the invited speaker. Below is a picture of those who attended last year's 2019 annual May meeting:

Ministers attending Saturday night, May 18, 2019 of Communion meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS (L-R): Elder Rusty Wise, Elder James Hall, Elder Jonathan Wise, Elder Larry Wise (Pastor), Elder Michael Gowens (Guest minister), Elder David Wise, Elder Dwayne DuBard (Not pictured Elder Jeremy Wise.) Other ministers attending Friday night were Elder Calvin Warren, Elder Rickey Taylor, and Elder Jerry Wise. Good singing, praying, preaching and fellowship make for a Spirit filled meeting.



“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Eph 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” (Eph. 1:22-23)

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” (II Cor. 4:1-2)

POINT TO PONDER:

Where is your treasure? I hope it wasn't in outdoor activity, baseball, basketball and footballs games, the movies, your job or other like activities because all those have either been taken away or disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, if your treasure is in the Lord, that can NOT be taken away and you always have the blessing of accessing that treasure at any moment of the day. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matt. 6:21 Guard your heart for it will betray you and follow the Lord who will never betray you.—*Editor*

Food For Thought For Your Week

April 27, 2020

By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama



A Prayer For Daily Bread

Last week we noted a psalm that gave 'daily guidance' for our protection. Today, as I ponder other things that will be helpful in these present challenges, I remember previously drawing our focus upon the particular aspect of 'daily bread' as Jesus taught us in His model prayer. With all the distractions we face today, consider this again – with some added wholesomeness.

Good Bible students recognize that the expression 'daily bread' is found twice in the scriptures, and they are both a reference to the model prayer Jesus gave to His disciples. In Matthew 6:11, it reads, "Give us *this day our daily bread.*" And from Matthew's perspective, emphasis seems to be on recognizing how much we need the Lord today. I can't change yesterday. I can plan, but I really have no control over tomorrow. But how I look to the Lord for the help and supplies I need today, and how much I appreciate God's mercy and grace today, has a powerful impact on how much of the abundant life I will enjoy today. So, "Give us *THIS DAY our daily bread*" acknowledges that there are things we need daily that only our Father in heaven can give.

Next, in Luke's account of Jesus' model prayer, we read, "Give us *day by day our daily bread.*" (Lk 11:3) Day by day. Okay, so He didn't teach us to pray "give us this week" our daily bread. No, we are to walk by faith, not by sight. So while it is okay to plan and anticipate, we should always be open and flexible enough in prayers to say, "Not my will, but *thine be done.*" Then, watch for the leading of His Spirit in all we encounter each day. You never know when God will put someone in our path or show us an opportunity to glorify Him and be blessed. After all, He knows what is best in all circumstances. So patiently, we should be asking, seeking, knocking, and waiting, for God's provisions that will be best suited for us and will also enable us to glorify Him DAY BY DAY. Life's joy is not all about us. It's found in loving service to others each day.

So in conclusion, as we combine both accounts of this pattern, we see that not only is it a daily exercise of asking the One who knows exactly what we need for our best (for self and others), but it is also a habit we need to develop of patient listening. Our Christian race is a marathon, not a sprint. Today's needs may not be as yesterday's. Today's blessings will be consumed. And, "*sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*" (see Matthew 6:34) In other words, we have enough of a challenge in being a faithful and loving disciple with what we face today, without overloading ourselves with tomorrow's cares as well. So yes, plan your calendar, anticipate joys ahead, but trust the Lord daily for your bread as the uniqueness of that day comes. Receive it thankfully; and, purpose to use the strength you derive from it for God's glory. (i.e., in ways that bless others) When your daily bread is used that way, get ready for more to come your way.

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

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

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. tsaob | 1. nekorb |
| 5. psa | 2. retteba |
| 7. nahca | 3. selbat |
| 8. evorp | 4. fopeehs |
| 9. relit | 5. tna |
| 11. srennis | 6. gniyarp |
| 12. netfo | 10. spets |
| 13. ymra | 11. dehcras |
| 16. yps | 14. wolley |
| 18. sdne | 15. ssa |
| 21. esol | 16. luos |
| 22. esool | 17. ey |
| 24. lleh | 19. on |
| 25. swal | 20. tbuod |
| 27. ward | 23. esae |
| 28. erusaert | 26. raw |

Although out of pure grace God does not impute our sins to us, He nonetheless did not want to do this until complete and ample satisfaction of His law and His righteousness had been made. Since this was impossible for us, God ordained for us, in our place, One who took upon Himself all the punishment we deserve. He fulfilled the law for us. He averted the judgment of God from us and appeased God's wrath. Grace, therefore, costs us nothing, but it cost Another much to get it for us. Grace was purchased with an incalculable, infinite treasure, the Son of God Himself." Martin Luther, Daily Walk, May 5, 1992.

WAYS OF DEATH



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

The natural man chooses ways that appeal to his depraved condition. Yes, he knows the difference between right and wrong but he has gone the way of his sinful nature. The depraved sinner's choices are the ways of death which will finally result in the banishment of those who aren't chosen in Christ. This dear reader is what the Bible calls eternal death but the elect (chosen in Christ) have been saved from that wrath of God through the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." (Rom. 5:9). The wicked non-elect sinner finally receives the wages of his sin which is eternal death but the chosen, justified, regenerated, and preserved sheep will receive an inheritance in eternal glory.

The wicked non-elect sinner did that which seemed right in his own natural disposition and it finally led to eternal death. Death is a separation and the truth is these individuals are forever separated from God and the righteous in a place the Bible calls the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15) Conversely the righteous, born again, child of God desires to please God because he has been changed from death in sin to life in Christ. They have been given faith, without which it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6). However, they still have their fleshly, carnal nature which is in constant conflict with their Divine nature. Because of this dual nature, these saved righteous often choose ways that also lead to death. Solomon said in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Quite often there is a way which seems right to even the saved but is contrary to the will of God for their joys in this life. These ways also lead to death and a separation from the blessings of God here in this time world. The Israelites had forsaken God and chose ways which God had not directed and He hid His face from them. Jeremiah tells us, "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." (Jer. 2:13). They had committed many more than these two evils but these were the two primary ones from which stemmed all the rest.

Because Israel had become so stubborn and obstinate in rejecting his word, God warns them through the prophet Jeremiah, "I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity." (Jer. 18:17). Seeing God's back and not His face is a terrible price to pay for turning from God into ways that will surely lead to death and separation from the blessings of God. Think about being in a dire calamity and God refuses to hear our cry. This is indeed a sobering thought. What a joy it is, however, when God blesses with quietness and peace when our ways are in harmony with His ways. The book of Job tells us, "When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:" (Job 34:29).

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount He taught His disciples about a broad way and a narrow way with two different outcomes. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13-14). The blessings of God will not be found in the broad way because that way is that which leads to destruction (death, ruin, loss, perish) and is the way which seems right to the natural eye. Conversely, the narrow way leads to life with peace and fellowship with the Lord. Our fleshly nature profits nothing and leads to death: however, through the Spirit we are able to overcome that and have an abundant life with the Lord. Paul writes, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Rom. 8:13). Remember Paul was writing to the beloved of God in Rome, called to be saints. He wasn't writing this to unsaved people.

Solomon thought it was important enough to warn and admonish about the way which seems right unto a man and the results thereof that he mentions it a second time. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 16:25). Solomon was given the greatest wisdom of any man on earth (Christ excepted) yet he chose the broad way in his later years and the world began to drown him in its pernicious ways. Solomon loved many strange women that the people of Israel had been warned to avoid lest they turn their hearts from the true God. The Bible says, "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father." (I Kings 11:4). Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes where the theme is vanity. The way which seems right unto a man is empty and vain. Solomon says "now" to fear God and keep his commandment as the whole duty of man. (Eccl.12:13)

GLAD TIDINGS READER LETTERS

Hello to All,

I pray all the family and church family are well during these trying times.

My prayer is God will allow this virus to pass where we can once again get back to church first of all.

I always look forward to get my Glad Tidings and do thank God for you, Elder Wise.

Be safe and well I pray.

In Christian love,
Sis. Evelyn Stanford
Amory, MS

Elder Larry Wise,
Great Paper.

Garland Whitten
Adamsville, TN

Brother Larry,

Thank you for your paper. I enjoy the articles, the announcements and the crossword puzzle. I hope you are blessed for your efforts. Thanks again.

Dale Kennedy
Tremont, MS

TRUTH MAKES FREE

By Brother Dale Kennedy
Tremont, Mississippi

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Jesus told the Jews that believed on him if they would continue in his word then are ye my disciples indeed. John 8:31-32. There is a sense in which the gospel makes us free. The gospel brings life and immortality to light, that is, increases our knowledge of salvation, both the knowledge here in time and eternal. Paul tells us that he would not have us to be ignorant but not sorrow as others who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Jesus says "whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" but we were redeemed (set free from sin) by Christ's precious blood. Jesus tells Thomas "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me". John 14:6 He also says, "If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed". John 8:36

ATHEISM

An atheist said, "If there is a God, may he prove himself by striking me dead right now." Nothing happened. "You see, there is no God." Another responded, "You've only proved that He is a gracious God."
--Unknown.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." (Psalm 14:1)

HUNGER FOR THE TRUTH



By Elder Jim Turner Jr. (Deceased)

In John 21:15-17, we find that Jesus very clearly told Peter and the other apostles to feed His lambs and feed His sheep. Nothing is ever said in the scriptures about the preacher helping Jesus create lambs and sheep, or endeavoring to convert goats to sheep. You cannot change one's nature by preaching to him, baptizing him, or frightening him. Isaiah 40:1 says: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people saith your God." The Primitive Baptists have always accepted the simple truth, that the gospel is for the feeding, instructing, and correcting God's people. The gospel was never intended to scare anyone. We notice with great frequency, the springing up of so-called non-denominational churches. These so-called churches usually start out small, some in rented shopping center space, and then grow by leaps and bounds! This tells me that there is a world of people out there hungering for the word of God. The sad truth is, that most of them look in all the wrong places. Most of these organizations tout their programs that appeal to the human nature such as instrumental music, youth groups, Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, and we could go on and on. However, many people, when they have an opportunity to hear the true gospel, they love what they hear, and yet, for the sake of popularity, they will not go where it is preached every Sunday. I have officiated or assisted in many funeral services during my 44 years of standing before the Lord's people. It has never ceased to amaze me when people I know, who have no use for the doctrines of grace otherwise, will shake my hand and tell me how much they appreciated what I had to say.

I have often said, and have heard other preachers say, that we reach more people with the truth at funerals, than any other time. I will share this experience with you, and please understand that all the praise belongs to God. A few weeks ago, we got a call that my wife's best friend from her High School days had passed away suddenly, and that the funeral arrangements were incomplete at that time.

The next call we got, it seemed that the deceased lady's pastor was out of town, and to my great

surprise, they asked me to preach her funeral. I had no problem with that having known her and her husband for more than 50 years even though they were not of our faith. I knew her to be a godly minded wife and mother. The funeral was over 100 miles from Little Rock, and when we arrived at the cemetery, there was already a large crowd gathered there. By the time for the service to begin, not nearly all the people could get in the pavilion where the service was held. Many were standing on the outside listening. I am confident that there was not another Primitive Baptist present, yet I don't think I have ever preached a funeral where so many people shook my hand and told me they appreciated the service.

This was indeed, a humbling experience, and as stated before, all the praise belongs to God, because we realize that we have been blessed to talk about the Lord and not about the individual. The great mystery that arises on such an occasion, is why people love so well to hear the truth of the Bible preached at a funeral, but will not come to church and rejoice in that same truth on a regular basis.

We have something so great (the truth) that we would gladly give it to the multitudes, but the multitudes don't want it. The multitudes will go with the crowd, and pay big money for that which, in reality, brings no comfort to their hungry souls. It used to trouble me in my younger days, that so many of the religious world hate what we believe and preach, but I have long since come to feel that we are in very good company!

They also hated what our Lord preached when He walked among men. I had much rather see our little bands of believers identified with Him and His doctrine, than to have the friendship and smiles of the multitudes. May He continue to bless us to always contend for the old pathways. Yours in hope,

Elder Jim Turner, Jr. Little Rock, Arkansas
(From *"The Banner of Love"*, November, 2012)

SOME PEOPLE'S VERSION OF TRUTH

Another poll sheds light on this paradox of increased religiosity and decreased morality. According to sociologist Robert Bellah, 81 percent of the American people also say they agree that "an individual should arrive at his or her own religious belief independent of any church or synagogue." Thus the key to the paradox is the fact that those who claim to be Christians are arriving at faith on their own terms -- terms that make no demands on behavior. A woman named Sheila, interviewed for Bellah's *Habits of the Heart*, embodies this attitude. "I believe in God," she said. "I can't remember the last time I went to church. But my faith has carried me a long way. It's 'Sheila-ism.' Just my own little voice."

Charles Colson, *Against the Night*, p. 98.

MUZZLE NOT THE OX



By Elder Bill Walden (Deceased)
(From *The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*, March, 2008)

1 Timothy 5:18 "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the labourer is worthy of his reward".

A quote from Elder John Conley, as cited by his son, Elder Philip Conley, explains much. Here we see the labourer and the field of labor as well. "People are always anxious about the money issue. How much? How often? These questions are always best answered by the spirit of giving. If the minister is doing as he should, he is labouring abundantly. If the congregation is doing as they should, they are labouring abundantly. So, when we all labour as we should, the money issue becomes no issue".

Paul mentions Deuteronomy 25:4, where God gives this law. He is taking care of the oxen. The Apostle Paul makes it clear that it would violate the law of God to put a muzzle over the ox's mouth so he couldn't eat as he worked; it is the humane thing to do. The owner of the field doesn't owe him the entire crop. The preacher that comes into the field of his labor demanding a certain amount of financial remuneration just to come into the field violates this entire concept. The Church that denies as much assistance as is reasonable for them to provide also violates the correct principle.

We possibly lose track of the spirit of the law, when we try to determine what we are to do for his family. The Bible does not direct the preacher to abandon the care of his wife and children. If the Church does what it is blessed to do for him, he will see that it is shared by his family.

It is a mistake when a preacher has been Pastor of one Church and feels a call and impression to labour in another Church to expect to be cared for there to the same extent the previous Church did. There are small flocks of sheep that need feeding and to be cared for and they should not be neglected because they have little or no money.

I have heard more fund-raising efforts from some Primitive Baptists in the last ten years than all the other years I have been privileged to know them. There is a proper way to teach the Lord's people the scriptural way of giving from the desires of their heart as God has prospered them, and that is not by trying to take them back under the Law of Tithing.

(Reprinted from August 2017 Glad Tidings)

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