

Glad Tidings

February

2022

"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

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament church and there are certain prerequisites that are essential for one to be baptized.

Must be born again: The natural man has no desire for spiritual things and Jesus told Nicodemus, "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) Jesus also said he could not enter the kingdom of God. The beginning of the gospel of the Son of God began with John the Baptist and he would not baptize some people who came to him demanding baptism. He called them a generation of vipers and wanted to know who warned them to flee from the wrath to come. He told these Pharisees and Sadducees, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:" (Matt. 3:8) Without the Spirit, fruits cannot be produced and evidently these people had not been born again by the Spirit of God.

Must hear the gospel: John the Baptist baptized with the baptism of repentance and as already stated this was the beginning of the gospel. The gospel brings life and immortality to light but doesn't give the same. Baptism is a picture of the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ so the gospel brings to light the knowledge of who the born again child of God is to follow. Jesus healed the man blind from birth and He asked him did he believe on the Son of God. The formerly blind man wanted to know, "...Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?" (John 9:36) Jesus identified Himself as the one he was now seeing and talking with. This was the response: "And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him." (John 9:38)

Believe the gospel: Not only must one hear the gospel but they must believe the gospel that gives the identity of whom they are to believe. Philip was sent by the Spirit unto the Ethiopian eunuch and he preached the gospel from Isaiah to him. He did not understand whom the prophet was talking about concerning the one that was led as a sheep to the slaughter. They came to a certain water in the desert and the eunuch said, "...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" (Acts 8:36) Philip told him that if he believed with all his heart he could be baptized. The eunuch quickly said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37) Philip then baptized him and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing and Phillip was escorted elsewhere.

Must Repent of sins: Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost to the house of Israel whom he said had crucified Jesus Christ with wicked hands. When the people heard this, they were pricked IN their hearts which indicates a heart previously born again; they wanted to know "What shall we do?" Peter gave them his answer, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) They that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day were added unto them about three thousand souls. The message of Jesus was the same as John the Baptist, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17) John also said "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

Confess sins and Christ: Although John the Baptist refused to baptize those who brought forth no fruit meet for repentance, he baptized all those who confessed their sins. "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." (Mark 1:5) One must acknowledge (confess) they have sinned and come short of the glory of God and feel unworthy of the mercies of God. Then there is a public confession of Christ before fellow believers in order to have the timely salvation Paul identifies in Rom. 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." We have the testimony of John that anyone confessing Christ is already born again which is the first prerequisite. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15) Don't be hesitant to confess Christ before men and lose out on the blessing of baptism.

It would be wonderful if more people would be like the Ethiopian eunuch who was ready to be baptized upon hearing the first gospel message of Christ. However, some want to put it off for various reasons of which 99 percent are all unscriptural. There is an answer of a good conscience in the ordinance of baptism for the believer which will never be realized outside going under the water. (I Pet. 3:21) If you love Jesus, He says keep His commandments of which baptism is only one of many. (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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FUTURE DESTINY

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

On a church sign in our hometown the following statement appeared some time ago: "We determine our future destiny by how we respond to God's doctrine." This very statement is a clear denial and rejection of God's doctrine, which teaches us that He predestinated those whom He foreknew (Rom. 8:29). It takes the giving of eternal life out of the hands of the Lord and places it in the hands of men, which is a denial of John 17:2. It makes the future destiny of men to rest not on the purpose of God, but upon their works, which is a denial of II Tim. 1:9. It denies divine choice and election (Rom. 9:9-13, Eph. 1:4 & I Peter 1:2), and it destroys the distinction between those who are "fitted to destruction" and those who are "afore prepared unto glory" (Rom. 9:21-27). In a word, it deifies man and humanizes God. *This is how this Arminian church "responds to God's doctrine."* But I much prefer to respond to it in a way of *gratitude and acceptance* rather than in a way of *rejection and denial*.

What if God had only "made salvation *possible* for all mankind," because, as freewill religionists express it, "they all *deserved* a chance to be saved"? And what if He had then left it in their hands as to whether or not they took advantage of the chance? Where is there any grace or mercy is such an arrangement? How can there be *deserved* mercy, or *merited* grace, when the very terms themselves clearly imply no merit or desert? How could the future destiny of God's people be "according to His own purpose and grace which was given them in Christ before the

world began," if it depended on how they responded to His doctrine.

What a blessing it is to know that God has predestinated His people unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto Himself, *according to the good pleasure of His will* (Eph. 1:5)! How good it is to know that He makes known unto them the mystery of His will, *according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself!* How wonderful to know that they "have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated *according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: that we should be to the praise of His glory*" (Eph. 1:11-12)! How comforting it is to know that His divine decrees cannot be repealed or overthrown or defeated. And how good it would be if all who *profess* to believe the Bible really *did* believe it and would serve the Lord according to truth rather than according to the commandments of men!

If the destiny of men had been left to themselves, then all of them would have been ultimately consigned to eternal woe and torment, because by nature all of them were alienated from God. They were all together become filthy and none of them would ever have done any good if left to themselves (See Psalm 14:2-3 & 53:1-3). Therefore the mercy of God is seen in the fact that He did not base their future destiny upon how they would respond to His doctrine, but He based it upon His own eternal purpose and grace. This will result in the final salvation of all those that were given to Christ in the covenant of grace before the world began. He will quicken all of His people into divine life sometime between conception and death. "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord" (Isa 54:13). And those who are not His will justly die in their sins and will suffer the penalty that all mankind would have suffered if God had not seen fit to deliver an innumerable host from their ruined and lost state by nature.

He has not been pleased to tell us why He did not deliver the whole race of Adam from their fallen state, but it is obvious that He did not, and it is sinful for us to question what He does or has done. Daniel 4:35 tells us as much as we need to know about questioning God's will when it says, "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" And finally, hear the words of Christ Matt. 11:25-26; "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." If it seemed good to God the Father, as well as to His beloved Son, then it ought to also seem good to us.

(From "Advocate and Messenger", January, 2007)

IT IS BROKEN AND NEEDS FIXING

By Elder Louis Culver
Deatsville, Alabama

We have heard the expression, “*If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.*” Well, it IS broken and it most definitely needs to be fixed. Just what is it that needs to be repaired? It is the home, the family unit, that group of related persons which should operate in unison and in harmony each **with** the other and under God’s directions.

There was a time when the parents brought children into this world with a view to raising them in accordance with the word of God, with His instructions always before them as they taught their children to respect their parents, each other, and those in places of authority. Especially were they taught to respect God and His principles. The Sunday place was at the church house, inside, listening to the preaching, joining in the singing and observing the earnest, fervent prayers offered by those whose duty it was to approach the throne of God through the medium of prayer.

In order for the children to learn the proper attitude toward God and His church, it was (and is) necessary that the parents lead, by demonstration and example, the proper way for the children to go. Example is often the best teacher. Tell me and I may remember, show me and I am much more apt to remember. Tell me, show me, teach me, remind me as often as it *takes* for me to learn.

A lady once asked a preacher when she should start taking her child to church. The preacher asked her how old the child was. The lady said, “Ten years old.” The preacher replied, “You are ten years late in **starting.**” **From the day of birth our children begin** their learning process and it is most acute in the younger, formative years. A day we missed learning something new is a day we missed an opportunity. A day we missed teaching our children God’s truth is a day we missed an opportunity to help mould our children in the right and proper way.

The home unit is the basis for all mankind. It is the focal point of well-founded families. It is the institution that God set up from the beginning: Adam and Eve composed a family unit. Added to that unit were children, an extension of the basic family unit, and the means of perpetuating family units.

Man has added things to the family unit and man has deleted things from the family unit. Neither is pleasing to God; neither is profitable to man. Children left to raise themselves have no teacher to instruct them in the growing and maturing process. It is no wonder we have the youth of today doing the dastardly things in which so many are engaged (*Even more so in 2022—Editor*). **Proverbs 22:6:** “*Train up a child he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*”

We hear people say, “Look what this generation has come to.” What should be said is, “Look what we have let this generation come to.” Place the blame, the responsibility, the cause to where it justly belongs: with the parents. It is not always the parents’ fault entirely, but most often it is principally the fault of the parents, exacerbated by the children. Fault also needs to be placed at the doors of the theaters, the game halls, and with computer and other electronic games of violence, indecency, and moral turpitude. When anyone is bombarded from all sides with filth and trash, that person will absorb at least a portion of the garbage. The airways and most other means of communications are constantly piping filth, trash, junk and worse into our homes. That “stuff” is contagious and we are susceptible to “catching” it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16: “*Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesyings. 21 Prove all things: hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*”

Return to the way of the Lord, the way God established His plan for mankind: return to the family unit as an operating unit, and not as a broken unit. The family is central to all good and proper things in the world.

With an increased awareness of the need for proper guidance, let us pray that the family unit will once again be central to everything else we do in this world. By prayer and supplication let us always seek heavenly guidance for all that we do, say and think. May God continue to bless His people.

(From “ITMS”, January 2013)

A MARK OF THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS

Let it be borne in mind by all lovers of truth that when it comes to the real, simple, spiritual and acceptable service or worship of the true God, the servants of God have had to go contrary to the advice and influences of the mighty, the wise, and the noble of this world. They have had the great majority of the lawyers, philosophers, and great men of the world against them.

So let us remember that no people are right because they are many and popular, and no people are right because they are few and unpopular; for no doubt many sects have been few and unpopular because they were *wrong*; but let it never be forgotten that the consistent followers and worshippers of the Lord have always been comparatively few and unpopular. Paul says, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Rom. 8:14), and, “if any man have not the Spirit of God, he is none of His” (Rom. 8:9).

So, while being few in number and despised does not prove any professing people to be right, it is nevertheless, true that it is a mark, sign, or characteristic of the true worshippers in all ages and dispensations of the world.—Elder G.W. Stewart. *The Gospel Messenger*, 1914
(“*Advocate and Messenger*”, February 2007)

MY FRIENDS THE CLARKS



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

This article is about Elder Herman Clark, and his sweet wife Martha. There are so many things I wanted to write about them, but due to space I cannot. They were very instrumental in my life and this is my feeble attempt to honor them for the life that they led, and the labors for the cause of Christ and his Church.

“Rick I want you to talk to my preacher, I think he can help you with your questions,” said brother Milford Holder to me many years ago. His preacher was Elder Herman Clark. I had questions about the Bible, and how it seemed to be saying one thing and my Armenian faith another thing. To make a long story short, I did meet with Herman and the rest is history. Bro. Herman was truly a dear brother in Christ to me, and his sweet wife Martha was a dear sister in Christ to me. We have ridden many miles together for the cause of Christ in our years in the ministry. Bro. Herman was the vessel the Lord used to show me the true gospel church, the Primitive Baptist Church. I joined the church after our meetings together at brother Holder’s house. Brother Herman baptized me and later delivered my ordination charge to me for the ministry. I cannot begin to say how thankful I am to God for bringing them into my life.

Recently Herman and Martha passed away at the nursing home in luka just an hour apart from one another. Martha’s infectious laugh and Herman’s melodious voice we will no longer hear on this side of heaven. We are saddened by their passing, but we await the glorious day when we will be reunited with them and our Lord in that great celestial kingdom. Elder Clark was a very good preacher that would try to help anyone in any way that he could. He traveled many miles to preach the gospel and tell the wonderful story of salvation by the grace of God. He traveled and labored to bring churches together that were apart over issues that had robbed them of many good meetings and fellowship they could have had together. Many of us have a favorite sermon or articles of Brother Herman’s that we will always cherish in our heart. However the little things that he did for people and the cause of Christ we will not be able to record because it was just between him and

that individual, and the Lord. It’s the little things that mean a lot to people and the cause of Christ. God knows each and everyone of them. Herman and Martha would not have been the people that you and I loved had it not been for the Lord Jesus Christ and his mercy. The Clarks that you and I knew were the ones that God gave to us as a gift through his regenerating power.

Ephesians 2:4-5: **“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”**.

The Clarks would be the last person to tell us that they had done all of this by their own hands. It was God who made it all possible and we wouldn’t have had them without him. I can just hear Herman saying, that the gospel is good news to the child of God just like cold water is to a thirsty soul so is good news from a far country Proverbs 25:25. They are now in that far country where the good news comes from. Their humility was a good example for all of us to abide by. The law of kindness seemed to always be on their lips whenever they spoke to anyone. Herman’s kind personality and humble manner was a sermon preached without words to us that knew him. When he went into the stand he had the respect of everyone just by the life that he led in reverence to the God that had called him into the ministry of our Savior.

I was told this by a member of the family at their memorial service: Just a few hours before their passing, members of the staff at the nursing home sensing that death may be near for Herman, his room and Martha’s were next to one another. They decided to put them together in one room for just a little while and had their beds close to one another. Brother Clark had not been responsive to anyone speaking to him for sometime. Yet after a little while he reached with his hand and touched Martha’s hand and just kept it there for a little while. Then toward the morning and after returning to their rooms, they found Martha had passed quietly in her bed. Informing the family of her passing their son Chris came to the nursing home and walking into his father’s room to inform him of the news he found that he too had passed away, shortly after Martha had; The Lord being merciful to them both.

They were a small taste of what heaven is going to be like for us. They’re in that far country where we will know no sadness or sorrow.

Farewell Herman and Martha till we meet again.
R. L. Taylor

1 Corinthians 16:19: “The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.”

DIRECTING YOUR HEARTS



By Elder David Wise
Starkville, Mississippi

“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.”—
2 Thess. 3:5

God providentially leads, guides, and directs, his children every single day. However, God is not abstract or flippant in the direction that he will guide our hearts. Here we are taught that God will direct our hearts unto two conditions that are vital for the child of God: into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Here in this verse, “direct” means “to straighten fully, to guide and direct, the removal of the hindrances of coming to one”. That is a very apt definition for God’s providential guiding of our hearts into paths of righteousness here in this life.

God will fully straighten our walk, he will guide and direct our path and furthermore, God will providentially remove any hindrances that stand in our way of coming to Christ. However, God’s direction is not general and vague. God has a will and works everything after the counsel of his own will. God has a plan and he carries it out.

First, God will guide and direct our hearts “into the love of God”. God is love (1 John 4:8). God placed his Spirit in our hearts in the new birth and first fruit of that Spirit we are told about is love (Gal. 5:22). God’s Spirit that dwells within us will always direct and lead us into the love of God. Now that God has placed that love in us, and showed his love toward us in the offering of his Son for our sins, now we are called upon to love one another.

The greatest commandment is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind—but the second commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40) is a natural expression and outpouring of our love to God, to agape, self-sacrificially love others around us who stand in need.

God will not guide our hearts to ignore the feeling of others around us, but God will direct our hearts to show the love of God to others and relieve their affliction. John drives the point home very starkly; if we say that we love God but ignore our brother who

stands in need, how can we say that the love of God dwells in us (1 John 3:16-18). Why? Because God will always direct our hearts to show unconditional love towards others, to express the nature of God in the public way to others, because God is love.

Secondly, God will direct our hearts “into the patient waiting for Christ”. I believe (and I trust scripture affirms) that God answers every prayer be either: a) yes, b) no, or c) not now. When the answer to our prayers are “not now”, it’s very challenging to “patiently wait for Christ”. In our immediate satisfaction, fast food, American culture we want it, and we want it now. However, oftentimes it’s in our best interests to wait patiently on the Lord; to let God work things out that we can’t handle or might irreversibly mess things up.

God will never direct our hearts to plunge ahead with no consideration of the Lord. Instead, God will consistently not only tell us to wait for the Lord’s timing, but will strengthen our hearts to not become discouraged as we wait upon the Lord.

However, I think the more applicable direction of God to our hearts, is not just patiently waiting in the midst of trials, but to patiently wait for the second coming of the Lord. In the new birth, our Spirit is taught to look for that “blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13). Our Spirit groans within our natural bodies looking for the adoption, to wit the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:22-23). Our Spirit is directed to look expectantly, but also patiently, for the second coming of the Lord.

While we are told to redeem the time since the Lord could literally return at any moment, we also know that it has been thousands of years since his first advent and there will come scoffers who will doubt the validity of the second coming (2 Peter 3). When we hear those scoffers doubt the Lord’s adherence to his promise to return, the Lord will direct our heart to patiently wait upon the Lord’s second coming.

We have a sincere hope and desire for it here in this world, but we also know that we might pass away before it comes. Thus, we continue to patiently wait on the Lord.

God’s direction of our hearts will always point us back to him, never to the things of this world. God will direct us to live and walk in the love of Christ. God will direct our hearts to patiently wait on the Lord, both in our walk of discipleship and in our hope for the Lord’s second coming.

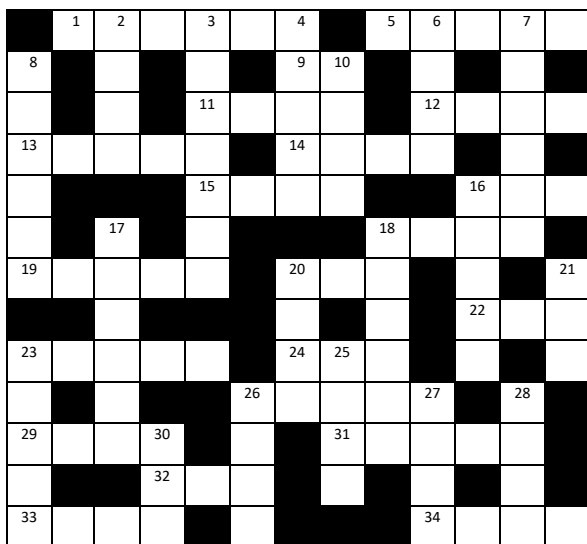
God’s strength will always uphold and direct our weary hearts. “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say on the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14) “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” (Psalm 31:24). “My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:26)

(From “*The Banner of Love*”, August 2019)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Take eat, this is my body which is ___ for you.
5. O the ___ of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God and his ways past finding out.
9. The church is in the world but not ___ the world.
11. I will fasten him as a ___ in a sure place. Spike.
12. John was exiled to the ___ of Patmos for Christ.
13. God rained ___ from heaven in form of manna.
14. The angel opened the seventh ___ and there was silence in heaven for space of half an hour.
15. A bruised ___ shall he not break and smoking flax shall he not quench.
16. The good Samaritan brought the wounded man to an ___ and took care of him.
18. Esau went into the field to ___ for venison.
19. Time will come when they will not endure ___ doctrine but heap to themselves teachers.
20. The priest who thought Hannah was drunken when she prayed but nothing was audible.



(Answers on Page 8)

22. God has declared the ___ from the beginning.
23. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy ___
24. Jacob ___ pottage and Esau wanted some of it.
26. Jesus said to forgive until seventy times ___.
29. Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not but a ___ hast thou prepared me.
31. The last ___ that shall be destroyed is death.
32. And every ___ shall see Him when Jesus returns.
33. As an eagle stirreth up her ___ fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings.
34. Jesus said the man that dippeth his hand with Him into the ___ would be the one betraying him.

DOWN:

2. They put on Jesus a purple ___ in mockery.
3. We've been redeemed to God by thy blood out of every ___ tongue, people and nation.
4. Make a joyful ___ unto the Lord all ye lands.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

6. Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and ___
7. The man with one ___ went and hid it in the earth.
8. Hear ye ___ must we fetch you water out of this rock.
10. Jonah ___ from the presence of the Lord.
16. In the tabernacle there was outer and ___ court.
17. The ark of the covenant had Aaron's rod that ___.
18. To him the overcometh I will give to eat of the ___ manna. Not revealed.
20. I am the Lord God and there is none ___.
21. ___ to your faith virtue, knowledge, patience, etc.
23. The uncle whom Jacob served 14 years for a wife.
25. God made the sun to rule ___ the day. Not under.
26. In thy ___ shall all the families of earth be blessed.
27. They that be whole ___ not a physician. Not want.
28. Noah found grace in the ___ of the Lord.
30. If we believe not ___ he abideth faithful.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Our grandsons (Eli, two years old, and Isaac, 7 years old) were staying with us awhile back. After they had been there for quite some time and playing and having some fun, Isaac suddenly said out of the blue, "Why are Nana's and Papa's so much nicer than Mom's and Dad's?" I guess it is because they can always send them home and maybe are a little more lenient than Mom's and Dad's.—*Editor*

REPLY TO A PREACHER'S WIFE

Once while preaching at an association, a sister, and a preacher's wife, arose in the congregation a short distance in front of me shouting aloud the praise of God. She was so happy that she cried out and said, "Why cannot I be this happy all the time?" I replied and told her if she could be that happy all the time she would not be fit for anything in this world, and all she could do would be to shout glory to God day and night as long as she lived; that in such a happy state she would be entirely unqualified for her household duties, and every other duty that belongs to this life. All wives have heavy burdens to bear in this life, but it seems to me that the burdens of a preacher's wife are nearly double that of wives in general.—**Elder J. H. Purefoy, Zion's Advocate, 1908.**

(From "Advocate and Messenger", February 2007)

There was an error in the crossword puzzle for Jan. as 4 across should have shown a 5 letter word (sware). The block for the letter R was blacked out in error. Those who do solve the puzzle noticed I am sure. To err is human, to forgive divine.—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church, Ackerman, MS is hosting an open meeting the 4th weekend in February with services on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022 beginning at 10:00am followed by lunch and afternoon services. We will have regular Sunday worship on Feb. 27, 2022 at 10:00am. We invite all our friends in Christ and especially our local ministers to visit us during our meeting. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

A new book by Elder G. Wayne Crocker is now available: The book is entitled **SENSE or NONSENSE**. It deals with how today's prevailing nonsense in religion and society should be and can be counteracted by the truths of God's word and returning to common sense in all aspects of life. The book is 5 1/2" x 8" and contains 224 pages with a nice paper-bound cover. It is priced at \$10 per copy for 1-4 copies and \$8 ea. for 5 or more copies. Order from G. Wayne Crocker, 1330 Scotts Dr., Cottondale, AL 35453.

We were saddened by the devastation of tornadoes in Kentucky on December 10, 2021 The Dawson Springs Primitive Baptist Church, KY church building was struck and heavily damaged but what structure that remained was deemed still sound. Through various providential provisions they have been blessed to get a roof back on the building and various other repairs but it is still a gutted building as of this writing. The church was holding services in a grade school auditorium and they held services there the first Sunday in January, 2022 and then went and had a baptism in the gutted out church building. In the midst of adversity, God is still able to bless His people. Elder Jeff Winfrey is the Pastor of Dawson Springs Church.

Elder Sony Pyles recounts that Elder Floyd Griffin, now gone to glory, told him that when a preacher presents what might be considered a deep subject to God's people and it remains deep, he hasn't done anything. The very purpose of the gospel is to take the deep things of God and try to make them very simple to God's people. One time some people said to Elder Fred Stewart in Alabama that he was just too deep. "No", he replied, "it might be that you are just too shallow." So sometimes it might be that the preacher is not too deep but you are too shallow in the word of God. But after all is said and done I am going to try and make this subject of justification as simple as I can; because after all the Lord said "feed my sheep" he did not say "feed my giraffes". From a sermon on Justification by Elder Sony Pyles.

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was saddened to have to say goodbye in this life to Sister Urea Wise and Sister Dena Mae Wise who passed into glory on December, 4 and December 27, 2021 respectively. Sister Urea Wise was 101 years of age and was the widow of Bro. Stanley Wise and Sister Dena Mae Wise was 95 and the widow of Bro. Toy Wise. These were women of extreme faith and faithful members of the church and set a tremendous example for the younger sisters and for anyone who read their book of righteous living. They are pictured above with Sister Urea on the left and Sister Dena Mae on the right. Elder Larry Wise was their Pastor and nephew.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." (Proverbs 31:10-12)

The Covid virus is again taking its toll among church members and preachers but the new strain doesn't seem to be as deadly as the Covid-19. All of it is bad regardless but we trust the Lord will intervene and stop the spread of this pestilence if it be His will. In the meantime, we must trust in the Lord and keep looking unto Him as the author and finisher of our faith.—*Editor*

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." (1 Peter 2:5-6)

We are all just strangers and pilgrims in a foreign land waiting for our deliverance unto our real home in heaven. In our journey below, the church is a haven of refuge where we can enjoy the blessings of the Lord and feel His presence. May we all be more dedicated to not neglect this refuge and be a part of her whenever she meets. Amen!—*Editor*

DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS

- Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn...There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn...Standing on the Promises
- Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I May See
- IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
- Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
- Electrician's Hymn.....Send the Light
- The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion, Just Over The Hilltop
- Massage Therapist.....He Touched Me
- Doctor's Hymn.....The Great Physician

For those on the highway, here are a few more hymns:

- 45mph.....God Will Take Care Of You
- 65mph.....Nearer My God To Thee
- 85mph.....This World Is Not My Home
- 95mph.....Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100mph.....Precious Memories

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

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“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.” (Matt. 26:30)

A Righteousness In Which Jehovah Himself Cannot Find A Flaw

William Gadsby

We must have a righteousness in which Jehovah Himself cannot find a flaw, a righteousness which Jehovah cannot mend, a righteousness which neither sin nor Satan can mar; and unless we have on a righteousness of this nature, we can never enter into the blessedness of the world to come.

Where, then, are we to find it? Eternal praises to the matchless mercy of a covenant God, we have it in the blessed Person, glorious work, and spotless obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ! And, therefore, as it was essential for Him to fulfill all righteousness for His people, He loved the Lord His God with all His heart, with all His mind, and with all His strength. He began at the beginning, and went through holily, righteously, and steadily every step of the law of God and all in justice and righteousness. He fulfilled every iota of it, and gave it immortal glory and honor. The law could only require the perfect obedience of a perfect man, but He gave it the perfect obedience of the God-Man, and stamped forever a holy dignity and majesty on it, in order to manifest that this glorious righteousness is suited to every sinner's case, to all their needs, and to honor and glorify all the perfections of God; and thus He has "forever perfected them that were sanctified," all those who were set apart for Himself.

They are perfected forever in His own blessed obedience and spotless righteousness; and this righteousness which God gives shall endure forever. As for you who have a righteousness of your own, you never can feel your need of Christ's righteousness. You do not know your need of it, and it is an insult to your pride to mention it. But, for the poor creature who feels himself to be a loathsome, vile, and ruined sinner, and is brought experimentally to feel what he is before a heart-searching God, and that every iota of the law is against him - for God to give this righteousness to him, to put it upon him and communicate the power of it to his soul, why it will raise and exalt him to such a blessed enjoyment of God's righteousness that his tongue will sing aloud and speak forth praise to the honor and glory of His blessed Name; and he will say, "My soul shall be joyful in my God; I will glory in the God of my salvation; for He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness; He hath adorned me with the garments of salvation."—William Gadsby, from a sermon preached June 1, 1843

“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.” (Gal. 3:21)

THE LITTLE THINGS

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

It affords me comfort sometimes to consider the little things of life. In fact I do not know much about anything else. I do not mean that I am contented with my limited understanding of the great truths of God, for I know that I crave to “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,” but I mean that while conscious of my littleness and also of the fact that the knowledge of some things is too wonderful for me and that I cannot attain unto it, yet I think if I can just understand a few of the little, simple lessons in the Bible, I am wonderfully blessed.

The seemingly little things in life’s journey sometimes become the greatest things in all the world to us. And, too, things that might be thought of by some as very little things are often to others of more value than the riches of this world. Can we not look back over life sometimes and think of little deeds of kindness and flowers that have been strown in our pathway, which to others might be meaningless, that will linger on with us while life lasts?

In the early days of my ministry, when it seemed that I could not always understand the privations, trials and problems incident to such a life, and when it seemed that I needed lots of grace and words of encouragement to overcome my weakness, failures and disappointments, there were many little things occurred along the way that have helped me often to “endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ,” if indeed I should claim such a high and holy calling.

On one dark and gloomy day, according to promise, I was to turn my back on home and loved ones to make a little tour through Southwest Texas. From some cause leaving home on this occasion seemed unbearable. While I was packing up my suitcase, my little girl (then a little tot but now grown and married) kept coming around me, and I noticed that she held a little bunch of roses in her hand. Finally the awful moment arrived to say goodbye and rush to the train. I was soon sailing across the lonesome prairie. I wondered why I did not stay at home for I wanted to stay, and yet it seemed that I could not stay. So I decided that if I could get a place on the train that would not be conspicuous I would get my old Bible and look for some word of comfort. When I opened my suitcase, there, on top of everything else, was the little bunch of roses, which my darling child, in my absence, had placed there to cheer me on the way. Just a little bunch of roses—a little thing indeed, yet it meant more to me than my poor words can ever express. I pressed it to my heart and secretly thanked the Lord that there was, at least, one person in this great world that loved me and wished to help me bear the sorrows of life. Will you think me childish when I tell you that I tenderly placed that little bunch of roses in my suitcase and

kept it until it dried up and perished away? This dear child is now far away from me. How I wish I could reach over and drop a little flower in her pathway today! I shall send her a copy of this paper and let her know that the flowers she scattered in childhood’s happy hours will ever cheer me as I battle on in this world of sorrow.

Let me say to my young friends, boys and girls, who are dear to me, do not forget the little things of life by which you can gladden the hearts of father and mother and that will follow them to the grave.

We can never in this world know the worth of little words of encouragement and manifested love for each other. No matter how much love I might have for my church, my wife, my children, my neighbors and friends, if I do not tell them about it, either in words or action, it will be of no worth to them.....

(From “*Little Things*”, By Elder T. L. Webb Sr.)

ARROGANCE WILL BE ABASED

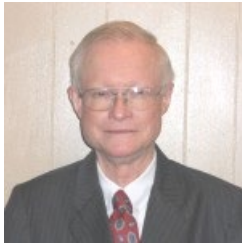
By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

It is said that on the day before Napoleon’s departure on his Russian campaign he spoke boastfully in some detail to a noble lady of his plans. He showed so much arrogance and confidence that she tried to check his enthusiasm, saying, “Sir, man, *proposes*, but God *disposes*.” With great haughtiness he replied, “Madam, I propose and dispose too!” A few months later, not only had he retreated from Moscow with disastrous defeat, but he had lost his crown, his army, and his liberty. Isn’t this a wonderful illustration of our Lord’s words, “Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased” (Matt. 23:12)? The Bible teaches us that we are not to speak with absolute certainty (and most assuredly not with *arrogance*) of what we will or will not do on tomorrow, for we “know not what shall be on the morrow.” Our life is like a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away, and for that reason we ought rather to say, “If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (See James 4:13-15). For a long time I have noticed a general failure among our people to use that language as much as they should when speaking, or writing, of their future plans. God’s word teaches us that if we acknowledge the Lord in all our ways “He shall direct our paths” (See prov.3:6). But if we leave Him out of our plans we cannot expect success.

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, February 2007)

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” (Rom. 12:3)

PHASES OF TEACHING



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

There is more than one phase of teaching taught in the scriptures. An individual can be taught how to live a righteous life but that individual will not respond unless first taught by the grace of God. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching** us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" (Titus 2:11-12) The scriptures tell us that favor can be shown to the wicked yet they will **not learn** righteousness and even in the land of uprightness they would still deal unjustly and not behold the majesty of the Lord. (Isa. 26:10) So God is the master teacher and He qualifies others as teachers in spiritual things.

Jesus went up into a mountain and spent all night in prayer and afterward He called unto Him whom He would and ordained twelve apostles. When He sent them (eleven now after Judas betrayal) forth after His resurrection, He gave them this commandment, "Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:19-20) God has a people out of every nation, kindred, tongue and people and they will all be taught of God some time between their conception and death. "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be **all taught of God**. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." (John 6:45)

The apostles were qualified for teaching the great commandments of God as they had been divinely ordained for such purpose. Every other God called minister is also qualified to teach the scriptures and these were gifts to the church when Jesus ascended on high and led captivity captive. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" (Eph. 4:11) These gifts were for the perfecting (complete furnishing) of the saints and the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ (the church). They were not to make saints as this is the sole work of God. The God called minister must be apt to teach as one of his qualifications.

A minister is a preacher to herald the word of God but he is also a teacher. A preacher that doesn't teach anything hasn't done much preaching of which I confess guilt. I have heard some ministers referred to as a good teacher but not a preacher and others as a good preacher but not a teacher. Preaching and teaching go hand in hand and what are they to teach? They teach the word of God which is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim. 3:16)

Parents, specifically fathers, are commanded to bring up their children in nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4) The children of Israel were taught to teach God's laws to their children. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou **shalt teach** them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:6-7) Parents can only teach the head knowledge of God and His ways, but it is always the Lord that teaches them in the heart. When the children are finally taught of God, they can take the head knowledge and run with it in a spiritual way.

We can learn much by example and the aged men and older women are to be an example to the younger women as professing godliness and teach them certain things. Paul again writes concerning this, "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, **teachers** of good things; That they may **teach** the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," (Titus 2:2-4) Fruit can still be born in old age just as the Psalmist says, "Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;" (Psalm 92:13-14)

Then of course we have the negative side concerning teaching that is not of God and these are false teachers which the scriptures warn us about. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies,..." (II Pet.2:1) Even in this present age there are false teachers that are not of God. That is why John writes, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (I John 4:1)

It is impossible for any child of God to try the spirits whether they are of God without being thoroughly acquainted with the word of God. If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? Just as one skilled in music can discern when anyone is off key, so we should be able to discern when a teacher is off key with an uncertain sound.

PRISONERS OF HOPE

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

Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope, even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee.—Zech. ix. 12.

A prisoner is one who is held in involuntary restraint—a captive, or one held in bondage. There are different kinds of prisoners. But all prisoners are under restraint in some way. Some have more liberty than others. But I wish to write some regarding the Lord's prisoners, as is expressed in the above text, by request of Sister Cayce. The Lord's poor afflicted saints are all prisoners, but, somehow, I think of His ministers as being prisoners in a peculiar way and it is their peculiar lives that I wish to write about especially. There would not be so much sweetness in the word prisoners were it not for the connecting word hope. While all the Lord's people are prisoners, yet they are prisoners of hope. In a sense they are all under the bondage of sin and will be as long as they live in the world, but they are hoping for final deliverance. Legally they have already been delivered from under the curse of the law and also experimentally in regeneration they have been delivered and made free from the law of sin and death. The atonement having been made for them by the death of Christ, they stand completely justified in the mind of God. But they can only rejoice in the atonement, in the love of God and in the power of an endless life as it is applied to them by the Spirit of God. Indeed they have been made free, and yet, in a sense, they are hoping for freedom. In soul they have tasted of the living fountain of redeeming love and rejoiced in God their Saviour, and yet they are hoping for happiness beyond this vale of tears. "And hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."—Rom. v. 5. It is the Lord's prisoners who have "hope in Christ" as an "anchor of the soul," and while they have to confess that in them, that is, in their flesh "dwells no good thing," and often their "harps are upon the willow" as they sing, "I am so vile, so prone to sin, I fear that I'm not born again," and while they journey here as "strangers and pilgrims," yet, as prisoners of hope, they can say with the poet: "Though in a foreign land, we are not far from home; and nearer to our house above, we every moment come."

"Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope." I am glad there is a place of refuge for the prisoners of hope. "Stronghold" means a fortified place; a place of safety. Poor suffering, saints, whose lives are mixed with sin and fraught with disappointments so that you feel the need of help and comfort which the world cannot afford you, you can find in Christ everything that this stronghold means—an hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, rivers of water in a dry place and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Now let's think about the Lord's poor ministers as being prisoners. Paul confessed that he was a prisoner of the Lord. How came him to be a prisoner? Did he choose to be a prisoner? Did he choose the way of life or to become a soldier of the cross of Christ? Just think what he was doing when the Lord appeared unto him and saved him by His grace—captured him and took him prisoner. He was engaged in persecuting the Lord's people and taking them as prisoners, and, behold, he became a prisoner himself, though in a different way. If Paul was saved and made a minister on account of what he was doing, then it was for persecuting the church of God. The Lord's servants do not volunteer, yet through the power of God they become willing to suffer the loss of all things for Christ. "When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkest whether thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee whether thou wouldest not." (Acts xxi.18) (sic-actually John 21:18). Behold the poor ministers of God today, as they go in bonds and afflictions, often in sadness and tears as they turn away from loved ones at home, not knowing what shall befall them save that bonds and afflictions await them. But they are prisoners of hope, and oh, what a wonderful privilege, when there is none other to look to or trust in; when even wife and children cannot tell what would be best to do; when the clouds are hanging low and all is hushed in stillness but the distant rumbling of an approaching cloud; when the neighbor and his little family are resting upon their beds in peaceful slumber; when, at last the trying moment comes to make the greatest sacrifice of his life, to turn away from home and, in a way, forsake all earthly interest; when the wife, with the smiles to hide away the sadness and tears, wakes up the little ones to say goodbye—then, oh, how sweet to stretch forth the hands and be girded by another! Then when the time comes to approach the sacred stand to speak in the great name of heaven's King; when there is no earthly friend that can supply one with preaching grace; when it seems that the making of a world would be no greater task than preaching the gospel of the Son of God—then how sweet to be a prisoner of hope—to stretch forth the trembling hands and be girded by another. Prisoners of the Lord. What a blessing to be one of the Lord's prisoners. I feel today that I had rather spend my remaining days with the prisoners of the Lord and feel to be truly one with them in all that such a life means, than to have all the riches of this world. Dear comrades in Jesus, I want to abide with you a few more days. The battle will soon be over. In all our conflicts and trials let us turn to the stronghold and still hope in the Lord..... (From "*Little Things*"-By Elder T. L. Webb Sr.)

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