

Glad Tidings

July

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

The scriptures inform us that before the Lord Jesus returns for His bride, there will be a falling away first. (II Thess. 2:3) Evil men and deceivers will wax worse and worse, deceived and being deceived. (II Tim. 3:13) However, we can avoid being among those who fall away by continuing in the truths taught in the word of God. The people of God are so prone to forget where their blessings come from and start looking to things other than the Lord and His word. We are plainly told “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17) Look and continue in the perfect law of liberty and avoid this catastrophe. “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” (James 1:25)

The Christian race is not a 100 yard dash but a marathon that requires continued adherence to the truths of God. It isn't enough just to look into the perfect law of liberty (inspired word of God) but there must be a continuation in being doers of the word. These are true disciples indeed that continue steadfastly in the principles of God. Listen to Jesus: “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;” (John 8:31) Of course we know that our eternal destiny is not contingent on our continued obedience to God but blessings here on earth surely are. “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” (Isa. 1:19-20)

The early church set the pattern for succeeding believers after 3,000 were baptized on the Day of Pentecost. “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42) There was tenacity in steadfast continuance in the things taught (doctrine) and believed. We can be saved (delivered) from the deceivers of this world by following what Paul wrote Timothy, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” (I Tim. 4:16) Timothy could save himself (not eternally) and his hearers in a 3 fold process. 1. Take heed to himself. 2. Take heed to doctrine. 3. Continue in them. Follow this pattern and be blessed.

The gospel not only brings life and immortality to light, but it also reproves, rebukes and exhorts. We all need to be exhorted as there is an urgency to return and continue in the things of God. Paul and Barnabas had much success in preaching in the regions of Lystra, Iconium, Antioch and Derbe. After Paul had been stoned and left for dead, he arose and left with Barnabas and returned to the regions of Antioch, Lystra and Antioch to see how they were doing. The Bible says this is what happened on their return, “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

Notice that Paul and Barnabas confirmed the souls of the disciples. The word confirming means to strengthen and reestablish; no matter how much we know of the truth of God we need to be reestablished and that is why Peter wrote two whole epistles to stir up the pure minds of God's people by way of remembrance. (II Pet. 3:1) Then ministers “exhorted” these disciples to “continue” in “the faith” and not be led away with the error of the wicked.

There is faith the child of God is given in the new birth that is a fruit of the Spirit. There is also faith that is the body of truth contained in the scriptures. Jude wrote to those who were sanctified, preserved and called and exhorted them that they “...should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3) Remember how Paul and Barnabas exhorted those in Lystra to “continue” in “the faith” and we should do the same in the 21st century and not be among those that fall away. If the people of God fail to let their light shine, darkness is sure to ensue, both individually and collectively in the church of God.

In spite of the fact the evil men would wax worse and worse, Timothy was urged to “continue” in the things he had learned. This nation is being subjected to many things contrary to scripture and our children are being indoctrinated through education, movies, cartoons, children's books etc. A nation that was founded on Godly principles is reverting to a nation that excludes God rather than being under God. Remember God's people are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savour, it is good for nothing but to be cast down and trodden under foot of men. (Matt. 5:13) We must always look into the perfect law of liberty and continue therein. (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 **wiseb310@gmail.com**; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received 2 days 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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**THE GREAT GULF BETWEEN THE CHILD OF
GOD AND THE DEAD ALIEN SINNER**

By Elder C. M. Mills (Deceased)

The dead alien sinner has only a carnal or natural nature; therefore they understand, desire and receive only natural things. The child of God has a natural nature and a spiritual nature, which enables them to understand, desire and receive spiritual things. The Apostle Paul was describing the condition and state of the alien sinner, whether Jew or Gentile, in the 3rd chapter of Romans: "Romans 3:9-19 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

The love of God is not in their hearts, therefore they do not love God. If they appear to be religious, it is only a worldly religion set up by some man. Before the new birth, alien sinners are not only in darkness but darkness itself. Paul said "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as

children of light." Eph. 5:8 Darkness cannot produce Light. Darkness cannot produce faith, therefore alien sinners do not have faith in Jesus Christ or repentance toward God. Those who do not fear God certainly have no repentance towards God. Preaching to alien sinners and telling them what their state and condition is, will only be foolishness to them. They will not receive the truth because there is no place in them for it. The gospel cannot shed abroad the love of God in their hearts, neither put the fear of God in them. It will take something beside the gospel to change their state and condition. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:7-8. All men are by nature are under the law of sin and death, but only those who are born of the Spirit of God, are subject to the spiritual law of God. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor. 2:14. The Gospel is not the Spirit, but a thing of the Spirit of God. Only men who have been called and blessed by the Holy Spirit, can preach the gospel. Until the Holy Spirit gives the alien sinner life, he has no desire or will for spiritual things. The Holy Spirit is the One that changes the heart of an alien sinner and causes them to seek after God. When men begin to love, fear, and respect God, there has been a change in their hearts. They are no longer alien sinners but the children of God. They have been born of the Spirit of God. The spiritual nature did not come by the natural birth. This spiritual nature comes by being born of the Spirit of God, which enables them to understand and receive spiritual things that were at one time foolishness to them. This causes them to pray and seek after God from the heart. They feel poor in spirit. Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3. They hunger and thirst after righteousness. Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matt. 5:6.

They see the demands of the broken law of God and confess that by nature they stand guilty. They have nothing to boast over as to what they have done or can do to justify them from the demands of the law. By the deeds of the law, no flesh shall be justified. Then the gospel is no longer foolishness to them. The gospel tells the poor in spirit that Jesus Christ has obeyed and met every condition and requirement of the law and ransomed them from its curse. Everyone that rejoices in the gospel is already a child of God. The gospel is Good News or Glad Tidings telling those who have an ear to hear that Jesus Christ has come and shed his blood, thereby obtaining eternal redemption for every one for whom he died. The gospel did not elect anyone to salvation

but it tells us who did and also when. God did this before the foundation of the world. The gospel did not put away our sins but it tells us who did. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23. The gospel did not put us in Christ. "But of Him (God) are ye in Christ Jesus." The gospel cannot raise anyone from death and the grave, but it tells us that Jesus Christ will raise our vile bodies and fashion them like unto his own glorious body at the last day. The worldly doctrines of men teach that dead alien sinners must receive, believe, and obey the gospel before they can be born of the spirit of God. If alien sinners can and do receive, believe, and obey the gospel before they are born of God, what difference is there between the child of God and the alien sinner? If both receive the things of the spirit of God, there would be no need for the heart of the alien sinner to be changed. The doctrines of men make no difference between the child of God and the alien sinner. We must read and believe the sacred word of God or we will be misled. "But the natural man, (alien sinner) receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The gospel is not the spirit but a thing of the spirit of God.

The alien sinner or the natural man can only discern and receive natural things. Only those who have spiritual life have spiritual discernment and receive spiritual things. To be born of the spirit of God is to be created a new creature in Christ. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. Those who teach that the alien sinner is totally passive before the new birth and also totally passive there after have only one half of the truth. The whole truth is that the alien sinner is totally passive before and in the new birth but active in obedience after they are made creatures in Christ. The new birth brings about a change in the alien sinners' heart. If not, how can anyone tell the child of God from an alien sinner? By their fruits ye shall know them. Spiritual fruits grow on spiritual trees. Spiritual life gives the ability to act in the spiritual kingdom of God. The alien sinner can only act in the natural kingdom of man.

(From *"The Identity Of The True Baptist Church"*, by Elder Wiley W. Sammons, Vol. 1)

SINFUL NATURE

Sin, its effects: How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, scientists have discovered that the worm comes from inside. But how does he get in there? Simple! An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Sometime later, the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats his way out. Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through a person's thoughts, words, and actions.

Heaven and Home Hour Radio Bulletin.

IT IS FINISHED

Christ said, "It is finished", and gave up the Ghost (John 19:30). These are the last words of the Saviour before His death on the cross.

But He has spoken to sinners since that time and gave them life—divine or spiritual life.

He finished His work that the Father sent Him to do. Christ did not come to do our work. He came to do His work. He did His work without our help but we can't do our work without His help. All of God's children in the militant kingdom here have a little work to do, but the Lord does not require us to do without Him; without Him we can do nothing, but through Him we do all things He requires of us, Jesus Christ strengthening us.

Jesus does not require us to save souls or help Him save souls, but Christ came to do that. "Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief," Paul said. We believe Paul. We agree with Paul. Paul was a Primitive Baptist.

Christ requires His servants to preach the Gospel but not independent of Him. "Go and I will be with you always."

Christ requires His children to take up the cross and follow Him, but not get too far behind Him but close to Him.

Oh, for a closer walk with God. Christ pardoned the sins of the thief on the cross. On his deathbed, however, a very uncomfortable bed, just before Christ forgave him, but after a verdict of acquittal or pardon a deathbed became as soft as a downy pillow.

"Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." Oh, what a happy exchange, a heavenly favor—"Thy sins, which are many, have all been forgiven thee."

Who can forgive sins but the Lord? Christ was not too far gone on the cross that He did not possess power to forgive sins, neither was the criminal too far gone to be forgiven by the Lord.

The thief said, "We are justly condemned." He told the truth. We receive the due reward of our crime; we are the guilty parties; we are the sinners. We have violated the law; we are condemned to die; we are justly condemned if God predestinated from eternity for us to steal and to hang on the gallows. It would be unjust, but we have violated the law and become transgressors of law, and God's law at that.

I must confess we are accountable and the law says we must suffer and the law sheweth no mercy, but says, "Pay what thou owest." So if my soul goes to hell God's righteous law approves it well, we are justly condemned. Man is the guilty party. By man came sin, but by God's mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost that he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If it were not for God's rich grace and mercy we would all remain in that lost, condemned, ruined, sinful, corrupt state to suffer justly forever for the sins

we committed against God and His holy law. But through His atoning blood on the cross shed for us met every demand of a violated law, put away all our sins and set us free from the debt now being freely justified through His blood, we have peace with God and are prepared to meet Him in glory.

J. R. Wilson (Elder)

(From *"The Gospel Messenger"*, Jan 15, 1922)

WHAT WILL WE KNOW IN HEAVEN



By Elder David Wise
Starkville, Mississippi
(August 11, 2021)

How much knowledge of the events on earth – either in the past, present, or future – will God’s children have when they go to heaven? This is a very common question, especially when a loved one passes away. Unfortunately, some people approach this question with more sentimentality than scripture. Your loved ones are not looking down on you from heaven, disappointed when you make poor decisions or cheering you on when good things happen. Their focus in heaven is not sitting as a spectator in the bleachers watching our lives play out on the earth. No, heaven is consumed with the worship and glory of God. While those in heaven are not focused on the events of earth, scripture does indicate that they do have special knowledge of the events of this world, even knowledge of future events on the earth. We will still have memories of our lives from here in this world, and then we will be able to view those events through the perfect perspective and will of God. Scripture does show that we will know our loved ones in heaven, although our relationships will be different there as the entire elect family of God. While we cannot fully comprehend exactly what heaven will be like, we need to make sure to view heaven through the lens of scripture. We hope to consider some verses together that hopefully can provide a more precise view of exactly how much knowledge of earthly events we will have in heaven.

See Through a Glass Darkly: We cannot fully comprehend heaven with our mortal, finite minds in this world, but we do know we will then be able to view this world perfectly through the mind of God. When we arrive in heaven, we will be perfectly one with God, and thus we will view the events of this

world through God’s eyes. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”* (1 John 3:2) We don’t know and can’t really comprehend with our earthly minds what we shall ultimately be in heaven. It “doth not yet appear what we shall be”. We cannot understand or see clearly what heaven will be like, although scripture does give us some glimpses into heaven that excite our spiritual senses. *“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”* (1 Cor. 13:12) We do not have clear vision of what heaven will be like. We can only currently “see through a glass darkly”. Our vision of heaven is limited in this world looking through this glass darkly. Our “fleshy cataracts” prevent us from seeing God and heaven clearly now. However, there will come a time when “I shall know even as also I am known”. God has perfect knowledge, and we will then have God’s knowledge revealed to us as we are made perfectly one with Jesus Christ. We have been predestinated *“to be conformed to the image of his Son”* (Rom. 8:29). We will finally see Jesus as He is because we will be conformed to his image with a perfect mind.

When we consider these verses together, we have to interpret them through the immortal nature of the soul. Our souls are immortal and when our bodies die, our souls will immediately either go to heaven or hell. For the elect children of God, our souls go immediately into the presence of God. For God’s children, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). Just like the thief on the cross, on the date of their death, all of God’s children shall “today be with Jesus in paradise” (Luke 23:43). The wicked non-elect’s souls are also immortal and immediately upon death go into eternal torment (Luke 16:22-26). Therefore, these interactions we will consider of men after their decease, their souls are already in heaven or hell. We can see some of the knowledge and understanding they have to learn more of the knowledge we will have in heaven. Let us consider some verses together that can give us a glimpse into some of the knowledge and interactions we may have in heaven.

The Spirit of Samuel: In 1 Samuel 28:6-25, we find a very enigmatic passage regarding King Saul, a witch of Endor, and the spirit of Samuel. King Saul was trying to consult the will of God regarding the approaching Philistine army, but because of his perpetual disobedience, God had removed his manifest presence and guidance from Saul (v.6). Therefore, the king goes and finds a woman with a familiar spirit at Endor to consult, and he requests for her to bring up the spirit of Samuel (v.7-11). The woman is shocked and cried out with a loud voice when she saw Samuel (v.12). This shows this woman

was a charlatan. She didn't really have the ability to call up spirits but gave the pretense she could to make money off people, just like Miss Cleo or similar imposters today. (Let me add this caveat. I believe this was a one-time event for a specific purpose. This woman didn't call up Samuel. She had no ability to do that, and no one does today either. In this instance, God saw fit to give Saul this interaction with Samuel for a purpose. No one has the ability to call up the spirits of the dead today and speak to them. God showed Samuel to Saul this one time for a specific purpose.)

This lady was shocked and screamed when she actually saw a spirit appear. She describes that she saw an old man covered with a mantle, and Saul perceived that it was Samuel (v.14). The soul of Samuel was in heaven, but God allowed him in some way to appear to Saul in this moment. Notice, that God gave Saul clarity that this was the soul of Samuel. Samuel no longer had a natural body that could be recognized by Saul's natural eye. The Holy Spirit gave Saul clarity to know this was Samuel's spirit, the same way the Holy Spirit gave Peter, James, and John clarity to know Elijah and Moses on the mount of transfiguration even though they had never known them. This shows that we will certainly know each other in heaven. If mortal men are allowed to know the souls of deceased men, some that they had never even known on earth, how much more so will we all perfectly know the entire family of God in heaven?

Notice the things that Samuel tells Saul here. He reminds Saul that the Lord had departed from him because of his sin, and the kingdom was rent out of his hand and given to David, noting specific sins of Saul in sparing the Amalekites (v.16-18). Sometimes people think that we will have no knowledge of any current or past events in this world when we get to heaven, almost as if our earthly memories are erased when we get to heaven. However, the soul of Samuel remembers specific conversations he had with Saul on earth when he told him the kingdom was rent from him (see 1 Sam. 15:26-31). It is also commonly assumed that we cannot have any knowledge of the past sins of earth, otherwise, we will be sad in heaven. However, we see here that Samuel still had knowledge of Saul's past sins on the earth. These past sins did not cause Samuel sadness in heaven because he could look at those sins through God's eyes. Every sin in this world will be justly paid for either in the person of Jesus Christ or in the non-elect offender in hell for all eternity. Therefore, in heaven, there is not the "dissatisfaction" or "injustice" for sins we have now because then we will see sins through God's eyes, which is "paid in full" either Christ or the guilty party. We see that the soul of Samuel had knowledge of past events, even the sinful actions of Saul, that happened in his earthly life.

Furthermore, notice the knowledge that Samuel's spirit had of future events. Samuel tells Saul that the Lord will deliver Israel into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me (1 Sam. 28:19). Samuel knew the outcome of a battle that would not happen until the next day on earth. Samuel also knew that Saul and his sons would die in that battle and be in heaven the very next day (see 1 Sam. 31:1-6 where this then occurred). Note that Samuel was now experiencing eternity, but yet he still had a concept of "tomorrow" in earthly terms, of things that would happen in the next 24-hour period on earth, even though he was fully in eternity with God. That is really an amazing thing to consider: the intersection and interaction between time and eternity. How could Samuel know the outcome of these events that had not yet happened on the earth, particularly the death of Saul and his sons? Well, I think Samuel received this knowledge from God. Although we cannot say that the elect know at all times everything that is to come on earth, it certainly appears in this instance that Samuel had knowledge of future events. There are still events concealed from man's knowledge such as the time of Jesus' return (Mark 13:32). Samuel was in heaven where "we will know as we are known". I don't know all that entails, but it certainly appears from Samuel here that the children of God have advanced knowledge from the Lord of events that are happening and will yet happen on the earth.

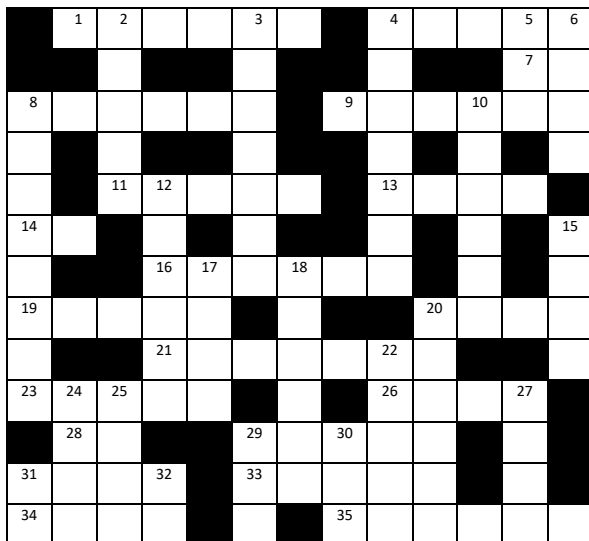
That doesn't mean that in heaven we are distracted from God and only focused on the events of this world. Some people think that their loved ones are looking down on them, almost cheering them on as spectators in the grandstands in heaven as our life unfolds on earth. I don't believe that is a scriptural view of heaven. The deceased elect are perfectly worshipping God in heaven. They are not distracted from that worship of the Lamb by events on this earth, but it does appear they have knowledge of events happening on the earth. From our finite minds, we would think that if they knew things happening on this earth, they would be sad or distract them from God. Even though no doubt Saul broke Samuel's heart because of his sin, I think Samuel still loved Saul. Samuel had advanced knowledge that Saul was going to die the next day. That didn't make him sad; instead, he was able to view that event from God's perfect knowledge and perfect will and give Saul encouragement that he would be in heaven tomorrow. I believe we can see from Samuel's soul that the elect in heaven have special knowledge of the events of this world. However, they don't spend all their time looking down on earth at us and the events of our life. This special knowledge of events on the earth does not distract them from perfect worship of the Lamb.

(To be continued in future issues)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. But refuse profane and old wives' ____.
4. The chief butler told his ____ to Joseph.
7. ____ into all the world and preach the gospel.
8. God be merciful to me a ____ Transgressor.
9. The Lord appeared to Moses in a ____ of fire in the midst of a bush. Plural.
11. Naaman was told to wash in the Jordan ____.
13. After creation God saw it was good & ____ good.
14. Judgment must begin ____ the house of God.
16. Job knew his redeemer lived and would stand at the ____ day upon the earth.
19. Ten virgins went forth to meet the bride ____.
20. Jesus was cast out of the city and led to the ____ of the hill to cast him down but he vanished.
21. Upon the ____ of Jesus the soldiers cast lots.
23. If ye then be ____ with Christ seek things above.
26. The second son of Judah and Shuah. Gen 38:2-4.
28. First two letters of name of Abraham's wife.
29. Noah lived 350 years after the waters of the ____.



(Answers on Page 9)

31. The lame man at the temple Beautiful asked Peter and John for ____.
33. Hannah said Samuel would be ____ to the Lord as long as he lived. Form of lend.
34. Eve was provided for Adam as a help ____.
35. Queen who convinced king to spare fellow Jews.

DOWN:

2. Captain of Saul's army. (I Sam. 14:50)
3. We ought to give the more ____ heed to the things which we have heard and not let them slip.
4. God is able to ____ us out of the burning fiery furnace.
5. Sarah bare Abraham a son in his old ____.
6. Without hope we are of all men ____ miserable.
8. Sheep know the shepherd and a ____ they will not follow.
10. Saul saw the blood of Stephen the ____ being shed.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

12. We're chosen to be holy and without blame before Him ____ _____. Two words.
15. It is ____ in corruption; raised in incorruption.
17. The promises of God in him are yea and ____.
18. It's easier for heaven and earth to pass than one ____ of the law to fail. Not a jot.
20. Call together all the archers against Babylon: all ye that ____ the bow. Not break.
22. There'll come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his ____.
24. John was exiled unto the ____ called Patmos.
25. Jesus is the ____ yesterday, today and forever.
27. Jesus was given a ____ above every name.
29. Man is born unto trouble as the sparks ____ upward. Also an insect.
30. These 3, Father, Word and Holy Ghost are ____.
31. I ____ the resurrection and the life.
32. Abbreviation for saint and street.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My wife was getting our two and one half year old grandson, Eli, dressed to go meet his daddy and carry him home; we had looked after him for the day. She put his pants on and when she did, Eli said, "Something's not right". She kept pulling them up and he said again, "Something's not right." She looked and she had put both legs into the same britches' leg. He was right, something wasn't right.—*Editor*

HEAVEN

A little girl was taking an evening walk with her father. Wonderingly, she looked up at the stars and exclaimed; "Oh, Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what must the right side be!"

Charles L. Allen in Home Fires.

If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.

CHURCH NEWS

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in July (July 31) will be hosted by New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS with supper at 5:30 pm and worship service at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell churches. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2022 (July 15-17). Services Friday night, July 15, at 7:00 pm.—No supper. Saturday, July 16, at 10:30, no lunch or afternoon service. Sunday, July 17, at 10:00 am with Communion and lunch.. Elder Jerry Wise is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July 2022 (July 22-24). Services Friday night, July 22, at 7:00 pm--No supper. Saturday, July 23, at 10:30 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. No night service scheduled. Elder Darren Owens, Ripley, MS is the invited minister. Regular services on Sunday with communion led by Pastor, Elder Steve Weaver and followed by lunch.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS the 2nd weekend in August, 2022 (Aug. 12-14). Services Friday night, Aug. 12, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 13, at 7:00 p.m. with supper at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 14, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Chris McCool, Gordo, AL is invited minister. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

Everyone is invited to Rector Primitive Baptist Church in Rector, Ar. on the second Sunday weekend in August 2022 for Our Annual Meeting. Friday night August 12th Supper at 6:00 pm with services starting at 7:00 pm. Saturday morning August 13th services at 10:00 am with lunch and service to follow in the afternoon. Sunday morning Aug 14th service at 10:30 am, Lord willing we plan to have an open meeting. We would Love to have everyone come and Worship with us and we desire your prayers for the meeting. Elder Devon Horton, Pastor

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 3rd weekend in August, 2022 (Aug. 19-21). Services Friday night, Aug. 19, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Brother Robert Easterling will be ordained to the office of deacon at Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS on Sunday afternoon, July 3, at 2:00 pm. Everyone is invited, especially all ordained help, to form a presbytery for this official work. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS the 1st weekend in August, 2022 (Aug. 5-7). Services Friday night, Aug. 5, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Elder Mark Quarles, Madison, MS is invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Antioch.

Elder Joshua Winslett posted the following photo on his Facebook page in which he is about to baptize his son, Luke Winslett, into the Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in Leeds, Alabama of which he is the Pastor. It is good to see youngsters taking up their cross to follow the Lord Jesus. We rejoice when anyone asks for a church home and is baptized.



“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” (1 Pet.3:21)

IN MEMORIAM



Elder Clayton O'Mary, Winfield, AL passed away April 22, 2022 at the age of 101. He was long time Pastor of Poplar Springs Primitive Baptist Church near Winfield, AL.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Elgin Crossroads PBC, 3153 state rt 101, Rogersville, AL 35652 July 15-16, 2022. Services Fri. night, July 15, at 7:00 pm with supper at 5:30 pm. Elder Ben Winslett, Huntsville, AL is scheduled minister. Sat. July 16, at 10:30 am. with Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL as minister. Lunch to follow and afternoon service at 1:30 pm with Elder Tim Cunningham, Ethridge, TN as minister. For further information contact Elder Ben Shettles, Pastor at 731-499-6753.

IN MEMORIAM

Elder Daniel Strickland, Pembroke, GA passed away into glory on May 23, 2022 at the age of 84. Another soldier of the cross has finished his course and is at rest with God in heaven

THINGS TO PONDER

Edward Gibbon, author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, has attributed the fall of the Empire to:

1. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

Edward Gibbon

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Prov. 14:34)

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.” (Prov. 29:2)

MATTHEW 12:43-44

October 2, 1906

Brother J.B. Miller of Shepherd, Ga., has requested us to give our views of Matt. 12:43-44, which reads, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept and garnished.” We do not feel any impression to write at much length upon these words. If we are not mistaken that Scripture has already been explained in our columns perhaps more than once; but we will offer in a very brief way what we think is taught in the parable or illustration used by the Saviour in the language. We would call attention to the fact that the unclean spirit went out of the man. He was not bound nor cast out. This man could be nothing better than a nominal professor. He professed to be good, possibly; but the unclean spirit had only gone out for a season. The strong man armed was not bound. The strong man keeps his house and his goods are in peace until a stronger comes upon him. The unclean spirit keeps his house, the sinner, until, a stronger comes upon him. The stronger is Jesus. He is stronger than all powers of darkness, and He comes to the poor sinner and binds the strong man, and spoils his armor wherein he trusted. The last state of this man is never worse than the first. The strong man, the unclean spirit, is bound. But when the unclean spirit goes out of his house he is not bound. It is his own house he goes out of. When he returns he finds it empty. If it is empty, it is not occupied by the Spirit of Jesus. The Lord has not taken up his abode there by the operation of His Holy Spirit. The Lord is not there. The Interlinear translation says he finds it unoccupied. So he can be no better than merely a nominal professor. The unclean spirit “taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there,” so says verse 45. So instead of being better after his outward profession he is worse than before, “and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” We have known some nominal professors in our lives who were worse after than they were before—that is, their practice was worse and they were more wicked. The last state was worse than the first. But when the Lord binds the strong man, the last state is never worse than the first. The Lord’s works is perfect and will stand. Men may persuade and scare the sinner so that he may for awhile profess to be so very good; but scared religion will not last and is worthless. God knows the hearts of all men, and no outward profession when the heart has not really been changed can deceive the Lord. These few thoughts are offered in love to all our readers. C.H.C. (From *“Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist”*, by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 1)

WE ARE HEALED

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

Many teach today that we should never be sick. If we are sick, it is because we haven't claimed what has already been accomplished, and that is all our sicknesses have been healed by Jesus Christ. The ones who teach this refer to Isa. 53:5 which says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with His stripes we are healed." They claim that by the stripes Christ endured on Calvary's cross, we have been healed; we never have to succumb to sickness. We can rebuke illness in the name of the Lord and that illness will vacate the premises. It is all a lack of faith.

The scripture in Isa. 53:5 doesn't indicate in any way a physical healing has been accomplished by the stripes which were laid on Christ. It is the truth that we have been healed, but we have been healed of the putrefying and deadly sore of sin. This is seemingly made plain by the next verse which states, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." It was iniquity that was laid on Christ. Iniquity comes from a Hebrew word which means fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin. This in no way indicates a healing of all our diseases. Of course we must realize that God did and still does perform physical healing, but He did that before Jesus ever suffered anything on the cross of Calvary. We must also realize that the ultimate cause of all sickness is sin which will finally culminate in death.

The Bible gives us an account of Hezekiah that was sick unto death in II Kings 20:1. Hezekiah besought the Lord; the Lord heard his cry and added unto him 15 years of life; however, ultimately he died because of inherent sin brought into the world by Adam and passed upon all his posterity. Sickness then goes back to the origin of sin, thus it is explained that Jesus bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. The Lord laid on Christ our iniquities. Many were brought to Christ who were possessed with devils and he cast out the spirits with His command and healed all that were sick. The reason for this is stated, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet,

saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matt. 8:17).

Peter mentions the verse in Isa. 53:5 concerning being healed in I Peter 2:24 and follows it up in verse 25, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." Notice that the sheep have returned to the Shepherd and Bishop which is Jesus Christ. Sin, fault, iniquity, evil and mischief sent us astray, but now are we returned. How have we returned? We have returned by the stripes (bruising-ultimately in death) of Jesus Christ who bore our sins in His own body on the tree of the cross. We, as sheep, have been reconciled to God by the death of His Son and will finally walk with God in heaven because we have been brought into Divine agreement with God. Amos said that two could not walk together except they be agreed. (Amos 3:3) The fact that Christ was bruised for our iniquities goes back to what God said to the serpent after Adam's transgression, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Gen. 3:15) Satan's head was bruised by Jesus and that is where the fatal blow was inflicted. He destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the devil. (Heb. 2:14) But it was only the heel of Jesus that was bruised so that when Satan and the wicked thought they were through with Jesus when he died, He rose victorious over death, hell and the grave.

The Lord gave the apostles power to heal the sick and even raise the dead, but that power doesn't exist today. The reason people are sick is because of the inherent sin in them which as stated previously will finally end in death; however, they are not necessarily sick because of any specific sin as was the case of the blind man in the ninth chapter of John. This blind man had not sinned, neither had his parents, that resulted in his condition, according to the words of Jesus. James tells us what is to be done when there is sickness among us. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:14-15). Why would James, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, give instructions for praying for the sick if no individual was ever supposed to be sick? The answer is that people are going to be sick; and if they ultimately die because of that sickness, it is not because of a lack of faith. God is still in the healing business, both natural and spiritual, but we always pray, "Not our will but thine be done."

We rejoice that Jesus has healed us of that deadly sore of sin in the sight of God and we have returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Without this

healing, we could never be in heaven's pure world. God has legally justified us in the sight of God. Even though we all must surely go the way of all the earth, we just as surely will enter the portals of glory because of the stripes Jesus endured. There was a joy set before Jesus as He endured the cross, despising the shame, and is now set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2). That joy was the deliverance and healing of His chosen family from that deadly, separating sore of sin.

ANSWERS

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Read Right to Left)

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. selbaf | 2. renba |
| 4. maerd | 3. tsenrae |
| 7. og | 4. reviled |
| 8. rennis | 5. ega |
| 9. semalf | 6. tsom |
| 11. revir | 8. regnarts |
| 13. yrev | 10. rytram |
| 14. ta | 12. evolni |
| 16. rettal | 15. nwos |
| 19. moorg | 17. nema |
| 20. worb | 18. elttit |
| 21. erutsev | 20. dneb |
| 23. nesir | 22. stoor |
| 26. nano | 24. elsi |
| 28. as | 25. emas |
| 29. doolf | 27. eman |
| 31. smla | 29. ylf |
| 33. tnel | 30. eno |
| 34. teem | 31. ma |
| 35. rehtse | 32. ts |

It is good to trust the Lord. He is good, merciful, powerful, and no good thing will He withhold from them that love and obey Him. He is mighty to save, and His little ones are kept in the hollow of His hand. And it makes no difference how weak, or poor they are, there are none that can pluck them out of the Father's hand. By the power of God are they kept, sustained, upheld, and His Spirit strengtheneth them. This being true, how could we put our trust in any other? Yes, it is good to trust in the Lord. J. L. C.

J.L.C. (Elder J. L. Collings)

If any man will be my disciple, let him take up his cross and follow me. It is God that worketh in us both to will, and He gives us the ability to perform. If the Lord has thus wrought in the hearts of His children, they should faithfully and lovingly follow Him. Nothing should be so important to us as serving Him who has done so much for us. He is such a precious loving friend that never leaves nor forsakes us. L. H.

L. H. (Elder Lee Hanks)

(From "Gospel Messenger", August, 1920)

COMPLETE IN HIM

The King of Zion and His Kingdom came down from God out of Heaven; every principle of divine grace that qualifies man upon earth to love, worship and serve God dwelt bodily in Christ; for it pleased God that in Him should all fullness dwell, and the Godhead dwells bodily in Him. And every sinner of Adam's race that was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world and embraced in the everlasting covenant of redemption was represented by Him on the cross and in His resurrection, and He now intercedes for them before the throne in heaven. These redeemed and regenerated men and women belong to the royal army of their Sovereign King, are made whole by the cleansing, healing and life-giving power of the Holy Ghost; and are supplied with a spiritual armor with which to fight the good fight of faith by the power of Christ which dwelleth in them. They are plainly told that the weapons of their warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

Jesus is their royal leader, and has power and wisdom to command and lead His army to victory in every battle of life while they remain on the shores of time, and will afterward receive them into immortal glory. He calls His sheep by name and goes before them, and gently commands them to follow Him. And oh! May it ever be our most fervent desire to keep the well regulated step, side by side with each other, to "forward march," shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart, under the command of the great Captain of our salvation and our final discharge from this great conflict.

J. E. W. Henderson (deceased)

In Gospel Messenger

(From "Gospel Messenger", August, 1920)

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"--Alexis de Tocqueville.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matt. 5:13)

THE BOOK



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Psalms 139:15-16: My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfected; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

David is speaking of the body being prepared in the womb, as we see in earlier verses, **Psalms 139:13-14 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.** Here we get to see things that the naked eye cannot see, but through the providence of God, and his infinite vision we get a glimpse of these marvelous things, through the eyes of God. **My substance was not hid from thee, and I was curiously wrought in the lowest part of the earth.** Meaning the formation of our bodily structure in the womb.

The body of the Lord Jesus Christ was formed also in the womb. The same phrase is used of Christ's descent into this world, into the womb of the virgin, where his human nature was curiously wrought by the finger of the blessed Spirit, **Ephesians 4:8-9 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?** The meaning of the words "lower parts of the earth" is the womb of the woman. It is God that forms us in the womb, **Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.** The words **I formed thee in the belly** is proof that God himself forms us into the people that we are today. Our forefathers did not come about from an ape or a lump that came out of the swamp and began to evolve into human beings. We were put together by a just and Holy God. **Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect** . Here it tells us that God saw us before we were made body, soul, and spirit. Not yet a completed work. and in thy book

all my members were written. Is this a literal book that God worked from in constructing us? Does God have a literal book that is written containing all our bodily parts? My impression is no, he does not.

God has an infinite mind, why would he need to write it down in a book? I have to write something down to remember it, but I do not have the perfect mind of God. So what is this book? I believe that it is the very mind of God. God saw us in his mind and chose us before he created the heavens and earth; **which was in continuance, when as yet there was none of them.** God saw our substance before we had a substance. He designed us just as he has always seen us. Our features came about by the God that saw us and formed us accordingly from his book (mind). For God knew what we look like before we ever came into being and he formed us just as we are. .Is this not amazing? It is another thing to thank God for in our everyday prayers to him. We are fearfully and wonderfully made!

It is amazing and comforting to know that God is in complete control of our substance and how it will look. Just look at the time and care that went into everyone coming into this world just as God saw us. Anything less would have been a failure on God's part, and God does not fail. What he wants, he gets, and none can stay his hand. Our height, the color of our hair and eyes are all determined by God not a one will be left out. We are wonderfully made!

Seeing that God can do this even to the most minute detail. We should not worry about our eternal salvation; it is in God's hand and not ours. That should give us great comfort.

We know that our time is limited here on earth, death will eventually catch up to us. God has devised a plan to rescue everyone of his children from being cast away from him. He made a covenant with his Son before the foundation of the world to assure that not a single one of his children be left out of the portals of glory! Jesus Christ handled every last detail to save us and he accomplished that!

Praise his most holy name!

R.L. Taylor

Once, when a stubborn disputer seemed unconvinced, Lincoln said, "Well, let's see how many legs has a cow?"

"Four, of course," came the reply disgustedly.

"That's right," agreed Lincoln. "Now suppose you call the cow's tail a leg; how many legs would the cow have?"

Why, five, of course," was the confident reply.

"Now, that's where you're wrong," said Lincoln. "Calling a cow's tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

Bits and Pieces, July, 1991

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