

Glad Tidings

January

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

2023

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

Philippians 4:13

1 Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

There are a great many uncertainties facing the people of God as the New Year begins to unfold. The one certainty that can be depended upon, however, is that God doesn't change. "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Mal. 3:6) The scriptures give the people of God a promise that He will never leave or forsake them, even in uncertain times, even in perilous times which seem to describe our environment today. David knew to trust and depend on the Lord who had delivered him from the paw of the lion, the paw of the bear, and the human strength of the giant Goliath.

David penned the famous 23rd Psalm in which he said, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1) The shepherd loves and cares for the sheep and protects them as David had when he fought the lion and the bear. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. The word "want" here means that David will not "lack" or have any deficiency in the things that he really needs. Paul affirms this Jehovahjireh (God will provide) of the Bible when he wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19) God will supply the need (lack) through the Good Shepherd of Jesus Christ.

As long as the Lord is the Shepherd of the lives of the people of God, their needs will be supplied according to the Bible. He has not promised to supply our earthly wants that doesn't constitute a need. If someone has found themselves in a true wanting or lacking condition, they may have left the Shepherd and are outside the green pastures that David said he had been made to lie down in. The prodigal son left his father's house with his inheritance. He wasted it in riotous living and then he began to be in "want." He was hungry feeding the swine and knew that his father's hired servants had plenty to eat while he was perishing in hunger. He repented and went back home and was received with joy by his father.

The people of God should not be surprised when they begin to be in want when they forsake the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. Have they lost the true fear (reverence of God) because the scriptures say, "O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him." (Psalm 34:9) Often the Lord withholds things from His children because they aren't walking uprightly. (Psalm 84:11)

The church at Philippi sent a gift to Paul to supply some of his needs but Paul wanted them to know that he was not in want (lacking) as he wrote, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11) Paul had learned this by experience just as David had learned the protecting power of an unchangeable God. David lived to be an old man and observed many things during his lifetime but one thing he would have the people of God know was "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." (Psalm 37:25)

Some people spend a lifetime trying to supply all their wants and mostly it is to be like or measure up to their peers. The Pharisees were ridiculed by Jesus for their hypocrisy in prayer and works because it was for the motivation to be seen of men. He instructs His disciples that there wasn't anything that He didn't know about them, even the very hairs of their head were numbered so He surely knew their needs; they were not to emulate the Pharisees. "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." (Matt. 6:8) Don't be like the Pharisees who trusted in themselves rather than God and Jesus goes on to instruct in the model prayer in which they were to ask God to give them "day by day" their daily bread, not a week in advance. Even though the Lord knows what is needed before it is asked, the command is still to ask.

The children of Israel had been liberated from the bondage of Egypt but they began to murmur and complain to Moses when they got a little hungry in the wilderness. In spite of their ingratitude, God rained bread from heaven in the form of manna. They were to gather it each day and he that gathered much had none left over and he that gathered little had no lack. This bread was Manna which means "what is it". This was emblematic of the living bread, the Good Shepherd, which came down from heaven to save His people from their sins. God's people aren't lacking for salvation, aren't lacking in anything that is a real need, even in the midst of uncertainty in perilous times. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to buffet him and he besought the Lord to take it away. It wasn't taken away but Paul was given grace that was "sufficient" to bear the thorn. Grace is always sufficient (be enough) for all trials. (Elder Larry Wise)

GLAD TIDINGS EDITORIAL OFFICE

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JESUS IS THE DESIRED TREASURE

By Elder Lee Hanks (Deceased)

There is a sweet hymn that says:

"Jesus is all I wish or want,
For Him I thirst, for Him I pant,
Let others after earth aspire
Christ is the treasure I desire."

I love this sweet sentiment, and I want to be able to say this from the very depths of my soul. What greater treasure could I desire than Jesus? If I possessed the honors and wealth of this sinful world, what are they compared to my blessed Jesus? Our education, wealth, and worldly honors will soon come to naught. They are but trash, but when we have Jesus we have more than a thousand worlds. His riches are unsearchable. To heir an estate here will last us but a few days, and then we die and leave it all. The body returns to dust and what are we benefited? Lazarus who lay in rags at the rich man's gate was rich. He was a child of God, a joint heir with Christ, he had heavenly riches that the world cannot give nor take from him. These riches are given by Jesus, the Lord of lords, and King of kings. You may be hated, persecuted, and name cast out as evil, like your blessed Savior, and fill a pauper's grave; but, if by grace, you have an interest in the heavenly, unfading inheritance that is reserved in heaven for you, you may rest assured that your are reserved for it and this legacy is sure. Oh, then in that unceasing never ending home! God is your Father, Jesus Christ your Elder Brother, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. You will be eternally associated with the holy and happy fraternity of angels. There will be no pain, sickness, sorrow nor death. We love to sing, "I

am going home to die no more." I love to think of the joys and riches of heaven. My heart often aches now, but if I am His, when I get home with my blessed Jesus my heart will ache no more. I will shed no more tears. I will have no more enemies. I will never sin any more. My old body will come forth in the glorious likeness of Jesus and bask in His smiles forever. I shall not be here much longer, but the little time allotted me I desire to live close to Him who has done so much for me. He has borne my griefs, carried my sorrows, paid all my debts, healed my diseases, purged my conscience from dead works to serve the true and living God, and given me a sweet hope which is an anchor of the soul both sure and steadfast.

He has given me a sweet home in the dear Old Church of God where I can (though feebly) glorify Him in my body and spirit which are His. What more do I need, if I have Jesus? Yes, above all things, give me Jesus, I trust I hunger and thirst for Him. He is my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, strength; a very present help in every trouble. He is all I need. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul. We are having a hard time to pay debts and buy food and raiment. Many are poverty stricken and cannot see any way for relief. Jesus tells you what to do. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added." David said, "I have been young, and I now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor His seed begging bread." It may be that this panic will teach us a lesson, and bring many of us to our knees, and make us to beg Him for all needed blessings, temporal and spiritual. We have been too carnal. Our love has waxed cold. We have let the service of God be a secondary matter too much. There has been too much theorizing, hair-splitting, striving about words to no profit, biting and devouring one another, instead of striving for the things that make for peace. Let us all awake to our duty, and exercise more love, more forbearance, more longsuffering and more brotherly kindness. We are all poor needy sinners and without Him we cannot perform any spiritual service. We make mistakes daily. Let us confess and rectify our wrongs, and remember that we are brethren. Let us all serve the Lord daily; and try to live each day, as though it was the last. Don't be stubborn and rob yourselves of so much sweet joy in the service of God, by living after the flesh and dying to your privileges here. Brethren can do wrong and forgive one another, and repent, and it is Christ-like to forgive and restore them. God has fashioned our hearts alike; now do not let this old sinful fleshly nature of ours, cheat us out of sweet privileges here. We are all baptized into one body by one Spirit, and so much need the unity and fellowship of all the members. May God enable us to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, unite us all in love, and look by faith to that blessed day, when our vile bodies shall be changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body.

L. H.

(From "The Gospel Messenger", April, 1921)

A SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

The disciples of Christ from age to age have occupied a very ignoble place in the eyes of the world. However it is not strange that it should be so since *"he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked."* Proverbs 29:27 The things of the Spirit of God can only be perceived spiritually, thus the natural man, being void of the Spirit, is totally unable to know them. I Cor. 2:14 The things that to him are most to be valued are an abomination to God. Luke 16:15.

Hence it is no strange thing that the very things the disciples most rejoice in should be most abhorred, scorned and despised by the world. It is no wonder that the relationship between the disciple and his Lord. Which he readily admits unto and seeks constantly to apprehend, should be utterly condemned by those who have no concern therein. The outlook and deportment of the disciples which bears most positive testimony to real character, strength and fortitude is reckoned by the world merely as signs of weakness and folly. There are some who want the outward advantages of being identified with the Saviour but who will not acknowledge the stupidity, corruption and folly which was responsible for there being a Saviour needed in the first place. They would like to be identified as Christians without being required to follow Christ.

And so there are some who claim to be apostolic in precept and doctrine who, notwithstanding their profession, are not willing to own what is said of their own corruption as being applicable to themselves. For example, how many are those among who profess religion today who would in all sincerity say to themselves as Paul, *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* Romans 7:24 Or who among them would feel from the heart that *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief?"* I Timothy 1:15. Such language is studiously avoided by most professors and if by chance it is mentioned there still is no personal application of it made.

We thus observe a marked difference between the apostles and many of the professed followers of Christ. The apostles openly acknowledged that which many religionists are more than happy to deny, and yet the apostles were infinitely more noble. They did not try to deny that they were men of like passions as we are. They did not try to put up a front and make it appear that they had no human frailties. They did not deny their relationship to Jesus as servants, and though such a position of servitude is disagreeable to the flesh and will not be submitted unto by the man in nature because he will not agree to have Jesus reign over him, Luke 19:14, yet the apostles were not

ashamed to be accounted as such and gladly acknowledged that they were as much below their Master in thought, word and deed as the earth is below the heavens.

Many of the Jews resented Christ's implication that they were in bondage and their reply was, *"We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"* John 8:32, 33. So contrary was servitude to their carnal nature that they would not admit that they were under the dominion of the Romans at the very moment they made this claim. But Jesus did not argue this point with them. Instead He referred to another form of bondage under which they were held which was far worse. He answered and said, *"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."* So thoroughly were they bound under the tyrannical power that they did not even know that they were the servants to it, therefore they had no knowledge of what Jesus meant when he spoke of the truth making them free and they were offended at His implications.

Paul said to some on one occasion, *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."* Romans 6:17, 18. Notice that Paul gives the thanks to God for the fact that these no longer were the servants of sin, for it was God who brought them into the truth and made them free from the servitude of sin and made them willing to occupy a position of servitude to Himself. There are many who are willing to be **called** servants of God. Only the inward teaching of the Holy Spirit will make a man willing to **be** a servant of God.

True greatness in the militant kingdom of Christ is determined by servitude. Matthew 20:26, 27. This is a valuable lesson and they are rich indeed who have learned it.

In Romans 1:1, Paul refers to himself as a servant of Jesus Christ and to himself and Timotheus as servants of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:1, and in Titus 1:1 introduces himself as a servant of God. Likewise, James, Jude and others refer to themselves as servants of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. To many religionists, being a servant of means little more than going to church now and then. While to others it means little more than that they are instruments in God's hands without which He can do practically nothing. To the apostles it meant giving their lives in His service to the honor and glory of His name and to be upbuilding of His cause and kingdom here in the world. What does it mean to you?

(From *"Pathway of Truth"*, November, 2005)

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." (John 12:26)

2 Corinthians 4:3

September 8, 1908

We have been requested to give our views on 2 Cor. 4:3, which reads, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost." The next verse reads, "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." We think the apostle has reference to the children of God whose minds are blinded by the god or gods of this world. The good news of Christ is hid to them. They do not believe the gospel. They have an experimental knowledge of the Lord; but their minds are so blinded by false teachers and their teaching that the gospel in its purity and sweetness is hid to them. The Saviour says in Matt. 13:15, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." It is God's people whose heart waxes gross, and whose ears become dull of hearing, and who close their eyes to the truth. The heart of the unregenerate is desperately wicked, and does not become gross. He has no spiritual ears nor eyes to become dull or to close. The heart of a child of God may become gross, his ears dull of hearing, and his eyes closed. When he is in this condition, the gospel of Christ, the glad tidings, is hid to him, and he is lost to its sweetness. When one is in this condition he is not converted from his errors, or from the ways of the world, and the light of the glad tidings does not shine unto him. It is hid to him, and he is lost in the darkness of the world, false theory, false religion, false doctrine, false practice, doubt and despair. Yet, notwithstanding his losing so much while journeying here as a pilgrim, he shall not be utterly cast down nor destroyed, for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand, and will at last take the poor wanderer home to Himself, where sorrows and troubles and afflictions will be no more.

C.H.C.

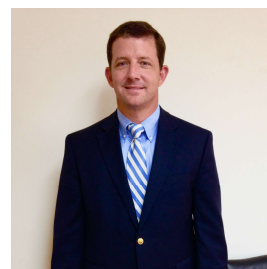
(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist",
Vol. 1 by Elder C. H. Cayce)

FORGET

Forget each kindness that you do as soon as you have done it. Forget the praise that falls to you the moment you have won it. Forget the slander that you hear before you can repeat it. Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer, whenever you may meet it. Remember every promise made and keep it to the letter. Remember those who lend you aid and be a grateful debtor. Remember all the happiness that comes your way in living. Forget each worry and distress; be hopeful and forgiving. Remember good, remember truth, remember heaven is above you. And you will find, through age and youth, that many will love you. Anon.

AN OLD LOG HOUSE

June 9, 1916



Practical Christianity
By Elder Tim McCool

Recently my family was blessed to visit the old log house where my granddad was born. The house was built in the 1830s and Granddad was born there 100 years ago. The old house was built of heart pine and the axe marks on the hewn logs are still visible. It has a middle breezeway and 12 foot ceilings- still a spectacle of history and workmanship.

We stood in the room where he was probably born. It was exciting to consider that such a great man first saw the light of day at a place so far removed. I wish the old house could have talked and shared a few stories. But I could only imagine the fireside chats, the scent of cooking food, meals eaten round the kitchen table, laughter and fellowship that flowed through the old house in long forgotten years.

The old house was rotting in some places and will eventually fall in. It reminded me that God has a house that will never fall in or rot. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (2 cor.5:1).

The house of God was not made by human hands. It is completely God's work. His house is not built out of heart pine that will rot in a couple hundred years, but is constructed on the everlasting work of the Master Builder Jesus Christ.

And unlike houses built here, God's house and our presence there one day is completely His doing. He has built His house. He has prepared a multitude that no man can number to live there one day. Our presence there will not be based on our accepting Him and His house-work, or our thinking or doing something to gain it. But it will be based entirely on the finished work of the Master Builder (Eph.2:9; Tit.3:5).

David the king spoke of his own house compared to God's. He said, "Although my house be not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation and all my desire..." (2 Sam. 23:5).

Also remember that God's house is not a log cabin- it is a mansion! (Jn. 14). May we praise God for His house and the fact that He has built it, furnished it, and caused it to be inhabited with His children. Praise God for the Master Builder who will not allow a single child of His to be missing from His house.

WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

There are many things in this short life we live that we don't know. We don't know what tomorrow may hold or even if there will be a tomorrow. Solomon said, "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Prov. 27:1) James tells us that we know not what shall be on the morrow so we should not say we are going to such a place to buy and sell and get gain. What we should say is "...If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." (James 4:15) Jesus taught His disciples to take no thought for the morrow for the morrow would take thought of the things of itself. (Matt. 6:34) It is difficult enough to live each day as a disciple without worrying about the things of tomorrow.

We are placed in certain circumstances in life in which we just don't know what to do or which way to turn. We come to the forks in the road and wonder which way should we go? Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, and the people he governed faced this dilemma when their enemies came against them with a great multitude. Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast and sought help from the Lord. His prayer was, "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." (II Chron. 20:12) Jehoshaphat did not know what to do but his eyes were on the Lord. Lift your eyes toward the hills from whence cometh all our help said the Psalmist. (Psalm 121:1)

We don't know why God does certain things in a certain way or understand some of His judgments. But we know that whatsoever God does is right and just, even though we don't know the why many times. Jesus said the Father had hid some things from the wise and prudent but had revealed them to babes. Jesus said it was because it seemed good in God's sight. (Matt. 11:26) The ways of God versus the ways of men are as far apart as the heavens and earth. Paul wrote, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)

We don't know who all the children of God are but we do know they are as the sand of the sea and stars of heaven in number. (Gen. 26:4) We can also know

that we are included among that number but not with perfect knowledge which only the Lord Himself possesses. The apostle John tells us, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." (I John 3:14) We could not truly love another person other than ourselves unless we have been born of the Spirit of God. John tells us also about the condition of anyone that loves another. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." (I John 4:7)

We know what sin is but we don't know that we are guilty sinners until the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. Paul knew what sin was because the law said what he could not do. After he was born again on the road to Damascus with the law of God written in his heart and mind, he now knew he was a guilty sinner. He wrote Timothy, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15) He was like the blind man in John chapter 9 after Jesus had given him sight. He did not know whether Jesus was a sinner or not. However one thing he knew was "...whereas I was blind, now I see." (John 9:25) Saul, now Paul, could see that he was the chief of sinners.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night with only that which he knew as told Jesus, "...we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles except God be with him." (John 3:2) There were many things Nicodemus did not know at this juncture in his life but he knew Jesus was a teacher come from God. Jesus took Nicodemus and used him to teach the lesson of the necessity of being born again to see the kingdom of God. I believe this man was already born of the Spirit but he did not know the how as he conjectured that he would need to enter the second time into his mother's womb to be born again (from above).

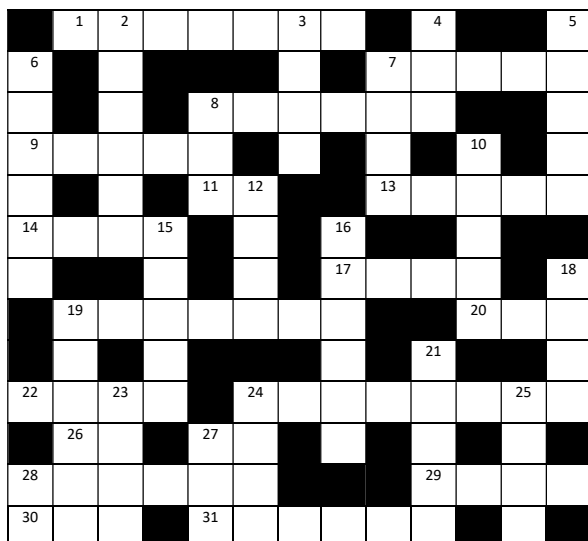
We don't know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future. Our future is not in worldly things because they will ultimately perish but our future is in heaven to be with Jesus and the elect family of God. We don't know exactly what heaven will be like but John tells us what we do know. "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." (I John 3:2) Who should object to being like Jesus because that is what predestination is all about?

Paul says we know all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose. These things that work together for good are foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification and glorification. (Rom. 8:28-30) If God be for us, who can be against us? We know this truth!

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. God visits our iniquities with His rod and ____.
7. Angels gather His elect from the four ____ breezes.
8. Wash me and I shall be ____ than snow.
9. This is substance of things hoped for and evidence.
11. ____ are the salt of the earth.
13. 6 things the Lord hates; number one is a ____ look.
14. All our righteousness are as filthy ____.
17. He offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.
19. Jesus hid things from the wise and the ____.
20. If any man ____ thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.
22. The ____ and poor meet together and God is the maker of them all.
24. The Jewish elders gave large sums of money to the ____ to say disciples stole the body of Jesus.
26. For God ____ loved the world He gave His Son.
27. A man went down from Jerusalem ____ Jericho.
28. For godly ____ worketh repentance unto salvation.



(Answers on Page 9)

29. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the ____.
30. Then cometh the ____ when the kingdom of God is delivered up to God.
31. I ____ all things for the elect's sake said Paul.

DOWN:

2. Knowing that the ____ of your faith works patience.
3. The tree of the knowledge of good and ____.
4. Woman at Jacob's well said to Jesus ____ I perceive that thou art a prophet. Address of respect.
5. Jesus ____ His disciples whom do men say that I the son of man am?
6. The taste of Manna was like ____ made with honey.
7. ____ not, the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed.
8. My God, my God, ____ hast thou forsaken me?
10. Job had ____ from sole of his foot to crown of head.
12. Take thine ____, eat drink and be merry.
15. The queen of the ____ shall rise in judgment.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

16. If trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the ____.
18. Some faithful wandered in mountains, deserts, and in ____ and caves of the earth.
19. The ____ of asps is under their lips. Toxic.
21. Pilate wrote a ____ on the cross of Jesus which said Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews.
23. Rahab let the spies down by a ____ through a window. A threefold one is not quickly broken.
24. The body is ____ in dishonour, raised in glory.
25. There remaineth a ____ to the people of God.
27. Priest would take some blood of offering and put on right ear, thumb and great ____ of the right foot.
28. ____ not conformed to this world but transformed.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My wife has an old stationery bicycle now used as a clothes hanger on the handle bars. Our grandson, Eli, got hold of the pedals and got the wheels going. He said, "It is going fast", as he spun the pedals around. Suddenly, however, the wheels stopped as the pedals encountered obstacle of clothes. Eli said, "Why is it stopped Papa?" I told him I wasn't sure. He replied, "Maybe it run out of gas."

A SYSTEM WHICH IS JUST

The ark was built only for Noah and his family; none entered but those for whom it was prepared. But all went into the ark that *wanted* in; none were turned away. Just so is grace. No broken-hearted penitent sinner has ever been turned away. All who have ever come unto God by Christ have been admitted.

Unless your plan takes some to heaven who do not want to be saved; some who do not come to God through Christ, it cannot be a broader system than ours. But the secret of it all is, none come except those whom God draws by His Spirit. If you have ever been drawn by God; if you have ever repented of sin; if you have ever truly prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner"; if you have desired truly to be saved from sin and to live with God and His Christ and with all the redeemed in glory, the ark of salvation stands open wide to you and you will most certainly reach heaven at last.

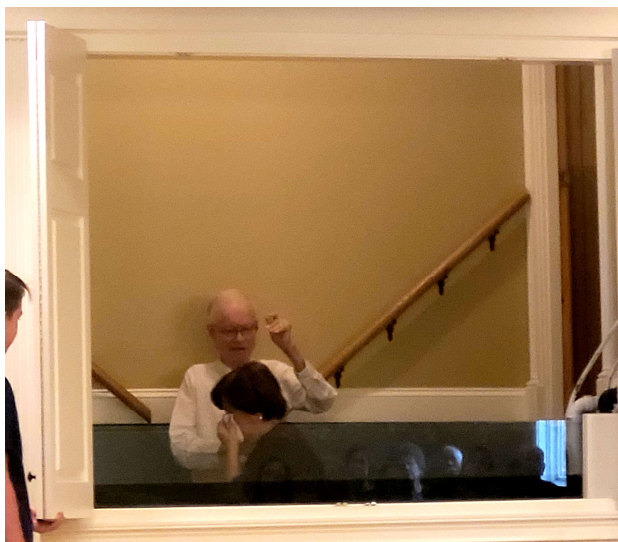
If you do not desire salvation; if you love sin and prefer the company of the world to the assembly of the saints; if you desire the companionship of the devil rather than of the "man of sorrows," why should you complain if God presents a plan of salvation which shuts you out?—**Elder William H. Crouse**. From *What is Truth*, 1918

(From "Advocate and Messenger", January, 1994)

CHURCH NEWS

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in January, 2023 (Jan. 29) will be hosted by Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS with supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell churches in Northeast, MS. Everyone is invited. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was blessed to have Wanda Tubbs Hale come forward and ask for a home in the church Sunday Nov. 20, 2022 and was baptized (Picture Below) by Pastor Elder Larry Wise into the fellowship of the church on Sunday December 4, 2022. She said she feels at home there at Bethany. The church is indeed a home away from home for those who truly love the Lord.



A DEATH BLOW TO HUMAN MERIT

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, ... fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Eph. 2:2-3)

Paul gives these brethren to understand that as far as nature is concerned they were not any better than anybody else. If God saved these people on account of what they were doing, He saved them for walking according to the course of this world. How do you like that? It is hardly reasonable that God would save people for walking according to the course of this world is it? *This is what they were doing when God saved them.*

If you take the position that their salvation was hinged on what they did, then you take the position that salvation is hinged on walking according to the course of this world and according to the prince of the power of the air, in other words, the devil. I don't like that.

Elder T. L. Webb, Sr.

An extract from **For The Poor**

(From "Advocate and Messenger", Feb. 1979)

THE CHURCH

By Elder J. D. Holder (Deceased)

The church, by some, is just a place to go on a beautiful warm day and see the people. From this point of view it makes very little difference where we go or what order of people we are with, or what form of service they render, because it is of the flesh and is no more than the general practice of the world. But the house of God is a place of refuge, a place to be taught the will of God concerning His people, and then to take heed to the things taught out of a love to God and for His people and His divine truths, and for the joy and thanksgiving for His countless blessings we have received.

In His service we find peace to a troubled soul, hungry for the renewed evidences that He is our God, and His presence we need to lead us and give strength in the hour of trouble. "Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isa. 26:4).

I have heard the Old Baptists say the old church is behind the times, and that we are sitting back while others are running things in an up-to-the-minute way. To this I cannot agree. The wisdom of God in giving to His kingdom the laws by which it is to be governed is so perfect, and can be applied to the problems of every age through which we've come, and through which we shall be led in the future, that it needs not to erase one line, nor add one thereto.

The secret of Israel's strength under the law of the Old Testament, when she went against the enemy, was to go as God directed, and every time she went otherwise her enemies gave her a "licking." The same thing is true today. The fact that there are so many dark clouds over Zion is a clear demonstration that we should be still and know that He is God, and that He will give us strength to fight the good fight of faith. We fight our battles alone when we depart from the law of God.—**Elder J. D. Holder, The Primitive Baptist, 1943**

(From "Advocate and Messenger", May 1996)

THOUGHTS ON SALVATION

Surely there would be no other salvation if eternal salvation did not precede it. But being the recipient of life eternal there is certainly something to do in order for one to make his calling and election sure before men—certainly not before God, for God already knows. This is some of what we call time salvation, or living while we live in this world. Only those possessed of eternal salvation can work out a salvation. This salvation does not reach beyond the grave, but it is the result or fruit of the eternal salvation which is anchored in eternity. *From an article by Elder William G. Fletcher, Advocate and Messenger Feb. 1959.*

(From "Advocate and Messenger", Jan. 1994)

SOMETHING NEW

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

It seems that people today are always seeking something new to entertain their fancies. They want new clothes, new cars, new houses and new ways to worship the Lord. It is evident that people have not learned what Paul had learned. "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (Phil. 4:11). Contentment is a great virtue for the child of God as it brings peace of mind and stability in difficult times. The worship of the Lord in the assembly of saints should be a time of peace and contentment and we are given plenty evidence of the New Testament pattern of worship. It is too bad that people aren't satisfied as David was with the house of God. David said, "... we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple." (Psalm 65:4). David was satisfied with the goodness of God's house. It still is as good and satisfying as it ever was.

People today aren't satisfied with the goodness of God's house as something new is continually being added. The apostle John tells us the seriousness of adding anything to the clear instructions in the word of God. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:" (Rev. 22:18). By the same token, those that would take away from the book of prophecy will have their part taken out of the book of life (not Lamb's book of life) and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. The modern worship service doesn't even begin to resemble the worship service that is recorded in scripture.

People seem to always desire new things today and they were wanting things new, even in the Old Testament but what does the Bible say? Jeremiah admonishes the people of God: "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." (Jer. 6:16). The old paths are those instituted by God and are found in God's word. Not only do people want new ways but they want leaders (ministers) to encourage them in

their scriptural deviance. Paul writes Timothy, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" (II Tim. 4:3). Israel of old did not want the prophets to really tell it like it actually was. Israel's attitude was: "Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:" (Isa. 30:10).

I see new places of worship sprout up in new areas all the time. They must be disgruntled believers who have become disenchanted and desirous of something new so they will start their own church and do things their own way. The truth is it is not "our church" but the Lord's church and He has given us a pattern to follow that is complete and we aren't to deviate from this pattern. As the song says, "If it was good enough for Paul and Silas, it is good enough for me." David was satisfied with the goodness of God's house and so should we. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12). The old adage "the bigger the better" is not always true as Jesus describes what the true kingdom of God consists: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32). Notice it is a little flock; it is not a Mega church. Money is the name of the game in the Mega church and this is only reasonable since they have so many "new" things they have to support. As I heard Elder James Hall preach recently; they want you to send your money to God but send it to their address.

The church is the ship of Zion and it sails on troubled seas. It will be fine as long as the water stays outside the ship, but when the water begins to seep into the ship, it is in danger. The church is in the world; that is true; however, when the world gets into the church, there is danger. Remember it doesn't take a lot to permeate the whole as "a little leaven leaveth the whole lump." The Bible tells us to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (I Thess. 5:21) God's way has always been proven to be the right and best way. Stick to the old paths and maintain the course and not be led astray with those that are continually seeking something new in the Lord's house.

The new year of 2023 has just begun but may we ever be content with the house of God as the Lord established it and not add anything new. The true worship of the Lord is not a complex thing. Jesus said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24) The spirit needs no addition nor does the truth; they are complete. Stand fast in the Lord.

(Adapted from an article written in April 2018)

'THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENT

By Elder T. L. Webb, Jr. (Deceased)

Many times, events take place which cannot be understood by our finite minds; events, which because of our lack of knowledge make us ask questions such as, "Why did this happen?" or "Why did God allow this?" Too much of the time we blame God for man's own misbehavior or disobedience and then go to the extreme on the other hand when things go good and give man credit for God's mercy.

We have an incident in the Bible, recorded in the second chapter of Matthew, which took place shortly after the birth of Christ, of the death of all the little babies two years old and under in Bethlehem and all the coasts thereof. The death of these little ones was the result of Herod's wicked designs. "Being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed unto their own country another way." At the same time this took place the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream and told him; "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee unto Egypt, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." God was not the designer of this evil plot, but in his infinite wisdom and perfect foresight, gave warning of the intents of Herod's heart. He knows the secrets of all men, and for reason of his own, protected the life of the Son of God at this time for the work was yet to be accomplished on earth.

Herod was angry at being mocked of the wise men, not knowing at the same time that the all-wise God knew of his designs also, so all the little ones were slain by the cruel hand of this tyrant who later died of a loathsome disease. Here is an instance where little babies died in the place of the Christ who later died in their room and stead. The Prophet, Jeremiah had many years before prophesied of this event when he said, (Jer. 31:15) "Thus saith the Lord; a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not." Rachel was a figure of all the mothers in this area as she was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin and was buried in the neighborhood of Bethlehem where her sepulchre is. (Gen. 35:19) The question might be asked why the innocent babies were slain while the Holy one was set free. They were not able to see as God could see, that this same Jesus would some day be the "Ram caught in the thicket," that these same little ones would escape a greater doom than that imposed on them by natural death. Let us go back to the Prophet Jeremiah again and hear him say, "Thus saith the Lord; refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears; for they work shall be rewarded, saith the Lord; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy." The great reward for these mothers was in the sparing of the Christ child, who would not, too many days hence prove his

matchless love for them by laying down his precious life that these very little ones, together with all the redeemed family of God, might live together with Him in that eternal city of light, where there is no wicked Herods with evil hearts and designs and where there is no death. "Oh, blessed thought! Oh, heavenly words of comfort wrought."

Elder T. L. Webb, Jr.

(From "The Christian Baptist", January, 1968)

ANSWERS**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

(Read from right to left)

ACROSS:

1. sepirts
7. sdniw
8. retihw
9. htiaf
11. ey
13. duorp
14. sgar
17. leba
19. tnedurp
20. eus
22. hcir
24. sreidlos
26. os
27. ot
28. worros
29. tsal
30. dne
31. erudne

DOWN:

2. gniyr
3. live
4. ris
5. deksa
6. srefaw
7. peew
8. yhw
10. sliob
12. esae
15. htuos
16. elttab
18. sned
19. nosiop
21. eltit
23. droc
24. nwos
25. tser
27. eot
28. eb

HUMOR

Physician to patient: "If I've told you once, I've told you a hundred times--I do not treat amnesia cases!"

There's a story about a city dweller who was visiting relatives on a farm and the farmer gave a whistle and his dog herded the cattle into the corral, then latched the gate with her paw. "Wow, that's some dog. What's her name?" The forgetful farmer thought a minute, then asked, "What do you call that red flower that smells good and has thorns on the stem?" "A rose?" "That's it!" The farmer turned to his wife. "Hey Rose, what do we call this dog?"

Traditional

If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.—Ronald Regan

I never forget a face, but in your case I'll be glad to make an exception.—Groucho Marx

PROSPER

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

"He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?" (Job 9:4)

We know that God is wise, yet this says wise in heart. God's wisdom is so established in his love and kindness to us that he will not bless us in disobedience. He is not pleased when we turn our backs upon him and his promises. Remember, when he was discussing the unbelief of the children of Israel before they wandered in the wilderness for forty years, he reminded Moses of all the blessings and miracles he had performed before them.

He is mighty in strength. There is nothing too hard for the Lord. He does not find himself begging that his will may be fulfilled. Therefore, he does not beg sinners to be saved, he saves them. Knowing God like we do, and seeing his many blessings of compassion and power in our own lives, is it any wonder that God should be displeased when we fail to keep his laws?

But, Job asks a question which we should all ponder. Let the one stand up who has hardened himself against God and prospered. We might remember that David was disturbed at the prosperity of the wicked, until he remembered their end. These are people whose heart has never been tendered. Their heart is already hard. The only way for the wicked heart to be harder is for them to have removed the things that cause them distress and misery. This happened in Egypt in the days before the deliverance of the children of Israel. When the locusts were removed, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. When the grief from the death in each household was subsided, Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

The hardening Job is talking about is the hardening by the children of Israel as they spied out the land of Canaan. *"Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years."* Heb. 3:8-9 Shall they prosper? *"So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest."* Heb. 3:11

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not

from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:7-8 Joshua tells the children of Israel how to prosper. It should be obvious to even the casual Bible reader how it is that God's children will have prosperity.

This prosperity has to do with our health. *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* III John 2 There are many who may be physically sick and spiritual healthy.

But the question should come to each of us as we fight the battle to walk the strait and narrow path. Do you really know anyone whose heart was tendered by the Lord, who hardened their heart toward God and prospered?

(From *"The Pathway Of Truth"*, June, 2004)

DON'T BE LATE

By Elder Walter Cash

From *"The Christian Baptist"*, May 1989

Getting to church late is an evil that ought to be overcome. It is too much like there is little desire to engage in service. If the heart were anxious to meet the Lord in His service, the feet would hasten. There might occasionally be a hindrance that human foresight could not avoid, but these occasions are not the common cause. Generally, it looks like a lack of interest. It is very discouraging to the preacher and looks so much like the members were not at all anxious to hear him preach, and do not consider that his burden is heavy enough without adding to it, making it seem like coming to church is a burdensome duty rather than a delightful privilege.

To see all gathering early shows the spirit and feeling of the Psalmist: **"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."** This does not portray an irksome duty, but a heart of expectancy, joyfully desiring to engage in thankful service to the Lord for His many blessings. When one knows he is late to services, it depresses his spirit. It is altogether wrong to grow into this habit.

(From *"ITMS"*, September 2012)

A new employee had been caught coming in late for work three times and the fourth morning the foreman decided to read the riot act. "Look here," he snapped, "don't you know what time we start work around here?" "No, sir," said the man, "they're always working when I get here."--Source Unknown.

WE KNOW

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

1 John 5:20: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

"We know" says John to the churches of Asia. Two words that define a blessing for a believing child of God. There are blessings for being a believer and a member of the church. We understand that salvation is by grace, not by what we have done, but what Christ has done for us. To know this is a blessing that comes out of the local church to inform the believing child of God. John had spent time with Jesus, saw his miracles, witnessed his resurrection, and witnessed his ascension into heaven in his glorified body. He was commissioned by Christ to tell what he witnessed and knew about Christ. He knew that Jesus was the Christ by what he saw and what was revealed unto him. Now he uses the words "we know" which tells us that he is writing to churches that have also come to this same conclusion about Jesus of Nazareth.

We know that the promised Messiah has now come to earth as the prophets have written about for generations. Jesus gave us an understanding of who he was by manifesting it in the flesh. Israel was still looking for the Messiah to come the first time. Why? They did not acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah. For the scriptures says this about them. John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Those referred to as his own are revealed in this text. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. This shows that Jesus came through the seed of Abraham. Thus his own that did not receive him were those of the seed of Abraham. They should have recognized him as the promised Messiah, because they had the most knowledge about God's promises and his Son Romans 3:1-2. That we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true. The true God that is, God the Father, who is the true God, in opposition to the false gods of the heathens. Through the Son manifesting the word to us through our belief in him, we learn about the Father and his love for us. Even in his Son Jesus Christ. Christ is truly and really God, as appears from all the perfections of deity, the fullness of the Godhead being in him; from the divine

works of creation and providence being ascribed to him; and from the divine worship that is given him; as well as from the names and titles he goes by, and particularly that of Jehovah.

This is the true God, and eternal life. He is called "eternal life", because it is in him; and he is the giver of it to his people. Without Jesus Christ we could not look forward to eternal life in everlasting glory. He is the one that secured it by his works and death on the cross. Believing that does not make it possible. Christ did that. However believing it does give us a wonderful comfort and consolation on this side of heaven. This is the definition of what John meant when he said "we know". We know Jesus is the Christ. We know heaven is our home because Christ lived a perfect life in the flesh and put it on our account. He is our Lord and only Savior.

R.L. Taylor

**'Twas A Sheep
Not A Lamb**

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that strayed away
In the Parable Jesus told;
A grown-up sheep that had gone astray
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out in the meadows, out in the cold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought;
Back to the flock and into the fold,
'Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why, for the sheep, should we earnestly long
And so earnestly hope and pray,
Because there is danger, if they go wrong,
They will lead the young lambs astray.

For the lambs follow the sheep, you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray:
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.

So, with the sheep, we earnestly plead
For the safety of the lambs today;
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost
Some sheep may have to pay.

--Unknown

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", May 1967)

"I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments."
(Psalm 119:176)

We regret that as sheep we sometimes go astray but we are thankful the Good Shepherd is ready to receive us back into the fold—Amen!

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