

# Glad Tidings

**March**

**2023**

*"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**

We all need some comfort from time to time on the journey of life. There are various types of comfort that are administered to the people of God. There is comfort (ease, consolation, to draw near) in the gospel as Isaiah prophesied, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." How would comfort be administered? It would be the speaking and crying to the people of God that their warfare had been accomplished, their iniquity pardoned and received double for their sins at the Lord's hand. (Isa. 40:2) This proclamation is to the people of God who are enabled by God's grace to mourn. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4) Those that mourn or grieve over their sins are comforted by the good news that those sins have been atoned for by Jesus Christ.

Jesus told the disciples that they would have tribulation in this world but to be of good cheer because He had overcome the world. The apostle Paul suffered great tribulation and he received the great comfort of God in these trials. He would in turn use what he had experienced for the benefit or comfort for the people of God. Paul describes God as the God of all comfort and then says, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (II Cor. 1:4) The comfort Paul had received he was able to share with those who were in trouble. The prophet Nahum said, "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nahum 1:7) Others were comforted by Paul and not just by his preaching.

We, as the people of God, have faith to be able to receive comfort that comes only from God. Paul writes the saints at Rome and thanks God that their faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. He longs to see them to impart unto them some spiritual gift to establish them in the faith. Then he clarifies this statement by saying, "That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." (Rom. 1:12) Paul would be comforted by the establishment of these saints in the faith once delivered to the saints. Ministers are comforted when the people of God eagerly embrace the good news of the gospel by faith. Paul had faith; the people had faith, and both were comforted.

We sometime are comforted in our affliction by how others have responded in their affliction. The brethren in Thessalonica had undergone great persecution but their faith and charity still continued to grow as they endured these trials. Upon hearing of this good report of their steadfast stand in the faith by the mouth of Timotheus, Paul writes, "Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:" (I Thess. 3:7) These people's response to their affliction and persecution was to endure and this comforted Paul in his afflictions. The minister is supposed to set an example of living by faith but here the people of God had set an example and it comforted Paul. He urged them to continue in faith and love toward one another and all men. Paul would write, "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord." (I Thess. 3:8)

When we have lost someone we love to death, we are comforted by those we know and love. When Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus died, their fellow Jews were in the house to comfort them. (John 11:31) When Bathsheba lost the child conceived in adultery with David, he went in unto her to comfort her. (II Sam. 12:24) David and Bathsheba were blessed with another child named Solomon who would be endowed with great wisdom. When Isaac's mother Sarah died, He was comforted by his wife, Rebekah whom he loved. (Gen. 24:67) Of course there are those that refuse to be comforted as was the case of those mothers that lost their children in an attempt by Herod to kill Jesus Christ. (Jer. 31:15)

We have our final comfort as children of God, when we die and our spirits return to God to abide until the resurrection. (Eccl. 12:7) There was a certain rich man who fared sumptuously every day and clothed in purple and fine linen. When he died he was found in torment. There was a beggar named Lazarus who died and he was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom (a Jewish term for heaven). In his torments called hell, the rich man begged for mercy from father Abraham and to send Lazarus to cool his tongue with water in the flame he was in. He was told, "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." (Luke 16:25) This knowledge that our loved ones who love the Lord and who died in Christ are in the very presence of God and comforted brings us comfort as well. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS  
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, correspondence and contributions to the Editor of Glad Tidings at the address below or call 662-489-5017 for announcements. You may also e-mail to **wisepb310@gmail.com**; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received 2 days prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

Elder Larry Wise  
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**CHRISTIAN VOCATION**

By Elder John Harvey Daily (Deceased)

*"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," (Eph. 4:1)*

Though Paul was a prisoner of Rome, and all his earthly comforts were taken from him, yet his interest in his brethren and love for them remained unabated. The church needed such a servant who loved the cause as a true mother loves her family. Such servants cannot be hired to preach or not to preach. We need such men among us now, and the Saviour directs us to pray the Lord of the harvest to give us such men. If a church has the service of a true minister of the gospel, not of the letter only but of the Spirit, one who knows truth experimentally, such a church is blest and should be thankful to God for such a gift.

Paul recounted his trials to the elders of Ephesus and said, "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and finish my ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus."

He felt it better to die than to fail as a minister. No trial, no persecution, no opposition moved him from the purpose or dampened his zeal. He knew that Jesus had bestowed upon him the office and gift of the ministry, and he longed to finish his task without reproach and to the honor of the cause. It is a high office, one of toil and reproach. It is not one of honor, as seen from the world's point of view.

I have feared many times that I am mistaken as to my calling. I see so much imperfection in myself,

incompetence and unworthiness. But the church has been a burden to me many years. I have rejoiced when prosperity has come, and I have wept in adversity. I have been saddened by fresh views of my imperfection. When we pretend to be called to the work of the ministry, we make a high claim, and to make proof of it we should walk worthy of so high a calling.

Paul desired the saints at Ephesus to walk in a manner to honor the profession they made. Here is a theme worthy of solemn reflection of every professor. You profess to be born of the Spirit, to be dead to sin, you profess to love the Saviour and His people and His truth in the world; in baptism you did make a solemn vow to live in a worthy way before the world. See what profession you have made and what a vow you have made! The great apostle says, "I beseech you that you walk worthy." A true minister delights to see the members of his church faithful; he loves to see them loyal to the cause and is grieved when he sees them grow worldly, careless of their duties, and cold. Exhortation is good for us all. We all need to be reminded of our duty. We need to be reminded of the "mercies of the Lord" and exhorted by them to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. It is good for us to think of the mercies of God, temporal and spiritual. We are a blest people. The earth and all about us yield us good; the sun, the moon, and all the elements about us do us service.

The Saviour lived and died. He rose from the dead and ascended on high, and this for us. He ever lives and intercedes for us. When we were lost and ruined, had no mercy on ourselves "even when we were dead in sin," He pitied us and quickened us. How hard the heart when these things will not move us to duty. How vain is that poor man who neglects and rejects every duty, who burdens his pastor and brethren with his neglect, carelessness and cruel indifference. The wealth is only a temporal good. Your home, however sweet and good, is only temporal. Think how often death comes in sight of your home. Yea, how often has it visited your homes, and be sure it will call for you soon, and then what will it profit you if you have your millions? All will be as nothing to you. One whisper of God's love to you will be better than wealth or the vain, empty honor of the world. Oh, it was to Paul to say, "I have fought a good fight." As the world sees things Paul's life was a failure, no vast estate, no worldly honor, no exhibition of earthly splendor, but the sweet consciousness that he had been faithful to the truth; that he had not been swerved this way or that by the love of money or honor; that he had sought for the path of duty and truth without regard to consequences, was better to him than the greatest riches.

When we see the subject clearly, as we do at times, we are admonished of our coldness and

neglect, and we promise to do better; we are again blinded by Satan and led as captives by our lusts of the flesh, by our greed and covetousness. O, how we should long to see true piety among all our people; legal spirit of enmity, that the felt presence and assurance of the Lord are withdrawn, and we are left in the dark. If we walk in the light we must live after the spirit of love. While walking in Christian love, we have fellowship with God. And the reason the Christian's cross is easy, and his burden light, is because the love of God is rising up within his soul. Love sweetens everything that makes every duty easy and pleasant, as the true mother does not tire of doing for her child nor desires to be relieved of her care because she loves it, so love makes Christian duties a delight. Let us strive to overcome enmity with love.

Elder J. Harvey Daily

(*"Advocate and Messenger"* -1925 and reprinted in *"Advocate and Messenger"*, March 1987)

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#### WHEN YOU ARE FEELING DOWN:

- If you want your dreams to come true, don't oversleep.
- The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.
- Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.
- The best vitamin for making friends....B1.
- The 10 commandments are not multiple choices.
- The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
- Minds are like parachutes...they function only when open.
- Ideas won't work unless YOU do.
- One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.
- One who lacks the courage to start has already finished.
- The heaviest thing to carry is a grudge.
- Don't learn safety rules by accident.
- We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.
- Jumping to conclusions can be bad exercise.
- A turtle makes progress when he sticks his head out.
- One thing you can give and still keep is your word.
- A friend walks in when everyone else walks out.
- The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime!

(From *"ITMS"*, June 2012)

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." (Psalm 42:5)

#### THE OFFENCE OF THE CROSS

By Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

*"And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."—Matt. 11:6*

The pure, undefiled religion of Christ is a cross-bearing religion—offensive to the natural man and repulsive to the carnal man.

Centuries before the birth of Christ holy men prophesied of His coming. The Jews looked forward to the time with exultation and rejoicing. And though His advent into the world was the most glorious event since the creation—angels appearing unto men and singing glory to God—nature joining in giving glory as His star in the east led the wise men to the cradle in Bethlehem; yet when He came unto His own they received Him not. They were offended in Him. His birth, parentage and poverty suited not the proud Jew. His obscure life as a carpenter's son, lack of religious training at the hand of men, His keeping company with sinners and His disregard for their formal observance of religious rites, was all repulsive to them. He was a cross to them.

And for nineteen hundred years the world has persistently labored to remove the offence of the cross. Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant alike, have joined in the crusade against God's simple, rugged truth—the pure, unadulterated religion of Jesus.

But all such labor is in vain. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), and Paul taught that the world by wisdom knew not God (I Cor. 1:22). Human nature is the same the world over, and for all time. The things that were offensive in the life, work and doctrine of Jesus in the dawn of Christendom is so today, and will be until the end of time: and though the world seems to be putting on Christ, it is only in a professional way. In vain do men serve Jesus, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men (See Matt. 15:9). Proud, self-righteous men, not only rob our blessed Jesus of His glory in the matter of salvation, but would rob His church of its truth and simplicity. Mark those who are offended in Jesus.

Sometimes designing men of our own selves rise up and seek to get the Baptists out of the "old ruts." The "old ruts" as the principles and practices of the Primitive Baptists are sometimes termed by our enemies, were made by Jesus and His apostles, *and God forbid we should ever get rid of them.* "Ask for the old paths where is the good way."

Brethren we fear that those who prove they are offended in Jesus by introducing new things. We want no example save that of our Lord and Master. When men would set a better example in word or deed than He, are they not proving themselves to be modern Pharisees? Pharisees were His most cruel enemies. They were ever offended in Jesus, and there is today no enemy more dangerous to the

**FAMINE**

peace and happiness of God's people—no spirit more cruel and persecuting than the self-righteous, Pharisaical spirit.

May God deliver us from such a spirit, enable us to esteem others better than ourselves, serve at the feet of our brethren, love each other without dissimulation, be satisfied with the house of God, content to walk in the "old paths", not carried about with every wind of doctrine, discontent with self but only satisfied with Jesus, and thus be enabled to possess the blessing promised those who find no offence in our blessed Lord.—**Elder R. H. Pittman, *Zion's Advocate*, 1907**

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", Feb. 1995)

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**UNIVERSALISM NOT TRUE**

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

Universalism, or the salvation of the entire Adam family, is not the truth, because Christ did not die for the entire Adam family. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The world of this text does not embrace the entire Adam family, because He loved all of the subjects of this world, but there is one named in the Bible that God does not love. "Jacob have I loved, but Esau, but Esau have I hated." Now, if Esau is ever saved, he is one that is saved that Christ did not die for, and is on the outside of the world of this text. As there is no salvation outside of the death of Christ, therefore Esau is not saved. For this reason Universalism is not the teaching of the Bible. The world of this text are those that were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blame before Him in love. Those that were chosen in Christ were also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. "Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Eph. i. 4, 5 teaches that those that were chosen were the ones that were predestinated unto the adoption of sons. As many as were chosen, were predestinated; as many as were predestinated, were called; as many as were called, were justified; as many as were justified, were glorified. Inasmuch as a part were chosen and will finally be glorified, and none can be saved only those that were chosen, justified, and finally glorified, proves that all of the race will not be saved. If so, they were saved without being chosen, redeemed and glorified.

A. D. Wood

(From "*The Primitive Baptist*", October 19, 1944)

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All will be in heaven for whom Christ paid the sin debt,

"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons." (Ruth 1:1)

The time of this narrative is near the close of the era of judge-rule in the land of Canaan. It was a time when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes," because "there was no king in Israel." It was not a time when a few were in want. If this was the case then a man could borrow from his brother. This was a time when a nation was reduced to poverty. A time when the land failed because God had withheld the rain, or a time when blasting and mildew struck the field, grove and vineyard.

A key to this lesson is found near at hand, perhaps in the next generation or so. A time when a polluted priesthood polluted a nation. "And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." (I Sam. 3:1) "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:" (Amos 8:11) We have here two situations, one is a parallel of the other. One is literal and the other is spiritual. The first is history, the second is prophecy. They both teach the same lesson; a nation of God's chosen people can be reduced to poverty by a famine of His Word.

We often boast of having the truth as though we had a copyright on it. Well, we may have it but if we do, and do not use it as God commands, we will come to want, not so much as individuals but as a church or churches. I think I have seen churches in my time that were suffering from famine, they were starving, not because they did not have a preacher but because they did not have a pastor. Now a man may preach and use a lot of Bible verses and a multitude of words but if he is not setting forth in a way that is upbuilding to the entire church he is not a pastor. Where this is the case, it is not long before you may see a man with his wife and children leaving home to go into the land of Moab to sojourn there until the famine has ended. "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:13-14)

Elder E. B. Watts

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", November, 1975)

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"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough." (Proverbs 28:19)

**ALL IS VANITY**

By Elder J. H. Oliphant (deceased)

"Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

Solomon knew how deceptive all earthly pleasures are. Riches and all that wealth can buy, its pleasures are transient and soon fade. "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither." Riches will take itself wings and fly away, the bounty and strength of youth will soon pass away. The world heaps honors on a man today and tomorrow curses him. Now men go up with public favor and soon sink into infamy.

The oldest men that have ever lived have died and turned to dust. The patriarchs with all their wealth and greatness have long since turned to dust. Kingdoms have crumbled and kings have been carried to their tombs. They fought and struggled for power and place, but "all is vanity." In our own experience we have been disappointed. We have seen our hopes turn into baubles. We remember our father and mother's home and how sweet was that company! We remember mother's words and tones and smiles and her tender love, and father too, was dear and kind, but all that has gone forever. Our parents, one or both, have gone. Then home is in other's hands. Another group now gathers around the hearth. The brothers and sisters are scattered, some gone to distant states, some to poverty, or maybe to wheelchair wretchedness, and all hastening on that great beyond.

All this comes to all families in the world. We have no continuing city here. We may think ourselves secure, that our nest is well built and well feathered, health and bank account good, but how soon all this may be changed. Rich men have become beggars, tyrants have become slaves and serfs to others. "Set not your affection on things below." The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches will at last be understood aright by us. Churches disappoint us, as we toil for their growth and see them prosper. Oh, how many ways there are to bring them down. Death pursues every member and how often we take up our march to the grave in long processions! Time lays its hand upon all and strife and division blasts our hopes and when the minister grows old he sees his labor come to nothing, and that all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Oh, how sad to see a church die and its light go out as a candle, but this too, occurs!

There is nothing in all the world to lean on that is permanent. Let a man be favored with youth and health and wealth and great learning, and all the honors earth can give, and all these props will give way at last, but, "Blessed is the man whose hope that Lord is." The words "all is vanity," does not include our Saviour who said, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." There is no disappointment here, but all our hopes in Him will prove to be an anchor sure and

steadfast. "I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am ye may be also." Happy is the man who names the Saviour in the lists of his deeds. It seems too good to be true that He is ours, that heaven at last will be our home, that all tears shall be wiped away, and there shall be no more death.

Let us wear the world as a loose garment, we may soon be called to put it off at once. Our thoughts should be much of heaven and our eternal home. If we often think of death and of our Saviour we will be not so much alarmed when the summons comes. Let us seek the Lord and His presence. "If we keep his commandments we shall abide in his love." We should hasten to leave off strife, it serves no good purpose, it spoils our joys. It is all vanity. How honorable and it is and sensible too, to let your opponent have the last word and the severest and strongest word. Whatever is done in the spirit of strife will do no good for anyone. We pray the Lord to enable us to follow His example and remember that, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." It is Christianity to do this. May the Lord bless all our Elders in all this land with this same spirit. What a blessing it would be to our cause.

Elder J. H. Oliphant  
Primitive Monitor

(From "*The Christian Baptist*," October, 1975)

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**SELFISHNESS**

Selfishness is often a murderous crime, though in many cases it is not understood as taking the life of others. One selfish preacher can break up the happiness and fellowship of many preachers, and can bring about a division and destruction of a church. He thinks he must be a standard for others, that his opinion and word is to be about equivalent to law. His "self" is all puffed up, and he does not think of the happiness and peace of others. A brother insists of having his way in a church, self is the big "I" with him. Selfishness may grow to such intemperate degrees that properly spelled it means, "rule or ruin". Selfishness can break up a home, break up a church, stir up a community, and murder people.

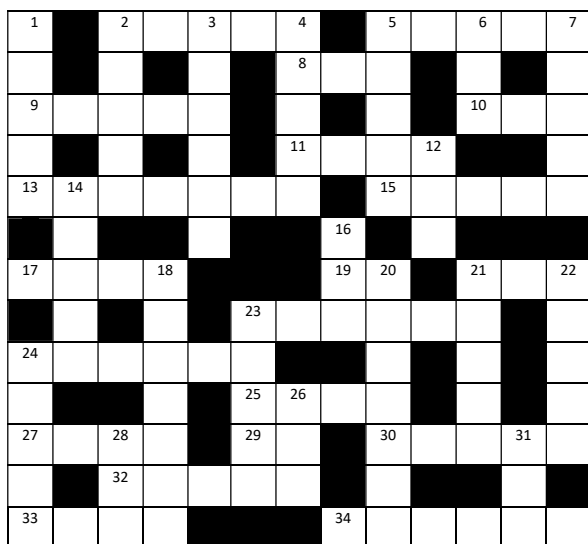
Elder Walter Cash  
In Messenger of Peace

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"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." (Isaiah 56:10-11)

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE****ACROSS:**

2. Out of the mouths of \_\_\_\_ and sucklings is praise.
5. We're called out of darkness into his marvelous \_\_\_\_
8. There is \_\_\_\_ mediator between God and men.
9. Lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily \_\_\_\_ us and run with patience our race.
10. Peter's answer when asked if Jesus paid tribute.
11. Some will not endure sound doctrine but shall \_\_\_\_ away their ears from the truth.
13. Not of him that willet, nor of him that \_\_\_\_ but of God that sheweth mercy.
15. The Bereans were more \_\_\_\_ than those that were in Thessalonica.
17. Open thy mouth \_\_\_\_ and I will fill it. Not narrow.
19. I \_\_\_\_ the resurrection and the life said Jesus.
21. Jesus told Peter \_\_\_\_ thee behind me Satan.
23. Name of child barren Hannah was blessed with.
24. The law was a \_\_\_\_ of good things to come.
25. Wise men came from the \_\_\_\_ to see baby Jesus.
27. The sun was created by God to rule \_\_\_\_ the day.



(Answers on Page 8)

29. \_\_\_\_ many as I love I rebuke and chasten.
30. He was captain of the host of Saul's army.
32. The days of our \_\_\_\_ are threescore years and ten.
33. The Father knoweth what things ye have \_\_\_\_ of before you ask. Not a want.
34. 24 elders fell before the Lamb having golden vials full of \_\_\_\_ which are the prayers of the saints.

**DOWN:**

1. Be \_\_\_\_ be vigilant because your adversary the devil.
2. Jesus poured water into a \_\_\_\_ and washed feet.
3. Israel couldn't drink of the waters of Marah for they were \_\_\_\_\_. Not sweet.
4. When you see the \_\_\_\_ wind blow there will be heat.
5. Take my yoke upon you and \_\_\_\_ of me I am meek.
6. James says don't be partial to those who wear the \_\_\_\_ clothing and given a good place.

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE****DOWN:**

7. The \_\_\_\_ of Manna was like wafers made with honey.
12. The hour is coming and \_\_\_\_ is when the dead.
14. Husband of Bathsheba who David had killed.
16. The son of Noah who uncovered his nakedness.
18. Jesus for the joy set before him \_\_\_\_ the cross.
20. If ye had faith as a grain of \_\_\_\_ seed. Small seed.
21. Ruth went to \_\_\_\_ in the field of Boaz. Gather.
22. At the \_\_\_\_ of Babel languages were confounded.
23. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> denial by Peter of Jesus he began to curse and to \_\_\_\_ saying I know not the man.
24. When Jesus said the maid was not dead but just sleepeth, they laughed him to \_\_\_\_\_. Derision.
26. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt, foal of an \_\_\_\_
28. The hearing ear & the seeing \_\_\_\_ made by God.
31. Eye hath not seen nor \_\_\_\_ heard neither has entered into the heart of man things prepared.

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**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

I believe you should live each day as if it is your last, which is why I don't have any clean laundry because, come on, who wants to wash clothes on the last day of their life? --Age 15

"Oh, I sure am happy to see you," the little boy said to his grandmother on his mother's side. "Now maybe Daddy will do the trick he has been promising us." The grandmother was curious. "What trick is that?" she asked. "I heard him tell Mommy," the little boy answered, "that he would climb the walls if you came to visit."

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**PITCHFORK AND RAKE**

(Copied from *Monthly Miscellany*, May 16, 1849)

"I did not enjoy the sermon today," said Mrs. E. as she returned from the church Sabbath.

"And why not?" said one.

"Because," said she, "I carried to church or used the wrong tool."

"Wrong tool! What can you mean?"

"I mean I used the pitchfork instead of the rake."

"Pitchfork and rake! worse and worse. I don't understand the riddle."

"Well, instead of using the rake to gather up useful truth for myself, I used the pitchfork to cast it over to others, as I thought it suites them."

Reader, when you go to church be sure you take a rake, and not a pitchfork.

(From "*For The Poor*", September, 1945)

"How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103)

**CHURCH NEWS**

The annual Big Sandy Fellowship will be hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in March, 2023 (Mar.3-4) by Hollow Rock Primitive Baptist Church, Bruceton, TN in tandem with Mud Creek PBC, Huntingdon, TN. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am, March 3, and continue through Saturday, March 4. Services will include morning, afternoon and evening worship on both days with lunch and supper being provided in the fellowship hall.

The church is located at 30339 Broad Street/US Hwy 70, Bruceton, TN. For more information, Please contact Elder Garland Broadway, Co-Pastor at 731-441-6364 or Elder Tim Stepp, Pastor 731-415-0010.

We also ask that you remember the meeting in prayer that the Lord will bless all in attendance. We are looking forward to being able to worship and fellowship with all our extended family in Christ.

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Hollow Rock Primitive Baptist Church

Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church, 1947 Broad St, Headland, AL will host the Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting the weekend of March 2-5, 2023. Services Thursday evening, March 2, at 6:30 pm preceded by supper at 5:30 pm. Friday, March 3, 10:00 am Service, Lunch, and afternoon service at 1:30 pm, Supper 5:00 pm and service at 6:00 pm. Saturday, March 4 Services at 10:00 am, lunch, and afternoon service at 1:30 pm. For more information contact Elder Clayton Nowell, Pastor of Piney Grove PBC at (334) 405-9682.

**NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT**

Elder David Wise has released a new book—"What is the Church?"—that considers the Lord's design, structure, and proper functioning of the church.

He considers the establishment of the church, the different aspects of the church, functioning of the body of Christ, spiritual gifts, and church practice. The book can help us better understand our responsibility to serve and glorify God in the Lord's church.

"The church is not just one event on our schedule that we attend for a few hours each week, check that box, and then proceed to the rest of our busy daily schedules. Church is not merely something "we do" once a week, but rather the church is "who we are." We are the body of Christ. Church is not simply a weekly event we attend, but church is a life we live."

You can purchase the book online at <https://www.lulu.com>. If anyone is interested in downloading a free PDF or listening to sermons on the topics they can access them at <http://macedonia-pbc.org/what-is-the-church/> (copied from *The Banner of Love*, January 2023)

**CHURCH NEWS**

Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS will have its April meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in April, 2023, Lord willing. (April 7-9). Services Friday night, April 7, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, April 8, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. No afternoon service. Elder Mark Quarles, Madison, MS is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Sulphur Springs will have a meeting also the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in April 2023 (April 7-9). Services Friday night at 7:00 pm preceded by supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday morning and afternoon services beginning at 10:00 am followed by lunch. Elder Dolph Painter and Elder Josh Mason are invited ministers. Elder Joe Nettles is Pastor of Sulphur Springs.

Elder Larry Wise, Pastor of Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles W. of Ecru, MS on Hwy 346 is about to baptize Brother Drew McGuire into Bethany church as he professed a faith in Christ on New Years day, January 1, 2023. May the Lord prosper Zion to grow and prosper as His kingdom!



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"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5) We are all by nature dead in trespasses and sin. The dead cannot act in the spiritual realm just as the dead individual in the graveyard cannot act in any way. Just as a higher power will raise the dead in the resurrection, so it is that a higher power acts upon the dead sinner to impart spiritual life and raise him from death in sin to life in Christ. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (John 5:25) This is Primitive Baptist and Bible 101 and fundamental to eternal salvation. Man is entirely excluded in this creative work of God. The Potter always has power over the clay!—*Editor*

**HIGHWAY SIGNS**

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

In entering the highway there is a stop sign or a yield sign, before entering there are some considerations that need to be made, and we should enter with the thought in mind to obey the highway signs. Moses was told to stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. Everything must be cleared before entering the highway. James says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you." Yield or give yourself over to the Lawgiver, which is the Lord. Denying ourselves many times on this highway of holiness is very necessary for peace and safety. This carries with it the thought to drive friendly, be courteous; treat others as you would want to be treated. Travel the highway with respect for others, esteem others better than yourselves, be careful not to try to run rough shod over them, but consider their rights and feelings; which sometimes demand patience, forbearance, endeavoring to drive safely. Notice the sign: "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24). Some travelers without much respect for other fellow travelers come down the highway as though the highway belonged to them alone, crowding in and out of lanes endangering their own life as well as others. It would be good to let our moderation be known unto all men. Traveling with the thought of obedience to the law; showing the proper respect to all highway travelers. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This is very important for those who are labouring and heavy laden in the sense of this text. There is no greater rest stop for the Lord's people here on earth; you can find rest and peace unto your souls and learn more about Jesus.

Keep right is another sign that is very important, do not be tossed to and fro but stay in the proper lane, especially contending for the faith once given or delivered unto the travelers of the highway. Notice this sign: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (II Tim. 3:16-17) It is necessary to study these signs, these instructions, that you may know how and when to move. There are times to be very cautious as to our move, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath." (James 1:19) To fail to obey this sign, slow to speak and slow to wrath, you will be found in great trouble sometimes, many times because it will involve others. A stop sign, obeyed will avoid much trouble and sorrow, to fail to obey is a dangerous matter. Notice this: "Beloved follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God; but he that doeth evil hath not

seen God." (Third John 11) Repent, stop what you are doing and turn unto God is a lesson taught in the word of God. "Remember therefore, from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of this place, except thou repent." (Rev. 2:5) Stop or repent from the way you are going or else the Lord will remove the candlestick. There is no end to the subject matter. I will suggest the reader continue to study the road signs for the highway of holiness.

A. D. Wood

(From "The Christian Baptist", August, 1974)

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**ANSWERS  
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE****ACROSS:**

2. sebab
5. thgil
8. eno
9. teseb
10. sey
11. nrut
13. htennur
15. elbon
17. ediw
19. ma
21. teg
23. leumas
24. wodahs
25. tsae
27. revo
29. sa
30. renba
32. sraey
33. deen

**DOWN:**

1. rebos
2. nosab
3. rettib
4. htuos
5. nrael
6. yag
7. etsat
12. won
14. hairu
16. mah
18. derudne
20. dratsum
21. naelg
22. rewot
23. raews
24. nrocs
26. ssa
28. eye
31. rae

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**KNOWLEDGE**

Automaker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators whirled to life--but Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted car maker inquired why the bill was so high.

Steinmetz's reply: For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990. Ford paid the bill.

Today in the Word, MBI, April 1990, p. 27.



Practical Christianity  
**SUICIDE**  
 (Part 1)



By Elder Tim McCool  
 Gordo, Alabama

There are very few individuals or families who are not affected by suicide. And how many times have we heard someone say that because a person committed suicide they go to hell. According to the examples that we find in the scripture, this is absolutely not true. First let me say that I am in no way supportive of suicide, and neither is the scripture. It is a tragic sin that too often occurs when a child of God could find help from God, from Godly counselors or from the Word of God.

But the scripture is not silent about suicide. There are numerous examples of a child of God committing suicide in the Bible and guess what – nowhere does it say that because they committed suicide they go to hell. On the contrary, if we can find just one example of a child of God who committed suicide who is in heaven, then we can forever lay this issue to rest. Before we look at that example, let us consider something on a larger scale. Jesus declared that no man is able to pluck His children out of His hands (Jn. 10:28-29). The Apostle Paul declared that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:39).

This means that nothing we do can keep us from going to heaven. This is often referred to as “eternal security” or “preservation of the saints.” It means that because of the strength of Jesus Christ and the certainty of what He did for His people, not one of His children will be prevented from reaching heaven. We read in scripture where children of God perished by the sword, by famine, by accidents, and yes, even by suicide. The way a child of God leaves this world makes no difference as to where they go.

Now let's look at one example. In Judges 16 we read about the end of Samson's life. After he rebelled against the Lord and fornicated with Delilah, his head was shaved, his eyes were put out and he was left grinding corn a slave to the Philistines. The Philistines decided to throw a keg party. They get liquored up and call for Samson, so they could make fun of him, mock him and abuse him.

When Samson was brought in and while the Philistines are partying, he prayed for one last bit of strength. God blessed him with that strength and he brought the house down literally. I am sure that Samson bringing the house down was not the way the drunken Philistines wanted the party to end. But end it did, and guess what – Samson committed suicide in bringing the house down on top of him. He ended his own life by his own actions.

Did Samson go to hell for doing this? Absolutely not. On the contrary, we know for a certainty that he is in heaven because he is listed as a child of God in the “hall of faith” in Heb. 11:32. This ends the issue of what happens when a person commits suicide. A child of God will never be removed or remove themselves from the hands of our mighty Savior. There are several other examples of suicide in the word of God. I encourage us to study them. They will show the same as Samson – no matter how we leave this world, it does not make a difference on where we go. I hope this is comforting to us all, to understand how mighty our Savior is.

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### WITH THE CAPTIVE IN ASTONISHMENT

“Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.” (Ezek. 3:15)

We find by reading the first chapter of Ezekiel he is describing four living creatures, and every one had four faces and four wings: the faces of a man, lion, ox and eagle. Metaphors, as we understand, describing the characteristics of the prophets in their age, and the Gospel ministers in their dispensation; the intelligence of a man, the boldness of a lion, the docility of the ox, and the eye of an eagle. The prophets, doubtless, on the wings of faith, could fly into the Gospel age, and the Gospel ministers can fly on the wings of faith and enjoy sweet fellowship with Ezekiel with the captives at Telabib by the river Chebar. Those captives represent the children of God that are bound by the cords of God's everlasting love; and the ministers, like the prophets, will sit where they sat, and dwell where they dwelt. Like Ruth of old, their God is my God; their people, my people.

Dear children of God, who may read these lines, if you are not in captivity, why do you not go to those who can get religion or lay it down? Why have doubts and fears? Oh, you must acknowledge that you are captivated. What about the seven days of astonishment? Evidently Ezekiel was astonished that he should ever be called a prophet. Brother minister, is it not astonishing to you that you should ever be placed on the walls of Zion, and undershepherd? Yes, why was I made to hear Thy voice? Like Jonah, I ran away; but now, O dear Lord. “A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand.” I have this to say, now in my 79<sup>th</sup> year, that faith in God is my only staff, hope in Jesus my greatest riches, and the sweet fellowship of the saints my greatest pleasure.

Submitted in love, J. D. Curtis

(From “*The Gospel Messenger*”, December, 1920)

## JESUS IS BEFORE ALL THINGS



By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

Paul describes Jesus Christ as the Son of God and in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of every creature. All things were created by Him that are in heaven and in earth both visible and invisible. Then Paul proclaims that, "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Col. 1:17)

Before anything ever was created, there was Jesus as the eternal Son of God. The prophet Micah tells where Jesus would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah and then says, His "...whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2) He was in the bosom of the Father before the highest hill had ever been laid or the mountains formed. Before there was an Adam in the Garden of Eden, there was Jesus Christ who was in his creation from the dust of the earth. God is from everlasting and so is His Son declares the Psalmist, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalms 90:2)

John the Baptist was a great man born of woman said Jesus and he pointed out Jesus as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Then he says concerning Jesus, "This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me." (John 1:30) Jesus was "before" John the Baptist and even though John is described as the messenger that would prepare the way before Christ, Jesus was his forerunner and our forerunner and entered into heaven for us having obtained eternal redemption for His beloved. (Heb. 9:12; Heb. 6:20). Just as Jesus has entered into heaven as our forerunner, we will follow Him to that final destination where joy will never end.

Jesus told some Jews that their father Abraham rejoiced to see His day and rejoiced. They said that he was not yet fifty years old and wondered how He had seen Abraham. Jesus told them, "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58) Jesus is the "I am" that God told Moses to tell Israel was the One that had sent him to say to Pharaoh "let my people go" and lead them out of Egyptian bondage. Abraham saw Jesus in the form of the ram that was used as a sacrifice instead of Isaac.

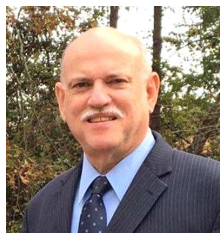
Philip found Nathanael and shared with him the good news they had found Him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Nathanael wondered if anything good could come out of the wicked city of Nazareth and he was invited to "come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming and described him as an Israelite in whom there was no guile. Nathanael asked when did He know him? Jesus said, "...Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." (John 1:48) Jesus was "before" Philip and his calling of Nathanael. Jesus has always gone before his servants to prepare the heart for the reception of the good news of salvation by grace.

Jesus "knew" Nathanael not only as a natural Israelite but a spiritual Israelite indeed and had seen him under the fig tree. Matter of fact Jesus knew him before he ever had an existence in this earth and had chosen him in Christ "before" the foundation of the world. (Eph. 1:4). He saw Nathanel and every one of His beloved polluted in sin and helpless to extract themselves from its clutches. When Jesus of Nazareth passed by and "saw" this pollution it was a time of love. (Ezek 16:6, 8) The Creator of all things, "including life", said "live" to His beloved in this polluted condition of sin and they lived.

Paul had preached in the corrupt city of Corinth and some had believed. Evidently Paul had some thoughts of going elsewhere to preach the good news but the Lord intervened and gave him this assurance by speaking to him in a vision, "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city." (Acts 18:9-10) The Lord had been in Corinth "before" Paul ever got there to prepare His people for the good news of the gospel. This is why Paul asked the church at Thessalonica to pray for him, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." (II Thess. 3:1-2) Unreasonable and wicked men will not receive the gospel because the Lord hasn't visited them before with His Spirit. Before Lydia heard the word, believed the word, and was baptized the Lord had gone before and opened her heart to attend to what Paul said. (Acts 16:14)

The Lord went before Israel in a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. (Ex. 13:21) The Lord always goes before His people to lead the way. Do they always follow His leadership? No, they do not but if they are led at all, it is evidence they are His children and will follow Christ into heaven. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:14) Yes, Jesus is before all things that are righteous and good for we know that without Him we can do nothing Good. (John 15:5)

## REWARD AND INHERITANCE



By Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

**2 John 1:8: “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”**

The apostle John is warning believers that there are men coming among them teaching heresies. They are not to receive them. They were teaching that Jesus was not the Christ. John says that they would lose something that John referred to as the full reward. What was it that they would lose? Many denominational churches have debated on that for centuries. We should look at the words **reward** and **inheritance**. Reward means something that is given for services rendered. Example: A person works at a job to receive pay. They received money for their work. In other words you get something by working for it. Inheritance is when a parent dies he leaves all that he possess to his children or heirs. They didn't have to work to be a child to get the inheritance it is simply left to them out of love. I think that we can see that reward and inheritance are two different things.

The Bible student would do well to learn to distinguish the one from the other. Eternal heaven is our inheritance. Peter refers to it as an inheritance **1 Peter 1:4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.** Heaven is eternal life, and that eternal life can never be lost. **John 10:28: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** So John wasn't concerned about them losing their eternal home in heaven. Christ took care of that on the cross, so they would never perish. So it is impossible for a child of God to lose their eternal life. So this is not what the apostle John was concerned about. What he was concerned about was their losing the reward of timely salvation here on earth. Again I say that reward is something that you get for doing a work of some kind. Laboring in the Lord's vineyard is a good work and we receive rewards for it. Spiritually speaking we refer to the church and taking up membership, and doing good works as a metaphor for laboring in the kingdom.

We are rewarded from time to time by the Lord for our labors. An example of this is found in Matthew 20:1-13 Look at the verses 1 and 2. **Mat 20:1 — Mat 20:2 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man**

**that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.** The full reward is us having the privilege of laboring in the vineyard along with knowing that heaven is our home and we will never lose it. Is that important that we don't lose the joys of our salvation here in this time world? It was to the apostle John. As you read through this letter that John wrote to this people (It's a short book, it has only thirteen verses), you feel the concern and love that he has to his readers. He loves these people and only wants what is the best for them. He knew that they would all be together in heaven eventually, that didn't bother him. What did was that John didn't want them believing any heresy such as what these wolves in sheep clothing were saying that Jesus was not the Christ. That could rob them of the joys of their salvation by paying heed to these men. Israel had lost the kingdom for believing that heresy. Along with that went their spirituality and respect here on earth. They have been wandering like their forefathers did in Sinai since the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. **He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others Luke 20:16.** So let us not neglect our laboring in the vineyard today. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He came in the flesh and lived a perfect life so that we would have a home in heaven. Believing that is a part of laboring in the kingdom, he set standards for us to live by while here on earth. In doing so we are laboring in the vineyard.

As the song says “here in the vineyard of my Lord I love to live and labor, and be obedient to my Lord until my dying hour.” Let us labor in the Lord's vineyard until our dying hour until we go to that glorious city.

R. L. Taylor

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“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Col. 3:23-25) Here are two opposite rewards; one is the reward of the inheritance (assurance you are an heir of God as a true servant of the Lord). The other is a reward for doing wrong and involves the judgment and the chastening hand of God. Both are experienced in this life for the redeemed born again child of God. Right choices have good results and wrong choices have bad results.—*Editor*

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