

# Glad Tidings

April

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 are living in a culture and society that cares very little for the truth. Those who despise the truth contained in the word of God do so for one of two reasons: 1. They haven't been born again; therefore, they care nothing for the things of God so they indulge their sinful lusts. "Therefore they say unto God; Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. (Job 21:14) 2. They have been born again but they aren't willing to adhere to the truth because it will entail sacrifices they aren't willing to make. The truth requires the child of God to not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their mind. (Rom. 12:2) These people might lose their status among those they know as did the Jews who were put out of the synagogue for confessing Christ. (John 12:42)

The truth of God is so precious that Solomon writes, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." (Prov. 23:23) People buy things because they have value but the truth cannot be bought with money. The cost is to deny self and follow the truth. It might cost the loss of some friends, monetary riches, persecution and even your life like it did John the Baptist when he told the truth. He said it was not lawful for Herod to have his brother Phillip's wife and she conspired to have him beheaded. It is so valuable that Solomon said to not sell it after it has been purchased. Others might try to buy the truth from you by offering you opportunity for riches, greater social status, fame, etc. Do not sell it for it is far too valuable. Solomon also said, "There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel." (Prov. 20:15) Paul said he counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 3:8)

The other three things besides truth that Solomon said to buy are just as valuable and they all are intertwined together. Wisdom to discern comes only from God. It is not the wisdom of the world which is sensual and devilish. The cost of true wisdom requires prayer, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5) Solomon is well qualified on wisdom as that had been given him. He asked not for riches or power but the wisdom of how to go in and out among the people of Israel in his reign as king of Israel.

The devil will attempt to deceive you and buy the wisdom from you by enticing with ungodly things, contrary to truth but do not sell. The wisdom from above will not allow you to listen or follow his deceitful ways and remember he (the devil) abode not in the truth and is the father of lies. (John 8:44) There is no true wisdom without the fear of God. The Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Prov. 9:10) God puts that fear (godly fear) in the heart of his children in the new birth. Those who lack wisdom will not be able to discern the truth because the devil can transform himself into an angel of light and look mighty good. (II Cor. 11:14)

In Jesus' high priestly prayer for Himself, the disciples and people of God, He prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17) God is a God of truth and all scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for "instruction" in righteousness. (II Tim. 3:16) The Bible says that fools despise wisdom and instruction but the people of God can get instruction but it is "in righteousness" and to follow this instruction requires you to crucify the flesh and the accompanying sin. Moses forsook Egypt and chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the "pleasures of sin" for a season. (Heb. 11:25) Children are required to obey their parents in the Lord and obey instructions. In the same manner, the children of God are required to obey their Heavenly Father and obey His instructions. Don't sell His instruction, it is far too valuable.

The last of the things that Solomon says to buy and not sell is understanding. Solomon combines true wisdom, knowledge and understanding in one package as he says, "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." (Prov. 2:6) Then he also says these (wisdom, knowledge, understanding) are to be sought as one would search for silver and hidden treasures. Paul's prayer for the church at Colosse is that they might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all knowledge and spiritual understanding. (Col. 1:9) The purpose and objective of this knowledge and understanding was "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work..." (Col. 1:10) Consider yourselves well blessed if you have bought truth, wisdom, knowledge and understanding so don't sell them. (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 **wisejb310@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:

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**NOTE MARCH 2023 GT CORRECTION:** There was an error made in the article "Christian Vocation" by Elder John Harvey Daily. The author was actually Elder J. T. Oliphant. In the last paragraph where he writes we should long to see true piety among our people, the rest of the article should not be there. Somehow these words that follow among our people got transposed from another article. I'm sure some saw the inconsistency as the subject seemed to shift and I apologize for the discrepancy. It should correctly read "To see our churches, places of devotion and worship, and its faithful men and women come to us for a home. We long for this, and this is one thing that makes the hope of heaven sweet. The Lord our Redeemer will be there. It will be a happy, sinless and deathless world. "O what a blessed hope is ours!" and what should be our behavior in life! Also it was originally from *The "Primitive Monitor"* March 1908 and reprinted in *"Advocate and Messenger"*, March, 1981

This is the first time I remember this happening but thankful I was able to detect it and hope it won't happen again. Someone said, "To err is human to forgive divine." Forgive, Please!—*Editor*

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**ERRORS DO OCCUR**

From an errata slip for a cookbook published by Alfred A. Knopf: Page 95, line 14: "Exactly 12 minutes" should read exactly 12 seconds." Page 120, last line: "Spoon the flour" should read "spoon the flour." Page 145, line 16: "Skim off the meat" should read "skim off the fat."

Reader's Digest, September, 1983.

Practical Christianity  
**SUICIDE**  
(Part 2)



By Elder Tim McCool  
Gordo, Alabama

Last week I wrote about this issue that affects so many of us. There was a significant response to the article. Most notably, the responses involved relief from those who had previously understood this differently. It should be pointed out that the Word of God always brings light and relief on a subject. That is why the word "gospel" means good news.

This week, I want to continue looking at this subject since it seems to be on a lot of people's minds, including my own. Previously we saw in the suicide of Samson that the way he left the world did not affect where he went (heaven). Now consider another example— King Saul, the first king of Israel. In 1 Sam. 31:4-5 the Philistines were whipping Israel and Saul was trying to get away. Three of Saul's sons were killed right before his eyes, and he himself was hit with arrows.

Saul asked his armor bearer to kill him - by the way, this would have been an "assisted suicide." The armor bearer would not do it, so Saul thrust himself on his sword, thereby committing suicide. King Saul had a dramatic life. He started off strong as the first king, but through second-guessing God's word, disobedience, jealousy, insecurity, etc., he fell hard.

He was bitter, jealous, angry, and often somewhat schizophrenic. Finally, he had no place to run, and committed suicide. Although the "ugly" part of Saul is painted clearly, we also read about another side of him. He prophesied by the Spirit of God at certain points in his life (1 Sam. 10). Only a child of God can prophesy by the Holy Spirit.

He also loved spiritual music and it had a "calming" effect upon him (1 Sam. 16:23). Saul confessed his sin at times (1 Sam. 26:21) and showed great compassion on others at times. As you can see, Saul was a conflicted and afflicted person. He struggled with his feelings, his desires and with what he knew was right. This sounds like many today. Saul finally succumbed to his sinful feelings, and left this world by suicide.

Not only that, but he led another into committing suicide. His armor bearer also killed himself when he saw that Saul was dead! How many people today see the example of one committing suicide and follow this sinful example. The world wants us to think it is hopeless, but Jesus is our great Hope in any situation. So I know you are wondering – How do we know Saul went to heaven? How do we know suicide didn't affect where he went when he died?

First of all, we saw the example of Samson. One Bible example is enough to establish that suicide doesn't automatically send a person to hell. But look a little deeper at Saul. The day before Saul died, when Saul asked the witch to bring up Samuel (1 Sam. 28), Samuel tells Saul that "to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me (v.19)". Where was Samuel? In heaven of course! So when Saul and his sons died, they went to be where Samuel was - in heaven. I hope the plain language of the scripture is comforting to us all. Once again, the way a person leaves this world makes no difference where they go.

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#### **PERSEVERANCE IN LITTLE THINGS**

By Elder A. D. Wood (Deceased)

"Many strokes though with a little axe, hew down and fell the hardest timber oak." Shakespeare. Too many of the Lord's people fail to see the importance of following on to know the Lord and to stand faithful in His service. Some will say, "I'm too little and unworthy to be of any benefit to the church or to the cause of Christ." It is well and good for us to know and feel our own imperfections with some degree of weight but it is not good to hide behind our failings and refuse to serve God. It is the many little things that count up in our home and church.

Do not worry because you are chopping with a small axe. Many of us are working under the same circumstances. Do not despise the day of small things. Hold out to the end is the Bible way. In the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Luke there were some rich men casting into the treasury of their abundance and a poor widow cast in only two mites and she was considered to have cast in more than they all. Remember to give a drink of cold water in the name of a disciple shall not lose his reward. I am happy that the Lord recognized little children and we who may be chopping with a small axe. God being our strength, we should press onward and never look back.

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", January, 1974)

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**Concerning wisdom:** The old colored preacher put it this way one time: I tell it quite often because it teaches a lesson. He said read the word of God in order to know it. Meditate upon it in order to stow it (in heart). Live by it in order to show it. Tell others about it in order to sow it. Do what he said; it will keep us all busy. (From a sermon by Elder Sony Pyles)

#### **PAUL'S ADVERSARIES ANSWERED**

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

We have no way of knowing how many false accusations may have been brought against the apostle Paul as a result of his faithful labors and ministry in Christ but judging by the tone of some of his epistles to the churches I think we may reasonably assume that they were many. Thessalonica seems to have been one of those places where his character was particularly assailed. But if his persecutors were eager to blacken his name he was just as ready to clear it, and that with sensible, sound and honest arguments as opposed to the unreasonable, unjust, and groundless charges of his adversaries.

If the gospel he preached be represented as being without divine authority he had only to remind the brethren of the manner in which they had received it. It had not come unto them in word only, as it most certainly would have if it had been of men, but it had come unto them "in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance." They had received it "in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost" (1 Thess. 1:5-6). They "received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (Ch. 2:13).

If it be charged that he was dictatorial and sought influence and preeminence among the brethren Paul could appeal unto them as witnesses of his own integrity as well as that of his fellow-laborers. "Ye know", says he, "what manner of men we were among you for your sake" (Ch. 1:5). "Ye are witnesses and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe" (Ch. 2:10). "We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children."

If it should be said that Paul was a deceiver he would have it be known that even after he had suffered at Philippi and had been shamefully treated he was still bold in his God to speak unto the Thessalonians the gospel of God with much contention (Ch. 2:2) and that his exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: but as he was allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so he had spoken; not as pleasing men, but God, who tries the hearts of men.

And if he be accused of slothfulness, once more he could appeal to the brethren as witnesses of the absurdity of such a charge. "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember brethren, our labour and travail; for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God" (Ch. 2:5-6)

And finally, if any should suggest that Paul had sought to avoid persecution and had forsaken his

brethren at Thessalonica he has this to say, "But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. Wherefore, we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us" (Ch. 2:17-18). For more on this see chapter three.

We may expect that if we are faithful followers of our Lord we, like Paul, shall suffer persecution and that sometimes this persecution will be in the form of false accusations and character assignation. And when this is the case may we also, like Paul, be found living so that we may defend our character by sound words and a reputation for clean living and gentleness toward all men.

This may not suffice for wicked and unreasonable men but with God on our side what does it really matter what men think of us or devise against us?

(From *"The Christian Baptist"*, July, 1974)

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### OUR UNCHANGEABLE GOD

By Elder Louis Culver  
Deatsville, Alabama

It has been said that nothing is so changeable as change itself. While this is certainly true in many areas of life, in many aspects of living and among all peoples, there is one place where this is totally untrue.

Every day that we live we are changing. As newborn children we change quite rapidly. Each day, even each minute, brings some change into our life. We soon learn that to cry is to bring attention to ourself. The more and louder we cry, the more attention we will gain.

As we grow older we learn that by defying those in authority we are able to garner even more attention, albeit for the wrong reason. We have learned that we are capable of controlling, at least to a degree, the amount of attention that we can claim.

In nature we see changes taking place constantly. Trees bud in spring and bring forth a multitude of leaves. We observe the trees and their leaves all Spring, Summer and Autumn as they grow, developing and covering the trees with their luxuriant green color.

All too soon, it seems, the trees begin to take on a different aspect; their leaves begin to change color, the green giving way to far more brilliant colors with hues of reds, oranges, yellows, silvers, golds, browns. Change has become quite evident all around us.

With all these changes so much evident everywhere we look, it is still possible to find one thing which has not changed, and that will never change. God is an unchangeable God. He has told us that He changes not, therefore we sons of Jacob are not consumed. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Man changes; God remains the same. Praise the name of the Lord God of the universe who rules and reigns over everything and everyone.

(*"ITMS"*, Dec. 2001, Daily Devotion for November 12 2001)

### ENMITY

If we could get some idea of how wicked fleshly enmity against God is, then we could have a better view of the love and mercy that has been bestowed upon us. What reason has the natural man for being at enmity against that God who created him and all things that are to his comfort and happiness? Those exercised by this spirit are often led to curse God and to show approval and desire for everything averse to right and righteousness.

"The carnal mind is enmity against God." (Rom. 8:7) and much of this remains in the hearts of believers themselves, as is plain in the case of the apostle who groaned under it saying, "O wretched man that I am!" for "I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me." It is indeed evil to have enmity against love. Even since God has brought us everlasting salvation by grace, forgiven all our sins in mercy, and planted a portion of His Spirit of love in our hearts, yet to think that evil should rise up in us and cause us to rebel against His will and loving kindness: how unjust and unreasonable is this? If this enmity could be removed entirely from us and we could fully see the greatness of God's mercy we would delight in every command of the Lord and never draw back or hesitate.

It is plain to see why there is no fellowship between God and godless sinners for God does not delight in their company and they do not desire His company. God is love and the sinner is "enmity against God," and how could there be fellowship between two things that are so opposite. No wonder that when we, through unbelief, live after the flesh and turn to the 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 and nor desires to be relived 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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### REGENERATION

The work of regeneration is a creative work, and we cannot think of matter refusing to be created. It is a resurrection work, and we cannot think of the dead refusing to be raised up. So we cannot think of a sinner refusing to be quickened.

Elder J. H. Oliphant—"The Gospel Messenger 1918 (*"Advocate and Messenger"*, March, 1980)

**SIN AGAINST THE HOLY GHOST***November 23, 1905*

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

Brother C. H. Nicholas, of Arkansas, has requested us to give our views on "sinning against the Holy Ghost." A great deal has been written on this subject. Our father, Elder S. F. Cayce, wrote some editorials on the subject which appeared in our columns some time ago, and we do not feel like writing much now on that line. We know too, that there is some difference of opinion among the brethren as to who it is that sins against the Holy Ghost. Some brethren have argued that the child of God is in possession of the Holy Spirit, and that, therefore, the child of God, only, can sin against the Holy Ghost; that the unregenerate (or those who are finally lost) are not in possession of the Holy Spirit, and therefore cannot sin against the Holy Ghost. We do not think this position is correct. We might give here more than one reason why we do not think so. We do not think it is correct because all the sins of all God's people were laid on Christ, and He bore their sins in His own body on the tree and put them away by the sacrifice of Himself. See Isaiah 53, 1 Pet. 2:24, and Hebrews 9:26. Hence every sin they commit was laid on Christ, and He bore every one of them; so their sins are all against the Son, or the second person of the Trinity, and all shall be forgiven, on account of what He has done for them.

Again, there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. A mediator is one who interposes between people who are at variance in order to reconcile them. Christ, the second person in the Trinity, interposed or came in between His people and the Father to reconcile them. He stands between them and the Father. Hence, as He interposed or came between them, and stands between them as a mediator, all their sins fall to His account, and are not against the Holy Ghost.

Again the Saviour said, in Mark 3:29, "But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." Not one of those people whose iniquities were laid on Christ is in danger of eternal damnation because He put their sins away and their sins are all forgiven because of what He has done for them. Every sin not atoned for by the blood of Christ is directly against the Holy Ghost, it not being charged to the account of Christ, and the person who commits the sin is in danger of receiving the just punishment for his sins, which is eternal damnation, or everlasting banishment from the peaceful presence of God.

The foregoing are some of our thoughts on the subject. We do not write to call forth controversy. Neither do we give them as infallible. We realize our weakness and know very well our liability to do wrong. We have given these few thoughts for no other reason than that the brother asked for our

views. May the Lord bless the same to the benefit of our readers.

We desire here to ask all to write on the things that may be a comfort and benefit and instruction to the dear children of God, and for the advancement and up building of the cause, and the unifying of the brotherhood on the principles of the gospel, and there may be a oneness in the faith; and let us not strive about words to no profit. Let us all strive to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" by writing and talking on those things that make for peace, and that will have a tendency to bring the Lord's people together to love and fellowship. Preaching the gospel will not have a tendency to divide them and destroy fellowship. It is the preaching of something else, beside the gospel that does that.

May the Lord help us all to write and speak such things as will be for the benefit and comfort of His people. Brethren and sisters, pray for us. C. H. C.

(From "*Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist*" by Elder C. H. Cayce)

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**THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS**

It is exceedingly marvelous, the wonderful revelations that often come from a single beam of light. This incident (Luke 16:19-31) completely refutes at least *four* false doctrines which are now being stressed among us.

1. If Jesus did not misrepresent things there is no such thing as "soul-sleeping" after death. Neither Lazarus nor the rich man was asleep.
2. If the doctrine Jesus taught is true, *the doctrine of annihilation* is necessarily false. These were not annihilated. Both were in conscious existence.
3. The *doctrine of second probation* is forever swept from the arena, for Jesus tells us Abraham said, "There is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." (Ver. 26).
4. *Universalism* is forever false. The salvation of all cannot be, for the rich man was lost. "The rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments." (Ver. 22-23).

From *Western Recorder*

Via *The Gospel Messenger*, 1914

(Reprinted in "*Advocate and Messenger*", May 1982)

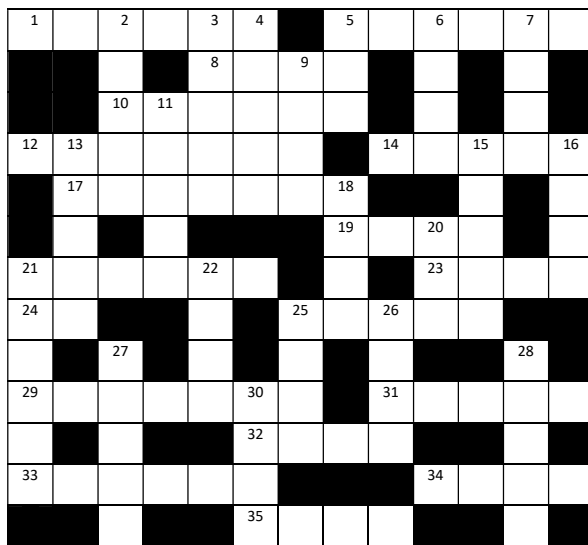
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"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (II Cor. 5:9)

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

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

1. Let not sin therefore reign in your \_\_\_\_ body.
5. When one is sick let him call for the \_\_\_\_ of church.
8. Man \_\_\_\_ of woman is few days and full of trouble.
10. David cast Saul's armor off as he had not \_\_\_\_ it.
12. For this cause a man shall leave father and mother and shall \_\_\_\_ to his wife. Plural.
14. When he sowed some \_\_\_\_ fell by the way side.
17. Some have said dust to dust and \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ ashes. Two words.
19. The ark of Noah was to be made of gopher \_\_\_\_.
21. Solomon describes the beloved as having legs as pillars of \_\_\_\_ set on sockets of gold. A stone.
23. The Father knows what things you have \_\_\_\_ of before you ask.
24. \_\_\_\_ him we live, move and have our being. Not out.
25. Pilate \_\_\_\_ Jesus, art thou the king of the Jews?
29. I \_\_\_\_ in the law of God after the inward man. Paul.
31. The word of God is the \_\_\_\_ of the Spirit. Knife.
32. The poison of \_\_\_\_ is under their lips. Vipers.
33. Better is a \_\_\_\_ of herbs where love is than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.
34. What things were gain to me, those I counted \_\_\_\_ for Christ. Not a gain.
35. Mary Magdalene came to tomb of Jesus while it was yet \_\_\_\_\_. Not light.



(Answers on Page 8)

**DOWN:**

2. Samson told Delilah if he was bound with new \_\_\_\_ he would lose his strength.
3. Jesus said ye are from beneath, I am from \_\_\_\_.
4. Greater \_\_\_\_ hath no man than this. Plural. Charity.
5. Having loved His own He loved them unto the \_\_\_\_.
6. The second bird sent out by Noah after the flood.
7. A bruised \_\_\_\_ shall he not break and the smoking flax shall he not quench. Cane.
9. The dove found no \_\_\_\_ for the sole of her foot.
11. She sent the spies out another way in Jericho.

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

13. Jacob served this man 7 years for Rachel.
15. On the seventh day God \_\_\_\_ His work which He had made. Finished.
16. Esau \_\_\_\_ his birthright to Jacob for a morsel.
18. \_\_\_\_ no man anything but love one another. Plural.
20. They were all in \_\_\_\_ mind and in one accord on the Day of Pentecost.
21. For to be carnally \_\_\_\_ is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
22. If a woman have \_\_\_\_ hair it is a glory to her.
25. Book that records Paul on the Damascus road.
26. Judas betrayed Jesus with a \_\_\_\_ on the cheek.
27. If the \_\_\_\_ lead the blind they both fall into the ditch.
28. Jesus became obedient unto the death of the \_\_\_\_.
30. This is a \_\_\_\_ saying said some who heard Jesus teach and who can hear it. Not soft.

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**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

One morning a mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

A woman was trying hard to get the catsup to come out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang, so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

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**HEAVEN**

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

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.

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**CHURCH NEWS**

Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS invites everyone to their annual meeting on Saturday, April 29, 2023 with services beginning at 10:30 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is invited minister. Clear Springs is currently without a Pastor.



**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.

Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Ripley, MS invites all to their spring meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in April, 2023 (March 31 -- April 2). Services Friday night, March 31, with supper at 6:00 pm and services at 7:00 pm. Saturday morning, April 1, at 10:30 am with lunch following and service again after lunch. No Saturday night services. Sunday service at 10:30 am. Elder Mike Roberts from Milan, TN is invited minister. Elder Darren Owens is Pastor of Pine Hill.

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.

Beulah Primitive Baptist Church, Slaton, MS invites all to their annual meeting the 5<sup>th</sup> weekend in April, 2023 (April 28-30). Services Friday night, April 28, at 7:00 pm preceded by supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday, April 29, at 10:00 am with lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm. Sunday services at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN and Elder Luke Addison, Smithdale, MS are invited ministers. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Beulah.

Harmony Primitive Baptist Church, Tupelo, MS invites all to their annual meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May, 2023 (May 5-7) Services Friday night, May 5, at 7:00 pm preceded by supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday, May 6, at 10:00 am with lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm. Sunday, May 7, at 10:30 am with lunch and then communion following lunch. Elder Will Martin and Elder Rick Stewart from Georgia are invited ministers. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Harmony.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in April, 2023 (April 30) will be hosted by New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS with supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell churches. Everyone invited. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

**CHURCH NEWS**

Everyone is invited to the Communion Meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, Ms on Hwy 346 the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May 2023 (May 19-21) with services Friday night, May 19, at 7:00 pm. Saturday night, May 20, with supper at 5:00 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. Sunday, May 21 service at 10:00 am with communion and then lunch. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Elder Bernard Gowens of Friona, TX passed away to be with the Savior he preached so long on January 31, 2023 at the age of 88. He preached for over 54 years and leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Lynn Gowens, 3 sons (Elder Michael Gowens, David Gowens and Daniel Gowens). A celebration of life service was held February 6, 2023 with Elder Michael Gowens, Elder Ronnie Hedges, and Elder Wayne Venable officiating.



Elder Ernie Stump of Birmingham, AL passed away to his heavenly abode on February 12, 2023 at the age of 84. He was former Pastor of Vestavia Primitive Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL and Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in Leeds, AL. He leaves behind a wife of 65 years, Imogene Stump and two sons and two daughters. He was a faithful servant of the Lord for some 55 years.

### THE TESTIMONY OF ENOCH

By Elder V. F. Lowrance (Deceased)

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

I trust that I do not have a "man-pleasing spirit" as such, but I confess that I had rather *please* than *displease* anyone. I can relate to that old saying, "I had rather have the good will of a dog, than the ill will." It is especially discomfoting to me to displease any of those I love; be it one of my own kindred, or friends, or Primitive Baptist. And I truly believe, the latter most of all! This has been a burden to me all my ministerial life. I do so much want to please the people that are so dear to me! Yet, if I know anything about it, "the burden of the word of the Lord" is greater! And that is the only thing that will move me out to knowingly say or do anything that I know will displease them! If not mistaken, I have been put to the test on this quite a few times! I cannot say that I have at all times said and/or done what I thought ought to be said or done either. It takes a pretty strong conviction that I am right and a pretty strong, felt sense of duty to give me the courage to do it! Nevertheless, I truly hope and believe that I had rather have the above testimony, i.e., that I have *pleased* God than anything else in this world! I recommend it, therefore, as being worthy of our chief aim in life!

Now, back to the "Testimony of Enoch." Why do you suppose it was said of Enoch that he pleased God? You will find the answer by going back to Genesis 5:24. Namely *he walked with God!* There is much said by some people about witnessing or bearing testimony to God and to Christ Jesus, but I fear it is mostly talk! While there are others who seem to ignore or try to minimize this very vital aspect of the Christian life.

Surely, we can and we should confess and profess our faith in God and His Son, Christ Jesus, and that publicly. But I affirm, that the greatest testimony we can give is our *walk*! Putting it in scriptural terms, "*by our works*," "...*shew me thy faith without works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*" (James 2:18) Jesus also very sharply rebuked them that "confessed" with their mouth, but in works, denied Him!

For further proof that what we do is greater witness than what we say, read the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew. For emphasis, I mention Jesus' Own words. When speaking of the witnesses that bore testimony to Him, and of John the Baptist in particular, He said, "*But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, that same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*" By way of emphasis again, Jesus was here affirming that the works He was doing was

the greater witness. Furthermore, this is the same kind of testimony or evidence that He sent back to John, who from his prison sent his disciples to enquire of Him: "Art thou *He* that was to come, or do we look for another?" He could have answered just as truly by saying, "Yes, I am the One. You go and tell John that I said this." But He gave John a greater, more effectual evidence; namely, the *works He was doing, and that was being done in His name!*

I give you another witness. "*By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*" Here is a twofold witness. Abel did not become righteous through his offering, but it was that by which he obtained witness that he was righteous! In his offering, Abel was bearing testimony to his faith! And, most wonderful of all, God Himself bore testimony to it by accepting his offering.

This, then, is the testimony I seek and the reason I had rather *please* God than all else! Even when I know, or am very much afraid, many of my precious brethren are going to be displeased with me. Otherwise, God is my witness, I will not knowingly displease them!

One more thing and I will close. Because of the above stated conviction, I do not take offense at my good brethren when they disagree with me and/or when I do not agree with what they are saying and/or doing if they are saying and doing in a way that I can believe they are trying to *please* God! –

V. F. Lowrance

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", February, 1978)

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### ANSWERS BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### ACROSS:

1. latrom
5. sredle
8. nrob
10. devorp
12. sevalc
14. sdees
17. otsehsa
19. doow
21. elbram
23. deen
24. ni
25. dekxa
29. thgiled
31. drows
32. spsa
33. rennid
34. ssol
35. krad

#### DOWN:

2. sepor
3. evoba
4. sevol
5. dne
6. evod
7. deer
9. tser
11. bahar
13. nabal
15. dedne
16. dlos
18. sewo
20. eno
21. dednim
22. gnol
25. stca
26. ssik
27. dnlib
28. ssorc
30. drah



## CHANGING OUR WANTS

By Elder Louis Culver

Deatsville, Alabama

Daily Devotion for November 2, 2001

"People want the front of the bus, the back of the church and the center of attention."—Quoted.

We seldom appear to be satisfied with our state and station in life. No matter what we have, how much we are worth in the world's goods, or how many friends we know, we give the impression that we think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

We may have the very best of families, the most gifted and intelligent children, and we may be well thought of in the community, but often these are the very families which are being broken asunder by the outside forces of Satan. He will tell us that we deserve more, that we are being unfairly used by some other family members, and that we could do so very much better if we got out of this situation we are in and moved on in this life.

The truth of the matter is that the devil cannot bear to see the children of God as they prosper in this life. He wants to destroy all that is good and right and holy. He delights in the breakup of any marriage and any family. He will do all within his power to bring about the destruction of the family unit. Confusion is the name of his devious, evil game.

If we listen to the devil he will destroy all that we have. He will make life miserable for the child of God who may choose to follow him. We must always be consciously and consistently engaged fighting the great battle which is necessary to overcome the wiles of the devil. While we know Satan cannot destroy the child of God, we also know he can make life extremely miserable for the child of God. While we are on this earth we will be engaged in a warfare. The child of God is never free from the dangers of persecution while he lives in this world. Satan makes very sure of that at all times.

As children of God, rather than wanting the front of the bus, the back of the church and the center of attention, all of us should desire that God be in front of us, leading us all in the right way. We should want the church to be completely filled, so that someone would be compelled to sit in the back. And we should center our attention on the things of heaven rather than the things of this earth.

Elder Louis Culver

(From "ITMS", December 2001)

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"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple." (Psalm 27:4)

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matt. 6:33)

## SOW ONLY THE SEED

*"Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled."* (Deut. 22:9)

The Lord has given His people good doctrine, everything that pertains to life and godliness. He would not have His followers to introduce anything new, add or take from His word, for it is a perfect rule. If any man add unto the word of the Lord or take from it, "God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book." (Rev. 22:18)

We are taught to sow the gospel seed. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand" (Deut. 11:8), and the Bible speaks in other places of sowing thy seed. And what are we to sow? The seed given us, the word of God. Paul says, "As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:9). The apostles preached that which was given unto them and we should continue to declare the great truths of God. We are to stand in opposition to untruth and make a godly fight against it in love for our Lawgiver.

Why be such sticklers for the word of God? Why do we want it just like it was given to His people? Because we want to honor our Lawgiver and because His word is a thorough furnisher unto every good work (II Tim. 3: 16, 17). "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." (I Tim. 4:15, 16).

So there is salvation unto the Lord's people who take the word of God, meditate upon it and continue in accord with the same. The elders who continue in the word of God will not only save themselves but those who hear them. If divers seeds are sown it will defile the vineyard and create confusion among the Lord's people. We should examine ourselves daily to see whether we are holding to the faith once delivered unto the saints. There is freedom in knowing and living in the truths of God.

Elder A. D. Wood

(From "Advocate and Messenger", May 1982)

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## PROPER SOWING

Ministers aren't the only ones that are to sow the seed. True, they sow the seed of the gospel but people of God also are to sow the right seed on a daily basis. "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." (Hos. 10:12) The Bible says that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Gal. 6:7)—*Editor*

## WHERE DOES GOD DWELL?



By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

We all have a dwelling place in which we reside and usually call it our home. It is there we reside and from which we go about our daily activities. God doesn't work on the same level as we sinners. First of all, we cannot be in two places at the same time. This is not so with God as He is omnipresent; He is everywhere present and nowhere absent. David said there wasn't anywhere he could go to flee from His presence. If he ascended to heaven, God was there and the same if he made his bed in hell or dwelt in uttermost parts of the sea. (Psalm 139:7-10)

God's primary dwelling place and headquarters is in heaven. It is His dwelling place and where Jesus dwelt before He came to earth. In Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple he built, he petitioned the Lord to hear the prayers of Israel when they confessed their sins. "Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place and forgive..." (II Chron, 6:30) A dwelling place is a place to sit down. That is where Jesus sat down at the right hand of God after rising from the dead and saving His people from their sins.

Also in his dedication of the temple Solomon said, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (I Kings 8:27) God's presence was in the temple with His people but no construction by man can confine the presence of the Lord. Solomon was instructed by God to build this temple that His name might be there and be glorified. God indeed did dwell on the earth in by His presence in the temple.

God also did dwell on the earth in the person of His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was God made manifest in the flesh. John writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1-2) This Word is the second person in the Trinity of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. (I John 5:7). John tells us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) The word "dwelt" here means that Jesus tabernacled among the saints in the body of His flesh. He was God made manifest in the flesh

and this great truth is without controversy. (I Tim. 3:16) Jesus said that he that hath seen Him hath seen the Father. (John 14:9) "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;" (Col. 1:19)

Just as God dwelt with His people in the temple, He also dwells in and with His people in the temple of their body. Most think that confession and belief must be made in order to be born again and God to come into the heart. However, both these (confession and belief) are evidence that God "already" is dwelling in the heart. John writes, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15) "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..." (I John 5:1) Paul writes to the church in Corinth to be careful how they used the temple of their body in service to God. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16)

God dwells with His people who endeavor to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. God promised to commune with the saints of old from above the mercy seat which represented Jesus Christ. God has promised to manifest His presence when the saints are present in the assembly to praise and honor Him in Spirit and in truth. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20) I know this two or three is about brethren being reconciled but who can deny that when brethren gather together in the name of the Lord to worship Him that He would not be in their midst. He promised in the Old Testament that He would dwell in Zion, figurative of the church. "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." (Psalm 132:13-14)

God surely dwells in His holy habitation and He also dwells with each individual child of God who has the right attitude. Isaiah says concerning God, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit..." (Isa. 57:15) When the people of God are humble and keeping the commandments of God, he has promised to come and dwell (reside) with them and bless them. Conversely, He can withdraw His presence in disobedience. "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23) This was Jesus' answer to disciples who asked how He could manifest Himself to them and not unto the world.

So then where is God's dwelling place? The short answer is that He dwells where He chooses to dwell but where He chooses to dwell will not violate His holiness and verity. We should just be thankful that He has chosen to dwell with and in His people and we pray He will not withdraw His Divine presence.

## THE COMMON SALVATION



By Elder Rickey Taylor  
Booneville, Mississippi

Jude 1:3: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

This article is about the common salvation that Jude refers too in this verse. The word common has several different meanings in the scriptures. Common can mean something that is base, ordinary or unclean. An example of this is seen in Acts 10:13-14 "And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean." Here Peter defines the word common as unclean, something he had been taught to not partake of. Another example we find in Acts. The phrase "in common" is used to describe the early Christian practice of sharing possessions (Acts 2:44; 4:32). It is better defined through the words shared, ordinary, and public. The early church shared everything that was needed with one another for their well being thus the saying "in common". Acts 2:44 "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"

However, neither of these definitions define the words common salvation in Jude's letter. What is meant here by the common salvation is that which we all have in common in the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are all saved by the same man, the man Christ Jesus. We share a common belief that salvation is by the grace of God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We share a common belief that we meet at church on Sunday and worship our Lord. We share a common belief that we conduct our services that consist of three things, Preaching, praying, and singing. We believe that God did before the foundation of the world chose of the human race a multitude for his children to live with him in eternal glory. We believe in the ordinances of communion, baptism and singing and making melody in our hearts. These things we do share in common in the Gospel church.

Jude was using this as a warning to the churches to make sure that they were well grounded in these beliefs, particularly that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. For there was among them men who didn't

share their belief and was using it for their own gain. Jude 1:4 KJV "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." To know what is the common salvation is important to ward off these kinds of imposters that were looking to take advantage of them. They did not share the true church's common belief that Jesus was the Christ. Jude was saying to them when you hear this uncommon doctrine preached, avoid them at all cost. Don't fellowship their doctrine. We as branches should stay in the vine, which is the Lord Jesus Christ John 15:5. Rooted and grounded in the faith. We do that by regularly coming to church and sitting under the sound of the gospel preaching, teaching us more about the common salvation. Singing the songs of Zion and praying to the God who has given us this wonderful salvation. **So common salvation just means that which is the same for all of us.** We are saved by the blood of Christ and not our own works. Our God is a Sovereign God. Who does as it pleases him, answering to no one. Not a God whose hand is shortened that he cannot save. Anything short of this and his sovereign will is not in the common salvation. Could you tell anyone about our common salvation that is believed by the Primitive Baptist? What it is that we all share in common? If you can then spread the good news. If you lack knowledge in any of the common salvation, ask your minister, or we have some excellent writings on it by some of our ministers. Above all, do as the noble Bereans and search the scriptures to see if these things are so. May God richly bless you all.

R. L. Taylor

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### HEAVEN

We are afraid that Heaven is a bribe, and that if we make it our goal we shall no longer be disinterested. It is not so. Heaven offers nothing that a mercenary soul can desire. It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to.

C.S. Lewis in *The Problem of Pain*, Christianity Today, p. 46.

There is joy and pleasure forever more at the right hand of God which is where Jesus sits as He makes intercession for His people. It is where His sheep will be with their heavenly inheritance. David said, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11)—*Editor*

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