

Glad Tidings

May

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

Jesus built His church in the world upon Himself as the Rock of Ages and said that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18) The church is not the brick and mortar or any place in which the people of God worship; it is His people that love and worship Him in Spirit and in truth. The church is often referred to in the Bible as a city. In fact Jesus told His disciples, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” (Matt. 5:14) We can see the lights of a natural city in the dark as it is lit up above the surrounding territory. We should be able to see the city of God established by Jesus lit up with the light of truth. Jesus further told His disciples to let their light shine before men that others might see their good works to glorify their Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:16)

Isaiah prophesied long ago that the mountain of the Lord’s house would be established in the top of the mountains and be exalted above the hills and it would be there the people would be taught the ways of the Lord. (Isa. 2: 2-3) Out of Zion would go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem which is compared in scripture to the city or church that Jesus built. We have this promise in the word of God that He would dwell in the midst of that city of the spiritual Jerusalem. “...I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.” (Zech 8:3) Notice it is a holy mountain. Moses was told to put off his shoes when he saw the bush on fire but not consumed because the place where he stood was “holy” ground. It was holy because of the presence of the Holy God. The mountain of the Lord’s house is holy because the Lord dwells in the midst of her.

Zechariah also says that this Jerusalem would be called a city of truth. Truth is fundamental to that city because it is the truth that makes free. Without truth, people do what seems right in their own eyes. May we never get to the place where it is said that truth is fallen in the street. (Isa. 59:14) The Lord seeks His city to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Satan seeks to suppress the truth because it sheds too much light on his devious ways. Jesus was the way, the “truth”, and the life and the reason people hated Him was because as the light of the world, He exposed their evil deeds. If the light of truth were gone, the city would be dark.

The inhabitants of the city of truth ideally should be comprised of all ages of those who love the Lord. The prophet Zechariah describes the composition of the city of truth: “...There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.” (Zech. 8:4) Paul writes to Titus to speak the things which become (fit, suitable to) sound doctrine. The purpose of this doctrine (teaching, truth) was that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, and in patience. It was also that the aged women would teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands and to love their children. (Titus 2:1-5) It was for the young men to follow the like pattern of godly behavior as part of the city of truth.

The city of truth was not only for the aged but also for the young boys and girls. Jesus said, “...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:14) God instills His love in the hearts of all ages and if they feel a desire to follow Jesus in baptism as believers, they should not be denied. The prophet Zechariah goes on to describe the city of truth: “And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof.” (Zech 8:5) When the aged have played their part in serving the Lord in truth and have passed into glory, there should be the young boys and girls to help fill the void left by their departure and thus the church is continually perpetuated. One generation teaches the truth to another generation. Paul writes Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (II Tim. 2:2) Thus truth is perpetuated and the city maintained.

Children aren’t to be segregated from the rest of the congregation in worshipping the Lord. The prophet Joel says to blow the trumpet in Zion and call a solemn assembly, gather the children, those that suck the breasts and let the priests cry “for the Lord to spare thy people.” (Joel 2:16-17) All the congregation hears the same truth. The church at Ephesus was made up of adults and children because Paul instructed the children to obey their parents in the Lord. (Eph. 6:1) Fathers were to bring up their children in nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4) The world is drawing more of the Lord’s people from the truth and the true church but take heart, it shall prevail. May the Lord prosper His church as the city of truth. (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 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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Practical Christianity
SUICIDE
(Part 3)



By Elder Tim McCool
Gordo, Alabama

Let us consider one final example on suicide from the Word of God. Once again let me say that I appreciate the response from these series of articles on suicide. My goal is to bring all glory to the Lord through understanding that how we leave this world makes no difference on where we go. We have observed the examples of Samson and King Saul. Both committed suicide. Both are in heaven today.

Again, let me say that this in no way glorifies suicide. As we look at this gruesome type of death, let us keep in mind that the Lord hates all sin, whether it is someone sinfully committing suicide or perishing by other sinful means. The point of the scripture is clear, though – that the Lord is greater than our sin, and His salvation overrules all our sin. I am thankful for that fact.

Now consider one final example – Judas Iscariot. I admit that this is a more negative example than the first two, as it is clear from the scripture that Judas went to hell when he died. After betraying Jesus, Judas went out and hung himself – he committed suicide. Once again, the scriptural principle holds – the way a person leaves this world makes no difference as to where they go.

So who was Judas? He is described as the son of perdition (Jn. 17:12), a devil (Jn. 6:70), the traitor (Lk. 6:16), and a thief (Jn. 12:6). Understand that Jesus knew that Judas was an evil reprobate. The scripture is clear that Jesus knew "who they were that believed not, and who should betray him" (Jn. 6:64). This means that Jesus knew Judas was not a child of God.

He was chosen to be numbered as an apostle simply to fulfill the scripture that he would betray the Son of God. Once Judas did that, he killed himself, not because he was spiritually sorry, but because he knew he was a condemned reprobate (Matt. 27:3). Judas manifested that he was a wicked, evil deceiver and he consistently proved it throughout his life.

So how do we know that his suicide did not affect his destination? Because Peter said in Acts 1:25 that when Judas died he went to his "own place." This means the place that he earned, which is hell. Through our sin, we have all earned a spot in hell. But thanks be to God's grace and mercy in salvation, that He saved us from our "own place," and given us a place (heaven) that belongs to Him! I don't think anyone would be so arrogant as to say they deserve heaven, or that heaven is a place they own!

When a child of God dies and goes to heaven, they do not go to their "own place", but a place that was prepared by Jesus (Jn. 14:2), a place that is owned by the Lord, and nothing – not even suicide – can prevent it.

May we praise God for the consistency of scripture. I hope this message will bring us comfort in knowing that God's mercy is greater than anything that we do here on earth.

DEATH

Thursday, December 21, 1899, after cutting short a Kansas City crusade and returning home in ill health, D. L. Moody told his family, "I'm not discouraged. I want to live as long as I am useful, but when my work is done I want to be up and off." The next day Moody awakened after a restless night. In careful, measured words he said, "Earth recedes, Heaven opens before me!" His son, Will, concluded his father was dreaming. "No, this is no dream, Will. It is beautiful. It is like a trance. If this is death, it is sweet. There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go."

Moody, December, 1993, p. 70.

CONVERSATION



By Elder Lonnie Mozingo Jr.

The Lord speaking through the pen of David says in Psalms 50:23, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

Generally, when we think of a conversation, we think of two or more speaking to one another. The Bible however, uses the word conversation in a much broader sense. The word conversation in the Bible not only means speech but can also mean one's conduct, walk or manner of life. For example, Paul told the Galatians about his "conversation" among the Jews before his experience on the Damascus road when he says, "For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews religion, how that beyond measure I *persecuted* the church of God, and *wasted* it..." We readily see that persecution and wasting of the Church goes far beyond speech. It included his manner of life to bind and put in prison the children of God and his consent to the stoning of Stephen..

In our text the Lord tells us He will show the salvation of God to him that ordereth his conversation (manner of life or conduct) aright. Notice he did not say, I will give the salvation but rather He said, "I will show it." God gives salvation *not* based on our conduct but by free and sovereign grace; yea, in spite of our wicked conduct. For He takes out the hard and stony heart and gives us a heart of flesh. However, it is those children of God who repent and order their conversation aright to whom He is pleased to reveal His salvation in a manifestation of the word.

It is clear from the scriptures that a man, unregenerate and alien from God, cannot order his conversation (conduct) aright. He must be born again to even see the kingdom of God. Paul affirms this in Eph. 2:3 when describing unregenerate man. He says we walked with the "children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind: and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." In Eph. 4:22 Paul tells us that man's conversation by nature is "corrupt" and in II Peter 2:7, Peter describes it as "filthy."

How then can men, whose conversation is contrary, corrupt and filthy, ever have a *right* conversation? He must be washed in the blood of Christ, that is

redeemed! Peter says in I Peter 1:18, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain *conversation* received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish, and without spot." We must first be born again, cleansed from our sins, bought back by His precious blood shed on the cross, before we can walk in His ways and order our conversation aright.

Once this work of regeneration by grace is wrought then the child of God can begin in a manner of life of proper conduct. We must be born again to see the kingdom of God and once born we are commanded by repentance and baptism to begin to order our conversation aright. The more we walk in his way, the more of His salvation He will show us. All of God's people have salvation, but only those that are willing to take up their cross and follow Him have the privilege of rejoicing in His word. The more we order our conversation aright, the more we will be shown.

Do we not see then the poor judgment shown by one who says, "When I get it all figured out, then I'll join the church." Oh dear pilgrim, this verse does not say God will show you His salvation and *then* you order your conversation aright. He says, "Order your conversation and then I will show you my salvation." Certainly we realize that God gives grace that we may see His truth, then and only then can we order our conversation aright. After we have received grace, we are promised the more we walk in His way, the more of His way He will show us.

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", March 1987)

LOOKING AT THE UNSEEN

We all go through many afflictions in this life. They may take the form of physical afflictions or perhaps emotional and mental afflictions. How we deal with them will determine whether we are able to get through with minimum anxiety. It all depends on who and what we are looking at. Paul writes in II Cor. 4:17-18: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." Paul says our affliction is light; it is light in comparison to eternity which lasts forever while the affliction is just for a moment here in time. The weight of glory is only enjoyed when we are looking to the unseen eternal things of God. How can we see the unseen? It can only be viewed by an eye of faith that focuses on Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. Moses left Egypt not fearing the wrath of the king and endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Heb. 11:27 If he had just looked at his outward circumstances, he could not have left Egypt but would have succumbed to his fears. By faith he looked at the unseen and came out victorious. We can as well.—
Editor

“PROPITIATION”

6-18-13



By Elder Ricky Harcrow
Elder, Alabama

The Amen Corner-Share The Word

The word PROPITIATION in the Bible designates the ATONEMENT. The word in English actually means an objective “provision for pity” or better said, MERCY and SATISFACTION. This is accurately said in Romans 3:25 when Paul preaches about the redeeming work of Christ; “Whom God set forth to be a PROPITIATION through faith in his blood”. This word actually is KIPPORETH in the Hebrew and actually means MERCY SEAT or that objective (real, actual, factual) place of mercy referred to so many times in the Old Testament.

In some translations the word EXPIATION has been substituted for PROPITIATION. Expiation was used because translators, like the Rev. Joseph Bayly (one translator of the RSV) would not admit that an objective element existed in the ATONEMENT. The word expiation (substituted for propitiation) as they used it, suggested that the propitiation made by Christ was merely a PERSUASIVE INDUCEMENT offered to men to accept or reject and NOT offered to God. We do not believe, nor does the Holy Bible teach, that the Propitiation or atoning sacrifice for sin was only a PERSUASIVE INDUCEMENT offered to the sinner but rather one that was REAL and ACTUAL and FACTUAL just as the MERCY SEAT was real and a fact. It was the actual provision for mercy. It is borne out in a greater way in Rom. 3:24; “Being Justified freely by his grace through (by the following provision) the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”. “Justified freely!” That is, liberation has been procured by the payment of a ransom which is in Christ. This can only mean that our account, as sinners before a holy God, is objectively settled. This vindication of God’s righteousness is said to be directed to the purpose that he might be JUST and the JUSTIFIER. In other words, the PROPITIATION by the blood of Christ vindicates God’s Character as He justifies the sinner.

Without the PROPITIATION God would be saying that the Sin that would damn you forever “I WILL IGNORE”. With the PROPITIATION in the blood of Christ, God is testifying to the FACT that “this is what your sin cost” and the PAYMENT is made being

borne in the work and person of the Son of God. The Lord Jesus was God’s PROVISION for mercy and SATISFACTION. It was God’s own provision to satisfy Him who demanded perfection. Christ was not merely a PERSUASIVE INDUCEMENT to be offered to the sinner just hoping for a successful result but a provision of mercy and satisfaction offered to God as a ransom and a payment. The success of the PROPITIATION, or provision, was not contingent on the sinners faith in the blood of Christ but rather was assured by the Faith or Faithfulness of God being faithful to His promise (Titus 1:2). God established Christ, or set Him forth, as the satisfying factor, provision, propitiation, mercy seat and atonement for sin. It was and is real, factual and actual for all the family of God chosen in Christ. 1st John 4:10 says, “Herein is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the PROPITIATION for our sins”.

Now at last we notice 1st John 2:2, “And He is the PROPITIATION for our sins; and NOT for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”. I say that if Christ made satisfaction and was God’s provision of mercy for the Sins of the whole world (that is every man in every age); then all men of every age shall be saved in heaven, for the work of Christ was honored by God himself. God would be less than truthful if one should be left out for he has declared that of all he hath given the Son He would Loose NOTHING in John 6:39. Hell will be a vacant lot if the term WHOLE WORLD in this text means every man in every age for all men will be saved in heaven and the UNIVERSALIST has the truth; but the UNIVERSALIST DOES NOT HAVE THE TRUTH; It does NOT mean every man of every age but rather it does mean the WHOLE or COMPLETE family of God, JEW and GENTILE, chosen in CHRIST and SANCTIFIED, set apart and elected by God the Father. Without space to elaborate more we conclude by saying that the WHOLE WORLD here mentioned is the WHOLE complete family of God, the world that God loved in John 3:16, His Church (called out) washed and cleansed by the blood of the lamb, the church of the firstborn whose names are written heaven, Hebrews 12:23. I close with the words of the German poet Whittle;... “We sing of Salvation eternally free, fixed firm in Jehovah by ancient decree, In Jesus himself all blessings we trace, made certain to His by election of Grace. Not one but the chosen shall ever repent, grace is not a trifle that’s offered or lent, but tis a rich blessing eternally given to save us from Hell and bring us to heaven. Grace cannot be wasted nor bartered nor sold, It is of more value than silver or gold and though mighty robbers are watching all round, Not a grain of FREE GRACE shall fall to the ground”. AMEN!

Elder Ricky Harcrow

Jesus paid it all; nothing left for man to do!

AN INFIDEL SILENCED

A hundred years ago there lived a man that was reckoned a great philosopher. His name was David Hume, and he professed himself to be an infidel as well as a philosopher. He did not believe in the Bible.

A hundred years ago there lived an old woman whose name is unknown, and she, while she lived, was reckoned very unlearned. She knew how to read, but her reading was most likely confined to almost one book. She had labored hard all her life, but her life's labor had not lifted her out of her poverty. She was what she always had been—a poor peasant woman—the inmate of a poor cottage—and she died as she had lived, a Christian. She believed in the Bible.

One day as this poor old woman was seated by her cottage door with her book before her, her hands engaged in knitting, came by a gentleman with whom she was slightly acquainted, for he lived near, and she had heard what manner of man he was. Seeing how she was engaged, Mr. Hume (for this was the gentleman) stopped and spoke; after which followed a conversation something like this:

“You are reading the Bible?” said he.

“Yes sir.”

“And you believe what you read?”

“Yes sir, I do believe what I read,” and the old woman looked sadly and seriously into the gentleman's face. He saw that she looked sad, and said to her banteringly, “I could never understand how it is that you Christians, who believe the Bible always seem so miserable. You tell us that the book is full of comfort, but you don't show it.”

“Ah, sir,” replied she, “that is easily explained. You never see us only when we can see you; and the very sight of you, and such as you, who are living in unbelief and under the curse of sin, is enough to make any Christian look sad.”

The philosopher walked on. From **Zion's Advocate**, 1903

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, June 1996)

I have about concluded that I shall die as I am—a poor tottering, weak mortal, altogether unworthy of the Lord's blessings and favors, and deserving nothing but His hot displeasure. If I perish, I perish, but I shall perish crying for mercy and craving to see Him as He is and to dwell with Him in glory.—*Elder John R. Daily*, 1902.

If the plan adopted by the apostles, by which Paul was sent forth to the heathen (Gentiles) is *Christ's* plan, then the opposite (the modern plan of missions) is *antichrist's*—*Elder Wilson Thompson*.

When one loses humility, he loses the brightest gem in the Christian's crown.

FOR THE ELECT'S SAKE

By Elder Jim Turner, Jr. (Deceased)

The apostle Paul said, “Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory” (II Tim. 2:10). This is part of Paul's instruction to the young minister, Timothy. I believe he was telling this young preacher of some of the things he must endure in order to be faithful to his calling. Paul was not telling Timothy that he endured all things that the elect might obtain eternal life. That would be totally contrary to his many teachings on salvation by grace. The elect of God are already assured of eternal salvation so there must be another lesson that Paul is teaching.

Notice the wording of the last part of that verse: “That they may *also* obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *with* eternal glory.” One of the definitions of the words *with* and *also* is “in addition to.” This would make it appear that Paul is teaching that there is a salvation in Christ Jesus other than eternal salvation. I believe that is exactly what he is teaching.

Have not the Primitive Baptist always taught that there is a salvation in time that comes from a knowledge of Jesus and the work that He has done? The above scripture would lead me to believe that Paul is teaching that the salvation he is referring to is *in addition to* the eternal glory that Jesus has already obtained for us. In the 9th verse Paul is telling of suffering trouble as an evil doer, but he endures this that the elect among whom he labored might obtain this salvation, therefore it could not be *eternal* salvation to which he is referring.

I believe the key to understanding this verse of scripture is to observe what we are saved from, by knowing more about Jesus and His work. We are saved from dishonoring God through a lack of knowledge. Zeal without knowledge will dishonor God every time. (See Rom. 10:1-4). We are saved from vain works when we understand the work of Jesus. We cease from our own efforts to work our way into heaven. When we see that our eternal judgment is based on the works of Jesus and not our own works, we are saved from the fear of that second death (See Rev. 20:6).

There are many other scriptures that could be mentioned on this subject but this should be sufficient to establish that Paul is referring to a salvation in addition to our eternal salvation.—*Elder Jim Turner, Jr.*

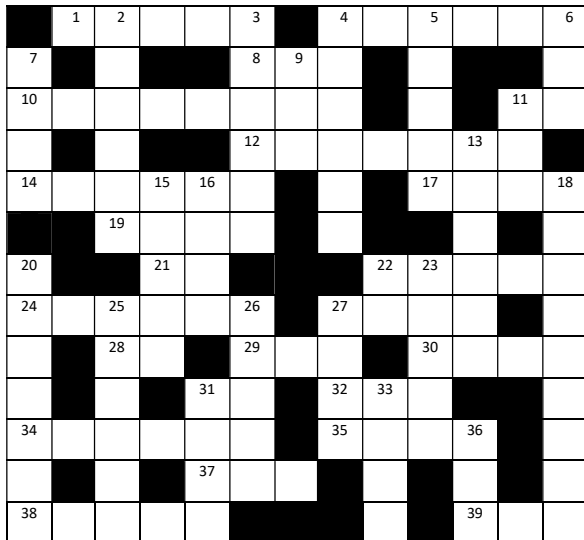
(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, Feb., 1998 as well as the quotes by Elder John R. Daily and Elder Wilson Thompson, adjacent)

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.” (I Cor. 15:1-2)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Be ____ to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
4. Timothy is to refuse profane and old wives' ____.
8. United States of America.
10. He maketh me to lie down in green ____.
11. And the times of this ignorance God winked ____.
12. The vineyard was all grown over with thorns and ____ had covered the face thereof. Bramble.
14. The camel can't go through the eye of a ____.
17. Thou He ____ me yet will I trust in him said Job.
19. God is not the God of the ____ but of the living.
21. By the grace of God I ____ what I am.
22. Adam was put in the garden to ____ and keep it.
24. God wrote the law on ____ of stone in Mount Sinai.
27. For the ____ is coming and now is when the dead.
28. Same as 11 across.
29. Where ____ or 3 are gathered together in my name.
30. John was in the ____ called Patmos. Island.
31. If ye know these things happy are ye if ye ____ them.



(Answers on Page 9)

32. Sin of Judah is written with a ____ of iron. Ink & ____
34. Jesus was made so much ____ than the angels.
35. Calling a ravenous bird from the ____.
37. Jesus told disciples to cast ____ on right side of ship.
38. If thine ____ hunger, feed him, if he thirst give drink.
39. Have patience with me and I will ____ thee all. Debt.

DOWN:

2. Unto Him that loved us and ____ us from our sins in His own blood.
3. The dog is ____ to his own vomit again.
4. Jesus ____ 40 days and nights in the wilderness.
5. Job had ____ from sole of foot to crown of head.
6. He hath made us to ____ together in heavenly places.
7. Consider the lilies growing they do not toil nor ____.
9. I once was blind but now I ____.
11. King of Judah who was diseased in his feet and sought only physicians and not the Lord.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

13. Peter exhorted ____ because he was also an elder.
15. Think soberly according as God hath ____ to every man the measure of faith.
16. The deaf hear, the ____ walk and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
18. Jesus is the same ____ today and forever.
20. If any build on this foundation wood, hay or ____.
22. Same as 31 across.
23. God would return and build again the tabernacle of David and build again the ____ thereof. Remains.
25. Gog and Magog are to gather together to ____.
26. Upon the first day of the week let every one lay by him in ____ as God hath prospered him.
27. In ____ of eternal life that God promised before.
31. Before cock crow twice thou will ____ me thrice.
33. Let ____ esteem the other better than themselves.
36. The veil of the temple was rent from ____ to bottom.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Our 3 year old grandson was staying with us recently and his Nana was trying to get him dressed after a bath. He kept wanting to do other things and wouldn't be still to get dressed. His Nana kept trying to get him to be still so she could get the job done. Out of the blue Eli said, "I drive my daddy nuts." His Nana was getting somewhat nutty as well. I guess we parents have all been driven to that extent at times.

One of the members of our church had her two grandchildren with her in church recently. As they were finding their seat, the grandmother of the children said to me, "He has already asked me how long was church?" Some children are always looking forward to the last Amen and some adults as well.—*Editor*

THE BIBLE

God is everywhere. However, He does not want you to reach out for Him everywhere but only in the Word. Reach out for it and you will grasp Him aright. Otherwise you are tempting God and setting up idolatry. That is why He has established a certain method for us. This teaches us how and where we are to look for Him and find Him, namely, in the Word.--Martin Luther.

Within the covers of one single book, the Bible, are all the answers to all the problems that face us today--if only we would read and believe.--Ronald Reagan.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the Communion Meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, Ms on Hwy 346 the 3rd 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.

Harmony Primitive Baptist Church, Tupelo, MS invites all to their annual meeting the 1st 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.

Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS will have its annual meeting, Lord willing, the 4th weekend in June, 2023 (June 23-25). Services Friday night, June 23, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, June 24, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Jeremy Wise, Pontotoc, MS is invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS invites everyone to their meeting the 1st weekend in June, 2023 (June 2-4). Services Friday night, June 2, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, June 3, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm Sunday at 10:30 am. Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is invited minister. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church, 3625 Austin Peay Highway, Memphis, TN, June 16 & 17, 2023. Services are Friday night, June 16, sandwich supper at 5:30 p.m. with worship service at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 17, at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following, then afternoon services. Invited minister is Elder Tim Montgomery, Pastor at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Jacksonville, AR. We covet your prayers for an edifying and blessed meeting that will be glorifying to our Lord and Savior. Elder Chase Harrison is Pastor at Raleigh.

“Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.” (Isaiah 33:20)

CHURCH NEWS

The photograph below is some 25 of the 30 ministers who attended the Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting held with Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Headland, Al on March 2-5. The church house was almost completely full with outstanding singing, preaching, food and fellowship. Elder Clayton Nowell is pastor of Piney Grove. You might recognize Elder Larry Wise (3rd from the left) and Elder Jonathan Wise on top row.



“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15)

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, “Break Forth Into Joy.”
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.
- Don’t let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

THE POWER OF CHRIST



By Elder Ronald Lawrence
Goodlettsville, Tennessee

Most anyone in conversation will readily admit God has all power and can do anything; that there is nothing impossible for Him to perform. But in the same breath will state how badly He wants to save people and is only partially successful. Only recently in a national poll in America it stated that 38 percent of the people in the United States had cast their vote in God's favor. If that is so, then, that leaves 62 percent still siding with the Devil. For a God that wants to save everyone and there being nothing impossible for Him to accomplish, and yet He can save only 38 percent of the people, there seems to be something out of line.

If we will carefully examine the Word of God, I believe we can straighten the problem out. To begin with, Jesus Christ did not come to save everyone but rather to save HIS PEOPLE. "And she shall bring forth a son, thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall SAVE HIS PEOPLE from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) The word "shall" in this text means "ideal certainty." There was never any doubt as to whether He would accomplish His task or not. It was spoken of in a positive manner because it was the work of Jesus and not mankind. Next, Jesus never OFFERED salvation to anyone but rather GAVE it. "As thou hast given him POWER over all flesh, that he should GIVE eternal life to AS MANY as thou hast given him." (John 17:2) In this text, we also are taught that Jesus possessed power over all flesh (that means you and I). The very idea that anyone has the power to prevent Jesus from saving them is to say that flesh has more power than Christ! In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, "...ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth." The word "all" in this text will not allow a single exception, not even the Devil himself. More light is given to the power of Jesus when He said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have Power to lay it down, and I have POWER to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 10:17-18) What Jesus is teaching here is that no man, or number of men, or multitude of armies could have taken His life until He

was ready, and by removing His providential restraint allowed them to do so. After His crucifixion and burial, He exemplified His power again by coming forth victorious over death and the grave, showing that He was the resurrection Himself and that not only could He lay His life down but could take it again.

As far as the power or spiritual ability of man is concerned, his nature is clearly described by the Apostle Paul when he wrote by inspiration of God, "...There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." (Romans 3:10-11) The Psalmist David recorded "...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." (Psalms 39:5) The word vanity means nothing or in vain. Can we imagine what man would be in his worst state! Isaiah wrote, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags:...." (Isaiah 64:6) There are many more scriptures in God's Word that describe the nature of man and show clearly that he is incapable of changing his condition from his state of death in sin to a state of life in Christ Jesus. The list could go on and on but a multitude of scriptures are not needed to substantiate a biblical position as long as it is in harmony with the remainder of God's Word.

Now, in coming to a conclusion, we must realize that man is dead spiritually before regeneration. "Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12) And we have already declared how that Christ has all power in heaven and in earth and over all flesh. Therefore we are able to understand the sweet words of Jesus when He said, "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 declares that God is a God of all power, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:27) There is nothing impossible for God to do and that includes regenerating those who are the objects of His love. "When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:25-26)-- Elder Ronald Lawrence
(From "*The Christian Baptist*", May, 1977)

"For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." (John 5:21)

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

"In him was life; and his life was the light of men." (John 1:4)

THE TRIUNE GOD

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

It is not my purpose to try to dive into the deep mysterious things not revealed to us in God’s Word. I rather confess there are many things beyond my comprehension and that “without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.” Yet I have a right, even though I might be the weakest of His creatures, to express, without appearing egotistical, my belief in God. If the starry heavens and the firmament can acknowledge Him and declare His glory, may we not also recognize Him as described in His written Word and felt in our hearts? The very fact that poor, finite creatures, with limited knowledge of God, believe in Him, trust in Him and sacrifice all earthly interest for the faith that crowns Him Lord of all, is evidence not only of His existence but of His wonderful character. What little we know about God we have learned it in some way since we came into existence. Our conceptions of Him do not in any way change Him or interfere with His sovereign work of salvation. Yet we know that in order to serve Him intelligently and Scripturally and ascribe the greatness unto Him that belongs to Him, we must have right conceptions of Him. Our actions describe, in a great measure at least, our conceptions of God. A man would have a hard time proving to me that he believed in the omnipotence of God if he were wearing his life out trying to assist the Lord in His work and always saying the Lord would save sinners if they would let Him. A man would have a job making me believe that that he believed in the omnipresence of God if he were worried almost to death and trying to excite everybody else that he could, with the impression that poor heathens are all dying without any Saviour because we haven’t carried Him over there in the gospel...

A man could never convince me that he believed in the omniscience of God as long as he talks and acts like he thought God doesn’t know yet whether He will carry out His work of salvation or not, but is just experimentally offering salvation and waiting to see what people will do before He will know for sure just who will be saved. In like manner I would be slow to believe that a man believed in God as a trinity and yet as one God, if he talked and acted as though he believed some for whom Christ died would fail to reach heaven on account of not being quickened by the Spirit. You may say you believe in God the Father. You may say you believe in God the Son. You may say you believe in God the Holy Ghost. But what I want to know is, do you believe that these three are one? The Bible says they are. “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.”—1 John 5:7. They bear record in heaven. That is, they testify. Three persons—three witnesses—and yet one God. The testimony must be in perfect harmony or else they could not be one. If we

do not believe in the unity of God we do not believe in a triune God. If we believe in the unity of God we are not uneasy about the final salvation of all His covenant and redeemed people.

I want to ask the question, why are we commanded to baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost? Do we not by those words and by that act acknowledge the triune God as the only Saviour? If human beings were additional instruments to the third person in the trinity in regenerating, or in bringing in lost souls, then why not baptize in their name too? If it just takes the three to make the one true and living God—the complete and perfect Saviour—then there is no occasion for human instrumentality in the salvation of lost souls. How I wish that people could see the completeness and fullness of the triune God in the salvation of poor sinners. And how sweet to think that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Christ—that we “are complete in Him”—and that “when Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall we also appear with Him in glory.”

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

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 1. tfiws | 2. dehsaw |
| 4. selbaf | 3. denrut |
| 8. asu | 4. detsaf |
| 10. serutsap | 5. sliob |
| 11. ta | 6. tis |
| 12. selkten | 7. nips |
| 14. eldeen | 9. ees |
| 17. yals | 11. asa |
| 19. daed | 13. sredle |
| 21. ma | 15. tlaed |
| 22. sserd | 16. emal |
| 24. selbat | 18. yadretsey |
| 27. ruoh | 20. elbbuts |
| 28. ta | 22. od |
| 29. owt | 23. sniur |
| 30. elsi | 25. elttab |
| 31. od | 26. erots |
| 32. nep | 27. epoh |
| 34. retted | 31. yned |
| 35. tsae | 33. hcae |
| 37. ten | 36. pot |
| 38. ymene | |
| 39. yap | |

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen...” (II Corinthians 13:14)

WHAT SHALL WE DRINK?

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

The children of Israel had just been miraculously delivered by the mighty hand of God across the Red Sea from Pharaoh's host. They had sung the first song in the Bible, a song of triumph, as the horse and the rider had been cast into the sea. They had been but three days journey in the wilderness of Shur after this deliverance when they found no water. They came to the waters of Marah but could not drink because the waters were bitter. "And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?" (Ex. 15:24) Moses cried unto the Lord and He showed him a tree that when Moses had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. The Lord Jesus is the tree of life that makes all the waters of life that seem so bitter to be made sweet. Sometimes we murmur and complain like the children of Israel and wonder, "What shall we drink?" The Lord in His infinite mercy and grace provides because He is the Jehovahjireh (God will see or provide).

The children of Israel continued their journey in the wilderness and pitched their camp in Rephidim and again found no water and began another wrangle with Moses. "Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?" (Ex. 17:2) Prior to this encounter, they had waters but they were bitter. Now they have no water and chide with Moses when in reality they were chiding (wrangling, complaining and murmuring) against the Lord. Moses didn't know what to do so he cried unto the Lord. That is what we all should do when we have no clear direction in which to proceed. "And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me." (Ex. 17:4)

The Lord told Moses to take his rod and go to the rock in Horeb where He would stand before him. Moses was told to take the rod and smite the rock and water would come forth for the people to drink. Jesus is not only the tree of life; He is also the Rock of Ages in which we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Moses was obedient and smote the rock; the Lord made good His promise and water flowed from the rock for the people to drink. Once again the Jehovahjireh had come through in spite of the murmuring of the Israelites. We must remember,

however, that even though God is longsuffering, it is only for so long and then judgment will come. Moses smote the rock. Jesus is the Rock that was smitten of God as the sword of God's justice awoke to smite the shepherd instead of His sheep. (Zech. 13:7) A fountain is opened from this Rock. "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." (Zech. 13:1) There is no doubt whatsoever that this rock smitten by Moses was typical of Christ. Just listen to Paul concerning those that had passed through the Red Sea. "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Cor. 10:4)

Jesus had a cup to drink and He came from the glory of heaven to drink this cup for the benefit of His bride. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, "...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matt. 26:39) When the band of men and officers led by Judas came to apprehend Jesus preparatory to His crucifixion, Peter took out his sword and cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant. What did Jesus tell Peter? "...Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11) Jesus drank of that cup of suffering and for a specific purpose. Peter tells us, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." (1 Pet. 3:18)

What shall we drink? Shall we drink of the cup of the second death? No! No! Jesus drank of the cup the Father had given Him to spare His people from that sentence. Shall we drink of that cup that He tasted for us? Yes, because we are the beneficiaries of His sufferings. James and John came to Jesus and requested they be allowed to sit, one on his right hand and the other on His left in His glory. They were confusing the literal with the spiritual, but Jesus told them, "...Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized: But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared." (Mark 10:39-40)

There are spiritual waters for us to drink because of what Jesus, the Rock of Ages, endured for us. The world is ever ready to stop up those wells of salvation. The Philistines stopped up the wells that had been dug by Abraham's servants. His son, Isaac, and his servants had to unstop them so they could be refreshed. We can also unstop the well of spiritual water that we have allowed the world to stop up. What shall we drink? Don't drink of the dregs of the world! Drink from the fountain that never shall run dry. "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD." (Psalm 119:12-13) The Lord has plenty to drink. "Ho ye that thirsteth, come..." (Isa. 55:1)

KEEP BUILDING

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Nehemiah 4;15-17: "And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon."

Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer. He lived in the days of the Jews captivity. He had requested of the king supplies and a band of his army to go to Jerusalem and build back the wall that was torn down many years ago when the captivity began. Nehemiah had such favor before the king that he granted all his desires. This was by the providential hand of God. When Nehemiah had reached the city, he found it in a desolate state. This was same place where Solomon had built the great temple, and where the Queen of Sheba had declared that she was not told the half of the glory of it all. 1Kings 10:7. Now it sat as a silent ghost town, where now only the owls and jackals lived; oh how the mighty had fallen! The walls were in desperate need of repair. So the people had a mind to build Neh.4:6.

The people there about mocked them for even having the idea of building the wall and the gates of the city. However, the God of heaven prospered their efforts and soon the gates were installed and the people were encouraged in their labor. The people of the land upon hearing of this now purposed to stop their efforts by declaring war upon them. So Nehemiah directed the people to continue building and have their weapons nearby so to be prepared if the enemy should attack. And so the work continued. The wall would get repaired; the city eventually would come back to life through their efforts, and the providential hand of almighty God would prevail. That's a beautiful picture. Build but be ready to fight. That's good advice for us today as we who labor in the Lord's kingdom, building about our spiritual lives, but should always look out for Satan to attack us at any time, robbing us

of the joys of our salvation. We should take upon us the whole armor of God as we labor in his kingdom. Eph.6:13. Nehemiah was a passionate man about his beloved Jerusalem. Lord, I pray that we have the passion that he had in those days of living not at Jerusalem but in captivity. When the opportunity came that he could return and build it, he gladly endured the hardships and threats to his life to do so.

The gospel church today is worth our dedication to it. This is where the glorious doctrine of salvation by grace is proclaimed. This is where we feel the gospel preaching of Jesus Christ and him crucified. I speak not only of the physical building of the church, but also our inward spiritual lives that we should work on every day. That is even more important than the physical building. We should look out for Satan attempting to take away the joys of our salvation, by tempting us after the flesh to walk contrary to God's wishes. If we do so, then we will go further into the broad way of destruction that is mentioned in Matthew 7:13. Many think that this destruction is eternal hell. It is not. Jesus saved us from that on the cross, and we rest upon that. Destruction in our spiritual lives that can take away the joy we once had. We do not want to lose that. We want to stay in his spiritual kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy which is in the Holy Spirit Romans 14:17. I am so thankful my Lord came and secured for us eternal glory. I hope that we can continue to avoid destruction by serving him the best that we can with our God given ability. Read this wonderful book of Nehemiah, for we have just mentioned a little of what is written there.

R.L. Taylor

"Savior visit thy plantation, Grant us, Lord, a gracious rain; All will come to desolation, Unless Thou return again. Lord, revive us, Lord, revive us, All our help must come from Thee; Lord, revive us, O revive us, All our help must come from Thee. Keep no longer at a distance, Shine upon us from on high; Lest, for want of Thine assistance, Every plant should droop and die."--(*Old School Hymnal*, Twelfth Edition)

FOUNDATION

The great architect Frank Lloyd Wright was given the challenge of building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of the most earthquake-prone cities in the world. Wright's investigation showed that a solid foundation could be "floated" on a sixty-foot layer of soft mud underlying the hotel, which would provide a shock-absorbing but solid support for the immense building. Shortly after the hotel was completed it withstood the worst earthquake in fifty-two years, while lesser buildings fell in ruins around it.

Today in the Word, March 1989, p. 6.

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