

Glad Tidings

July

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

There are many types of sin in the world and God will not overlook any of them. It was sin that brought mankind into condemnation before God and Jesus came into the world to pay the sin debt that was demanded by God's justice. God did not overlook sin. It had to be atoned for and Jesus atoned for all the sins of His chosen bride. "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Heb. 10:12) No one can lay any sin to the charge of God's elect because God has justified them through the shed blood of Jesus. (Rom. 8:33-34)

Just as God did not overlook sin for the complete justification of His elect, He still does not overlook sin, even when men and women call sin good and good evil. Isaiah tells us, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20) The Bible is very clear on what sin is as John writes, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." (I John 3:4) The law of God is always required to be adhered to. We aren't under the ceremonial law of Moses as that has been set aside in its fulfillment by Jesus Christ, but we are under the moral law of God through the Spirit.

In today's culture in America and the world, many are calling evil good. Homosexuality is sin no matter what name the public wants to give it, whether it is gay or an alternate life style. The Bible clearly says, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." (Lev. 18:22) "And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (Rom. 1:27) God judged and destroyed two cities for this sin as an example of the consequences of such activity. "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;" (2 Pet. 2:6)

Yet, people today are saying this evil is good and is to be protected and given special rights. Much worse than this advocacy, the proponents of this evil are attempting to indoctrinate our children into accepting this as normal. God pronounces a woe upon those who call evil good. He will not overlook this sin either.

Children are even being taught to question whether they are a male or female when the Bible plainly says regarding Adam and Eve, "...male and female created he them." (Gen. 1:27) Since God has said that every living creature brings forth their offspring "after his kind", it is evident that the union of males and females conceive males and females which are in turn born into the world. Just like the sodomite (the Bible name for homosexuals--1Kings 14:24) the transgender turns that into something that is against nature yet people say this evil is good. Woe unto the people and to the nation that sanctions such blasphemy against God.

While evil is being called good, that which is really good in the sight of God is called evil. Those who oppose such ungodliness as Sodomy and the transgender are called bigots because they maintain an uncompromising position regarding that which is sin. People dress up sin in new clothes, but it is still sin; however, those that oppose such are even being classified as hate groups. We hear a lot today about premarital sex. That sounds a lot better than what the Bible really calls it which is fornication. "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (I Cor. 7:2) God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach unto them repentance and if they turned from their wicked ways, He would not destroy the city. We need repentance today to stop calling evil good and good evil so that we might be spared the judgment of God which still does not overlook sin.

Good and evil are completely opposite of one another just as light is from darkness. God's people are commanded to walk in the light as children of light. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8) Men by nature love darkness rather than light that is why they hated Jesus because he exposed the sins of the people as the light of the world. People cannot say they have fellowship with God and sanction that which is of the darkness of this world. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:" (I John 1:6)

Those that call evil good and good evil are in darkness and we are commanded to oppose them. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Yes, we are thankful for the freedom we have in this country, but we are not free to choose sin over righteousness. Woe unto them justify evil and condemn good. (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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THE GODLY TENTMAKERS



Written by David Wise
Thursday, 06 July 2017

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles." Rom. 16:3-4

We are first introduced to the godly couple of Aquila and Priscilla as Paul arrives in Corinth in Acts 18:2. They were Jewish tentmakers who had fled Italy under the discriminatory decree of Claudius Caesar expelling Jews from Rome. The couple comes in contact with Paul because they were of the same profession (they were tentmakers), and Paul comes to reside with them during his ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:3-4). They are presented initially as simply quiet, unassuming disciples of Christ, but these simple tentmakers had a profound impact on the kingdom of God and on the first-century church.

Paul ministered in Corinth for eighteen months after his initial arrival at the beginning of Acts 18, and when he leaves, Aquila and Priscilla journey with him. Paul stops briefly in Ephesus, but Aquila and Priscilla

remain there and settle in that city (Acts 18:18-19). In Ephesus, there came up an eloquent and zealous believer, known as Apollos, but despite being instructed in the way of the Lord to some degree, he was ignorant of the full gospel message since he only knew the baptism of John. When the faithful couple of Aquila and Priscilla heard a slightly uncertain sound, they lovingly brought Apollos into their home and expounded unto him the full gospel of the finished work of Jesus Christ *"whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."* (Acts 18:26) Having the full gospel message Apollos was successful in converting many to the truth that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 18:28) and had a very successful ministry later in Corinth (Acts 19:1, 1 Cor. 1 & 3). Unfortunately, many today would hear a young brother preaching something that wasn't quite right (simply due to ignorance, having not heard the full truth), and would try to immediately distance themselves from him. However, we should learn from the godly example of this couple to lovingly bring a zealous, but somewhat ignorant, young man under our instruction and attempt to expound the way of God more perfectly unto him. May we be found ministering to others who do not "perfectly" understand the truth, following the example of this godly couple.

Paul arrives back in Ephesus where he resides and ministers for three years. During that time, the church at Ephesus met in the home of Aquila and Priscilla. Paul's first canonized epistle to the Corinthians was written from Ephesus *"Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."* (1 Cor. 16:19). This godly couple's home was the focal point and meeting place of the church at Ephesus, during the establishment and growth of one of the most prominent and devout churches in the New Testament, the church at Ephesus. They no doubt set the example for the Ephesus church as they lovingly welcomed their brothers and sisters into their home to minister to them, just as they had done earlier with Apollos.

Maybe three to four years after penning 1st Corinthians, Paul writes an epistle to the church at Rome, where he commends Aquila and Priscilla specially again. This couple was originally from Italy, and it appears that by this time, they had made their way back to their homeland to build up the church at Rome, which was now also meeting in their home. *"Greet Aquila and Priscilla; Likewise greet the church that is in their house."* (Rom. 16:3-5) It appears that they were instrumental in the church at Rome, just as they were at Ephesus, again hosting the church in their own home. How amazing is it, that two of the most pivotal churches in the early church at two different locations in Ephesus and in Rome both met in the home of the same godly, devout couple!

Paul commends Aquila and Priscilla further for their commitment towards him personally. He says that they

both had *“laid down their own necks”*, they had literally risked their own lives, for the protection of Paul and for the furtherance of his ministry. It’s one thing to be willing to be a martyr and give your own life for Christ, but what a commendation to be so sold out for the kingdom that they were willing to risk their own lives for the Apostle Paul! That is truly exhibiting Christ’s command to love one another as ourselves and to lay down our lives for our friends – that was lived out by Aquila and Priscilla on the behalf of Paul. He thanks them for their sacrifice on his behalf, and then he gives them one of the most impressive commendations (in my opinion) in all the New Testament. Paul says that *all the churches of the Gentiles* also give thanks for their commitment and sacrifice for the church and for the kingdom. The godly life of Aquila and Priscilla (and sacrifice for the Apostle Paul’s sake) was known so well throughout all the Gentile churches, and their manner of godliness was so impressive, that all the Gentile churches gave thanks to God on their behalf! Think about how many Gentile churches had been planted by this time around 60 AD, and every one of those churches knew Aquila and Priscilla by name and gave thanks to God on their behalf. Wow, what a testimony!

Another important point taught to us by Aquila and Priscilla is how the husband and wife are a complimentary team in regards to ministry. Every time one is mentioned in the New Testament, the other spouse is mentioned as well (six times total). Three times Aquila is addressed first (Acts 18:2, Acts 18:26, 1 Cor. 16:19) and three times Priscilla is addressed first (Acts 18:18, Rom. 16:3, 2 Tim. 4:19). They traveled together, they instructed Apollos more perfectly together (“they” taught him together, Acts 18:26), they hosted the church at Ephesus and Rome in their home together (1 Cor. 16:19, Rom. 16:5), and they even risked their own lives together (Rom. 16:3). While God did place the husband as head over the wife and gave the man the authority to teach in a public way in the church, it’s a beautiful thing to see a wife compliment the teaching ministry of her husband in the manner that Priscilla did to Aquilla. We also see the beautiful picture of how the husband and wife are truly one flesh, in how Aquila and Priscilla are always presented together in every reference. Furthermore, they promote the equality in the kingdom of God – *“male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Gal. 3:28) – as they are both addressed interchangeably.

The impact of Aquila and Priscilla in the early church shows us that the rank-and-file believers are what really make the church grow. While from our perspective one member of the body may appear more visible and therefore more important to the church as a whole, I believe rather that it’s the Aquilas and Priscillas, it’s the rank and file godly couples in the church, and it’s the ordinary tentmakers among us that can have the most profound impact on the kingdom of

God. We have a tendency to say, *“if I’m not a hand in the body, then God has no use for me in the church or in the kingdom”* (read 1 Cor. 12:12-25 for context). However, Aquila and Priscilla teach us that it’s oftentimes the “ordinary rank-and-file believers” who can have a great impact on the kingdom, so profound an impact that literally hundreds of churches all knew them both by name and knew their godly manner of life. After all, it was those ordinary tentmakers, who the greatest Apostle in the New Testament ascribed with saving his own life and living such a godly life that all the Gentile churches glorified God for them!

(From marchtozion.com)

BE NOT DECEIVED

Many false teachers have gone out into the world to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect, and if they bring to you another gospel, which is not the gospel, believe them not. Try the spirits, that is the teachers, and if they do not confess Christ is all in all, believe them not and bid them not God speed. Let no man deceive you, for this cause, the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. Judge their words and actions by the law and the testimony, that is the Scriptures, and if they speak and act not according to that, it is because there is no light in them. Be loyal to God, even if you must forsake father and mother, and to be loyal to God is to be loyal to His word. If you do not confess Christ and His words before men, God (Christ) will not confess you before the Father.

Many times you will hear them say, there is not much difference between us, come on and go or live with us; for we are all working for the same place, but this is not true with the child of God because the children of God know that they are saved by grace and not by works, for they are redeemed to God (not part of the way, but all the way) by the precious blood of Christ, all works are excluded in eternal salvation. Be ye followers of God as dear children, and not in order to be children, but because you are His children, and walk in love, as Christ has loved us and gave Himself for us as a sweet smelling savour. He that will be a friend to the world is an enemy to God.

All Scripture is given by inspiration and is good for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect throughly furnished unto every good work. Error will wither away in the presence of truth.

God will uphold those who uphold His words and will fight your battles for you and has promised never to forsake you and never to leave you alone.

Let us ever be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Christ.

In hope, W.L.S. (Elder W.L. Smith)
(From *“Gospel Messenger”*, July, 1920)

Many deceivers are in the world. (2 John 1:7)

ALMOST PERSUADED

Elder Z. C. Hull (Deceased)

The apostle Paul had been brought before this king to answer the charges, the Jews had made against him and after he had answered for himself and related such a wonderful experience, it caused the king to have great compassion on Paul. The influence was so great that the king was almost persuaded to be a Christian. The king must have heard Paul, for Paul said, "I know that thou believest," and said further that "I would to God that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day were almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds."

Paul must have believed that King Agrippa believed in Jesus experimentally and he said to the King that he would to God that he was both almost, and altogether persuaded.

There is a vast difference in being a child of God and being a Christian. A Christian is a true follower of God. The Gospel has a persuasive influence on God's children. The Gospel does not persuade men to become children of God. There is no instrumentality on earth that will make children of God. This is a creative work, which is of God, but the Gospel in its simplicity and fulness is instrumental in making Christians out of children of God. It teaches them what to do; it points out to them their duty; it persuades them to be obedient children. Paul says, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." God's children are no more threatened with eternal death. They are no more under the law of sin and death, therefore they cannot violate this law, because they are above the law, but they are under law to Christ and subject to all of its penalties and the penalties of this law are in time and not in eternity.

The Gospel is the power of God unto believers. It is a means of bringing God's children together in an organic sense. There must be a saving efficacy in the Gospel. The Apostle said, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." This is a specific application. It can only be applied to the believers. It has no effect whatsoever on the dead, alien sinner. The commands of the Gospel are only to the believers. The Gospel is foolishness to the dead sinner. The carnal mind is enmity against God and not subject to His law, and neither can be. "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us, which are saved is the power of God.

The commands are to God's children. If not, where are we to apply them and if the Gospel has no persuasive power in it, why the admonitions given by Christ. God's children are creatures of influence; they are able to do right. God has given them the ability, and why should we say they cannot comply with conditions. Christ says, "Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you." What does he mean by this? Is it not a fact that God's children can draw themselves away from Jesus in paths of disobedience? "If ye be risen with Christ, seek those things, which are above."

Do we find where we are admonished to seek the things of the world? When we seek the things of the world, are we not going contrary to His admonitions? Seek means to inquire; it means to do something. We should walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. There is some walking for God's children to do. Who is going to do the walking? There is some running to be done, "Let us run with patience, the race that is set before us." **Personal pronoun us.** The Gospel persuades men to run. The Gospel persuades God's children to be Christians, and if they ignore these admonitions and walk contrary to their experience, or desires, what is the result? They are beaten with many stripes. If we walk after the flesh, we shall die, not eternally, but die to the joys of our salvation in time, but to walk after the spirit is life and peace.

Many of God's little children that are living and in the world are almost persuaded. If almost, why not altogether, that peace might abound in their hearts. If they desire to be baptized and walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they have been called, why should there be any delay? Today is the day of salvation. "Be ye not hearers only, but doers of the word."

It is one thing to be a child of God and it is another thing to obey His commandments. The natural man is active in the natural realm. He is passive in being born in the natural realm. It is the same with the man that is born into the spiritual realm. He is absolutely passive in this new birth, but after he has been regenerated, and born of the spirit, he is under a new law, the law of Christ, and he is given the ability to obey this law. It is true that God's children never reach a state of perfection in this world, because they have a carnal nature about them that is imperfect, but it is their duty to walk after the spirit, that life and peace may abound and that they will be enabled to reap the joys of their salvation. Z.C. Hull (*Gospel Messenger*, Feb. 1921)

JUSTIFICATION BY WORKS

T. S. Dalton

Therefore it must be a fact that James speaks of the *declarative justification*, and for this reason he can make the demand, "**Show me thy faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works,**" not to produce faith by works, but *show* it, manifest it.

The idea is, Let me see such signs of it, that, in the judgment of charity (not infallibility) I may pronounce upon it, as the Lord did upon Abraham, when he said, "Now I know that thou fearest God."

The only way we have of showing that our faith is in God, to our brethren and friends that surrounds us, is by our works. Therefore by our *works* we are justified in the sight of our brethren, and by our *works* we are condemned in their eyes. (*Zion's Advocate Oct. 1897*)

(From "*An Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature*", Volume 7, edited by Elder Harold Hunt)

COMPLAINING

January 21, 2016



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

People are so prone to complaining in the society in which we live but they have always had this tendency. It just seems to be more pronounced in times of prosperity. Things are not always going to go as we expected or had hoped. How do we react when this happens? Do we begin to murmur and complain as did the Israelites after they were delivered from Egyptian bondage? They had no water and they complained and God gave them water from the bitter waters of Marah. They were hungry and complained and God gave them Manna every day. They complained and loathed that Manna after time had passed and longed for meat. God gave them meat in the form of quails until it ran out their nostrils. God was displeased with their murmuring and complaining.

God hasn't changed and He is still displeased and angry when people begin to complain just as He was with Israel of old. We read in Numbers 11:1: "And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp." The Bible is silent on this occasion on why they were complaining but God was angry and sent fiery judgment, perhaps where the complaints were so aggressive in the uttermost parts of the camp. God doesn't send literal fire to destroy us today but He does send His chastening hand so that we would remember how good He is and that we are to be thankful we don't get what we deserve. We deserve swift justice but God tempers his judgment with His mercy.

We complain because we have to get up and go to work but fail to be thankful we have a job in the first place. We complain because we don't have exactly what we want to eat on the table, not considering the thousands that have very little to eat. We complain if the preacher preaches past noon a few minutes but think nothing of staying at a ball game that goes into overtime. The list seems to be endless. Paul writes, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings:" (Phil. 2:14). Children complain that they have to take out the trash or clean up their room. Parents then complain because their children won't do what they are told when they are told, not realizing it is their

responsibility to ensure their obedience. This is not doing all things without murmuring.

Why are we to do all things without murmurings and disputings? Paul doesn't leave us in the dark as he writes, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;" (Phil. 2:15). We are to shine as lights in the world and be found blameless and harmless manifesting the love of God within. Paul tells us in this context that it is God that worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. However, He doesn't do it for us; we must do it for ourselves and thus work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

There are many things that might cause us to be cast down and complain that the Lord has forsaken us. A Psalm that is attributed to Asaph demonstrates this very well. "I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah." (Psalm 77:3). We would think that remembering the Lord would not cause a troubled heart but here it did and the heart was subsequently overwhelmed. Here he remembered the goodness of God in times past and deliverance and couldn't understand why He seemed to be silent in present circumstances. He even asked the question, "Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah." (Psalm 77:7-9). Where did Asaph find his answer? It was in the sanctuary of God and it is still so today. Asaph then remembered the Lord in a proper way and got relief in the remembrances of God's mercy and grace just as Jeremiah did when he thought his hope had perished from the Lord. As a result of this remembrance, Jeremiah wrote, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22-23)

David complained about the wicked prospering in the world and without the rod of God being upon them while he was plagued and chastened every day. It was too painful for him to think about at times. Where and when did he get relief? The scripture tells us, "When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." (Psalm 73:16-17). Once again David found his answer in the sanctuary of God. The end of the wicked is eternal banishment and punishment by God whereas the end of the righteous is eternal joy in heaven and immortal glory.

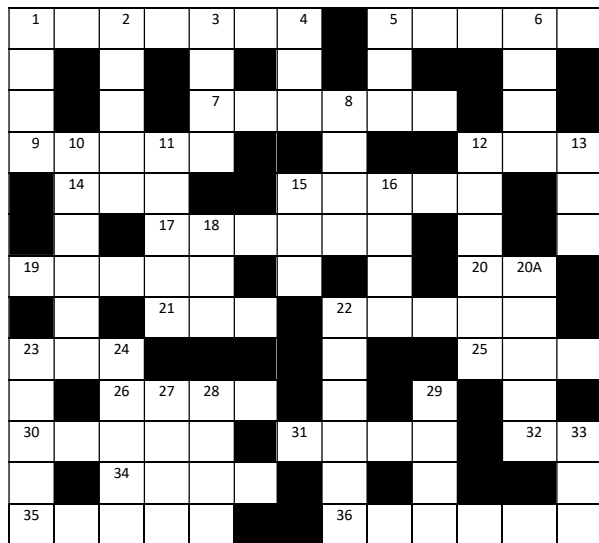
Our hearts may be overwhelmed at times by the issues of life but Jesus told the disciples to not let their heart be troubled; believe in Him as they did God. His promises are true and will be carried out as He has promised never to leave or forsake His children. Drop the anchor of hope and escape the battering on the

(Continued on Page 6)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. The tree Elijah sat under wanting to die.
5. Who warned you to flee from the ___ to come?
7. Jacob saw angels ascending, descending on a ___.
9. I sat down under his shadow with great delight and his fruit was sweet to my ___. Eat sample.
12. A time to rend and a time to ___. Stitch.
14. Many are called but ___ are chosen.
15. Unto me who am less than the ___ of all saints.
17. I delight in the law of God after the ___ man.
19. Praise him with the timbrel and the ___, Waltz.
20. Los Angeles.
21. The ___ lamb offered as a sin offering. Female.
22. Elijah after the fire heard a still ___ voice. Little.
23. Don't ___ anything to the word of God or diminish.
25. The king asked Nehemiah why his countenance was ___ seeing that he was not sick. Cast down.
26. The breastplate of judgment was set in 4 ___ of precious stones, Sardius, topaz, carbuncle etc.
30. Every good and perfect gift cometh down from ___



(Answers on Page 8)

31. ___ for ___ all that a man hath will he give for his life.
32. In sin did my mother conceive ___ said David.
34. God saw all He had made and it was ___ good.
35. And ___ appeared unto them cloven tongues like] as of fire. Not here.
36. ___ man could tame the wild Gadarene. Be ___ of false prophets. Two words.

DOWN:

1. God sends rain on both the ___ and the unjust.
2. Make a joyful ___ unto the Lord all ye lands.
3. The color of the horse that Death sat on John saw.
4. Aaron had a ___ that budded. Moses used one.
5. ___ unto them that call evil good and good evil.
6. We spend our years as a ___ that is told. Story.
8. Be a ___ of the word and not just a hearer.
10. Be not ___ of them that kill the body. Fear.
11. Before the cock crow ___ thou shalt deny me thrice.

DOWN:

12. Solomon had 40,000 ___ of horses for his chariots. Pens.
13. I am the ___ the truth and the life said Jesus.
15. ___ up for yourselves treasures in heaven.
16. The first man ___ was made a living soul.
18. If any man be in Christ, he is a ___ creature.
- 20A. Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound an ___ in my holy mountain. Fire ___.
22. These things I have ___ unto you that in me ye have peace.
23. The Lord hath set ___ hm that is godly for himself.
24. God ___ out the man Adam from the garden.
27. Let us pass ___ to the other side of sea of Galilee.
28. We ___ by nature the children of wrath as others.
29. The blood of Jesus washed us whiter than ___.
33. Same as 21 across.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Our two grandsons, Eli and Isaac spent the night with us recently and after church and a visit to my sister's house we were carrying them home. Now siblings often get into squabbles and these two do it fairly regular. They were riding in the back seat with their aunt and she was trying to keep them separated. Just before we got to their home, I said to them, "Now you boys, try not to get into a fight when you get home." Well Isaac, in 2nd grade, replied, "Now, that will be a challenge." Well, I never found out if the challenge was met or not.—*Editor*

COMPLAINING

(Continued from Page 5)

rocks of life. Pray to God as did David because there is a Rock that is unshaken and ever there for His children. "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 61:2)

Property Laws of a Toddler: Some might say that this is evidences of Original Sin.
(Source Unknown)

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks just like mine, it's mine.
8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
10. If it's broken, it's yours.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Elgin Crossroads Primitive Baptist Church, 3153 SR 101 Rogersville, AL July 14-16, 2023. Services Friday night July 14 at 6:30 pm with supper preceding at 5:30 pm. Saturday, July 15, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Invited ministers are Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN and Elder Tim McCool, Gordo, AL. Sunday service at 10:30 with Elder Jackie Smith. Elder Ben Shettles is Pastor of Elgin Crossroads.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS the 4th weekend in July 2023 (July 21-23). Services Friday night, July 21, at 7:00 pm—No supper. Saturday, July 22, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. No night service scheduled. Elder Joe Nettles, Caledonia, MS is the invited minister. Regular services on Sunday with communion led by Pastor, Elder Steve Weaver and followed by lunch.

Rector Primitive Baptist Church in Rector, Ar. will have its annual meeting, Lord Willing, the second Sunday weekend in August, 2023. Friday night, Aug 11, supper at 5:30 pm with services following. Saturday, Aug 12, services to begin at 10:00 am with Lunch, and afternoon services to follow. Sunday Aug 13 services at 10:30 am. We plan to have an open meeting, and all are invited. Elder Devon Horton serves as Pastor of Rector.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship Meeting in July, 2023 (July 30) will be hosted by Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, 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 is invited. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS the 1st weekend in August, 2023 (Aug. 4-6). Services Friday night, Aug. 4, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, Aug. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS is invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Antioch.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS the 2nd weekend in August, 2023 (Aug. 11-13). Services Friday night, Aug. 11, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 12, at 7:00 p.m. with supper at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Chase Harrison, Pastor of Raleigh PBC, Memphis, TN is invited minister. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, 2871 Highway 363, Mantachie, MS for their annual meeting 3rd weekend in August (Aug. 18-20, 2023). Services Friday night, Aug. 18, at 7:00 pm with supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday, Aug. 19, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm. Sunday at 10:30 am with lunch. Elder Jeff Winfrey, Dawson Springs, KY, Elder Neil Honea, Elrod, AL and Elder Ben Shettles, Counce, TN are invited ministers. Contact Pastor, Elder Jackie Smith 901-734-9376 for further information.

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 3rd weekend in August, 2023 (Aug. 18-20). Services Friday night, Aug. 18, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

I was blessed to attend the 2023 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting at Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Headland, AL March 2-5, 2023. The following picture is from the March 24-26, 2016 Gulf Coast Meeting held with the same Church, Piney Grove. I am in the middle, 2nd row, and my son Elder Jonathan Wise is 1st one on the right kneeling. I am sure you will recognize some other Elders as well.—*Editor*



Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, MS on Hwy 346, the 2nd weekend in September, 2023 (Sept. 8-10). Services Friday night, Sept. 8, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Sunday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Tim McCool, Gordo, AL is invited minister, Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS the 3rd weekend in July, 2023 (July 14-16). Services Friday night, July 14, at 7:00 pm—no supper. Saturday, July 15, at 10:30 am and no lunch. Sunday at 10:00 am with communion. Elder Larry Wise, Randolph, MS is invited minister. Elder Tom Bouchillon is Pastor of Hopewell.

THE PERFECT MAN

By Elder S. N. Redford

(From the book "As A Man Thinketh")

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." —Psalm 37:37

The Psalms of David are wonderful to those who can enter into the experiences that David had, and God's dear people are one experimentally. Their experience may not be the same in every particular, yet as they are all operated on by the Holy Spirit, their experience must be identical in some points. Sometimes David was low down in the valley of despondency, and at such times he was a suppliant at the throne of grace for help. How fervently he prayed when his many enemies pursued hard after him. At other times, with his feet planted upon the lofty mountains of hope, his mouth was filled with praise to God. At other times, when he had a large view of the righteous, and defeat of the wicked, no matter what the odds were. And such was the case in the text at the head of this article.

"Mark the perfect man." Not perfect in the sense of being sinless, for there are none that ever attain to this in life, but in the sense of obedience to Christ; and perhaps but a few of the children of God ever reach this in this life—I mean few, comparatively speaking. They are so rare we are told to *mark* them; pay special attention to them. They will do to follow and to pattern after, for they follow Christ. It is a fine point, and how few keep up to the standard. Out of the seven churches of Asia, only two were commended. Only one here and there was found at their post, when Jesus made his advent into the world, *"waiting for the consolation of Israel."* Only seven thousand out of all Israel that did not bow the knee to Baal.

But David, in our text, was filled with such assurance of victory, he solicits special attention to the perfect man. In order for one to be perfect in the sense of my text, he must be full of self denial. Old Self must be relegated to the rear. He must discard self-righteousness. Patience, forbearance, longsuffering, must abound. The kingdom of God must be first, and everything else secondary. Meekness, humility, and love are his garments he is clothed with. And, lastly, he must forgive in order to be perfect. How can he be perfect if he has no forgiveness in his heart?—seeing our Saviour, our great model, was full of forgiveness?

"The end of that man is peace." That is, not withstanding all the trials, persecutions, hardships and sufferings he will close up his career in this world in peace—in peace with his God. What a blessing to die in peace. But such is the blessed state of the perfect and upright that David could say at this time, *"I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree: yet he passed away, and lo, he was not: yea, I sought him: but he would not be found."* From the lofty summit to which he was raised he could take a survey of God's providence over the *"perfect man"* and say, *"I have been young, and now am old:*

yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." (September 11, 1930)

(From "ITMS", September 2012)

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

1. repinuj
5. htarw
7. reddal
9. etsat
12. wes
14. wef
15. tsael
17. drawni
19. ecnad
20. al
21. ewe
22. llams
23. dda
25. das
26. swor
30. evoba
31. niks
32. em
34. yrev
35. ereht
36. erawon

DOWN:

1. tsuj
2. esion
3. elap
4. dor
5. eow
6. elat
8. reod
10. diarfa
11. eciwt
12. sllats
13. yaw
15. yal
16. mada
18. wen
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22. nekops
23. trapa
24. evord
27. revo
28. erew
29. wons
33. ewe

DON'T BE LATE

Elder Walter Cash

(Used previously in GT)

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

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

(From **"The Christian Baptist"**, via **"ITMS"**, September 2012)

NAMES AND DATES

By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, TN

How much time elapsed between the creation of Adam and the Genesis Flood? That is a much more important question than we might have first imagined. Exactly two chapters of the Bible give the history of that entire period of several hundreds of years. And, even though only two chapters are devoted to recording that entire period, one of those chapters is taken up—almost in its entirety—with establishing the time element. The fifth chapter of Genesis lists each generation from Adam to Noah. It tells how old each person was when his oldest son was born, how much longer he lived and how old he was when he died. Notice verses three, four and five. “And Adam lived AN HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: and the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS; and he begat sons and daughters; and all the days that Adam lived were NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS and he died.” Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born. He lived another 800 years, and died At age 930. The Bible gives all three figures and they balance perfectly. The Bible goes on to give those figures for each and every generation from Adam to Noah. By adding the age of each man when his son (the next generation) was born, it is a very simple matter to discover that the Genesis Flood came 1656 years after the creation of Adam.

Why is that important? If it was not important, God would not have devoted one whole chapter of the Bible to establishing the fact—especially when that chapter constitutes one half of the history of over 16 centuries of time.

There are those who question the Genesis account. They question whether man was created and whether there is a God. They would find the origin of man in some nameless, faceless being—some half human, half simian form in a faraway land. Their only foundation for any such notion is an occasional bone or skull or tooth found here and there by their colleagues. And out of their own imagination, they spin fine theories to explain those relics.

But, no matter how much research they may do nor how much money they may spend to defend their

theories, there is no excuse for such darkness. There is no reason to be in ignorance as to who our first ancestors were. Not only do we know the name of the first man, Adam, we also know his son’s name, and his grandson, and his great grandson, and his great-great grandson. Carefully, meticulously, the inspired writer gives us names and dates. He gives us the name of each succeeding generation. He gives us the date of his birth and the date of his death. And he gives us the date when his oldest son was born. Not one generation is left out.

Let our evolutionist friends stand on their pile of crumbling, sun-bleached bones and defend their ignorance. We will stand on the volume of Divine Revelation and give them names and dates.

Harold Hunt

(From “*The Christian Pathway*”, March 1982)

FRUIT BEARING

“Ye shall them by their fruits,” Matt. 7:16. I care very little for what a man says he believes—if his life does not reflect the sincerity of his profession. Religion that does not change lives is not worth anything. I almost said it is not worth much. But that is not right. It is not worth anything. Religion that does not change lives is worse than no religion at all.

Religion that leaves a man cruel and mean and abusive toward those around him is no benefit to the saints. But it is more than that. It is a dishonor to the name of our Lord. It is shameful to think that a man should profess faith in Christ Jesus and wear the name of our precious Lord as his badge of honor and still have no interest in the welfare and feelings of others.

That was what Moses meant when he said, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.” Ex. 20:7. He was not talking about profanity. There are plenty of other passages that talk about profanity. But that verse was talking about those who honor the Lord with their lips and dishonor him with their lives.

Harold Hunt

(From “*The Christian Pathway*”, February 1986)

THIS PRECIOUS HOPE

This hope is much more precious to the child of God than anybody’s perfect knowledge, because it is based on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ rather than on what they have done. I heard a man say one time, “I would not give a dime for hope.” Well he is saying that he would not give you a dime for the Savior, because Paul said he was a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ—“who is our hope.” The Lord Jesus Christ is the very embodiment of hope.

Lonnie Mazingo Jr.

(From “*The Christian Pathway*”, February 1986)

AS IT WAS DETERMINED**Luke 22:22**

5-27-13



By Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama
The Amen Corner-Share The Word

Just after Jesus had blessed the bread and wine, as he and his closest followers were in that upper room, Jesus makes this statement, "But, behold the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. And truly the Son of Man goeth, AS IT WAS DETERMINED." Luke 22:21-22. The word DETERMINED simply means "marked out BY A BOUND OR LIMIT". The way of the Son of Man was marked by the PLAN of God, by the Hand of God, in God's time, in God's way and by the means which God had ordained; AS IT WAS DETERMINED. The same word is used in Acts 17:26 as Paul preached at Mars Hill. He says to those ignorant wise men that God "Hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath DETERMINED the times BEFORE APPOINTED, and the BOUNDS of their habitation;". In Acts 2:23-24 Peter, in that Great Pentecostal sermon says, "Him being delivered by the DETERMINATE counsel and foreknowledge of God; Ye (not me) have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain; whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death; BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT HE SHOULD BE HOLDEN OF IT". In Acts 4:26-28 Peter and John were commanded not to SPEAK or TEACH in the name of Jesus after the healing of the 40 year old lame man in Acts chapter three. But they continued to speak of how rulers, kings, Herod, Pontius Pilate, Jews and Gentiles were gathered together "FOR TO DO WHATSOEVER THY HAND AND THY COUNSEL DETERMINED BEFORE TO BE DONE".

All that Christ accomplished was before-ordained or MARKED OUT with certain BOUNDS determined by the plan and counsel of a holy God. Like the HORIZON or a BOUNDARY LINE. The work of the redeemer was to do the WILL of the Father. This was HIS Meat (John 4:24). "AS it was determined"; Every step was ordered and assured that the scripture CANNOT be Broken. "And when THEY HAD FULFILLED ALL that was written of HIM they took him down from the tree". He stood in the midst of the disciples in Luke 24:44 and said "These are the words which I spake unto you,

while I was yet with you, THAT ALL THINGS MUST BE FULFILLED WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE LAW OF MOSES AND IN THE PROPHETS AND IN THE PSALMS CONCERNING ME"; an hour or a time was to come that He could not pass.

Nothing was altered in this plan or determination. What wicked men did could not change or alter the bounds that God had ordained. As it was written in the volume of the book "Lo, I come to do thy will Oh God". Wicked men did what they intended to do and that is the reason Peter said "YE" by wicked hands have crucified and slain. They did it because their souls were black with sin and they brought forth the fruit thereof. God was not a part of the wickedness but rather He over-ruled all their intentions. He rules, super-rules and over-rules. If he does not, he is something less than what the bible describes. We have example after example of such events. When a man opened his mouth to curse Israel God over-ruled and intervined and instead of a curse out came a blessing. (Numbers 23). What a blessing to know the authority of God over all things. Our Hope in God today is more than this world knows about. Today's HOPE in the things of time hold NO certainty. "I sure HOPE I get that raise". Such is a wish or a want. A man in the long ago named Seneca called Hope the definition of an UNCERTAIN GOOD. Why is there much despair in the world today?..... because without the proper knowledge of God and Christ there is NO HOPE. What God does is absolutely certain. His determinations stand without question. His counsels are sure today and everyday. The old hymn writer expressed it in beautiful terms when he said, "His steady counsels ripen fast unfolding every hour, the bud may have a bitter taste but sweet will be the flower". The bounds were set and the path marked out. As it was determined Christ made his appearance. As it was determined his life projected the very character of God. As it was determined He died, rose and revived that he might be God of the living and of the dead. The actual construction of the doctrine gives us this teaching which describes an action that took place in the past with results of the action continuing to the present. So while the actual work took place over 2,000 years ago the results of the action have not diminished one iota through the ages. WHY? Because the Son of Man went "as it was determined". AMEN.

Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

The apostle Paul said he did not seek his own profit, but the profit of many. Charity seeketh not her own, but "suffereth long", and is kind." This spirit, loved and lived, would regulate all the rest. Things which are only temporary should never awaken our deepest interest or be our chief concern. If they demand our attention at all let them be of a secondary importance. The joyous looking forward to an eternity of blessedness is the solace of the soul.—Elder R. W. Thompson, 1916

A LITTLE LEAVEN

By Elder Ricky Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

1 Corinthians 5:7: "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:"

Paul is telling the church at Corinth that they are leaven but should be unleavened in their life style. So let's look at what that means.

There are times that I have to make a trip to the market to pick up an item for the kitchen. Self rising flour or cornmeal is occasionally on the list. Self rising means that it will rise as the flour is being cooked. It took me a few trips to learn the difference between regular flour and self rising. Self rising has yeast in its ingredients so that it will rise in the oven. Yeast is a bacteria. It is symbolic of corruption. Unleavened bread which does not rise, has no yeast in it. Which means it has no bacteria or corruption in it. Unleavened bread is symbolic of the body of our Savior which we partake of at Communion. If it had yeast in it, it would not be a symbol of the body of Christ, which had no corruption in it. So Leaven means corruption and unleavened means no corruption. So what Paul was telling the church was that they were practicing corruption in the church. So something needed to be purged or put out. What was it? In verse one of this chapter, we read that a man had taken his stepmother for his wife or concubine and this of course was not a good thing to do. The news had spread among the general public of Corinth and it was a stain on the reputation of the church 1Corinthina 5:1. Even the Gentiles thought that was a bit much to be doing.

How did the church feel about this originally? They gloried in it! They thought themselves jet setters for bringing a new practice in the church. Paul was telling them, this is not good! Not only do you allow this, but you are also celebrating it. This is Leaven, this is corruption. You cannot allow this to stay among you; you must purge it out among you. 1Corinthians 5:2-6. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump, just a little bit of leaven will ruin the whole lump; it will spread. What does a cook do when they are preparing unleavened bread? They make sure that no yeast is in the flour, if they do then they will have to start all over again. So Paul is telling this church to put him out from the church. If this is allowed to stay among you, it will do just like yeast to bread; it will corrupt you all. It will rob

you of the joy of your salvation. Pretty soon other sins will start popping up among you. You will lose your light as a church to the rest of the world. Then where will you be?

Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth 1Corinthian 5:8. Now Paul tells them to purge themselves of this problem and keep the feast. What feast? I believe that this is the feast of sitting under the preaching of the gospel in the Kingdom of God. We do that every time we gather in the Lord to hear the preached word. And oh what a feast! Then Paul says that we keep this feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. How is that? Sincerity means purity, if they attempted to keep this sin among them, would they be worshipping in all sincerity when they sat at the feast? Could they feel sincere toward God if they allowed this to continue? No. Could we come and sit down under the gospel if we were just allowing sin to reign supreme in our life? No, we would not. Our conscience would bother us terribly. So, though we are sinners by nature, we will not let it reign over us. We will gather with sincerity toward God to hear the gospel. Truth means that doctrine that Jesus Christ died for us to have a home in heaven. For our eternal security we rest on what Christ has done for us, and not our own works. If we gathered under any other doctrine, could we say we are gathering in truth? I think not.

The man that was purged out from among them later repented of his terrible sin and was brought back into the fellowship of the church 2Corinthians 2:6-8. It had a happy ending. The church once again gathered in sincerity and truth to hear the gospel. May God bless.

R.L Taylor

GLEANINGS FROM DECEASED ELDERS

Whenever I think of my duty to my dear Master I am compelled to think I have fallen far short of it. My poor life has been made up of imperfections and mistakes. My hope is to be on the right hand in the great day with those I love, and if I am found there it will be through the grace and mercy of God alone. If it should turn out that I am deceived I shall have no room to complain, for I shall receive no more than my just deserts. All I may receive better than punishment will be entirely through the tender mercy and lovingkindness of the Lord. One thing I know, if I am permitted to join in the song sung by the redeemed every note will be in praise to the Redeemer's name.—*Elder John R. Daily, 1916.*

(From "Advocate and messenger", August, 2006)

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