

Glad Tidings

September

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

2023

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

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

God's people must go through many trails in their earthly pilgrimage and they may wonder why this is true when the wicked seem to prosper in their ungodly ways. The Psalmist wondered the same thing and it was painful to think about, especially when he was going through affliction. However, he got some relief from these painful thoughts. Psalms 73: 16-17 says, "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." The Lord will ultimately cast the wicked into destruction and everlasting ruin but the righteous will inherit the kingdom of God.

After Peter has written the elect saints that they are kept by the power of God unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, he tells them to be prepared for something. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:" (I Pet. 4:12) The elect were told to expect a fiery trial of their faith at some point but to rejoice to be a partaker of Christ's sufferings. This is contrary to the health and wealth doctrine propagated by some modern preachers. They maintain we should always have good times by claiming it and we should never experience any setback. This is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus Himself told His disciples, "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

How will we react when the trials of faith come our way? Will we blame God and withdraw from church and the people of God? On the contrary, that is when we need Him and the church more than ever. When David finally understood that his child had died, he washed himself, changed apparel, and "went into the house of God and worshipped." (II Sam. 12:20) Then he went home, ate some food and when his servants wondered why the sudden change in behavior, David said, "While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (II Sam. 12:22-23) We don't need to go away from God but rather get closer for strength. James says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...." (James 4:8) Trials can bring us closer to the Lord or drive us away, depending upon how we react to the fiery trial.

David had many family trials. He not only lost his child with Bathsheba but he had rebellious sons, in Absalom, Amnon, and Adonijah, each of which met a tragic end. Yet, in spite of these and other trials of faith, he was able to write these comforting words for the afflicted. "Many are the affliction of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth them out of all their troubles." (Psalm 34:19) David trusted the Lord when he went to fight Goliath, and he is still trusting the Lord. Zephaniah writes, "I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD." (Zep. 3:12)

It is easy to trust the Lord when everything is going smoothly but beloved adversity may be just around the corner. God's people get spoiled many times in prosperity and forget from whence come all their blessings. Solomon, the son of David, writes about prosperity and adversity. "In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him." (Eccl. 7:14) If we have the Lord with us, we have everything but alas the scripture says in Jesus' words to Peter, James and John just before He goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:41)

It is difficult for us to think of the trial of faith as something precious (valuable, honored) but that is exactly what Peter said prior to his warning of a fiery trial. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" (I Pet. 1:8) Paul had many more trials than the average believer in Christ, but he knew that neither tribulation, distress, famine, nakedness nor anything else could separate him from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

We build our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. If we build on that foundation the works of wood, hay and stubble, they will be burned in the fiery trial, and we suffer loss. If we build works of gold, silver and precious stones, they will endure the fire and a reward is received. Both these categories of people are God's people but one suffered loss and one received a reward (in this life). (I Cor. 3:10-15) How will we react in the trail of faith. We aren't entirely sure but we would hope and pray we would be faithful in the good times and the not so good. (Elder Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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NOTE: Thanks to all those individuals and churches who send their donations to keep this publication active. Luke told us that Jesus said "It was more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) I don't write thank you notes to every contributor but take this avenue to say thank you!—*Editor*

AND IF THE HOUSE BE WORTHY
By Elder Herman Clark (Deceased)

Some think that every house that is standing on the earth at any given time is worthy of hearing the good news that comes from a far country. The thoughts of the unregenerate are always contrary to the thoughts of God. David said in Psalms 14: 1-3 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." I wonder how many households are like such. If not for the grace of God, all would be as those described in Psalms 14. The fact of the matter is that we all were sometime alienated from God, and were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus we who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

In studying Matthew 10:1-4 we find beginning with verses 5-6 "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of

Israel." If the hearing and obeying of the gospel is a necessity to go to heaven, then here are some people that are cast eternally away. The reason they would be in hell would be that Jesus had instructed the apostles not to go preach to the Gentiles or to the Samaritans. Are we going to charge this to the Lord? God forbid, perish the thought that one would go to everlasting punishment because the Lord would not allow his apostles to preach to them! One that is cast away eternally from God will be rightly so because of their sins. Their sins were not atoned for by the blood of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, our Lord. They will receive exactly what they deserve, and that is everlasting punishment. The thing we ought to remember is that God would have been just if none ever lived in heaven with him in eternity. If there had been only one person that was chosen to live with him, he would still be just and holy in all that he does.

In verse 7 Jesus instructs the apostles with the following words: "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." He said, "As ye go, preach,..." and notice that he gave them the exact message, and their text was the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and they were to build upon that "text" or thought to preach their messages to the people. The desire was for the lost **sheep** (not goats) of the house of Israel to hear the message of the kingdom. Not only was a message given but he told them to do certain things. Verses 8-9 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat." Friends, I am not casting stones, but if I had the power to heal, I would start with my aunt that lives a little over a mile from my house who has lung and liver cancer, and go lay hands on her and heal her from this dreadful disease. Show me a man that has the ability to lay his hands on someone that is sick and heal them and I will carry him to the local Nursing homes, and one particular person there which cannot see or hear and has been at the mercy of men to wait upon her for her every need for many years. I would ask that man to heal her that she might hear, see, and arise and walk from her bed. There is none outside the Son of God that is able to do such miracles since the time of the apostles. If one knows of one or more men that can do these things then send them my way. I will keep them busy. I am sure that those that are on their death beds and their families would be willing to pay them their expenses. Oh, wait a minute what about their gain...pockets filled with filthy lucre. And also let others praise the men, building them up in their pride. I don't think I should hold my breath until this happens.

The title of this article is: *And If The House Be Worthy*. Jesus said in verse 11 "And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy: and there abide till ye go hence." Now the question

might be who does one inquire to name a house that is worthy of the apostles' abiding? What determines this "being worthy?" The word "worthy" has this meaning: "Weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of like value, worth as much."

We read several instances in the scriptures that teach of a man or a woman that was willing to take in a stranger. The first that comes to my mind is that of Elijah as recorded in 1 Kings 17:8-14 "And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth." Here is a woman that had only a very small amount of meal and oil. Yet, she was willing to share the last of her livelihood with this stranger. What was the result? This brings me to the thought of the words of David as recorded in Psalms 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." What a comfort for those that are down to their last slice of bread!

Friends, this woman's house was worthy in that she had compassion and shared with a total stranger. The underlying thing that made her house worthy was the love of God in her heart and trusting in him.....

I can name several times in the scriptures that these things happened and proved the house to be worthy. In Acts 10:22 we read "And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee."

Jesus giving his instructions to the apostles concerning the worthy house, said for them to salute the house and if the house was worthy to let their peace come upon it. These men were not to command the people of the household to wait upon them but to salute it for love's sake. We are to remember that God is watching us with an all seeing eye. Once the household shows the love of God and we are made welcome into their home then we are to say "Peace be unto you." This showed the inhabitants of the house

that the apostles were sincere in their actions as an apostle of God. It is truly the same with each of us today. Jesus said if the house was not worthy, and they closed the door, the apostles were to shake off the dust off their feet. This is to show that they were no more than the dust of the earth and that they cared nothing of the things of God.

In this present day in which we live, I have occasionally opened the door to strangers, and most, within a few minutes of speaking to them I feel peaceful in their presence. The days of leaving our homes with the doors unlocked for visits to the neighbors are no more. Now we have to be extra careful when greeting folks at our front door.

In Matthew 8:5 we read concerning the centurion that was beseeching the Lord saying, "...Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not WORTHY that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Oh, what faith this centurion had in the Lord Jesus Christ. He felt so unworthy to have the Son of God to come into his humble abode. I believe there was a peace in that house and that peace came from God.

I close with the following verses for us to keep in mind. Hebrews 13:1-3 "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Is your house worthy? Do you feel unworthy? I cannot answer these questions, only the reader of this article can do so.

WHICH WORLD

You could talk all night long about him—how great he is, his glory, and all the things he has done—all that is penned down that he has done. All that he did has not been penned down. John said if everything he did had been penned down, the world itself could not contain the books that should have been written. But I differ with some of my brethren on that world "world." I don't believe that John meant that you couldn't stack their books in the universe. I don't believe that. But I believe he meant the world of God's people could not contain all in their hearts that he did if it had been written. So he just left enough on record that we can contain it and retain it, and draw great comfort from it.

Vern Marshall

Sermon Excerpt

(From "*The Christian Pathway*", February, 1986)

"Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." (Ps.139: 4-5)

A FEW GLEANINGS FROM JOB

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

The attitude and language at the end of that book which bears his name is quite different to that of the earlier portions, for though he was a servant of God (Job 1:8) who “feared God and eschewed evil,” and though there was a sense in which he was perfect, yet there was a sense in which he was imperfect for if he had been perfect in all respects he would not have learned the great lessons which were taught him through the severe testing of his faith.

Even in the best of men there is a natural disposition and inclination toward self-righteousness and self-esteem, and as long as a man is either unacquainted with or unmindful of his own insufficiency and corruption he neither can nor will render that measure of praise and honor to God that He is due. It is those who have been humbled and made submissive to the afflictive providences of God through the trial of their faith who are truly the salt of the earth. Job became such a man by being suffered to endure a great fight of affliction.

In chapter one we find him offering burnt-offerings for all his sons lest THEY had sinned. There appears to be no inclination that Job was conscious of any deficiency in himself at this time; no hint of any offerings for his OWN sins. Thus it seems that Job was not as sensible of his own weakness, nothingness, and inability as he needed to be even though he was perfect and upright so far as the sincerity of his heart and the genuineness and reality of his faith toward God was concerned. It seems that he was not yet ready to adopt the language of such men as Paul and acknowledge his wretchedness and confess that in him, that is, in his flesh, dwelleth no good thing.

Prior to his affliction at the hands of Satan Job had been a very influential person in his community (ch. 29) but afterwards he was abhorred and men fled from his presence (ch. 30). He eventually came to lament this temporal loss and to sorely desire that he were as in months past (ch. 29, ver. 1) and he came to feel that God was no longer with him (ver. 2,5). The fact that he refers to himself more than forty times in this chapter while mentioning God only five times clearly demonstrates the state of mind he was in at this time and reflects far more concern for his loss of honor and wealth than for his loss of communion with God.

One lesson we may draw from this and many other references in the scriptures is that the more our hearts are set upon worldly greatness and temporal goods the greater will be our fear of losing them and the greater our sorrow if they are taken away. But on the other hand if God is our all-in-all and if our chief aim and desire is the promotion of His glory and honor then the loss of carnal things will only better equip us to achieve this end and our inability to accumulate secular gain and glory which cause us no great distress.

Our proper place before the Lord is one of meekness and contrition; counting not our lives dear unto ourselves where His glory and honor are at stake; abhorring ourselves so far as our natural depravity is concerned, as Job later came to do (ch. 42: ver.6), and ever being before Him as an empty vessel seeking to be filled from His bountiful storehouse of mercy. May we ever seek to be rid of those deep-seated dregs of self-justification, self-magnification, and self-importance which remain in our hearts, and may we earnestly pray that we might ever be aware of our real relationship to God and be able to view it in its proper perspective even if it means being brought through the fiery furnace of affliction, as was Job, in order that this loathsome dross might be purged out.

Elder Ralph Harris

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, April 1974)

WHO IS IT THAT PREACHES A HARD DOCTRINE

He said, “Do you mean that you don’t believe that you have got to preach the gospel or send the gospel to heathen lands in order for people to be saved and live in heaven?” I said, “No sir, I certainly don’t. God does that work.” And I asked him, “Do you believe if a person is once saved, he is always saved, if you ever get your name in the Lamb’s book of life, that it will never be erased and you will never lose your eternal salvation?” He said, “yes I believe that—once saved always saved.”

I said, “Alright, here I am. God has called me as a minister of the gospel to preach the unsearchable riches of his grace. And suppose he impresses me and burdens me to go into a foreign land to preach the gospel, but I don’t want to follow that impression and I won’t go. I am saved now, and heaven is going to be my home, whether I go or whether I don’t go. But I just don’t go, and since I don’t go, somebody over there that never had the opportunity to hear the gospel—they are innocent in this—and God sends them to hell.” I said, “Who is it that preaches a hard doctrine?”

I said, “Here I am going to heaven in my disobedience, and here is a poor innocent being over there that God is going to send to hell, because in my disobedience I don’t go and preach the gospel to him.”

He said, “You know, I never had thought about it that way.” I said, “Well it’s time you began to think about things like that if you want to understand it.”

Raybon Lord

Sermon Excerpt

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

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way;

Never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.

 (“*ITMS*”, September 2012)

HOW DIFFERENT IS OUR LOT

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

Christ said to the unbelieving Jews, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep." Strong words were those, but very true, and for this the Jews were prepared, again to stone Him (See John 10:26-31). How despicable was their religion—a religion that did not restrain them from seeking to murder the very ones who told the truth—a religion that professed great honor to Moses, and yet left its advocates free to attempt, and if possible, to carry out the destruction of the very One that Moses foreshadowed. How sad when men's religion has no better influence upon them than to leave them among the very worst of men! Such an evil creed can only be an abomination in the sight of a pure and holy God.

The unbelieving Jews, who so proudly proclaimed their own superiority and holiness, could not bear to be told that they were not the children of God. If they had actually believed that Christ was the imposter that they accused Him of being they would have simply ignored His charges against them as the mere ravings of a crazed wretch, but He had shown too many undeniable evidences of His divinity for them to simply dismiss Him. They could not deny that He was more than a mere man, but this had no good effect upon their hard and stony hearts. It did not cause them to fall before Him as in holy awe beseeching His mercies and His forgiveness, but rather, their evil hearts were enflamed and enraged against Him. And again, if He had not removed Himself out of their midst, as He had already done on more than one occasion, they would indeed have stoned Him.

On this occasion Christ spoke some of the sweetest words believers will ever hear. He said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand" (John 10:27-30). O, how blessed are we who have a sweet hope that we are among the sheep of His pasture! How precious it is to have the assurances that this text affords, and, how different is our lot from those who hate God and only "have their portion in this life" (Psa. 17:14).

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", Dec. 2006)

As the doctrine of election and perseverance are comfortable, so they cut off all pretense of boasting and self-dependence when they are truly received in the heart, and, therefore, tend to exalt the Saviour. Of course, they stain the pride of all human glory, and leave us nothing to glory in but the Lord.

John Newton

(From "*The Christian Baptist*", Sept. 1978)

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Many times members of the Primitive Baptist Church are asked for a reason why we don't have Sunday schools in the Church. Any time this question is asked in sincerity it warrants and deserves a sensible answer, and in order to find that answer we must appeal to God's book, the Bible.

We could quote historical dates and prove Sunday schools are relatively new, and in this search can say we find no scripture to warrant such institutions nor even the slightest intimation of such.

Consider the mission of Sunday schools. Although there are classes for all ages, it is primarily to teach the children. Let us hear what the scriptures say. The Apostle said in Eph. 6:4, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Look at that closely. This tells us plainly whose responsibility it is to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The father, the head of the household, is mentioned here. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old; he will not depart from it." There is much training to be done in the home by both parents, both in word and in example. In the process of bringing up children, everyone who looks to the Bible for counsel and guidance will agree that taking the children to church is a major phase of this training. Now, who in the church has the primary responsibility to teach the children? Again, we look to the Bible, and the first scripture that comes to mind is found in 1 Peter 5:1, 2, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but if a ready mind." The ones who are to take the oversight and feed the flock of God are the Elders, and in the realm of overseeing is teaching.

Ephesians 4:11 tells us very distinctly that the pastors are the teachers and the verses following explain the purpose of this teaching. In Acts 20:17 the Apostle had called the elders of the church together. In verse 28 he told them to "take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost had made ye overseers to feed the church of God which he purchased with his own blood."

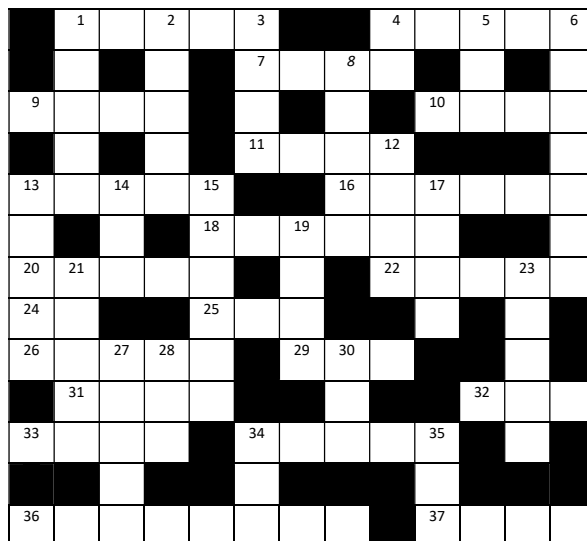
The objection is often made that children must be taught in a special way in order to understand. Surely He who has done all things well (Mark 7:37) would not fail to provide his ministers with this very important ability to teach the children. "Feed my lambs" said the Saviour in John 21:15. To say Sunday schools are necessary in order for children to learn is a sad commentary in the life of a preacher and is to say that he hasn't the ability to teach them. Who is any better qualified to teach children than the pastor as he

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Wide is the gate and ___ is the way to destruction.
4. Stand ___ and see the salvation of the Lord.
7. Direction the wise men came from to Jerusalem.
9. Neither ___ your pearls before swine to be trampled.
10. Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand does in the giving of ___.
11. Prodigal son would ___ have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat.
13. Jude speaks of those who are wandering ___ to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness.
16. A camel can't go through the eye of a ___.
18. Can two walk together except they be ___.
20. Abraham rose ___ in the morning to sacrifice Isaac.
22. ___ and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
24. By the grace of God I ___ what I am.
25. There was no place for Jesus in the ___ at birth.
26. The first bird that Noah sent out after the flood.
29. Gideon wanted ___ on fleece and dry on ground.
31. Awake and ___ ye that dwell in dust. With voice.



(Answers on Page 9)

32. The Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in the very ___ of adultery.
33. God's people are as the ___ of the seashore.
34. Peter speaks of those who are unlearned and unstable who ___ the scriptures to their destruction.
36. He maketh me to lie down in green ___.
37. People sat down to eat and drink, rose up to ___.

DOWN:

1. Satan was more subtil than any ___ of the field.
2. There was an inner court and an ___ temple court.
3. The ears of the ___ shall be unstopped to hear.
4. Abbreviation for street.
5. Love worketh no ___ to his neighbor.
6. The wind bloweth whither it ___ and thou hearest the sound thereof but can't tell whether it goeth.
8. Cast not your pearls before ___ lest they trample,
12. Those whole ___ not a physician but the sick do.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

13. Roman soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a ___.
14. Satan is the prince of the power of the ___.
15. This is a faithful ___ and worthy of acception.
17. Adam and Eve were placed in the garden of ___.
19. ___ your hearts and not your garments. Tear.
21. Absalom made ___ the captain of his host instead of Joab.
23. Before the cock crow ___ thou will deny me thrice.
27. The little foxes spoil the ___ and our vines have tender grapes.
28. Then cometh the ___ when he delivers up the the kingdom to God.
30. A female sheep sometime used for an offering.
34. Abstain from fleshly lusts which ___ against the soul.
35. Moses was to take the blood of a ram and put it on the ___ of the right ear of Aaron and his sons.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Noisy children in church are like "good intentions"; they need to be carried out immediately. Of course they need to be brought back in after correction. (From an Elder Michael Gowens sermon) You've heard the story of the boy who was carried out of church by his dad and before he left, he cried to the people, "You all pray for me!" Remember noisy children in church are much better than old men snoring.—*Editor*

WHEN WE ARE DEAD

There will be honest sorrow; a few will really be sad as we are robbed for the grave. Fewer, probably, than we now suppose. We are vain enough to think that our departure will produce considerable sensation, but we overestimate it. Out of a very small circle, how soon we shall be forgotten! A single leaf in a boundless forest has fallen. That is all.

"The gay will laugh when thou art gone, the solemn brood of cars plod on, and each one as before will share his favoured phantom." The world will go on without us. We may have thought a very important wheel in the great machinery will be ungeared when we are gone, but the world goes clattering on as if nothing had happened. If we filled important stations in society, if we have wondered what could or would be done if we are removed, yet how soon others fill our station. The world can be a bustling, active world without us. It was before we entered it, it will be when we are gone.

When we are dead, affection may erect a monument but the hand that sets it up will soon be as powerless as ours and for the same cause. How soon they that wept over us will follow us! The monument itself will crumble and its dust will fall on the dust that covers us.

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CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecru, 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 which is usually fish and all the fixings. Sunday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Charles Kitchens, Jasper, AL is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

The Tombigbee Fellowship Meeting (formerly Tombigbee Association) will be held with Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, near Caledonia, MS the 3rd weekend in September, 2023 with services on Saturday, Sept. 16, beginning at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Elder Joe Nettles is Pastor of Sulphur Springs.

Friendship Primitive Baptist Church in Winona, MS will have its annual meeting the 4th weekend in September, 2023 (Sept. 23-24) Services Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 am with lunch. This is an open meeting. Elder B. T. Strum is Pastor of Friendship Church.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at James Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Stateline Rd, Tremont, MS the 3rd weekend in October, 2023 (Oct. 13-15). Services Fri. night, Oct. 13, at 7:00 pm with Elders Steve Weaver and Jerry Wise preaching. Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10:00 am with Elders Larry Wise and Kenneth Watts preaching. Lunch served at noon followed by afternoon services with Morgan Sims and Elder Charles Kitchens preaching. Sunday, Oct. 16, at 10:30 am followed by lunch.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting of Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church near Ackerman, MS the 2nd weekend in November, 2023 (Nov. 11-12). Services Saturday at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday services at 10:00 am with Communion and then lunch. Elder Bryce Lowrance, Hope, GA and Elder Neil Honea, Elrod, AL are invited ministers. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Macedonia.

The Six Mile Creek Primitive Baptist Church, east of Caulksville, AR on Hwy 22, will host the Salem Association 2nd Sunday weekend in September, (Sept.8-9-10). The meeting will begin with services at 10:00 am on Friday morning, before the 2nd Sunday weekend in September 2023, It will continue all day Friday and Saturday and conclude Sunday morning. Meals will be served. Elder Mark Green is Pastor of Six Mile Creek.

“Earnestly contend for “the faith” wrote Jude.

CHURCH NEWS

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for **the faith** of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.” (Philippians 1:27-28) The Bible teaches that united we stand but divided we fall. May we all strive “together” for “the faith” of the gospel. Don’t be a casualty among those who may depart from “the faith” in these last time before the second coming of Jesus Christ.—*Editor*

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5)

teaches under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the parents in the institution of the home.

We realize our children are many times misunderstood for the absence of Sunday school in their church. It has been our observation, however, that those brought up under the teachings of God-called ministers have a far greater foundation and understanding of the doctrine that brings peace of mind and gives glory to the Father than those brought up under Sunday school teachers uninspired of the Lord (and in many cases women). The scriptures reveal plainly that women are forbidden to teach from this standpoint. 1 Timothy 2:12, “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” However, we do find in the scriptures the responsibility of the women and how they are to teach. Titus 2:2, “The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; (v.4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (v. 5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” Please read all of chapter two.

We realize there are many other auxiliaries in the denominations of the world, however, we must understand why the church cannot have them. She simply has no scriptural authority for them and God’s way is best.

(Elder) Billy Walden

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, August 1970)

WHEN WE ARE DEAD

(Continued from Page 6)

If the marble or the granite long endures, yet the eyes of affection will not endure to read the graven letters. Men will give a hasty glance at the name of the one they never knew and pass on with not a thought of the slumberer below. “On my mossy grave, the men of future time will careless tread; and read my name upon the sculptured stone, nor will the sound familiar to their ears recall my vanished memory.”

Anonymous

(From “*The Christian Baptist*”, Sept, 1978)

THOUGHTS ON ETERNAL SECURITY

By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, Tennessee

John 10:27-29, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

There is an old saying, "Never say 'never'; never is a mighty long time." And I have noticed that when anyone says "I will never do thus and so," about as often as not they finally get around to doing it. It is my opinion that usually when folks make that statement, they are trying harder to convince themselves than they are to convince you. But when God says, "Never," he means NEVER. And when God says I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, you can be sure that none of those to whom he has given eternal life will ever perish. They are safe and secure in him.

SAFE IN HIS HAND

John 10:29, "My father which gave them me is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

Did you ever try to take anything away from anybody when they had it clutched in their hand. You mothers, I am sure that there have been times that you had to take things away from the children. Perhaps one of them had a marble in his hand. Now a marble is harmless enough, but you know that if he held that marble long enough, after awhile he would try to swallow it. So you had to take it away.

It is not easy to take a marble away from a child—if he has it clutched firmly in his hand. You can do it, but there is one thing necessary. You have got to be bigger and stronger than he is. And you can be sure that if anyone ever plucks one of the Lord's little ones out of his hand, it will have to be somebody bigger and stronger than he.

NOT A HARD DOCTRINE

Somehow some folks have gotten the idea that the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is a hard doctrine. There were those who believed that, when the Lord

was here preaching that same doctrine. In John, chapter six, the Lord had preached a beautiful sermon on sovereignty, and some of those who were there said, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it."

The doctrine of salvation by the sovereign grace of God is the sweetest, the most comforting, the most soul-cheering report that has ever entertained the minds of poor mortals of Adam's race. But I will tell you what is hard doctrine. That doctrine that says that a person may be saved, and for thirty or forty years he does his best to serve the Lord and to please the Lord: for thirty or forty years he expects that when he dies he is going to live with God and with all the family of God in heaven, and then in the last years, or even the last weeks of his life he may sin and lose it all; that after all the fond anticipation of seeing the face of His maker in the Glory World, he spends eternity, instead, in the flames of eternal damnation, that is hard doctrine. That is cruel doctrine.

WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING

Suppose a man is out in the lake in a tiny boat, and a storm comes up and his boat sinks. Now he is out in the water; the wind is up, and those big waves keep going over his head. He is half conscious and half drowned. He is ready to go down for the last time.

About this time two men come along in the biggest cabin cruiser you ever saw. They feel that they have to do the decent thing, so they turn their boat and go over to where he is bobbing up and down in the water. One of them throws him a life preserver and watches to see if he will take hold of it. Drowning men will grab at anything in their reach, so he grabs for the ring. As soon as he gets his hand on the ring and manages to work his arm through it and get it under his arm, one of the men says, "He's got it, he is going to be alright." His buddy agrees, so they turn their boat and go speeding on across the lake.

Let me ask you. Do you think that when folks hear about that, that they might have some hard things to say about those two men in the boat. Do you think that people will wonder why they did not fish the man out of the water and carry him safe to shore?

I am sure that I would have some mean things to say about those two men, and I have to think that you might. But I hear preachers saying that is the way God saves people for heaven. To hear some folks tell it, God just throws the sinner a life preserver, and says, "Hang on, fellow. I will be back in thirty or forty years to see how you have made out."

But that is not the way God saves people. You are not saved unless you are safe. That poor man bobbing up and down in the water is not safe, and you are not safe, if you are constantly in danger of eternal damnation. God does not just throw a life preserver; he carries his redeemed all the way to the other shore. "I redeemed thee, and bare thee, and carried thee all the days of old."

(From "The Christian Pathway", May, 1987)

WICKEDNESS IN ALL AGES

By Elder John R. Daily (Deceased)

In the anti-deluvian period (space of time before the flood in Noah's day) when "the end of all flesh came before the God of heaven, He declared that the earth was "filled with violence through them" (Gen. 6:13). He "saw the wickedness of man that was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). After the waters of the great flood was abated the Lord smelled a sweet savor. One might suppose that the human race had been purified to a great extent by the destruction of the violently wicked and the preservation of Noah's pious family. Not so: for though the Lord promised never to bring such a calamity upon his creatures again, he still declared that the "imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21). Some seven centuries later David was inspired to write, "The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand and seek God." The startling announcement was made, "They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no not one" (Psa. 14:2-3). Observe that it is not only said that they are all together filthy, but *all together* have become so.

It may be insisted that this was said of mankind when they were under the dispensation of types and shadows, but an improvement has been made under the light of the enlightenment of the gospel. Let those who think so read Paul's description given in the third chapter of Romans. But it may be said that this was true at the beginning of this glorious dispensation, but with the spread of the gospel, and through the united efforts of Christians, the world has become better and better. In reply we say that this contradicts the prediction of inspiration: "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." The fulfillment of this is observable in our day. Instead of matters taking a more favorable turn, wicked men grow more cruel and malicious. Crimes black and dreadful are being committed in the very midst of the most refined civilization.

The awful stream of corruption has broadened in its onward course. Gambling in multiplied forms is practiced even by persons of religious pretensions, while the law, if it does not openly *sanction*, makes no provision for its *arrest*. Political corruption pervades all parties to such an extent that truly upright men can scarcely ever attain positions of official trust and honor. The manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks is publicly carried on under the sanction of pretended free government. Such is the power of money that crimes committed by the very poor are much more likely to be punished than the same crimes committed by the very rich. Wickedness rages in high places at a fearful degree, and in the low levels of vice robbery and murder walk hand in hand.

In the midst of the flood of guilt, pride lifts up her unabashed head, and with bold effrontery laughs in the very face of God. Appeals are unheeded and warnings are laughed to scorn as downward rolls the current of humanity to inevitable ruin and everlasting despair. This is a very dark picture but it is not overdrawn. All would be carried into the fathomless abyss of ruin were not for the grace of God. From the whirling current none could escape if all were left to themselves.

What a mercy it is then, that a just and holy God chooses, redeems, calls, justifies, and finally glorifies His own, an innumerable multitude "out of every kindred, and nation" (Rev. 5:9). While the whole world lies in wickedness, the world of unregenerate sinners, should we not praise His dear name that he has chosen and called us out of the world? There was no more reason in us than in others why He should have dealt with us, for it is all of His sovereign grace. It is sufficient to save the vilest, for the efficacy of the blood of the atonement is such that it can remove the foulest stain. The omnipotent arm of Jehovah reaches down and lifts up from the sink of pollution His elect people. Oh! that we could proclaim with power His glorious in the hearing of a dying world and to the lasting comfort of the Lord's redeemed family! Let the coming years be noted for the spread of these glorious truths. May the sweet voice of the blessed Bridegroom sound in the hearing of His bride below, saying, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."—**Elder John R. Daily**, *Zion's advocate*, 1900.

(From "Advocate and Messenger", Nov. 2006)

ANSWERS**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE***(Read right to Left)***ACROSS:**

1. daorb
4. llits
7. tsae
9. tsac
10. smla
11. niaf
13. srats
16. eldeen
18. deerga
20. ylrae
22. htaed
24. ma
25. nni
26. nevar
29. wed
31. gnis
32. tca
33. dnas
34. tserw
36. serutsap
37. yalp

DOWN:

1. tsaeb
2. retuo
3. faed
4. ts
5. lli
6. htetsil
8. eniws
12. deen
13. raeps
14. ria
15. gniyas
17. nede
19. dner
21. asama
23. eciwt
27. seniv
28. dne
30. ewe
34. raw
35. pit

WILL AMERICA GO LIKE ROME?

The classic book on the fall of Rome was written by Gibbons. Notice his reasons for the decline and fall of Rome:

- Excessive spending by the central government.
- Unwillingness of young men to bear arms in defense of their country.
- Overindulgence in luxury.
- Widespread immorality which destroyed the integrity of the family (including homosexuality).
- The spread of gender confusion—(women) looking and acting like men, and men looking and acting like (women).
- Disregard of religion.

Gibbons is not alone with his evaluation. Rome was not defeated by battle. Rome collapsed from within. Their **hedonistic, selfish, proud, immoral, dishonest, crude** empire fell internally. No one can even date the fall of Rome. Those who do not study history and respect history will make the same mistakes of history. When will fallen man ever learn? Will America go like Rome?

We stand drowning in debt, spending more and more. Our boys are not patriotic. We greedily clamor for more, more, more! "Meism" rules. Immorality abounds. Fornication is not really a sin to modern [thinking people]. The family is under attack. Religion is pulled down and laughed at.

Let's ask again. Will America go like Rome? Our earnest prayer is that it will not.

(Selected, via Independent Baptist Voice, July/August 1995) and from "The Christina Baptist", March/April 2001)

I am sure you have read this before and it has appeared in this newsletter before but it is still a relevant question, I believe.—*Editor*

VANITY

Tennis star Boris Becker was at the very top of the tennis world -- yet he was on the brink of suicide. He said, "I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed ... It's the old song of movie stars and pop stars who commit suicide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string."

Becker is not the only one to feel that sense of emptiness. The echoes of a hollow life pervade our culture. One doesn't have to read many contemporary biographies to find the same frustration and disappointment. Jack Higgins, author of such successful novels and *The Eagle Has Landed*, was asked what he would like to have known as a boy. His answer: "That when you get to the top, there's nothing there." Our Daily Bread, July 9, 1994.

GOD LOOKED

You can tell a lot about people by the look of their countenance. They may look happy; they may look sad; they may look angry or any other emotional display. You can't see God to see how He looks because He is invisible. Even though you can't see how God looks, you can see in the scripture how He looks at humanity and His people. God made man upright and sinless; then sin entered by Adam and proliferated so much that the Bible says, "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." (Gen. 6:12) God told Noah the end of all flesh had come and Noah built an ark and all men perished with the exception of Noah and his family when it rained for forty days and nights.

God had taken a look from the ancients of eternity before the first man was created and He found man in a despicable condition due to sin. "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God." (Psalm 53:2) God did not look before the world began and see who would believe and accept Him but rather He saw them completely dead in sin and incapable of choosing anything spiritually good. In spite of this look, God chose a multitude out of every nation and kindred to be His bride and gave them to His Son to save. Praise God that He looked on His people with everlasting love and mercy.

We read in the 16th chapter of Ezekiel of Jerusalem pictured as an infant cast out in the open field and none had pity or compassion to salt or swaddle it in this polluted condition. Then we read that the Lord looked and saw, "And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live." (Ezek. 16:6) Ezekiel goes on to say that when God looked and saw this condition of Jerusalem (His people) and it was a time of love.

Peter vowed he would never deny the Lord but Jesus told him he would deny Him thrice before the cock crowed. Peter followed Jesus to the inquisition and sure enough He said he knew not Jesus three times and the last one was with a curse. Then Jesus turned and looked on Peter. "And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." (Luke 22:61) That look of Jesus convicted Peter and he went out and wept bitter tears.

If God and His only begotten Son has looked on us with such love, compassion and pity, should not we as recipients of His love and mercy do as the scripture says in running our race in life? "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2) The answer is obvious!—*Editor*

EARTHEN VESSELS

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

2 Corinthians 4:7: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

The Apostle to the church at Corinth in his second letter addresses the subject of earthen vessels. It means the natural body of a human being. To be more precise it is referring to the fleshly bodies of the apostles, the earthen vessels that made up the body, soul and spirit of the ministers of the gospel. Within those vessels there was a treasure that was bestowed upon them by their calling to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel and the Kingdom are referred to as a treasure Matt 13:45-46. Those ministers who had preached at Corinth to establish the church there was a part of the treasure God had given them. Paul mentioned this in the sixth verse of this same chapter of 2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." What they preached was Jesus Christ, the face of the glory of God. This was the light that shines out of darkness in those earthen vessels. No glory to these ministers, for they would have no light unless God had given it to them.

There were false ministers that had disturbed the peace of the church at Corinth that attempted to paint the true ministers of God as false prophets. They criticized the way that they looked, saying that Paul was plain looking and not that good of a speaker 2 Corinthians 10:10. Paul answers in so many words by saying "Don't judge a book by its cover." We may not be much to look at but God has given us the treasure of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Man does not, judge inwardly as God does, but outwardly. Just as the people would judge King Saul as a good king because he was tall and handsome. They were wrong of course, and God removed him and gave it to David a man after his own heart. Yet he was originally looked upon as a youth ruddy in countenance and didn't look like he could defeat the veteran warrior Goliath, but the giant he did lay low, and then led the people as king for forty years.

We read in the New Testament scriptures how God took earthen vessels and called them to the ministry. Giving extraordinary capabilities to perform miracles;

Miracles like giving the lame man the ability to walk that day at the entrance of the temple. He was born that way; no doctor could cure his infirmity. Yet Peter and John came to him, and seeing his condition, gave him the only thing they had, the power for him to walk upon his own two feet for the first time in his whole Life. Acts 3. We read of others that were raised from the dead. Evil Spirits driven out of their earthen vessels to trouble them no more. When these miracles were performed out of the Apostle earthen Vessels, everyone could see it was not the vessels that were doing it. It was God working through those vessels, and it brought glory and honor to God. Paul would later tell the church that these false prophets were belittling their ministry. Were they doing any kind of these miracles to help the church brethren? If they were true ministers why hadn't the church seen more of these miracles from these people. Open your eyes and look about he would say. The evidence is everywhere pointing out the sincere ministers of Jesus Christ

As I close this article my mind races back over the years of the old ministers that have stood before us in their earthen vessels. They came in all shapes and sizes. Some were well known and some were just known locally. It didn't matter for God gave them all a treasure in preaching the gospel to us. Some were farmers, carpenters, store owners, jewelers, judges, lawyers, managers and factory workers. Some had infirmities; some could speak with a big voice and some spoke with a gentle voice. The one thing that they all had in common was a treasure in earthen vessels. We are the richer because of them sharing their preaching gifts with us. Let us take our earthen vessels and dedicate it to the glory of God!
May God bless you.

R L Taylor

What was it he offered, or what was the sacrifice? Not slain beasts; their blood could not take away sin; it was not their blood he shed; but it was his own, with which he entered into the holy place; it was his flesh he gave for the life of the world, of his chosen ones; it was his body which was offered up once for all; and it was his soul that was made an offering for sin; and all as in union with his divine Person; and therefore said to be himself which was the sacrifice. Strictly speaking, it was his human nature which was the sacrifice; the divine nature was the altar on which it was offered, which sanctified the gift or offering, and gave it a virtue and efficacy to atone for sin; it was through the eternal Spirit he offered up himself.

(John Gill, Body of Divinity, Chapter XI)

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