

Glad Tidings

November

"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

We are seeing an ever-increasing irreverence to God and His Son Jesus Christ. It seems that some would prefer to reverence any man or woman rather than the Creator. Some religious leaders have taken on the title of "reverend" holding themselves up for reverence instead of the One they profess to proclaim. The word "reverend" is only used one time in the Bible, and it refers to God and not man. "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." (Psalm 111:9)

God is the One who sent redemption to His people in the only Begotten Son of God. He is Holy (sacred) in every aspect and sinful men surely are not. The words reverence and reverend in the Old Testament are translated from the same Hebrew word which means to "fear and revere" while in the New Testament reverence is from a Greek word which means primarily to respect. The comedian Rodney Dangerfield was known for his monologue on the theme "I get no respect." Well, this theme is certainly true today with regard to God and His Son. When men and women flaunt their sins in open rebellion against what the scriptures teach; the conclusion is obvious (or should be) to every believer. The Holy God is held in derision and gets no reverence or respect in many aspects of today's culture.

Jesus overthrew the tables of the moneychangers in the temple and drove them out saying, "...It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:13) The house of prayer that should have been held in respect was made a house of merchandise and thieves. This was robbing God of His respect and reverence. The Psalmist makes it clear what should happen in the sanctuary where believers are assembled. "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." (Psalm 89:7)

The house of God is not one of entertainment but one where the church (His people) worship Him in Spirit and in truth. We are told early on that Israel was to keep His sabbaths and reverence His sanctuary. (Lev. 19:30) God cannot be praised and revered when His commandments are ignored, and men make their own rules. "Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders." (Psalm 107:22) The focus is on God, not man.

Wicked Haman coveted to have reverence of men who would bow down to him at the king's instruction. When Mordecai refused to bow down and reverence him, he was furious and made plans to get rid of him. But God turned the tables on him, and he was hung on the same gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Men may scoff at God and hold Him in disdain, but God always has the last word. (Esther 3:5)

We are commanded to honor our father and mother which was the first commandment with promise. God deserves the same and more of that honor because He has done something for us that our fathers and mothers could not do. He has sent redemption to us to save us from our sins; Holy and reverend is His name. Hebrews 12:9 tells us, "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" (Heb. 12:9) Jesus submitted Himself to His Heavenly Father to do His will and since He is our example, we are to do the same by God-given faith.

We show respect and reverence to God when we honor father and mother by being obedient. Yet we are told that one of the signs of the last of the last days would be "disobedience to parents". The teachers in our school systems find this out the hard way and much of the blame lies with parents who have not submitted themselves to honor God by bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Those parents who are trying to do right by their child are being undermined by court decisions that give as much or more rights to the children as the parents.

Jesus is our husband, prophet, priest, and King; He is to be held in reverence. The church is the bride of Christ, and she is to reverence her husband. The scripture tells us that a man is to leave father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall be one flesh. The analogy refers to Christ and the church. Then reference is made to the natural relationship of husband and wife. "Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." (Eph. 5:33) The bride is to respect, honor and reverence her husband in all things that doesn't violate the word of God. Finally, we remind all that God is the ultimate one to fear and honor. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." (Heb.12:28) (Elder Larry Wise)

**'GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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SALVATION BEFORE FAITH

---October 30, 1906

ELDER C. H. Cayce: Dear Brother-Which is first-salvation or faith? I ask this so you can answer through THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST, as I want to show it to those who say "faith precedes salvation." I write like I know you see it as I do-that a child must be born first, which is life, and life is salvation, and it is to the living that God gives gifts, and faith, I think, is a gift. If I am wrong and you see differently, I hope you can make it plain to me. May the good Lord help and bless you and yours in all things, is the prayer of a poor, unworthy sister, Rocheport, Mo., R. 2. MRS. ROBT. ALEXANDER.

OUR REPLY:

We most assuredly think you are correct in saying salvation precedes faith. If faith is used in the sense of belief, then it is a mental act, an act of the mind. The unregenerate man is in possession of a carnal mind, and the carnal mind is enmity against God. He is not in possession of a spiritual mind, or the mind of Christ. For one to be in possession of a natural mind, or carnal mind, he must necessarily be in possession of the natural life. Then no act produced in or by the natural or carnal mind can be in order to the receiving of natural life, but proceeds from that life. No stream can possibly rise higher than the fountain head, and no effect can be higher than the source from whence it comes. Then a belief or faith produced in or by the carnal mind can be no higher than the mind, the source from whence it springs. The mind can produce nothing above itself. Then in order that one have true spiritual faith or belief he must first have the spiritual life-he must first possess a spiritual mind.

We learn from (Galatians 5:22) that faith is a fruit of the Spirit. Anyone can understand that in nature the vine produces the fruit. The grape is an evidence that the vine existed first. The first grape sprang from the first vine. It is the vine that produces the grape. This is true with reference to every kind of natural fruit. The tree or vine produces the fruit. Hence the tree or vine must necessarily exist first. One must first possess the tree in order to produce the fruit. So one must possess the Spirit in order to produce faith, which is a fruit of the Spirit. If one is in possession of the Spirit he is already a child of God, is already in possession of eternal life, has already been born of God. In (Romans 8:9) the apostle says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Every proposition has two sides to it- an affirmative and a negative. In this proposition the apostle affirms the negative side of the question, and the other side of it must, of necessity, be "if any man have the Spirit of Christ, he is one of His." As it is true that one must have the Spirit in order to produce the fruit of the Spirit, it follows that one must be Christ's in order to have faith. This means that he must be Christ's in the sense of regeneration- in possession of the Spirit of Christ.

(I John 5:1) says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." This is the King James translation. When we see one who is a true believer in Jesus we know that one is born of God. How do we know it? We know it from the fact that the belief is the fruit and the evidence of the birth. Being the fruit and the evidence of the birth it cannot possibly precede the birth. The Interlinear or literal translation of this passage reads, "Every one that believes that Jesus is the Christ, of God has been begotten." To translate the words so they would read easier in the English we have it this way, "Every one that believes that Jesus is the Christ, has been begotten of God," or "has been born of God." The word is correctly translated "has been born" as well as "has been begotten," for it means the same. Then the one who truly believes in Jesus has been born of God. The birth is first.

(John 1:11-13) says, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." We are told here that those who believe on Him were born of God. The birth preceded the belief, and their believing was an evidence that they were born of God. Those who believed had been born of God. Eternal life is given first, and faith follows after, and is an evidence of the previous existence of life. These are only a few of the reasons which might be given and evidences that might be produced showing that eternal salvation or eternal life precedes true faith in Jesus, but we deem these to be sufficient. May the Lord bless these remarks to the good of every reader. C. H. C

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

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
A Glimpse Of His Glory**



By Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)

The Lord's disciples must have been stunned from the revelation of Christ that He would be put to death and rise again, (Mark 8:31). On the heels of that stunning statement, Jesus called His followers to a life of total commitment. They had left every aspect of life as they knew it to follow Him. Jesus tells them that following Him is a costly business. He has given them the difficult side of being His follower.

As soon as Jesus tells His men that He is going to die, and as soon as He calls them to a life of total surrender; Jesus tells the assembled multitude that some of their number will actually see the kingdom of God coming in power before they die. He softens the blow of His earlier words with the promise that His followers will enjoy His glory in the near future (Mark 9:1). This precious passage in Mark 9:1 gives us a little glimpse of the glory we will see while we live here from time to time. He is taking the opportunity to encourage His discouraged and confused disciples.

First, let us look at the **blessings** that can be found in the account of our Lord's transfiguration (Mark 9:2). This passage opens with the mention of a mountain. We are not told what mountain it is, but most scholars believe that it is Mount Hermon. This mountain rises some 9,200 feet above sea level. It is some twelve miles north of Caesarea-Philippi, and is near the place Jesus has been ministering. Mountains occupy a special place in the Word of God.

It was on a mountain called Moriah that God manifested His grace to Abraham when he willingly would have offered up his son Isaac, Geneses 22. It was on Mount Sinai that God handed down His Law to Moses, Exodus 19:3.

It was on Mount Carmel that God demonstrated His power to Israel through Elijah, 1 Kings 18.

It was on Mount Horeb that God ministered peace to the troubled heart of Elijah, 1 Kings 19.

It was on Mount Calvary that Jesus died for our sins on the cross, John 19.

It was from the Mount of Olives that Jesus ascended back into His heavenly glory, Acts 1:9-11.

Mountains occupy a special place in our own lives as well. The Lord sets aside a few mountain top experiences along the way for you and me. We have

our valleys, our hardships, our sufferings, our sicknesses and our problems; but I praise God for the mountain tops of life. I am glad there are a few places along the way where we are allowed to see His glory and His power! We should all praise the Lord for those times when He has led us into a **"high mountain"**.

Every now and then we are blessed with a mountain top experience. We ought to enjoy them for all they are worth! When Jesus and His men came down from the mountain, they ran directly into the devil and his work, Mark 9:14-29. But, these men who were with Jesus on the mountain never got over what they experienced there, 2 Pet. 1:16-18, **"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount."**

We should thank Him for the times we are allowed to spend on the mountains of joy and comfort with the Spirit of God. May it be often! **"Think About It"**.

ALL SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE

Some Primitive Baptists seem to feel that only the fundamental principles of the Bible are of importance to be taught (preached). The apostles taught that "all scripture is profitable." If all be profitable, surely it should be taught. Which is of most importance to teach our children, how they came to have a being, life, etc., or to teach them how they should live so as to have the confidence, respect and esteem of their fellowman? Sometimes I feel that in view of the fact that God's work is going to be carried on to a successful and satisfactory end by Himself, and "none can hinder Him", and in view of the fact that the church's growth and prosperity depends so much on the way and manner in which His little children live among themselves, that it is of very importance that they be taught as His word doth direct, how they should live in humble and faithful obedience to His holy commandments, not in order to redeem themselves (Jesus redeemed them), not to save themselves from sin, for Jesus was born to that end; not in order that they might be regenerated, for that is the Holy Spirit's function, but in order that they, His little children, show forth the praises of Him who hath called them to glory and virtue, and further teach them in order that they may understand to "come boldly unto the throne of grace that they may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need," as in Hebrews 4:16.

Z. Stallings (Elder)

(From "The Messenger of Zion", Nov. 15 1934)

GOOD WORKS

Elder J. Harvey Daily (deceased)

Because we believe in unconditional personal election of grace, and that nothing done by the creature can have anything to do with our eternal happiness, it is often told that we do not believe in good works. We do believe in good works, but only such as set apart by the Scriptures. The religious duties found written in the Scriptures are for believers who love God. "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

They who are saved by grace are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). So it is only they who are saved by grace that can do the good works which God has ordained, or set apart, which are spiritual and religious works. These good works are not to bring about regeneration or the new birth, but to show our faith and receive the blessings promised in obedience.

By obeying His commandments, we give evidence to the sincerity of our profession. But "in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). Any doctrine or practice not found in the Scriptures gives honour to men—obeying men rather than God. To unite with any religious institution of men, instead of the true church of Christ, is serving and obeying men rather than God.

Inasmuch as "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17), no one has the authority or right to add one thing to "thus saith the Lord," and you may be assured that just as certain as something not in harmony with God's word is advocated, either in doctrine or practice, just that certain will confusion and unrest follow. In most instances a division is the result. Let us not lay down the principles of truth in order to build our churches in numbers.

The Saviour said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). If we hold fast the doctrine and practice and continue in charity or Christian love, He will let us keep it. But just as surely as we become dissatisfied with the traditions of Christ and His disciples and try to improve on it by the traditions of men, the kingdom will be taken away from us. The doctrine and practice set forth in the Scriptures of inspiration is all that will have the approval and blessings of God.

(From *Advocate and Messenger*, June 1958)

(In *The Primitive Baptist/The Christian Pathway/Gospel Appeal*, March 2021)

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)" Heb.10:23

THE TEN LEPERS

By Elder Eddie K Garrett (Deceased)

"And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 12:17-18)

There are many beautiful lessons taught in this historical account of our Lord healing ten lepers. Let us notice a few of them.

HEALING FIRST: THEN RECOGNITION

Notice that the ten lepers were all cleansed of their leprosy and one WHEN HE SAW that he was cleansed turned back. He came to possess intellectual knowledge of the fact that he was cleansed. This knowledge brought great joy to him. It did not have anything to do with his healing but it did have something to do with his joy.

This is what the preaching of the gospel does when believed. It brings hope that we may be in that great number that Christ died for on the cross. The Bible tells us in 2 Tim. 1:10 that the gospel brings life and immortality to light. It does not give life but brings it to light. It also makes us WISE unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15). It does not give eternal salvation but makes us wise unto the fact that we might have it. And because of this we experience a SAVING in the gospel. It is a deliverance from the burden of eternal condemnation.

Regardless of recognition however, this leper was cleansed as well as the other nine. ALL of God's elect ones shall be cleansed in the sense of regeneration. "All the Father giveth me shall come to me" (John 6:37). That is, they come in regeneration. Also the Bible says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27). The meaning here is: my elect ones hear my voice (not the preachers) and he KNOWS them (regard them with favour) and they follow him in the sense of regeneration. There are no if's, and's or but's about it: They do follow him irresistibly. Just as the bodies will obey HIS VOICE in the resurrection, so it is here. This FOLLOWING cannot refer to practical obedience for not all of God's children follow him in this sense.

Notice that the leper TURNED BACK. This brings in the thought of REPENTANCE. Repentance is like water baptism, it is not "in order to" life, but is "because of" life". The natural man does not repent, but the born again man is able. See 1 Cor. 2:14.

THE OTHER LINE

Despite the fact that only one returned to give the Lord thanks; does not change the fact that they all were cleansed. So it is with the elect family of God. I do not believe that the Lord gave back the leprosy to the nine because of their ingratitude. This is the doctrine of many other religious orders, but we simply have a better doctrine than they. The Lord is not an "Indian giver" as many would imply. But there are advantages in repentance.

MORE THAN ONE CLEANSING

I ask the reader of this article to read Leviticus 14 and see that in the law of the cleansing of the leper that there are two cleansings. The one is an INTERNAL cleansing and the other an OUTWARD cleansing. The inward cleansing is by the POWER of God alone and answers to regeneration. The outward cleansing is based upon the obedience of the leper and answers to repentance, baptism, etc. Unless the regenerated child of God cleanses the outside he is not to be received into the gospel church. Again I ask the reader to read Leviticus 14 and also Luke 5:12-14. I ask the reader also to compare the two FORS of Luke 5:14 and Acts 2:38. The word "for" in these two passages carries the meaning "because of" rather than "in order to" as some other orders believe.

In all this we should be able to see the sovereign grace of God. How sad it is that so many of the Lord's little ones have been blinded to the fact of GRACE. May God grant to us who have come to realize that salvation is by grace; power to live our lives in love and gratitude to him.

Elder Eddie K. Garrett
Middletown, Ohio

(From "The Christian Baptist", August 1970)

If any man will be my disciple, let him take up his cross and follow me. It is God that worketh in us both to will, and He gives us the ability to perform. If the Lord has thus wrought in the hearts of His children, they should lovingly and faithfully follow him. Nothing should be so important to us as serving him who has done so much for us. He is such a precious loving friend that never leaves or forsakes us. L. H.

It is good to trust the Lord. He is merciful, good, powerful, and no good thing will he withhold from those that love and obey Him. He is mighty to save, and His little ones are kept in the hollow of His hand. And it makes no difference how weak, or poor they are, there are none who can pluck them out of the Father's hand. By the power of God are they kept, sustained, upheld, and His Spirit strengtheneth them. This being true, how could we put our trust in any other? Yes, it is good to trust the Lord. J. L. C.

(From "The Gospel Messenger", August 1920)

A THREE-LEGGED STOOL

They say that Primitive Baptists are right where Christ left them over eighteen hundred years ago, but that is a mistake, for Christ said He would never forsake them. They say we are on the stool of do-nothing; if so, it is a three-legged stool, supported by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, in the work of their salvation, while they, the accusers of our brethren, have but one leg to their stool, the leg of their own works; it keeps them all the time busy keeping it from falling over, and they cannot sit still.

The church says she sat down under His shadow and His fruit was sweet to her taste. Moses commanded the children of Israel to stand still and see the salvation of God. David said the Lord commanded or made him to lie down in green pastures beside the still waters. God also commands His people to be still. But the poor Arminian has not faith enough to be still.

The enemies of the church say that it is ridiculous to suppose that God would leave His cause in the hand of a few ignorant Primitive Baptists. That is the truth; He holds His people and cause in His *own* hands, and controls both His cause and His people. I suppose Noah's doctrine was contemptible in the eyes of those progressive ones, who made light of him in his day. But he was by faith moved with fear and built an ark to the (timely) saving of his house.

W. Lively

Primitive Monitor, 1890

(From "Advocate and Messenger", April 1981)

HARDSHELL BAPTISTS

The enemies of the church gave her the name "Hardshell" more in derision than anything else, but I have never objected very much to being called by that title. I feel quite in agreement with Brother W. Lively (author above) who, in an 1890 issue of *Primitive Monitor*, said, "I think as to the name 'Hardshell', I would rather be a 'Hardshell' than no shell at all. I would rather be in the 'Hardshell' church than in no church at all.

"When we call to remembrance that a 'hardshell' egg hatches something that can fly, and that a 'softshell' egg hatches lizards, scorpions, snakes, frogs, and terrapins, I still think I would rather be a 'Hardshell' than a 'Softshell'."

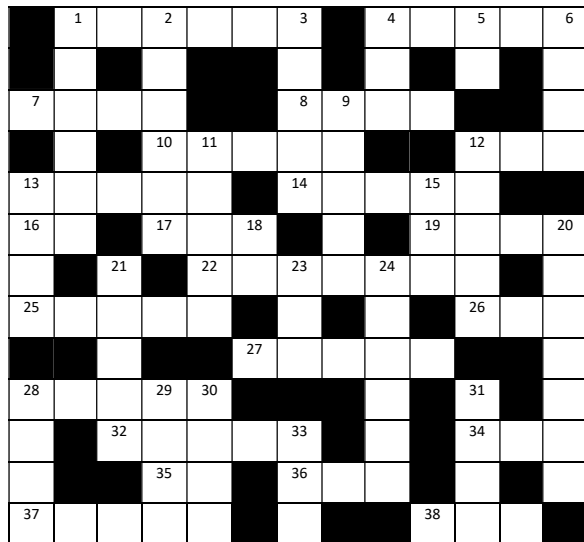
If the term "Hardshell" means someone who stands firm upon the principles upon which the Church was established and does not intend to change those fundamentals to suit the changing tide of public opinion, and if it means one who believes in the maintenance of strict discipline in the Church, even if it means the censure of myself or my kin, then I gladly admit to being a Hardshell, and will that all others of God's people were also. EDITOR (Elder Ralph Harris)

(From "Advocate and Messenger", April 1981)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Waters of Marah couldn't be drunk; they were ____.
4. The Lord has his way in the whirlwind and in the ____.
7. The poison of ____ is under their lips. Serpents.
8. Dogs would lick the blood of this wicked king.
10. Number of times Moses struck rock to disobey God.
12. Place where lions were kept where Daniel was cast.
13. Jesus was made a little ____ than the angels for the suffering of death. Not upper.
14. Name of handmaid Sarah gave to Abraham.
16. Isaiah saw the Lord high and lifted ____ in the year that king Uzziah died.
17. Eve gave Adam the forbidden fruit and he ____ eat.
19. Wages of sin is death but ____ of God is eternal life.
22. I have ____ the winepress alone. To walk and tread.
25. Moses made a ____ of shittim wood for the ark.
26. Joseph's brothers killed a ____ of goats and dipped his coat of many colors in it.



(Answers on Page 9)

27. Saul was circumcised the 8th day and of the ____ of Israel.
28. Out of the ____ of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise.
32. An eye for an eye and a ____ for a tooth.
34. The type of animal that licked Ahab's blood.
35. Initials of Boaz and Ruth's son and great apostle.
36. ____ of the mouth of babes and sucklings. Not in.
37. As an ____ stirreth up her nest and fluttereth over her young, spreadeth forth her wings.
38. The Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost are ____.

DOWN:

1. A ____ must be the husband of one wife. Minister.
2. The ruler of the feast ____ of the water that was made wine by Jesus.
3. Men wanted to build tower whose top would ____ to Heaven and their language was confounded.
4. Jesus walked on the shores of the ____ of Galilee.
5. Man born ____ woman is of few days, full of trouble.

DOWN:

6. What ____ ye these stones in midst of Jordan.
9. Ye have ____ of the patience of Job. With ears.
11. God said I will ____ my law in their hearts.
12. Jesus gave disciples wine saying ____ ye all of it.
13. When ____ hath conceived it bringeth forth sin.
15. Joshua became old and well stricken in ____
18. Doctor abbreviation.
20. Behold I bring you good ____ of great joy. Glad ____.
21. Jesus must be ____ my Father's business
23. How ____ shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Till seven times?
24. With their tongues they have used _____. Guile.
28. Pull out beam in your eye to see ____ in brothers'.
29. Aaron fashioned molten calf with a graving ____.
30. If in this life only we have ____ in Christ, we are of..
31. A flaming sword was east of the garden of ____.
33. When the sun waxed ____ the manna melted.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We had our four year old grandson, Eli, with us in church a few weeks ago. He was eating some gummies toward the end of the service. As I was preaching, he said to his Nana (as quiet as he could, which is not very quiet), "Papa is gonna have to go faster, my teeth are getting squishy," Unfortunately, a preacher cannot foresee some squishy teeth. Some weeks later, Eli was at our home and was about to eat some more fruit gummies when he asked his Nana, "Is there any protein in these?" I guess he heard from some source that we need protein.—*Editor*

If regeneration is conditioned on the act of the creature, what are the conditions? Are the conditions of works good or bad, righteous or unrighteous, wholly of works or part works and part grace? Paul says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Does an alien sinner or child of the devil have to perform righteous acts to become a child of God? If so, would there ever be a child of God? Paul says, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Is it not a fact that the one who performs righteous works is already a righteous soul—born again, a child of God before he performs righteous works? "If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." "He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." Hence it takes a righteous subject—a spiritual born child of God—to perform righteous acts. (Elder Lee Hanks, *Advocate and Messenger*, July 1942)

(In *The Primitive Baptist/The Christian Pathway/Gospel Appeal*,. March 2021)

CHURCH NEWS

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.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, MS on Hwy 346 will have its annual Christmas Singing on Sunday night, Dec. 10 2023 beginning at 5:30 pm with refreshments afterward. Come and worship with us in songs to our Creator and Redeemer. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS was blessed with a Spirit-filled meeting on Sept. 8-9 with preaching by Elder Charles Kitchens of Jasper, AL. Edifying preaching, excellent singing, fervent prayers, food and fellowship were enjoyed.



New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 22, 2023 beginning at 7:00 pm with Elder Chris McCool, Gordo, AL bringing the message. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH MOVE

Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church, Memphis, TN has recently moved to a different location. After much earnest prayer over the last several months for God's will in this matter, He has blessed our church family with a building in a much safer area, allowing us to be able to worship without locking our doors during service. This has not been an easy decision for us. There are so many memories at the building in Raleigh, but the area has changed significantly over the years. So when we were literally given this opportunity, it was felt that this was where the Lord was leading our church. It is definitely a bittersweet move for us, and we covet your prayers that God will bless Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church to grow and prosper as we begin to praise, honor, and glorify Him at our new location, 7247 Andrews Road, Bartlett, TN 38135. We invite everyone to come and join us in worship anytime. Elder Chase Harrison is Pastor at Raleigh.

EVERLASTING MERCY

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." (Psalms 136:1)

His goodness, tenderness and mercy brought down into the heart from the Father of light humbles the soul. The more we feel His mercy, the more we feel our unworthiness, and we exclaim, "I am not worthy of the least of Thy mercies, and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant." The opening and shining of God's heart to us poor little creatures seems too much. We are astonished at His marvelous condescension. *"Who am I, O, Lord, that thou hast brought me hitherto?"*

Mercy in various ways, in various forms, has traveled side by side with us from our birth to the present moment. The Open hand of Providence has fed our vile bodies, our little oil and meal has been multiplied. We have seen His goodness pass before us and our supply has been according to our every day's needs. We are always receiving something from heaven's royal bounty. The more grace we receive, the more we crave. The nature of grace is still to beg for more. Neither providence or grace satisfies the holy longings of a Christian on earth.

Simeon held the Saviour in his arms, the joy of salvation in his heart, thus his arms and heart were full of salvation. But then it was the grace in him put forth the vehement cry, "Lord, lettest thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Moses was indulged by God beyond any man before him. God spoke to him face to face, but the nearer God drew to him, the nearer he wanted to get., until he said, *"I beseech thee, show me thy glory."* As if he said, "Let me be brought face to face with Thine immortal beauty and glory."

So David said, "I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness." The grace of pardon, the grace of hope, the grace of faith, the grace of sanctification, the grace of adoption, the grace of assurance, then grace of peace he had received was the stirring up of his soul to long after eternal fullness. Strong consolations he had received, joy unspeakable, and full of glory, but such are but drops to the ocean, a grape to the village as a twinkling star to a noontday. Then it comes to us, souls in possession of mercy, beg for more mercy, they that have grace, for more grace, they who have the love of God desire more love, and they who are blessed with pardon pant more and more after pardon. And so it will be until the soul arrives in immortal glory.—Selected

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

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" (Titus 3:5-6)

REQUIREMENTS TO FOLLOW CHRIST



By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

One of the greatest blessings that people of God can experience is to follow Christ. But what does it take to truly follow Christ and feel His presence as a follower of the perfect Lamb of God? This article will attempt to define the requirements to follow Christ:

1. **IT TAKES THE NEW BIRTH:** An individual must first be born of the Holy Spirit to follow Christ. Those dead in sin have no desire or love for Christ because there is none that seeks after God or His Son. (Rom. 3:11) Jesus told Nicodemus that except a man be born again He could not see or enter the kingdom of God. Following Christ will in no wise cause anyone to be born again. God must first act upon the heart of the sinner by the Holy Spirit and then he has faith and is enabled to please God. God does this in the same way for every child of God. Jesus told Nicodemus just exactly how this is done. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

2. **IT TAKES THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST:** All the children of God will know Christ in their heart by the new birth without exception, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." (John 6:45) All will know Him from the least unto the greatest. However, not all will have the knowledge of who is the author of the work done in their heart. Cornelius had a work done in his heart because he was devout, feared God, prayed and gave alms which are all indicators of the work of the Holy Spirit. He needed the knowledge of Christ and what He had done for him. Peter would bring that knowledge as he came to preach to him which leads us to the next requirement which is the word of truth.

3. **IT TAKES THE GOSPEL:** The gospel brings the knowledge of salvation and who is the author of that salvation. The gospel doesn't give life but it brings life and immortality to light to the child of God. (2 Tim. 1:10) The Ethiopian eunuch also had a work of the Holy Spirit done in his heart and inquiring what Isaiah the prophet meant concerning who the lamb was that was led to the slaughter. Philip was sent by the Spirit and preached unto him Jesus from Isaiah 53. He heard the word of truth and was ready to follow Christ which leads to the next requirement which is belief.

4. **IT TAKES BELIEF IN CHRIST:** After Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch and most likely he preached unto him baptism as well because when they came to a certain water, the eunuch wanted to know what hindered him to be baptized? Philip told him "if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest". The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:37) Philip baptized the eunuch, immersing him in water, and he went on his way rejoicing. He was born again prior to Philip's arrival and the knowledge of who Christ was absent until he heard the gospel. Numerous scriptures tell us that the believer is already born of the Spirit. The blind man Jesus healed in John chapter 10 was asked by Jesus did he believe in the Son of God. He wanted to know who He was that he might believe, and Jesus said he was talking to and seeing the Son of God.

5. **IT TAKES SELF-DENIAL:** One cannot follow Christ and indulge themselves in their own selfish appetites. Jesus said very plainly, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24) This is a part of seeking the kingdom of God first and expressing love for Him above your own worldly desires. The rich young ruler was not willing to deny himself and thus failed to follow Christ and went away sorrowful because he had great possessions. (Matt. 19:22) Jesus said that no man could serve two masters because "...Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24)

6. **IT TAKES WATER BAPTISM:** People cannot say they are a true follower of Christ unless they have followed Him in water baptism. Jesus set the example as he submitted Himself to baptism at the hands of John the Baptist as he said, "...Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him." (Matt. 3:15) Cornelius was baptized; the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized; three thousand were baptized on the day of Pentecost; Lydia and her household were baptized. This is the pattern for being a follower of Christ. People must first be born of the Spirit, then have the knowledge of Christ brought to them through the gospel, then they have to believe the report that Jesus is the Christ; they must deny self and take up their cross and follow Him in the watery grave of baptism. Baptism is a crowning declaration that one is willing to do what the gospel requires. The Bible clearly teaches that to whomsoever much is given, there is much required.

Just look at all the benefits and blessings of being a follower of Christ. We have fellow church members to love and have fellowship with who will pray for us. We have access to the Lord's table of the bread and wine and the washing of the saints' feet. We are able to work in the gospel vineyard and enjoy the gospel rest that comes with labour in the kingdom. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." (Heb. 4:11) Stay the course; don't start to follow and then fall out of the race.

Food For Thought For Your Week

September 25, 2023



By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

Give And Do Without Expecting To Receive

As we look ahead to our activities for this week, wouldn't it be a blessing if they could somehow make a positive impact on someone's life? In Caesar's kingdom, the typical thought process around us is, "You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours." Or more often, the more ambitious will say, "I'll scratch your back IF you'll scratch mine." But either way, if effort is expended, then something in return is usually expected.

Now, while that works well in many applications, What about the kingdom of God? Granted, a spirit of cooperation is great and returning common courtesies, indeed, makes for a more pleasant environment. But, if we are to make a positive impact in the Kingdom of God, then we must go beyond what is so often practiced, and remember how the Lord teaches us that we are to give, not expecting anything in return.

For instance, Paul said in Acts 20:35, "*I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" Notice, the Lord said it is more blessed "to give than to receive" and not "to give expecting to receive." Also, Proverbs 19:17 helps us to understand more of how the Lord "makes" this principle work. It says, "*He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he (i.e., the Lord) pay him again.*" Now, since the Lord is altogether faithful, since nothing escapes His watchful eye, and since He is able in every respect to fulfill His promises, then we can freely do those acts of kindness and compassion, resting confidently in the fact that the Lord will do what is right toward us. After all, He has already given to us far more than we could ever deserve; and so, we need to remember that God doesn't owe us anything! If we never received another blessing from Him, we still have enough to praise Him in all eternity for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior! And that's even without considering all we receive daily of His mercy and grace.

Another passage that teaches this principle is found in Luke 14. Verses 12-14 say, "*Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*" In other words, the gift of eternal life that Jesus has already given to us is worth far more than ANYTHING that we will ever do for others in this life. So, it really doesn't "cost" us to do for others.

Friends, God is loving and gracious. So this week, go ahead and do those alms in secret and do those acts of kindness, not expecting anything in return. If our motives are pure, and if we have done those things in love and compassion, then the Lord will bless it. You'll never lose while serving the Lord.

In the love of Christ,
Elder Clayton Nowell

ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

ACROSS:

1. rettib
4. mrots
7. spsa
8. baha
10. eciwt
12. ned
13. rewot
14. ragah
16. pu
17. did
19. tfig
22. neddort
25. elbat
26. dik
27. kcots
28. htuom
32. htoot
34. god
35. po
36. tuo
37. elgae
38. eno

DOWN:

1. pohsib
2. detsat
3. hcaer
4. aes
5. fo
6. naem
9. draeh
11. etirw
12. knird
13. tsul
15. ega
18. rd
20. sgnidit
21. tuoba
23. tfo
24. tieded
28. etom
29. loot
30. epoh
31. nede
33. toh

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

Jesus gave His life for elect sinners and thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!

ENEMIES

Some of the best people that have ever lived had enemies. Cain was an enemy to Abel, his brother, without a just cause. God's true prophets were opposed anciently by cruel enemies. Many vindictive enemies pursued the meek and suffering Saviour, clamored for His crucifixion, and with wicked hands He was slain. Enemies to His precious gospel and rules of government were enemies to His faithful apostles, who earnestly proclaimed them and contended for them. The prophets, Christ, and His devoted disciples and all other true adherents to pure principles have been opposed and misrepresented by enemies.

Jesus warned His disciples that they would be cruelly treated by opposers of righteousness. He sent them forth as sheep among wolves. Some of them were brutally lashed because of false charges by religious fanatics, some were thrown into prisons, and some were murdered. But all opposition, cruel treatment, dire threats, murderous assaults, etc., didn't stop them nor abate their holy zeal in their devotion to the cause of their beloved Master, Jesus. He was their recognized Law Giver, their Supreme King, a Prophet like unto Moses, whom His people should hear. And it was because of their strict adherence to His precepts in their teaching and order and their uncompromising opposition to every false way, that some of His pure hearted people arrayed themselves with enemies against the faithful disciples.

With the pure in heart to have enemies is not pleasant, but grievous. They delight in peace, in unity, in love unfeigned. They would follow the injunction: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Rom. 12:18) Prevail in their profession. They possess the noble spirit of forbearance and forgiveness, to "bear the infirmities of the weak," and to forgive the penitent trespasser. They admire the pleasant look, unaffected smile, kind words, and commendable deportment, but scowls, affectation, gruffness, and all beside that is despicable, is offensive.

They cannot approve what they see is contrary to the teachings of Christ in order to retain their friendship of the unrighteous. Paul said, "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example, for many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." (Philippians 3:17-19) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1st John 2:15)

This understood does not seem to conflict with the command of Christ, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you". There is a way for us to love our

enemies and not love the world. We may love them as individuals and with prayerful desire that they be freed from all that is worldly. If enemies through envy, hatred, and malice speak falsely, we have the comforting words of Jesus to strengthen us. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world the world would love his own..."

Elder J. M. Thompson
"Primitive Monitor", 1911
(From "*The Christian Baptist*", April 1978)

IF THE FOUNDATIONS

Written October 2, 2016
With revisions October 3, 2023
By Elder Larry Wise

We see so much of the moral fiber of this nation being torn down today that we sometimes wonder what to do as the people of God. Biblical marriage is being made a mockery with same sex marriage and government intrusion on the parental rights of parents to raise their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. These are foundations that are critical to the success of any nation, individual or church. Satan is happy when this is the prevailing situation and does everything to promote the continuation of such.

The scriptures are all inspired of God and they very appropriately ask the question: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Notice it is not just what anyone can do but what can the "righteous" do. It is only the righteous that cares what happens in a situation like this. The answer is intimated in the following verse from Psalm 11:4: "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." The Lord is in His holy temple; He is the answer.

The righteous are to continue to do the right things that the scripture commands despite what everyone else is doing and the ridicule they may have to endure. The righteous are described as the salt of the earth and a city that is set on a hill. When lights continue to shine as they should, salt will still be there. But what if there is a giving in to the trend away from God. The salt begins to lose its savour and then what is the result? "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." (Matt. 5:13).

May the righteous turn on or use their ammunition at the throne of grace and maybe the tide will turn in the direction for the benefit of the Lord's people.

The gates of hell are still assaulting the church, but we are promised by Jesus that they will not prevail. This assault is getting even more bold in 2023 with gender identity, parental authority, marriage, family, etc. under attack. May we continue to look up and know that God is still on the throne! God have mercy!

WAXED GROSS

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Acts 28:27: "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

The Apostle Paul quotes from the book of Isaiah 6:9. He quotes this because he sees a fulfillment coming to pass right before his eyes though it had been hundreds of years since Isaiah wrote these words. Let's now look at the preceding verses to get the story behind it. Beginning in verse 17, Paul has now arrived safely at Rome to appear before Caesar. After three days Paul sends for the Jewish leaders desiring an audience from them, so he could preach Jesus Christ to them. In verses 22 and 23 the Jews agree to give him a day where he could present his case. On that day they come to his house, and Paul shows extensive evidence that Jesus is the Christ from the scriptures. God blessing him to preach the gospel of our Savior. Alas we read in verse 26 that some believed him and some did not. They took great counsel and eventually they walked away in unbelief. Rejecting the fact that Jesus is the Christ. The Lord then shows Paul that this was prophesied in our opening verse that this would happen to this generation. Culminating in the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

Now let's look at what Paul is saying in our verses above. For these people, we know that the people under consideration here is National Israel. While there were some Jews that believed, the nation, as a whole, rejected Jesus as the Messiah. The heart of the people is waxed gross. Wax is something that has to have time in order to build up. Thus the saying wax build up. This isn't something that had happened overnight to Israel. For hundreds of years they had begun to depart from the scriptures from the captivity to the 400 years of the Lord's silence in sending any prophesy. They had slowly over the years had their hearts waxed with man's teaching that completely hid the teachings of God. Thus when Christ came among his own people, they received him not John 1:11. I remember once an old house that had original wooden floors that was just hidden under layers of wax that had built up over the years. When the wax was removed it

revealed a beautiful floor that had been there all the time, yet hidden from the naked eye.

Next, we read the word gross. My grandchildren use this word whenever they see something or hear something that is disgusting. Today's English says that gross is defined as disgusting. To find this definition of the word gross, we need to turn back to Isaiah 6:9 and there the prophet in the original statement uses the word fat rather than gross. Strong's agrees with this definition in using the word fat. Now fat doesn't always mean someone that is overweight. Fat sometimes can mean someone that has eaten until their content. Well fed is another way of saying it. Paul says that the unbelieving Jews have become fat on traditions of the law, and don't think they need anything else. They have grown comfortable and content with man's teaching and don't want to make the effort to hear anything else that God sends to them. By being this way they are eating the wrong spiritual food and missing out on the gospel dispensation. When John came preaching in the wilderness the law had been taken away, and replaced with the gospel. They were fat on something that was no longer in force, when it was taken away from them, they had nothing else. I fear that this is some of the problem with America today; that has become content on living off the government handouts that we have grown fat on, and meanwhile our wonderful country is going down.

Now what was the penalty for not turning to Christ? That I should heal them. The healing is spiritual. The gospel of Christ crucified is a spiritual healing balm. This is what Israel needed then and now. I once was watching a Jewish man at the wailing wall at Jerusalem pouring out his heart to God. The wall is all that is left of the old temple. My heart went out to him for he thought that wall was all he had here on earth. He was waiting for the Messiah to come the first time. Not knowing that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah that had already come. If he could have known that, imagine the healing that he would have received through the gospel. Yes, they are children of God, but sadly they are missing out of the healing of Jesus Christ. For they are yet to see him as the Messiah. But blessed are your ears that hear. And your eyes that see the wonderful healing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God's healing hand be with you all.

R.L Taylor

"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isaiah 55:2)

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