

Glad Tidings

December

"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

It is a great blessing when families gather together for special occasions and maybe see those we haven't seen for quite some time. It will be a greater blessing when all the family of God is gathered together in heaven and immortal glory.

God has a very large family out of every kindred, tongue and people. (Rev. 5:9) God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees to go somewhere he had never been and leave his kindred. God made him a promise when as he began this journey, "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12:3) When Abraham (changed from Abram) obeyed God in offering his only son Isaac as an offering, God reaffirmed that promise and said, "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen. 22:18)

Those families which would be blessed were not to be blessed in the literal seed and descendants of Abraham but in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul clearly states this fact in Gal. 3:16: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." That seed was Christ Jesus. The family of God is blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places "in Christ." (Eph. 1:3)

God informed Abraham that his seed would be as the stars of heaven, and as the sand upon the sea shore for multitude. (Gen. 22:17) Contrary to the popular theology of today, the family of God is not just a few but is always referred to as many. Jesus gave His life as a ransom for "many." (Matt. 20:28) Jesus was the firstborn among "many" brethren and He brings "many" sons unto glory. (Rom. 8:29); (Heb. 2:10). If the population of heaven depended upon the efforts of men and women, God's family would indeed be few, but it is all the work of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.

The apostle John heard the number that were sealed with the seal of the living God in Revelation, chapter 7. And after that great number the Bible says, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" This throng of people were crying with a loud voice "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." (Rev. 7:8)

The family of God is a great multitude which no man can number, and Christ Jesus is the head of that family. As a matter of fact, every member of that family is named after their head. Paul prays for the church in Ephesus that they would be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man. He prefaces that prayer with these words. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named," (Eph. 3:14-15) The family of God is named after its head. As Paul writes this part of that family is in heaven; those who have died and their spirits have returned to God. Some were still on earth waiting for their time to be absent from the body but present with the Lord.

What can any individual do to become a member of this great family. The answer is the same thing anyone can do to become a member of any natural family, NOTHING. Just as we do not choose which family to be born into, it is an impossibility to choose to be in God's family. God made that choice before the world began. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" (Eph. 1:4) Some members of our families are always missing at family reunions; but when the family of God is gathered around the throne, none will be missing because the head of that family has paid their sin debt and they are preserved in Him. "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should **lose nothing**, but should raise it up again at the last day." (John 6:39)

When there is a family reunion, reservations may be made at some large facility to accommodate those that come. Reservations have also been made for the family of God and all made certain by the death, burial and resurrection of the head of the family, Christ Jesus. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved** in heaven for you," (I Pet. 1:3-4) The family of God is sanctified by God the Father, preserved in Christ Jesus, and called. (Jude 1:1) There is an inheritance that is reserved for the preserved.

As our families gather this Christmas season, remember this is just a small blessing compared to being with all the family of God in heaven, (Larry Wise)

**GLAD TIDINGS
EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, correspondence and contributions to the Editor of Glad Tidings at the address below or call 662-489-5017 for announcements. You may also e-mail to wisepb310@gmail.com; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received 2 days prior to the 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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ADOPTION



By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, Tennessee

What is Adoption?

What does it signify for a child to be adopted? Adoption simply means the legal act of taking of a child out of one family and putting that child into another family. We are by nature the children of Adam. We are all descendants of our great-great-great granddaddy Adam. Every human being is descended from Adam. He is a member of the family of Adam. We are all descended from a single ancestor. WE are all members of the one huge family of Adam.

I have noticed that if a person has kinfolks who are rich or famous, very often, it will conveniently come up in his conversation that he has some famous kinfolks. Well, I can tell you that you and I have some mighty famous kinfolks. Do you remember old King Pharaoh, who had all the little Jewish babies drowned? That was a distant cousin of yours and mine. He was a very, very distant cousin; but he was kinfolks. We are all related to Sadam. Do you remember King Herod, who had all the little babies from two years old and under killed. He

was kinfolks. And Adolph Hitler? He was a distant cousin. You and I came out of a mighty rough family.

We are all partakers of the same nature—all partakers of the sin of Adam—all descended from Adam. But, by grace, we are a; taken out of that family and made members of God's family. **That is what adoption is all about. It is God's tsking us out of Adam's family, and placing us in his family.**

The Choice of the Child

Let me ask you, what is the first act of any adoption? After you have determined to adopt a child, the very first act of adoption is the choice of the child to be adopted. Can you imagine that my wife and I might decide to adopt a child, and we put a notice in the paper: "To whom it may concern, Harold and Doris Hunt intend to adopt a child. Anybody interested in being adopted, please be at the Blount County Court House next Tuesday morning at 9:00 o'clock." That is not the way it is done. We do not send out a general call for anybody, who might want to be adopted.

The first act of adoption is the choice, the election, of the child to be adopted.

It is no accident that what God does for his children is called adoption. The very first thing we do when we adopt a child is to choose the child to be adopted. And Paul tells us that is exactly what God did. Eph. 1:4,5, "According as **he hath chosen us** in hm before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love, **having predestinated us unto the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ unto himself." Adoption is the huge framework within which the rest of our salvation fits. Election, the choice of the child, is the first act of adoption.

The Legal Work

Involved in any adoption is some legal work that must be taken care of. You cannot just spot some attractive little boy walking along the rode and decide, "I think I will adopt that child." You cannot just pull over to the side of the road and invite him into your car and go on your way. That is not the way it is done; you can get in big trouble that way. There is legal work that has to be taken care of. There may be natural parents whose claim has to be satisfied.

Two of the most unhappy people I ever knew were two people in my home town, who took a little boy to raise without bothering to adopt him legally. His mother did not care anything about him. She did not care much about herself, and she gave the little boy to that couple to raise. They were very poor people. They could barely provide for themselves. But they provided the little boy a place in their home. They showered him with their love, and they provided him with everything they were able to provide.

But after awhile, his mother changed her way, and she changed her mind about the little boy, and one day

she came to get him. That old couple would just as soon have had their right arm cut off as to give that little fellow up, but the legal work had never been taken care of. The claim of the natural parent had to be satisfied, and when she came to get the little boy, all they could do was give him up.

There was a legal claim to be satisfied, and that is what the Lord was doing on the cross of Calvary. He was taking care of the legal work of our adoption.

Isaiah said, "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." (Isa. 53:11). Every attribute of God will be satisfied in the salvation of his people. The love of God will be satisfied, because everybody God loves will be there. The grace of God will be satisfied, because every subject of grace will be there. And the justice of God will be satisfied, because every sin will have been paid for—atoned for.

God does not sacrifice justice in order to be merciful. I hear folks preach as if God says to justice, "Now justice, you be still; Justice, don't you say a word. Justice, I am going to save this child, and there is nothing you can do about it." God does not hogtie justice in order to be merciful. The justice of God is satisfied in the salvation of his people.

Suppose you go blazing down the interstate doing ninety miles an hour, and after awhile, the patrolman catches you and pulls you over and writes you a ticket. Then you go before the judge, and you say, "Judge, I don't know why I did that; I don't make a habit of driving that way. I never have driven that fast before, and Judge, I promise you, if you let me off this time, I will never do it again." The judge may tear up the ticket and say, "That is alright. Don't you worry; I will take care of it." Now, that is mercy, but there is not a trace of justice in it.

I hear people preach as if that is the way God saves people, as if God simply says, "Now, don't you worry about it. That is alright. I am going to take care of it." But God is not a softhearted, softheaded, old judge, sitting out there somewhere fixing speeding tickets.

The justice of God will be satisfied in the salvation of his people. There is not chance that on that final day the Justice of God will step forward and say, "That child is mine; he owes a sin debt to me; I have a claim against him; I demand what is mine." There is no chance of that, because the justice of God will be satisfied in the salvation of his people.

(Other aspects of adoption in coming issues)
(From "Anthology of Primitive Baptist Literature"
 Edited by Elder Harold Hunt)

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:7)

TWO TENTS

The apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade thus laboring with his hands to minister to necessities of life. Evidently some bought tents in those days or possibly lived in one if they were poor. I saw the title of a sermon of a preacher recently that was labeled "Content or Discontent—Which Tent Do You Live In?"

That might be a good question for all of us to ponder. Are we living in the tent of "contentment" or in the tent of "discontentment?" Paul who made tents had learned about contentment through all the trials he endured. He wrote the church at Philippi that he had "learned" in whatsoever state he was in to be content. (Phil. 4:11) A tent is a shelter so contentment is also a shelter. It is shelter from the worries of this life and the wonder of how we are going to make it through the day or the year. Paul had to trust the Lord because he knew he could do nothing worthwhile by himself.

Contentment is a shelter from the worry of whether we are God's child because there is a trust in the finished work of salvation by Jesus on the cross. Although a natural tent doesn't provide much protection from natural storms, contentment helps us turn aside the stormy winds, floods and rains of life that threaten our tent of trust in the Lord. Solomon dwelt in the tent of contentment for awhile; then he became infatuated with women and idolatry they led him into. He lost the blessings of God and his advice to us was to fear God and keep His commandments as our duty.

Then there is the tent of "discontentment" that offers no shelter that the other tent provides. The children of Israel quickly became discontent with the way the Lord was leading them in the wilderness and rebelled against God. The Bible tells us that these were written for our admonition that we should not do as they did. (I Cor. 10:5-6) Paul learned to dwell in contentment; it did not come by his own effort. He learned it by experience and yet sometimes he evidently felt to be cast down, but he knew of a contentment that enabled him to say, "Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;" (II Cor. 4:9)

Some people are content with the church as Jesus established it and others would like to change it. David was satisfied with the goodness of God's house and we should also be satisfied as well. (Psalm 65:4) The scripture would need to be changed if the church was changed but the scripture cannot be broken according to the Bible. (John 10:35) We are not to add to the word of God and also not to diminish it. (Deut. 4:2) People change tents because they do not like to do it God's way and then they fall into the trap that says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12)

So which tent do we dwell in? The truth is that sometimes we may dwell in both but with the Lord's help we can stay in the tent of "contentment" and avoid many of the pitfalls of a sin filled world. (Larry Wise)

James 5:19-20

By Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

“If any of you do err from the truth and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”. The epistle of James, like all scripture, was and is addressed to God’s children recognized as “brethren”. The bible explicitly identifies the subjects to whom the words are spoken: “Brethren, if any of you do err”. By no fair or logical means of construction can these words be applied to any except the children of God or saints (sanctified) or BRETHREN. The BRETHREN of the apostles with the same Spiritual parentage, called by the same Grace and heirs of the same inheritance; These are liable to err from the truth. This is proved beyond any successful contradiction by this text.

It is the duty of all this particular brotherhood to labor to convert from the error of his way anyone who may have thus erred and to restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering their own liability also to err. “Brethren, if any of you do err from the TRUTH”; To ERR is to be wrong, either in Judgement or Practice. He impressed on them the fact that none of the Sanctified (brethren) while here on earth in the flesh are INFALLIBLE. It is very possible that they may and do sometimes conceive erroneous views and are drawn into forbidden practices. To err from the truth is to be allured into error, either in faith or practice. The truth as it is in Christ Jesus IS the standard of righteousness. None can depart from the faith who have never adhered to it; nor can any turn away from the truth who have never been recognized as walking in it.

The death under consideration here cannot be eternal death. Common sense will not permit that position in light of other scriptures. In this text the bible says if this one is converted it shall “Save a soul From death”. This text cannot be construed so as to contradict the declaration of Christ, “I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish”. But the death from which they shall be saved is that, that is a consequence of erring from the truth. This text clearly speaks of “if ye live after the flesh ye shall die”. Instead of trusting in God and walking by faith we resort to our own carnal mind and walk in the light of our own

understanding. In that line we are sure to find that there is a way that “seemeth right unto man the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Death or separation to our Spiritual comfort and blessed communion with God through the Spirit. It is a great error for the child of Grace to walk after the flesh, think his own thoughts and rely on his own understanding.

If any who are Spiritual, that is he who is led by the Spirit, shall convert an erring brother from the error of his ways the converted brother shall be saved from that delusion and error, that if persisted in, will lead to barrenness, depression and darkness. It will also “hide a multitude of Sins”. When one is being drawn into error, whether in doctrine or practice and he is thoroughly delivered from that error “Thou hast gained thy brother” says the Savior himself. He (or She) is saved alive, in their standing, from confusion and rebellion. There were some who came in privately to spy out the liberty of the saints during the days of Paul’s labor with the churches of Galatia. They brought with them a message of error to return to the rites of the circumcision but he says we gave them not the space of an hour (Gal.2:4-5). The churches of that region called Galatia had been converted from the error of law worship and the old economy but now tottered on the brink of going back into that error. Demas, who was one time a co-laborer with Paul, left him. With all my heart I believe Demas was a child of God but he died. He died to Paul’s fellowship, the fellowship of the church and his brethren and went his own way. How many can we identify in this avenue even ourselves on occasion. Even as Priscilla and Aquilla converted Apollos convincing him of the error of his way and shewing him the way of the Lord more perfect (complete). To convert is to Change and we might be successful in that realm when dealing with a brother or sister in a given situation but remember it is GOD ALONE who can quicken dead sinners into divine life and Jesus has pledged in his sacred word to raise them up at the last day and that the efficacy of the blood of Christ can never be derailed. May God grant us Grace to serve him acceptably and with Godly fear and a willingness to forgive those who err not forgetting our sinful selves who may also fall into circumstances that may lead us in the wrong paths. Amen.

Elder R.D. Harcrow
Fort Payne, Alabama

MORE THEN ONE TYPE OF SAVING

“To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means **save some**. And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.” (I Corinthians 9:22-23)

JOHN 16:16

By Elder T. L. Webb Jr. (Deceased)

“A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.”

Jesus knew the time of His leaving this earth and returning back to His Father was near. His coming into the earth was never for His own benefit, but for the benefit of those He came to save. His compassion or concern for His people was ever manifested throughout His entire life and ministry here.

The relation of Christ with His disciples was never severed, their vision of Him was to be lost only for a “little while”—the time He was to be crucified and in the tomb. The “little while” and the world would see Him NO MORE, but not so with His disciples. “Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more; but ye shall see me; because I live, ye shall live also.”—John 14:19. His temporal, outward form in the flesh was the only vision the world had of Him. As far as their vision was concerned, when He left the world then he was no more. NOT SO with His disciples for their view of Him shall be far more than His earthly existence, but they would be able to see His eternal abode with the Father. His presence with them in spirit would be proof of His existence eternally with the Father.

As we begin reading the 13th chapter of John, we see how the Lord began to prepare His disciples for His departure from them. In His leaving this earth (no longer being in their immediate presence) they needed the assurance of His continual existence and power. It was because of His love and understanding for them that he told them in John 14:1, “Let not your heart be troubled.” He explained to them the purpose behind His going away from them, and the promise of the Comforter, and the everlasting presence of the Spirit of truth.

The ascension of Christ back to the Father from whence He came should assure His believing children of the finished work of redemption, of the perfect fulfillment of His mission into the world, and the sealing of their acceptance with God the Father of glory. Not only is the finished work of Christ viewed in perfection but the vision of His manifestation to His church in the person of the Holy Spirit now seen.

The sorrow of His leaving them would be as brief as the travail of a woman in childbirth. His glorious resurrection from the dead would bring the great joy of seeing Him alive forevermore. As the joy that is brought forth in the birth of a child erases the remembrance of the anguish and sorrow of the travail, so shall it be with the glorified presence of His Holy Spirit in the lives of His people. Not just for a “little while” do we NOW see Him, but forever. Oh, the bliss of His nearness in or poor souls.

Elder T. L. Webb Jr.

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

LOOK UP

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.” (Psalms 5:3) Here is a good example for us to follow, as David stated, and direct our prayer unto God every day of our lives. This is the way to start the day off in the morning; direct our prayers unto the Lord.

Notice how David ended the expression “...and will look up.” When the outlook seems to be dark and gloomy, look up. The Bible teaches us to watch and pray, and to pray without ceasing. We gain direction and strength from the Lord when we go trusting in Him. Often in life, it seems that we meet, as it were, a wall that it is impossible to go on any farther. The prophet Samuel said, “For by thee have I run through a troop; by my God have I leaped over a wall.” (II Samuel 22:30) There is no question as to what God can do for us, but, in our weakness, we fail sometimes to trust Him as we are taught to do in the Bible. Samuel continued this way, “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save the Lord? And who is a rock, save our God?” (II Samuel 22:31-32) In our experience in service in service unto God we find that His yoke is easy and the burden is light. This is experienced in service only. If you want to have such an experience, take up your cross and follow Jesus; in this way, you will learn of Christ. Those in the service know and experience things that children of God do not know on the outside of the church. David teaches that God is known in her palaces as a refuge, talking about the church. God has promised to go with us all the way when we observe His commandments.

Elder A. D. Wood

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

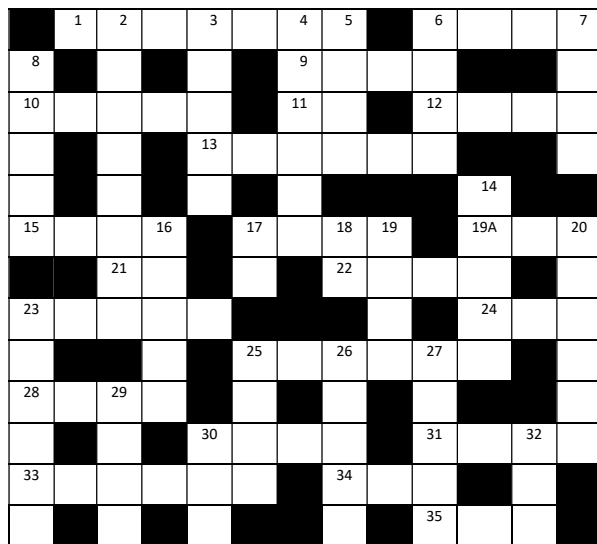
A GLORIOUS SIGHT TO BEHOLD

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.” (Job 19:25-27)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. Zacchaeus was a man of little ___ seeking Jesus.
6. Queen of Sheba had heard of the ___ of Solomon.
9. Woe to them that are at ___ in Zion. Rest.
10. Thieves ___ through and steal treasures on earth.
11. South Carolina abbreviation.
12. Lame man at the temple Beautiful was asking ___.
13. Jewish queen who said, "If I perish, I perish."
15. ___ worshippers do it in Spirit and in truth. Not false.
17. Why stand ye here ___ in the marketplace? Unbusy.
- 19a. Ye do ___ not knowing the scriptures. Mistake.
21. Registered Nurse.
22. Meat offering was to be baked in an ___.
23. Be of good ___ I have overcome the world.
24. Veil of temple was rent from ___ to bottom.
25. Refuse profane and old wives' ___ Tale or myth.
28. God does His will in the ___ of heaven and among inhabitants of the earth.



(Answers on Page 8)

30. God will ___ the chaff with fire unquenchable.
31. Aaron smote the ___ of the earth and it became lice in man as a plague in Egypt. Man made of this.
33. Cain was a ___ of the ground.
34. If ye live after the flesh ye shall ___. Expire.
35. Nebuchadnezzar's body was wet with the ___ of heaven. Gideon wanted sign of this and fleece.

DOWN:

2. Where your ___ is there will your heart be also.
3. The rainbow is a ___ of a covenant of God and earth.
4. God created everything in six days and He ___ on the seventh day.
5. In lowliness of mind let ___ esteem other better than themselves.
6. ___ not him who can destroy the body, not the soul.
7. For my yoke is ___ and my burden is light.
8. Jesus said He must be ___ His Father's business.
14. Rather be a doorkeeper in house of God than to dwell in ___ of wickedness.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

16. Last ___ to be destroyed is death. Not Friend.
17. Christ loved the church and gave himself for ___.
18. ___ I come the volume of the book to do thy will.
19. God cannot be tempted with ___ nor tempts any.
20. Who hath believed our ___ and arm of Lord revealed.
23. Young women are to be discreet, ___ keepers at home, good, obedient to their husbands.
25. Angels shall gather the elect from the ___ winds.
26. Ye had compassion of me in my ___ and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods. Shackles.
27. Supper being ___ Jesus washed disciple's feet.
29. There is neither ___ nor female but one in Christ.
30. Though I make my ___ in hell, behold thou art there.
32. When thou wast under the fig tree, I ___ thee.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

A mother was singing the song "You Are My Sunshine" to her 3 year old son and he told her he hated that song. The mother said, "That's a shame because I used to sing that to you when you were in my tummy before you were born." He looked her dead in the eyes and said, "I hated it then too."

A preacher had been preaching quite some time and he finally said, "Well I have about said all I can; I just don't know what else to say." A young child from the congregation said, "Say Amen!"

EVOLVING LIFE?—A DEFINITE NO

This from a sermon from Elder Sony Pyles in which he quoted the following poem:

I was a tadpole, long and thin,
 Then I was a froggy with my tail tucked in.
 Then I was a monkey in a banyan tree.
 And at last I'm a doctor with a PHD.
 Tadpole, froggy, monkey; man all glory to nothing with a planless plan.

THE TRUTH

Paul taught the doctrine of predestination. Paul taught discrimination grace or election. There were others who journeyed with Saul as good by nature as he, but electing grace saved Saul and passed by the rest, leaving them where they were before. Electing Saul did not injure the others. They continued on, loving darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Paul tells us God loved Jacob and hated Esau before either one was born. Then he tells us why: "That the purpose of God according to election might stand."—Elder Lee Hanks, 1942
 (From *The Primitive Baptist—The Christian Pathway-Gospel Appeal*, March 2021)

CHURCH NEWS

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles West of Ecu, MS will have its annual Christmas singing on 2nd Sunday night in December 2023 (Dec. 10) beginning at 5:30 pm with refreshments served afterwards. Come and worship the Savior in song with all the saints. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS will host the 5th Sunday night fellowship meeting in December 2023 (Dec. 31). Supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany, and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches. Elder Tom Bouchillon is the Pastor of Hopewell.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have a Christmas singing the 1st Sunday night in December, 2023 (Dec. 3) beginning at 5:30 pm. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS will have a Christmas singing 3rd Sunday night in December, 2023 (Dec. 17) beginning at 6:00 pm.. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

New Prospect, New Albany, MS enjoyed a good Spirit-filled meeting in October 2023 with Elder Ricky Harcrow of Fort Payne, AL being blessed to preach the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. This is Elder Harcrow preaching on Sstursday morning, October 7, 2023.



Jacob slept on a stone and dreamed a dream of a ladder set up on the earth whose top reached to heaven with angels of God ascending and descending on it. This was a picture of Christ. He awoke out of sleep, and said “surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.” (Gen. 28:16) He took the stone, set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel which means the house of God. The house of God surely is a place where we can enjoy the presence of God, and leave saying “surely the LORD is in this place and I KNEW it” because I felt that presence—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Heb. 10:25) I heard Elder Sony Pyles say in a sermon that no one would probably be willing to cast a vote to disband the church, but when they are constantly absent from the worship assembly without a valid reason, they are casting a vote to shut down the church. Have you ever heard of absentee voting, I think this would qualify, what about you?—*Editor*

Brethren, have you ever felt the meal was gone, and the cruse had gone dry? No doubt you have? We forget that we are not the ones who supply the meal nor are we able to refill the cruse. When it seems that we are the driest, if we will only look, there is still meal in the barrel. There is comfort in the Word of Promise. And, there is some oil in that cruse. The Lord has promised the Spirit to those who come seeking.—Elder Jerry E. Newman, 1987

(From *The Primitive Baptist—The Christian Pathway-Gospel Appeal*, March 2021

“REMEMBER”

Remember the source of all our comforts, and give all diligence to return our heartfelt thanks unto the great giver of all good, to whom be praise and glory forever. Remember that a soft answer turneth away wrath and begets a feeling of trust and reliance. Remember that the humble soul shall be exalted, but the proud shall be brought low. Remember, words and kindness of deeds bring forth pleasant fruit. Remember, that a friend in need is a friend indeed, and not in word only. Remember, a true report is given by the language of the feet, while many walk with the mouth. Remember, the fast of the Lord is to loose the bands of wickedness, and to deal thy bread to the hungry. Remember, that God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. Remember that every member is needful to the body, and none to spare.

Let us love one another with a pure heart, fervently. Remember, every gift of God is of the same spirit and precious in his sight. Remember, the church of God is not of this world and the more her members conform to the world the less they bear the marks of Jesus.

Remember, the Doctrine of God is our Savior, above all theories of men.

Submitted in love,

J. J. Turnipseed (Elder)

(From *“The Gospel Messenger”*, Feb.11, 1922)

“...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

“COME AND SEE”

Two of John's disciples were following Jesus and they asked Him, "Master, where dwellest thou?" He said, "Come and see." They followed and saw where He dwelt.

It seems that Jesus did not have a permanent dwelling place as many of us have. Some people live and die in the same house they were born in. Jesus traveled a lot, He stayed with some of His followers at times. He ate with publicans and sinners, and in my opinion, He slept many nights under one of the olive trees on Mount Olive. There is no record where He stayed any length of time with the rich or noble. (Noble so far as the world is concerned)

It is a good learning experience to study and learn where Jesus dwelt or stayed. It seems that His work, or at least the majority of it, was done during the daylight hours and most of His staying for any length of time was at night.

His mode of traveling was by walking and by ship. He rode into Jerusalem on one occasion on a colt that no man had ever ridden. There is no account given in the Bible that I recall of Jesus riding in chariots drawn by beautiful horses, such as Solomon had during his reign as King.

Question: What could Jesus have ridden in if it had pleased Him to do so? Where could Jesus have stayed or dwelt if He had pleased to do so? What earthly thrones could He have occupied if it had pleased Him to do so? The answer: The finest and best. Question: What people could He have associated with if it had pleased Him to do so? The elite class is the answer. Question: Why did not Christ choose the finest places to dwell and the finest and most luxurious ways to travel? The answer is it pleased Christ to dwell with publicans and sinners, the poor and the afflicted, the lame and the blind and the needy. It pleased Him to travel like His children traveled. From these classes of people He chose most of His bride.—"not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called." (1 Cor. 1:26) I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. (Matthew 11:25)

Every poor sinner in this world can rejoice that Jesus dwelt with poor sinners. There is an old saying that birds of a feather flock together but this saying will not apply to Jesus dwelling with poor sinners, because He was not a sinner. He dwelt with them because He loved them and they were chosen to be His bride.

He dwells with the same class of people today in Spirit. So little child of God if you are poor and abased, and have no place with the elite class, if you feel to be a pilgrim, and at times have called Heaven to ask for help to guide you through this unfriendly world, take courage for Jesus is dwelling with you now, and will

take you to those mansions prepared for you in the city of God.

This is far better than the entire wealth of the universe. These earthly riches will perish, but Heaven is everlasting:

When we have been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Then when we first begun.

Written in Love,
Eld. George R. Hunt
(From "The Christian Pathway", October, 1983)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

ACROSS:

1. erutats
6. emaf
9. esae
10. kaerb
11. cs
12. smla
13. rehtse
15. eurt
17. eldi
- 19a. rre
21. nr
22. nevo
23. reehc
24. pot
25. selbaf
28. ymra
30. nrub
31. tsud
33. rellit
34. eid
35. wed

DOWN:

2. erusaert
3. nekot
4. detser
5. hcae
6. raeft
7. ysae
8. tuoba
14. stnet
16. ymene
17. ti
18. ol
19. live
20. troper
23. etsahc
25. ruof
26. sdnob
27. dedne
29. elam
30. deb
32. was

GOD DWELT IN JESUS

Solomon was blessed to build the temple of God and the question was asked, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? (1 Kings 8:27) The glory of the Lord filled that house and Jesus dwelt in a house of clay. John writes, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt (to tent or tabernacled) among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Jesus was God made manifest in the flesh and in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Col. 2:9)—*Editor*

EVIL COMMUNICATIONS

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

The church in Corinth had many problems and one of them was that some were teaching there was no resurrection of the body. Paul spends the whole 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians to reason and defend the doctrine of the resurrection. Right in the middle of that chapter, Paul writes this verse as a warning, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” (I Cor. 15:33)

Some were being deceived (led astray) by false teachers who were denying the resurrection. The more the people listened to their dialogue, the less offensive it became and thus they began to also embrace that heresy. The word “communications” means both companionship and intercourse. The more anyone interacted with these false teachers, it put doubt in the belief of the wonderful truth of the resurrection.

This principle not only applies to the doctrine of the resurrection and other great truths in the Bible; it also applies to constantly having companions and interaction with those who display and live a corrupt lifestyle. We may not use profanity at all; however, if we constantly are with those that use such words, it will seep into our minds, and we will be more prone to exhibit the same behavior. Paul charges the church in Ephesus to “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” (Eph. 4:29) Grace can be displayed in several ways and certainly this corruption is not such a display. Barnabas was sent to Antioch and when he got there, the Bible says, “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.” (Acts 11:23) Grace was seen in the people that had received the word of God and became believers.

Parents sometimes worry about the friends and companions of their children and whether they are a good influence on them. The Bible admonishes us by the wise man, Solomon, “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:” (Prov. 22:24) Why would we not want to be friends with an angry man or woman. Solomon answers that question in the next verse in Prov. 22:25, “Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.” Evil communications corrupt the mild-mannered.

God promised Israel that He would drive out the heathen inhabitants of Canaan. He would do this little by little; however, when they were in possession of those lands, they were warned against cooperating with their heathen ways. “Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:” (Ex. 34:12) Any agreement or covenant with those that worship gods instead of God would be a snare and rob them of continued blessings from the Lord. Israel was instructed to break down the heathen altars, images and groves because they were to worship the LORD who is a jealous God and shares no glory with anyone else.

The company we keep may or will be a determining factor in whether we will serve God as we should. Of course God knows that we must interact with the world but we don’t have to be partakers of the world. Paul warned the church in Corinth not to have company with the fornicators of the world (I Cor. 5:9), yet he recognized the impossibility of total disassociation with such like. “Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.” (I Cor. 5:10) We would have to a total recluse to completely avoid the ungodly element. Yet, the Lord still holds us accountable for the friends we keep. James writes by way of warning, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

God is indeed a jealous God and doesn’t share allegiance with any other. We are told we cannot serve God and mammon. Paul was also jealous of the church in Corinth that he might present it as a chaste virgin to Christ. Paul knew his own nature and he knew the nature of these believers; therefore, he wrote, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (II Cor. 11:3) Some had been corrupted by false teachers concerning the resurrection and there was a possibility of being further corrupted from fundamental truths.

Many people are being deceived today and Satan, the deceiver, is hard at work. We are constantly being bombarded with homosexuality and same sex marriage in television programming, commercials, and other media so that people are having their good manners corrupted as they accept such ungodliness. Until the people of God take heed and truly observe the warnings of God in scripture, they will continue to be deceived. We are told that in the last days evil men shall wax worse and worse, deceived and being deceived. The righteous, however, are exhorted to be steadfast, unmovable and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labour is not in vain in the Lord. (I Cor. 15:58) May the Lord be manifest in all that we say and do that He might be glorified. Put off the old man and put on the new!

LORD, IT'S HARD TO BE HUMBLE

By Elder Don R. Richards

There is a well-known singer-songwriter from West Texas who several years ago was prolific in the number of songs he wrote for himself and other singers. One of his most popular was: *"Lord, it's hard to be humble. When you're perfect in every way."*

The song rose fast on the popularity charts, and even today remains a mainstay in country and western repertoire. It apparently goes hand-in-hand with other "drinking songs" where the entire bar crowd sings it loudly together.

The songwriter indicated that he initially thought up that song as a "spoof" one morning when he was in a silly mood. He never thought it to be one of his most memorable hits. The song is about a popular public "star" who finds himself "alone" at the top.

The title and words to the song tell of an egotistical man who inflates his own accomplishments and "cherishes his own company."

There is a lot of truth in the song. More than each of us would like to admit. First, its our human nature to like our ego stoked; and if there is no one to do it, we may have to do it ourselves. That's what the first-person song narrative is all about. It tells of a man who draws hundreds of fans and admirers, yet constantly finds himself "alone". His ego cannot handle being alone, so he finds ways to justify his life and his loneliness.

The song remains popular because pride in our society is considered a virtue. You need only watch one football or basketball game on TV to recognize the popularity of financial rewards for the athletes who "trash talk", boosting their own values and castigating their opponents. Humility is considered a weakness, not only by other athletes, but by the majority of fans.

The songwriter claims humility, but he is actually far from it. He claims lots of admirers, yet he finds himself truly alone. That's actually true in life also. All great athletes at some point will see their abilities decline, either through injury, or the passage of time.

There is no greater lesson taught continually throughout the bible than the lesson of humility. God likes and rewards the humble person who places all honor, glory, blessings and dependence on the Lord.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit..." are the opening words to the Sermon on the mount at Matthew 5. Jesus tells us the benefits are great in today's kingdom of God for those individuals that practice humility and respect the Lord.

Jesus teaches this lesson well in the 18th chapter of Luke in his well-known parable and discourse on humility. The results of the parable are completely backward from our human nature, but the lesson is still very much needed in today's world, especially among those of us who claim to be religious based in our philosophy of life.

It's the parable of the Pharisee and the publican who find themselves at the temple to pray. We are told the

Pharisee (the obviously—at least to us—one of the two who is more religious and righteous) prayed to the Lord, thanking God that he is so much more righteous than the sinners of the world, including the publican nearby.

Do you know someone like this Pharisee? Someone who personally feels essentially that the Lord is fortunate to have so humble and righteous a person to worship Him. Do we at times, like this Pharisee, thank the Lord that we are not as bad off or sinful as others we see in our society? Someone who feigns humility, but looks down on someone not as fortunate.

Jesus teaches us that unlike the Pharisee, the publican was truly humble and knew he was a sinner. He stood afar off, was afraid to even raise his eyes, smote himself on the breast and begged God for mercy.

Jesus tells us that it was the publican who received the justification and the blessing that day, just the self-righteous, church-going Pharisee who bragged about his "humility". You cannot be humble if you have to tell the Lord and others just how humble you are.

A person can hide and disguise many times. But you cannot hide humility.

Any fortune we have is solely a blessing of God. We deceive ourselves if we think ourselves to be somehow better or more righteous than our neighbor, or the handicapped, or the homeless person who lives at nights on the streets. If God has blessed us individually, then we owe Him all that glory.

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches." Jeremiah 9:23

Instead, we owe all our blessings to the Lord, not to our own abilities. Our very ability themselves are a blessing from the Lord. But for God's grace, we would be that homeless person.

"Everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 18:14

Our job is to give all glory, in all things, to the Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:31.

(From *"The Banner of Love"*, September 2012)

HUMILITY, WISDOM'S DOOR

By Bro. Terry Wise

She want show herself to the haughty and proud.
Speaks with a soft voice, she's never loud.
She's always at peace, she's always calm.
Only the humble know her, she is called wisdom.

In times of indecision, to the Lord I plead.
For I am much smarter, when I am on my knees.
From arrogance, ignorance always seems to come.
It is only from humility, that God gives me wisdom.

Praise God

Terry Wise

(From *"Glad Tidings"*, April 2001)

OPEN THEIR EYES

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Matthew 20:34: "So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him."

This is a good story of the compassion of our Lord, that every church member should be familiar with. Please read Matthew 20:30-34.

Our story begins near Jericho where there were two blind men that sat in the wayside, begging alms and heard that Jesus was near them. Upon learning this they began to shout to Jesus to have mercy upon them. They referred to him as the Son of David. This was a sign of respect and acknowledge that he is the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Now there was a multitude of people that journeyed with the Lord. Some were disciples, some Pharisees, and others were just people that were just curious about Jesus and hope to see a miracle performed by him.

As the blind men shouted to Jesus, some in the multitude rebuked them to cease. Thinking that the Lord should not be bothered with petty requests, for he had much greater work to do. Others rebuked them because they resented the title that they gave him for they believe not that Jesus was the Christ and hope to silence them. These blind men were beggars and could not labor to feed themselves because of their disability. They were helpless and miserable and believe that Jesus could open their eyes. The more the people rebuked them the more they shouted and became determined that Jesus would stop and hear their plight. Jesus stopped. Then he asked them what was it that they wanted from him (Not that he didn't know, but it was for the purpose that others may hear and witness the miracle he is about to perform). They answer him with a request that their eyes may be opened. Notice that they didn't ask for alms. They preferred to have sight, so they could labor and feed themselves accordingly. They were beggars not by choice, but by circumstance. Furthermore, they believe according to scripture that the Son of David would be performing miracles when he came, such as giving sight to the blind Isaiah 35:5. Jesus seeing their plight and how miserable they were had compassion on them.

Oh, that we could see this expression of compassion upon his face and in his eyes as he had pity upon them! Using no instrument of any kind but his hand, he compassionately touched their eyes, and they

immediately received sight; the multitude being witnesses of this great miracle! What a time of rejoicing it was for these former beggars. Now they could see to feed themselves and not be dependent upon someone giving them alms. Now they could help others who needed help. They could walk about without someone to lead them or show them the way. This was done by the power of God!. The celebration was short lived for they left their wayside begging site as the Samaritan woman left her water pot to return no more (John 4:38). Now they walked with the multitude to journey with the one that had given them sight and to labor in his kingdom. To be a witness that Christ had performed a great work upon them, that he was indeed the Son of God and would give his life for the children of God. Imagine these two men traveling with Christ and his disciples and telling the story of their former lives and what the Lord had done for them. How long they lived we do not know, but we are sure that every day after this they served the Lord who had been so good to them. We too have been blessed to have our eyes opened and see the glorious truth of salvation by the grace of God. Let us follow these men's example and tell what great things the Lord hath done for us.

R. L. Taylor

HEBREWS 7:1-4

February 23, 1909

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

We have been requested to give our views on Heb. 7:1-4. The passage refers to Melchisedec, who was king of Salem and priest of the most high God.. He met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave to him a tenth part of the spoils. See Gen. 14.

Melchisedec was a man; see Heb. 7:4, "Now consider how great this man was." As a man he was not without father or mother; but as a priest he was "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest continually." A priest after the order of Aaron, under the Levitical priesthood, was not without father or mother. The priestly office in that priesthood went from father to son, hence not without a father, and not without descent. In the priestly office of Melchisedec there were none before him and none after; hence without descent. Thus it differed from the Levitical priesthood. Christ was made a high priest after the order of Melchisedec, (see Heb. 6:20) and not after the order of the Levitical priesthood. In the priestly office in which Christ officiated, there were none before Him and none since—it was "without father, without mother, without descent," just like that of Melchisedec. (*Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist* by Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 1)

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