

Glad Tidings

April

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

2024

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

Philippians 4:13

I Corinthians 15:19

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Jesus Christ came into this world to do a work that was impossible for sinful men to do. He came to save His people from their sins. He told His disciples, "...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34) The work of salvation and redemption was accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross as He hung His head and said, "it is finished" in John 19:30. He fulfilled the work He was sent to do.

Jesus always did that which was pleasing in His Father's sight. For His people to please the Father, another work must be performed and that is the work of the Holy Spirit which is also the work of God and Jesus Christ as these three are one.. The Bible says that through the blood of the everlasting covenant we are made perfect to do His will as He is "**working** in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight." (Heb. 13:21) This working is to execute, to be efficient and effectual. Without this inward working, it would be impossible to please God because we wouldn't have any faith; no man can please God without faith and that comes as a gift of God when we are born again.

Saul of Tarsus was without faith prior to Jesus appearing to him on the road to Damascus. He was born again I believe on that day and now was ready and able to do God's bidding. He now realized how he needed the working of God. Paul preached Jesus and His resurrection, and many believed while others rejected it. Understand that the same power that brought Jesus Christ from the dead is the same power that enables the people of God to believe. "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the **working** of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," (Eph. 1:19-20)

Paul was called from death in sin and also called to be an apostle and minister of Jesus Christ. He now felt to be less than the least of all saints whereas before he felt to be the Hebrew of the Hebrews. He testifies as to how this came about: "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the **effectual working** of his power." (Eph. 3:7) Paul is now ready to preach the gospel wherever the Spirit of God led him. If it weren't for the effectual working of the Lord, he would still be binding saints and putting them in prison. The people of God become willing in the day of His power. (Psalms 110:3)

Paul strived to teach the word of God to born again children of God to present everyone he taught perfect (complete) in Christ Jesus. He knew that this could not be accomplished without the **mighty working** of the Lord. Concerning this end desire, Paul writes, "Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which **worketh in me** mightily." (Col. 1:29) That same power is still working in ministers whom He has called into the ministry to feed His lambs and His sheep because God does not change. (Mal. 3:6)

There are many things for the children of God to do after the Lord has worked in them. The gospel brings that information to them and Paul taught this to the church at Philippi. He had been present with them for some time but now he is to be absent. In his absence he exhorts them to "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which **worketh in you** both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12-13) I have often said that God works the will to do of His good pleasure, but He doesn't do the doing. It is the responsibility of God's children to do His will and have that special relationship with Jesus. (Matt. 12:50)

After Jesus' resurrection the apostles were sent by Jesus to preach the gospel to every creature and teach them all things He had commanded. He said they would take up serpents, heal the sick, and able to drink deadly drink without harm. They did not do these miracles of their own ability but with Jesus working in and with them. "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord **working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:20) When the lame man was healed by Peter at the gate Beautiful along with John, He told the people that it wasn't by their own power the lame man had been made whole; it was by the working of the power of the risen Lord Jesus. (Acts 3:12)

The children of God look forward to the resurrection of the body when Jesus comes back the second time. Just as there was a change in them effected by the new birth with God working in them, there will also be a change in the resurrection. It will be a change from corruption to incorruption, from mortal to immortality, from natural to spiritual and everything vile will be made holy. Paul writes concerning this, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the **working** whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Phil. 3:21) Eternal salvation will finally be completely realized. Praise God for His mighty work! (Larry Wise)

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 send e-mail to **wisepb310@gmail.com**; we reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received 2 days prior to the 8th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue and sent to the Editor at the following address:

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THE GOD OF ORDER

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

God is and always has been a God of order. Order is to do something in a methodical arrangement to achieve a desired outcome. We read about some things ordered by God. The sweet psalmist of Israel, David says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." (Psalms 37:23-24)

A good man is certainly a creation of God as man by nature is corrupt to the core. Only God could fashion the new creature in His image just as He fashioned the natural creation and established all the tangibles and intangibles to function in their proper order. We can expect the sun to rise in the east in the morning and set in the west because God designed it that way. Scientists can predict the exact time of a sun or moon eclipse because God's arrangement is ordered. The seasons function as God designed so we can have sowing, harvesting, summer and winter.

When it comes to eternal salvation of God's elect family, God has ordered it to work in the everlasting covenant of grace. "Although my house be not so with

God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although he make it not to grow." (II Sam. 23:5) The everlasting covenant is ordered in all aspects and sure to all embraced in the covenant. God has chosen His people in Christ and given them to His Son. He sent His only begotten Son into the world to save them from their sins and obtain eternal redemption. He has sent and is sending His Holy Spirit to quicken the child of God in the spiritual creation from death in sin to life in Christ Jesus. The Son of God will come again the second time without sin unto salvation to carry His redeemed bride home to receive their inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and fadeth not away. We can count on this because God is a God of order. He does things in a methodical way for the good of His people.

The above paragraph is a brief summary of God's plan for the salvation of His people in heaven from being a corrupt depraved sinner to the final resting place in heaven. Not only was the choice made by God, the death of Christ is a key part of this salvation but being quickened by the Holy Spirit is vital to change from a corrupt tree to a "good" tree and thus able to walk in the steps ordered by God in the Bible.

God has ordered that the heirs in the covenant of grace will have the Holy Spirit implanted in their hearts that changes them from a corrupt fallen sinner to one who has the very life of God implanted in them. Peter tells us how this happens: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Pet. 1:23) The word of God here is the "living Word", Jesus Christ and not the preached word or written word. The corrupt tree (man, woman, or child) had been made good, given faith, and thus able to follow Christ. The new creature has not completely lost his carnal appetite but has a superior appetite that wars against the corrupt. The spiritual appetite is greater and can prevail if God's orders are followed because John writes, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4) The Lord shows us what is good according to the prophet, Micah, and thus requires certain things such as to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. (See Micah 6:8)

The marching orders for the quickened child of God is found in the scriptures, and as they are followed, He delights in them as obedient children. There is always profit in following God's orders: "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." (II Tim. 3:16-17) The good will always win out when the orders are followed and the Lord will delight in that goodness says David. We are abundantly blessed in following the leadership of the Spirit and adhere to God's orders.

If we follow His goodness and continue in it, God will be pleased, but if we don't, He will cut us off and we fall from the favor of God in this life. The Jews found out the hard way about being cut off as they had the first opportunity to hear and obey the orders of God by hearing and believing the gospel. They failed to take heed and thus we read, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." (Rom. 11:22) Remember it is our sins that have separated us from God; therefore, it is only when those sins have been confessed and suppressed that we are daily cleansed by the blood of Jesus. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7) These are some of the orders found in God's word. Let us march to the sound of the gospel trumpet as it blows its precious sound to the ship of Zion that sails on the sea that is so boisterous at times.

The soldier who goes into battle may logically expect some hardship as he labors against the enemy. The child of God can expect no different as he or she follows the marching orders of their commander and chief. Paul tells Timothy, "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (II Tim. 2:3-4) When God's family is marching in perfect harmony, it is a beautiful sight to behold as each step is in perfect rhythm. When someone gets out of step, it is easy to spot in the midst of others who are in step. Paul tells us about this walking in step, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16) God has given the child of God weapons (armor) as he or she marches into battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. (See Eph. 6:11-18) David would not go into battle against Goliath with the unproven armor of Saul. He used the proven weapons of a sling and a stone.

We, as children of God, may stumble and fall in following orders because the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. When this happens, does the Lord cast them away? No! No! a thousand times no! The Jews that were in God's family that stumbled at the Rock of Jesus Christ were not cast away. "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew..." (Rom. 11:1-2) The psalmist says that when the children of God forsake His commandments that He will visit their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. However, His lovingkindness He will not utterly take from them. He will not break His covenant. (Psalm 89:30-34) Yes, God is indeed a God of order. God always does things in order and may we do all things decently and in order. (I Cor. 14:40)

REMISSION

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Heb. 10:17,18, "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

For a person to believe that we have something to do with our eternal salvation, he must believe that Christ did not remit our sins as he sets out in the Hebrew letter, for he clearly states in the inspired writing of the Apostle Paul that where remission of the sins and iniquities of his people are, there is no more offering for sin. This would certainly include the frail works of man in his life and actions upon the earth. If our righteousness was something more than filthy rags, this would even then exclude us from making an offering, or a partial offering, in order to remit sins. The scripture will leave out everything that man is supposed by the doctrines of men to be capable of doing such as accepting the Lord, believing on his name, being baptized, living faithful to the end, getting the Holy Ghost, and so forth.

I would hate to think that my works, and the offering of my little service, would improve upon the complete washing of our sins, which our Savior does. We read that without the shedding of blood there is no remission. I certainly do not think there is anything I could do that would improve my lot with my Lord and my God any more than being washed in the righteous blood of the Son of God, do you?

Those whose sins are remitted will not become unremitted. This is why the salvation of those who were given by the Father to the Son is so sure. However, the process of application of his blood in remitting our sins is certainly in the hands of God, and he paid the full price sufficient to remit the last sin that the last heir of promise that ever lives shall ever commit. That is the kind of storehouse that God is.

He sat down on the right hand of God. This means he finished the job he came to do, and that was to save his people from their sins. I don't think my Lord and my Savior will remove himself from that exalted seat on high, just because some poor, puny man, versed in the doctrines of men, thinks there is something left for his children to do to live with God in glory. Our Savior knows he paid the price, that he remits our sins to be remembered against us no more, forever. In spite of the errors and ignorance of men, their disbelief in the righteousness of God, his ability to redeem, to remit, some sweet day all the redeemed family of God, with their sins remitted will sing the praise of God in glory.

To those who cannot understand the beauty of such a wonderful God, I extend to you my love, my compassion, and my prayers, knowing that regardless of whether you believe it or not, nevertheless, without our assistance, our sins are remitted by this Savior, and we'll sing together and understand it better by and by. (Sept. 1966)

(From "The Best of Elder Guy Hunt")

RELIGION—GOD CENTERED, MAN CENTERED

Elder Floy Gross (1913—1988)

I think religion can be divided into two classes or categories; God-centered and man-centered. The one seeks to magnify God in one's own eyes and in the eyes of others; while the other seeks to exalt man, and God is only regarded as an accessory, or, at best, practically helpless without man's consent and cooperation. The one is God-honoring, while the other flatters man and thrives on human vanity. Beyond question, true Christianity is God-centered, and its doctrines serve to exalt God and to humble human pride. It demands a little of self-denial and sacrifice, and this will explain its unpopularity with the masses of humanity. The fact that it conveys blessings with which the vanities and carnal pleasures of the world cannot compare, does not change the fact that corrupt human nature stands opposed to real and genuine improvement. It condemns sin, and unrenewed human nature is in love with sin. Jesus himself said, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:19.

Man-centered religion is idolatry [sic] and idolatry [sic] is sin. Idolatry [sic] is self-worship. This was true with ancient idol worship, and it is also true of modern idolatry [sic]. Whether one fashions an image out of wood, stone or precious metal, and worships it; or whether one worships material wealth, fame or worldly position, human philosophy or modern science—he is still worshipping human achievement, and seeking to please self and laboring for selfish ends. This is idolatry [sic].

Having a desire for material blessings is not wrong, and laboring for these things is not wrong; but, when these things become an object of worship and an end in themselves, this is idolatry [sic] and this is sin. Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." He also said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." It is a matter of first things first, and the Bible teaches that the things of God do come first.

All false religion is based upon fear; and is in this way, self-centered. Christianity alone is God-centered. Not all that is called Christianity, however, is really such. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name have done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." God judges the motive as well as the action, and that which stems from anything short of pure love to God is sin. This may be very difficult for many of God's heaven-born children to understand; and the "dead in sins" will never understand it—while in that condition.

(From "Sovereign Grace" by Elder Floy Gross)

CONDEMNATION AND SALVATION

May 18, 1939

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

Brother W.M. Jenkins, of Bold Spring, Tenn., asked us: "What is the cause of anyone's eternal condemnation? Sin, I understand, but what sin? One Baptist preacher said it was what we do. If so, damnation is conditional. I can't so understand. This is what he understands Primitive Baptists have always believed."

The preacher is right, as we understand the matter. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."—Rom. vi. 23. Wages is what you get for what you do. Sin is the transgression of the law; and that is what you do, and death is what you get for it. On the other hand, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." It is true that Adam's sin was ours, as he represented me, and we are born into this world with the same life which he had; and that life became poisoned with sin when he transgressed the law. But as we grow old enough to do anything we commit actual sin. Either way, it is enough to condemn us, and when we have both, a sinful nature and actual transgression, it makes condemnation doubly sure without the divine intervention of divine grace—without the intervention of mercy and the work of our Saviour. So, God's gift is eternal life.

The Old Westminster Confession of Faith, the Old Presbyterian Confession, made condemnation unconditional as well as salvation. Chapter III, Sec. 3, reads, "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels were predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death." This the Primitive Baptists have always denied. They have always believed that eternal salvation is unconditional, but have never believed that people were sent to hell unconditionally. The London Confession Chapter III, Sec. 3, says "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated or foreordained to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice." The Presbyterian Confession was put forth several years before the London Confession, by the Baptists, which was put forth in 1689. The Baptists, in their confession, copied largely from the Presbyterian Confession, where they very well could do so. If the Baptists believed as the Presbyterians, in unconditional reprobation, why did they change this article? There is quite a difference in one being predestinated to condemnation and being left to act in his sins. If God predestinated the damnation of some of the race, and predestinated the salvation of others, then the salvation of those who are saved is not a matter of grace—no more than the damnation of the others is a matter of grace.

C. H. C.

(From "Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist")

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By Elder Bobby Willis (Deceased)



5/6/2016

Prayer As A High Priority

There was a song many years ago on the Pop Charts entitled *“Sound of Silence.”* Sadly, this title could be used to describe many family homes, even of those who profess to be Christians. One cannot be a true disciple of Christ unless prayer is a high priority in their home. Breakfast, lunch and dinner should begin with a prayer of thanksgiving and one of asking for the Lord’s blessing. Believers who are serious about their service to God engage in prayer on a regular basis.

Many well known historical figures of the Bible placed a high priority on prayer. Abraham, upon going into the land of Canaan, **“builted an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the Lord”** (Genesis 12:8). Any time we have a move of any significance to make, it would be far better to call upon the name of the Lord to make sure we are following His will and not ours.

Then there was the time in the life of Moses when the Lord told him to bring the people of Israel into the land of Canaan and Moses said unto the Lord, **“Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way...”** While it is true that Moses did not always do that which the Lord had instructed, we find that Moses was a praying man, seeking the direction the Lord would have him to go. Earlier, we find Moses crying out unto the Lord in prayer when he did not know what he should do. In his prayer, **“Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me”** (Exodus 17:6). This might seem like a desperation prayer as Moses had begun to fear for his life. When the time of our life seems to be short and we know not what to do, our prayers almost become desperate in our need to know what would be pleasing unto the Lord. Need often facilitates prayer. Even though it should not always be that way, we would be kidding ourselves to say otherwise. However, if prayer is a priority in your home, it should be exercised often, regardless of our circumstances.

One of the most known biblical occurrences of intense prayer is when David prayed that his young child be spared (II Samuel 12:16). A similar situation

is faced by Elijah when the son of the widow woman who had made him a little cake, had no breath left in him. Elijah then **“cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God...”** These were intense prayers by David and Elijah, but they were offered up as a matter of priority. These two men of God were accustomed to praying unto the Lord in whatever they set their hands to do.

Another example of prayer as a priority is found in Daniel 6:10-11, **“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.”** Daniel was known for his prayers unto the Lord as he knew of their importance.

If prayer is not a high priority in your life, it is high time that you consider it for what it is, a commandment of our Lord. Even amongst the thieves which had defiled the temple, the Lord made this declaration, **“It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer;...”** (Matt. 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46). The Lord was quoting from the writing of Isaiah (Isaiah 56:7). It must be noted that the Prophet was speaking that which the Lord Himself had given him. Surely what the Lord says is worth taking note of and then doing. **“Think About It!”**

TRUTH RESIDES WITH THE MINORITY

The world likes to be on the side of the majority, for in their way of thinking this puts them on the side of *right*. Among worldly-minded men and women the argument of “everyone is doing it” seems to give license to any activity. But this certainly runs counter to the teachings of the Scriptures. Our Lord taught us that the broad way that leads to destruction is always where you will find the multitude (See Matt. 7:13), and there have always been *few* comparatively who found the narrow way which leads to life. I cannot think of a single instance in the Bible where the majority was right, but it abounds with instances in which the minority was on the side of truth and right.

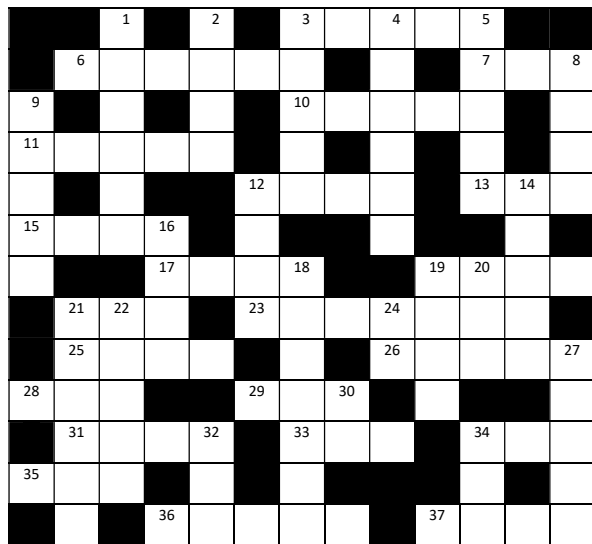
The apostle John was well aware of the ratio between those who are right and those who are wrong when he said, “We know we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” (I John 5:19). True believers have always been very much in the minority. Look how many were gathered together in the upper room in Jerusalem at the close of our Lord’s earthly ministry—“about an hundred and twenty” (Acts 1:15)—not many compared to the multitude among whom He had ministered. The church enjoyed a great ingathering shortly after this, but even then the numbers

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BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 3. The leper had to put a covering on his ___ lip.
- 6. The ___ of a depraved sinner is an open sepulchre.
- 7. To whom is the ___ of the Lord revealed? Not hand.
- 10. ___ not mine anointed, do thy prophets no harm.
- 11. ___ is the man with a quiver full of children. Unsad.
- 12. Ye shall know the truth; the truth will make ye ___.
- 13. Lord hath prepared a sacrifice and ___ his guests.
- 15. ___ your hearts and not your garments. Tear.
- 17. Lame man at gate Beautiful was asking for ___.
- 19. How shall we ___ the Lord's song in a strange land.
- 21. As ___ as east is from west, sins are removed.
- 23. Letter after D. The devil is the ___ of the power of the air. Two answers.
- 25. Death and hell are finally cast into the ___ of fire.
- 26. Be not just hearers but ___ of the word.
- 28. One kinsman would not redeem Ruth lest he ___ his inheritance.
- 29. Woman taken in adultery in the very ___ to Jesus.



(Answers on Page 9)

- 31. Treasures in heaven neither ___ nor rust corrupt.
- 33. Good Samaritan brought wounded man to an ___ and took care of him.
- 34. Promises of God are in Him ___ and amen. No nay.
- 35. Sin of Judah is written with a ___ of iron.
- 36. Jesus fed 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 ___ fish.
- 37. Now we have a more ___ word of prophecy.

DOWN:

- 1. David was ___ in iniquity and conceived in sin.
- 2. The light of the ___ is the eye.
- 3. Paul heard unspeakable words unlawful to ___ when caught up in paradise.
- 4. Certain woman ___ ointment on the head of Jesus.
- 5. ___ the harlot justified by works in hiding the spies.
- 8. For the carnal ___ is enmity against God. Head.
- 9. Israel made ___ knives to circumcise the males.
- 12. Queen of Sheba heard of the ___ of Solomon and came to prove him with hard question.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

- 14. There was an ___ court and outer court in the temple.
- 16. Take heed to God's sure word as a light that shineth in a ___ place.
- 18. The Lord hath chosen Israel to be a ___ people unto himself above all people on the earth.
- 19. Wash me and I shall be whiter than ___. In winter.
- 20. Casteth forth his ___ like morsels in cold. Slick.
- 21. Rich man died & was tormented in the ___. Plural.
- 22. He had 2 sons offering strange fire to God and were devoured by God by fire.
- 24. Short for identification.
- 27. It is a ___ for women to speak in the church.
- 30. Tennessee abbreviation.
- 32. Sons of Noah were Shem ___ and Japheth.
- 34. It's Father's pleasure to give ___ the kingdom.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

I ran across this list that has been heard or told second hand on children's prayers to God. They can be very honest and forthright.

- 1. Dear God, my Mom tells me that you have a reason for everything on Earth, I guess broccoli is one of your mysteries.
- 2. Please make my parents understand that if I don't eat salad, I do better at school
- 3. Please forgive me for hiding my sister's favorite doll...and please don't tell her where it is.
- 4. Dear God, I need you to make my mom not allergic to cats. I really want a cat and I really don't want to ask my mom to move out.
- 5. Dear God...can you get me a Smartphone...Santa must have forgot.
- 6. I saw my big brother walking out of the shower on accident, God, can you erase that from my brain.
- 7. Dear God, when will my sister stop being annoying, I'm down to my last patience.
- 8. Dear God, I promise to never say those words again, at least until my next shots.

TRUTH RESIDES WITH THE MINORITY

(Continued from Page 5)

were small comparatively speaking, and I suspect that some of them did not remain faithful to the Lord and His Church.

A good rule of thumb, even if we had no Bible, would be to observe what the world delights in and avoid it, or, in most cases, go just the opposite direction. This is not an idea that originated with us, but it is a principle that the Lord of glory expressed. "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15).—*Editor* (Elder Ralph Harris)
(From "Advocate and Messenger", April 2007)

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 2nd weekend in April 2024 (Apr. 12-14). Services Friday night, April 12, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, April 13, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. No afternoon service. Sunday at 10:30 am. Elder Gary Rhodes of Arkansas is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, 40283 Wolfe Rd. Caledonia, MS, the second weekend in April, 2024 (Apr. 12-14). Services on Friday night, April 12, at 7 pm preceded by supper at 6 pm. Saturday, Apr. 13, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon service at 1:30 pm. Sunday, Apr. 14, at 10:30 am with lunch. Elder Ricky Harcrow, Fort Payne, AL and Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN are invited ministers. Anyone needing overnight lodging contact. Elder Joe Nettles, Pastor of Sulphur Springs at 912-585-9025.

Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS will host its annual meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2024 beginning at 10:30 am with lunch following and afternoon services to follow. Elder Chris McCool, Gordo, AL and Elder David Pyles, Jackson, MS are invited ministers and Bro. Joe Ott is interim Pastor.

Everyone is invited to the annual May Communion Meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles west of Ecu, MS on Hwy 346 on the 3rd weekend in May 2024 (May 17-19). Services Friday night, May 17, at 7:00 pm. Saturday a fish supper at 5:00 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. Sunday, May 19, at 10:00 am with communion followed by lunch. Elder Jonathan Wise, New Albany, MS and Elder David Wise, Starkville, MS are invited ministers. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Harmony Primitive Baptist Church, Tupelo, MS invites all to their annual meeting the 1st weekend in May 2024 (May 3-5) Services Friday night, May 3, at 7:00 pm preceded by supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday, May 4, at 10:30 am with lunch and afternoon services at 1:30 pm. Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 am with lunch. The meeting will be held this year at Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in Salltillo, MS and not in Tupelo. Elder Tony Lester serves both churches, Harmony, and Beulah. Elder Adam Green from Arkansas is invited minister. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Harmony.

If you live for the Lord, you will have the devil after you. If you live for the devil, you will have the Lord after you and if you live for yourself, you will have both after you.—From Elder Sonny Pyles sermon.

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Phi. 1:21

CHURCH NEWS

Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church, 1947 Broad Street, Headland, AL – April 18-21, 2024 will observe their 175th Anniversary Meeting: April 18-21, 2024 - We invite you to worship with us as we celebrate 175 years of services! Services: Thursday evening, April 18 2024 (supper at 5:30) Service at 6:30pm CST; Friday 10:00 AM, lunch, 2:00 PM Service, Supper 5:30 PM, Service 6:30 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, lunch, 2:00 PM Service; Sunday 10:30 AM with lunch. For more information, contact: Elder Clayton Nowell, pastor, (334) 405-9682, PineyGrovePBC.org

RESPECTED PRIMITIVE BAPTIST MINISTERS FROM THE PAST

Elder J. D. Holder was a strong defender of truth during his many years in the ministry. He engaged in several debates defending the doctrines of grace and wrote a book *Principles and Practices of the Church* in 1961. He served Pleasant Hill PBC, Mantachie, MS 42 years—Bethany PBC, Ecu, MS 36 years—Tupelo PBC several years—Mt. Moriah PBC, Friendship, TN for several years. He was completely disabled a good while before his death. I have heard Elder Sonny Pyles say that Elder Holder was one of his fathers in the ministry and gave him this advice: he should not preach a subject unless he became thoroughly familiar with what the Bible taught as a whole on that subject.—*Editor*

Elder J. D. Holder



(1898 – 1978)

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.” (I Tim. 5:17-18)

“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38)

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (II Tim. 4:2)

EXODUS III. 1-6

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)
 May 18, 1939

Brother J. R. Woodard of Cullman, Ala., has requested our views on the language recorded in the above citation, concerning Moses and the burning bush. We will not take space to quote the language here. An angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. The bush burned with fire, and was not consumed. The Israelites had been in bondage, and were afflicted, and yet they were not consumed. We think this was a type of the church. Notwithstanding the burning, and the affliction which the church has endured all along the line, yet the church is not consumed. The reason the bush was not consumed was that God was in the midst of the bush. The reason why the church is not consumed is because the Lord is there. Moses drew nigh to the bush to see the great sight, and God said to him, "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where thy standest is holy ground." The church is a holy place; it is holy ground. God requires that when we draw nigh, to enter into His service, we put off our shoes from off our feet. We cannot serve God with any of the inventions of men, or with what men have made. The commandment of men being observed or obeyed is not rendering service to God. Nothing but what God has commanded in His Word will do as service to Him. The world, and worldly things, the things of the world, must be put off. They must be laid aside. The church is in the world, but is not of the world. The world must be kept out of the church, or else there will be a going down of the church in that place. "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."—Luke xiv. 33. The church—the true church—is an institution which the Lord established here in the world. It is holy ground. It is not to be esteemed lightly. May the Lord help us to serve Him in a way that we may show that we esteem the church above everything else in the world.

C. H. C.

(From "Editorial Writings from the Primitive Baptist")

SURELY HE WAS A CHILD OF GRACE

Benjamin Franklin wrote the following epitaph for his own tomb:

"The body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, Like the Cover of an Old Book, its Contents Worn Out and Stripped of its Lettering and Gilding, Lies Here, Food for Worms. Yet the Work itself shall not be Lost, for it will, as He Believed, Appear once more in a New and More Beautiful Edition, Corrected and Amended by the Author."

Amen!

(From "The Christian Baptist", March/April 2001)

FEED MY LAMBS

The scripture cited above is in the book of John 21:15. It pleased the Lord to call His people lambs and sheep, and the people He did not redeem He called goats. When the Lord said to Peter, "Feed my lambs, Feed my sheep", He had reference to His regenerated people of all ages, both young and old. Paul called the elders of the church at Ephesus, and said unto them, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the —lambs and sheep—church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood." (Acts 20:28). The scripture clearly proves that God's ministers are to feed the lambs of the fold; the scripture also describes the kind of food they are to be fed, for God said to Jeremiah, "I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15).

Only God's ministers have such food, for they are the only group on earth who are apt to teach—Bible doctrine! All the auxiliaries that have been introduced into the old Church have failed to save the lambs— young folk—for the church. Such as: instruments of music, Sunday schools, Singing conventions, Summer parties, Weekly Bible classes, etc. The reason such things have failed, they are not God's means of saving the lambs for the church. The gospel is God's ordained means of saving His—lambs and sheep—people of all ages, and in every walk of life, to the joy of salvation, and the militant church; for the apostle of the Gentiles said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth (Rom. 1:16). Please notice the definite article "the" in this text. The gospel is not a means to this salvation—IT IS THE MEANS! The gospel will not make sheep out of goats, nor is it the means of saving aliens, but it is spiritual food to the lambs of God's fold, and to all that hunger and thirst after righteousness. If you want your children saved for the Old Church, take them to hear God's ministers preach the Gospel.

Elder G. E. Griffin

(From "The Christian Baptist", July 1971)

THE GOSPEL

Don't just stay home and brood,
 Go to church; eat the gospel food.
 The good news of Christ feeds the soul,
 Gets your eyes back on the goal.

Serving God, no matter what the cost,
 With joy and peace, so not to be lost.
 Losing a life of joy and peace of mind,
 That comes when eyes become blind.

Don't be blind and forget the story,
 The story of Christ and all His glory!
 Elder Larry Wise

KEEP ME AS THE APPLE OF THE EYE

(Psalm 17:8)

The eye is one of the most sensitive parts of the body, even a grain of sand or any minute object that gets into the eye causes trouble and much distress.

Our eyes are well protected in their structure against certain blows or flying objects as they are set back in our foreheads in a boney structure that forms a socket. Also each eye has two lids that close instantly if necessary to keep out hurtful objects.

David used the mechanism of the eye to help teach the meaning of this great lesson. The eye is small as compared with many members of our bodies, but it is very essential to our happiness, safety and ability to earn a livelihood. We can see the great handiwork of God with our eyes and we should be very thankful for them.

I am not as important in the kingdom of God as my eyes are important to me, but Oh! how I need the protection from God as the eye, especially as the apple of the eye, is protected by the human body in its structure. As the eye is protected from all sides both day and night. I am small, weak and worthless and I am of no value in God's kingdom unless He protects me and leads me.

God has all seeing eyes and all-hearing ears. His ears and eyes cannot be molested to prevent Him from seeing and hearing you and me. He has no office hours as men have. He has no coffee breaks and He takes no vacations. His ears are hearing us and His eyes are seeing us twenty four hours each day and He blesses us according to our needs and He protects us as the apple of the eye.

Little child of God, God sees you when you study His precious word of truth, when you go to church praying for your hungry soul to be fed, when you visit the sick and administer to the needy. God hears you when you pray and He administers to your need according to His precious will.

The Bible is written in symbols, figures, parables, common sayings of the Jews and in types and shadows. This helps us to understand the Bible better by associating the subjects of the Bible with things that we are familiar with.

As we study the lives of birds and chickens we see a very beautiful manner in which the mama cares for the young. During the day the mother hen and her brood wander around the yard, orchard and groves but when night comes she leads the little ones to some safe place and hovers over them with her wings—they are hidden under the shadow of her wings.

God hides His little ones under the shadow of His wings when they are in trouble or in distress. I feel sure that I can say His faithful little ones trust Him. How wonderful it is to be hidden under the wings of the Lord! How dreadful and lonesome it is when you have been disobedient and need the coverage of God's wings and He will not cover us! How wonderful it is for

an entire congregation to assemble in the house of the Lord and be covered under His wings. This is priceless unparalled in that we get a foretaste of Heaven. If this is a foretaste then HOW WONDERFUL HEAVEN MUST BE!

Oh, God we pray for thy sustaining grace that we may so live in this life that thou wilt keep us covered under thy wings of love so Satan nor none of his angels can molest us. Dear God, I am not worthy of thy blessings but if thou wilt give me just one little corner in thy house of worship where I can feel the warmth of thy wings I will be happy in the Lord. I prefer this above every other thing in life. May God's name be praised. Amen.

Eld. George R. Hunt

(From "The Christian Pathway", February 1983)

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings," (Psalm 17:8)

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

ACROSS:

- 3. reppu
- 6. taorht
- 7. mra
- 10. hcuot
- 11. yppah
- 12. eerf
- 13. dib
- 15. dner
- 17. smla
- 19. gnis
- 21. raf
- 23. ecnirpe
- 25. ekal
- 26. sreod
- 28. ram
- 29. tca
- 31. htom
- 33. nni
- 34. aey
- 35. nep
- 36. llams
- 37. erus

DOWN:

- 1. nepahs
- 2. ydob
- 3. rettu
- 4. deruop
- 5. bahar
- 8. dnim
- 9. prahs
- 12. emaf
- 14. renni
- 16. krad
- 18. laiceps
- 19. wons
- 20. eci
- 21. semalf
- 22. noraa
- 24. di
- 27. emahs
- 30. nt
- 32. mah
- 34. uoy

JOY

The exercise of benevolence is joy to loving hearts: the more pain it costs, the more joy it is. Kind actions make us happy, and in such joy we find communion with the great heart of Jesus.—Charles Spurgeon

Joy unspeakable and full of glory can be yours but on God's terms and not yours.----*Editor*

GOD WILL SPARE THEM

“And I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that feareth him.” (Malachi 3:17)

If a man spare anyone he would surely spare his own son. The very relation pleads for him. Even a disobedient and faulty child is still a child. Others may look with scorn, but the Father will say it is my son. But when the child is dutiful, and the father sees he desires and aims to please him, he is ready to look over his mistakes and ever ready to help him to correct them. Now this is the figure that God would set before us to encourage us in our efforts to do His biddings. He will spare them as a father spares his own son that serveth him. God’s own sons need His sparing mercy. It is extended to them in four ways.

First: He spares them as to exemption. This is seen in the record the Bible gives of His dealings with His people. He prepared an ark for Noah and his family when the waters covered the face of the earth. Lot was permitted to escape. When the Lord visited the firstborn of Egypt with death the children of Israel were exempt. The things that prove to be a curse to the world prove to be a blessing to the people of God. How He has spared us, spared our lives, our senses, our limbs, our substance, our relations, and our friends! We must gratefully acknowledge that we are not consumed.

Second: He spares them as to correction. He does not refuse to strike when it is needed. He does not let His love hinder Him from using the rod. Whom the Lord loveth he therefore chasteneth. But how? He spares them as to degree. It is not inflicted according to their sins, but enough to cause them to repent and turn to God. It is not through anger, but in love. “Like as a father pitieth His children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him, for he knoweth our frame: he remembereth that we are dust.”

Third: He spares them as to ability. He knows our strength and does not lay more on us than we can do. A reasonable father would not require a small child to do the labor of the young man. It is said, “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Fourth: He spares them as to acceptance. Their best service is imperfect. Their best obedience needs pardon. When we have done all we are able to do for the cause still we must plead for mercy. We must come to God, not as profitable servants, but as pardoned sinners. He will accept your service and grant blessings, though it be mixed with deficiencies in duty. He regards the motive. He looks at the heart. He will pardon what is yours and reward what is His own. If we sin we have an advocate with the Father. Through Him are you accepted. He will spare you, but spare not yourself. Shun not your duty, but deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Him. Do His bidding.

Elder J. Harvey Daily
PRIMITIVE MONITOR—1918

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, April 1984)

GROWTH IN GRACE

The service of the Lord is different than any other labor we ever engage in. In this work we grow stronger, and more vigorous, while in any other we become faint and weak. The more exercise we have religiously, the easier we can perform our duty. The more obedient we are, the cleaner our hands and the more we can claim the promise of the text. We can have more assurance when we attempt to approach a throne of grace, if we are obedient, than otherwise.

It is an easy matter for us to adopt the language of the Psalmist David, if we attend promptly to every duty. “Hear my voice according to thy loving kindness. O Lord, quicken me according to thy judgment” (Psalm 119:149). And again, “The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.” (Psalm 138:8). O, what an important thing that the children of God obey every duty enjoined on them. The prayer of David does not manifest the spirit of arrogancy and pride: but of the most sublime humility. If we could always feel as he did, we would always pray as he did. The qualification for prayer in the saint is to be obedient in all other duties. See what a task prayer is if you have not obeyed the Lord in anything else. The qualification for other duties is prayer. Hence to a healthy growth in grace it is indispensably necessary to do whatever duties the gospel enjoins on us.

How are we to testify to the world around us that we love the Lord if we do not prove it by our obedience. The Saviour’s admonition is, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). How are they to see your good works if you never do them?

In disobedience you have no evidence yourself that you love the Lord. “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments” (1 John 5:2). If you want to know that you love the children of God, here is the gospel rule by which you can know it. You never can have this testimony within your own heart unless you obey. The same apostle says, “We know we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” Here we have a perfect rule by which to know that we love God, and that we are born of God. For the apostle says, “Every one that loveth is born of God.” And are we to think that we can have all of these testimonies and others not know it? The Saviour says, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Elder Lemuel Potter

THE CHURCH ADVOCATE-1897

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, April 1984)

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” (II Pet. 3:18)

THE FORM OF A SERVANT



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Philippians 2:7: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

Today I would like to write about two words that are in our verse, form and servant. Form means external appearance, the form by which a person or thing strikes the vision. In other words how a person looks on the outside according to what our eyes can see. How tall is the person? Male or female? The color of their hair or eyes etc.. We know a person by the structure of their face from a stranger's face. We recognize their form. We recognize our love ones by their form when we see them coming to us. The form is unique to a person. Some may look alike, but in some way we are all unique as a person.

What form did Christ come in? What did he look like? He was born before the camera was invented so we have no pictures taken of him to see what his face looked like. They have him with a beard and white robe, yet they really don't know what he looks like at all. The closest scriptures of what he looked like is this verse in Isaiah 53:2: "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." So we really don't know what our Savior looked like while here on earth. However, we do know what form he came in, or at least the form that is under consideration in our text, which brings us to our second word which is servant.

Servant means "one who binds or is bound to do the will of another." The word slave is used with this definition who were made slaves by force. Then there are those who willingly make themselves a servant for their own good. For example those who make a commitment unto God by following him into baptism are considered a servant. This is the form that Christ came in, the form of a servant. With the mind of a servant Christ entered into a covenant to come in time to take upon him flesh and blood and be made in the likeness of men. Though Christ loved us and it was his pleasure to come and save us, yet he bound himself to the will of another, God the Father. For we read in John 6:38-39: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 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."

In further studying of Christ the servant, we read the preceding verse of our text which says, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." Phil. 2:6 Our scripture clearly tells us that Christ is God, a God that has all power, who if he so desired could simply speak the word and it would be so. You would think that God when he came into this world would have come in the form of a wealthy royal person Yet it tells us he came as a servant. How did he become a servant? For as much as his children were flesh and blood, he likewise took upon himself flesh so that he would destroy death. Heb. 2:14 A divine power making himself lower than the angels and coming as an infant and subjecting himself to living from birth to death as flesh and blood was in the form of a servant. John 1:14 says that God came as flesh and blood. When his mother and father first looked upon him at birth it was in the form of a servant. Just the mere fact that that he came as flesh and blood shows that he came as a servant. When the shepherds came to see this great sight that the angels had proclaimed to them about Jesus and when they came and looked upon the infant, they saw Jesus in the form of a servant. Because of that servant coming as flesh and blood we can look forward to a home over in glory some sweet day.

R. L. Taylor

THE SERVANT PROHESIED

The Lord Jesus Christ as a servant was foretold by Old Testament writers. Isaiah writes, "Behold **my servant**, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." (Isa. 42:1) That this speaks of Christ is verified by Matthew 12:17-18 after Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the sabbath. Isaiah also writes, "Behold, **my servant** shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high." (Is. 52:13) Isaiah says his visage was marred more than any man and his form more than the sons of men. He dealt prudently and was a complete success in all He did and culminating with saving His people from their sins on the cross. The Bible records many servants of the Lord such as Moses, David, Joshua, Jacob, Abraham, Job, Paul, Peter etc. but they were all sinners and sometimes dealt imprudently but not so with Jesus Christ. He humbled Himself under the mighty hand of God and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:8) We should be servants of THE SERVANT by taking up our cross and following Him in obedience which when done completely will result in baptism.—*Editor*

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