

Glad Tidings

June

“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

We all have but one father in nature, and God's children have but “one” Heavenly Father. Our natural father knows much about us as his children, but our Heavenly Father knows everything about us. He is perfect in knowledge. The scripture says, “Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?” (Luke 12:6) If that is true, and it is, we are encouraged to trust the Father and not fear because “But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:7)

Just as God the Father doesn't forget a sparrow that falls to the ground, He doesn't ever forget His children. Whereas natural parents sometimes forget their own children, our Heavenly Father never forgets the objects of His love. “Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.” (Isa. 49:15-16) What a comfort it is to know that our Father will never leave or forsake His children!

Before we were ever conceived and born into the world, God knew us just like He knew the prophet, Jeremiah. The Bible says concerning this prophet, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” (Jer. 1:5) He saw our very substance before we were ever formed and wrote our names in the Lamb's book of life. “Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:16)

Natural fathers provide for their wives and children by working in a secular job. Our Heavenly Father knows our need and provides. We all needed a Saviour to pay our sin debt which we could never pay. God provided that in His Son, Jesus Christ. When Abraham went to offer His only son, Isaac, on Mt. Moriah, God intervened. When Isaac wondered where the sacrifice was, Abraham said, “...My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.” (Gen. 22:8) Abraham was told to not harm his son and he looked behind and behold a ram caught in the thicket by the horns. He took that ram and offered it instead of his son, Isaac.

Abraham took that ram and sacrificed it as an offering to God. “And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.” God did literally provide Himself a sacrifice to God centuries later as Jesus Christ was God manifest in the flesh. (I Tim. 3:16) One of the meanings of Jehovahjireh is Mt. Moriah and also provide. Mt. Moriah was where Abraham offered the ram sacrifice and Mt. Moriah was very close to Calvary where Jesus was crucified. God provided the need of a Saviour and the Saviour fulfilled the need by saving His people from their sins.

Natural fathers provide a home for their families to live where there is food and shelter. The Lord God not only provides for a natural home in the institution of marriage in the Garden of Eden but also has provided a church home for believers in Jesus Christ to enjoy spiritual food, fellowship, and shelter in an unfriendly world. Jesus said to His apostles, “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom...” (Luke 22:19-30) Jesus said that he would build His church on Himself as the Rock and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Various things may break up a natural home, but nothing will prevail against the church which Jesus established.

God the Father has provided a Heavenly home as the final resting place of His children. Jesus told His disciples that in His Father's house were many mansions. He promised to go to the Father and come again to receive them and every other heir of promise into those many mansions. How many? As many that have been prepared and will be inhabited by all those for which Jesus died as a ransom at Calvary. “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:28) Jesus was the firstborn among “many” brethren. (Rom. 8:29)

Jesus was the Redeemer and redeemed His people from the slave market of sin. We look forward to seeing Him some sweet day just as Job did many centuries ago. “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) What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see! The saints will finally be home, never to leave! (Elder (Larry Wise)

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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THE MEASURE OF



By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi
(Written and sent to me in July 2009—Editor)

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Gal. 6:1)

Paul speaks many things to these Galatian brethren even before he gets to this subject of restoration of one in their ranks who has fallen in error somehow. But it is this one I feel led to write about now.

The Galatians had trouble with men coming behind Paul's ministry of grace to preach a form of the old Law and a mixture of the principles of Christ. Confusion obviously followed all of this. It is a good possibility that the individual under question here may have been a victim of this teaching. Paul desires restoration as opposed to exclusion from the fold. Also, Paul's desire would be that those who are rooted and grounded in the true teachings of Christ would point out the error to him but do it in a gentle (meek) godly caring way.

Paul instructs the sound members to "consider" themselves which means that they need to remember that they too are flesh prone to error, having a fleshy nature. They should remember to treat those in error as they themselves would want to be treated. Just as

the Savior admonishes his children to do. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Mt. 7:12)

Their efforts toward the one at fault would be for "restoring", not permanently excluding him or her from them. The word "restore" in our verse refers to a broken bone needing to be restored back to its healthy position in the skeletal body. It also shows us how important each member of our congregation is to the welfare of the church body. I mean which bone in our physical body, if it were broken, would we not want it restored back? Remembering this will help us to be gentle and loving anytime any of us need to help someone in the congregation.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Ga. 6:2) In this verse Paul continues his teaching by urging them to bear each others burdens when the opportunity arises. When we have something that is heavy that needs moving, we have learned that a heavy load is always lighter when we have many hands to help us lift it. Fellow members should be there for one another to help God's children to face nothing alone. Then a heavy burden is made lighter when we have many to help us. For when one of us hurt, then we all hurt. Just a kind word to let them know we are there for them will help.

"For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." (Ga. 6:3) Sadly, when a fellow member falls, sometimes we feel that we may be better than them; thinking that we would not allow ourselves to fall the same way. Maybe not, but if we think we are somehow better than those who have fallen, we are just fooling ourselves.

"But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Ga. 6:4) Prove means for us to examine our own hearts and prove our own conduct in life by the rule of God's word. This is the measure that we are to use in seeing if we are doing that which is right. It is a serious error for someone to try and measure themselves against other people's perfections or imperfections, instead of the word of God. Ministers should not measure themselves against another minister or a deacon against another deacon, or churches against churches. It should all be measured by the word of God!! Any other method is error. Too often we feel we have failed because we measure ourselves against others. This method will rob us of the joy we can have when God is pleased with us, but yet we think he is not because we don't measure up to someone else we have measured ourselves against. Look to God's word and there happiness will be found.

Consider these things and may the Lord give you understanding.

(II Cor. 10:12)

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

LOVING-KINDNESS

By Elder Larry Wise
Randolph, Mississippi

We are taught in the word of God to be kind to each other, to love one another freely for Christ's sake. When we put these two words together, we have the loving-kindness of the Lord and where would we be if it were not for this flowing from the throne of God's grace? We would be destitute and bound for hell.

David declares why God's children should put their trust in Him. "How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings." (Psalm 36:7) The loving-kindness of the Lord is excellent because His name alone is excellent (precious, valuable) and in His name is true love. When we were estranged from God and alienated by wicked works while in our natural state, we were drawn to God by a work of grace because we are incapable of recovering ourselves from death in trespasses and sins. "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." (Jer. 31:3) We do not find in God's word where the love of God had a beginning because God has no beginning. He is from everlasting to everlasting according to the Psalmist. (Psalm 90:2)

No man can come unto Christ except drawn by the Father according to the words of Jesus. (John 6:44) I have seen water drawn from a well at the house of an uncle of mine. The bucket was lowered deep into the well of water; not once did the one drawing the water ask the water to get into the bucket or if it wanted to come to the surface from the depths of the earth. NO! The bucket was lowered beneath the depths of water and literally drawn out of its environment to the surface. The Lord did not ask us if we wanted to be drawn. If He had, we would have responded with a resounding, NO! This is because we would not come to Him that we might have life. (John 5:40) Paul tells us that there is none that seeketh after God, not one!

God draws (drags) His children from death in sin by His loving-kindness marked by irresistible grace. Paul describes how we are by nature as being foolish, disobedient, etc. until God stoops down in His mercy. "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Tit.3:4,5)

Is it any wonder then that we would desire to put our trust under the shadow of His wings because of His loving-kindness? Without this grace we would not even desire to trust Him for our every need. Job declared that though He slay him, he would trust in Him. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." (Job 13:15) Job obviously knew something about the loving-kindness of the Lord. We cannot glory in ourselves or even glory in the church Christ established, but we can glory in Him. "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." (Jer. 9:24) It is what God has done for us that should motivate us to praise His name.

When we experience the loving-kindness of the Lord in our service to the Lord, it is through obedience. David prays, "Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." (Psalm 143:8) We recognize, as did David, that God sends His chastening hand when we step out of the way of the Lord. God then hides His face for a time until we repent. This is a temporary removal of the loving-kindness of the Lord in His manifest presence which He grants when we are obedient. We cannot behold Him when he hides His face. "When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only:" (Job 34:29) May we not lose that manifest loving-kindness!

Even though we are disobedient, the Lord still maintains that loving-kindness that drew us to Him from our sinful state. "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail." (Psalm 89:30-33) God is faithful to continue that good work in us until the day of coming of the Lord Jesus.

Job was one who trusted in God because of the loving-kindness of the Lord. He knew, however, that God could withdraw his presence whether it was against him personally or a nation which we have observed already in this article. (Job 34:29) The Lord crowns us with loving-kindness. Should we not take that crown and give Him glory by trusting under the shadow of His wings? The shadow that gives us relief from the burning rays of this old world. The shadow that is revealed in the New Testament as the Lord Jesus Christ. The wings that carry us from the depths of despair to the joys on the mountaintop. God indeed often remembers that we are but dust and does not utterly stir up His full wrath against us as he would be justified in doing. His kindness and compassion is real and we desire that manifest presence, but we can't walk in worldly ways to enjoy this loving-kindness.

“FORBID THEM NOT”

We have sometimes heard people say that certain ones are too young to join the church: that children have not sufficient judgment to make a profession which involves so much, and for that reason they should wait until they are older. To this we would say that people never become old enough to make a profession of faith unless they have faith, and that God does not work in His children “to will and to do of His own good pleasure” before they are old enough.

In II Chron. 4 we are told that King Josiah, at the tender age of seventeen years, began to seek after the God of David his father, and four years later he began to destroy idols which filled Jerusalem and Judah. He “declined neither to the right hand nor to the left.” He was old enough because the Lord led him. Jeremiah was a child when called to the prophetic office. He lived during Josiah’s reign. Samuel, when very young, was established to be a prophet of the Lord, and all Israel knew that he had been called.

Surely, when God softens the hearts of children and fills them with eagerness to attend religious services and a desire to be baptized, they are not too young to follow the Saviour.

Many times have we listened to many young people relate their spiritual exercises in such a way as to bring tears of joy to the eyes of older saints. At such times we never heard any objections to the youthfulness of the applicant. Are such too young to be added to the church?

But some will say that there are many temptations and sins surrounding the young that a public profession should be deferred until later years. Would such a course make temptations less or more easy to be overcome? If old people would make no mistakes and were not subject to trials, there might be a little argument in such reasoning. The old brethren are themselves in constant need of the Saviour.

The greater number of God’s people are convicted in youth. We often hear them tell how the Lord made them abhor themselves and pray to him for mercy long before they have related the same to others.

We desire to say a few things about our first convictions. We cannot tell how old we were at the time of our first soul trouble, but we will never forget the day when we attended a funeral and asked over and over, “What will become of us at death?” That earnest question, with some alteration, troubled us for many years. At the age of 17 our convictions were more pungent. After a while peace came, and the next was an earnest desire to be baptized in Jesus’ name. It often occurs to us that God has been very near us, protecting and upholding.

Should this be read by any boy or girl who desires to be baptized, our advice would be to go to the church and tell the dear saints what the Lord in great mercy has done and follow Him into the watery grave. He will abundantly bless you. Go with all your weakness and trembling. God will give you strength. Elder George A. Bretz (Church Advocate via “Advocate and Messenger”, May 1980)

WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Col. 1:10)

To walk worthy of the Lord means to be fruitful in every good work. How do we measure up? Are we abounding in the work of the Lord, steadfast in all good works? To obey the admonition in this verse we must be diligent, up and about the Master’s business. You know that slothfulness is condemned in the Bible, and we are encouraged rather to be active daily in the service of God. “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 5:1-3) This gives us the pattern to follow if we would be fruitful in every good work. There is a *right* way to do the good works. It must not be done to be seen of men or with a selfish attitude.

The greater problem we have is denying ourselves and being submissive to the Lord. Temptation in this world has much to do with influencing us in the wrong direction as far as service is concerned. We should be on guard each day of our lives, asking the Lord to direct us in the ways of truth. We are taught to examine ourselves to see whether or not we are in the faith.

Our sinful nature will run after the things of the world if we do not bring our bodies into subjection. In other words we are taught to make no provision to serve the flesh in the lusts thereof, but rather to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. For service of the Lord demands that we be submissive unto God and resist the devil. Let us abound unto every good work, following the Lord in the way of righteousness, and He will be pleased with us.

Elder A. D. Wood

(From “Advocate and Messenger”, April 1982)

FIRST LOVE

(From “Advocate and Messenger”, April 1982)

It is good to call to remembrance “the former days” and especially our first days in the church. Many things were hidden from our view, many of the Bible truths learned later were wrapped in mystery, but duties were delightful ordinances highly prized and beautiful, and the soul longed for the day of service to come; how pleasant it was when church day came and we felt to say, “Let us go up to the house of the Lord.” Much time was spent in meditation, prayer and praise.

It can be said of many today as it was said of the church of Ephesus. “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;” (Rev. 2:4,5)

It was not so much the greatness nor the value of what we did, but the zeal and early love that made doing a delight and that made the former days so happy. Let us pray that we may grow in this grace instead of falling from it.—Elder J. Harvey Daily—*Primitive Monitor* 1923

OUR ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE UPON GOD

“Without me,” says Christ, “Ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5). “In Him” that is, in God says Paul, “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). God is the Source and Support of every natural and spiritual being, the Author of every natural blessing. He is everything to us: we are nothing without Him. But for His creation we would never have had any being: but for His preservation, we would have no existence now. He numbers all the hairs of our head: not a sparrow falls to the ground without Him.

Independently of Him we would have no power to breathe, or to think, or to feel, or to act, or to eat, or to drink, or to sleep, or to plant and water, but only God can give the increase. We cannot make it rain when we think it needed: nor can we stop it, when it seems excessive. We cannot make the wind blow or cease. We cannot make even our own hearts beat: and our blood circulate. We cannot make the sun or moon rise or set or the stars shine or quit shining. We are utterly dependent upon God for every spiritual blessing, and upon Christ, the Son of God, for every spiritual blessing.

Christ is the Incarnation, the Power and the Wisdom and the Salvation of God. Without His atonement we could not be pardoned: without His resurrection we could not be justified: without His Spirit we could not be regenerated or sanctified or glorified: without His love we could not love and obey and be reconciled to God: without His teaching and example we could not know the Divine perfection: without His mediation, we could not enjoy the favor of God: without His promises, we would sink into despair: without Him we could never enter heaven, and enjoy its pure and everlasting pleasures. But we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, that is, by the power of His almighty, indwelling Spirit.

We can imperfectly, but sincerely, love and obey and be resigned to God: crucify the old man with his affections and lusts, do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God, live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world, live in peace with all men, love and forgive and forbear with our brethren, and love and forgive and pray for and do good to our enemies, and, in this way, as living branches of the true Vine, bear much fruit unto God, and glorify Him in our bodies and spirits, which are His. O for His grace to enable us thus to live!

Elder Sylvester Hassell

The Gospel Messenger, July, 1911

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, April 1982)

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.—Helen Keller

Helen Keller was deaf and blind, but those are no barriers to the Lord communicating with His children.

OUR SIN BEARER

By Elder Grady McWhirter (Deceased)

I Peter 2:24: “Who his (Jesus) own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

All of our sins were laid upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who did no sin. We notice in the above scripture that he bore them in his own body. There was no one else sufficient to bear the sins of the Lord’s people. According to God’s purpose, the Saviour came upon the earth to bear our sins. “Bear” means “to carry them”, and we find that the Bible teaches that our Lord carried them, and removed them from his children to be remembered no more. In St. John, 1st chapter, John described Jesus this way, “Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”. II Corinthians 5:21 Paul writes, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin”. We know that “taking them away” means that the power of Satan and sin will never be able to destroy the children of God. It is true that while in this natural body there will be sin to disturb and molest us as long as we are here in this world, but because the Lord did bear our sins, as far as eternity is concerned, he has delivered us from eternal condemnation.

Then what about the judgment? We find taught in God’s word that the judgment of God is to cast into eternal condemnation all that are under the law of Sin and Death, and we are taught in the Bible that the Lord Jesus Christ delivered his people from the law of Sin and Death. They were delivered on the cross when he bear their sins away. At the same time he satisfied the judgment of God through the offering of his body, and delivered them from that condemned state to a saved state with the Lord. But the wicked, whose sins were not borne away, will come before the Lord’s judgment, and they will hear him say, “Depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.” Then we are taught another judgment which begins at the house of God. We are taught that the children of God are judged, too. They are judged right here in this life, according to their works. Under this judgment of God, he blesses and rewards us with gladness and happiness when we do the things he has commanded us to do. He, also, punishes his children when they disobey him. We know that all commandments are addressed only to the children of God. John describes them as believers in God—“He that believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, or born again”. There are no commandments in the Bible addressed to an unbeliever. May God bless you.

Elder Grady McWhirter

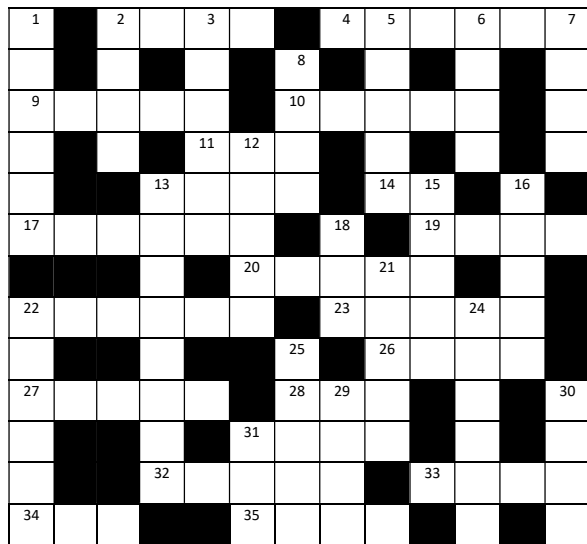
(From “*The Christian Pathway*”, February 1979)

God not only takes away our sins through Jesus Christ, but He takes away the stony heart in the new birth and gives a heart of flesh.—*Editor*

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

- 2. God hath chose foolish things to confound the ____.
- 4. Pharisees could ____ at a gnat and swallow a camel.
- 9. The staff of Goliath's ____ was like a weaver's beam.
- 10. ____ thou that sleepest and arise from the dead.
- 11. Love worketh no ____ to his neighbor.
- 13. God said this man's blood cried from the ground.
- 14. Nova Scotia.
- 17. To be carnally ____ is death, spiritually ____ is peace.
- 19. The seed that fell into stony places was heard and ____ with joy received.
- 20. With the ____ of God's nostrils the waters were gathered together. Explosion.
- 22. Jesus is the lily of the ____.
- 23. The Holy Ghost descended in a bodily ____ like a dove upon Christ when he was baptized.
- 26. I am the Lord God and Him ____ shalt thou serve.



(Answers on Page 8)

- 27. A bishop is to be a ____ of hospitality and good men.
- 28. Ye do ____ not knowing the scriptures nor power of God said Jesus concerning resurrection.
- 31. David prayed that God would ____ out all his transgressions and have mercy on him.
- 32. Can no fountain ____ both salt water and fresh.
- 33. Jesus is the bright and morning ____.
- 34. The Passover wasn't to be eaten ____ nor sodden with water. Uncooked.
- 35. Who is this that cometh from Edom with ____ garments from Bozrah?

DOWN:

- 1. ____ hath builded her house & hewn out 7 pillars.
- 2. ____ not behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda. Cry.
- 3. Ezra was a ready ____ in the law of Moses.
- 5. ____ up a child in the way he should go.
- 6. Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ____ world without end. Time periods.
- 7. God exalted Jesus & gave him a ____ above all.
- 8. The ____ of Jericho fell down flat by faith. Singular.

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

- 12. As many as are ____ the spirit they are sons of God. Two words.
- 13. Thou shalt not commit ____.
- 15. Get thee behind me ____ Jesus told Peter.
- 16. The love of ____ is the root of all evil.
- 18. I am he that liveth and ____ dead.
- 21. All have sinned and come ____ of glory of the Lord.
- 22. The Lord is with thee thou mighty man of ____ said the angel of the Lord to Gideon.
- 24. He that tilleth his land shall have ____ of bread.
- 25. Jonah spent 3 days and nights in the whale's ____.
- 29. Jehu ____ in a chariot and Absalom on a mule.
- 30. The priests blew the ram's ____ at Jericho. Trumpet.
- 31. Marriage is honorable and the ____ undefiled. Cot.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

One Sunday morning, the Pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor." replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?"

I saw a cartoon in which two children were watching a preacher on TV. The girl said to the boy, "Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life!"—*Editor*

FATHER'S DAY

Our earthly fathers love their children and do their best to provide, but they sometimes make mistakes. Our Heavenly Father makes no mistakes. Jesus did teach that if a son asked bread from his father, would he give him a stone? If he asked for a fish, would he give him a serpent? (Matt. 7:9-10) The obvious answer is no, he would give that which is needed if at all possible. Then Jesus paints a contrast with our Heavenly Father. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matt. 7:11) Natural fathers do not always know what is good or best for their children, but the Lord always knows, Amen!—*Editor*

CHURCH NEWS

Everyone is invited to the meeting at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS the 1st weekend in June 2024 (May 31-June 1). Services Friday night, May 31, at 7:00 pm. Sat., June 1, at 10:00 am with lunch and afternoon services. Regular services on Sunday at 10:30 am. Elder Sammy Odom, Hattiesburg MS, is invited minister. This is their 178th annual meeting. Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of New Prospect.

Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS invites everyone to their annual meeting the 4th weekend in June 2024 (June 21-23). Services Friday night, June 21, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Jonathan Wise, New Albany, MS is invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church at our new location, **7247 Andrews Road, Bartlett, TN 38135**, June 14 & 15, 2024. Services are planned as follows: Friday night, June 14, sandwich supper at 5:30 p.m. with worship service at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following, then afternoon services. Invited minister is Elder Tim Montgomery, pastor at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Jacksonville, AR. Please note our new address. We covet your prayers for an edifying and blessed meeting that will be glorifying to our Lord and Savior. Elder Chase Harrison is pastor at Raleigh.

Beulah Primitive Baptist Church, Saltillo, MS will have a meeting the 5th weekend in June 2024 (June 28-30) Services Friday night, June 28, at 7:00 pm preceded by supper at 6:00 pm. Saturday, June 29, at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, June 30, at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN and Elder Danny Wisner, Georgia are invited ministers. All are invited to come and worship and please pray for the services. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Beulah.

The 5th Sunday night Fellowship meeting June 2024 (June 30) will be hosted by Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS with supper at 5:30 pm and worship at 6:30 pm. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches but everyone is invited.

“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” (John 18:36) The church is in the world but is not of the world just as Jesus was in the world but not of the world.

CHURCH NEWS

Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS will have its annual meeting the 4th weekend in July 2024. (July 26-28) Services Friday night, July 26, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, July 27, at 10:00 am with lunch and afternoon services. This is an open meeting this year. Everyone is invited. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, 60267 Hatley Road, Amory, MS plans to host our Anniversary Meeting Friday-Saturday, June 7-8, 2024. Lord willing, Elder Neil Honea, pastor of Five Mile Church in Akron, AL, and Bro. McNeil Honea will be our guest preachers. Supper will be served Friday night at 6 p.m., with the worship service at 7 p.m. Saturday morning service will begin at 10 a.m., with lunch at noon, and afternoon service at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will commemorate the 205th anniversary of the constitution of the church. We extend a warm invitation to everyone to visit with us, and would request your prayers for the meeting.—Elder Tim Cunningham, Pastor

All are invited to Rector Primitive Baptist Church, Rector AR, the weekend before the second Sunday in August 2024 for our Annual Meeting. We will have a light supper at 6 pm with services to follow at 7pm on Friday night August 9th. We will begin services at 10 am Saturday August 10 with lunch and afternoon services. Lord willing, we will have an ordination service of Bro. Jeremy Horton to the ministry on Saturday afternoon. Services will begin again Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We plan to have an open meeting and are prayerful all who can will attend. Elder Devon Horton serves as Pastor at Rector.



Elder Jonathan Wise (Picture above) is preparing to baptize his son, Isaac Wise on April 7, 2024 into the church he pastors at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS. He had joined the church the previous Sunday at the age of 9. Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth say the scriptures. (Eccl. 12:1) I believe the Lord touches the majority of His children in their youth with His grace.—*Editor*

EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF

Perhaps Christians do not think enough about the state of their hearts. We are so much given to testing ourselves and others upon doctrine that we lose sight of the fact that regenerated persons may have “hard hearts”, “evil hearts”, and “unbelieving hearts.” “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief.” An evil heart of unbelief would be hardened against the pleadings of the Holy Spirit, for, “as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

There is the “fearful heart,” Isaiah said, “Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong.” The fearful heart draws back at every trial, shrinks at every duty, but he that hath confidence in God has a brave heart and goes forward in the strength of Israel’s God. It is written in the proverbs, “Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.” Whether one enjoys the service of God and the church, depends upon how his heart is set. If the heart is set on worldly things, there will be little attraction in the church, for where the heart is there is the treasure.

It is not Christ-like to have a hard heart, for He was tender hearted. Paul gave a description of the right kind of heart for Christians, he said, “Be ye kind one to another, and tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” How blessed it is to be tender hearted! How we shrink back from the hard hearted. All the poor, all those that mourn, all the meek, and those who are hungering and thirsting for spiritual things are drawn toward the kind and tender hearted. They seem more like Jesus, it is told of a poor waif who had been tenderly treated by a kind lady that he thought she must be God’s wife.

There are thousands of others who when they see those who have loving hearts for others, judge that they must be God’s kinfolds—His own children. There is no use in claiming kinship with Jesus and manifest a hard and unfeeling heart. We must be ready to weep with those that weep, and forgiving and tender even to the erring, for has not God been tender with the erring if He has forgiven us for Christ’s sake? So, let us take to heart the exhortation of Paul, “But exhort one another daily while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Satan deceives us many times into hardness of heart, and we manifest coldness towards others, which tends to separate us and breaks down tenderness and fellowship, So, “today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.”-- Selected

(From “The Christian Baptist”, July 1976)

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19) Paul had received a gift from these brethren in Philippi. As God had supplied his need through them, He would also supply their need by Jesus Christ. Since God doesn’t change, He will also do the same today.—
Editor

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

By Elder Louis Culver (Deceased)

Often we have preconceived notions and ideas concerning a given subject, when in fact we know little or nothing at all about the matter. Never mind that someone else knows the answers and is trying to convey them to us. Forget the fact that reference works are available for our personal use and study.

We decide the outcome of a matter before we are aware of the facts concerning the matter. We become involved in something about which we know little or nothing, then act as if we are experts on the subject. We do not feel it incumbent upon us to do the research necessary to become knowledgeable and conversant about the subject.

One broaches a subject and we feel compelled to join in the discussion, giving our two cents’ worth. Given today’s rates of inflation and discounting ignorance, we are usually giving about a token’s worth of input.

The Bible teaches us to “study to be quiet.” To do so would seem to strangle our style, hamper our freedom of speech, and leave us feeling inadequate. Usually these three concepts are pertinent, demonstrating our weaknesses.

If we truly study to be quiet, we will find that we are able to learn much more than if we are always talking. While the brain is capable of absorbing while the mouth is dispensing, it is able to absorb so every much more when the mouth is closed.

Think twice before speaking once. If it then seems expedient to keep quiet, don’t speak at all. After all, it has been said that silence is golden. As gold is a precious metal, so silence is a precious concept: the abundance of each is very much limited.

(From “ITMS”, June 2001)

**ANSWERS
BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ACROSS: | DOWN: |
| 2. esiw | 1. modsiw |
| 4. niarts | 2. peew |
| 9. raeps | 3. ebircs |
| 10. ekawa | 5. niart |
| 11. lli | 6. sega |
| 13. leba | 7. eman |
| 14. sn | 8. llaw |
| 17. dednim | 12. ybdel |
| 19. nona | 13. yretluda |
| 20. tsalb | 15. natas |
| 22. yellav | 16. yenom |
| 23. epahs | 18. saw |
| 26. ylno | 21. trohs |
| 27. revol | 22. ruolav |
| 28. rre | 24. ytnelp |
| 31. tolb | 25. ylleb |
| 32. dleiy | 29. edor |
| 33. rats | 30. nroh |
| 34. war | 31. deb |
| 35. deyd | |

THE IMPORTANCE OF HONESTY

By Elder Lonnie Mazingo Jr.



In Proverbs 12:22 Solomon says, “Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.” On the surface this verse seems to state an obvious truth. Examined in the context of human conduct it is profound.

The world looks upon lying in various categories. We have heard of people speak of “little white lies” and humanists of “situational ethics.” However, lying is in God’s sight an *abomination*. No matter what the motive or the goal, lying is looked upon as a thing of disgust and abhorrence by our Lord.

Men are by their very nature liars. David informs us in Psalm 58:3, “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.” Men have little trouble lying if the consequences of telling the truth become detrimental to them. Man begins to search for excuses that will justify a lie. It is believed by some that lying is excusable as long as it is done to spare someone’s feelings. Lying is thought to be acceptable if it will keep one out of trouble. Certainly, there are those who deliberately lie to gain advantage in business or finance. Misstating one’s age to get a discount at a restaurant. Reinventing events to avoid liability in a traffic accident, misrepresenting one’s achievements to gain favor and telling someone you like something that you really don’t like in order to spare their feelings, are a few simple examples of common dishonesty.

God is just the opposite from man. He is infinitely honest. There is not in Him the least “shadow of turning”. Indeed, Paul tells us in Heb. 6:18 that it is *impossible* for God to lie. For this God’s people rejoice. God’s absolute honesty means that His people can have absolute confidence in His promises. Paul said, “All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen unto the glory of God by us”. (2 Cor. 1:20) Consequently Paul could state his confidence in salvation in Titus 1:2 when he said, “In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the world began.” How thankful we can be that the promise upon which our hope of eternal life rests was made by a God that *cannot* lie.

To understand just how bad lying is consider its source. Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he

speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44) Lying is of the devil. He is the “father of it” from “the beginning”. Remember the lie he told in the “beginning”? “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die”. (Gen. 3:4) From that first lie comes all the miseries and evils that fallen man has suffered since he believed the lie of Satan rather than the truth of God.

Great is the judgment of God against lying. Solomon says in Proverbs 19:9, “A false witness shall not go unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish”. John says in Rev. 21:27, “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” He goes on to record that liars are in the same category with the wicked in Rev. 22:15, “For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” Finally he states in Rev. 21:8, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, *and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” Do we care to continue to believe that lying is excusable?

Conversely our text declares, “...but they that deal truly are his delight.” Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” and it is in honesty and truth that He delights. How we rejoice that our God is truth and how He rejoices when we are truthful even to our own detriment, when we see the telling of truth as a higher goal than fixing the situation we find ourselves in. How clean to the soul and refreshing to the spirit is honesty. David declares, “Blessed is the man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to, lies”. (Psalm 40:4) Paul exhorts “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another”. (Eph. 4:15)

May God bless each of us to speak the truth and deal truly. May honesty be the hallmark of all we say and do. May we ever remember the words of David in Psalm 51:6, “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts.”

Elder Lonnie Mazingo, Jr.

(From “*Advocate and Messenger*”, July 1996)

PREACHER LIES

Have you ever heard a preacher lie in the pulpit? He has preached 45 plus minutes; then he says, “I’m going to this scripture and then I’m through.” He goes to the scripture and takes several more minutes to make comments. Then he decides to go to some more scriptures and says, “This and then I’m through.” He was supposed to be through after the first “then and I’m through.” If this is a lie, the Holy Spirit surely is not responsible. What sayest thou? I confess, Father forgive!—*Editor*

I AM GOD AND THERE IS NONE LIKE ME



By Elder Harold Hunt
Maryville, Tennessee

Some folks seem to think God is just a spectator just wondering what man is going to do next. The image that most folks have of God is a gray headed old king sitting on a throne away off out yonder somewhere, just wringing his hands and grieving his heart out because he is doing the best he can, but he just cannot get the job done. They are sure that he would do a lot better if he just had more help, if he was better organized, if he was better financed.

But that is not the way the Bible tells it. Isaiah says, "For I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" Isa. 46:9,10. God will do all his pleasure. If God does not do something, it did not please him to do it.

It pleases God to save sinners and he saves them. He saves everyone he pleases to save. Without any hesitation, without any help, without consulting with anybody—not the preacher, not the "soul winner", not even the sinner himself—God saves him. "He speaks and it is done, he commands and it stands fast."

It is no wonder there is such a decline in religion today. Out of the darkness of their own minds, men have conjured up a god of their own making—a puny, helpless, would-be savior. And now they are unwilling to worship such a god as that.

But the God of the Bible is more powerful than that. "He doeth ACCORDING TO HIS WILL in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and NONE CAN STAY HIS HAND or say unto him; What doest thou?" Dan. 4:35.

Harold Hunt

(From "*The Christian Pathway*", October 1985)

"Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places." (Psalm 135:6)

"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." (Psalm 115:3)

WHY PREACH THE GOSPEL

There are a lot of people out in the world who say, "I don't see how Primitive Baptist preachers can justify what you are doing. If God's people are saved by grace, why are you preaching anyway?"

Well, the ministry is a work. It's a labor. And I want to try to show you, this morning, that I am not just out here running around in circles for health, wealth, and exercise, and that your pastor doesn't preach in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and many other places I hear about just because he likes to travel and get out and mix and meet folks.

There is a work here. Some people think it is a useless work. But, it's not a useless work, if you will search the Scriptures. I told you last night some of the reasons I am preaching the gospel, to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. I am preaching the gospel to keep homes from breaking up. I am preaching the gospel to bring men the information and news of their salvation. I am preaching the gospel to feed God's people. I am preaching the gospel to keep God's people—not out of the pit of hell—but out of the milllion and one pits that are out here in this present world. I am preaching the gospel because God's people in this world are depressed. They are constantly frightened by the things that are around them. And I want to try to bring them some joy from heaven. And I want to try to bring some strength and courage to give them the strength to fight the battles of this life.

Sonny Pyles

Sermon Excerpt

(From "*The Christian Pathway*", October 1985)

A BEAUTIFUL ANECDOTE

A happy illustration of the wonderful character of the Bible, and the facility with which even a child may answer by it the greatest of questions and solve the sublimest of mysteries, was perhaps never given than at an examination of a deaf and dumb institution some years ago in London.

A little boy was asked in writing, "Who made the world?" He took the chalk and wrote underneath the question. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

The clergyman then inquired in a similar manner, "Why did Jesus Christ come into the world?" A smile of delight and gratitude rested on the countenance of the little fellow as he wrote: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acception, that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners."

A third was then proposed, evidently adapted to call the most powerful feelings into exercise: "Why were you born deaf and dumb, when I can hear and speak?" "Never", said an eye witness, "shall I forget the resignation which sat upon his countenance as he took the chalk and wrote: "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight." *Primitive Monitor* January 1919

(From "*Advocate and Messenger*", April 1982)

THE HOUSE OF BREAD

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Luke 2:15: "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

The lowly shepherds were watching their flocks by night when an angel and a heavenly host proclaimed the birth of our Savior in the nearby city of Bethlehem. They felt such a blessing to have been included in the announcement of the Savior coming in flesh and blood to redeem his children they went and thus saw the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger and they greatly rejoiced. God had come in the flesh, and was dwelling among them!

Recently I was reading our verse above, and I looked up the definition of the word Bethlehem. What I found I would like to share with you, and hopefully you'll get as much a blessing as I did studying it.

The word Bethlehem means "fruitful " or house of bread. It is said that in biblical times that the slopes of Bethlehem was rich in figs ,almonds, vines, and olives. Thus it became known as the place or house of bread. Food could always be found there. It is no wonder that the Lord chose this place to come among his people. Bread is sometimes used in the scripture to define food or meats. We need spiritual food just as our natural bodies require food in order to sustain physical life from day to day. In Heb 5:12-14 Paul speaks of milk and meats being symbolic of spiritual food. Milk is for babies who have not physically grown enough to eat solid foods. Which is symbolic of a person newly come to the faith, who cannot yet receive the deep teachings of God's word as opposed to someone raised up in the church and mature in understanding the deep teachings of God (eat solid food as an adult).

Our Lord was born at Bethlehem, the house of bread, symbolically showing that he is the bread of life as is said in John 6:35. Through Jesus Christ we have the inspired word of God. He is all the spiritual food our spiritual life needs. As the slopes of Bethlehem provided much food for the body, so does Christ provide spiritual food for us through his inspired word. Where is our place of bread today? I believe it is the gospel church. As Christ came though the church of the Jews at that time and declared the end of the law upon his fulfilling it Luke 16:16. He established the gospel church which we have today. Bethlehem was

known as a small place, but yet our Lord chose it as the blessed place. Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Though it was a small city, yet it provided food for a great number. The Primitive Baptist church is small among the other churches, yet it provides more spiritual food than any of those others. I feel that the members who left behind the church were some of the most spiritually mature individuals that this world has ever seen. Just read some of the writings of our ministers of the past, and of the present era. These are gifts from God, not from a man made Seminary that just teaches what man wants you to know. These are the modern day Bethlehem where God's children can hear the preached word to sustain their spiritual life as they serve the Lord on this side of heaven. I hope to see you there at the house of bread.--R.L. Taylor

A DOORKEEPER

"I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." Psa. 84:11

How God's judgments humble us! Like the poor Gentile woman who pled for mercy. David asks not for a loaf but would be glad to have even a crumb. We are told that Levites served as doorkeepers to the tabernacle and that they were not admitted to its service. They stood at the door and admitted those under God's blessing into the court where they held sweet communion with each other and with God, but the doorkeepers were never privileged to take part in that service. Yet David says, after his experience in the "tents of wickedness" that he had rather be a doorkeeper than to dwell there. O, that he could but have known all this when he first saw Bathsheba and sold himself to the flesh and the devil!

Dr. John Gill thinks David may have had reference to the beggars who could get no nearer than the gate and there begged alms of the saints, or the slaves who were brought to the doorposts and had their ears bored through and must then forever serve. Better to be a beggar or a slave near the tabernacle than to enjoy all earth's pleasures. David is yet in the cave, away from the palace and from the court of the Lord, but he has long since returned unto his God. When the fires have sufficiently consumed the dross, he will again come forth as gold and the joys of salvation will be restored.

O, that David's words might express the sentiment of all hearts. That we might prefer Jerusalem above our highest earthly joy or interest. Seek first the kingdom of God and trust him for all things else.

Probably many of you have learned by experience the lesson David teaches here. You have wandered away from God. You have tried the world and fed with the swine. But thanks be unto God, many of you have returned. If you, kind reader, are still away from Father's house, out on the hills of sin and folly, in the name of Israel's God I invite you to return. "Return, return, O Shulamite: return, return."—**Elder William H. Crouse**, From *What Is Truth*, 1918

(From "Advocate and Messenger", July 1996)

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