

# Glad Tidings

August

*“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 are thankful that God is a God of love. He loved His people with an everlasting love that cannot be severed regardless of circumstances. (Jer. 31:3, Rom. 8:35) We all deserved the hatred of God because of inherit sin that unatoned for would land every human in hell and the final lake of fire. God has loved and chosen His people in Christ before the world began. It was not because of any good or evil but because of God's electing grace. Jacob and Esau were twins born to Rebekah, the wife of Isaac; neither had done any good or evil yet the Bible says, “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” (Rom. 9:13) God is sovereign and has a right to do what He pleases. The Psalmist said, “But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” (Psa.115:3)

Most Bible believers would say that God loving Jacob and hating Esau would be unfair and that God so loved the world (all humans) that He gave His only begotten Son. The world in the scriptures does not always encompass every person on earth and it doesn't in John 3:16. In fact Paul had an answer for anyone who would question the integrity of God. He writes, “What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.” (Rom. 9:14) Remember, we all deserved the hatred and wrath of God. Jacob and Esau both deserved this wrath but God loved Jacob and hated Esau, why? “For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;” (Rom. 9:11)

Everything God does is always right whether we understand it or not. The reason why anyone ever has a love for God and His people is because God first loved them. (I John 4:19) Those God hates are classified as the wicked and listen to what happens when they are born into the world. “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.” (Psalm 58:3) Even God's children (His elect) are born in this condition until the Holy Spirit quickens their soul and they are born again. Then they have the divine nature of God along with a fleshly nature. This quickening is not by works or a decision made by the sinner but by the power of God who loved that individual before the world began. Election to eternal life leaves man entirely out of the equation and rests solely with the sovereign God.

Even though God's people are loved by Him and always will be, yet they do things which God hates and often suffer the chastening of God. The wise man Solomon writes of six things along with a seventh thing the Lord hates and are an abomination to Him. “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Prov. 6:16-19) The child of God that is guilty of any or all of these things is still loved of God, but God hates what is being done. If we want to please God, we will make every attempt to make sure we aren't guilty of these.

I want to focus on the first and last thing that God hates. He hates a proud look. This proud look exalts self and looks down on others as being inferior. The self-righteous Pharisee looked on the publican as inferior in the temple. He was full of pride. The publican just asked for God's mercy as a sinner. One humbled himself (the publican) and the other exalted himself (the Pharisee). The publican went to his house justified but not the Pharisee. Solomon also said regarding pride, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” (Prov. 16:18) We are told to avoid the very appearance of evil and that would fall into the category of a proud look. (I Thess. 5:22)

The seventh thing that God hates is he that soweth discord among brethren. We might think the Lord hates the one that sows discord; that is not the case. Remember these are things that God hates. If a brother sows discord, it causes strife and contention and disrupts the unity of the body of Christ. We are plainly told how to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, and one of these ways is “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Eph. 4:3)

A husband and wife should not spread any trouble they may be having among other couples. A brother or sister in the church should not spread any strife that might be present among other churches. Paul said, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” (Phil. 4:3) The Bible teaches that where there is no wood, the fire goeth out. Don't keep throwing wood on any fire that needs to be put out. Thank the Lord He loved us as Jacobites, but He hates some things the Jacobites do. (Elder Larry Wise)

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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Elder Larry Wise  
12932 Hwy 9 S.  
Randolph, MS 38864

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**THE ROSE OF LIFE  
FOR THE CHILD OF GOD**



By Elder Larry Wise  
Randolph, Mississippi

There is nothing more beautiful than a rose in full bloom which dramatically displays the handiwork of God. However, the rose in this array of beauty did not start out that way. It began as a small bud and gradually bloomed out to its full beauty, having been nourished by water and nutrients necessary for its final production and the joy of those that behold its beauty.

The love of God is manifested in His beloved bride somewhat like this rose as God implants the seed of love in the hearts of His children when they are born again and teaches them to love. Paul says, "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." (I Thess. 4:9). Love is identified as the very first fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22. This love seed begins to grow as it is manifested in love for others rather than for self. We are told by Jesus, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (John 15:12). Jesus is the Rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys says Solomon. (Song of Sol. 2:1) God manifested His love toward his bride by

sending His Son into the world that they might live through Him. (I John 4:9)

Whereas God's love for His people doesn't grow because it is unchangeable and everlasting, the love of His people for Him and His Son does grow like the blooming rose. When God's word is put into practice because of love for God, that is when the love begins to grow and to bloom toward its ultimate beauty. We all start out as newborn babes in Christ, but we aren't to remain a babe just as the natural baby doesn't remain a babe but grows through proper diet, exercise and nourishment. A young natural child usually has no malice or guile toward anyone which is why Paul tells us to be men in understanding but in malice remain a child. (I Cor. 14:20) For the rose of love to bloom to its full beauty, something must be laid aside as Peter instructs in I Peter 2:1-3, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

For the minister that ministers to the flock of God, there is nothing more beautiful than seeing the love of God bloom in a child of God as he or she grows in grace and knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The rose petals that accompany love such as joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance begin to show forth in the life of those willing to commit their lives to the Lord. The apostle John said he had no greater joy than to find God's children walking in truth. (II John 1:4)

Just as the rose grows to full bloom and is so beautiful, yet there comes a time when it begins to fade, and its petals are lost and fall to the ground. The child of God blooms in love for God and one another but there comes a time when those petals aren't as vibrant as in former times because of advancing age. They are still present but just not able to be utilized as in former days. That is why Solomon tells us, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" (Eccl. 12:1). The evil days are the days of old age.

Finally, we lose all our petals and fall to the ground in death but the grace that caused us to love and display love lives on past death. Paul says, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:21). Even though we have lost our petals on earth, we will bloom brighter than ever in the very presence of the Lord Himself and have pleasure forever more. David said, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16:11). A line of a song we sometime sing says, "A rose is blooming there for me where the soul of man never dies." I don't know whether there is actual roses in heaven, except for the Rose of Sharon, but it will be glorious nevertheless.

### ERRORS OF ISRAEL

By Elder T. S. Dalton (Deceased)

In the early history of Israel, she was ruled alone by judges, the last of whom was Samuel, than whom a better, a more God-fearing man perhaps never lived. He was truly a man of honesty and great ability. But his sons were idle and dissipated, which to him was a great source of trouble and grief, as well as to the people of the nation, should his sons succeed Samuel in power. And as other nations were governed by kings, the people of Israel begin to clamor for a king, that they might be like other nations; and God gave them one, and commanded Samuel to anoint the one of their own choice, and they had chosen Saul because he was from his shoulders up taller than other men, and because he was fair to look upon; but in his first move he disobeyed the Lord, as God knew he would, which shows the great error Israel made in choosing him. This always comes true when Israel is allowed to run matters in the dear old church of God.

But God made choice of David to rule over Israel, and sent Samuel down to the house of Jesse, and Samuel anointed him out of a horn, and David was a man after God's own heart, a sweet singer in Israel, and a great warrior. But Saul's envy against David sprang up immediately, and from then on he sought the life of David, until Saul in his great anger fell on his own sword and killed himself. Then Israel gathered around David, which caused David to write these enduring words, "Behold, how good, and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." And David began at once to bring together the material for the building of the great Temple of Solomon. And David finished out his reign in peace.

Solomon, the son of David, was then brought to the throne, and immediately entered into the work of the building of the Temple, which perhaps was one of the most elaborate and costly buildings that ever was erected up to that period. And the cost was so great, that the people murmured much at the great increase of taxation, and we must confess that it was rather a forced splendor that Solomon had given to the nation, and they felt that they were unable to bear the burden of expense incurred thereby and caused an outburst of fury against the rule of Solomon.

Rehoboam, Solomon's son, succeeded his father and proved to be very much lacking in wisdom, more so than any of those that had preceded him to the throne; and ten and a half tribes revolted against Jerusalem and the reign of Rehoboam, and set up a kingdom under the rule of Jeroboam and went off and built Shechem, and other cities of their own, and dwelt there. Thus the united kingdom ended with Solomon. The ten and a half tribes that revolted against Jerusalem under the reign of Jeroboam, in order to carry out his promises to lessen the burdens of Israel, erected gods nearer to them than Jerusalem, and he molded two golden calves and set them up—one in

Bethel and the other in Dan, so they would be easy to reach, and not have to undergo the hardship of traveling on to Jerusalem to worship. He said, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold the gods, oh Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt." And Israel was soon swerved so they went to Dan to worship the golden calves that Jeroboam set up. What a gross error that was!

God's spiritual Israel has also made her great mistakes along this same line. Call back, will you, when God's dear people were a unit on the great principles of sovereign grace in the salvation of poor sinners, when all of her ministers were a unit on the great determination of Paul, not to know anything among the people, but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And when the keynote of salvation by grace alone was sounded, all said, AMEN. But later on such men as Judson, Rice, and Carey rose up and in their boasted wisdom started up their new theory, and molded their golden calves—missionism and Sunday Schools—and brought them into the church of God, and began to persuade Israel not to go up to Jerusalem to worship, but dance with us around these golden calves in Dan and Bethel, and tell the people that these are the means for the saving of the world. And at least ten and a half tribes of Spiritual Israel turned their backs upon Jerusalem and began to dance around these men-made gods, and saying, "These be the gods that brought us out of Egypt." And they think it ignorance that the one and a half tribes will not follow them.

One of their leading historians (Benedict) said, "When I look back, I can hardly realize the changes which have taken place in our denomination in my day. It seems incredible that a society which so lately was so slow to engage in **any new enterprises**, and was jealous of any Collegiate training for its ministers, should at this early period have so many Colleges and kindred institutions spread over the land, with such a flood of periodicals and so much should have been done by our people in the home and foreign mission departments, in the Bible cause, in the publication of Baptist literature, in Sunday Schools and Bible classes, and in labors of various kinds, and all since I began their history." Yes, and just think, will you, of the large number of God's dear people that have been drawn from their moorings through the cunning craftiness taught by these people, that God needs these helps to assist Him in saving souls. Think, will you, what a stigma it casts at our God, even to intimate that He overlooked these very important things, and left souls to sink into eternal ruin, because He lacked wisdom to give the church these great helps at first. Benedict said, "All of these things were unknown to the church in my early day." But they will say, "Look what strides we have made, and the great progress that has followed." Yes, we are conscious that poisonous weeds grow rapidly, and error spreads itself as the green bay tree. And it is equally true that "Truth crushed to earth will rise again."

You may, like others, boast of your members. It is true that Jeroboam had the majority, but the gods they worshipped were molded by the hand of Jeroboam out of gold. But the little few that remained in Jerusalem under Rehoboam worshipped the God of David and Solomon. And while our missionary historians are so frank in confessing that they have departed from the old doctrine and customs of the old church, we cannot help from wanting to reach over the great gulch that lies between them and God's dear church from which they separated themselves and try to assist God's dear little ones that have been caught in the trap, to get out and come back to Jerusalem from whence they have strayed.

Those old principles are dear to the hearts of God's dear tempest-tossed children; and may God open the eyes of their teachers that they may cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord. May the blessings of God ever rest upon His scattered and down-cast people, is the prayer of one that loves a child of God no matter where they are found.

{Advocate and Messenger, July 1928}  
(From "The Primitive Baptist / The Christian Pathway"  
March 2012)

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#### LIKE DADDY USED TO SAY: "ABOUT TELLING LIES"

- Sometimes people tell lies because they don't know the truth.
- Sometimes people tell lies, because they don't like the truth.
- Sometimes people tell lies, because the truth hurts.
- Sometimes people lie, when the truth would be just as good "or better."
- Sometimes people lie, because it will let them do what the truth won't.
- Telling a lie might delay us getting in trouble, but it won't get us the forgiveness we need.
- Telling lies are things you only get better at with practice.
- Telling lies are like a chain; one just links up with another.

(From "Zion's Lamp", April 2016)

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#### LYING QUOTES

A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes. —Charles Spurgeon.

He who tells a lie is not sensible of how great a task he undertakes; for he must invent twenty more to maintain that one. —Alexander Pope

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;" (Col. 3:9)

#### SOWING

By Elder Truman Keel (Deceased)

*Gal. 6:8* "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Whether I am or not, I should be an authority on the flesh because of my vast experience in trying to oppose it and yet seemingly yielding to it so many times. I think we have a good description of the warfare in us in (Gal. 5:17) "*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*" In this text, the word *lust* means a strong desire.

Brethren, we can take this as evidence that we are born of the Spirit. Before you were regenerated, there was no spirit of God in you to have a strong desire (or war) against the flesh. I am fearful, that too many times I yield to the flesh and as the scriptures say, one is contrary to the other.

The flesh has no strong desire to satisfy anything but the flesh. If we sow to our flesh (live our life satisfying the desires of the flesh) we shall of the flesh reap corruption. Notice who is doing the sowing. There is no good thing in the flesh. (Rom. 7:8) "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*" I am persuaded that the flesh cannot sow to the Spirit. They are opposites.

I have concluded that he that soweth to the Spirit is born of the Spirit and is in possession of everlasting life. In (V7) God has promised us, we are going to reap whatsoever we sow. That should cause us to be careful what we sow. Notice (V9) "*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*" As he has used the words well doing I think he is encouraging us to continue to sow to the spirit. I think we can all agree, sowing to the Spirit is well doing. Notice the continuation of his subject in (V10). "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*"

In (II Cor. 9:6) as the apostle Paul was writing to the brethren at Corinth and encouraging them to make up their bounty before hand, had this to say, "*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*" I am persuaded this same principle will apply to the child of God as they go through life sowing. If we plant a pasture and spare the seed you will not reap as much as you would have you sowed the seed in abundance. If we don't sow any spiritual seed, we need not go to the field with our sickle. There won't be anything to harvest.

In the language of the apostle Paul, I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God that you go about sowing to the Spirit. It seems, even as in the days of Samuel, that the word of the Lord (the truth) is precious in our day. We see it trampled under foot. The entire world is sowing to the flesh. How refreshing to see a little remnant sowing to the spirit. Children of God, be not weary in well doing and in due time you will reap.

May God give us the leadership of the Spirit and use us to glorify His name. ("Zion's Lamp", April 2016)

**BURIAL OF THE DEAD**

By Elder Bill Walden (Deceased)  
Copied from Zion's Lamp

We are being asked more frequently about what the Bible says concerning cremation of the dead. As the process of disposal of bodies continues to be practiced, questions will continue to be asked.

This is a very sensitive issue with some, and many who ask about it are very sincere. The question involves much more than idle curiosity and it will be approached seriously in this answer.

What is the proper method of caring for our dead? There is no better authority than the Holy Scriptures. "Then they took the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury". (John 19:40). Contained in this statement not only is the preparation of the body but the manner of burial as well. Notice the words of our Lord as He used the metaphor of the sepulcher (place of internment) to rebuke the scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites: "...Ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones..." (Matthew 23:27). This is a very graphic illustration given by the Lord, but notice, the bones were still there. This was the custom of the Jews, and again, the Lord Himself was buried. Sepulchers, graves, and caves were not newly utilized places of burial. In Genesis 15:15 God confirms His covenant with Abram (Abraham), "And thou shalt go to the fathers in peace: thou shalt be buried in a good old age." Notice, "shall be buried." This plainly shows that God's design and approval for the body at death is burial. Many times the first use of a word in the scriptures is very significant. Although burial is the accepted and proper manner at death, there are bona fide exceptions mentioned later.

Closure in the death of a loved one is very important in helping alleviate grief on the part of the survivors. In Genesis 23:4, we read, "I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." Burial is a part of the closure process; all who have lost loved ones in death know the feeling of Abraham, the intense desire to bury our dead out of our sight. We have all seen the news reports of too many grieving families who have lost loved ones in major disasters. Their grief is held up to the world; it seems, with too much exposure, and the common thread that runs through these families is the desperate need to find their loved ones, to go with them to their burial place. It is more than passing sentiment. We have heard of families with loved ones missing in military action. They have no peace in this matter, always hoping that a miracle will happen and they will see them again in this life. Sometimes, many years later, the remains are sent home for burial, and the family feels a great peace after that.

Some exceptions to burial are the countless numbers of mankind buried at sea. Raging waters and other disasters in all parts of the world have claimed victims. There are places on this earth where there are no places to bury, and perhaps are buried at sea. We have consolation in the Scriptures that tell us even the sea will give up its dead. There have been cases when great epidemics raged, and the only way to avoid the danger of contagion was to burn the bodies, but these are exceptions, not the rule. Saul's and his sons' bodies were burned; however, it seems logical here that this burning was necessary due to the length of time they had been dead. They buried their bones under a tree and then fasted seven days (I Samuel 31:8-13).

In burial there is a foreshadowing of rising again. Numerous instances could be cited, but briefly water baptism is symbolic of death, burial, and resurrection. In following the precept of the Lord in baptism, it is an immersion, a burial, and a rising up again. However, any manner of one's final arrangements, including burning or cremation does not in any way interfere with God's ability to raise the dead. All the dead will be raised (John 5:28-29), (Acts 24:15), but when cremation is done in order to dispose of the body, rather than burial, it negates or destroys the type of the resurrection. Cremation is used for various reasons, sometimes for convenience where there is a legal or strong moral responsibility for making the final arrangements. Cremation is also a commercial enterprise, and no doubt we will see more promotion of it.

In Amos 2:1, notice that one of the transgressions of Moab was that they burned the bones of the king of Edom. Burning implies finality. When we want to get rid of something today, it is common for us to burn it. When land is cleared of brush, it is burned. On the other hand, when something is planted, (buried), a kernel of corn perhaps, it is expected to come forth and grow. The Scriptures use the illustration of planting and looking forward to the harvest. In spite of much history of Romans, Greeks, and ancient heathen nations of people who cremated, whether expressly stated or implied in Scripture, burial is the appropriate method for dealing with death. Even the very poor had their potter's field in which to be buried.

Ruth 1:17, "Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me."

(Banner of Love—1996)

(Taken from "The GoodNews Newsletter" Jan. 2012)

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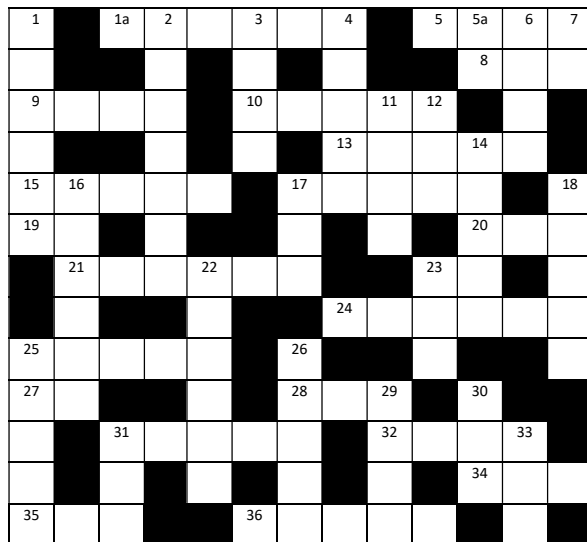
"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." (I Corinthians 15:44)

"...let the dead bury their dead." (Matthew 8:22)

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:**

- 1a. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the \_\_\_\_.
- 5. The body is \_\_\_\_ a natural body but raised spiritual.
- 8. Cast the \_\_\_\_ on the right side of the ship for fish.
- 9. Only the tribe of \_\_\_\_ was given no inheritance.
- 10. It is a \_\_\_\_ for a man to wear long hair.
- 13. The gospel is the \_\_\_\_ of God unto salvation.
- 15. The sister of Ruth who came with her from Moab.
- 17. Peter healed his mother-in-law of a \_\_\_\_ Temp.
- 19. \_\_\_\_ have a house not made with hands eternal.
- 20. The Passover lamb was not to be eaten \_\_\_\_.
- 21. The church is the \_\_\_\_ and ground of the truth.
- 23. A certain man went down from Jerusalem \_\_ Jericho.
- 24. Abraham's wife, Sari was \_\_\_\_; she had no child.
- 25. Timothy's mother was a Jewess; his father a \_\_\_\_.
- 27. University of Tennessee.
- 28. Love worketh no \_\_\_\_ to his neighbor.



(Answers on Page 8)

- 31. A hen gathers her \_\_\_\_ under her wings. Chicks.
- 32. Unleavened bread was baked in an \_\_\_\_ Stove.
- 34. God called Moses to the \_\_\_\_ of Mt. Sinai. Apex.
- 35. Certain man said to Jesus to let fig tree alone till he \_\_\_\_ it and dung it to see if bear fruit.
- 36. Job had 500 yoke of oxen and 500 she \_\_\_\_.

**DOWN:**

- 1. The \_\_\_\_ of Jacob's thigh was out of joint as Jacob wrestled with a man.
- 2. Churlish Nabal's wife who later was wife of David.
- 3. Moab hath been at \_\_\_\_ from his youth. Quiet.
- 4. The Holy Ghost descended on Jesus at baptism in the bodily \_\_\_\_ of a dove.
- 5a. God rested \_\_\_\_ the seventh day after creation.
- 6. A woman could not \_\_\_\_ that which pertains to a man.
- 7. New Testament
- 11. In him we live, and \_\_\_\_ and have our being.
- 12. Female sheep and used by Nathan to David.
- 14. Don't be led away with the \_\_\_\_ of the wicked.
- 16. By faith the elders obtained a good \_\_\_\_.

**DOWN:**

- 17. \_\_\_\_ God so loved the world He gave Jesus.
- 18. We are not to cast our pearls before \_\_\_\_.
- 22. The wicked will finally be cast into the \_\_\_\_ fire. Two words.
- 23. \_\_\_\_ the spirits whether they are of God.
- 25. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh was captain of the \_\_\_\_ Watchman.
- 26. In the time of trouble he shall \_\_\_\_ me in his pavilion said David. Plural.
- 29. Greater \_\_\_\_ hath no man than this; give his life.
- 30. Nebuchadnezzar was \_\_\_\_ with the dew of heaven.
- 31. David had 5 smooth stones in his shepherd's \_\_\_\_.
- 33. The hour is coming and \_\_\_\_ is when the dead hear.

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**OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES**

A member of the church I pastor related how his grandson asked him, "PePaw, if I go to the bathroom and do number 2 and I also do number 1, is that number 3?" I believe 2 + 1 does equal 3.—*Editor*

Our grandson, Eli, was at my wife's brother's house with her and his brother Isaac. They were playing with an automatic nerf gun; then it stopped working. It was one that had to be recharged. Sandra's brother's wife said it had to be recharged but she didn't know for sure where the charger was. Eli always ready for an answer said, "Well, go get it then and find it!" Easier said than done but not to a 4 year old.—*Editor*

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**THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH**

In this day and time we don't know what the church will face. I know that the Lord has blessed her with peace from the outside. I know that she does not have the outside persecution that she once did. But, we don't know, in the days to come even in this land, the things the church might have to face. To think that someone would say that we must renounce our beliefs or we should be put to death.

I can't say like the apostle Peter did one time, "Lord, I will never deny thee." I hope I would not. But, I don't know. I know this old flesh is weak. But, I hope I could be like the three Hebrew children. They could say, "I know that my God is able to deliver us. I don't know if he will."

But, I tell you, I know where our strength is. It is in following the Lord and in doing his commandments. He told Israel, "I will go before you and fight your battles for you." And that is where their strength was. And it is still where the strength of the church is today.

Ralph Smith

Sermon Excerpt

(From "The Christian Pathway", Feb. 1986)

**CHURCH NEWS**

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August, 2024 (Aug. 9-11). Services Friday night, Aug. 9, at 7:00 p.m. preceded by supper at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, Aug. 10, at 7:00 p.m. with supper at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ben Shettles, Pastor of Elgin Crossroads PBC in Rogersville, AI is invited minister. Elder Jonathan Wise is Pastor of Little Flock.

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.

Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August, 2024 (Aug. 16-18). Services Friday night, Aug. 16, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, at 10:30 a.m. with lunch. Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Elder Ronald Lawrence, Goodlettsville, TN is invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church, 1840 HWY 404 East, Duck Hill, MS. The meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in August 2024 (Aug. 9-11). Beginning Friday at 6 pm with supper and service to follow. Saturday service will begin at 10 am with lunch to follow and there will be an afternoon service starting at 1:30 pm. Sunday service will begin at 10:30 am with lunch to follow. This will be an open meeting. Elder Eddie Hollowell is Pastor of Mt. Pisgah. We look forward to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles W. of Ecrum, MS on Hwy 346, the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in September, 2024 (Sept. 6-8). Services Friday night, Sept. 6, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at 10:30 a.m. followed by fish lunch and much more. Sunday, Sept. 8, at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Elder Tim McCool, Pastor of Bethlehem PBC in Echola, AI, is invited minister. Elder Larry Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elder Ronald Lawrence fell and broke 4 ribs, had a punctured lung, and a concussion. Pray that he has a quick and full recovery. He is pastor of Bethel PBC in Goodlettsville, TN and a faithful servant of God for many years.

**CHURCH NEWS**

The Tombigbee Fellowship Meeting (formerly Tombigbee Association) will be held with Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Wolfe Rd in Caledonia, MS the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September (2024) (Sept. 13-14). Services Friday night, Sept. 13, at 7:00 p.m. and supper at 6 pm. Saturday, Sept. 14, at 10:00 a.m. with lunch and ordination of Bro. Ron Nivens and Bro. Jim Waddle to the office of deacon in the afternoon. All ordained help especially invited to come and assist in the presbytery. Elder Joe Nettles is Pastor of Sulphur Springs.

Friendship Primitive Baptist Church in Winona, MS will have its annual meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in September, 2024 (Sept. 21-22) Services Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10:00 am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday at 10:30 am with lunch. This is an open meeting. Elder B. T. Strum is Pastor of Friendship Church.



Elder Jor Helms from North Carolina passed away with an honorable discharge from his ministry on June 17, 2024 at the age of 95. He preached Jesus for some 68 years. The following is a quote from his obituary concerning his impending death: "In his death, Elder Helms showed the faith of which he preached about throughout his life. When told of his pancreatic cancer, and his impending death, he pointed towards Heaven and said, "Happy times. It's what I have been waiting for."



Sister Beth Blaylock Warren was baptized into the fellowship of the Beulah Primitive Baptist Church in Saltillo, MS on Sunday, June 9, 2024. The picture above is of her and now her Pastor, Elder Tony Lester after the baptism. It was a time of rejoicing that one of the Lord's children has found a home in the church.

**MATTHEW XVI. 18, 19**

By Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

We have been requested to give our views on Matt. xvi. 18, 19, and will try to write just a few lines. The text reads: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The word Peter is translated from a word which means a piece of rock, a particle of rock, or of the rock family. The word rock is translated from a word which means the bed rock, the foundation rock, or foundation stone. Deut. xxxii. 4, "He is the Rock, His work is perfect." Here again we have the foundation stone, the bed rock. 1 Cor. x. 4, "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." The word Rock in this text is from the same word as that in Matt. xvi. 18.

The church is built upon Christ as the foundation stone. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"--Eph. ii. 19, 20. The apostle here tells us plainly that Jesus Christ Himself is the chief corner stone—the stone, the rock, the foundation upon which the church rests. This is a sure foundation, which shall never be moved.

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." The keys are used to lock and unlock the door of a building. Up to this time the door of the kingdom of heaven, the church, had not been opened to the Gentiles. All those which the Saviour had sent out up to this time had been forbidden to go among the Gentiles. After His resurrection He told His apostles to "go ye into all the world."—Mark xvi. 15. Their field of labor was enlarged. Peter was the one who preached the first gospel sermon to the Gentiles. "And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe."—Acts xv. 7. The time the apostle referred to was when he went to the house of Cornelius and preached the first gospel sermon to the Gentiles. God had made choice among the apostles that Peter should, by his preaching, open the door of the kingdom to the Gentiles, and they should be admitted into the blessings and privileges of gospel worship and service.

These gospel privileges are yet granted to the Gentiles, though they may be taken from us on account of our disobedience and rebellion, as they were taken from the Jews for the same

reason. If we do not wish to be deprived of these blessings and privileges we should awake from our lethargy, and "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." The Jews were cut off from these blessings because of unbelief; and the apostle warns us that "if God spared not the natural branches that sinned, take heed lest he also spare not thee." May the Lord help us to awake to a full discharge of our each and every duty.

C. H. C.

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

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**ANSWERS**

**BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE  
READ RIGHT TO LEFT**

**ACROSS:**

- 1a. sretaw
- 5. nwos
- 8. ten
- 9. ivel
- 10. emahs
- 13. rewop
- 15. hapro
- 17. revef
- 19. ew
- 20. war
- 21. rallip
- 23. ot
- 24. nerrab
- 25. keerg
- 27. tu
- 28. lli
- 31. doorb
- 32. nevo
- 34. pot
- 35. gid
- 36. sessa

**DOWN:**

- 1. wolloh
- 2. liagiba
- 3. esae
- 4. epahs
- 5a. no
- 6. raew
- 7. tn
- 11. evom
- 12. ewe
- 14. rorre
- 16. troper
- 17. rof
- 18. eniws
- 22. foekal
- 23. yrt
- 25. draug
- 26. sedih
- 29. evol
- 30. tew
- 31. gab
- 33. won

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"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psa. 133:1. It is a good and pleasant experience when God's people can live together in the church, loving one another and loving the Lord, wanting above all things to help one another and to magnify the Lord. But that unity is always fragile. How very careful we ought to be to protect and preserve it.

HLH (Elder Harold Hunt)

(From "The Christian Pathway", Sept. 1985)

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"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." (Psalm 89:15-16)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear; soothes our sorrows; heals our wounds...



**UNBELIEVERS**

By Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)

This is an age of unbelief. Not that God has not reserved to Himself a few true witnesses who believe from the heart unto righteousness and who accept all His written word as being true. It was thus in the days of Noah, but such were a small minority indeed. It was thus in the days of Daniel and the three Hebrew children, but they were alone in the lions' den and in the fiery furnace, and yet *not* alone, for the Son of God was their companion. It was so in the days of Jesus upon earth, but He said unto those true witnesses, "Fear not *little* flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

There is a great display of religion. No one in this country, I suppose, doubts this. But how much true religion, how much *real* faith in God, is another religion.

Below is printed an article [*not included here—Ed.*] from a religious publication of New York, entitled "Everybody's Paper," which charges the Baptists with endorsing higher criticism, which means, of course, that the Baptists do not endorse the Bible. These Baptists referred to, though, are not the Primitive or Old-School Baptists, but our New School or Missionary Baptist brethren. Read it and note how far the "doctrine of men," "the wisdom of the world," theological schools, etc., have led these people who bear the name of Baptist from the truth—the plain teaching of God's precious word.

And not only is the infidelity—unbelief—to be found in the schools and colleges and among the learned, but also in all the walks of life. Only a few days ago the writer was discussing Bible teachings with a lady who is an ardent advocate of Sunday Schools, and when I quoted the apostle Paul on the subject of teaching, namely, "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 2:12), she soon informed me that she did not believe what Paul said was right, that the woman had as much right to teach in the churches as the men, that Paul was only a man and his writings therefore may be a combination of truth and error.

What unbelief! If such reasoning were true, what would we have to stand upon? To whom would we go? If the Bible were a bundle of truth and error, would it be a safe guidebook to follow? What security would we have upon a road that is safe a part of the way and infested by robbers and cutthroats the balance of the way? The strength of a chain is measured by its weakest link. Would we want to risk ourselves over the yawning abyss hanging to a chain that we believed had a few weak links in it? Then do we want to swing out on the promises of God, a part of whose word is false?

May He save us from infidelity! To me the Bible is either true or false. I feel that there are many portions that I cannot fully understand, but my misunderstanding of some of it does not effect my belief that all of it does not effect my belief that all of it

is the revelation from God to men—that he moved men to speak and write its content; that he has preserved it unto us and our children from thousands of enemies that would, but for His protection, destroy every vestige of the precious Scriptures from the earth; and that, being from God is therefore true, and is a thorough furnisher to the man of God to every good work. We need no other religious guide, no other chart, and no other compass upon the sea of time. It is good to live by and it will do to die by.

[Zion's Advocate, October 1911. Submitted by Elder Ralph Harris.]

("The Primitive Baptist/The Christian Pathway", Feb. 2012)

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**ELECTION OUGHT  
TO ENCOURAGE PREACHERS**

They have been preaching to the Jews. Now they are going to preach to the Gentiles. And, brother, election did not discourage them from preaching the gospel on this occasion, because look what Acts 13:48 says. Now, do you see? The Jews won't hear their preaching. But he tells us this, that when the Gentiles heard these things, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord—and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Well, now, brother, an experience like that would encourage me to go out and preach the gospel. There were a lot of them that didn't hear it. But, it says, "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed." These people were ordained unto eternal life before they believed.

And if I didn't believe that there is a people out here somewhere ahead of me that God has already ordained to eternal life, and that the Spirit of God has already prepared, I would be scared to death to preach in this wicked, depraved world. Because the Scriptures teach me, and my own experience teaches me, and your common sense will teach you that everybody in this world is not hungry for it. And there are some people that hate it.

That is the only way I draw the courage to get up in front of folks and preach the gospel. I rest on the fact that the Lord has done some preparing ahead of time.

Sonny Pyles—Sermon Excerpt  
(From "The Christian Pathway", Sept. 1985)

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The Primitive Baptist leaders with whom, as a boy, I came in contact, while not men of lofty literary culture were avid and pains-taking students. If by chance you meet with one of their leading preachers and get into an argument on the Bible with him, you had better watch your step. Those old timers knew more scripture than the most highly educated products of our modern universities and theological seminaries. They were men of one book, which was the Bible. I never heard one of them express any other thought concerning the origin of the Baptists than that they began with Christ Jesus Himself.

[J.B. Cranfield, a Missionary Baptist minister, Advocate and Messenger, December 1938]

(The Primitive Baptist/The Christian Pathway, Feb. 2012)

**“AND HE GAVE SOME PASTORS”**

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

A pastor is a great asset to the church. He is the gift of God. He has many limitations to his power. It is because he is not the lord and master. Many people have felt that they were completely ruined, because God saw fit to call their pastor from the walks of men, or he was impressed to move on somewhere else. They did not realize God can give them another.

A true pastor is one who takes the oversight of the flock, not because he feels the need to raise his ego, but because of his love for the church of God and his cause in the world. It is a fearful thing to pastor a church. A pastor is a watchman, overseer, and example to the flock. Just one slip, one mistake, and some precious little child has been led from the true pathway by the pastor.

A pastor will not have to campaign for his job. If a person approaches him and asks him if he would serve a certain church if he is called, he will usually basically answer, “I don’t know, I haven’t been called yet.” Thus he recognizes that through the workings of the Spirit of God, both the congregation and the minister will have the same mind. He doesn’t know how he would feel until after he is called. Any God called minister will seriously consider the call of the church, or else reap bitterness in his soul.

The most disgusting thing there is in any church is a minister, who feels like a church is missing the golden opportunity if they fail to call him. That the church will be completely ruined, if they let him go. Sometimes good brethren and sisters will think the congregation will mushroom in growth, and the stream or lake or pool will not hold those that will come to the church, if they can get a certain minister as pastor. They sometimes believe it so strong they will call and the minister will go, even if it means dissatisfaction with almost half of the members. Sometimes there will be a great division because of it.

The members who push so hard, and the minister who wants the church so bad, have usually followed the arrangements of Satan, and not the persuasion of the gentle and convincing Spirit of God. The end result usually is, the members so completely convince themselves that the minister is the only one for them, that they will follow him anywhere he goes, even if he begins preaching false doctrine. The minister will

come to feel that those against him are just persecuting him like the enemies of Christ did him.

He (the minister) comes to feel that he is a latter day Apostle Paul, that possibly God has sent him to straighten out the Old Baptists, and he will feel like Satan has overcome everyone else, because they will not follow him. These are usually all good brethren, whom God has touched their heart, who in regeneration together with some God-called minister have gotten together and coveted the oversight of a flock of God.

Sometimes good pastors are mauled and crippled before the flock. A true pastor will stand on the laws that God has given the church, regardless of whether the opposition is someone big or not. So many times a member will begin talking to get rid of a pastor. He will say, “we are not growing, we are only standing still, and we need to get another pastor, so we can grow.” Sometimes this is true and the pastor should move on, and then oftentimes the trouble is not the pastor, but the one who wants to get rid of the pastor, who is causing the coldness in the church. If this is true, then the church will not grow under any pastor until the true cause of the coldness has been removed.

I don’t know whether I am capable of being a pastor or not. Whether I fill the commandment of God or not. “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” 1 Pet. 5:2-4.

This much I hope I do know, as long as I live, as long as God gives me strength, when the church calls and I feel impressed to heed their call, I will go, not with constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind. That I will use the gift and the talents that God has given me, night or day, whenever I am called upon. That each time before calling time I will admonish the church to go to the Lord in prayer, that he will impress them with the overseer of the flock that God sends them. When that person is someone else, I will rejoice with the church, that they were able to see it. That I had rather death itself would overtake me, than to cause trouble among sober brethren.

I feel that everyone who does otherwise will fall on his own sword. As David would not take the life of Saul, because he was the anointed of God, so no one is to take the life of one who covets to oversee a church of the Lord, for he will fall on his own sword. He will become a vagabond to the household of faith and the end thereof will be bitterness and gnashing. (Nov., 1965)

(From *“The Best of Elder Guy Hunt”*, compiled by Elder Harold Hunt)

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jer. 3:15)

**DAVID'S ASSURANCE**

By Elder Ralph Harris (Deceased)

As he was closing the twenty-third Psalm David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." What a wonderful assurance this is! And how blessed it is to enjoy such confidence with regard for the future mercies of the Lord and the eternity that follows.

David did not always enjoy such assurance for there were other times when he inquired with sad heart, "Will the Lord cast off for ever? And will he be favorable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever?" He was possessed, as are we all with a fallen nature, and at times God suffered that nature to temporarily dominate in David's life, but he was always recovered and restored to a measure of communion with the Holy Spirit.

Even in his sin with Bathsheba and his murder of Uriah God would not let him go because he was one of God's precious lambs by election, and nothing could separate him from God's eternal love. (See Romans 8:29-39).

In view of our many human frailties what a comfort it is to know and have the precious truth that a child of God can never fall so as to be eternally lost. He may be overtaken by many slips and falls along the pathway of life, and he may bring dreadful anguish of soul upon himself as a result, but he can never fall so as to cease to be a child of God and an heir of heaven. God will never disown the Father-child relationship that exists between Him and His people. He has bound Himself to them, and they to Him, by covenant promise and decree, and He cannot lie nor deny Himself (See Titus 1:2 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 2:13). The human race is made up of two distinct families: the elect and the non-elect, which our Lord called "sheep" and "goats", and these families never make a transition from one to the other. Sheep always remain sheep and goats always remain goats. This is true in nature as well as in grace.

Goodness and mercy always follow God's people wherever they go. Even when they walk in forbidden paths and provoke the Lord to withdraw His felt presence and the manifestation of His love they are still His. They thus sacrifice many sweet blessings which they could have otherwise enjoyed, but He still sustains them and does not take from them the divine life which He infused in them in regeneration.

"Surely", says David, "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life," and it did. It went with him to the end and he died in a good old age, never having seen the righteous forsaken not his seed begging bread. David was a man after God's own heart, and though he was sometimes left of the Lord to show his human frailty, the general course of his life was one of godliness, and he came down to the end of his journey still enjoying a blessed assurance that God made with him an everlasting covenant, ordered

in all things and sure (See 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 23:5) and this was all his salvation and all his desire. We have no doubt but that he now dwells in the house of the Lord, and shall dwell there for ever. *Editor*—(Elder Ralph Harris) (From "Advocate and Messenger", June 1996)

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**HOUSE TO HOUSE**

Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." The Lord's people were to be a different people from any and all other people. They were to be a separate people from all other people. They were not to adopt the forms and manners of worship of any other people. They were not to join in the worship of, or with, any other people. They were not to lay field to field. They were to take no part whatever in the worship of any of the idol gods of the nations round about.

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God; and Him only shalt thou serve." To join in with any of the nations round about in any of their worship and service was to worship other gods rather than Israel's God. It was to join house to house and lay field to field. The only way not to join house to house or lay field to field was to simply abstain from any and all their worship, and to have nothing whatever to do with the same. This did not mean to have no friends in a worldly way with the people of the world; but to have no friends in a religious way with any others only in the way the Lord required. Worship and serve no other way or place, only in His vineyard; and that worship and service to be absolutely separate from the world and from everything else but the vineyard; just do all the Lord said to, and do nothing else but that.

(From "Fenced Vineyard," *Editorials, Volume VI, 1937*)

(From "The Primitive Baptist/The Christian Pathway", February 2012)

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"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (Jer. 2:13) These people were guilty of more evils than two but are summarized in these two. When we do it any other way than God's way, we have forsaken the Lord. Thanks be to God He will never utterly forsake us as His people, but chastisement is sure to follow. They are all broken cisterns when it is man devised rather than God directed. We are not to turn to the right or to the left of God's word.—*Editor*

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