

Glad Tidings

March

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

2025

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

Philippians 4:13

Strength For Today And Bright Hope For Tomorrow

I Corinthians 15:19

Paul wrote the following to Timothy, a man he mentored, in II Timothy 4:1-2: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

As ministers of the gospel, we are given a solemn charge to faithfully preach the word of God. I've heard the question asked, 'what is the definition of preaching'? My definition of preaching is a called man of God, with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, teaching a sound biblical lesson that edifies the hearers/congregation. I've also heard it said that "all preaching is teaching, but not all teaching is preaching." That is certainly true. The Holy Spirit's presence and power must accompany the message for it to edify and feed the soul, but effective teaching is an absolutely essential component of preaching. In explaining the scriptural qualifications for a gospel minister, Paul states a man must be "apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2). A candidate for the office of elder must have demonstrated the ability to communicate the principles of God's word clearly and coherently. This is because scripture reveals this to be the primary role of the ministry. If a man's efforts confuse God's sheep, regardless of whatever great zeal he might possess, he should not continue in preaching the gospel. It is important to note here that there is a valuable place for "introducing" services by brethren who give good admonitions and encouragement but may not be called to "preach." However, the God-called minister's task is to dig into the scriptures at a deeper level and expound upon that as the Spirit blesses him to do so. There needs to be meat (I Cor. 3:2) for disciples to progress in their knowledge of the bible. At the same time, preaching should be simplistic enough for young children to understand. This is a humbling responsibility. It truly takes the Lord's help!

Now certainly there are many more duties a man should perform in order to be an effective pastor. He should call and visit the sick, elderly and those going through troubles. He should counsel members of the flock as the need arises. To elaborate on the last point, I think it is important to be approachable and let God's people know he is both available and welcomes opportunities to help them in any way he can. However, the majority of his time is to be devoted to studying and meditating to teach the word and prayer.

To illustrate the importance of this let us look at Acts 6, where it says, "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because the widows were neglected in their daily ministrations (vs. 1)." Notice the response in verses 2-3: "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.** Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." The seven men that were chosen and hands laid upon were first deacons of the church of God. Their role was and is to attend to various business of the church and needs of the people that make up the body. This allows the pastor to focus more fully on his charge to devote himself to the word. As the twelve said, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word (vs. 4)." Good pastoral teaching does not magically happen; it comes through diligent labor. "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." (I Tim. 4:13-15)

We also read in I Corinthians 9:13-14: "Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." It is quite clear from this chapter that God's design is that, as much as possible, the flock/church should provide for the financial needs of the man God has sent them. The more of his living the church is able to provide, the more time he can spend doing what the Lord has called him to do. This was instituted for the benefit and blessing of the church. We all understand that many times the financial resources simply are not there for this to be able to take place fully, but it should be a goal to strive towards, and every church should always be doing this to the absolute best of their ability. On the other side of the coin, the ministry should be willing to make sacrifices in terms of secular ambitions in order to devote more time to serving the flock: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a

soldier." (II Tim. 2:4) This is about time, and there is only so much of it. Remember, "the Lord ordained."

It is critical for the God-called minister to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in teaching the word of God to the congregation. The preaching of the gospel is God's prescribed way not to save people from hell to eternal heaven, but to save believers from false doctrine and destructive dangers to truth and faithful discipleship. The minister should strive to preach not what he desires to, but what the congregation is in need of as the Holy Spirit guides him. When he steps into the pulpit it should be his sincere goal to be in-tune with the Spirit's leading. Avoid hobby horses.

Teaching the word can also take the form of a pastor-led bible study if the church is in agreement to do so (extremely important). I define a bible study as simply preaching the word of God with dialogue (primarily providing opportunities for people to ask and get answers to questions). We find that Paul used this form of preaching frequently. Luke records that in Thessalonica, "And Paul, **as his manner was**, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures. (Acts 17:2)." Most importantly, we find that our perfect example Jesus Christ taught his own gospel to his disciples in this manner, answering questions in such accounts as Mat. 17:10-13, Mat. 24:2-51, Mk.7:17-23, Mk. 10:10-12, and John 14:5-7. This is well in accordance with the biblical pattern. Regardless, reasonable brothers and sisters in Christ should and do consider this what it is- a matter of Christian liberty. The only ones who are scripturally wrong are those who don't leave it there.

It is through the teaching of the word of God that an elder or bishop guides and leads the flock of God. The under-shepherd, not the deacons or any other, has biblical authority through preaching. Therefore, proper respect should be shown to the office and his calling, not disrespect nor elevating him beyond an ordinary man and servant leader with an important spiritual gift. I Peter 5:2-3 says, "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."

Outside of a worship setting, the ministry should always be eager to teach the scriptures and look for opportunities to do so, whether in someone's home, on the front porch, after a service, at the lunch table, over the phone, or on the computer/email/etc. Furthermore, they should be fervently praying for the Lord to open doors to share the gospel with others they might encounter in their day to day lives so that those people might know the way of God more perfectly. (Jonathan Wise)

Proverbs 29:18: "*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*"

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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Elder Jonathan Wise & Elder David Wise, Co-Editors

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Elder Larry Wise (1944-2024)

Ministers are the overseers of the flock and watch out for their spiritual welfare in the church; Jesus Christ has already accomplished that which was necessary for their eternal welfare on the cross of Calvary. Those sheep need instruction and comfort for their spiritual welfare on earth. True ministers are dedicated to that end. Paul writes, "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." (II Cor. 12:15). We would be hard pressed to find any man of God who sacrificed and endured as much as Paul for the flock of God. First he had a love for God and then a love and passion for the benefit of the people of God and thus he writes this verse.

Paul was willing to spend and be spent for the benefit of the church at Corinth and any other people to which he ministered. He was willing to spend his time, strength and energy in preaching the word and reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. He was willing to endure whatever came his way for the benefit of the saints of God. Paul told Timothy, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (II Tim. 2:10).

Was Paul striving to incur favor of the people or elevate his status among them? If that were true, it would seem like he took the wrong approach as he writes these two letters to the church at Corinth and addresses their many problems. Paul had a love for these brethren but what did he seem to get for his love and concern for their welfare? Paul says the more he loved them, the less he was loved. Many of the prophets of old tickled the ears of the people to give them what they wanted rather than what was the truth. They said, "Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:" (Isa. 30:10).

Paul wrote the truth to the Corinthian church because of his love for them.

Paul was a true spiritual father to these people with the same comparable love that a natural father has for his child. He calls them his beloved sons and writes, "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." (I Cor. 4:15). He was more than an instructor; he was a father to them as true pastors are to their flock.

Our Heavenly Father loves us enough that He will not suffer us to continue in our own ways without the ministering of His chastening hand. Remember that as many as He loves He rebukes and chastens. (Rev. 3:19). Paul writes these letters of rebuke and preaches the gospel because of the love he has for them and the desire that they correct that which was against the principles of God. Many of them evidently did not respond with love and thankfulness for his willingness to spend and be spent for their welfare. This response was also against scripture as Paul writes to the church at Thessalonica, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." (I Thess. 5:12-13). Paul's work was a work of faith and a labour of love and he needed to be esteemed highly in love; however, if he failed to be so honored, that would not deter his mission.

As long as ministers are teaching the truth from the word of God, the flock should obey them as long as they follow Christ and His teachings. Hebrews 3:7: "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation." The end of their conversation is Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. This is a watchful love that sounds the alarm whenever necessary. This thought is followed up in Heb. 13:17: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

The apostle John had the same love and concern for the saints as did Paul. Listen to what was the joy and rejoicing of his heart in 3 John 4: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." John also calls the people "his children" indicating that he had the same fatherly relationship with the people as Paul had for the Corinthians. All the apostles died a martyr's death with the exception of the apostle John who was exiled on the Isle of Patmos. They very gladly were willing to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ and the welfare of God's little children. They did not do this for monetary reward or to be esteemed in the eyes of man or of the world. The gift they had was not for them but for the people of God. (Col. 1:25)

Praising God Even In The Wilderness, Psalm 63

By Elder Clayton Nowell

Since God's mercy is everlasting and His lovingkindness is ours daily, communing with Him should be our top priority. Praise and adore Him daily, regardless of our trouble.

"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah." This psalm is thought to apply to the time when David was in the wilderness, fleeing from Absalom. Verse 11 indicates that David was king, but he was away from his throne and beloved sanctuary.

"1) O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;" While there was nothing in the land to refresh him, his soul found the refreshing it desired from communion with God. The One to whom he called, was the one and only God he needed! God was with him where ever he went. Before and beyond earthly comforts, David said "early will I seek thee." Notice how important this was to David. While life was hectic and he had many problems, he had his priorities right! He understood his need of the Lord above everything else; and early in his day, his habit was to pray and commune with his God. Just as his body would become parched and thirsty without frequent drinks of water, so his soul thirsted and longed for the refreshing of regular communion with God in Spirit. So while David was hindered from going to the house of God as he desired, it didn't keep him from worshiping Him where he was. This should be a lesson for us today: worshiping with the saints is a privilege. Appreciate it and participate in it - whenever possible!

"2) To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." This is what David remembered. This is what fed his soul: seeing God's power and glory in worship! Not that there was some spectacular experience witnessed by all, but that God is the one looked to and being praised by faith. The power of God must be exercised upon your soul in order to see Him and His glory! And, what a glorious sight it is to see a congregation of believers worshiping and being blessed by the spirit! David longed for that experience again, but was hindered. Regardless, while he remembered its joy in Jerusalem, it didn't keep him from continuing his private devotions: early, and daily.

And why is it that David is so intent upon continuing his worship? "3) Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee." What is better than life itself? How about the One who gave it? How about the One who sustains it? How about all the lovingkindness that God in His mercy shows us daily and continues to pour out upon us? We need to spend more time praising the God who gave us life than the things in life we have to enjoy! If not, we may find ourselves without them, with many days to regret it.

David knew who supplied his blessings, and he regularly moved his lips in high praises.

"4) Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name." This should be our life's priority. After all, Isaiah 38:18 says, "For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth." Also, Psalms 6:5 says, "For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" Therefore, David said that while he lived, he would lift up his hands and bless the holy name of God! Surely we can praise Him for all He has done for us!

"5) My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:" Marrow and fatness conveyed the idea of the best to be enjoyed on festive occasions. It carried the idea of rich and full blessings from God. But better than the natural, are the spiritual blessings we receive of the Lord's hand daily. Whether natural or spiritual, may we be satisfied in them and joyfully praise Him for all of them.

When did David do this? Certainly in daily devotion. But also, "6) When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches." God had been too good to David for him not to remember it and meditate upon it when he wasn't asleep. In other words, whether morning, noon, or night, it is always a good time to praise our great God!

"7) Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice." This is nothing more than David saying he will be thankful! Because God has done this, I will rejoice while I am enjoying His mercy and provisions. The more we praise God in remembrance of His mercy and goodness to us, the more thankful we will continue to be!

"8) My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me." Is there anything in life that we should "follow hard after" more than God? But, do we? Is anything more worthy of our effort and affection? And could it be that some of our frustrations in life are because we give too much time and attention to things that provide us no real profit? You know, even when we're serving the Lord as we should, there will be frustrations. So David insists that while his life was hard, "my soul followeth hard after thee." And what blessings could he expect from that? God's right hand, the place of favor, would uphold him! This blessing is available to all of God's people, but not all avail themselves of it.

David then gives us a couple of verses of warning about those who oppose others who are pursuing godliness, saying, "9) But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth." They have no place of favor with the Lord. They will not enjoy His help as they pursue their course. In fact, they have the greatest of power against them. A pit and destruction await them. What a tremendous gulf

there is between those who are trying earnestly to follow the Lord and those who seek to destroy the godly and all for which they stand. God, himself, will stand against all who seek to destroy His people. Jesus stood up for Stephen! And, Saul of Tarsus was rebuked for persecuting Jesus, even as Saul was actually going about persecuting His followers. So, "10) They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes." No burial, no honor: judged.

"11) But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped." David who is known for trusting, praising, and acknowledging God as his Helper, shall continue to praise God whether he is sitting upon the throne, or in the wilderness. God is the same, and so should his praises be regardless of what circumstances befall us! Whether king or pauper, "every one that sweareth by Him shall glory." Isn't that encouraging? Doesn't it still the troubled heart? Troubles are a part of life, but God's favor is eternal! And while we live, may we lift up our hands to God and praise Him with our lips for His lovingkindness He gives us daily.

Is it really that important for Christians to believe and defend the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead?

By Elder Joe Nettles

Part 1. The church of Jesus Christ is powerless and empty if void of the resurrection of the dead. It's just that serious a matter. Should we take the Apostle Paul's word on the matter? I certainly think so. In I Corinthians chapter 15, he succinctly defined the gospel as the following: "...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (v. 3-4). According to Brother Paul, no definition of the gospel can leave off the resurrection. He went on in the 15th chapter to list seven reasons why the truth of the resurrection from the dead is vital to the fact of salvation in Jesus Christ. In the next few articles, I hope to expound upon these seven reasons. The first reason Paul gave the Corinthians why the resurrection is vital - "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen" (v.13). Simply put, if Christ did not rise from the dead then Christianity is an empty myth. Why? Well, one reason is because the resurrection of Christ was prophesied of in the Old Testament and must have come to pass for the scriptures to be valid and inspired of the infallible God. Speaking of the resurrection of Christ, the Psalmist David wrote, "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psalm 16:9-10). Again, in Isaiah 25:8 referring to the Messiah - "He will swallow up death in victory..." In addition to the importance of

the fulfillment of prophecy, the most important reason why Christ must necessarily have risen from death is because a Lord who cannot overcome death cannot save. What confidence can Buddhists or Islamics, for example, have in their salvation from the corruptions of sin if their "god" is dead and in a grave himself? No archaeologist will ever find the remains of Jesus Christ for he is risen. Death had no hold on him. He willingly laid down his life, he then willingly rose again to life. Dread, depression, and despair rest upon one who has no confidence in the resurrection of the dead. It is a prime identifying mark of the true church and should be fervently defended!

Part 2. Continuing in this series focusing on Paul's seven reasons given to the Corinthian church as to the absolute necessity that the resurrection from the dead be true, let's now look at the second reason given - "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain..." (I Corinthians 15:14). To the dead, alien sinner this is no big deal. If gospel preaching proclaiming the truths of the Savior is a burden or bore to you, then this reason carries no weight with you. However, if you have ever felt the sweet salvation in spiritual preaching as described by Paul, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith" (Romans 1:17), then denying the resurrection negates its power. I look back through my mind's eye to years past when drugs, alcohol, fast women, and partying were all I cared about. There came a time in my life when the "good time" felt like poison, the bar room felt to be a prison, the pleasures of the flesh were rapidly overwhelmed with grief and heartache. The burden of shame I carried seemed to be heavy enough to drag me to hell, and that rightly deserved! Yet, praise the Lord, the same heart that he had convicted of sin was simultaneously tendered to be able to feel the inward prick of the sweet gospel message. When the preacher spoke on the mercies of King David toward lowly Mephibosheth, it struck a harmonious chord in my inward man that made me rejoice over such free and gracious love. Even when the gospel messenger would stand and preach the poisons of sin and demand repentance, rather than getting mad as I did in former days, that message would cause both contrition and elation to strike an unlikely harmony in my heart. Under gospel preaching, the lower I saw myself to be, the more highly I regarded the bleeding Lamb of Calvary! I know that those sweet experiences I've enjoyed, and yet still enjoy, are not in vain because the same Lord who arose from the grave visits me in the Holy Ghost, impressing my heart and soul with evidences of life that come straight out of the throne room of the Almighty Judge - "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23). If Jesus be not risen, then He is not in that experience. Thank you, Lord, for overcoming the grave for me!

Part 3. The third reason Paul listed in I Corinthians chapter 15 as to why the resurrection of the dead is absolutely vital is "And if Christ be not risen...your faith is also vain" (v.14). There is a distinct correlation between the concept of the physical resurrection from the dead and the faith which abides in a spiritually enlivened soul. The resurrection is the rising to eternal life of the dead body. By the same token, faith is the saint's experience of rising to eternal life while still alive. How? Notice Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". Faith gives the born-again soul a foretaste of glory, a little experience of what awaits. While the body will be resurrected to live in the fullness of glory, faith connects the child of God to that for which he longs - to be in heaven with his Lord. While the resurrected body will be enveloped with the pureness of glory forevermore, faith gives evidence that every sin has been purged from God's sight, that all glory awaits him - "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith" (Romans 1:17); "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (I Peter 1:4-5). Just as the resurrection of the dead will be accomplished by the power of God and him alone, faith (which comes from only one source) gives the child of God the ability to live a heavenly life while mired in a sin-cursed earth - "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). After all, faith means "to trust". Romans chapter 4 teaches that all who trust in Jesus are declared just by faith, the same faith that Abraham exhibited in trusting in the Lord "who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" (v.17). It would be foolish to think that trust in one who was unable to overcome death himself could give assurance to us that death will not be our final state. Yet, we can have all confidence in faith because of that wonderful, empty, borrowed tomb!

Part 4. The fourth reason the Apostle Paul gave in I Corinthians 15:13-19 as to why the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead is vital to Christian truth - "Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ..." (v.15). Paul is stating the stark truth that if you deny the apostles' teaching of the resurrection then you may as well deny the whole of the Bible. After all, if they can't be trusted to tell the truth regarding this doctrine, then they can't be trusted at all. This is, of course, the prime risk of embracing heresies that deny the plain teachings of the Bible. If Paul was prevaricating on the resurrection, then you must reject his teachings on all other subjects. Peter's witness being spurious on the raising of the dead would prove

his witness worthless on all other topics. (As a side note, rejecting Paul's plain teachings regarding the abomination of sodomy and/or the rebellion of women teaching in a public church capacity, for examples, carries the same result!) Professor of Christ, are you really ready to deny all of Christian truth by rejecting the undeniable teachings on the resurrection (or any other subject)? Not this sinner, brother! Look who in the Bible taught the resurrection: Job (Job 19:25-27); Isaiah (Isaiah 25:8); Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37:1-14); Daniel (Daniel 12:2,3,13); Hosea (Hosea 13:14); Martha (John 11:24); Mark (Mark 8:31); Matthew (Matthew 22:23-32, 24:31); Luke (Luke 14:14, 20:27-38, Acts 2:26-31); John (John 5:21-29, 6:39, Revelation 1:18). Last and most importantly, Jesus taught the resurrection, both his own and of the elect - "...Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19); "...that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39). The resurrection of the dead, both of Christ and the elect, is taught in a plain, straightforward manner. It is taught as literal, no qualifications or apologies given or required. A true disciple of Christ must, must, must do the same!

Part 5. Probably the most important reason listed in I Corinthians 15:13-19 as to why the resurrection is vital to the truth of Christ is, "And if Christ be not raised...ye are yet in your sins" (v.17). The thought of still having my debt of sins left to my charge is the most dreadful of thoughts to me. The stain of even one errant work before the glory and perfection of the Lord is more than enough to doom one to eternal perdition. Left unpaid and uncovered, that would surely be the result. Yet, the sublime truth of the gospel is that Jesus Christ came to save sinners from those sins. When speaking of the finished work of Christ in redemption, the resurrection is an absolute necessity to its completion. It can be no other way. Jesus came as the only acceptable sacrifice for the putting away of sins from before the Father - "...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). He gave that sacrifice on the cross at Calvary as he suffered and gave his life in untold agony - "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Now, recall that under the law a sacrifice was always offered to the Father in the tabernacle or temple. It was never, ever offered to the sinner! It was always offered up to God, as Christ was - "Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once when he offered up himself" (Hebrews 7:27); "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14). You see, the Father is up in heaven. That's where the sacrifice had to go...up! Christ never offered himself as Redeemer down to sinners for acceptance

or rejection, no matter what you hear from various preachers. How was his sacrifice offered up into the throne room of the Father? His resurrection accomplished that - "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands...but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:24); "Who (Christ, jn) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25); "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20). It surely took Christ's death and resurrection!

Part 6. "Then they which also are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:18). Oh, horrid, dreadful thought! This is the sixth reason Paul listed to the Corinthian church as to why the resurrection of the dead is absolutely necessary to worship in truth. Imagine that there is no afterlife and that this existence in which we presently dwell is all there is. Is that really a concept that one could own with any measure of confidence or comfort? To deny the resurrection, according to Paul, is to believe that dismal lie. To just cease existing in a physical sense is contrary to every human's innate knowledge. We are, after all, created after God's image which means that we have an immortal, undying soul. In creation, all men, both regenerate and unregenerate, have been programmed naturally to know that there is a God and that he is immortal - "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead..." (Romans 1:20). Therefore, despite what so-called atheists say, we being created in his image has also given us an impression that there is life after death. To quote my friend Elder Michael Gowens, "Atheists say they don't believe in God. Well, I don't believe in atheists." Aptly put! I rejoice in the truth of enjoying heaven in body, soul, and spirit. In death, the soul and spirit immediately depart to be in heaven (Philippians 1:23-24; II Corinthians 5:8). However, don't forget that Christ saved the body also and one day the soul and spirit in heaven will be reunited with it - "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23). That will occur because Christ was resurrected for us - "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming" (I Corinthians 15:22-23). Maybe some try to deny the resurrection because there is some realization that they'll live on, but not in the way they imagine. Their mindset may be like the demons in Christ's day who realized that there was a time for them awaiting - ""What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29).

CHURCH NEWS

Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS. March 21-23, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, 1411 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS the 4th weekend of March 2025 (Mar. 21-23). Services on Friday night, March 21, at 7:00 pm. Saturday, March 22, at 10:30am followed by lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, March 23 at 10:30am. Elder Mark Quarles is the invited minister.

New Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut, MS. March 28-30, 2025. New Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut, MS will host its 2025 Annual Meeting the weekend of March 28-30, 2025. Services Friday night (March 28) at 6:00pm, no supper. Saturday, (March 29), at 10:00am, followed by lunch and 1:30pm worship service. There will be no night service. The meeting concludes Sunday, (March 30) beginning at 10:00am, followed by lunch. Guest ministers for the meeting are Elder Jeff Moseley and Elder Trey Collier from Houston, Texas, and also Elder Darren Owens from Ripley, Mississippi. We invite you to come worship with us. Elder Dwayne DuBard is the Pastor of New Salem.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. March 30, 2025. New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will host the 5th Sunday night fellowship meeting in March 2025 (March 30). Worship at 5:00pm with Elder Joe Nettles preaching, followed by supper and fellowship. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany, and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches.

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting at Palm Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, Crestview, FL. March 27-30, 2025. Schedule is as follows: Services:

Thursday: Worship beginning at 6:30pm

Friday: Worship beginning at 10:00am. Lunch at 12pm. Afternoon services at 1:30pm. Supper at 5:30pm and worship at 6:30pm

Saturday: Worship beginning at 10:00am. Lunch at 12pm. Afternoon services at 1:30pm.

Sunday: Worship beginning at 10:30am. Lunch at 12pm.

Church Address: Palm Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, 201 Cadle Drive, Crestview, FL 32539

Accommodations available at hotels in Crestview, FL (about 5-15 minutes away) and in Niceville, FL (about 25-30 minutes away)

Contact:

Pastor, Elder Todd Nunley, phone: 214.415.2810, email - jamestnunley@outlook.com

Deacon Brother David Cadle, phone: 850.865.1475, email - dec55@cox.net

Deacon Brother Gavin Purvis, phone: 850.902.0098, email - joannpurvis@gmail.com

Deacon Brother Peter Cannon, phone: 850.612.2486, email - elvis24682000@yahoo.com

Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Caledonia, MS. April 11-13, 2025. Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church will host her annual meeting on April 11-13th, 2025. Eld. Brennan Hooven from N. Carolina has agreed to be with us. Also, Lord will, we plan to use other visiting ministers in the pulpit as the Spirit guides. Schedule:

Friday 11th - Supper at 6pm, service at 7pm

Saturday 12th - Morning meeting at 10am, dinner, then afternoon service at 1:30pm.

Sunday 13th - Service at 10:30am, dinner, then communion and foot washing in the afternoon.

We are located at 40283 Wolfe Rd, Caledonia (in the Bartahatchie Community), MS (GPS only, no mail, please). The pastor for Sulphur Springs is Eld Joe Nettles. Please, contact him by call or text at 912-585-9025 for questions or arrangements for overnight accommodations. Our earnest prayers are for your presence with us!

Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS. April 11-13, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 2nd weekend in April 2025 (Apr. 11-13). Services Friday night (April 11) at 7:00pm. Saturday, (April 12), at 10:30am followed by lunch. No afternoon service. Sunday at 10:30am. Elder Mark Quarles is the invited minister. We would love to have you come and worship with us. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS. April 26-27, 2025. Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Maben, MS will host her annual meeting on the 4th weekend in April 2025. Services begin Saturday (April 26) at 10:30am, followed by lunch, and afternoon services beginning at 1:30pm. Sunday (April 27) worship services begin at 10:30am, followed by lunch. This will be an open meeting, so all ministers are invited to attend.

UPCOMING ELDER ORDINATION

Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS. May 3, 2025. Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church will have the honor of hosting Brother Braden Rogers for consideration of ordination as an elder to the full work of the gospel ministry of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite everyone, particularly the ministers from our sister churches, to come and be with us during this joyful service. The ordination will be Saturday, May 3, 2025 beginning at 10:00am as follows: Song service, Brother Braden Rogers

preaching, light lunch, then ordination service. The address is 2871 Hwy. 363, Mantachie, MS 38855. For further information contact Elder Darren Owens, pastor of Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, phone number 662-587-1193.

DEACON ORDINATION



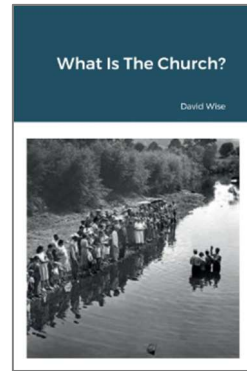
Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS. Jan. 12, 2025. Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church set aside Brother Chris Easterling to be ordained as a deacon of the church on Jan. 12, 2025. A presbytery was formed of 7 elders and 14 deacons from sister churches, and Brother Chris was ordained by the laying on of hands by the presbytery. Brother Chris and his wife, Sister Judy, were charged regarding their service to the church going forward and ultimate service to the Lord. We pray the Lord will bless Brother Chris and his wife in serving Laodicea Church for many years to come. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea,

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We have gotten the last two vehicles we have bought from my parents and later my mother, just because it lined up that they were looking to move on from them at the time we needed one. I recently had a serious car accident and one of those aforementioned vehicles was totaled. When we were in our rental car, I was talking about having to get another vehicle. To which Isaac said, "we can just buy one from Nana!" (Jonathan Wise)

Daniel 2:44-45 – “[44] And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. [45] Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

FEATURED BOOK



What Is The Church? By David Wise

What is the church? We sometimes talk about “the church” in vague terms, but I’ve questioned myself recently if we really understand what the church actually is, what it’s supposed to be, and what the Lord intends from his elect, called out people. What does the church actually look like? How is it supposed to function? What are we supposed to be doing when we meet together publicly as a church, but then what are we supposed to be doing as the church throughout our daily lives? In America, I’m afraid that church has become an event we attend once a week, instead of who we are. When you are asked what you do on Sunday mornings, your answer is probably similar to mine: “We go to church.” There’s not anything wrong with this answer; it’s somewhat correct. We assemble as the church in our church building and facility, and we engage in public worship on Sunday mornings. However, the church is so much more dynamic and life-encompassing than just something we “go to” once a week. The church is not just one event on our schedule that we attend for a few hours each week, check that box, and then proceed to the rest of our busy daily schedules. Church is not merely something “we do” once a week, but rather the church is “who we are.” We are the body of Christ. Church is not simply a weekly event we attend, but church is a life we live.

You may purchase this book at the link below:
<https://marchtozion.com/books/what-is-the-church/>

A free PDF of this book can be downloaded here:
<https://macedonia-pbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/What-Is-The-Church-PDF.pdf>

You may visit the websites below to find an extensive library of Primitive Baptist books:
<https://www.sovgrace.net/shop/>
<https://marchtozion.com/book-table/>
<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/dm00769/>

THE MEEK

Elder Ben Cordes
Lexington, Kentucky

(Part 3 of 8 in Series on The Beatitudes)

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
(Matt. 5:5)

The third Beatitude concerns the matter of meekness. It is important to remember that the qualities for which Christ reserves blessings are not things to be acquired through desire, but are attributes given by God to the elect to be exercised and perfected. They are not earned. They are gifts of grace. Meekness is a fruit that comes forth from the Spirit who abides in every regenerated child of God (Gal. 5:23). Therefore, only the born again may demonstrate meekness.

Meekness is a profound feature of the elect, but one that requires defining. It is a gentleness of the spirit of the child of God. It requires that humility be present since the two are so closely tied together. However, meekness should not be understood as weakness. Rather, it is a spiritual strength that resists the excited urges and impulses of the flesh. The meek do not fight with God, instead, they accept His word and cling to His promises, come what may.

Like the other subjects of the beatitudes, meekness is a spiritual characteristic that is opposed by the carnal world. Nevertheless, Christ calls His followers to not conform to this present world but be transformed by the mind as it is renewed and refreshed in Jesus Christ (Rom 12:2). The spirit and heart that God gives the elect by grace is equipped with the heavenly nature that is opposed to the fallen carnal nature received by flesh and blood. Though our nature of flesh wars against the spirit now, at the resurrection the flesh nature will no longer resist, but will also be transformed to be made glorious and incorruptible. Then, all the qualities of eternal life will shine, and the children of God will rejoice in how the Lord has made us perfect.

At least two examples are given to us of people from the Bible who were meek. While Israel spent time in the wilderness, Moses was declared to be *"very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth"* (Num. 12:3). Moses demonstrated his meek nature through gentle entreaty toward God, requesting that He spare Israel after they sinned (Exod. 32:11-14). Moses possessed strength to control himself from becoming angry with Israel, and humbly begged the Lord for His mercy.

Jesus Christ, above all, is declared to be *"meek and lowly in heart"* (Matt. 11:29). The humility that the Son of God displayed in condescending to mankind, stooping to wash their feet, and reaching to touch and heal the sick allows for us to see that Jesus Christ is

meek. Even as Christ was tormented and ridiculed, He possessed His soul with patience and strength to remain silent in the face of false accusers. Christ suffered death, not because He couldn't overcome His persecutors, but because He was serving the purpose of the Father through dying rather than in saving His own life. The meekness of Christ was demonstrated in His obedient submission to the Father, even through great difficulty.

Meekness in the children of God provides evidence of Christ. Every time a Christian bears patiently through trials, he is demonstrating meekness. When he withstands provocation and remains charitable despite the temptation to fight back, he is demonstrating meekness. When he is faced with terrible news, he doesn't ask *"why me?"*, but instead he asks *"why not me?"*. Meekness in the character of a Christian reveals the humility and strength of faith that Christ has issued to him.

The Lord promised the meek that they shall inherit the earth. The Lord wasn't speaking of this present earth, but of the new earth to come.

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Pet. 3:13)

The Psalmist, David, also spoke of the new earth being inherited by the meek. The new earth will be a place where no evildoer exists and peace will be abundant.

"9) For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10) For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. 11) But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Ps. 37:9-11)

This present earth is not the home of the meek children of God. We may spend time here, but living for this earth and the things in this earth is not what Christ has commanded His people to do. Foes and devils may fight for this current ground on which we dwell, but they only live for temporal pleasures and carnal lusts, and then they are judged. We, the elect of God, are to set our affection on things which are heavenly (Col. 3:2). We are anticipating the Lord's return and the abode He has in store for us, wherein we will dwell with Him in righteousness forever.

"15) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (1 John 2:15-17)

What a hope the Lord has given us! To observe meekness in our brothers and sisters is to see the evidence of the promises of God in them. Remember,

friends, to exhibit the grace that God has given to patiently possess your soul, and to live in meekness. When you charitably bear with one another, and when you choose to love instead of fight back against those that provoke, you are demonstrating Christ. May the Lord bless us to live meekly while in this present world.

WITHOUT SIN?

Elder Matt Jordan

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:22-25

Paul never reached the place in his life where he no longer sinned. Used of God, yes! Inspired to pen down half of the New Testament; amazing! But until the day the Apostle died, he had to contend with the warfare that takes place within every child of God. It is a struggle between two natures and the struggle is real. Paul described it as the law of his members warring against the law of his mind. Yes, he had something within him that was created as a new creature in Christ, created in righteousness and true holiness. Paul referred to it as the inner man, and that inner man was without sin. But the old sinful nature was still there. Hence, the struggle.

A little later in this epistle, Paul would describe how this new creature would one day be liberated from the bondage of corruption. Our inner man, while without sin, resides in a body where the natural man still resides and still desires sin. This is why our bodies still suffer the effects of sin until the day we breathe our last breath. But praise God, that liberation, that deliverance, that salvation is coming! And the earnest expectation of it (hope) delivers us now from the fears, the unrest, the confusion, and the chaos in us and around us.

No, Paul was not without sin. Neither are we. None of us are. None of us will ever be totally free from sin while we live in this world. But if you have that struggle within, then you have an inner man who hates sin. There is within you a new creature created in righteousness that cannot sin. You struggle because, while you've been set free from the mastery of your sinful nature, that sinful nature you were born with is not yet dead. Paul exhorts us to mortify the deeds of the flesh; to put on that new man; to let the new man reign in our lives. The admonition is necessary today, it will be necessary tomorrow, and it will be necessary every day of our lives until we leave this world.

Don't be deceived by those who try to say they are without sin, or who try to tell you that you aren't saved if you still sin. They don't understand the dual nature of the child of God and they themselves have been deceived. Are we to continue in sin? Of course not! Or, as Paul put it, God forbid! We are to pursue godliness and holiness every second of every hour of every day of our lives; in thought, in word, and in deed. We are to pursue perfection because God is perfect. How are you doing with that? Probably better than me but still not perfectly; right? Even if we've done well outwardly, our thoughts are not always perfectly holy and our motivation is tainted with selfishness. Perfection – a life without sin – will not be attained to in this life; only in the world to come. But God would have us draw closer to Him daily. And a closer walk with Him will strengthen us to defend more successfully against the mastery our flesh still desires.

Someone might tell you that Paul was describing his experience of the past. The context of the passage above simply won't allow for that interpretation. They might tell you that Paul had been fully delivered from that sinful nature and no longer committed sin. The totality of Paul's writings and the New Testament as a whole refute that notion. They might try to tell you that they have reached that point too, and if you haven't, then you aren't going to heaven. But if reality ever sets in, if they truly search their hearts, if they are ever given a true understanding of God's word, they will know their sinlessness is an imaginary idea of their own making. If they ever come to agree with God's definition of sin, and if they contemplated that truth when they lay in their bed at night, just them and God, then they would have to agree with Paul's testimony and cry out, "O wretched man that I am". Then they would come to that place of total dependence on Christ rather than their own supposed holiness.

Thank God through Jesus Christ for His marvelous and mighty deliverance!

MY BELOVED IS MINE

The Amen Corner

By Elder Ricky Harcrow
Fort Payne, AL

The Song of Songs called in the Holy bible, the Song of Solomon, is a beautiful Love story. He refers time and again to MY BELOVED. He identifies her as the “**One whom my soul loveth**”. One whom he calls the “**fairest among women**”. “**Thou art beautiful Oh my Love as TIRZAH, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners**” (SS.6:4). When he says “**thou art beautiful oh my love as Tirzah**” the name TIRZAH means “she is my delight”. To all of us there is one in our lives that is literally Tirzah (our delight). Nothing can change it nor can time or

circumstances wash it away. It is very evident from reading this short beautiful love story that His mind constantly was toward his beloved. Night and day; morning and evening. The first thing in the morning the last thing at night. **“How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love for delights”**. (SS. 7:6).

The poet, Ericka Denmark, wrote these words; *“Love is a word with many meanings, so when I say I love I want you to know exactly what I mean. I don’t say I love you expecting anything in return or just to make you feel better. I say it because no matter what else happens in your life or mine you can count on me loving you. When in your pride you will not ask for me to tell you I love you, I tell you anyway that I love you always. My love is unconditional and when everything else seems lost and no hope is in sight just remember one thing I LOVE YOU and my love is genuine. I love you today, tomorrow and forever”*.

I do not know why Ericka Denmark wrote these beautiful words but they align themselves with Paul’s Preaching and bible teaching. Whoever she wrote the words for must have been very precious to her. Down deep in her soul there was an affection that never failed or drew back toward whoever it was. You and I have people in our lives that are such a part of us that whether we see them face to face or not, just the thought of them thrills us in a most sublime way. I thank God for that experience. It has power to give in a moment what many toil a lifetime for and never experience. It is sad we miss sometimes the opportunity what God blesses us with but while there is life there is still blessings to be enjoyed. I have come to the conclusion that life is to be enjoyed regardless of age because what little life I have left God has blessed me with such a wonderful experience that time and space would not be sufficient to describe it.

So is the case with Christ and his people; his bride; his church. **“Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all”** (Proverbs 31:29). She needs no NEW adorning for she is clothed with the righteousness of Christ and bound to him by the love of God. A love that is genuine, unconditional, today, tomorrow and forever. To me the bible is a love story from beginning to end. Love before the world began and love after all is gone; from everlasting to everlasting, it is just as eternal as God himself. God’s people, redeemed by the precious blood of the lamb, are “His delight”. God’s eternal and unconditional love toward us as helpless sinners is our only hope of union with him. It is not just to make us feel better, but it is unconditional, genuine and it is real whether we understand it or not and rest assured we do not understand it in its fullness nor will we ever do so because we only see through a glass darkly therefore we do not have perfect or complete vision. It is clouded to say the least.

God’s dealings are mysterious; his own word affirms it. **“My thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways**

are not your ways saith the lord” (Isa.55:8). Thank God, if God does love me, He loves me in an everlasting way as unlovable as I stand before him. It is my constant sorrow, I am so much the subject of sin. I know, I feel and carry about with me a body of sin and death. In thoughts, words and actions how often are the actions of sin seen in me and by me and righteousness so far away. At the end of the day I realize how little I have lived to His glory. However, in the face of that I read **“My beloved is mine and I am His”**. What a blessing for me! Like the Poet Erica Denmark said in her verse; It is UNCONDITIONAL! When all else pales to the background pray for me to be able to recall and remember that fact. A few thoughts tonight of blessings without number. Please pray for me. AMEN! (April 2016)

VALUE OF THE BIBLE

An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity." (Source Unknown)

Be true to yourself, help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendship a fine art, drink deeply from good books - especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day. (John Wooden)

Psalm 19:7-10 – *“[7] The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. [8] The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes...[10] More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”*

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