

Glad Tidings

April

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

THE SIN OF JEROBOAM

In response to Solomon’s idolatry later in his life, the Lord chooses a man named Jeroboam to lead a rebellion to rend the kingdom and lead 10 of the 12 tribes apart from the rule of Solomon. When Solomon gets wind of this revolt, he attempts to kill Jeroboam, but he flees into Egypt for safety until Solomon’s death. When Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, takes over, he makes very foolish decisions to oppress the people, listening to his young friends instead of the wise sages that counseled Solomon. During this time, Jeroboam has returned and leads a rebellion of the northern 10 tribes that become known as “Israel” going forward, and the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin still under Rehoboam’s rule are known as “Judah” going forward (see 1 Kg. 11-12 for this whole account).

In the aftermath of this splitting of the kingdom, Jeroboam was afraid of losing his power and that some of the northern tribes might be enticed to return to unify with the southern tribes of Judah. He was afraid if the people obeyed the command of God to return to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices, then they would inevitably kill him and return under Rehoboam’s rule. Therefore, to prevent the possibility of the people’s return to Jerusalem, Jeroboam set up idol worship that became known as “the sin of Jeroboam” that corrupted Israel for hundreds of years, all the way up until their ultimate overthrow. Jeroboam set up idol worship for the northern tribes that was characterized by three primary things: 1) created two golden images of calves and set up two places for worship of these idols in Bethel and Dan; 2) allowed anyone, even the lowest of the people, to be priests to offer worship in these high places; 3) set up his own feast to replace the Jerusalem feasts and offer sacrifices to these idols of calves. (1 Kg. 12:26-33).

To prevent the people from going back down to Jerusalem for sacrifices, Jeroboam created two golden calves and set one idol in Bethel in the south and the other idol in Dan in the north. It is interesting that Jeroboam returned to the same golden calf idol that the Israelites made in the wilderness (Exod. 32). Just like their foolish forefathers in the wilderness, Jeroboam also proclaims that these golden calves had brought the people out of the land of Egypt (1 Kg. 12:28). Jeroboam is not only creating golden idols but attributing their deliverance from Egypt to these lifeless graven images. It’s also sad that he chose Bethel – the special place of Jacob’s ladder

experience and “the house of the Lord” and “the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28) – to corrupt by setting up a high place for this graven image there. To prevent any need to return to Jerusalem, he sets up a false counterfeit of worship and caused the people to sin by coming to these high places for idol worship (1 Kg. 12:30). It should not be overlooked that the whole reason God rent the kingdom from Solomon was because of idol worship, and then Jeroboam promptly immediately sets up idol worship again in the northern tribes to keep and consolidate his power. Idol worship has always been a dangerous pitfall of God’s people, and both Solomon and Jeroboam show that truth in all too sobering terms.

Then, to fraudulently attempt to replicate the true worship in Jerusalem, Jeroboam allowed for anyone to be a priest in these high places to conduct worship to these golden calf idols. He “made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi” (1 Kg. 12:31). Anyone who was interested, he made a priest – “whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places” (1 Kg. 13:33). This counterfeit priesthood was not restricted to the Levites, but Jeroboam allowed anyone to be a priest who desired to be. He had “cast off” the Levites “from executing the priest’s office unto the Lord, and he ordained him priests for the high places and for devils, and for the calves which he had made.” (2 Chr. 11:14-15) Not only did he set up the lowest of the people to be his “yes men” as these false priests, but he actively persecuted the true priests who tried to serve the Lord.

Then, to further ensure the people were not tempted to return to Jerusalem, Jeroboam set up his own feast to replace the feast of tabernacles that God’s people were called to observe. He instituted a feast in the 8th month, and 15th day – after the same manner of the feast of tabernacles that was commanded to be observed by Israel in the 7th month and 15th day, or maybe even the Passover that was observed in the 1st month. He set up this feast “even in the month which he had devised of his own heart” (1 Kg. 12:33). This feast and all these abominations he set up were “devised of his own heart.” Jeroboam did not seek the Lord in any of these decisions because the obvious answer would have been “no” to all this idolatry. Instead, Jeroboam just devised in his own heart what he wanted to do, without submitting to the guidance and will of the Lord. In this feast, the people sacrificed unto the false idols – the two golden calves – that he

had set up, as if they had delivered them from Egypt, instead of Jehovah God (1 Kg. 12:32).

In spite of essentially all the people of the northern tribes being enticed by Jeroboam's idolatry, there was still a small remnant who remained faithful to still go down to Jerusalem. All of those who "set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers" (2 Chr. 11:16). So even though almost all of the ten tribes of Israel were corrupted, there was a remnant who still came to Jerusalem to observe true sacrifice to God. This is a reminder that the true disciples of Christ will always be in the minority. Most of God's people will get assimilated to think that idolatry and doing things man's way instead of God's way is acceptable. You have your opinion of worship, and I have my differing preference and opinion of worship. However, our own opinions are not relevant in the discussions of true worship. There is never any place for idolatry in the lives of God's children, regardless of how accepted and commonplace it is in the culture around us. We need to be as this faithful remnant that still returned to Jerusalem to observe true worship, even if those around us have had their conscience seared with a hot iron to think that idolatry is acceptable unto the Lord.

This "sin of Jeroboam" in establishing false worship and idolatry corrupted the northern tribes of Israel their entire existence. After the division of the kingdom, while Judah occasionally had good kings in the midst of their bad kings, for the entire history of Israel, they never had one leader that scripture affirms was a good king. Instead, for essentially every one of the evil kings of Israel, this was the summary of their reign – they "walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin". Every one of the future kings were corrupted by the sin and idolatry that Jeroboam set up.

Because of his corruption of true worship, God sends a severe judgment against Jeroboam and his family. Jeroboam did "evil above all that were before thee." (1 Kg. 14:9) God was so displeased with this sin of Jeroboam, he then intended to "cut off" the house of Jeroboam and "to destroy it from off the face of the earth" (1 Kg. 13:34) God promises to kill every man of Jeroboam's house (1 Kg. 14:10), which was ultimately carried out by Baasha (1 Kg. 15:28-30). Interestingly, Baasha is the one chosen to slay the house of Jeroboam for his sins (1 Kg. 15:29-30), but then because he acted wickedly just like Jeroboam, and his own posterity was all killed as well (1 Kg. 16:2-4, 11-13), just like Jeroboam's house.

How then does the "sin of Jeroboam" apply to us today? Well, we could certainly make a case that some in organized religion have committed the same sin of Jeroboam in establishing their own worship, own priests, and own feasts. The Roman Catholic church certainly fits the bill for each of those, and how many children of God have been ensnared by the "sin of

Jeroboam" as perpetuated by the Roman Catholic church. How many in Christianity today have debased the calling of God in the ministry to allow unqualified people, women, or even sodomites to serve in a ministerial role in the kingdom of God? However, the more pressing question for all of us is what areas of our lives are we enticed to commit the sin of Jeroboam? What idols do we set up that are matters of convenience and ease, rather than making a greater sacrifice to make the long and arduous journey to Jerusalem to engage in true worship, even if every one else around us does not see the need for it?

Have we sought out our own inventions, devised from our own heart, that have clouded our judgment and true worship of Jesus Christ? We don't like to admit it, but we are all so prone to idolatry. While we might not have a golden calf in the house of God, we do set up idols in the temple of our bodies and in our minds. We are prone to treat money, wealth, and influence as the idols that we offer sacrifices unto. We can even make good and wholesome things like our family, wife, children, or a job as of greater importance than the Lord in our life and treat those things as idols. If we aren't enticed by those material things, we are all prone to make ourself as an idol, and serve and worship ourselves instead of obeying the greatest commandment to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

(Continued on page 4)

Hosea 4:17– *Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.*

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)



In the church kingdom, we have heard ministers say (myself included) that we are all here on common ground where there aren't any big you's or little I's. However, the apostles whom Jesus had chosen were having an argument among themselves about who was greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus knew their thoughts and called a little child unto Him and said to that squabbling group, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:4) Little children generally do not attempt to promote or elevate themselves above other children and seldom, if ever, hold grudges. This is why Paul told the church at Corinth, "Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." (I Cor. 14:20)

Jealousy can invade the ranks of the best of people if not held in check. James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus via their mother and desired that Jesus would grant that they might sit, one on the right hand and the other on the left, when He came in His kingdom. When the other ten apostles heard of this, they were much displeased. We might wonder if they desired the same thing or did not want these two, James and John, to get ahead of them. In either case, they failed to humble themselves as a child.

Perhaps these apostles wanted to be called by some distinguished religious name that designated the religious elite. Jesus taught otherwise about what they and others are to be called. They were not to be called Rabbi for one was their Master, Jesus Christ. They were to call no man their father on earth because one was their Father in heaven. They were not to be called masters for one was their Master, Christ. Jesus sums up this teaching by stating, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matt. 23:11)

The way to honour is through service but before any honour a vital ingredient must be present. Solomon said, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility." (Prov. 18:12) Jesus humbled Himself under the mighty hand of God and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross wherefore God exalted Him. Jesus said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am,

there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." John 12:26

Jesus was a true servant of God; however, He never attempted to exalt Himself in the eyes of the people. After some great miracle He had done, He would even tell those affected to go and tell no man. Isaiah prophesied of this servant and how God would bless His service and humility. "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles." (Isa. 42:1) Jesus came not to be ministered unto but to minister and give His life a ransom for many. (Matt. 20:28) He taught the disciples the value of service. "For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth." (Luke 22:27)

The Pharisees were the ones desiring to be the greatest and to be seen of men and Jesus constantly pronounced woe unto them who had this as their goal. Saul of Tarsus felt at one time to be the greatest of the Hebrews but after he was arrested by God's grace his attitude was far different. He is now able to say, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15) It is important to note that he felt to be the chief of sinners but the least of the apostles and less than the least of all saints. (Eph. 3:8) He was still addressed as Saul after the Damascus road encounter with Jesus; Ananias addressed him as Brother Saul but he was primarily known as Paul the apostle. He was willing to spend and be spent for Christ and not attempting to make himself superior to any other minister.

Paul condemned the Corinthians for being more followers of ministers than of the Lord. Some were following Paul, some Cephas, and some Apollos but listen to Paul who directs them to the proper object of their praise. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (I Cor. 3:6-7)

The kingdom of God can flourish when it has great people in the midst. Let us remember, however, that the way to greatness is to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and submit ourselves one to another, doing as Paul said, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Phil. 2:3) When this sentiment prevails, there will be no wrangle about who is greatest.

(From March 2020 Glad Tidings)

James 4:6,10 – "6) *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble... 10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*"

THE SIN OF JEROBOAM (Continued from Pg. 2)

Idolatry is not an Old Testament issue. No, idolatry is a snare to God's people in every age of time. In 1st John, after a stark and sobering message all throughout the book, what is the final admonition, the final thought to God's people from a pastor's heart – "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." (1 John 5:21) We are just as prone to idolatry and the sin of Jeroboam today as these Old Testament people of God.

We also learn from Jeroboam and the successive generations that it is very easy for idolatry to become culturally accepted to such a degree that no one sees the egregiousness of their abominable works. Jeroboam made false worship and idolatry culturally accepted, and that cultural acceptance was never questioned or rejected for hundreds of years until Israel ultimately fell into bondage to Assyria. There are many things in our culture that have been elevated to idols that we don't even question now – sports, music (the most popular singing show for many years was literally "American Idol" and most of us see no problem with that), and entertainment.

What is our response to a culture that is already corrupted with the sin of Jeroboam all around us? We need to remain committed to be as the faithful remnant minority who still make the long trek back to Jerusalem to engage in true worship of Jehovah God. They rejected the convenience of the graven images around them, even when almost everyone thought that idolatry was totally fine. They made the commitment to make the long, hard, and expensive trip back to Jerusalem to engage in true worship because it was the right thing to do in obedience to Jehovah God. Let us be among the faithful remnant who reject the lukewarm culture around us that is permeated with the sin of Jeroboam, and let us return unto Zion, the city of our God, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, and reject the convenience of idols that might be accepted all around us. (Elder David Wise)

ETERNAL SALVATION? By Elder Marty Smith (2018)

When we see the word "save" in the Bible, we should not always jump to the conclusion that it refers to "eternal salvation," but we should interpret the word in context, according to the scriptures around it.

Below are some Bible verses, in which I have capitalized the word "SAVE" or "SAVED". In some of these verses, SAVE means "to deliver from sin and death unto everlasting life in Jesus Christ". I designate these with the words: ETERNAL SALVATION. In other cases, it means something else, and I try to briefly say what that is:

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall SAVE his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) ETERNAL SALVATION

And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, SAVE us: we perish. (Matthew 8:25) The disciples are asking Jesus Christ to save them from shipwreck and drowning.

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, SAVE me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. (John 12:27) Jesus Christ is stating that He will not be saved from the hour of His death.

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to SAVE the world. (John 12:47) ETERNAL SALVATION ("world" here does not mean "all humanity" but means "all the Father gave the Son" - in fact, "the world" here equals "his people" in Matthew 1:21).

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be SAVED, even as they. (Acts 15:11) ETERNAL SALVATION

Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be SAVED. (Acts 27:31) Paul is warning that, without sailors on board, some of the people in their ship will drown.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be SAVED from wrath through him. (Romans 5:9) ETERNAL SALVATION

For we are SAVED by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? (Romans 8:24) Paul writes that hope in Christ saves us from despair and darkness.

TO SEE CHRIST COMING IN GLORY By Elder Rusty Wise

1 John 3:2: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

The eyes of mortal men cannot even begin to imagine the wondrous glory of a mighty God. However, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, we shall be changed. That which was mortal, corruptible, and defiled shall forever be made immortal, incorruptible, and undefiled. Our mind and body free from sin and our hearts will forever be in perfect harmony with our God.

That day is but just a short time away, whether it be a matter of moments or years upon years, it makes no difference. Regardless of how many more days, we hold to the promise and the assurance that our Saviour will come. The day when we can see Jesus in all his magnificence. If we rejoice now with joy unspeakable and full of glory in only our belief, can we begin to imagine our joy in seeing with perfect eyes the full

manifestation of his presence? For now these mortal tongues can but just shout, "what a day, what a day, what a day that will be."

As we tarry in this world until his coming, may we truly carry his banner high, ever before a procession of honour and praise.

Titus 2:13: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

May we feel the richness of his blessings through the preaching of his holy word as we feed the lambs, and as we feed the sheep, and as we feed the sheep, of the coming of the victorious, triumphant, glorious Savior. Amen.

A FATHER'S LOVE

By Elder Joe Nettles

Job 1:4-5: "[4] And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. [5] And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually."

Job did this for his children. His children seemed so preoccupied with revelry that it seems unlikely that they ever would have thought to make sacrifice for their own transgressions. However, a father's love and devotion compelled Job to do so, independent of their assent for him to do so.

Bible readers through the ages have marvelled in admiration at the actions of Job in this. Such an example for fathers everywhere! Despite this, so many of said admirers would simultaneously posit that the eternal Father wouldn't dare make a perfect, effectual sacrifice for his elect unless they first choose to allow Him to do so.

Is it possible that Job is a more admirable example of fatherly love than the eternal Father? Perish such a thought!

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.....But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Romans 5:6,8-10)

1 John 3:1 – "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

FRAILTY OF MAN'S FIG LEAVES OF WORKS

By Elder Josh Winslett

After Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he covered himself in fig leaves. That is possibly also the leaves of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He covered his nakedness in something that would soon wither away. This is a picture of our works in of righteousness. Any type of covering that we make will soon decay and show our inadequacies.

However, after God pronounced the curses upon the serpent, the woman, and the man; he covered them in animal skin. This gives us a twofold view of redemption. First, only God can truly cover our sin. Second, it takes something to die to cover us.

Our works are as fig leaves and cannot cover us. Only through the death of Jesus Christ are we covered by his righteousness.

1 Cor. 5:21 – "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*"

Romans 5:19-21 – "*19) For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20) Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21) That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Isaiah 40:6-8 – "*6) The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*"

FEED MY LAMBS, FEED MY SHEEP

By Elder Herman Clark (Deceased)

The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. In the morning Jesus stood on the shore and asked the disciples, addressing them as children, "...Have ye any meat? They answered him, No." Jesus pointed out that they had cast their net on the wrong side of the ship. He told them to cast their net on the RIGHT side of the ship. They caught 153 fish. Then Jesus said unto them to come and dine. It was while they were eating that Jesus asked Simon Peter a question. "Lovest thou me more than these? Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus answered Peter saying Feed my lambs." Peter acknowledged

that he did love Jesus and was grieved because Jesus had asked almost the same question three times. Read chapter 21 of John closely to get a clear picture of all that was said.

We as ministers have a responsibility to do the same. We are to feed the lambs and the sheep. Suppose a farmer goes to a corncrib full of corn, picks up the corn basket, carries the corn basket to the cows, and goes through the motion of emptying out the corn into the trough. There is one problem with the farmer's actions. He had the basket, the crib with corn, and the cows to feed, and yet the thing he lacked was he failed to put corn into the basket. He went through the motion of feeding the cows. Did this satisfy their hunger? Have you ever gone to the feed trough (worship service) and found nothing to satisfy your (spiritual) hunger? You saw the "farmer" (preacher) with the basket and knew his responsibility, and expected him to fulfill his responsibility, and that was to feed. Does this ring a bell? It may be that the preacher had not put any corn in the basket and only went through the motions of feeding. Jesus said "Feed my lambs and my sheep." Paul said to Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

A minister can carry a large basket of corn to the feed trough and yet the sheep are not fed. It seems that all is needed is the corn, preacher, and the sheep. **That is the trap that many fall into.** Many times the most important part of preaching the gospel is left completely out when feeding. A man can step into the pulpit with all that has been mentioned, but without the **HOLY SPIRIT** there is no preaching. Hence, there is no real food for the sheep.

(From "*The GOOD NEWS Newsletter*", August, 2007

THE CHURCH

By Elder J.D. Holder (Deceased)

The church, for some, is just a place to go on a beautiful, warm day and see the people. From this point of view, it makes very little difference where to go, or what order of people we are with, or what form of service they render, because it is of the flesh and is no more than the general practice of the world.

But the house of God is a place of refuge, a place to be taught the will of God concerning His people, and then to take heed to the things taught out of a love to God and for His people and His divine truths and for the joy and thanksgiving for His countless blessings we have received.

In His service, we find peace to a troubled soul, hungry for the renewed evidences that He is our God, and His presence we need to lead us and give strength in the hour of troubles.

Trust in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength...(Isa. 26:4)

I have heard some Old Baptists say the old church is behind the times, and that we are sitting back while others are running things in an up-to-the-minute way. To this, I cannot agree. The wisdom of God in giving His kingdom the laws by which it is to be governed is so perfect and can be applied to the problems of every age through which we've come, and through which we shall be led in the future, that it needs not to erase one line, nor add one thereto.

The secret of Israel's strength under the law of the Old Testament, when she went against the enemy, was to go as God directed, and every time she went otherwise, her enemies gave her a "licking." The same thing is true today. The fact that there are so many dark clouds over Zion is a clear demonstration that we should be still and know that He is God, and that He will give us strength to fight the good fight of faith. We fight our battles alone when we depart from the law of God. (From "*The Primitive Baptist*" 1943)

OBITUARY OF SOMEONE ELSE

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever there was a job to do, a person to visit, or meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth be known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember – we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

"Between Pentecostal and Baptist worship styles, I prefer Baptist, hands down."
(The Church Curmudgeon X account)

CHURCH NEWS

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. 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. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Clear Springs.

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS. May 16-18, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual May Communion Meeting at Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles west of Ecu, MS on Hwy 346 on the 3rd weekend in May 2025 (May 16-18). Services Friday night, May 16, at 7:00pm. Saturday a fish supper at 5:00pm and worship at 6:30pm. Sunday, May 19, at 10:00am with communion, followed by lunch. Elder Ricky Harcrow is the invited minister. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Elgin Crossroads Primitive Baptist Church, Rogersville, AL. May 30-June 1, 2025. Elgin Crossroads Church would like to cordially invite you to our annual meeting. Please join us for the celebration

of 100 years since being constituted on June 20, 1925. The congregation of Elgin greatly seeks your fellowship in this celebration, not of a building or a current or great former pastor, but the praise of a successful Savior that has watched over His sheep and supplied them in all ways and all times. Schedule: Friday night (May 30), supper at 5:30pm, and worship at 6:30pm. Elder Matt Jordan, Pastor of Rocky Mount PBC is invited speaker. Saturday (May 31), worship at 10:00am, following by lunch, 1:30pm afternoon services. Elder Neil Honea, Pastor of Five Mile PBC is invited speaker. Sunday (June 1), worship at 10:30am. Elder Tim Cunningham, pastor of New Hope PBC is invited speaker. We invite you and your families to come join us for these services. If you have any questions feel free to contact Elder Ben Shettles, pastor of Elgin Crossroads PBC at 731-499-6753.

Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church, Water Valley, MS. June 20-22, 2025. Yalobusha Primitive Baptist Church in Water Valley, MS invites everyone to their annual meeting the 4th weekend in June 2025 (June 20-22). Services Friday night (June 20) at 7:00pm. Saturday (June 21) at 10:30am followed by lunch. Sunday worship (June 22) at 10:30am. Elder Josh Winslett, pastor of Beulah PBC in Leeds, AL is the invited minister. Elder James Hall is Pastor of Yalobusha.

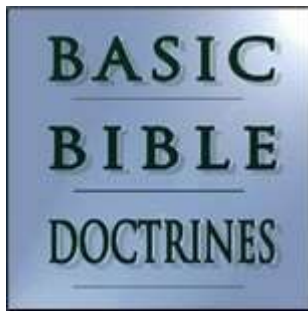
UPCOMING ELDER ORDINATION

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.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My son Eli (age 5) always wants to help when we make him mini pizzas using hamburger buns. A few weeks ago, he was getting ready to help his mom, and, after pulling a chair over to the counter, stuck his hands out to the sides as if to keep people away and said, "Let a professional do it!" (Jonathan Wise)

FEATURED BOOK

**Basic Bible Doctrines, By Michael Gowens**

Every Christian should be a systematic theologian. Each should be able to formulate the core truths of the Bible in an orderly arrangement so as to form the big picture portrayed in God's word. It is not enough for Christians to simply store bits and pieces of Bible trivia about various subjects, or to simply derive comfort from selected passages of Scripture. A truly robust discipleship is the product of a mind that thinks theologically. Doctrine is vital.

You may purchase this book at the link below:

<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/basic-bible-doctrines-systematic-theology-for-the-person-in-the-pew/>

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 HUNGRY & THIRSTY

Elder Ben Cordes
 Lexington, Kentucky

(Part 4 of 8 in Series on The Beatitudes)

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)

Hunger and thirst will always be two very clear indications of life. The dead hunger and thirst for nothing, but the living have appetites and require nourishment to have their lives sustained. The physical needs for the body are supplied by God in and through His creation. The fruits, vegetables, and meats that our bodies desire, God has supplied to us on the earth. We read that we should not become overwhelmed by worry about food and nourishment since Christ declared in His Sermon on the Mount that the Father is faithful to give us our physical needs (Matt. 6:25-34).

However, the Beatitudes are spiritual blessings concerning spiritual subjects. The hunger and thirst being spoken of in the above text are not concerning our corporeal needs but are in reference to the spiritual nature. The regeneration (new birth) that God works in His elect brings forth a living spirit. Jesus calls the regeneration of the spirit a birth.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

The effectual work of God brings forth spiritual life and enables us, by faith, to hear spiritual words, such as the gospel, and to see spiritual things, such as the kingdom of God. The new birth also causes the heart of our newborn spirit to cry out in desire for the Heavenly Father.

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Gal. 4:6)

God gives a longing for His presence, like a newborn baby desires his mother's closeness—to be loved, held, comforted and nurtured. Being made new in the spirit creates a similar yearning for God as our Father, to be with God and to be nourished by Him. If a person is longing for God, it then stands as evidence that they already possess spiritual life, and God is their Father.

The spiritual hunger and thirst is not for natural sustenance, but for godliness, truth, virtue, and the like. Christ said that righteousness is for what the blessed people of God hunger and thirst. God's people long to see righteousness in the world, and they desire for their lives to be filled with it. They also desire to hear from God and be fed with His word of truth, which God has faithfully supplied in the Holy Bible.

"2) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." (1 Pet. 2:2-3)

The desire to hear God's word, to read, understand and be nourished by it, does not come naturally, but supernaturally. We do not long for spiritual nourishment because we are simply born of a mother and father, but because we are born of the Heavenly Father. And our Heavenly Father knows our spiritual needs, and He is faithful to supply them to us.

The promise to the people of God who long for righteousness is that they shall be filled. What Christ has assured us of is that God doesn't create a longing in our spirit that He doesn't also intend to supply. What we hope for is a world without sin and death. What we shall receive is a home in heaven where God and all His saints and angels are, and where sin and death are not (Rev. 21:4). What we hunger and thirst for is unending joy, peace and love within our souls, and what God has promised is to reveal the pure glory of His holiness within us along with all the rich treasures of life and immortality (Rom. 8:18).

God does not intend to give us a portion of righteousness that will become empty and must be

replenished. He promised to fill us with a never-failing supply of righteousness to the pure delight of our spirit. Jesus Christ is revealing how generous and caring our Heavenly Father is to us.

Christian, if life in this present world causes you to wish for a better land. If your heart becomes overwhelmed with the troubles and sorrows of life, then be assured, God has something much better in store for you. Your spirit longs to be fed with the satisfying righteousness of God! (Ps. 17:15) Your soul thirsts for the living water that springs up into eternal life! (John 4:14) And only Jesus Christ is able to supply you with what you desire. Do not seek to be filled by the beggarly elements of a sin-cursed earth. Do not bother looking for satisfaction in the dead, dark places of this present world. Rather, seek first the kingdom of our Father that is found in the church of the living God. Righteousness is what your spirit longs for, and the living God is the only One who can supply what your spirit truly desires.

SUICIDE

By Elder Tim McCool
Gordo, Alabama

Part 1. There are very few individuals or families who are not affected by suicide. And how many times have we heard someone say that because a person committed suicide they go to hell. According to the examples that we find in the scripture, this is absolutely not true. First let me say that I am in no way supportive of suicide, and neither is the scripture. It is a tragic sin that too often occurs when a child of God could find help from God, from godly counselors or from the Word of God.

But the scripture is not silent about suicide. There are numerous examples of a child of God committing suicide in the Bible and guess what – nowhere does it say that because they committed suicide they go to hell. On the contrary, if we can find just one example of a child of God who committed suicide who is in heaven, then we can forever lay this issue to rest. Before we look at that example, let us consider something on a larger scale. Jesus declared that no man is able to pluck His children out of His hands (Jn. 10:28-29). The Apostle Paul declared that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ (Rom. 8:39).

This means that nothing we do can keep us from going to heaven. This is often referred to as “eternal security” or “preservation of the saints.” It means that because of the strength of Jesus Christ and the certainty of what He did for His people, not one of His children will be prevented from reaching heaven. We read in scripture where children of God perished by the sword, by famine, by accidents, and yes, even by

suicide. The way a child of God leaves this world makes no difference as to where they go.

Now let's look at one example. In Judges 16 we read about the end of Samson's life. After he rebelled against the Lord and fornicated with Delilah, his head was shaved, his eyes were put out and he was left grinding corn a slave to the Philistines. The Philistines decided to throw a keg party. They get liquored up and call for Samson, so they could make fun of him, mock him and abuse him.

When Samson was brought in and while the Philistines are partying, he prayed for one last bit of strength. God blessed him with that strength, and he brought the house down literally. I am sure that Samson bringing the house down was not the way the drunken Philistines wanted the party to end. But end it did, and guess what – Samson committed suicide in bringing the house down on top of him. He ended his own life by his own actions.

Did Samson go to hell for doing this? Absolutely not. On the contrary, we know for a certainty that he is in heaven because he is listed as a child of God in the “hall of faith” in Heb. 11:32. This ends the issue of what happens when a person commits suicide. A child of God will never be removed or remove themselves from the hands of our mighty Savior. There are several other examples of suicide in the word of God. I encourage us to study them. They will show the same as Samson – no matter how we leave this world, it does not make a difference on where we go. I hope this is comforting to us all, to understand how mighty our Savior is.

Part 2. Last week I wrote about this issue that affects so many of us. There was a significant response to the article. Most notably, the responses involved relief from those who had previously understood this differently. It should be pointed out that the word of God always brings light and relief on a subject. That is why the word “gospel” means good news.

This week, I want to continue looking at this subject since it seems to be on a lot of people's minds, including my own. Previously we saw in the suicide of Samson that the way he left the world did not affect where he went (heaven). Now consider another example– King Saul, the first king of Israel. In 1 Sam. 31:4-5 the Philistines were whipping Israel and Saul was trying to get away. Three of Saul's sons were killed right before his eyes, and he himself was hit with arrows.

Saul asked his armor bearer to kill him – by the way, this would have been an “assisted suicide.” The armor bearer would not do it, so Saul thrust himself on his sword, thereby committing suicide. King Saul had a dramatic life. He started off strong as the first king, but through second-guessing God's word, disobedience, jealousy, insecurity, etc., he fell hard.

He was bitter, jealous, angry, and often somewhat schizophrenic. Finally, he had no place to run and

committed suicide. Although the “ugly” part of Saul is painted clearly, we also read about another side of him. He prophesied by the Spirit of God at certain points in his life (1 Sam. 10). Only a child of God can prophesy by the Holy Spirit.

He also loved spiritual music and it had a “calming” effect upon him (1 Sam. 16:23). Saul confessed his sin at times (1 Sam. 26:21) and showed great compassion on others at times. As you can see, Saul was a conflicted and afflicted person. He struggled with his feelings, his desires and with what he knew was right. This sounds like many today. Saul finally succumbed to his sinful feelings, and left this world by suicide.

Not only that, but he led another into committing suicide. His armor bearer also killed himself when he saw that Saul was dead! How many people today see the example of one committing suicide and follow this sinful example. The world wants us to think it is hopeless, but Jesus is our great Hope in any situation. So I know you are wondering – How do we know Saul went to heaven? How do we know suicide didn't affect where he went when he died?

First of all, we saw the example of Samson. One Bible example is enough to establish that suicide doesn't automatically send a person to hell. But look a little deeper at Saul. The day before Saul died, when Saul asked the witch to bring up Samuel (1 Sam. 28), Samuel tells Saul that “to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me (v.19)”. Where was Samuel? In heaven of course! So when Saul and his sons died, they went to be where Samuel was - in heaven. I hope the plain language of the scripture is comforting to us all. Once again, the way a person leaves this world makes no difference where they go.

Part 3. Let us consider one final example on suicide from the word of God. Once again let me say that I appreciate the response from these series of articles on suicide. My goal is to bring all glory to the Lord through understanding that how we leave this world makes no difference on where we go. We have observed the examples of Samson and King Saul. Both committed suicide. Both are in heaven today.

Again, let me say that this in no way glorifies suicide. As we look at this gruesome type of death, let us keep in mind that the Lord hates all sin, whether it is someone sinfully committing suicide or perishing by other sinful means. The point of the scripture is clear, though – that the Lord is greater than our sin, and His salvation overrules all our sin. I am thankful for that fact.

Now consider one final example – Judas Iscariot. I admit that this is a more negative example than the first two, as it is clear from the scripture that Judas went to hell when he died. After betraying Jesus, Judas went out and hung himself – he committed suicide. Once again, the scriptural principle holds – the way a person leaves this world makes no difference as to where they go.

So who was Judas? He is described as the son of perdition (Jn. 17:12), a devil (Jn. 6:70), the traitor (Lk. 6:16), and a thief (Jn. 12:6). Understand that Jesus knew that Judas was an evil reprobate. The scripture is clear that Jesus knew “who they were that believed not, and who should betray him” (Jn. 6:64). This means that Jesus knew Judas was not a child of God.

He was chosen to be numbered as an apostle simply to fulfill the scripture that he would betray the Son of God. Once Judas did that, he killed himself, not because he was spiritually sorry, but because he knew he was a condemned reprobate (Matt. 27:3). Judas manifested that he was a wicked, evil deceiver and he consistently proved it throughout his life.

So how do we know that his suicide did not affect his destination? Because Peter said in Acts 1:25 that when Judas died he went to his “own place.” This means the place that he earned, which is hell. Through our sin, we have all earned a spot in hell. But thanks be to God's grace and mercy in salvation, that He saved us from our “own place,” and given us a place (heaven) that belongs to Him! I don't think anyone would be so arrogant as to say they deserve heaven, or that heaven is a place they own!

When a child of God dies and goes to heaven, they do not go to their “own place”, but a place that was prepared by Jesus (John 14:2), a place that is owned by the Lord, and nothing – not even suicide – can prevent it.

May we praise God for the consistency of scripture. I hope this message will bring us comfort in knowing that God's mercy is greater than anything that we do here on earth.

“I MUST”

By Elder Bryce Lowrance (2014)

“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” (Luke 2:49)

The focus of our discipleship should be to conform our lives to the image of Christ more and more each day. The very first words of Jesus that the Holy Spirit shares with us show that He lived His life with purpose and determination. He did not say, “I really should do my Father's business.” Neither did He say, “I need to do my Father's business.” He said, “I MUST be about my Father's business.”

We have been abundantly blessed by the hand of God, but how often do we read His word to remind us of His mercy? Do we know we should do it and then allow things to distract us? Have we been blessed by reading in the past and now feel the need for it? That is excellent growth! But imagine if we had the attitude of Christ in regard to the study of His word? What if we had the attitude, “I must read my Bible?” Could anything distract us or get in our way? Certainly not!

And so it is with prayer and attendance to public worship. If we choose to have the attitude that we "should" do these things then we "might" do them or not. But if we grow into the image of Christ, we will live with the attitude of "I must serve The Lord with every aspect of my life!

Then, we will be living the abundant life that is promised us in the word of God. We will have scripture on our minds and in our conversations. Every joy and sorrow will be attended with prayer. And every time the doors of the church are open, we will not only be there, we will be rejoicing KNOWING we are in the presence of God!

My Father's children, you MUST be about your Father's business!

THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

By Elder Rickey Taylor

Acts 15:11: "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

I would like to write about the expression the apostle used here in our text, which is **saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**. These are the words of the Apostle Peter, speaking on the subject of eternal salvation to those that had gathered at Jerusalem to discuss this very subject. We read in verse one, that certain brethren from Judea had come down to the church at Antioch and were preaching that the Gentiles in the church must submit to the practice of circumcision, in order to be saved. This caused confusion among the church at Antioch. Paul and the other apostles preached that salvation is by grace, which means unmerited favor directly from God, so there was nothing they needed to do to be saved. It is a gift from God for all his children. The brethren received this good news with great joy and immediately started serving the Savior that had bought them with his own blood. This they were doing when these men came among them, saying that the men must be circumcised to be save. What these men were advocating didn't sound like grace at all to them. So the church elders ask Paul to take this matter to the first original church at Jerusalem to see what the Apostles had to say about this matter. After much discussion, Peter spoke up and says "why are you trying to put a burden on these Gentiles that neither we nor our fathers were able to bear. Which means that the Jews couldn't earn eternal life through works of any kind, so why attempt to pass this yoke on to our Gentiles brethren in the church. God's children are saved by grace, here it is called the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. When Peter said that all discussions stopped. God had spoken through him, and the truth shined through. Grace is how all of God's children are

saved. These men by putting a stipulation of you must be circumcised to be save, were making grace to be of no value. Remember that it was Peter who first preached to the Gentiles, to a man named Cornelius and his household (Acts 10.) God sent him and instructed him to preach the gospel to this Gentile. Peter obeyed and went to the man's house and preached the gospel to them, and the Spirit blessed those Gentiles to speak in tongues, showing the approval of God upon them. Yet not once did God impress upon Peter to tell the Gentiles to be circumcised. Peter remembered this detail when this question was brought to him at the gathering at Jerusalem.

Usually, we use the expression a little differently than Peter does. We call it "salvation by the grace of God". Rather than the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not that Peter was wrong in saying it that way. For there is a purpose for it being said that way. In the book of Acts a special emphasis is made of the second person in the Godhead, Jesus of Nazareth. This is the only place in scripture where we read the expression "saved by the Lord Jesus Christ". It is a scriptural expression that emphasizes the finished work of Jesus Christ. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit (1John 5:6). Of the three persons, it was the Son that was made flesh and through him God the Father, and God the Spirit speak through him.

Heb 1:1-2: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

The Father and the Spirit were already established in the Old Testament scriptures. Now it was time for the Son to be made known. And the Son was Jesus of Nazareth. During his time on earth, he did many public miracles to show that he was the Son of God, who came as flesh and blood. He lived a life without sin, and upon his crucifixion he offered up his sinless life for every child of God. This was the part that the Son did to ensure that every child of God would be redeemed by his sacrifice for his people. Now having established that Jesus is the Christ to his believers. We now use the expression saved by the grace of God. Grace wonderful grace. –R.L.Taylor

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