

Glad Tidings

May

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

“As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.” This is the closing part of a verse from the oft-sung hymn “How Firm a Foundation,” which at least where I am from, certainly is one if not the most utilized closing/handshake hymns among Old Baptists. The lyrics of the hymn teach (as sound worship hymns are supposed to do-Col. 3:16) the anchor that inspired scripture provides in a life full of trials by citing promises from several scriptures that speak to God’s supply of grace.

The phrase above comes from Deuteronomy 33:25: “Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.” God’s promise to the Christian is not a life of continual comfort. There is a lot of modern false teaching that presents the idea that if you just have enough faith, God will make all your biggest dreams and ambitions come to fruition. Of course, the scriptures teach that a huge aspect of the life of discipleship is surrendering your will (i.e. what you want) to the Lord’s will, and what we envision is rarely what the Lord does. As John the Baptist put it, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30) Nevertheless, the charlatan prosperity gospel preachers will say if you are not reaching “your” goals and/or misfortunes come your way, you must be doing something amiss or your faith isn’t strong enough.

The reality is that sometimes the most faithful servants of God experience lives full of sorrow and tribulation. This is difficult for many people to wrap their minds around, but we have to remember we serve a God whose “thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa. 55:8-9)

No, the Lord has not promised that the Christian life will be easy. In fact, in almost every circumstance it will be far more difficult than continuing to live in the ways of this world. I am thankful that the God who “lived in the olden times is just the same today,” to quote another hymn. I hope you believe that too! Yes, child of God, our Lord is still the miracle-working business. Matthew chapter 8 is a great remainder that God not only is able but still does deliver from suffering, afflictions and danger in mighty ways. We find a number of individuals who were hurting or in desperate situations, from the leper, to the centurion’s servant with palsy, to Peter’s mother-in-law, to those possessed with demons, to the disciples in the midst of a storm, before Jesus intervened. “Seeing then that

we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb. 4:14-16)

Sometimes those bold prayers result in a sudden alleviation of the problem. However, the reality is that many times life is lived more like Paul in 2 Corinthians 12 than the people in Matthew 8. Paul was grievously vexed by his “thorn in the flesh,” which he describes as “the messenger of Satan” (2 Cor. 12:7). Despite Paul earnestly praying for it to be removed, the Lord chose not to do so. However, the Lord told him “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness....(2 Cor. 12:9). The Lord has not promised to always grant our petitions to completely remove our sufferings or particular trials we might be going through, or if He ultimately does to do so on our timetable, but he has promised, as he told the children of the Israel, “as thy days, so shall thy strength be.” We often will not have the strength for our tribulations. The lesson is that He will lift us up and provide strength to endure the demands of the trial when we need it. He will shower us with grace that is “sufficient for thee.” The life of faith involves trusting God and His promises even when what you earnestly desire ends up not being what God’s will is.

Furthermore, we are tasked with being a witness of Godly character when in the midst of trials, even when those involve unfair mistreatment. “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles; that, whereas they speak against you are evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Pet. 2:12).

It is important to be reminded of just how blessed we are due to our position in Christ, a position we didn’t earn by merit but were given by His wonderful, sovereign grace. The problems of this life comprise but a speck of time compared to the eternal life we will enjoy through His shed blood that saved us from our sins. This should inspire us to labor to continue steadfast in His service and show forth the love of God, for He is worthy. (Jonathan Wise)

Day by day and with each passing moment, strength I find to meet my trials here, trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment, I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

I know there have been various issues the last few months with delays in receiving Glad Tidings in the mail and some people not receiving the newsletter at all. We are not entirely sure if these are related to the printer or the postal service, but I'm sure it is some combination of both.

For anyone with an email address, you can sign up to receive a copy of the Glad Tidings newsletter by email. You can certainly receive both postal and email versions, and even if you primarily read the paper copy, it can be very convenient to have Glad Tidings in your email that you can pull up on your phone quickly to check meeting info or read wherever you might be.

If anyone wants to sign up to receive an email copy, you can just email gladtidingspb@gmail.com and we will get you added to the email mailing list. Also, for anyone looking to view past and current Glad Tidings quickly on your phone or computer, note the link to the Glad Tidings archive at ClearSpringsPBC.com below. (David Wise)

EDITORIAL OFFICE

If you want to receive the Glad Tidings newsletter by email or through postal mail, send subscription information to gladtidingspb@gmail.com or mail to **113 Yeates Ext, Starkville, MS 39759**. Please send all articles, announcements, change of address, and correspondence to the email address noted above. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material. **All published material must be received by the 6th of the month** to be included in the following month's issue. There is no subscription price for Glad Tidings. We do accept contributions as Glad Tidings is reader supported. **Make checks payable to "Glad Tidings Publications" and send to the above address.**

An archive of past Glad Tidings newsletters can be found at this link:

<https://clearspringspb.com/category/glad-tidings/>

Elder Jonathan Wise & Elder David Wise, Co-Editors

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



By Elder Larry Wise (1944-2024)

God is certainly worthy to be praised each and every day for just as Jesus told the rich young ruler, "...there is none good but one, that is, God..." (Matt. 19:17). Jesus was God made manifest in the flesh and is the Shepherd, Good Shepherd, Great Shepherd, and Chief Shepherd and as such is also worthy of praise, honour, blessing and glory. There is only one God and as such He is the:

God of Power: Sometimes we think we have the power in ourselves to do certain things, but the truth is all true power belongs unto God. David said, "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God." (Psalm 62:11) God only has to speak once for anything to be true and to come to pass but sometimes we need to hear it repeated whether once, twice or thrice. The scriptures are the Divine inspired word of God as a whole and He spoke it via the writers just once. However, we hear it twice; once in the Old Testament and then in The New Testament. Similar language is used in the book of Job: "For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not." (Job 33:14) Man cannot perceive the power of God unless revealed from above.

When Jesus was before Pilate and He gave no answer to the questions of Pilate, he admonished Jesus that did not Jesus know that He had power to crucify him and power to release him? This was Jesus' reply, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin." (John 19:11)

When it comes time to experience death, no man has power to retain the spirit in the hour of death. (Eccl. 8:8). Jesus had power over death; He had power to lay it down and the power to take it again. Jesus commended His Spirit into the hands of the Father. We find all three persons in the Triune God involved in His resurrection. Jesus raised His own body from the tomb. (John 2:19) He was put to death in the flesh but quickened by the Spirit. (1 Pet. 3:18). God the Father raised Him from the dead. (Acts 10:40). Power belongs to God. What a blessing!

God has power over power. Fire ordinarily has power to consume everything that it comes in contact with. When the three Hebrew children were cast into the fiery furnace, the fire had no power over their bodies because the Son of God was in the midst.

God of Purpose: If God has resolved and thus determined that certain things occur, then who has the power to hinder or turn His hand? Of course the answer is no one. "For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" (Isa. 14:27). God's hand is a mighty hand and none of the children of God can be plucked out of His powerful and loving hand.

The purpose of God is clearly made known in the case of Jacob and Esau as Paul clearly writes in Rom.

9:11: "(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)" All the elect will be called (born again) sometime between conception and death and this calling is according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28).

The things that work together for the good of them that love God are enumerated in Rom. 8:29-30 and doesn't consist of events but of doctrinal principles that are necessary to bring every heir of promise safely into eternal heaven.

God of Perfection: God is a God of perfection (completion, verification) and will not be satisfied with anything less. That is why the law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did by which we draw nigh unto God. (Heb. 7:19). The better hope of course in Jesus Christ. Perfection did not and could not come by the Levitical priesthood; otherwise, there would have been no need that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec and called after the order of Aaron. (Heb. 7:11). Jesus came to offer Himself without spot to God to satisfy the law of God for the chosen of God. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10:14).

God's work never has to be repeated as it shall be forever and nothing can be added or taken away from it. (Eccl.3:14). Jesus came to do the work of God and cried on the cross that He had finished that work of redemption which was perfect. "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." (Deut. 32:4). God's work through Christ was a perfect work motivated by His love for the innumerable people of God and this love was perfect "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18). Power, Purpose, Perfection; that is God. (From May 2019 Glad Tidings)

DOCTRINE AS THE RAIN

By Elder J.C. Stanaland

Deuteronomy 32:2: "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass."

Moses referred to it as his "doctrine"; in the New Testament it is referred to as the "doctrine of God our Saviour" (Titus 2:10), "doctrine of Christ" (Hebrews 6:1; II John 1:9), and "apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Fundamentally, the word "doctrine" refers to the process of teaching and learning. In this biblical context, it refers to that certain body of truths concerning God, man, and Church.

This "doctrine" teaches that God is sovereign; that God is the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and they are one; that God chose a certain number of people to be His Children before the foundation of the world; that this number is so great that no man can number them; that God created man good; that in Adam all mankind fell in sin; that we have all sinned; that God the Father sent His only begotten and beloved Son to, by His sacrifice, reconcile the sin-debt for all His Children; that Christ did indeed save everyone of His Children from their sins; that, as we live, we can personally come boldly unto the throne of grace by the blood Jesus Christ; that only Jesus Christ is the head of His Church; that it is our duty to show our love to Him by our obedience to Him; that, as His children, we are blessed when we obey Him and chastened when we disobey Him; and that, at the last day, our Lord will come and take everyone of His children to eternal Heaven to forever be with Him, and not a single one of His children will be left behind.

This precious "doctrine" nourishes the hungry soul of God's Children like a slow and steady "rain" upon tender little plants in the spring. May the Lord bless us to be nourished by this doctrinal rain and grow to bring forth fruit unto our Lord!

NEVER MAN SAT

By Elder Rusty Wise

Luke 19:30 – Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.

This is such an obscure little passage, yet it is of great importance. It tells of an ass that is wild and unbroken, a spirit of self will. However when our Saviour sat upon his back and rode him into Jerusalem, his will became that of the one riding upon him.

In nature around us this would never happen. It is contrary to everything about nature. Just like the men of this world, born of this world, by will of man, by the will of the flesh, by the blood of man. Man is perpetuated in sin, with a corrupted and defiled nature that is passed from generation to generation through our father's; (Romans 5:12) With no ability nor self desire to change that pattern. (Romans 3:10-18).

But God is able to change the nature of the beast and man. Just as he is able to speak to the wind and to the waves, saying, "peace, be still".

What barriers prevent his power, not the barriers of the womb where a little child leapt for joy, not the barriers of a slow painful agonizing death on the cruel tree of the cross for a bitter thief, not on the road to Damascus for a very self willed man bent on

destroying all that would uphold the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

There is no little child that is too young, or too old; too wicked or too bold; too strong, or too cold, that God cannot subdue. Just as he tamed that wild ass, so is he able to tame every little child for whom the father gave unto him.

"BUTTING" THE GRACE

By Elder Virgil Lowrance

Most all religious denominations claim to believe in "salvation by grace." And I believe most of them really think they do. But, evidently, they do not understand the meaning of the term. For instance, they will say, "I believe in salvation by grace, but..." and then follow with some conditional proposition to be met or done by man in order for the grace to save him such as, "you must believe," or, "you must accept," or, "you must repent and be baptized." They do not seem to realize that when you "but" the grace of God with anything whatsoever that man must do, you have "butted" all the grace out of it.

In contrast to their "butting," notice the "but" in one of the most ancient confessions of faith and is to be found in the Word of God. "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." (Acts 15:11) (The last clause in this text is not speaking of these people's belief, but the way they will be saved.) (For the apostle was "butting" the proposal made by them, "...except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Notice the contrast; they (The Judeaising teachers) are saying, "Except you do so and so, ye cannot be saved." The apostles are saying, "But we believe," etc. Even so, today all who truly believe in "salvation by grace" will "but" any proposition that men make that requires any conditions whatsoever to be met by men in order to have eternal salvation. And our "butting" the conditions is just as strong as their "butting" the grace of God. It "butts" all their conditions out of it and leaves it by grace alone. The apostle Paul reasons the same way saying, "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." (Romans 11:6)

Although Ephesians 2:8-10 is a very familiar text to most of those who will be reading this. I want to give the full quotation here so you will have it before you as I comment on just two aspects of it. "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10) It seems to me to be foolish to argue about

what the clause, "...and that not of yourselves..." is referring to. It goes without saying that the grace is not of ourselves. For, if it were not so, then God would be left completely out of the picture. Faith, then, is that which needs to be emphasized is "not of yourselves." For if faith is an act of the creature in order to make the saving grace of God effectual, then it IS a righteous work which WE DO. Also, it is grounds for boasting and ruled out by the 9th verse. I know, the proponents of the "faith in order to have salvation" theory deny it, but the action of one's mind, if it be his own action, is no less a work of his own than that which he does with his hands and/or feet. And this is grounds for BOASTING.

The clause, "...lest any man should boast," does not necessarily mean that all who make any claims along this line actually boast about it. In fact, I have never seen anyone, regardless of the amount of works he insisted that you must do, that would admit that he was boasting. Beh the text says, "...LEST any man SHOULD boast." I insist that this cuts out ALL GROUND for BOASTING. And whether they actually do boast or not is another matter.

Let me show you that any conditions whatsoever, no matter how little or great the amount, that is contended that man must do in order for grace to save him is "grounds for boasting." Look at the picture of the final separation of the righteous from the wicked where it is said to the one, "Come ye blessed of my Father," and, "Depart from me," to the other. The man that thinks that his faith, or anything else that he may have done, made the difference between him and the man that is lost could boast, "I had faith, and you did not, therefore, I am saved and you are not." "I believed and repented and was baptized, and you did not; therefore, I am saved and you are not." What is the difference in the two except the difference in the amount required? Furthermore, such a provision makes the deciding factor in any man's salvation depend on what the man himself does and not on what God does. "Where is boasting then? It is excluded." (Romans 3:27) Despite this fact, some will continue to boast anyway.

(August 1976)

AMBASSADORS

Elder C. H. Cayce (Deceased)

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.—2 Cor. 5:18-20.

What *all things are of God*? Does that expression mean that all things which exist are of God? We think not. The all things in this verse are the same all things which are mentioned in verse 17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." The same all things which are become new are of God; and then the apostle says, "who hath reconciled us to Himself." "Hath reconciled" is in the past tense; it is something which has already been done. No part of that work of reconciling us to Himself is accomplished in the future, either by what we do, or by what the church does, or by what the sinner does. It has already been accomplished; it has been finished; it has been completed. This work was fully accomplished—fully done—by Jesus Christ—not by Jesus Christ and the preacher; not by Jesus Christ and the sinner; not by Jesus Christ and the church; not by Jesus Christ and any society or set of men under heaven—but by Jesus Christ alone.

Then He "hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." The ministry of reconciliation is the work of a servant, in the sense of an ambassador, for he says we "are ambassadors". It is therefore, necessarily true that the work of the minister, or of the ministry, has no part in the work of reconciling. That has already been done; God has already "reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ." Now, having already done this, He gives to men, of His own choosing and calling, the ministry of reconciliation. Their work is to tell what the Lord has already done, which is "that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." God was manifest in the flesh; Christ was God manifest in the flesh. God accomplished the work of reconciling His people unto Himself. He did that work in Christ. He did not impute their trespasses unto them. Their sins were not charged to them. Their trespasses were imputed to Christ. Their sins were charged to Him, for He was their surety. As He was their surety, He took their law place. He was responsible for all their transgressions, all their sins. They were all imputed to Him; they were charged to Him. As such, He met all the demands of the law for them and in their stead. When the demands of the law were thus met, the just and righteous law of God was satisfied; and thus He reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ. No wonder, then, this same apostle could, and did say: "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."—Rom. v. 10. In the original language the expression, being reconciled, is in the past tense; so in our present day English it strictly means "having been reconciled."

Now, God having done this, He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation—that is He "hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." He has not committed unto us the *work* of reconciliation, but the *word* of it. He has placed upon somebody the duty and

the obligation to tell the news of what the Lord has done. To do this is to proclaim glad tidings; it is to tell the good news. It is to tell the Lord's humble poor, those for whom Jesus laid down His life, that He has made perfect and full and complete satisfaction for all their sins; they have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ. Having been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ, He having met all the demands of the law for them, and the law having been fully satisfied, they are sure to finally enjoy all the bliss and the glory of the heavenly world.

This all being true, now "we are ambassadors for Christ." It is not the business or work of an ambassador to persuade persons to cease to be citizens and subjects of one country and to become citizens or subjects of another or foreign country. If the United States should have an ambassador in Germany, or in any other foreign country, who should begin to endeavor to persuade the subjects of that government to renounce allegiance to that country and to become subjects of the United States, not only would that foreign government send him out of that country immediately, but he would immediately be recalled by the United States government. That is not the work or business of an ambassador.

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us." The Lord sent us to you; we are messengers whom He has sent, and He sent us to you. The work we are to do is to beseech you, plead with you, to persuade you—not to persuade you as aliens, to cease to be citizens and subjects of [pg139] Satan in his kingdom, and to become citizens and subjects of the Lord's kingdom, or to become children of God. They were sent to the Corinthian brethren, not to the aliens in that country, or in any other country. In this letter the apostle wrote to the "church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia."—2 Cor. i. 1. The Lord sent them as ambassadors to His own people who are dwelling here below, in a foreign country. This country is not their home; their home is in heaven, and they are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God. But some of them had been deluded, and, so, were divided. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul: and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas. They claimed that the preacher had something with their being saved, or being made children of God. They did not say, "I am for" the preacher, but "I am of" the preacher. To be of Paul is one thing, and to be for Paul is another thing. They are two different things entirely. One may be for England in the present conflict between this country and Germany and yet be not of England. If the Corinthians were of Paul, then they should be baptized in the name of Paul. They were not baptized in the name of Paul, but in the name of the Lord—in the name of the Trinity. Hence, the apostle, as an ambassador sent of God, would beseech them to be reconciled to God—to give up the false notion or

idea that the preacher or the church, or society, or any set of men, or their own doings, had anything in the world to do with their eternal salvation, or had anything in the world to do with their birth from above, or to do with their sins being removed. "Be ye reconciled to God." Be satisfied with what He has done for you. Do not be trying to do, or trying to get done, what the Lord has already accomplished for you in the finished work of the crucified and risen Redeemer.

If all the Lord's children were reconciled to God, were satisfied with the Lord's work, what He has done, and what He commands His children to do, they would stop the work many of them are trying to engage in, in "saving souls," and trying to "take the world for Christ", trying to help sinners to be born again, and would be coming home to the Old Baptist Church; and then they would be busy doing what the Lord has commanded to be done in His church by His children.

(From "*Editorial Writings From The Primitive Baptist*"
By Elder C. H. Cayce, Vol. 7)

THE CLOTHING OF GODLY WOMEN

By Elder Joe Nettles

Proverbs 31:25: Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

In this world today young women are being sold a bill of rotten goods. Contemporary wisdom does its best to convince young ladies that their devotion to Christ and belief in his word deprive them of honors which the world stands ready to bestow upon them. Even cursory examination of the Bible disproves this false notion. The Lord reveals distinct honor to the fairer sex through numerous direct teachings and examples! Just a few examples:

- Co-bearers of God's image (Genesis 1:27)
- Feminine identity assigned to his most beloved church (Ephesians 5:32)
- Feminine identity assigned to eternal wisdom (Proverbs 3:15-18)
- The heavenly new Jerusalem is likened to a bride (Revelation 21:2)
- The longest recorded conversation Jesus had was with the Samaritan woman. Also, she received the distinction of his first declaration as the Messiah (John 4:1-30)
- As Jesus ministered he included several women to travel with him as ministering witnesses (Luke 8:1-3)
- Jesus specifically singled out the actions of a faithful woman to forever be included as an enduring gospel teaching (Matthew 26:13)
- Jesus entrusted the most important message in all of history to Mary Magdalene and told her to go and tell the disciples He had risen from the dead (John 20:11-18)

- A Syrophenician woman was chosen to be one of the two examples of "great faith" in the gospels (Matthew 15:28)

- In Proverbs ch 31, there are 22 verses devoted by the Holy Spirit to the virtues of godly women. No where can I find any such space devoted to the like for men.

- That fundamental and beloved entity among all mankind, the home, has been entrusted to womankind to guard (Titus 2:5) and to manage (1 Timothy 5:14).

Ladies, crave not honors from those who would manipulate and corrupt you, but rather from the great Creator who formed you!

MOTHERS

By Elder Larry Wise
From May 2019 *Glad Tidings*

They say a mother's work is never done,
Yet, she finds the time to have some fun.
Under the fun is a diligent heart of love,
Which she knows came only from above.

She loves the Lord first, and most of all,
He came to earth; saved her from the fall.
She loves her family and church on earth,
Gifts to be cherished for all they're worth.

A true mother's virtue is quite a treasure,
Virtue and love only God can measure.
Thank the Lord for mothers He gives,
It's proof positive that ever He lives!

ONE LITTLE ROSE

I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend,
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.

I would rather have one pleasant word
In kindness said to me,
Than flattery when the heart is still
And life has ceased to be.

I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed round my casket
When this world I've bid adieu.

Bring me all your flowers today
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truck load when I'm dead!

-Author Unknown (From "*ITMS*", May, 2013)

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.

CHURCH NEWS

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.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. May 30–June 1, 2025. Everyone is invited to the meeting at New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, Fairground Rd, New Albany, MS the 1st weekend in June 2025 (May 30-June 1). Services Friday night, May 30, at 7:00pm. Sat., May 31, at 10:30am with lunch. No afternoon services. Regular services on Sunday at 10:30am. Elder Jerry Wise is invited minister for the meeting.

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.

New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, Hatley, MS. June 13-14, 2025. Lord willing, New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, 60267 Hatley Rd., Amory, MS will hold our annual anniversary meeting, Fri. & Sat., June 13-14, 2025. Supper will be served Friday at 6:00pm, with worship at 7:00pm Sat. services will be at 10:00am and 1:30pm, with lunch served at noon. Our invited preacher is Elder Paul Blair from Cedar Grove, TN. This meeting will commemorate the 206th anniversary of the constitution of the church. We cordially invite everyone to attend, and we sincerely request your prayers for the meeting. –Elder Tim Cunningham, Pastor

Enon Primitive Baptist Church, Houston, MS. June 14, 2025. Enon PBC near Houston, MS will hold a special meeting on Saturday, June 14. Singing will begin at 10:00am or maybe even a little sooner, to be followed by morning and afternoon services. We hope to enjoy much sweet fellowship and share many fond memories as we experience dinner on the grounds. Please bring one of your special dishes or desserts as we break bread together and rejoice in the Lord. This is an open meeting, and we invite all of our preaching brethren to attend. Enon has not had regular services in a number of months, due to the declining health of two of the three living members. However they desire your most cherished presence at this special meeting. Enon is located on Chickasaw CR 190 about 2 miles south of MS Hwy 8 East of Houston, MS. Elder Calvin Warren remains the Pastor and one of its 3 members, along with Sister Dot and Brother Byron Wilson. Please make plans for this most wonderful and blessed event.

Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. June 13-14, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Raleigh Primitive Baptist Church June 13 & 14, 2025, at our new location, **7247 Andrews Road, Bartlett, TN 38135**. Services are planned as follows: Friday night, June 13, pizza supper at 5:30 p.m. with worship service at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m., with lunch following, then afternoon services. Invited minister is Elder Tim Montgomery, pastor at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in Jacksonville, AR. Please note our new address. We covet your prayers for an edifying and blessed meeting that will be glorifying to our Lord and Savior. Elder Chase Harrison is pastor at Raleigh.

Psalm 48:2 – *“Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”*

Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Caledonia, MS. Singing School. June 12-14, 2025.

Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church will be hosting a singing school, instructed by Elder Bryce Lowrance, on June 12-14, 2025. Schedule is as follows:

Thursday—session begins at 6pm

Friday—session begins at 9am and will have multiple sessions throughout the day with snacks and meals (lunch and supper) provided. The last session should dismiss around 8pm.

Saturday—same schedule as Friday.

All are invited and welcome. Please contact Pastor Joe Nettles at 912-585-9025, (either call or text), or email us at joeandlauranettes@yahoo.com. A prospective count of attendees is preferred. We request, therefore, notification of your intent to attend by June 7th. However, none will be denied attendance. Any youths under 16 attending without parental accompaniment will be requested to list any allergies and significant health history. We have homes open to overnight attendees. Again, if you desire to stay overnight(s), please notify us if possible beforehand. Church address: 40283 Wolfe Rd, Caledonia, MS.

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.

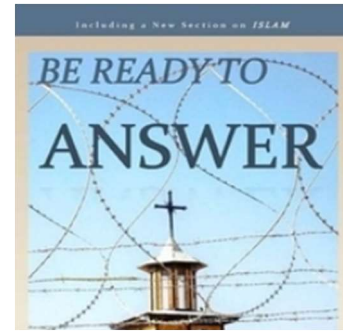
Beulah Primitive Baptist Church, Saltillo, MS. June 27-29, 2025.

Beulah Primitive Baptist Church, Saltillo, MS invites all to their annual meeting on June 27-29, 2025, typically the 2nd fifth Sunday of the year. Services Friday night, June 27, at 7:00pm preceded by supper at 6:00pm. Saturday, June 28, at 10:00am with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, June 29, at 10:30am with lunch. Elder Ronald Lawrence and Elder James Isaacs are invited ministers. Elder Tony Lester is Pastor of Beulah.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My son Eli, age 5, was asking teachers at Paige's school to buy some raffle tickets. One teacher didn't have any money on her and said she couldn't. He came back with a dejected expression and said, "It is not just not my day!" (JW)

FEATURED BOOK



Be Ready To Answer, By Michael Gowens

A Christian apologetic for the person in the pew, this volume aims to equip both the young and the more mature believer in defending the faith.

You may purchase this book at the link below:

<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/be-ready-to-answer/>

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/>

**NOURISHING THE SOUL:
A CALL TO READ & STUDY SCRIPTURE DAILY**

By Elder Jonathan Moseley

You **CAN** read your Bible. Often we hear, you **should** read your bible. (This is true- You should.) I am saying you are capable.

Sometimes from the pew, we get the perspective that the guy up there in the pulpit has somehow a different insight, knowledge or ability - that's beyond me and I can't attain to it, so I'm just going to listen passively and leave it at that. No. You **Can** read your Bible. You have that ability.

Is it good for you to read the Word of God? **Yes!** Is it important to have breakfast? Is it important to have lunch? If I've skipped breakfast then by lunchtime, I'm pretty hungry. That's important. My body is telling me something is missing.

If I skip both breakfast and lunch, what happens by dinnertime? Likely, I'm feeling a little grumpy, a little light-headed. I need some food STAT! My family certainly knows when I skip breakfast and lunch.

The Bible is essential spiritual nourishment for our daily lives, just as physical food is for our bodies. You need that nourishment. You probably already know that, but how often do we forget to get into God's Word and end up feeling weak and spiritually famished. **Go eat!**

If you've ever been on a cruise, most of the time they've got a buffet that's almost always open and

folks sure do take advantage of the opportunity to visit it multiple times throughout the day. The buffet of God's Word is open. God's Word is always accessible, waiting to strengthen and guide us, and it's up to us to partake of it regularly. **Come and dine!**

Make reading and studying the Bible a daily habit. It's a personal responsibility for every Christian, one that leads to spiritual growth and a deeper relationship with God. **Read your Bibles, because it's good for you!**

THE MERCIFUL

Elder Ben Cordes

Lexington, Kentucky

(Part 5 of 8 in Series on The Beatitudes)

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matt. 5:7)

The righteous judgment of God demands that the sins of mankind be accounted for. The consequence of sin is death, therefore, what every sinner deserves is death (Rom. 6:23). Almighty God declared from the beginning, before any sin was committed, that to transgress His law meant death for the transgressor (Gen. 2:17).

The book of Genesis reveals that Adam, the father of the human race, committed sin by transgressing the law of God. Since Adam sinned, death came upon him, just as God said it would. He suffered the affliction of the presence of sin, and Adam and his wife were made to depart from the Garden of Eden. Death came between Adam's fallen flesh nature and the divine holiness of God. Adam, Eve, and the children that would follow them were pronounced dead in sins (Rom. 5:12).

The Bible makes it clear that death occurred at the moment Adam transgressed God's law. The original (first) sin brought death upon all mankind. Still, the Bible declares that a second death exists.

"14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:14-15)

From the verses above, we can conclude that the second death is reserved for those who will be cast into a lake of fire by God. The lake of fire is the everlasting punishment mentioned by Christ in Matt. 25:46. It is a death which all mankind is deserving of since all are guilty of sin, and because God is just.

However, God is not only just, He is also merciful. He is just to condemn some, but He is also merciful to spare many, though, we shouldn't assume that God's mercy is unjust. Every sin has a recompense and must be dealt with (Heb. 10:30). For those who receive mercy, it is because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took the punishment for their sins upon Himself.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our

peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

God has graciously given mercy to the great number of His elect; mercy that spares them from the second death—the everlasting lake of fire. Mercy can be defined as not receiving a deserved result. What God's people deserve is everlasting punishment, but that is not what they will receive since God's Son took the penalty for sins upon Himself, allowing those that He died for to be spared from God's righteous wrath.

The Spirit of God gives the new birth to all for whom Christ died. When God's children are made new creatures by the Spirit, they are also given spiritual attributes. Mercy is one of the attributes that the elect are able to exhibit, and a merciful person demonstrates the existence of a merciful God. If it weren't for God giving mercy to His elect and granting them the ability to have mercy on others, there would be no mercy in this world at all.

The Beatitudes do not speak of ways in which to achieve God's blessings. Rather, the Beatitudes teach us that God has made His children to live, who were once dead in sins, and now we can know that God has given us life through the evidence of spiritual behavior, such as mercy. We are able to show mercy because God has been merciful to us.

Therefore, our responsibility as Christians is to demonstrate the nature of Christ to those around us. We ought to examine the life of Christ in order for us to know how to behave like Christ. Jesus, our Great High Priest, stood in our place and offered Himself upon the altar of the cross of Calvary. His act of love and mercy was absolutely voluntary.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." (Heb. 2:17)

When we show mercy and forgiveness to those who offend us, we are demonstrating Jesus. The merciful are blessed because they have received mercy and will continue to receive mercy. Because of Christ, the just desserts are no longer ours, but have been placed upon the sinless Son of God. Christ suffered abandonment by God the Father so that we can say that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb 13:5). Let us remember how merciful God has been to us undeserving sinners, so that we may be more encouraged to extend mercy to others, and to let the light of Christ shine for the glory of God.

STICK TO THE WORD OF GOD

By Elder Clayton Nowell

In Psalm 119:31, David was moved to say, "I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame." Are you committed to doing all you can to be

faithful to the Lord? I don't mean by your own strength; but confessing your own weakness, and asking the Lord for His strength and wisdom to do His will despite all obstacles and amidst all of the tribulation we know life will throw at us. (see John 16:33) The apostle Paul called that "putting on the whole armor" of God, to be able to stand in the power of God's might. (Eph 6) Paul had to learn "when I am weak, then am I strong." (2Co 12:10) Many years earlier, David had learned that as well. (see Psalm 46:1) And friends, there is no shame in being faithful to God. You won't be popular in this world, but you will be pleasing the one who really matters – the One who loved you and gave himself for you – and some sweet day, will return to take you home with Him forever!

But do you know what is a real shame? Knowing God's word, and not doing it. Or, saying you love God, but not living like it. In essence, professing to know God, but NOT sticking to the way of righteousness, and denying Him. That's a real shame. Now, notice how life is. The word translated as "stuck" in our text is the same as was translated back in verse 25 as "cleaveth." And whereas in verse 25 he said his soul was cleaving to the dust, perhaps cast down in sorrow, grief, or difficulty (weakness), yet faith cried out for quickening – to be enlivened, and made strong!

Oh the mixture we find in our days - confidence and febleness! I don't care who we are, at times we are steadfast and confident. Other times we feel in great need of the Lord's help. But when we set our sights upon God's love and ability, and not our own febleness, we can say with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." God is worthy of great confidence. God's word is worthy that we "stick" to it. And in those times when we haven't "stuck to it" as we should have, but humble ourselves before Him in confession and repentance, pleading for forgiveness and help, how sweet it is to feel His deliverance once more! There is no shame in that, at all.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

By Elder David Pyles

An important theme in the book of Colossians is that we are complete in Jesus Christ. One does not need other gods and does not need other revelations if they have Christ and His word. Anything other than this will be inferior, and anything added to this will be a corruption. The sufficiency and superiority of Christ are expressed in multiple ways and places in Colossians, including:

1) *In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.* (2:3) This refers to Christ and says that all we can know about true religion is revealed in Him and by Him. This is done in Christ inspired scripture, as is

corroborated by the famous verse: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* (2 Tim. 3:16-17) This verse not only says that scripture is inerrant, but that it is also sufficient for all spiritual needs and obligations of man.

2) *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.* (2:9) Humans can best understand bodily beings because this is what they are themselves, but spiritual beings are much more difficult to grasp. When the apostle says that Christ is the fullness of the Godhead bodily, the meaning is that He is the representation of the Godhead we can best understand. John said, *"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him,"* (Jn 1:18). While many men think of themselves as being experts about God, the immensity and complexity of the universe should be sufficient to show that God is far beyond what any of us can comprehend. The nearest we can come to understanding Him is in Jesus Christ.

3) *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.* (2:10) This says He is supreme, having been given all power in heaven and earth (Mt 28:18). Those who worship things other than Him are either worshipping imaginary beings or inferior ones and are quite possibly worshipping devils.

4) *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.* (2:11) Circumcision played a major role in ancient Judaism as well as in other religions, but their circumcision was by human hands and affected only the temporal, natural part of man. The circumcision in Christ is superior in that it is done by God, and in that affects the eternal, spiritual part of man.

5) *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.* (2:12) Religions commonly put great emphasis on burial, and some of the greatest structures in the world were built for the dead, and in the anticipation or facilitation of their resurrection. In Christ there is a superior burial, denoted by baptism, which is not based in unfounded speculations about a resurrection that shall be, but in a resurrection that has already been, and which certified a general resurrection to come.

6) *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.* (2:13-14) Other religions of the world have works and rituals for appeasing their gods and securing forgiveness, but under Jesus Christ, forgiveness has already been

completely and eternally secured by His death on the cross. Other religionists serve God in search of forgiveness. Christianity serves God in appreciation for it.

7) *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* (2:15) Another reason people appeal to the gods of their religions is to be delivered from spiritual forces of evil. In Christ, the defeat of all such wicked powers has already been assured.

8) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.* (3:1) In Christ there is also a moral standard that is superior to that of any other religion. Jesus replaced all of the Ten Commandments with a higher standard, which if kept, will more than satisfy what those commandments demanded. The standard of Jesus is actually a heavenly standard. It is the standard by which heavenly beings live. He gave us this standard in preparation for the heavenly home He has bought us by His blood and given us by His grace.

All of this explains why Paul also said: *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.* (Col 2:16-17) What he means here is that we should not leave others with the impression that our religion is about meat, drink, holy days, etc. Rather, it is about eternal forgiveness, resurrection from the dead and eternal life. While there is of course value to a good diet, taking time off for holidays, keeping track of moon phases, etc, Christianity is about much greater things (Rom 14:17). It is not about hot dogs, and it is demeaning to the religion to make it such. Let these be the preoccupations of the inferior competitors to Christianity. They have no place in the superior and sufficient religion of Christ. (November 2020)

BLESSED ARE...

By Elder Rickey Taylor

Matthew 5:3 – "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Another word for blessed is beatitude. Beatitude means supreme blessing. There are eight of them mentioned in this chapter of Matthew from verse three to verse eleven. It is in reference to people who have pursued God in putting away their pride and feelings of self-sufficiency in all the path of sin. It is an accomplishment that so few of God's people get to experience here in this time world.

It is a timely accomplishment, not to be confused with the accomplishment of eternal life that Jesus got for us on the cross. He and he alone has secured our eternal salvation for us (Isaiah 40:2). As Jesus is establishing the gospel kingdom, one of the first

fundamentals he is teaching is that we should have no confidence in our flesh to find this joy that awaits for them here today in his kingdom. This joy will not be found in the life the Jews and the Pharisees were living when Christ came in the flesh. Now things like poor in spirit, meekness, were the blessings for the children of God to have here to excel in his kingdom.

As church members we can readily find examples of meekness, poor in spirit, those that are persecuted for righteousness sake. And well we should show these examples to one another in our church. It is the gospel church that is a light for the world to see these beatitudes. Many wonderful stories have I heard of the dear saints and their good examples they have set for us in the gospel kingdom.

So what makes one to desire to seek and follow their Lords blessings? It is the gift of the Spirit that has made us to be born again. None of these wonderful attributes would be in this old sin cursed world without the work of regeneration upon the hearts of God's children. Jesus tells Nicodemus that for one to see the kingdom, they have to be born again (John 3:3).

Without a regenerated heart that couldn't identify any of the signs of his kingdom. Now the scriptures tell us that until the time of regeneration, all we have is a fleshly corrupted nature (Rom. 3:9-18, Eph. 2:1). We were what is referred to as a dead alien sinner. We were completely dead to having any desires toward the things of God. To find any love toward God in our fleshly nature was simply non-existent. We would have stayed that way if not for his precious love toward us, and he caused us to be born of the Spirit.

Eph 2:4-5 – "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)" The word "quicken" means to be made alive. Someday, God will quicken the dead on the resurrection day. This quickening is here in this time world, when the Spirit quickens the dead heart of his children and they are made alive to desire the things of God.

Without it we would have no meek, nor a dear sweet one seeking the straight narrow paths of righteousness. Without it, we wouldn't have the good examples of faith in our churches. We didn't pursue God, it was rather that God pursued us and chose us for his fold before the foundation of the world. Because of that regenerated heart he gave us he gave us a treasure trove of blessings, without him we would be a people of despair. Thank you Lord for making us children of God to enjoy the Lord and his kingdom. (R.L. Taylor)

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