

Glad Tidings

July

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

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." -2 Chronicles 16:9

This has been one of the verses I have quoted the most during my ministry. These are the words spoken by the seer Hanani to King Asa of Judah, informing him of the judgment of God upon him. The main point of the text that has always made a deep impression upon me is that the God of heaven is actively seeking to "shew himself strong in the behalf of..." Do we want the Lord to show himself strong on our behalf? I would think we all would quickly and emphatically answer, "Yes!"

The good news is that the Lord desires to do so as well. However, this promise is directed to a specific subset of people, those whose "heart is perfect toward him." It is important to understand, at the outset, that the Lord in His providence is merciful far beyond what can comprehend. He blesses His blood-bought children much, much more than we deserve, even when we are not as faithful as we should be. While I want to be very careful not to create the impression that the Lord seeks to give one the ambitions of his and her heart as rewards like so many false teachers of our day, the biblical truth is that blessings in obedience are just as surely true as God's chastisement for disobedience.

However, sometimes these blessings will be manifest most in times of trial, and perhaps some might be experienced only after having passed through great trials. In order to avoid falling into bitterness, it is critical to keep the mind focused on a biblical view of the Lord and His attributes, such as His sovereignty, His holiness, and His immutability (unchangeableness). You can rest assured the promises of scripture are just as reliable today as they have ever been, because they were authored by the Eternal God who doesn't change.

God does not need to make apologies for His sovereignty in His various dealings with His children. In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Jesus answered the objections of those who were upset that the workers who merely worked the last hour of the day were paid the same as those who had worked all day by saying, *"Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?"* (Matt. 20:15).

The Lord is omniscient and knows the thoughts and intents of the heart and if it is "perfect toward Him." Then He gives the opposite side of the coin. To Asa it was said, "thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." The Lord simply does not promise the same displays of strength and blessings to all His children regardless of what they do in His service.

The word "perfect" here certainly does not mean "without sin." This is impossible due to the fall of man and our flesh which we still retain after our regeneration and that wars against the Spirit. However, carrying it forward to our day, it does denote a heart that is truly devoted to Christ and following Him in a life of faith. It might fall short frequently, but it mourns over those shortcomings and ardently strives to do better. The applications are many and are sobering. For example, does a church desire revival driven by the power of the Holy Ghost? I hope so. However, the spiritual condition of their hearts is a key factor in whether or not the Lord will bless the body in this way. Widespread apathy in punctuality, bible studiness, prayer and serving one another is going to ensure revival does not happen. If faithfulness is present, the Lord can and has blessed even extremely small bands of believers in mighty ways.

This principle is also true in our personal spiritual journeys. Obeying the Lord and trusting Him in faith results in seeing Him "shew himself strong" in special ways. To further illustrate, consider the life of King Asa. He is a sad example starting well but not finishing well. Early in his reign he was a tremendous reformer from the idolatry that had spiritually polluted Judah, and he served the Lord with dedication. *"For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: And commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him."* (2 Chron. 14:3-5)

As a result of this heart toward God, we see the Lord blessing Asa and the nation of Judah with an awesome display of His power. Zerah the Ethiopian came with an extremely large, powerful force to seek the subjugation of Judah. Asa's great faith is displayed when the two armies met in battle: *"Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee,*

and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let no man prevail against thee. So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the Lord, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.” (2 Chron. 14:11-13)

However, facing another – and it would seem far less daunting – challenge in the 36th year of his reign, he took an entirely different approach. In this period of the divided kingdom, Israel’s king Baasha “built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.” (2 Chron. 16:1). Asa’s solution was to seek the help of the evil Syrians and their king, Benhadad, paying them with silver and gold to break their agreement with Israel and attack them militarily. The Syrians eliminated the threat from Israel and Ramah was dismantled, but God was not pleased. Before the pronouncement of judgment we started with, Hanani reminded Asa of when the Ethiopians invaded Judah and their deliverance that occurred “because thou didst rely on the Lord.” (vs. 8)

Undoubtedly Asa’s foolish decision was a symptom of a deeper spiritual issue, as his actions afterward seem to indicate. Was pride a factor? Did he come to believe it was his grand leadership that was key to the earlier victory? Did he gradually lose the zeal that had inspired his actions throughout most of his reign? It’s difficult to say. However, instead of the Lord’s blessings of prosperity and deliverance as had occurred in former times the promise was “wars.” The lesson is to faithfully serve Jesus Christ no matter the circumstances. If our heart strays from him, however, we will certainly miss many blessings and providential workings of God we otherwise could have experienced, just like Asa. I will close with lyrics from the hymn “Like a River Glorious.” “We may trust Him fully, All for us to do; They who trust Him wholly, Find Him wholly true.” (Jonathan Wise)

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)

We read and hear much about how people must come unto Jesus in order to be saved (born again). The problem with this teaching is that the dead in sin are being asked to do something they are incapable of doing. A dead man has no ability to do anything whether in the natural realm or the spiritual realm.

The dead can not come to Jesus: “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:44) The only way the dead in sin can come to Jesus in the new birth is for the Father to draw (drag) him and this drawing is 100 percent successful in every chosen child of God. This drawing is sometimes attributed to the Father, the Spirit, or Jesus. In either case, the drawing is all coming from the same source and that is “from above”.

The dead will not come to Jesus: Jesus told some people to search the scriptures for they thought they had eternal life through them but in reality they were just the testimony of Him. Then Jesus tells them, “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” (John 5:40) The dead in sin possess not the will to come because they are very content in fulfilling the lusts and desires of the flesh. The only will involved in any person coming to Jesus in the new birth is the will of God. “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.” (John 5:21)

All the elect will come to Jesus in new birth: The elect child of God is dead in sin just like the wicked are because all are under the curse of sin by Adam’s transgression in the Garden of Eden. They must be born again thus Jesus says, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37) No individual is fitted for heaven and immortal glory without being changed in the new birth and God did not leave this vital act into the hands of sinful men.

Faith is a vital necessity to come to Jesus in obedience: The dead in sin can not come to Jesus in the new birth neither can they come to Him in obeying the gospel because they haven’t any faith. “But without

faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Heb. 11:6) Faith is a fruit of the Spirit and implanted in every elect that has been born again by the Spirit.

Rest for elect who come to Jesus by faith: After a child of God is born again, they can respond to the gospel call of obedience because they possess faith implanted in regeneration. Jesus says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) Jesus said that no man can come but here He gives the command to come. The difference is Jesus' command is not to the dead in sin but to those who have faith and are labouring and heavy laden. Rest is the end result of those who come to Jesus by faith and place their trust in Him.

All the elect will not come to Jesus by faith: Even though all the elect will come to Jesus in the new birth, they will not all come to Jesus by faith. Many will have lived and died without ever hearing the name of Jesus or the gospel. Many have been aborted in the womb of their mother. Those who have never heard the gospel are still the elect of God and will live in glory. Jesus healed ten lepers who all experienced the same cleansing but only one returned to thank Him. Jesus' response to this Samaritan was, "...Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." (Luke 17:17-18) Jesus told the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and come follow Him; however, he went away because he had great possessions. Jesus loved this man (Mark 10:21) and anyone loved by Jesus is an elect and will be in heaven.

The elect are an innumerable host whereas those who come to Jesus by faith are few: The elect are chosen out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation and are always referred to in scripture as "many". Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many. (Matt. 20:28). He was the firstborn among "many: brethren." (Rom. 8:29) In contrast, when it comes to those who are faithful servants, they are identified as being a few. Jesus commands to enter in at the strait gate and then says, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14) Only a few find the way that leads unto life in obedience by faith and enjoy the rest in the finished work of Christ.

The dead indeed cannot be born again by coming to Jesus; this is impossible. However, those born again and alive in Christ can come to Jesus in obedience by faith and receive blessings in this life. Jesus came that the elect might have life and have it more abundantly. (Elder Larry Wise, July 2019)

A LOST CAUSE

Elder Jerry Wise
Pontotoc, Mississippi

Some years ago, a program on tv caught my attention, titled, A Lost Cause!! A man walked on a stage, in front of a huge audience. His hair on his head and face was extremely long; His clothing ragged and torn. As he began to speak, his voice and language was unsophisticated. He was lacking in everything, and some in the audience were getting restless and about to walk out.

The man pulled off his wig and fake facial hair along with his ragged clothing. Underneath the clothing was a beautiful suit. His hair was perfectly groomed. As he began to speak again, his words held the audience attention as his voice was clear and had a kindness about it that captured their hearts. He began to tell them of a journey of life he had been on for a long time. He had been as the first man they saw walk out onto the stage. A Lost Cause.

He related the first part of his life to everyone before God looked down in pity and mercy and for any unknown reason and without any merit on their part, God chooses them to receive his grace, and they become new creatures in Christ and their filthy rags come off and they are washed in his blood. They now wear the garments of salvation and they speak as if they had been with Jesus. (Remember Peter?)

At one point in life they were, A Lost Cause but now they have A Loving Cause!!!!

The children of Jehovah God have a loving Cause and may look back at their filthy rags in life, but can now live in the blood of Christ saving grace. They can speak to others of hope and forgiveness in their savior.

They now have reason to live in the light of His love and mercy. Their faith in Christ will carry them day by day. Their sins are nailed to a cross and they can pick up their cross and follow their Redeemer.

These blessed people of Christ redeeming love can now face the Goliath's of the world and be as David when he said: "Is there not a cause?" -1 Samuel 17:29

My beloved brethren, may we encourage one another that we have A Cause. A cause to get up and run in the race of life for the glory of God and we lack nothing, for Christ has done it all and God's store house is rich and never depleted.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." -Hebrews 12:1-2

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." -2 Corinthians 13:14

From the Master's table!!!
O Victory in JESUS!!!!!!!

POWER OF THE GOSPEL

By Elder Joe Nettles
Hamilton, Mississippi

"Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:25-27)

What is the ultimate power that the gospel works in the individual who believes it? Just a cursory hearing of most preaching from contemporary pulpits in Christendom today would lead one to conclude that the gospel is the device that gets Jesus into the heart, and that is necessary to save you from the eternal fire to heaven.

Well, the latter statement is true in that the heart/soul/spirit substance must be born again for one to be eternally saved. In that act of regeneration, the Son comes to dwell in you vitally, and that never to be undone - "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9).

The error in our second paragraph is positing that the gospel is the means, or instrument, by which Christ gets into the elect child. Paul defeats this error in our Colossian text. Under consideration was the evangelizing of the Gentiles, and that a wonderful mystery is revealed when the gospel is preached, and a soul believes it. The Spirit inspired Paul to write "Christ in you, the hope of glory", not "Christ getting into you". There is a vast difference between the two. In other words, at the point of time when you believe the gospel of Christ, it's not the opportunity for you to then invite the Lord into your heart. Rather, that belief reveals the Lord Jesus already abides there!

TETELESTAI

By Elder Lloyd Wilkinson
Atlanta, Georgia

John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

One and done! Finished! Complete! Accomplished. Fulfilled. All of the sins of all of God's children are paid for in full. The atonement is complete. Redemption is finished.

"It is finished" is one of, if not THE most important sentences ever uttered. It has eternal consequences and gives all of God's children reason to rejoice now and forever more.

English can sometimes be a little wordy compared to other languages. In the original Greek, Jesus spoke one word: Tetelestai, which means "it is finished." But this one Greek word is rich in meaning with many layers, especially for those of us who believe.

Tetelestai is reputed to have several applications in the ancient world. First, it has been said that "Tetelestai" or a derivative would be stamped on ancient receipts to indicate that the debt had been paid in full.

Secondly, there was also a judicial meaning. Tetelestai meant that the verdict was in. Justice had been meted out and was complete. There is no double jeopardy.

Thirdly, it may have had a military application, too. A way to declare that the victory was complete. We've won! Victory is ours!

How could this apply to the last words of our Savior? First, a grammar lesson. Tetelestai is in the perfect tense. That simply means that the action spoken of is a completed action with continuing results. Or stated another way, it is a completed action that continues to have a present effect.

What exactly was finished? What is Jesus talking about here? Let's relate it to these financial, military, and judicial applications. When Jesus said, "Tetelestai," He meant that the atonement for our sins was complete and never needed to be repeated and never needs to have anything added to it. It has continuing effects. Jesus paid our sin debt in full. It is marked "tetelestai" or "paid in full." He paid the sin debt for all of His children. Matthew 1:21, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." This was a promise made and kept.

Next, Jesus satisfied the wrath of a holy and righteous God by dying for our sins in our stead. God's justice was satisfied. Our sin debt was paid for, and justice was served. The wages of sin is death. Jesus died for our sins, instead of us dying for them. Romans 3:25-26, "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." 1 John 2:2, "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." Propitiation is satisfaction or appeasement. God's holy justice is satisfied, because Jesus died for our sins.

Romans 5:9, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." We have been declared just by God because of the shed blood of Jesus. And we are saved from the holy and just wrath of God, which we deserve. Hebrews 10:10, "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:14, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." One and done! Jesus's one offering of Himself has perfected His children forever.

Nothing ever needs to be added to the perfect sacrifice of our Lord. Nothing we can do to improve on it. If we could add something to it to complete the transaction, then it would not be finished!

Tetelestai is in the perfect tense – completed action with continuing benefits. When you sin now, even though it is long after Jesus died, the continuing benefit to you is that that sin is forgiven also. Jesus also died for the sin you may commit today and tomorrow and the next day. He is still making intercession for us today. Hebrews 7:25, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." What a Savior!

In the ancient world, a military general may have shouted "Tetelestai!" at the end of a great battle, meaning that victory is ours. Victory is complete! When Jesus cried "Tetelestai" on the cross, He knew that the victory over death was complete! Three days later, He would rise from the dead to show the world that death was dead! 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." It is finished! Tetelestai!

WHEN GOD GETS READY

By Elder Herman Clark (Deceased)

I am sure most everyone has heard in conversation with other folks the expression "When God Gets Ready..." I am guilty of opening my mouth with many "sayings" concerning God that has no foundation what-so-ever of being truth. Many of these quotes we learned from our parents, grandparents, and handed down through generations. My grandmother used to describe some of her recipes with words like "a pinch, dash, little bit, and even the word "smidgen." I can relate to a "pinch" of salt, a dash, maybe a "little bit", but the word "smidgen". I know not the amount, volume, or any measurement that fits.

I often hear people say, "You are not going to die until God gets ready for you." Taking a closer look at this "saying", I know what it means for a person to "get ready" to do something. When I go to the doctor's office, I try to get ready by preparing myself to look decent, smell good, and have my list of medicines. I would like to say that God is always ready for what ever occurs. People sometimes, without really thinking of what they are saying, describe God's ways on the same level as men. However, we read in Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 16:17 "For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."

Isaiah also said in 46:9-11 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." If God, as stated by Isaiah, declared the end from the beginning, then surely nothing takes him by surprise. I am glad to report that the sudden death (sudden to us) of the children of God is not surprising to God. He never says, "Wait a little while, "I'm not ready for you." The scriptures plainly teach in James 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." It is sin that brings forth death.

I have often heard some say "Are you ready to meet the Lord?" I heard that all my life as a young boy. In all that I have done, I was never ready or prepared to meet the Lord as it was presented to me. I had a bad feeling, no peace at all it seemed. Thinking surely if I go to the altar one more time, just in case I've left something out, surely this time will seal the deal for me. Oh the fear in the depths of my soul of God Almighty! This all changed for me when I began to hear the true gospel preached by an Elder of the Primitive Baptist Church.

At first it was foolishness to believe such, yet down deep I knew what he was saying was truth. He told me about the Savior Jesus Christ. I remember a verse that stood out to me and is found in Romans 5:6-9 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 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." Looking for something that would include my actions in these verses that Paul was teaching just wasn't there. It was only the work of Christ. Beginning to

notice the words of what was being preached brought forth a peace that was beyond understanding. I noticed the words "BEING NOW justified by HIS BLOOD, we SHALL BE SAVED from the wrath through him." The verse said that now I was justified by the blood of Christ. For one person to go to everlasting hell that was justified by the blood of Christ is to say that our God requires a sin debt to be paid twice. Let us read verse 10 "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." I saw that it was by his life and not mine. What a blessing! This told me that in this flesh there was no good, yet because God loved me and gave himself for me, I was reconciled to God by the death of his Son. We WERE reconciled, not will be reconciled. Reconciliation was accomplished by the shedding of the blood of our Lord on the cross, laying down his life. Paul stated in Ephesians 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:)"

It all boils down to the fact that I have nothing to prepare myself to meet Jesus. The truth takes nothing away but only strengthens the soul of a little child of God. This makes one to find rest in the finished work of Jesus, which I had never known. I truly believe and fully expect that one day my soul shall mount up as eagle's wings to meet him, and in the resurrection of my body will be made ready by the hands of God to meet him that is ready for me. We, his people will rise and meet him in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Bless his holy name.

(From "The GOOD NEWS Newsletter", March 2007)

THE TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH

By Elder Guy Hunt (Deceased)

Many people look at the book of Job, and see the main lesson as being suffering. They then try to apply the lessons to all sufferings of the children of God. Some go so far as to make the applications of Job to the final sufferings we face as we come to death. I think that is a great error.

The lesson of Job to me is the trial of our faith. Job was a perfect and upright man, one that feared God, and eschewed evil. God said so himself. Yet, we are taught in the bible that good and godly men go through trials of their faith. God knew that Job would not turn his back on him. After his trials, Job knew it also.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus

Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7 The trial of our faith is important. The trial of our faith is more precious than gold.

Satan always thinks we will turn against God when trials come our way. Job proved him wrong. We need to prove him wrong in our experiences. When Job's wife urged him to curse God, Job knew God was all he had. When Christ asked the apostles, "will ye also go away", their answer was, "to whom shall we go?" When we have the view that Job had, when he saw his redeemer standing upon the earth, and also the blessedness of the resurrection, no amount of disappointments and trials is going to turn us from the Lord. However, if we fail to keep that view ever before us, we can fail in the trial of our faith and suffer great loss in this life.

While I have witnessed many saints die in the triumph of a living faith, I do not think this was a trial of their faith. Their trials of faith had already given them much assurance in the past. Now they faced the end of life with great courage and anticipation, knowing now that their absence from their families would make them present with the Lord.

The Apostle Peter lets us know that the trial of our faith, when completed, brings us blessings. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."* 1 Peter 5:8-10 The end result appears to me to be a better condition than the beginning.

The three Hebrew children, Daniel, Joseph, and many more who could be named, all were restored and elevated after the trial of their faith.

So was Job. *"So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning..."* Job 41:12 The lesson that stands out to me in the book of Job is the trial of his faith. Anytime you apply the lessons of this book to the lives of God's children today, remember, to apply, the latter end has to be better than the beginning. Any suffering we or our loved ones endure which is fatal, is not the lesson of Job.

We reach the heavenly shore based upon the love and sufferings of our Lord, not upon the successful trial of our faith. (From "The Pathway of Truth", Mar 2005)

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

My 4-year-old niece, Rosie, asked her mother "Why does God make us and we live here, if we are going to live with Him in Heaven later?" Her mother tried explaining that deep mysterious truth to her, and eventually Rosie just said "I don't understand, Mom. I think my brain is too little." (David Wise)

CHURCH NEWS

Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS. July 18-20, 2025. Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church, Randolph, MS will host a meeting the 3rd weekend in July 2025 (July 18-20). Services Friday night at 7:00pm. Saturday, July 20, at 10:30am with lunch; no afternoon services. Elder Darren Owens is the invited minister. Sunday at 10:00am with communion, followed by lunch.

Elder Calvin Warren and Elder Braden Rogers has been preaching 2 Sundays each in the absence of long time Pastor, Elder Tom Bouchillon, who has been physically unable to preach. We pray for him and the church as well as other churches in need.

Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS. July 25-27, 2025. Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS will have its annual meeting the 4th weekend in July 2025. (July 25-27) Friday night, July 25, supper at 6:00pm and worship at 7:00pm. Saturday, July 26, at 10:30am with lunch and afternoon services. Sunday, July 27, at 10:30am with communion. Elder Chase Harrison is the invited minister. Everyone is invited. Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS. Aug. 9-10, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS the 2nd weekend in August 2025 (Aug. 9-10). Services will be Saturday night, Aug. 9, at 7:00 p.m., with supper at 6:00pm. Sunday, August 10, at 10:30am. Elder Nathan Guess is the invited minister.

Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church, Duck Hill, MS. Aug. 8-10, 2025. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Mt. Pisgah Primitive Baptist Church, 1840 Hwy 404 East, Duck Hill, MS. The meeting will be the 2nd weekend in August 2025 (Aug. 8-10). Beginning Friday at 6:00pm with supper and service to follow. Saturday service will begin at 10:00am with lunch to follow and there will be an afternoon service starting at 1:30pm. Sunday service will begin at 10:30am with lunch to follow. This will be an open meeting, and all are invited. Elder Eddie Hollowell is Pastor of Mt. Pisgah. We look forward to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS. Aug. 16-17, 2025. Everyone is invited to the meeting at Pleasant Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Mantachie, MS the 3rd weekend in August 2025 (Aug. 16-17). Services Saturday, Aug. 16, at 10:30am with lunch, and afternoon services at 1:00pm. Sunday at 10:30am. Elder David Crawford is invited minister. Elder Darren Owens is Pastor of Pleasant Hill.

Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS. Aug. 22-24, 2025. Everyone is invited to the meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 4th weekend in August 2025 (Aug. 22-24). Services Friday night, Aug. 22, at 7:00pm. Saturday, Aug. 23, at 10:30am with lunch. Sunday at 10:30am. Elder Ronald Lawrence is the invited minister. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

DEACON ORDINATION

Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church, Burnsville, MS. Aug. 23, 2025. Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church in Burnsville, MS will have a service on Saturday, August 23 at 10:30am for the purpose of ordaining Bro. Zach DePoyster to the office of deacon. We invite all to attend this special occasion and offer their support to this faithful brother, especially ordained elders and deacons. Also be in prayer for Little Flock, as the congregation is currently without a pastor. For more information, contact Elder Jonathan Wise at 662-419-2721.

BEGIN EACH DAY ANEW

By Mrs. W. J. Berry (Deceased)

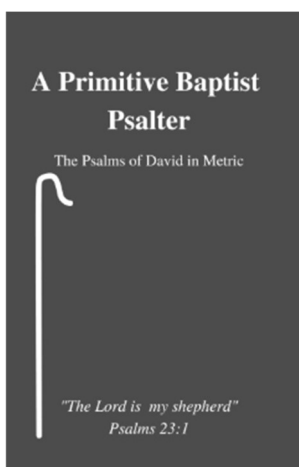
"Let not the sun go down on your wrath"

In the book of all books, we have a guide to every walk of life. Sometimes we allow sleep to come upon us and seal bitter words and feelings into our hearts with the night. If only each day should end its own bitterness, how much better this world would be. If only we could leave each day's heartaches and bitterness buried in the past, and not go back again and again and dig them up to harass ourselves and companions with them. If they are bitter when they are first buried in the past, how much of hatred, bitterness and sorrow do they gain when they are exhumed, days, months, or years afterward. If we could only begin each new day anew! Who would want to drape a new-born baby with the worn and polluted rags of someone dead and buried? And yet many of us do that very thing with a pure, new-born day. We even dig up the old day, buried long ago, and get the grave clothes to dress our infant day.

O Lord, our prayer is that we shall be able to leave the past buried with all dead things, and go forward. Let us forgive all things, drowning all bitterness in love! "Let not the sun go down on our wrath".

(From *"The Pathway Upward"* by Mrs. W. J. Berry)

FEATURED HYMN BOOK

**A Primitive Baptist Psalter, By Joe Holder**

This Psalter is the work of Elder Joseph Holder and is intended to be used by Primitive Baptists in congregational and family worship. For this reason, above every Psalm there are multiple different ways the singer may determine which tune is most suitable for their own purposes. Each congregation or individual may have specific tunes that they enjoy more. Therefore, each Psalm has a choice of Meter or Tune Suggestion selection.

You may purchase this book at the link below:

<https://marchtozion.com/books/a-primitive-baptist-psalter/>

**As Thirsts The Hart For Water Brooks
(from Psalm 42)**

1 As thirsts the hart for water brooks,
so thirsts my soul, O God for thee;
it seeks for God, and ever looks
and longs the living God to see,
and longs the living God to see.

2 Far from the courts of God, my tears
have been my food by night and day,
while constantly with bitter sneers,
"Where is thy God?" the scoffers say,
"Where is thy God?" the scoffers say.

3 With grief I think of days gone by,
when oft I trod the hallowed way
to Zion, praising God on high
with throngs who kept the holy day,
with throngs who kept the holy day.

4 O why art thou cast down, my soul,
and why so troubled shouldst thou be?
Hope thou in God, and him extol,
who gives his saving help to me,
who gives his saving help to me.

UPCOMING OLD SCHOOL PSALTER

The Old School Hymnal Foundation is pleased to announce that we will be releasing Old School Psalter in the near future. This hymnal containing all 150 Psalms setting the Scottish Psalter in 7-shape, four-part harmony, using familiar hymn tunes.

Keep an eye out for more updates showing ease-of-read features used in Old School Psalter. Please sign up for our email list to get updates on the release of this new book and other information about The Old School Hymnal. Share the news with friends, family, fellow church members, or amnion else who might be interested! <https://www.oldschoolhymnal.com/>

We have attached an image showing some of the features of the Psalter which include newly set hymnal-style music, KJV verse numbers within the lyrics, large font lyrics, and tune and traditional first-line lyric information.

Psalm 20 **20**

C.M.
set to the tune ELIZABETH TOWN: "Ye Little Flock"

George Kingsley, 1811-1884

Colossians 3:16 – *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

Ephesians 5:19 – *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

James 5:13 – *Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.*

FEELING LIKE A FAILURE

Elder Marty Smith
Woodstock, Georgia

"After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. And Job spake, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived. Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it. Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it." -Job 3:1-5

"God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked. I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark. His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground." -Job 16:11-13

As Job spoke these words, he must have felt that he was a total failure, and that his life was in vain, and never should have been. If he thought his purpose in life was to serve God, then God had set him as a target for divine arrows, so he must have failed in that purpose. If he thought his purpose was to love his wife, then his breath had become strange to her and she was suggesting his death, so he must have failed there. If he thought his purpose was to guide his children, then they were dead. If he thought his purpose was to relieve the poor (which he often did), then his wealth was gone, and the poor despised him. If he thought his purpose was to enjoy nature, then his health was broken, he could not sleep, and he was disfigured and in discomfort. Holding on to integrity was the course he chose to take, but it must have gotten difficult to remember why he did it. Failure seemed to surround him, and failure seemed to be the end result of his life.

As he spoke with his three friends - Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar - Job suffered further in his attempts to deal with his own feelings, and with the false teachings they expounded. Because of what had befallen him, Job labored under the impression that God was shooting at him, although he could not understand why. Because of what had befallen him, his friends labored under the error that God was punishing Job for wrongdoing, although they did not know what that wrongdoing could be. Their ideas were based on falsehoods, and provide lessons to God's children who later read their conversations in the Bible, so they may now understand the misery brought about by fine-sounding-but-erroneous teachings and assumptions about God.

Was Job a failure? Even during the period of his life when he felt most to be a failure, the answer is a resounding "No". Consider these facts:

1. The book of Job has 42 chapters, but by the end of chapter 2, Job has silenced the arguments of

Satan. Job doesn't even realize the victory that his "habit" of integrity has won.

2. Job spoke that which was right: *"And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath."* -Job 42:7

3. God held Job as an example to the Israelite captives among the Chaldeans: *"Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD."* -Ezek. 14:14

4. God held Job as an example to the church: *"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."* -James 5:11

5. Job had heard of God, but after suffering, became able to see His sovereign power. See Job 42:5.

As I get older, the feeling of failure attacks more frequently and with greater intensity, and I must struggle to sort those feelings out - they can come from above or below. When His children truly fail by actually sinning against Him, God shows them where they fail, and shows them a way to repent unto true success. He is a perfect Father, and desires His children to understand the motivation behind real chastisement.

When, however, they have not sinned, but merely feel to be a failure because of the terrible challenges that surround them, and they do not understand why such misery has come to pass, it is time to hold on to the "habit" of blessing God. They may never realize what enemies are being defeated, and what friends are being upheld, in their hours of darkness. In the greatest hours of darkness, at the cross, our Lord Jesus won the greatest victory of all, and the destiny of God's children- to be like the only begotten Son- was obtained.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." -Gal. 6:9

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." -Heb. 10:36

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." -Rom. 8:18

How many other scriptures can you think of which say, "When you are trying to serve God the best you know how and still feel like a failure, hang in there"?

Proverbs 24:16 – *"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."*

THE PEACEMAKERS

Elder Ben Cordes
Lexington, Kentucky

(Part 7 of 8 in Series on The Beatitudes)

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." (Matt. 5:9)

The flawed nature of man loves to fight. This is one of the most verifiable truths we can observe. Look no further than social media where self-control is abandoned, and people engage in arguments ad nauseam. People even argue about whether the arguments matter. Then, on a larger, more consequential scale, are the countless wars that nations have waged against other nations. Whether it is nuclear war, bloodshed, debate, or a simple misunderstanding, human nature exhibits an undeniable desire to fight.

If our nature is bent on fighting, how then do we have any peace in this world? The answer, of course, is God. God's influence is found even in our bitter, hate-filled planet. We are not totally consumed with wars of violence (though some places on earth may appear to be) because God has caused His peace to infiltrate the hearts of His people. These people of God have been equipped with a love for peace, despite their remaining human nature that revels in conflict.

It is the peacemaker that knows he is capable of fighting, but resists the urge to argue and debate, and instead chooses to speak a soft answer to turn away wrath (Prov. 15:1).

The peacemaker is not easily offended and does not run to participate in a quarrel, but, rather, looks for a way to end the fight and bring previously conflicting parties together in peace. The peacemaker loves law and order, but most of all, the peacemaker loves forgiveness.

"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." (Isaiah 38:17)

The love for peace isn't natural, it is supernatural. It is a product of regeneration, which is wholly God's work. Peace is the third fruit of the Spirit and certainly affirms God's saving presence (Gal. 5:22).

This is why Christ states that the peacemakers shall be called the children of God, not only because their efforts to bring peace between man and man demonstrates they are children of God, but because they imitate their heavenly Father, who has brought peace between God and man through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"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. 5:10)

The elect of God, while dead in sins, were enemies toward God through sin and the friendship of the vain

world (James 4:4). Nevertheless, God is unwilling to allow anything to separate His children from His love. Christ's atoning death took away the enmity that existed between God and His elect, and now peace exists between them. It is through faith that we come to realize that peace and righteousness have been given to us as gifts of God's amazing grace.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:1)

The blessed peacemakers are living evidence of the Prince of Peace reigning in their hearts (Isaiah 9:6). They are proof that peace exists in this world as a result of God's blessing and influence. If it were not for God, the world would see no end to war and violence. Men would have destroyed themselves ages ago. But thanks be to God for granting peace through Christ, and for putting peace within the hearts of the elect. Blessed be the name of Jesus Christ, our gracious Peacemaker.

REJOICE! AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE!

By Elder E. D. McCutcheon (Deceased)

Why did the apostle admonish us to rejoice? Why do Primitive Baptists have so many reasons to rejoice? For those who have a reasonable knowledge of the scriptures and read their bibles to ascertain what they should believe rather than to prove what they already believe. The doctrine of God's sovereign grace is indeed a spiritual fountain that can produce joy unspeakable and full of glory. We might well ask why, since the majority of God's beloved know nothing about it except for the inward teaching that comes with the new birth? This inward teaching is precious indeed to those who know nothing about the gospel and the knowledge of salvation which it brings. There is no way for us to know how many have died with a blessed hope of eternal joy, but with very limited knowledge of God's wondrous grace.

We are told that God has provided something better for us that they without us should not be made perfect. They are going to be made perfect and we are going to be made perfect. What can be better than that? Obviously, it must be something in this life. What can it be but knowledge? Knowledge of what? Of God's impeccably perfect plan for the deliverance of every one of His beloved into the eternal abode with every stain of sin and every temptation removed.

This is what God promised to the heirs of salvation: complete deliverance from sin and perfect holiness in His sinless heaven. Primitive Baptists are well acquainted with God's system that was designed to reach every man, woman and child that should have a desire for deliverance from sin and sinning. Those who know this wonderful doctrine do not have to worry about the eternal destiny of the countless millions in China and other places where there is no access to

the gospel. Our hearts are sometimes grieved because we realize what great blessings God's little sheep are missing in this life in this world, but we do not have to worry about their life in the world to come.

But there is much more. The fellowship and love among Primitive Baptist is superb. When God sees fit to pour His Holy Spirit out in our worship services it is as near to heaven as one can expect to be in this world. This does not happen often, but when it does, it indeed is joy unspeakable and full of glory. Such seasons of rejoicing are a foretaste of the eternal heaven itself.

But how many today have been blessed to experience the spiritual joy that is available to those who have been willing to obey the gospel and step out on the promises of God? Humanism has permeated so much of religion in America today, that many are missing the blessings of pure discipleship. How I wish that I knew what would help so many wandering sheep find the fold and indeed lie down in green pastures. I thank the Lord that I do not have to worry about the population of heaven, but like Paul of old, I have continual sorrow and heaviness in my heart for my fleshly kinsmen because they are missing so much of the earnest of the inheritance. I pray for the Lord to give me, and all of our ministers the wisdom to lead the wandering sheep into the fold and green pastures which are available to all who are willing to obey and lay hold upon these great blessings.

BINDING AND LOOSENING

By Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Matthew 16:19: "And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Christ says these words immediately following Peter's statement that Christ was the Son of the living God. Christ further says to Peter and the other future apostles, that he will give them the keys to the kingdom. Keys open doors. This is symbolic of opening the doors of **gospel knowledge**. The truths of the New Testament church. Salvation being by the grace of God, Jesus is the Christ....etc. Now our Lord says something that is often misunderstood, **whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven**. It is an unusual saying, but these words are there for a purpose. The words **loose** and **bind** are legal words. Bind means **unlawful**. Loose means **lawful**. Jesus is teaching the apostles, that whatever he deemed legal or loosed in the church. They would have the complete support of heaven.

Many things would change under the gospel dispensation, somethings that were loosed or lawful under the Old Testament would now become bond or unlawful. An example of this would be the act of circumcision (Acts 15). The children of Israel had practiced circumcision on their male children for many generations. It was lawful and was a true physical sign that a man was an Israelite indeed. Now under the gospel dispensation it was no longer needed. Now God's children of every nation, kindred and tongue are encouraged to come into the kingdom. They are now loosed from the law that only Abraham's seed can be a member of the church. **Galatians 5:2 "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing."** **Galatians 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."**

Another example of bind and loose is in the practice of abstaining from unclean foods such as swine under the gospel dispensation, the swine is loosed or made lawful to eat. **Act 10:12-15 – Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.** In Acts 10, Peter is taught this in a vision from God. In Acts 11:1, Peter is chastised by fellow Jews for going under the roof of Cornelius the Gentile and fellowshiping with them.

Act 11:2-3 – And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. This was not lawful under the Old Law for a Jew to associate with Gentiles. They were bound from doing so. Yet Peter shows them that they have been loosed from such a law.

Act 11:17-18 – Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. The Gentiles and Jews can come together in the gospel church and worship together that Jesus is the Christ. And all that these Apostles loosed and bind have the full support of God's throne in heaven. (R.L. Taylor)

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