

Glad Tidings

February

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

2026

“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

GOD'S THOUGHTS UNTO ME

“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!” (Psalm 139:17)

How amazing and precious is it that the sovereign God of this universe thinks about me? We read earlier in this chapter that God is intimately acquainted with even the apparently mundane actions of our life. Even our down-sitting and our up-rising (Ps. 139:2), God's children getting up and down, in and out of bed, God is aware of these and every action of our lives. However, God does not just have knowledge of the events of our life, but God is actively thinking about each of his children individually! How precious to know he's thinking about me! And he's thinking about you!

When we consider the magnitude of God's glory, how is it possible that he would almost waste his time (from my perspective), thinking about me at all? *“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained...” (Ps. 8:3)* How amazing is the glory of God in creation? The heavens declare the glory of God and there is not a single language where the testimony of creation does not declare the glory of its Creator (Ps. 19:1-4). God is very busy ruling and reigning this universe as its blessed and only Potentate. Considering his glory and all the thoughts required to run this universe, how is it possible that the Lord's thoughts are mindful towards me at all, or any human? *“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Ps. 8:4)* It's absolutely astounding that the Glorious Creator would think about us at all! But praise God we are in the thoughts of our Creator!

Not only are we in God's thoughts, but his thoughts towards us cannot be numbered! Just a passing thought of the Lord would be more than any of us could be worthy of. However, the Lord does not just give us a passing thought every now and then, or even one thought a day. *“How great is the sum” (Ps. 139:17)* of God's thoughts toward each one of his children individually! God's thoughts toward you are so innumerable they truly cannot be reckoned up to the counted accurately! *“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.” (Ps. 40:5)* God's thoughts towards me cannot be numbered!

What are God's thoughts towards his people? God's thoughts are always that of a loving heavenly Father, thoughts of love, and specifically thoughts of peace. *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jer. 29:11)* Even in the midst of God's loving chastisement – such as God's people were presently enduring in Babylonian captivity for their sins, when Jer. 29 was written – God's thoughts towards his people are always thoughts of peace, and never of evil. While this verse in Jer. 29:11 is commonly taken out of its context in modern Christianity, it is beautiful to think of God's thoughts of peace towards us and also thoughts of restoration. God's thoughts towards the Jews in captivity is to give them “an expected end”. That expected end was after 70 years of captivity, they would be restored to their homeland. God's thoughts towards his people are always thoughts of restoration, and then his thoughts are certainly towards the final expected end, for all of his children to live with him in heaven for all of eternity.

God has also given us the blessing of the scriptures that are the thoughts of God's heart to all generations. *“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.” (Ps. 33:11)* We have a small glimpse into God's heart and God's thoughts as we read God's word. That should invigorate our perspective of reading the scriptures, and how excited should we be to have the ability to read and study and know the thoughts of God's heart unto me today!

Considering God's thoughts towards me, how much more should I return the favor by actively and perpetually thinking about the Lord? *“In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.” (Ps. 94:19)* The comforts of the Lord delight my thoughts and delight my soul. We should be purposeful to actively meditate and think on the Lord and on the scriptures every day – *“in his law doth he meditate day and night.” (Ps. 1:3)* We need to be purposeful to bring every thought into captivity unto the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5), and think (meditate) on things that are honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8).

How amazing and precious to think on the fact today that the Lord is thinking about me so much it cannot be numbered! How great and how good and how loving is our God towards his beloved children! (David 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)

There was brought to Jesus a man who was blind and dumb, possessed with a devil. Jesus healed this man so that the blind and dumb both saw and spoke. (Matt. 12:22) When the Pharisees heard of this, they accused Jesus of casting out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. This was not hidden from Jesus as we read, "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?" (Matt. 12:25-26) Jesus knew how to refute their blasphemy and taught a great truth concerning a divided kingdom.

Jesus said every city or house divided against itself would not stand. Everyone will be working at cross purposes for selfish reasons and eventually will result in the fall of the city or house. Our nation seems to fall into this predicament as division apparently has taken the day. From our national leaders to our state houses and even the local level, there is abounding division. The forces of evil seem to outweigh the forces of good but God is in control and that is the solace of the believer. We are told in scripture, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be

tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13)

Even in the midst of division and ultimate fall, the Lord can and does make a way of escape for His children. It did not look good for the three Hebrew children who were thrust in the midst of the fiery furnace for refusing to bow down to a false god. However, they knew that their God was able as they said to king Nebuchadnezzar, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Dan. 3:17-18) When certain political correctness and laws require us to bow down and compromise our beliefs, we can have confidence that God is still "able" to do exceeding abundantly above all we are able to ask or think. If we are faithful, He has promised to give us strength to press on, looking to Him and not man.

When God is the center of attention in a nation, city, house, or kingdom, there will be blessings bestowed. When God is relegated to the back seat, we can be sure God will respond in the appropriate way. The Bible plainly says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." (Psalm 9:17) When God and the mention of Him is banned in schools, public places and replaced by sanctioning same-sex marriages, homosexuality, and the things God forbids, how can we expect God to bless us as a people or as a nation? Amos said, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) When Israel walked in agreement with Him and His commandments, they were blessed. When they walked contrary to His statutes, repercussions came in the form of judgments which the scriptures describe as evil sent by God. "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." (Isa. 45:7)

When we stand in our own might and strength we are ready and vulnerable for a fall just as Paul said, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12) The Israelites in the wilderness serves as an example of this great truth. The church at Laodicea evidently was afflicted with this syndrome as they had the attitude of invincibility and didn't need even God. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" (Rev. 3:17). There was a remedy for this attitude: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:10) This has to do with God's fellowship with His people and not with their relationship.

Just as there was a remedy for the church at Laodicea, there is a remedy for this nation and the church as well. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (II Chron. 7:14) A nation or individual cannot forget God unless they have known Him previously so return unto Him and He has promised to return unto us. Remember a kingdom divided cannot stand so may we draw closer to one another and closer to our God and endeavor to hold fast Biblical principles despite hostility. (February 2020)

PAST

By Elder Jerry Wise
Pontotoc, Mississippi

If any one thing has humbled me more than anything else, its my past. Everyone has a past, but does it mean that one born of the Holy Ghost, chosen of God, saved by grace, sins washed in Christ's precious blood, God putting their sins behind him as far as the east is from the west, never to remember any more, still see their past as a reminder, so as to humble themselves in their new life in Christ and help others as the apostle Paul says? "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." -1 Cor. 9:19 (KJV)

Or we would do well to guide others away from their past mistakes as in Proverbs: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." -Prov. 11:30 (KJV)

The kingdom of God is made up of those that come as a little child, Jesus said. This is for those who can look at their past, and are saddened by it, but are humbled by the greatest gift of a Holy God, to make you his chosen child, to walk worthy, humbly, lovingly of your Holy calling.

King David knew his past quite well enough, as he admitted it and humbled himself: "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me." -Ps. 51:3 (KJV)

The only reason we are humbled and chastised by our sins, is because we have been born again of the Holy Ghost and are strengthened by our Heavenly Father and look to Christ as our example and walk in his light.

"Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." -Ps. 51:9-10 KJV

Look forward not back and though as we remember our past; leave it behind knowing beloved brethren, your sins are forgiven through our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus.

"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be

great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." -Luke 6:35-37 KJV

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

THE REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE

By Elder Joe Nettles
Hamilton, Mississippi

Primitive Baptists strive to structure our worship according to what's called the regulative principle. That essentially means that the fundamental elements of our church worship should be either directly commanded or plainly inferred examples from New Testament scriptures.

Part of adhering to this sound principle is to avoid taking undue liberties in interpreting such scriptures. The plain sense conveyed by a given scripture is predominantly the proper sense to take from its instruction.

An example of this is found when comparing the teaching of Jesus regarding the shewbread to its Old Testament precepts. When challenged regarding gathering grain to eat on the Sabbath, we read, "Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?" (Matthew 12:1-4). Our Saviour was emphatic that under the law's teaching it was for the priests alone!

In comparison, we read from where the law was instituted, "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying...Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the Lord continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the Lord made by fire by a perpetual statute." (Leviticus 24:1,8-9) The law just stated that the bread was for the priests and was not worded as emphatically as Jesus' interpretation.

However, Jesus made it plain that no one up to that time should have assumed it okay to carry the bread from the Tabernacle to give to a non-priest excepting the most dire need (as was David's). What if someone was genuinely curious how sanctified bread tasted and asked a priest to bring him some? What about if all of it wasn't eaten by the priests, and they didn't want it to go to waste? What if a dying Benjamite who had no lack of sustenance asked as his last request to eat a bite of that bread? Obviously, aside from the special

circumstances of David, this would have been unlawful, unthinkable, and carried the potential for severe judgment. Knowing that the Word himself interpreted it strictly shows us that the willy-nilly manner of New Testament interpretation found so often in Christendom is problematic.

Even a cursory reading of the Law will show that God took his prescribed Levitical worship very seriously. All of the materials, their construction, their design, their dimensions, their adornments, even down to the number of holes in the curtains wasn't left to guessing! Seeing that our present worship in the church of Jesus Christ is deemed by God as far superior and precious (2 Corinthians ch 3; Hebrews 8:5-6; Revelation 5:6-14; 1 Peter 1:10-12), why should we dare think that our great Plumline (Amos 7:8) would leave its design to our whimsy? Primitive Baptists, we are on safe and solid ground. We thank God for our practice!

AGAINST HOPE, BELIEVED IN HOPE

By Elder Rusty Wise
Tupelo, Mississippi

Romans 4:18: "Who (Abraham) against hope believed in hope,..."

If you are 99, and your wife is 89, and you are told that in one year, you will have a child; what would be your mind? Consider how everything is completely contrary to nature.

Just as walking upon water, or water gushing from a rock, or water separating into two walls, or being delivered from a furnace unsinged, or the sun going backwards, or a virgin giving birth, or preaching the gospel.

When a man is called of God to preach the word, it is not for his own glory, but for the glory of God, and the edification of the sheep. It is not dependent upon age, or education, or socio-political-economic position.

The man called is equipped with a mind that can understand and discern spiritual things and a purpose, not a purpose of saving souls from hell to heaven, but to express that hope in Christ to those that are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. To preach and to teach of the great salvation in the complete and finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord. The only hope for wretched sinful man.

It is not in our ability to repeat rhetoric for hours on end, or to recite a well prepared lecture, or to tell whimsical stories. But with the faith given and our belief in a thrice holy God through his eternal grace, and by the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit, by which we may convey a message of hope; the earnest of an expected conclusion.

Romans 4:20-21: "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving

glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Jesus is coming soon. May we continue to be steadfast in his word comforting and reassuring his people until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

THE TITUS 2 CONGREGATION

By Elder Matt Jordan
Arab, Alabama

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." (Titus 2:1-8)

The Apostle Paul instructs Titus the minister to teach in a way that would foster an environment whereby each generation learns from the previous one. A congregation blessed with multiple generations is doubly blessed if the older is teaching the younger. Of course, there are many things the older generation can learn from the younger, but this passage establishes the pattern that should be sought first, especially in regard to godly living and the family.

A congregation is incomplete in fulfilling its purpose if there is no interaction among its members between sermons or beyond Sunday morning. It is the pastor's responsibility to preach and to teach the whole counsel of God. It is the responsibility of the aged men and women to reinforce that teaching by being living examples, but not examples only. Those who are more mature in the word are to also teach the younger personally and directly. This happens as relationships between the generations are formed and strengthened.

Paul tells Titus to speak those things which "become" sound doctrine. The word "become" means to be suitable to, or raise up to make conspicuous; to lift up as eminent and to stand out. It can mean adorn or beautify. The minister is to preach sound doctrine and then teach those things which beautifully accompany and promote that sound doctrine. It is also his responsibility to encourage the congregation to seek opportunities for this passage to be put into

practice. When this pattern is followed, a church will have a good witness and will be a light in the community. So, who has the primary responsibility of initiating the effort to form those relationships between the older and the younger?

Have you reached out since the last sermon to someone twenty years younger than you? Twenty years older? Have you reached across the generations to see what might be shared?

A DEFEATED ADVERSARY

By Elder Michael Ivey
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Satan knows he is defeated. But he doesn't want us to know/remember that. As believers, we are encouraged and comforted in the reality that we are victors, more than conquerors. Despite Satan's meant-to-terrorize-roaring and his ravenous appetite for violence, he is defeated. Jesus confronted the devil at Calvary, pursued him to his stronghold, the grave and crushed his head in victory when our Savior leapt from the tomb! Just so, Jesus gave us His victory over death and hell. *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Corinthians 15:52

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:35-39

RESISTING THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

By Elder Ben Cordes
Lexington, Kentucky

There is no bullet, no bomb, no missile that can destroy the power of darkness. It is not a kingdom of flesh and blood, but of immaterial evil. Its ruler is a liar, a thief, and a murderer from the beginning—an enemy who is cunning enough to persuade the world that he does not exist, that he is nothing more than a religious fable.

This kingdom of darkness cannot be overcome with material weapons. To remove a wicked man may be an act of justice, but the true adversary simply finds another vessel for his destruction. The deeper

question remains: What chance do we have of overcoming a spiritual foe we cannot see—one who cannot be harmed by earthly weaponry? If we insist on treating spiritual problems with material solutions, despair will only grow. Violence cannot drive out darkness. Only light can.

When Christ, the Son of God, entered the world, He was declared to be the Light of the World. The darkness hated Him, but could not overcome Him. By laying down His life, He turned the enemy's own weapon—death—into the very means of victory. Through His death and resurrection, Christ triumphed over sin and Satan, giving His people the power to resist the darkness that presses upon us.

The apostle Paul reminds us: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)" (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Our response to evil, then, must be a spiritual one. Instead of clinging to revenge or hatred, we cast down our own rebellious imaginations and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Instead of being overcome with evil, we overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

If the adversary attacks with hate, we answer with love—not a soft tolerance of sin, but a steadfast love for Jesus Christ. For our warfare is not against people, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12). And the God who has already won the war through His Son promises to stand with us in every skirmish we face.

So let us hold fast. Keep raising your torch. Keep resisting evil with good. Stand firm in the unshakable promises of God—that He loves His people without fail and that He will never abandon us. *"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4)

Avoiding Scorched Earth: Self-Control in our Words

Elder Jonathan Moseley
Tifton, Georgia

Did you ever play with matches as a kid? Did your parents get really upset when they found out? Why were our parents so concerned with us playing with fire? They knew that we could easily burn the whole house down. While they couldn't see the future, their maturity and life experiences allowed them to think beyond the immediate moment and anticipate the potential consequences of a little fire growing into a devastating one.

But as kids, we saw only a small glowing flame, on a single piece of wood, no bigger than a tooth pick. It

actually looked a lot like a birthday candle, which never hurt anyone, so what could it hurt . . .

As Christians, we are called to Grow and Mature in our walk with the Lord to move beyond seeing only the immediate short term moment and instead seeing the potential consequences from our choices. One area that **Everyone** has room to grow is exercising **Self-Control** in our **Words**. The Word of God describes our tongues (our words) as being like little fires, which are capable of causing devastating harm. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity" (James 4:1)

In the heat of the moment and in the rush of emotion, there is a certain smug level of satisfaction with lashing out in anger with a sharp and biting retort, but this is a deceptive and fleeting emotion. With just a few cruel or careless words, we can easily cause severe damage to our relationships as well as to our Christian witness.

As a follower of Christ, we are charged with following his example and his word. Was Christ tested by people regularly? Did they bring false accusations against him? Was he hated and despised by many? Absolutely, and through it all, he showed perfect restraint - particularly in his words.

This is his Example. What does his word say? "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let **every man** be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the **wrath** of man worketh **not** the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20) My anger doesn't glory God nor do my hastily uttered words. I need to be quicker to listen and slower to speak. Is this a really high standard? **Certainly**. Will we achieve it perfectly? **No**. But we still need to acknowledge that this is the standard, and recognize that we **CAN** grow closer to it from where we are today.

Let us begin to day to exercise more self control over our words and strive to glorify the Lord both in our deeds and our words. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Colossians 4:6)

Suggested Reading: Psalm 39 – "1) I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. 2) I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. 3) My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue, 4) Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am. 5) Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. 6) Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. 7) And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.

8) Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish. 9) I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it. 10) Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand. 11) When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah. 12) Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. 13) O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more."

A Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have not exercised self-control over my words and I have sinned against you and against others on many occasions. Lord, help me to be diligent to be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger so I can live a life that is closer to the perfect example of my Lord and Savior. Father, I desire to please you with every aspect of my life and so please, help me to speak in a way that glories you and builds up others around. In the name of my Lord Jesus I pray. Amen.

THE LORD IS GOOD

Elder J.C. Stanaland
Panama City, Florida

"The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him."- Lamentations 3:25

In this present life, there are many distractions, temptations, and painful and discouraging trials; but, those who stand firm in the Lord's service are blessed even in the midst of their troubles. Jeremiah declares, "The LORD is good unto them"; that is, He lets us feel His presence with us, He hears our prayers, He sends the "Comforter" (John 14:16), His angel encampeth around us (Psalm 34:7), He gives us grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16), and comforts us with hope of eternal Heaven (Matthew 25:34).

"The LORD" grants such "good" "unto them that wait for him", "that seeketh him". To "wait for him" and "seek... him" is to patiently endure the troubles of this present life, focusing our attention and love upon Him. To "wait for him" and "seek... him" is to (even in the very midst of our trials) strive with all diligence to attend and take part in His Church, to regularly and often speak to Him in prayer, to read and learn His Word, to uncompromisingly worship him in spirit and in truth, to openly declare Him in our daily lives, to show our love to Him by obeying His commandments, and to be gracious and good to those around us as He is gracious and good to us.

CHURCH NEWS

Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, Oxford, MS. March 20-21, 2026. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Antioch Primitive Baptist Church, 1411 Van Buren Ave, Oxford, MS, on the 4th weekend of March 2026 (Mar. 20-21). Services will be on Friday night, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. (no supper) and Saturday, March 21, at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services. Elder Gary Rhodes, pastor of Fuller Chapel PBC in Little Rock, Arkansas, is the invited minister.

New Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut, MS. March 28-29, 2026. New Salem Primitive Baptist Church, Walnut, MS will host its Annual Meeting on the 5th weekend of March 2026 (Mar. 28-29, 2026). Services will on Saturday, March 28, at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon services, and on Sunday, March 29, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Guest ministers for the meeting are Elder Jeremy Horton of Rector PBC in Rector, Arkansas and Elder Tony Lester of Beulah PBC in Saltillo, MS. We invite you to come worship with us. Elder Dwayne DuBard is the Pastor of New Salem.

Starkville PB Fellowship, Starkville, MS. March 28, 2026. For the past 11 years, Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church has held a worship meeting each Wednesday evening in close proximity to Mississippi State University to minister to students and to those in the area who desired a mid-week worship service. It has been our pleasure to tend to many young Primitive Baptist students from all over the South in those years.

With a desire to reconnect with those with whom we've worshipped over those years, we announce a homecoming meeting to be held on March 28th, 2026, at 10am. We will have worship, then dinner and fellowship at our present location of meeting in the facilities of New Covenant Church, 200 W. Garrard Rd, Starkville, MS. We hope to have former students and their families as well as all who desire to come. This meeting is open to all!

We have members' homes available for guests. If a hotel is preferred, please contact Eld Joe Nettles at 912-585-9025 by call or text, and we'll be pleased to assist you in getting accommodations arranged.

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. March 29, 2026. New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will host the 5th Sunday night fellowship meeting in March 2026 (March 29). Worship at 5:30pm, followed by supper afterwards.. This meeting rotates between New Prospect, Laodicea, Bethany, and Hopewell Primitive Baptist churches.

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting. Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church, Dothan, AL. March 26-29, 2026. Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church will be hosting 2026 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting on the 5th weekend in March. Services: Services begin at 6 pm on Thursday night, March 26, there will be no meal served that evening. Friday, March 27 with singing beginning at 10 am and preaching to follow. Lunch at noon. Afternoon services begin with singing at 1:30 pm with preaching to follow. Supper at 5:30 pm. Services begin with singing at 6:30 pm and preaching to follow. Saturday services, March 28, will begin with singing at 10 am with preaching to follow. Lunch will be served at noon. Afternoon service will begin with singing at 1:30 pm and preaching to follow. Sunday, March 29, service to begin with singing at 10:30 and preaching to follow. Lunch will be served at noon. Your prayers, support, attendance, and fellowship would be greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and keep you all. Elder Paul Evans, pastor of Little Vine church. Church Address: Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church, 1588 Honeysuckle Road, Dothan, Alabama 36303. Contact: Pastor, Elder Paul Evans (334)701-9321; Deacon brother Birdie Bond (334)405-9131; Deacon brother Christopher Grimes (334) 200-1077.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

We have been endeavoring to teach our youngest son Eli (Age 6) the biblical way one acquires money. He has been getting some cash for doing various chores around the house, and his grandmother (Sandra Wise) "bought" some artwork he did. One day he had his piggy bank out and I asked him where he got all that money. To which he replied, "You know, business." (JW)

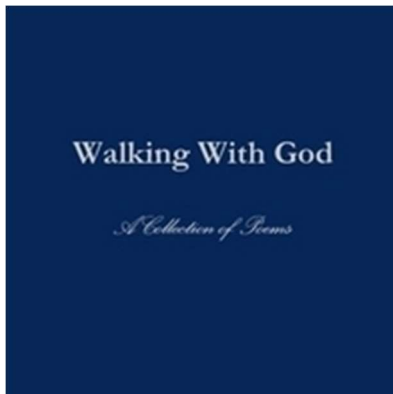
NOTE FROM ELDER HAROLD HUNT

Editor's note: Elder Harold Hunt of Maryville, TN, has been in the ministry for 75 years and has published and nationally distributed booklets for many decades. Titles like The Doctrines of Grace, The King James Version, and The Real John Calvin. He is passing the torch to Elder Brad Hansard to continue this work. This is his letter to his readers and subscribers. If you have a desire to contribute to this work, please send donations to Elder Brad Hansard, 297 Angela Lane, Dawsonville, GA 30534.

I appreciate my readers and your loyal support for all these years. For a long time, I have looked around for somebody to help and to carry on with the work when I am gone. Elder Brad Hansard from Georgia has lately been doing some good writing, and I have had

my eye on him for some time. He is young and energetic. He is sincere and dedicated, and he seems to have his head on straight. More than that, he has expressed an interest in putting out a church paper. He seems to be a perfect fit for the job. So, beginning January 1, I will still be writing, hopefully more than ever, but Brad will assume most of the editorial responsibilities, and I will be available to provide such help as I can. Brad's family seems anxious to help. The extra time will allow me to do some more writing, and I will submit any writing I do to Brad for his consideration. He will probably use some of it right away, and other material he will probably save to use later when needed. Brad and I will both be writing and searching for material. However much longer I might stay down here, my prayer continues to be, God grant me to die at my post, still telling the grand old story. "Lord, let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" (Numbers 23:10) - Elder Harold Hunt

FEATURED BOOK



Walking With God, by Ralph Harris

A collection of 460 poems by the long-time editor of the *Advocate and Messenger*, a Primitive Baptist periodical. Sections include poetry on The Character of God, Salvation by Grace, The Glory of Christ, Christian Experience, The Hope of Heaven, The Word of God, Godly Living and more.

“Modern folk, especially Christian people, need to rediscover the importance of poetry...I know of nothing so conducive to the fruitful Christian discipline of meditation as good poetry. More than once in my life, I’ve reached for a book of hymn-poems to breathe life into my languid faith and cold heart. The devotional benefit spawned by reflection on sublimely worded, theologically-sound lyrics cannot be overstated.”
 – from the “Foreword” by Michael Gowens

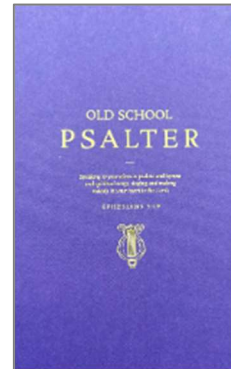
You may purchase this book at the link below:

<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/walking-with-god-a-collection-of-poems/>

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/>

OLD SCHOOL PSALTER



The Old School Hymnal Corporation is excited to announce the release of the Old School Psalter. Sing the beautifully crafted lyrics of the 1650 Scottish Psalter to tunes from the Old School Hymnal (No. 12 & Centennial Editions).

To purchase follow this link below:
<https://www.oldschoolhymnal.com/product/old-school-psalter>

THAT LITTLE OLD CHURCH ALBUM



The Old School Hymnsingers have a new album! You can stream the album on all major streaming platforms and download digital files from Amazon, Apple, etc. by searching That Little Old Church.

Physical CD's are available for purchase through Sovereign Grace Publications:
<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/that-little-old-church/>

INTERCESSION OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

“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.” (Hebrews 4:14-16)

I can't think of anything that we need, that could be better than grace. The longer I live, the more of life's experiences I pass through, the more I see my own weaknesses and failings, the more I see the faithfulness of God to me (and to all of His people), the more thankful I am for the grace of God. It is unmerited favor bestowed upon undeserving individuals. Whether or not His people perceive that truth, or appreciate that truth, or stop to think about that truth, our Great High Priest IS passed into the heavens, He IS touched with the feelings of our infirmities, and He IS there to make intercession for us as we approach that throne of grace for the things we need.

The apostles witnessed His ascension as Jesus was taken up into a cloud. (Acts 1:9) As they continued to “look steadfastly toward heaven as He went up” angels delivered this glorious truth, “... this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11) By faith, the child of God can receive and rejoice in that truth; and, let us hold fast to that, because if He is not there, no praying shall ever be heard (in the sense of being heard and answered. There is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (see 1st Timothy 2:5); and now, He is at the right hand of God to receive our petitions and make intercession for us. Hebrews 7:25 says, “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.” Hold fast daily to this great promise that He is there making intercession for us – always.

Further, unlike Old Testament priests who were mere men with limitations and imperfections, our Great High Priest is “touched” with the feeling of our infirmities. That means He precisely (in the absolute sense) knows and understands exactly what the need is, whether the one praying knows or can communicate it in words to Him or not. And, a great part of the help we receive in going to Him, is that we know He knows, He cares, and He is well able to supply our need.

Now the reality is, “we know not what we should pray for as we ought.” (Rom 8:26) We have ideas of the needs we want addressed, but there is no doubt that we need far more than we realize – and some of that may be different than those things for which we are

asking in words. This is exactly why we need the Spirit's help - to lift up a correct petition all the way to the throne-room of God, and touch the One at His right hand, who is there to make intercession for us. When Jesus was here on earth, he told us plainly that the Father “hearest me always.” (John 11:42) And now that He has perfectly finished all the Father sent Him to do, how much more should we rest and “hold fast” to the certainty that the Father hears Jesus' loving intercessions for us.

By grace we have this – not because we are good enough, but because Jesus IS good enough. And that is why we can come boldly to Him. That boldness is through faith – in humility, and in confidence in God's grace - not arrogance of self worth. Thus, God has mercifully and lovingly provided all of this for us, “that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” When we approach Him properly, we will obtain mercy and permission for or petition to be heard at His throne. If that petition has reached His throne, then rest assured it will be answered, because the Spirit would not lift it up to Him without it being in accord with His will. (1st John 5:14) But know this, that His answer will be “grace to help” as He perfectly knows your true need. And while you may be asking for something entirely different, trust and rest in confidence that He answers with perfect wisdom and with a love for you that greatly surpasses the love of anyone else. That's why His grace is sufficient. It always addresses your need.

Now, go read our text again and set your soul in frame before your next petition.

JUDGE NOT

By Elder Charles Holden
Jackson, Mississippi

“*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*” (Matt. 7:1) As I meditate on this passage, I am learning that Jesus is not merely correcting my behavior, but shaping my heart. This text teaches me that the way I view and respond to others reveals much about my own walk with God. Matthew 7:1 calls me to slow down, to examine myself honestly, and to remember that I live daily by grace, not merit.

Jesus' command speaks directly to the heart. It confronts my natural tendency to evaluate others while excusing myself. When I judge, I often base my conclusions on what I see outwardly, forgetting that God alone knows the heart. This verse reminds me that judgment belongs to the Lord, not to me.

“*For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*” (Matt. 7:2) Through this verse, I am learning that my words and attitudes matter deeply. Every time I speak critically or form

harsh opinions, I set a standard that will be applied back to me. Christ is teaching me to choose mercy over severity, knowing that a gracious spirit reflects His own heart.

“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:3) Here, the Lord is teaching me to practice self-examination. I am learning how easily I can see the small faults of others while remaining blind to my own larger sins—pride, impatience, unkind speech, and a lack of love. This verse calls me to look inward before I ever look outward.

“Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:4) From this, I am learning that correction without humility becomes hypocrisy. When I speak without first allowing God to deal with my heart, my words lose their weight and wound rather than heal.

“Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” (Matt. 7:5) This verse teaches me that restoration, not condemnation, is the goal. God calls me to judge myself first, repent sincerely, and only then help others with clarity and compassion.

As I reflect on this passage, I acknowledge the times I have judged too quickly, spoken too sharply, and assumed motives that were not mine to judge. I confess my pride and my failure to extend the same grace to others that You have extended to me. God please teach me to be more aware of my own need for mercy before addressing the faults of others.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

Elder Marty Smith
Woodstock, Georgia

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

How can you "let your light so shine before men" when the Lord Jesus Christ, in Matthew 6:1-18, teaches you to make your giving, praying, and fasting private? To me, the harmony of the teachings in Matthew 5 and Matthew 6 rests in the context and in the meaning of the word "so" in Matthew 5:16.

The word "so" can be used in several ways in the English language, and two of those ways are: (1) As an indicator of degree, "This house is SO large", (2)

As a descriptor of placement or procedure, "Set the lumber SO, and it will not fall off the truck."

Is "so" in Matthew 5:16 either of these meanings? Yes, it is the second usage. If you love Jesus Christ and desire to follow Him, it is not a matter of getting to be a light - you already are a light. It is not a matter of getting that light to shine more brightly, so that men are more able to see your generosity, prayers, and fasts.

Letting your light "so shine" is a matter of putting yourself in the location and position commanded by the Lord. What is that? Jesus Christ had just described it in Matthew 5:15: *The light should go on the candlestick. What does that mean? Consider this scripture: [Revelation 1:19-20] Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*

Join the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Place your light on that candlestick, where others will see it there and glorify, not you, but glorify your Heavenly Father.

I AM THE LORD

Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Exodus 6:2-3: And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers."

These four words – I Am the Lord – is found several times in the scriptures. It is a name and title given to our divine Lord. It should be a comfort and inspiration to every child of God. We hope to write a few words in just what exactly it means, I Am the Lord.

In our above passage the Lord appears to Moses to instruct him to lead the children of Israel out of bondage. He refers to himself as Jehovah. Jehovah and the name Lord are synonymous with one another. So we will use the word Lord for the remainder of our article. God tells Moses that he and Israel will know him as the Lord, unlike his forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who knew him only as I Am. I Am means the true God that is eternal, immutable, and covenant making God. He made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The covenant was that he would give to their seed, the land in which they were strangers – the land of Canaan.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not live to see the fulfillment of the covenant that God, made with them. When the seed of Abraham, the children of Israel came into the land of Canaan, possessing that land, they saw the **fulfillment** of the covenant that God made with Abraham. Thus by seeing the **fulfillment**, they the children of Israel knew him as the Lord. A God that makes a covenant and fulfills that covenant. They are now owners of this land, where their forefathers walked on as strangers. God gave to them this land as a heritage. Covenant made and fulfilled. **I Am the Lord!**

There is another covenant that God has made with all his children. The eternal covenant that shall have no end to it. This covenant was made before the foundation of the earth was ever laid. Ephesians 1:4-5: *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.* The Father and the Son entered into the covenant before the foundation of the world. Then at the appointed time, God sent his Son. 1 John 4:9: *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.* John 1:14 tells us that the Son was made flesh. He came as flesh and blood though without sin and fulfilled all the legal work that was to be done by dying on the cross, telling us that it was finished

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.* How many of the children did Jesus save? All of them. John 6:39: *And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.* Now that all the legal work has been fulfilled, there is nothing that is separating us from God. All that remains is for that great day, that when time shall end, and our corrupt bodies be made incorruptible. We mortals shall be made immortal. Body soul, and spirit shall reunite to part no more. Then we shall see that he is the Lord, who made a covenant with us and fulfilled on that great day that we go home to be with him in heaven! **I Am the Lord.**

PUT YOUR EXPECTATION IN GOD ALONE

Elder Michael Gowens (2014)
Calabash, North Carolina

I suspect that much of our disappointments in life arise from faulty and/or unrealistic expectations. It is unrealistic, in other words, to pin one's hopes on a fellow human being. Another person can not make me

happy or solve my problems any more than a little girl's baby doll can meet her needs.

A four-year-old girl held a baby doll in each arm, weeping as she rocked. When her mother inquired the cause of her sadness, the little lady replied, "Momma, I love them and love them and love them, but they never love me back."

Of course, she did not yet grasp that they had eyes but could not see, ears but could not hear, and arms but could not hug. When a person pins his expectations on another human being, he will inevitably be as disappointed as the little girl was in her dolls, for people are just people. They are limited in what they can do.

The same goes for money. The late Robert Horton said the greatest lesson he learned in life was that people who set their hearts on money were equally disappointed, whether they had it or not. Money's capacity to satisfy someone's needs is, likewise, limited. Someone has remarked that money can buy a bed, but not sleep; it can buy books, but not brains; it can buy food, but not satisfaction; a house, but not a home; medicine, but not health; amusement, but not joy.

The best approach to life, of course, is to place our expectations only on the Lord. He alone is capable of satisfying every need and resolving every problem. David learned this important principle: *"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved"* (Ps. 62:5-6). When God alone is the focus of your hopes and expectations, everyone and everything around you assumes its proper shape and size.

"Complete in him! How can there be any more condemnation to a people who are complete in Jesus? To be complete is to lack nothing, but to be without blemish, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. But why are they complete in Him? It is because Jesus, as their Surety, rendered complete obedience to the law for them; and that obedience is reckoned to them as their obedience, just the same as if they had rendered that complete obedience themselves...No man, therefore, can claim or hope for righteousness and salvation through his own supposed obedience and righteousness, which in God's word is called Filthy Rags, but alone through the obedience of Christ and His imputed righteousness thereby." -Elder J.H. Purifoy, (1883)

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