

Glad Tidings

March

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

As we view the pervasive wickedness around us every day, it is sometimes tempting to say the world has never been more evil.

We live in a world perfectly made by God but later corrupted by sin. The fall of man into a state by nature of death in sins is the reason man brings forth corrupt fruit. The things we see in abundance- selfishness, lust for power, greed, violence, sexually immorality, jealousy, to name several- are not new and have been documented since the earliest civilizations. Since then despicable acts, bloody conflicts and atrocities have occurred in the name of empire, culture, religion, ego/ personal gain, and many times for no apparent reason other than pleasure. Remember just within little more than the past century there have been genocides and political murders with victims in the tens of millions. It has been decades since we witnessed something like that, and we are currently in a prolonged absence, historically speaking, of great power conflict and the mass levels of suffering those produce, one that has more to do with nuclear weapons rather than nations being more peaceful.

So it is helpful to put the things we witness into a proper historical perspective. It is true, of course, that in our American society basic moral values and belief in God were once much more common, and it is no doubt a shock to the older generations who can see those drastic changes happen within their own lifetime. Furthermore, modern mass media exposes us to more evil, much more often than in times gone by. As an aside, such real time knowledge of wickedness, and potential dangers, is detrimental to us. In Ecclesiastes 1, scripture declares the following: “For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow” (vs. 18). So I would encourage you, child of God, to stay responsibly informed but unplug as much as you possibly can from the 24-hour news cycle.

It is also important to understand that although the world might not be any “worse” than in the past at present, it WILL. Paul tells us that “in the last days perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:1) and that “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse” (2 Tim. 3:13). In fact, we could be in the beginning of that downward spiral, but it will not be because men will be uniquely wicked or have more evil desires. Solomon taught by the Holy Spirit that “the thing that hath been, it is the thing which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” (Ecc. 1:9) It is rather because God will

give “them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Rom. 1:28). I understand this to be mean God pulls back some (emphasis added) of His restraining hand over evil in this world (Ps. 76:10) and suffers mankind to reap the consequences. It seems from scripture that the wickedness of the end times world will equal and perhaps exceed that of the pre-flood world which was destroyed by God. This makes logical sense, since God will also destroy the world in a permanent manner at His appointed end of time: “...in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up.” (2 Pet. 3:10).

This all might seem depressing. Considering the wicked world we now inhabit and knowing what is to come, how can we remain diligent to serve Jesus Christ? However, Christian, take heart, we have an anchor of our soul rooted in heaven and the blood of our Great High Priest!! Paul wrote of the trials he faced for the gospel that “we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” (2 Cor. 4:8-9) Yes, the followers of Christ will continue to face more and more backlash as the eschatological calendar progresses, but God has promised providential protection for His church (Matt. 16:18) Nahum 1:7 was true then and will be true in the darkest of times, “The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

However, the standard of godliness is not changed no matter how much rampant evil runs and how unjust our treatment. The biggest reason we can press forward is the example of Jesus, who walked this way before us. “For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.” (Heb. 12:3) The Lord has also promised to be strengthen us with the remainder that “there hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man...” (1 Cor 10:13)

Remember that vengeance belongeth to the Lord and there is coming a day in which that will be manifest for the entire world to see. In the meantime, remember that our steadfastness in the face of evil brings glory to God. “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.” (1 Pet. 4:19) We must trust in God and His faithfulness to give us grace as we live in this broken world. (Jonathan Wise)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING CHANGE

Dear Friends, Due to the cost of printing and postage, the Glad Tidings mailings have been running a deficit the last few years, despite the very generous contributions of our readers and churches. With those fixed costs in mind, **beginning in May 2026 we plan to begin issuing Glad Tidings bi-monthly** – so 6 newsletters a year, rather than 12 – but do plan to increase the length to 15 pages (rather than 11), and see how the annual finances look in that arrangement. Also, managing 6 newsletters a year, rather than 12, will be much more manageable upon us both who are both in different seasons of life than our dad was when he was the editor. We are both bi-vocational, have young families, and numerous other ministerial responsibilities, rather than retired as our dad was as the previous editor. We want to continue to offer the Glad Tidings newsletter with no subscription fee, so we feel this new frequency can help us attempt to meet that goal. We are committed to continuing to provide this newsletter through the mail, as we know many people enjoy a paper copy. If you would prefer an email version to replace or in addition to a paper copy, please let us know at the email address below. We always appreciate your generous donations whenever you think of us. We hope this paper is a blessing to all our readers. God bless! -From Editors, Jonathan & David Wise

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

Email Subscription – If anyone would like to receive an email copy of the newsletter, you can just email **gladtidingspb@gmail.com** to get added. Even if you primarily read the paper copy, having a digital version in your email is great to check info or read on the go.

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

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

Elder Jonathan Wise & Elder David Wise, Co-Editors

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Elder Larry Wise (1944-2024)

The atmosphere in which we live today makes it very difficult to discern who is telling the truth. I remember an episode of "Murder She Wrote" in which she (Jessica Fletcher) was appointed to fill the position of a legislator. When she met an influential member of the legislature, he gave her a spill about a certain canary bill. After his speech, she looked him in the eye and said, "Very good; you didn't even bat an eye whether what you said was true or untrue." That seems to be the case today as politicians, news media and people in general can tell a lie and never bat an eye.

Jesus is coming again to take His ransomed bride home but we are scripturally told some signs that will precede His coming. Paul writes Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" (I Tim. 4:1-2). This is expressly stated by the Spirit that there will be a departure and "the faith" that is departed from is "the faith" that was once delivered to the saints for which we are commanded to contend. We are not to compromise with the world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind.

Some are speaking lies in hypocrisy and have their conscience seared with a hot iron. Though they may give the appearance of concern in certain areas, they are past feeling any true sensitivity as they are branded with the lies which they actually believe to be the truth. They can give their spill for the public's consumption and never bat an eye as the politician did on "Murder She Wrote". When men and women can smile and celebrate passing a bill into law that gives legal permission to kill a baby just prior to being born into the world indicates one past feeling or having been seduced by the doctrines of devils.

Paul also writes Timothy and tells him that in the last days perilous times would come. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (II Tim. 3:2-5).

These aren't the most pleasant scriptures to read but we are warned not to be partakers with these evil doers but indeed to turn away from their heinous deeds. Timothy was told that evil men would wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. So what are the disciples of Christ to do when the ungodly seem to rule the roost? The answer is the same thing Paul told Timothy: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,

knowing of whom thou hast learned them;" (II Tim. 3:14). Satan and his angels are surely having a great time as he runs (rather walks) rampant seeking whom he may devour. He has to wreck havoc now because he knows he is doomed to be cast into the lake of fire.

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica and told them that the day of the second coming of the Lord (the day of Christ) was not at hand which some had concluded from his first letter to them. (II Thess. 2:2). His writing to them is consistent with what he wrote to Timothy when he said, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" (II Thess. 2:3). There will be a "falling away" or defection from the truth prior to the day of Christ or His second coming.

Surely we see such a falling away today as many have left the assembly of the saints and religious leaders with their congregations are embracing those things the Bible condemns. Homosexuals are being ordained to the ministry and anyone condemning such activity is considered a bigot. Women are being ordained and chosen as pastors, even though the Bible commands they be silent in the church in a teaching capacity. Biblical marriage between a man and a woman is being made a mockery and the list grows ever too long.

We should not expect for things to improve a great deal for the children of God as the devil continues to spread his lies. We can rest with Paul and others knowing that the Lord shall soon be coming in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ; who will be punished with everlasting destruction. (II Thess. 1:7-9). The wicked have always plotted against the just but the Lord will have the last laugh: "The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming." (Psalm 37:13). Stay the course children of God. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. (March 2019)

SON OF PEACE

By Elder Jerry Wise
Pontotoc, Mississippi

We've all at some point in time have entered into a home and there felt a warmth of peace, receptive of godly conversation with a certain gentleness that the character and disposition was welcoming to God's grace and presence.

King David looked for such a place for he and his men might find rest and provisions for their bodies. David sent messengers to a man of such means with plenty. The man's name was Nabal. David instructed his men what to say. *"And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou*

hast." (1 Samuel 25:6) This message did not go well with Nabal; no peace there.

In Luke 10:6, we find Jesus instructing his disciples on their laboring in the fields of men and the harvest thereof. Though Christ has taught them in love and peace, he's sending them as lambs among wolves. As some people will be receptive to their message while others will not. *"And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again."* (Luke 10:5-6)

We know from scripture even Jesus was not received at times. For those with whom the apostles were received, we find the son of peace – or may we say that the Spirit of God – had visited that home before any disciple had ever reached out to them.

Labors of Christ's message can never take credit for this peace, nor for their work, because just as the son of peace was shown to them upon any house they entered that same peace had entered their hearts by God's working power. *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,"* (Eph. 1:18-19)

"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!!!!!!!

What was the significance of King Joash striking the ground with the arrows at Elisha's death bed in 2 Kings 13:18-19?

By Elder Joe Nettles
Hamilton, Mississippi

King Joash of Israel came to mourn at the death bed of the great prophet, Elisha. Elisha first ordered Joash to shoot an arrow out of the window while he placed his hand on his, indicating that "thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them." Joash should have been greatly emboldened by this word of God from the mouth of one of the greatest prophets known to Israel. However, when Elisha then commanded Joash to take the arrows (which were obviously serving a symbolic purpose) and smite the ground with them, Joash "...smote thrice, and stayed." This made Elisha livid! "...Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice." Elisha was here conveying to Joash

that he didn't need to sell the Lord short. Jehovah was well able to deliver Israel to the fullest, but Joash, rather than exercising great zeal with vigorous thrashing, gave a half-hearted effort. Why? Because he lacked confidence and zeal in the Lord's power to deliver and to vanquish the foes of his people. Sad, very sad. I'm sure Elisha had pleasant remembrances on his death bed of the powers of his Lord that he beheld during his ministry. He witnessed his father in the office of prophet, Elijah, translated to heaven. The Lord blessed Elisha to part the Jordan River. He was blessed to heal unhealthy waters, saw ditches fill with water in the desert without rain, saw a widow's sons saved by the miraculous filling of pots with oil, blessed the Shunammite woman to have a son and then raised that son from death, saw Naaman's leprosy cured, saw an axe head swim, and on and on! Now, before his death bed he witnessed a half-hearted, disappointing, deflating effort by the leader of Israel. Joash needed to be reminded of what we as Jesus' disciples need to be reminded of...we have an incomprehensibly big, powerful, gracious God. Why would we approach him in prayer with doubts or give a half-hearted witness to what he's done for us? "I am the Lord thy God...open thy mouth wide and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10)!

BY FAITH

By Elder Rusty Wise
Tupelo, Mississippi

Do you believe because of "irrefutable evidence" presented by men, or do you believe by faith as the word of God testifies of it?

I was not present during the week of creation, yet by faith I believe Genesis chap 1, John 1:1-3. Man's "irrefutable evidence" says that it was not a week, and that it was not 6,000 years ago; yet by faith I believe 1 Cor 1:27-29, Hebrews 11:1-3.

Not only men of the world, but men of great report among Gods people have declared some, "irrefutable ideas". There are those that profess that an unbroken lineage of Christ continues to exist until the second coming. That these men are "infallible", that they are "equal" to Christ, and that the doctrine and law of God are subject to change at their own will as the human race changes. Interesting enough, so far all of these men have died and remain buried. Yet I believe Mal 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, Matt 17:1-5, Jude 1-4.

Those same men contend that you must confess your sins before them, that you might receive forgiveness. Yet I believe in 1 John 1:9-10. It is not my contention to belittle these people, but to point out this one fact; the best of men are still just men at best. They eat sleep and breath and sin and die. Why, because of the nature of sin which surrounds them in their corruptible bodies. It is something we shall not escape until death overtakes us.

That is why the grace of an almighty God is so precious to a little child of God. It is not based on grace plus anything. Not of good works, not on belief, not on hearing and understanding the gospel, not on the works of men to perform for you, but pure exact unadulterated grace.

Ephesians 2:5: "*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*"

Does that mean now we can just act like dogs and do as we please? Romans 6:1-2: "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*"

I say all of this to say that the church kingdom which was established by Christ is a refuge for Gods people while we "live in this world". If we are to enjoy that kingdom "now", then we must do some things to show evidences of our new birth; hear the gospel, believe, repent, confess and be baptized. That we may walk as disciples of our Saviour Jesus Christ. There is a hope we can live in "now" in this world, that we may be filled with joy in the life to come. And enjoy the great hope to come.

Many will try to twist this refuge into a lifeboat. Remember the church is a wonderful blessing while we live in this world. However, the grace of God has already prepared us for our eternal home. God at some point between conception and death has born us again and made us a new creature. Ezek. 36:24-27, 2 Cor 5:17-18, Titus 3:4-6. Jesus has secured our salvation with his precious blood, Heb 1:3, Heb 10:14. He has performed all that was necessary to secure his people; he foreknew us, he predestinated us, he called us, he justified us, and he glorified us.

Was anything overlooked or left out? Man is always looking for a way to rob God of his glory, however it is God that will ultimately be glorified as every knee bows and confesses him to be Lord. Don't be confused by man's knowledge and wisdom. Look unto God, the author and finisher of our faith.

Always remember that your salvation is secured not because of man's reasoning such as John Gill, John Calvin, Jacob Arminius, John Spurgeon, Pope anybody, RC Sproul, Arthur Pink, or John MacArthur, but by none other than Jesus Christ. This I believe by faith and through faith!!!

Beauty for Ashes - Garments of Righteousness

Elder Jonathan Moseley
Tifton, Georgia

Early in Jesus's ministry, he made his first visit back to the town where he grew up, Nazareth. There in the synagogue on the Sabbath day, he stood and read a short passage from Isaiah 61. Afterwards, he sat down, and as everyone there stared at him, he told

them that this 750+ year old prophecy had been fulfilled that very day.

This is what he read: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon **me**; because the Lord hath anointed **me** to **preach good tidings** unto the **meek**; he hath sent **me to bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim **liberty** to the **captives**, and the **opening** of the **prison** to them that are **bound**; to **proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**,"

Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't come seeking the perfect and righteous? Jesus didn't come to applaud those that have it already all figured out. No, he was anointed by the Father to come and declare good news to the poor, humble, meek, broken, distressed, captured and imprisoned.

Our sins have bound us. We are imprisoned by them. We have no righteousness to plead before a Holy God. We are, at best, poor beggars who need mercy. We are exactly the ones that Jesus came to seek, find, and deliver.

If you can see that you are sinner today, then you have something to rejoice about...because your eyes have been opened to the reality that you are not sufficient and that you need deliverance from your sins, which Jesus has already provided on his Cross.

Isaiah 61 continues explaining the Christ's purpose: "to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them **beauty for ashes**" Isaiah 61:3

Back then, it was common to put on rough clothing (sackcloth) and sprinkle **ashes** on your head as outward signs of grief. The **beauty** being given in exchange for the ashes is an ornamental head dress like something a bride or a groom would wear for a wedding.

"**He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels". Isaiah 61:10

Jesus, who is the God of all comfort, came to comfort those that are grieving and to change mourners into a people prepared for a great wedding. Your clothes of grief and shame have been exchanged for a robe of Jesus's own righteousness. Let us rejoice in the Lord and in his mighty work of mercy today.

DNA – CURIOSLY WROUGHT

By Elder Michael Ivey
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

"14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:14-16)

This passage suggests God inspired the Psalmist to write about DNA ~2800 years before science discovered its existence! The phrase "curiously wrought" conveys a concept of skillfully weaving by fashioning a mixture of segments together as a variegated whole. This description fits how DNA is formed and its function in fashioning all of one's members. A person's genetic code is composed of spiral strands of DNA which are fashioned when two alleles are combined, one of which is provided from the father's DNA the other by the mother's. Each allele contains genes from the respective parent and forms one side (one half) of the resulting DNA ladder-like, double-helix chromosome molecule. Combining of mother's and father's alleles to form a variegated DNA molecule occurs at conception and from this all other of a person's DNA is similarly fashioned. A person's DNA in total is composed of approximately 3 billion of these spiral strands which is called a genome. The genome provides the instructions by which the features and function of every cell, organ, system, and characteristic of our bodies are produced. In this manner God has "curiously wrought" all living things. Moreover, the earth is the point of origin for DNA, which in substance is made up of phosphate, sugar composed from carbon and hydrogen, and nitrogen all of which exist in various forms in and on the earth. All cells contain supercoiled strands of DNA and all the strands from a single cell if unwound and laid end-to-end are about two miles long! "How marvelous are thy works"!

LIFE AND FAVOUR COME FROM GOD

Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

Among the many lessons taught to us in the book of Job, one statement made by him teaches us several fundamental truths that, apparently, many are choosing to ignore in our culture today. In Job 10:12, we read, "Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." First of all, God is the giver of life. Life in man did not just happen, nor did it gradually evolve over millions of years: it originated with God. God is eternal, and He has always had this life in Himself. When He created all things, He made man last, breathed into His nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7) Thus, God gave life and designed the way for it to be passed from parents to their offspring. And so, it's foolish to debate when life begins, because God designed that a man and a woman can come

together and pass their life on to a newly formed child. (Genesis 4:1)

Next, not only has God given life, but He also does actively and knowledgably grant favor as He chooses. This world is not an aimless succession of actions and reactions. Not that God is controlling the acts of man, but He is sovereignly ruling over all and He is actively providing for His own. Men may ignore Him and refuse to acknowledge Him in this life, but they will confess Him when life is over. (Philippians 2:10) God's people will confess Him in love and eternal gratitude, but the rest will do so, perhaps gritting their teeth, in utter subjection to His almighty power. So, when God in His mercy grants His favor to us through-out our life here, we should be careful to thank Him for it and to lift up praises to His holy name.

Finally, Job says "thy visitation hath preserved my spirit." We know that eternal life is the gift of God through the life-giving voice of His Son. (John 5:25) But once that is given, how wonderful that He makes His presence known to us at times by His visits. And so, while we are eternally secure in Christ, His visits enliven us and give us the strength we need to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Aren't you glad that His visitation has preserved and will also continue to preserve our spirit?

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOPE

Elder Neil "Sonny" Phelan Jr.
Hot Springs, Arkansas

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

God has supplied his children with many beautiful graces. One of the most important of these is "Hope". While the world has its definition for hope, the hope that God promises is far better. The hope of the world is based upon conjecture. "Perhaps" or "maybe" are terms that describe the way most people use the word hope today. But the "hope" that God supplies his children with is much more substantial. Since "faith is the substance of things hoped for," (Hebrews 11:1) the ground for Biblical hope goes through faith, back to the one who has made the promise: God. Hope goes beyond the believing of the promise to the anticipation of the promise fulfilled. Therefore, hope is the anticipation of the promise coming to pass; the longing for promise; the desire to enjoy the fulfillment of the promise; the "I can't wait until it gets here".

Biblical hope is strong, resolute, and enduring, just like the God that made the promise. Paul describes hope as an anchor of the soul: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." (Hebrews 6:19) The anchor is a small part of a ship, but of vast

importance. What good is a ship without an anchor? It is by the anchor that the mighty ship may come in from the stormy sea and unlade its heavy cargo. It is by the anchor that the ship may come in to port and find rest. The anchor also exerted its calming influence as it was cast out of the ship when the storms were raging. Hope is to the soul as the anchor is to the ship. The soul must unlade its heavy cargo; it must encounter the many storms; it must come in to rest from time to time. An anchor must attach itself to something other than the billowing waves and the wind. It must penetrate through the storm and the waves to terra firma, something solid and immovable. And so must our hope. It must not attach itself to anything here on earth. These things are so transient. It must penetrate "within the veil".

Hope within the veil- the Hebrews well knew the meaning of this phrase. "Within the veil" spoke of the "Most Holy place" where the high priest entered once a year to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. It was a figure of heaven itself. Therefore, while the ship's anchor goes down to the earth, the believer casts his anchor up. Up, within the veil, to where Christ, the rock of ages, sits at the right hand of the Father. When our anchor is fastened upon this rock, the devil and all his angels can not tear the ship loose from its promise.

Many a ship has perished at sea because the anchor was absent on the voyage. Is your anchor intact? Paul would have the brethren at Thessalonica cast their anchor up when they longed for their loved ones that had departed this life. He would have their anchor rest in the same place as their loved ones: within the veil. So he wrote, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him". (I Thessalonians 4:13-14) Do you see the promise, the faith, and the longing for he fulfillment of the promise? Paul didn't tell them that they should not sorrow for their loved ones, but he reminded them that they should not sorrow as those who have no anchor. Since Jesus died and rose again, so will your loved ones. You will see them again when Jesus returns for He is going to bring them "with Him". Hope. How can we find the strength to take that final glance at our loved ones and walk away from the grave? Is it not by the strength that hope gives? Hope that they are presently resting with Jesus, happy, whole and secure. They are no longer suffering. They are at rest and we will fellowship with them again around the throne of God's glory. Have you experienced the importance of hope?

"I have read the Bible and found many errors, all of which were in me." - Greg Mathis

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 North 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.

Pine Hill Primitive Baptist Church, Ripley, MS. April 3-5, 2026. Pine Hill PBC will host a meeting for the revival of the living. We are praying for a gracious rain from above, and we humbly ask for your presence to come be with us the 1st Sunday weekend in April. Friday (April 3) sandwich supper at 6:00pm, and worship at 7:00pm. Saturday (April 4) at 10:30 am, lunch, 1:30 pm worship. Sunday (April 5) at 10:30 am with lunch. Our invited speaker is Elder Ronald Lawrence from Goodlettsville, TN. Come praying for revival not only for us, but for all of the churches in the vineyard of God. We are looking forward to an uplifting Holy Spirit filled and blessed meeting. A time when we can come with thanksgiving and praises unto our God for he is worthy to be praised. Brother and Sisters please come! Elder Rusty Wise is Pastor of Pine Hill.

Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS. April 10-12, 2026. Everyone is invited to the annual meeting at Chewalla Primitive Baptist Church, Potts Camp, MS the 2nd weekend in April 2026 (Apr. 10-12). Services Friday night (April 10) at 7:00pm. Saturday, (April 11), at 10:30am followed by lunch. No afternoon service. Sunday at 10:30am followed by communion service and then lunch. Elder Gary Rhodes, pastor of Fuller Chapel PBC in North Little Rock, Arkansas, is the invited minister. We would love to have you come and worship with us. Elder Jerry Wise is Pastor of Chewalla.

Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Caledonia, MS. April 10-12, 2026. Sulphur Springs Primitive Baptist Church will, Lord willing, host her annual meeting on April 10-12th, 2026. Elder Branan Hooven is the specially invited minister, but we also typically use other visiting preaching gifts as we feel led. Meeting schedule:

Fri - supper 6pm, service 7pm
 Sat - service 10am, dinner, service 1:30pm
 Sun - service 10:30, dinner

We are located at 40283 Wolfe Rd, Caledonia, MS (no mail, GPS only). We have members' homes available to keep guests. If a hotel is preferred, please contact Eld Joe Nettles by phone or text at 912-585-9025, and we will be pleased to make accommodations for you.

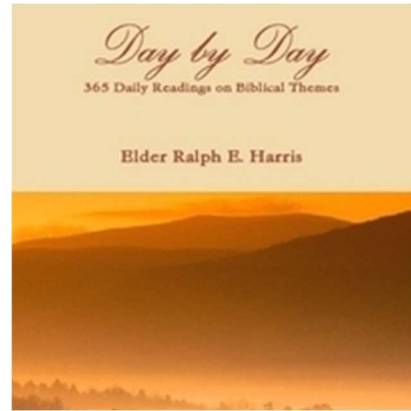
Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Maben, MS. April 25-26, 2026. Clear Springs Primitive Baptist Church at 55 Tahoe Rd in Maben, MS will host her annual spring fellowship meeting on the 4th weekend in April 2026. Services begin Saturday (April 25) at 10:00am, followed by lunch, and afternoon services beginning at 1:30pm. Sunday (April 26) worship services begin at 10:30am, followed by lunch. This will be an open meeting, so all ministers and our kindred in Christ are invited to attend. Elder David Wise is Pastor of Clear Springs.

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

While we were sitting on the porch, my nephew Charlie ran up to me scared of being stung and said, "Uncle Rooster, wasps, get the spray!" After we killed two wasps, he asked me, "Uncle Rooster, why did God create wasps?" Well, the only thing I could tell him is, "Honestly I don't know." Some of these pesky insects and animals don't seem to serve much positive value in God's creation, from my perspective. It is certainly a mystery to me why God made wasps, other than their sting being a reminder of the curse upon creation due to Adam's fall in the garden. Maybe wasps didn't sting before the fall, I don't know. But if anyone has any insight on the purpose of wasps – or gnats or quite a few other pesky creatures – in God's creation, please let me know so I can relay that mystery to young Charlie. (DW)

The Bible doesn't say God is "love, love, love," or "grace, grace, grace." The Bible says He is "holy, holy, holy." – R.C. Sproul

FEATURED BOOK



Day by Day, By Ralph Harris

A daily devotional is a useful resource to people living in a fast-paced world. Although there is no substitute for the daily discipline of reading and studying God's word, yet a book of brief devotional thoughts like this volume from Elder Ralph Harris may serve a spiritually beneficial purpose between opportunities for more intensive focus on the Scriptures.

These daily readings are subdivided into three primary sections, with the first containing the lion's share of the entries: Nuggets of Truth, Musings, and Bits & Pieces. Whether you use the book early in the morning as a springboard for meditation throughout the day, or in the evenings for a few moments of quiet reflection prior to retiring for the night, or as a minister's stimulus for ideas that may lead to sermon material, *Day by Day* will be a helpful resource to your daily walk of Christian discipleship.

You may purchase this book at the link below:
<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/day-by-day-365-daily-readings-on-biblical-themes/>

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/>

"In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar." (Zechariah 14:20)

WHERE IS GOD?

Elder Matt Jordan
Arab, Alabama

All of us at one time or another have probably asked the question, 'where is God when I can't feel His presence or His love?' We have all experienced times of loneliness, despair and discouragement; maybe as a result of failures and afflictions; perhaps physical, spiritual, emotional. And we begin to question God – question His presence, His love, His compassion, His grace, His wisdom, His judgment; we might even reach the point where we question His actual existence.

The trials of life wear us down and can weaken our faith. The foundation of our faith begins to be shaken. Part of that foundation is "The Lord knoweth them that are his" (2Tim.2:19). The Lord knows us. His knowledge of us is more than what is described as His omniscience. His knowledge of us as His people, His knowledge of you as His child is defined by the relationship He established with you; a relationship based on God's grace and the purpose He established before the world began in choosing you, loving you, predestinating you, adopting you, redeeming you, justifying you, reconciling you; all of which was secured and accomplished by the death of Jesus Christ; and then giving you spiritual life through the new birth by the operation of the Holy Spirit. He KNOWS you!

So, if God knows you in an intimate way, and His knowledge of you preceded the foundation of the world... where is He now? Where is God in the midst of your trials; while the afflictions of life are causing such despair that you can't feel His presence and you question His love? Where is He? Didn't He promise to never leave us or forsake us?

God is and will forever be true to His character and to His word. Perhaps the question we keep asking, 'where is God', should be interpreted to be more like 'what is keeping me from feeling Him'. We know where God is. He is where He has always been – everywhere! If we can't perceive Him, shouldn't we more quickly conclude it is because something else other than God has changed?

As children of God, who are in the world but not of the world, life is indeed a mixture of joys and sorrows. God has provided so many wonderful blessings for us to enjoy as we live in this world; the beauty of His creation, peace and joy in His kingdom, fellowship among His people, blessings both spiritual and material. But what about the times of sorrow that seem to never end? If God is still there, if He hasn't changed, if He hasn't moved, what *has* changed? What can I do to discover what it is that has changed and then be shown what to do about?

How does God typically speak to His children? He does communicate with us, doesn't He? But when we

can't feel His presence, something must be interfering with that communication, right? If we know how God normally speaks to us, perhaps we can begin there in our attempt to discover what has come between us and Him. How does He speak to us? The Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 1 that God spoke to us through the prophets in olden times, but "hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son". The Apostle John wrote in his account of the gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (1:1), and then "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (1:14). Jesus Christ was and is the Divine Expression of God. One commentator put it this way: 'the personal wisdom and power in union with God, his minister in creation and government of the universe, the cause of all the world's life both physical and ethical...' Think about Hebrews 4. The Word of God, which is quick and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, is proclaimed through the word of God, the gospel. The word declares the Word! God speaks to us today through His written and spoken word, the central focus of which is Christ Jesus our Lord, the Living Word!

So, if the communication line between God and me is not what it should be and not what I would like for it to be, I should more diligently seek the Living Word; first of all, directly through prayer. Then, through God's word. There are obstacles, interferences and all manner of distractions. Some are external and beyond our control; others, we have brought on ourselves or have allowed them to develop. Whether external or internal, whatever is interfering with our communication, and therefore relationship, with God, it requires relentless and persevering prayer. In Psalm 10:1, David asks, "Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?" Again, in Psalm 13:1, he asks, "How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?"

All of us, just like David, experience times when we can't feel God's presence. What did David do? He prayed. He sang. He prayed and sang about God's salvation. He prayed and sang about God delivering the humble. He praised God for His mercy. He called on the Lord to remember His servants, not for His servants' sakes, but for His name's sake. When David wondered about God's presence in the present, he recalled God's mercies of the past. Do you think David always *felt* like praying or praising? Sometimes this is what persevering in prayer means; praying whether or not it seems to be fervent or whether we feel like praying or not. Praising God in the storms and in the trials shouldn't be affected by our feelings or our perception. There are times that the only thing we can do is think of past blessings. But how often, in the midst of our mountaintop experiences, do we boldly proclaim, 'if God never blesses me again, I have every reason to thank Him and praise Him for eternity'? But

then, my beloved friends, when the blessing of His presence is withdrawn... how soon we forget our boldness of the past.

Is your communication with God experiencing interference? Are you missing His felt presence? Are you longing to feel His love? It may sound simple, but simply put... keep praying to God; keep reading His word; continue to meditate on past blessings; continue to seek the Living Word. You long for the mountaintops but don't fail to be thankful for past blessings. Remember the words of David, "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1) God is still there. He always has been. He always will be.

Excerpt from the Experience of Grace of Elder Samuel L. Dark

But, nevertheless, I saw him suspended in air, lying prone, with his head upon his arms, and ten thousand times ten thousand bolts of lightning striking the quivering form from every direction. I was moved to pity the object of such wrath. The passage of scripture that I had just read connected itself with the object of my wonder, and I exclaimed in my mind, "There he is; he is indeed risen." But there seemed no connection between all this and myself, more than sympathy for the suffering form which was the meekest object that mortal mind ever contemplated. But a few drops of blood leave the quivering form, and flying straight, strike my breast. A happy sense of relief flowed like a deluge over my soul. The blood was for me, and its efficacy had been felt. The blood flew everywhere, and was over everything, and by its efficacy all was made to glorify God.

I turned to look at my school; but what a transformation had taken place! Their faces all seemed glorified, and the homeliest was beautiful. I thought that I would go out to the place where I was accustomed to pray and see if it, too, had changed. I left the school room and found all nature glistening with the reflected rays of the sun, as though everything was covered with gold and silver. I reached the place, was convinced, and exclaimed, "It is enough." There was nothing now between me and heaven. Not a single thing could stand as an obstacle, since Christ had done everything that was to be done. He had put away my sins and so purified my heart that I should not sin any more. There was but one thing to cause me any trouble, and that was, there had been no way provided for me to show my gratitude. Christ had done everything, and left me absolutely nothing to do that could fitly express my love. If I had been called on to die at the stake, I would gladly have untied the martyr's hands, have taken his place and offered up my life to show my love. There were no songs that were grand

enough in thought and words, to express my love and estimation of the God who had so wonderfully wrought a great deliverance for my soul...It could not be expressed, and I was left to contemplate it in silence because it could not be spoken. While these thoughts were prevailing in my mind, the words of Paul came to me- "O, wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?..."

At night, after this, while in this state of mind, I looked up toward the heavens and saw a line reaching across the heavens from the eastern horizon to the western, as straight as a sunbeam. There was not a cloud to be seen; on the south side of the line, however, there were multiplied millions of insects, but they never passed north of the line. On that side it was as clear as crystal. And notwithstanding they came I vast clouds up to the line, not one was seen beyond it. I was perplexed. I asked, in my mind, "What does this mean? The answer came immediately, not to the outer ear, but as clear to my understanding as though it had been spoken by a thousand thunders - "Just as many insects as you see passing before you, so many sins, oppositions, trials, troubles, conflicts, and tribulations shall you meet with before you reach heaven; but in the name of him in whom you have believed, you shall reach there at last." I did not see this by natural light, for it was only moonlight and yet it appeared as clearly as though seen by the noonday sun. While thinking of this the doctrine of the final perseverance of the saints was impressed on my mind. I looked toward the east, and the line reached as far as I could see; seeming to mean that through my whole life, whatever was meant by this sight should continue to be true. That though sins and perplexities like thick clouds should cover my life, the Lord would say to them as he did to the waters of the ocean - "Thus far shalt thou come, but no further, and here let thy proud waves be stayed." It also seemed to indicate that he would not suffer me to be tempted above what I was able to bear, and, perhaps, to represent the unalloyed happiness of heaven. With this view of the merciful protection of the God of heaven for his saints in bringing them through great tribulations, I broke forth singing that grand and glorious old hymn - "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in his excellent word."

Earth and heaven seemed to be one grand auditorium, reverberating with soul absorbing harmony the praise of the glorious God for the salvation of his people. I sung the hymn through, and now, in my very soul, I bear testimony to the truth, that -E'en down to old age, all my people shall prove, My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

My locks have whitened for the tomb, but the God of heaven has not forsaken me. I spent that night in joyful exaltation of soul. The ecstasy of sins forgiven softened my bed so that I seemed to rest on air.

THE SWEET GOSPEL

Elder Rickey Taylor
Booneville, Mississippi

Exod. 15:23-23 “And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.”

The children of Israel had just recently been delivered from the bondage of the Egyptians that had lasted for over four hundred years. Now as they began their journey to the land of milk and honey, they came upon a place where there was water, but alas, the water was too bitter for them to drink. Water in the desert which can sit in an isolated place, is suspected to become polluted from the natural minerals of the desert, even poisonous at times. The Israelite were a large number of people, consisting of men, women and children that needed water on a daily basic in order to survive. Not to mention the animals of their stock as well. The people felt hopelessness in their situation. So they began to murmur at Moses for leading them out to a spot where there was no water to drink. Murmur means to complain, or howl. Just like my father’s Bassett hound who thought that he was a beagle and tried to help his real pack of beagles run a rabbit. Often, he would get left behind because of his short little legs which couldn’t keep up with the pack. So he would just sit down and begin to howl because they wouldn’t stop and wait for him. Now there is an example of murmuring! So Moses takes their request unto God in seeking help for their situation. The Lord shows him a certain tree to cut down and cast into the bitter water. Moses does as he is instructed, and casts the tree into the bitter water. Then the water was made sweet to drink. Sweet like honey or wafers. It was so sweet and pleasant. Like fresh from a spring or artesian well. So Israel was fed and refreshed so they could continue their journey to the promised land.

In our story there a figure of the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which is sweet to a child of God who has their eyes open to see the story of redemption. The story that tells us that we are shapen in iniquity, and come into the world as sinners, complete enemies to our Creator. Our righteousness is as filthy rags (Romans 3:10). Yet in order for us to walk in glory someday God must see us as incorruptible people with no sin. Yet we are sinful corrupted creatures who have no righteousness of our own. Oh must we drink this bitter cup of hopelessness? But wait, our story is not yet complete. For there was a tree that was cast into the water

at Marah and it became sweet. Jesus Christ died upon a cross that was made from a tree (1 Peter 2:24) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. Jesus Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, yet he had no sinful nature in his body (Luke 1:35) And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Jesus lived a perfect life without sin here on earth. He offered that perfect life for you to God the Father so that he would look upon us as incorruptible children of God. Oh how sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear! Christ took away the bitter water of hopelessness and gave us redemption! This is the sweet water of the gospel of Jesus Christ and him crucified. Sweet to rejoice in lively hope! (R.L. Taylor)

THE LITTLE THINGS

God is not always interested in the monumental things that we do in service to Him. We might not think we have done anything very significant in our Christian service. What matters is the motive whether the deed is small or large. Jesus saw a certain poor widow casting all her living into the treasury which consisted of only two mites. What did Jesus say about this? “And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all:” (Luke 21:2-3). Jesus tells us that whosoever would give just a cup of cold water to one of His little ones in the name of a disciple would not lose his reward. (Mark 10:42). The reward is in this life and not in the world to come. The Lord doesn’t forget our labour of love no matter how large or small. It is God’s recognition that is important. “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” (Heb. 6:10). Sometimes it is the little things that count. (Elder Larry Wise–April 8, 2011)

“For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth.” (Zechariah 4:10)

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