

Glad Tidings

FROM THE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2026

Philippians 4:13

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

I Corinthians 15:19

What Happens When a Child of God Believes?

We are saved eternally solely by the unconditional, sovereign grace of God bestowed upon his children (2 Tim. 1:9, Eph. 2:8-9), and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (John 19:30, Heb. 9:12). However, there are other ways in which the child of God can feel the power of their eternal salvation in their lives here and now. How do we “lay hold” of the eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12) we rightfully have in Christ? For those already given spiritual life by God’s sovereign work in regeneration, how do we live and lay hold on the “abundant life” (John 10:10) that the Lord has for his children here in the kingdom of God? The first step to laying hold on the blessings of eternal life and pressing into the abundant life is to believe in Christ, publicly confess that belief before the church, and be baptized. If we see one professing belief in Christ, that is evidence they have already been born again by the immediate work of the Holy Spirit in their soul. The scriptures consistently affirm that belief is the evidence that one has already been born again (1 John 5:1, John 5:24, 6:47, 1:12-13), never the cause that initiates regeneration.

Although belief is not the means of the new birth, there is a powerful deliverance and peace that floods the soul of God’s child when they profess belief and are baptized that they have never felt in their heart and soul before. This powerful experience of joy and peace in their heart feels like they “got saved” the day they believed. That is because they did “get saved” that day they believed and were baptized. That is not when they were born again, but that was the day they felt the power of God’s peace flood their soul that delivered them from bondage, shame, fear, ignorance, and many other things. That is why many of God’s children describe their experience in belief and baptism as “When I got saved...” They felt a deliverance and salvation in their soul they never felt before, but that was the effect of their obedience to God in belief rather than when they were born again from death to life. This salvation in gospel obedience highlights the necessity in distinguishing two different aspects of salvation in scripture: 1) eternal salvation that is accomplished solely by grace and the finished work of Christ, and 2) conditional time salvation where the child of God lays hold on the salvation that is rightfully theirs here in the course of time in their life and they feel deliverance, peace, and joy in their heart in their experience of discipleship.

Considering that gospel belief has no bearing on eternal salvation or regeneration, what actually happens when a born-again child of God believes in Christ’s resurrection, confesses their belief before the church, and is baptized? Let’s look at some descriptions of this powerful experience in the soul of God’s children when they publicly profess a belief in Jesus Christ, confess him before men, and submit to baptism to be a member of the Lord’s church.

Salvation experienced in their heart. The gospel of Christ is the “power” (Greek word where we get the English word “dynamite”) of God to salvation to God’s children who believe. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* (Rom. 1:16) There is a dynamite, explosive, life-rearranging effect in the soul and life of God’s children when they hear and believe the gospel. In Romans 10, we see Paul’s burden for his Jewish kindred who he saw walking around with the yoke of bondage of the law on their necks (Acts 15:10-11, Gal. 5:1) because they placed their hope and assurance in their own works of righteousness instead of their hope in the finished work of Christ as the end of the law for righteousness (Rom. 10:2-4). These Jewish kindred didn’t understand the yoke of bondage they were carrying around their necks, but Paul’s prayer and desire is that they would be delivered and saved from that yoke of bondage into the glorious liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. His prayer was for them to be saved. *“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”* (Rom. 10:1) In what sense did Paul desire to see these Jewish kindred saved? He did not desire for them to be born again because he already saw enough fruit of the Spirit in their lives to know they were already God’s children. He already knew they had a “zeal of God” (Rom. 10:2). Their problem was they didn’t have the gospel knowledge they needed. They had not submitted to the gospel of Christ’s righteousness as their only hope, instead of going about and trying to establish their own righteousness by works of the law. Paul saw the misery of soul this caused them, even if they didn’t see and understand the yoke around their neck, and he desired to liberate and save them from this yoke of bondage of the law. Therefore, for those Jews who already had a zeal of God but had a gospel knowledge problem, Paul exhorts them that if they would believe and confess with their mouth the resurrection of Christ, they would experience a salvation and deliverance in their soul

from the yoke of bondage that was causing them constant conviction, when they should have been walking in liberty of soul. “[9] *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed... [13] For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” (Rom. 10:9-13) These born again Jews would be saved from ignorance (10:3) and from shame (10:11) and from spiritual bondage to now live and walk in the glorious liberty wherewith Christ had already made them free. Not only did they need to believe in their heart, but they also needed to confess Christ’s resurrection before the church, and then they would feel a salvation and deliverance in their soul they had never experienced before.

Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise. Many times in scripture, the Lord will describe the same event in various different ways to where we can get a more well-rounded picture of what is happening in that event. This true of the power of gospel belief in the heart of God’s children. It is described in many different ways to give us a more comprehensive understanding of the power of the deliverance and liberty that occurs in the soul of God’s children when they believe. This “salvation” in the heart of God’s children that occurs in gospel belief is also described as the “sealing of that Holy Spirit of promise”. *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, [14] Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”* (Eph. 1:13-14) Notice the gospel is not an invitation to be saved, but the gospel is already “of your salvation”. The gospel is a declaration that God has already saved his people and only touches the heart of those that have already been born again. When a born-again child of God hears the word of truth, when they hear the gospel of their salvation and they believe it, the Holy Spirit delivers a special “seal” of promise upon their heart. A seal in Bible times was a royal token from a king that can be examined by anyone to know the contents containing the seal are authentic and reliable and have the royal approval. When a child of God believes, the Holy Spirit comes with a special “seal of approval” in their heart to testify to them of the “promise” of eternal life. *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”* (Titus 1:2) God has promised his children eternal life, and since he cannot lie, and cannot fail, that seal of promise in our heart proves to us that God has given eternal life to all his children.

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our own spirit, conscience, and heart that we are truly the children of God. This is another similar description of the sealing of the Holy Spirit of promise. *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”* (Rom. 8:16) The Holy Spirit bears witness with the seal of promise in our own spirit, heart, and conscience that we are God’s children and there is nothing that can separate us from our loving Savior. When Satan tempts us to doubt our eternal security, we look at and examine the Lord’s seal of promise and listen to the witness of the Holy Spirit in our heart to have renewed assurance that we truly are among God’s children, despite our failings and shortcomings.

Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. In Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost, he described this sealing of the Holy Spirit of promise as “receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost”. *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? [38] Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [39] For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”* (Acts 2:37-39) For those men who were already “devout” (Acts 2:5) who were pricked in the heart by the preaching of the gospel (Acts 2:37) – evidencing they were already born again – Peter told them that if they repented, believed, and were baptized in Christ’s name, they would receive an “experiential” remission of sins in their conscience. These men’s sins were not remitted before God when they believed. Sins can only be remitted by the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:22), not by our belief. This experiential remission of sins in the conscience aligns with 1 Pet. 3:21, we will consider again in just a moment. It is not the putting away of the filth of the flesh (not eternal remission of sins), but now after baptism they have the answer of a good conscience to “feel forgiven” of their sins where before when their hearts were pricked and convicted, they felt “guilty and condemned in” their sins. *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”* (1 Pet. 3:21) Their sins were not remitted and washed away before God, but their sins were washed away from their conscience by the waters of baptism.

Also, for these men who were seeking peace in their heart (instead of having pricking and conviction in their heart), if they repented, believed, and were baptized, they would “receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”. Notice, they would not receive the Holy Ghost; they would not be born again (they already were). Rather, they would receive the “gift” of the Holy Ghost. What was this “gift”? This gift was the sealing of the Holy Spirit of

promise. This gift was the witness of the Holy Spirit testifying to their spirit that they were God's children. Notice this "promise" (2:39) didn't just apply to them, but to all who the Lord shall call. For any child of God that hears the gospel, repents, believes and is baptized, they as well can receive the gift of the sealing and witness of the Holy Spirit of promise, receive an experiential remission and washing of sins in their conscience, and receive God's peace and assurance for their pricked, convicted, and burdened down heart. When you receive those amazing gifts of the Holy Spirit in your heart, it feels a lot like "salvation" from Rom. 10 that you have never felt before in your heart.

Justified by Faith. Another description of this deliverance and peace in the soul of God's children in belief is justification by faith. If we believe on Christ's resurrection, then we have peace with God and now have access into the grace wherein we already stand. *"[23] Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; [24] But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; [25] Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. [5:1] Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* (Rom. 4:23-5:2) When we exhibit belief (active faith), that is not when God is made at peace with us. We are not eternally justified (declared righteous) before God by faith. We were made at peace with God and eternally justified when Christ reconciled us to him by his death (Eph. 2:13-17). However, the question is, do you feel at peace with God in your heart? For those men pricked in their heart in Acts 2:37, did they feel at peace with God in that moment when they asked what shall we do? No, they did not. However, after they repented, believed, baptized, and now had the answer of a good conscience before God, now they felt "at peace with God" when they came up out of that water of baptism. Even before their belief, they already stood in grace, saved by the unconditional grace of Christ on the cross. But for the first time in their lives, they now had "full access" to the grace wherein they already stood because they approached their assurance by faith in Christ instead of through their own works. For the first time, they felt at peace with God, even though God had always been at peace with them. Belief is how we are justified by faith, and we feel at peace with God in our hearts and have full access into the grace of the earnest of our inheritance of the Spirit that is rightfully ours already. Belief and faith are how we "lay hold" on the grace wherein we already stand and feel at peace with God.

For the publican in Luke 18:13-14, he is showing by his prayer he is already born again, but he did not "feel

at peace with God". He certainly didn't feel much access into the grace wherein he stood legally and positionally saved by Christ. But after he expressed repentance, belief and faith, and requested God's mercy on a sinner like him, he *"went down to his house justified"* (Luke 18:14). That was not when that publican was declared righteous or was eternally justified before God. He was declared righteous before God at the same time as every other child of God, when Jesus Christ said "It is finished!" on the cross (John 19:30). However, the publican left his house "not feeling at peace with God" in his heart, but after his prayer of faith and belief, he came home to his house that night "feeling justified and feeling at peace with God" and now having full access into the grace where he already stood both when he left that morning with a pricked heart and when he came home that night with a peaceful heart. We saw earlier when we believe in Christ we are sealed with the Holy Spirit "of promise". We also see the "promise" in Acts 2:39 as well.

(Continued on page 12)

John 1:12-13 *"[12] But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: [13] Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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Elder Jonathan Wise & Elder David Wise, Co-Editors

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Elder Larry Wise (1944-2024)

Jesus was born into this world contrary to nature in that He was born of a virgin that had never known man; He was brought forth as a clean thing out of an unclean thing to be the Savior of His people. Likewise, every chosen child of God is born again contrary to nature. By nature the sinner has no desire to approach the Lord of glory. As a matter of fact the wicked are describe in the book of Job as wanting to be as far away from God as possible. "Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways." (Job 21:14).

The nature of man is such that if left to himself he would go farther and farther away from God until he finally lands in the fire of hell. This is because his first conception and birth was of a sinful nature. David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5) We are indeed thankful that God can and does work contrary to nature which is exemplified by His work in the immediate regeneration of every one of His beloved. God sends forth the Holy Spirit contrary to the nature of man into the heart and thus the new birth occurs. God worked contrary to nature in the birth of Isaac in that Abraham's body was dead and beyond capability of reproduction and Sarah's womb was dead; Only God can give life to the dead.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb and the prophet Jeremiah was sanctified and formed in the belly of his mother by God alone. God regenerated the thief on the cross in his last hours as evidenced by his fear of God and wanting to be remembered when Jesus came into His kingdom. (Luke 23:42). Regardless of when in life we are born of the Spirit, it is always contrary to our nature and done in the same way. Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be born again but since our nature cries out for God to depart from us, how are we to be born again

(from above)? Jesus gives us the answer. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8). This Spirit is sent into the depraved heart of the sinner, not in order to make him a son but because he is already an adopted son. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Gal. 4:6)

Prior to the new birth we were following the course of the world and were "by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Eph. 2:3). The gospel cannot work contrary to our sinful nature which is disposed toward evil and it is impossible, regardless of favour, to teach righteousness to the wicked sinner. "Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD." (Isa. 26:10).

The law or the keeping of the law or the performance of any deed can not change the nature of the sinner because Jeremiah says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." (Jer. 13:23). Sinners by nature are accustomed to do evil. If they could turn over a new leaf, the underside would be just as dirty and unclean as the top. The Lord of glory is the One who can and does work contrary to nature to make the change and He does this without human means.

The Gentiles never were given the law of Moses but yet many of them were doing and following the moral law of the Ten Commandments, How could this be? Paul tells us, "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;" (Rom. 2:14-15). God had worked contrary to nature and wrote His law in their mind and heart which was manifest in doing good. They had not changed their nature but God had.

Jesus had a dual nature but it was entirely different than that of His children. Jesus had a Divine nature and a human nature but without sin. We, as children of God, have a dual nature; we have a Divine nature as recipients of the new birth but we still have our sinful human nature and it is always a battle between the two. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Gal. 5:17).

We rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ because without that birth there could be no death; without the death of Christ there could be no salvation; without salvation there could be no inheritance in heaven. Without Him we can do nothing! (December 2018)

LEFT THY FIRST LOVE

By Elder Jerry Wise
Pontotoc, Mississippi

Revelation 2:4-5 “4) Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

I’ve often wondered what have I sacrificed for God? I mean, where is my love for His Christ? We’re all prone to leave the God we love – (Come Thou Fount hymn) – but have you ever wondered how much God loves you? O the depths of His mighty love!

How quick we are to turn back to our old habits as soon as difficulty passes. It’s kinda like my gastritis, and let me tell you it’s rough, but a few pills and it passes in a couple of days and of course, my beloved bride will hear me say the words: “I’m going to do better” And for a while I do, but you know the rest of the story; and old eating habits soon return!

Only with Christ it’s a different story; we all, I believe, want to draw closer to the One who paid our sin debt and we owe him our life of devotion.

I don’t want to leave my first love. I love my wife of 50 years this past Sunday and I know she loves me. She knows my love of Christ is more and hers as well as it should be.

I truly believe these daily messages are much more for me than anyone that receives them, and they help to keep me focused on God the Father and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The scripture in Revelation is a wakeup call for us all, to be more alert to the teachings of God; as in Psalms 105:1-4 “O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.”

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes. I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies. Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy

statutes.” (Psalm 119:105, 113-116, 124-125, 132-135)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:15-17

“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!!!!!!

A HERETIC VINDICATED

By Elder Joe Nettles
Hamilton, Mississippi

In 1632, Galileo Galilei published a work titled *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, in which he stated his evidences for the heliocentric model of our solar system (means that the Earth and other planets revolve around the Sun, not vice versa). Building upon Copernicus’ mathematical assumptions of heliocentrism, Galileo used a telescope that he built to actually view more closely the celestial bodies and their behaviors. By proving that Venus exhibited phases (like our Moon’s phases), he proved that that could only be possible if Venus revolved around the Sun. Contrary to the previously accepted model which posited that all celestial bodies revolved around Earth (geocentrism), Galileo also first viewed and documented the moons that orbited Jupiter, thus disproving that all bodies rotate around the Earth as the fixed center. Fascinating and brilliant, right?

However, not all were enamored by his findings. The Catholic Church, which wielded immense political and ecclesiastical power, had declared anything but geocentrism to be a heresy in 1616. They had through the years made dogmatic assumptions from their interpretations of the scriptures, and their assumptions were that Earth was created as the mechanical center of all the universe. In their self-righteous zeal, they viewed any other interpretations as ungodly heresies, challenges to the inerrancy of scripture! Isn’t it ironic that the same ones whose ire was raised over perceived challenges to the Bible were the same who themselves added a multitude of extra-scriptural rituals and heresies like Marian worship, confessionals, intercessory saints, the Papacy, and indulgences!

In one sense, the Catholics were correct regarding their assumptions regarding Earth's status as the central entity in the universe. After all, the Earth was first created before any other celestial bodies (not until the fourth creation day). The Earth was created for man who holds dominion over the universe. The Earth and mankind are central in the sense that God's reason in creating in the first place was to manifest His power, love, goodness, and righteousness unto and through the Earth's prime inhabitants, mankind. However, there was no reason to extrapolate that into Earth being the universe's celestial mechanical center. To the contrary, if you examine who the Sun represents in scripture, it should lead you to readily accept that we indeed revolve around the Sun. *The Sun represents the Son of God.* Consider the following:

Jeremiah 31:35-36 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth **the sun** for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name: [36] **If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.** (This is more than an assurance of the Lord's faithful preservation of his elect. It connects the source of the greater light, the true Son, to the perpetuity of the elect.)

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and **his countenance was as the sun shineth** in his strength.

Revelation 21:23 And the city had **no need of the sun**, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and **the Lamb is the light thereof.**

Revelation 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and **the bright and morning star.**

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness** arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

John 1:4-9 In him was life; and the life was **the light** of men. [5] And **the light shineth in darkness**, and the darkness comprehended it not..... [7] The same came for a witness, to bear witness of **the Light**, that all men through him might believe. [8] He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. [9] That was **the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.**

John 12:35-36,46 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is **the light** with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. [36] While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be **the children of light.** These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from

them.....[46] **I am come a light into the world**, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

Matthew 17:1-2 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, [2] And was transfigured before them: and **his face did shine as the sun**, and his raiment was white as the light.

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a **consuming fire.**

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way **a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun**, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded **the light to shine out of darkness**, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in **the face of Jesus Christ.** (While the first light under consideration preceded the creation of the Sun, the Sun has for all of mankind been the greatest physical light to pierce our physical vision's darkness. This at least tangentially makes us think of the Sun)

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at **the rising of the sun.**

Luke 23:45-46 And **the sun was darkened**, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. [46] And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, **he gave up the ghost.**

At the very least, all of these texts should have compelled those ecclesiastical bosses to have paused and considered that as often as the Sun is connected to the Son in scripture, it stands to reason that He is the central power around which we revolve. We don't hold him; he holds us!

Poor Galileo was forced to stand trial, renounce his findings, and live under house arrest for the rest of his life, only to stand vindicated before history, science, and true religion. Let us learn a lesson from these foolish, robed zealots. Holding doggedly to assumptions that certain men are heretics because they interpret something a bit differently, not examining with the noble, calm spirit of the ancient Bereans, can lead to more damage than benefit in the Lord's church. Lord, shine upon us with the light of thy Son!

Are We Looking For Peace With the World? or with God?

Elder Rusty Wise
Tupelo, Mississippi

Proverbs 16:2 "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits."

If we are willing to justify our actions in our own eyes and according to the flesh and to the world, and we are

willing to be tolerant of wickedness, then we can find peace with the world. However, we will never know rest, because we will constantly be pulled deeper and deeper into the abyss.

As that wickedness is tolerated of self, soon it infiltrates all aspects of our lives; our family, our friends, and the church. If we go one mile with the world, it will compel us to go more. Regardless of how innocent it may start, Satan will enhance it with every deceitful trick. Events become more important than worship, travel away from God is encouraged, abominations in the sight of God are now acceptable. All that we may have peace.

Proverbs 16:5-7 "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."

We can find peace in this world, but not by the world. John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

May we be strengthened by our God, that we might not only know peace, but also the comfort and joy and rest that comes with it.

As we have not been given the spirit of fear, that is of being afraid of man, let us put the spirit of power and of love and of a "SOUND" mind to better use in serving our Lord.

THE GIVING OF THANKS

By Elder Clayton Nowell
Headland, Alabama

Today I call your attention to a little phrase in Ephesians 5:4 which can easily be passed over without much attention. However, it deserves pause and consideration. In fact, if this had appeared in the Psalms, there likely would have been a "Selah" placed after it: for that little word means, "pause and consider what has just been said."

Ephesians 4 explained the need to "put off the old man and put on the new" by being renewed in the spirit of your mind. In other words, what kind of spirit is at work in your thoughts and decisions? Are you going through today with a godly attitude and mindset, or is your mind occupied with worldly and sensual thoughts? Jesus said in the latter part of Matthew 12:34, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Keep this in mind when we get to our thoughts regarding Ephesians 5:4.

Because God for Christ's sake has forgiven us (Ephesians 4:32), we are then told, "Be ye therefore

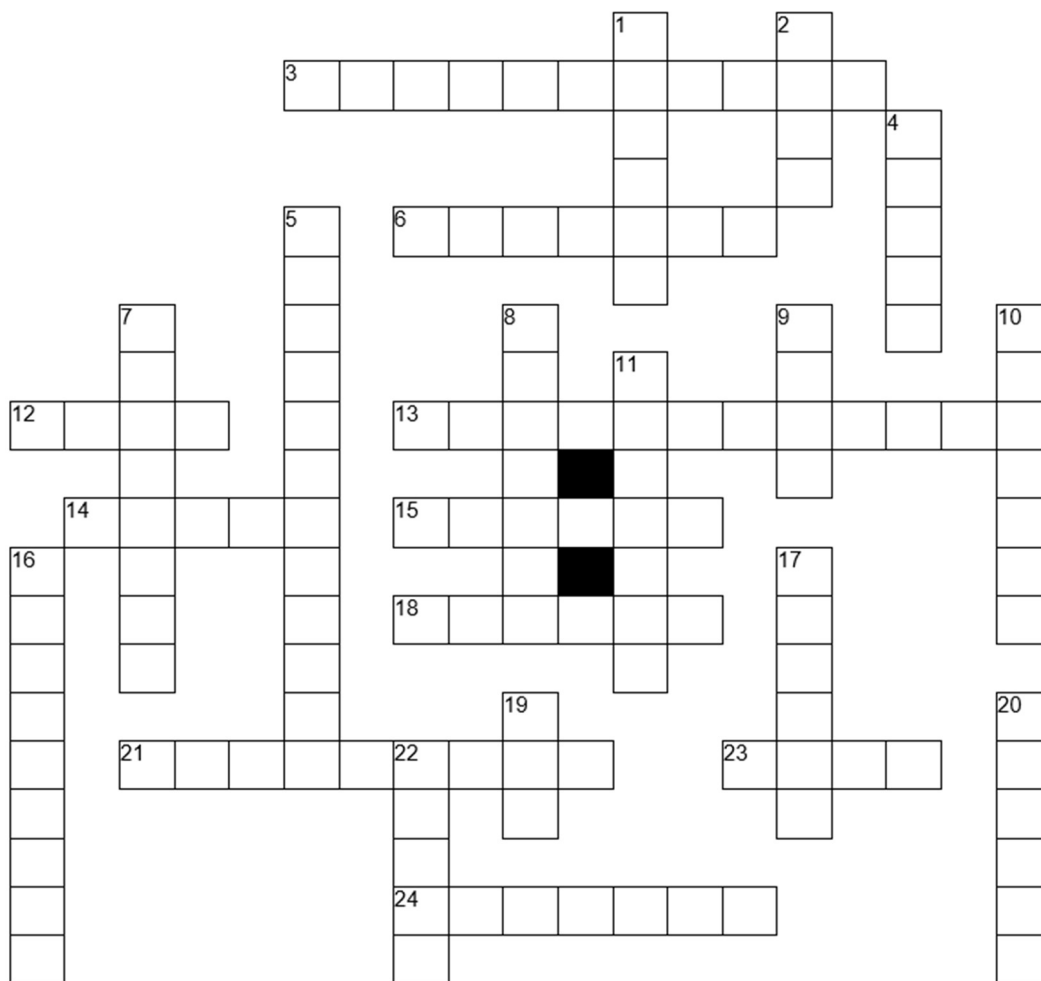
followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour." (5:1-2) Christ's sacrifice for us should be on our minds daily and we should be supremely thankful for it! And, it should be influencing our walk and talk. So, directly after this, the Spirit warns us against sexual impurity and all manner of inappropriate thoughts and ways we might use our tongues. Remember, Jesus said, "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." So, what's coming out in words is an accurate reflection of the heart, and also, a true indicator of the "spirit of your mind."

The things mentioned in verse 3 which should not be once named among us, are added to verse 4, which says, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient (i.e., not befitting of saints): but rather giving of thanks. And here is today's point: you will likely pass by this admonition of "giving thanks" as just a suggestion. But this spiritual exercise can produce tremendous benefits for us! Giving thanks properly orients our mind, it warms the heart, it humbles the spirit, and it greatly encourages us: remembering all that God has done for us, and knowing He is our helper, no matter what the day may bring! Foolish talking and jesting will never do that for you. Those things will only serve to make the "spirit of our mind" more worldly and less spiritual.

So friends, we shouldn't need a holiday to remind us to be thankful. But every day, we should be exercising our mind and heart with thanksgiving. It will renew the spirit of your mind, it will wonderfully impact your attitude and mental well-being, and you will be a better person to be around (which may even rub-off on others). But what is more important, God will be praised by more abundant thanksgiving unto His worthy name!

"The Gospel is good tidings of great joy; the kingdom of God is not in things external, but in joy in the Holy Ghost; and, above all, respect is had to a rejoicing in Christ Jesus, in his person, righteousness, and salvation: and which is consistent with "trembling"; not with a fearful looking for of judgment, but with modesty and humility; in which sense this word, when joined with "fear" as here, is used Phil 2:12, and stands opposed to pride, haughtiness, and arrogance; men should so rejoice in Christ as to have no confidence in the flesh, or assume any degree of glory to themselves, or have any rejoicing in themselves, but wholly in Christ, giving all the glory of what they have to him." (John Gill)

SISTER CHRISTINE'S CROSSWORD CORNER
(Produced by Sister Christine Monroe from Vicksburg, MS)

**Across**

3. Where Elijah and the prophets of Baal had a contest
 6. Peter was in his boat on which sea when Jesus called him to be a disciple?
 12. In which New Testament book does Jesus ascend to Heaven?
 13. Daniel's other name
 14. How many times did Noah send the dove out to look for dry land?
 15. Priest who anointed Saul
 18. Interpreted the hand writing on the wall
 21. The seed in the parable of the sower
 23. What animal pants after the water brooks?
 24. Will inherit the earth

(Answers on page 14)

Down

1. For what kind of animal did Rebekah offer to draw water?
 2. Was torn in two at the death of Jesus
 4. What was the young man who played music to calm a troubled king?
 5. Where did the Israelites take the bones of Joseph?
 7. Who was chosen to take Judas' place after he betrayed Jesus?
 8. Wrote the book of Proverbs
 9. Jacob's first wife
 10. Where Zacchaeus saw Jesus
 11. Tried to kill Elijah
 16. Jesus saw him under a fig tree
 17. What book in the Bible has the same number of chapters in it as the Bible has books?
 19. Who does the New Testament say is an example of patience?
 20. What does the shield of faith protect from?
 22. Plague that involved cattle disease

CHURCH NEWS

New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS. Nov 22, 2026. New Prospect Primitive Baptist Church, New Albany, MS will have a Thanksgiving service on Sunday night, November 22, 2026 beginning at 5:30pm with Elder Craig Blair bringing the message, followed by supper. Elder Jackie Smith is Pastor of New Prospect.

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

Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, Ecu, MS. Dec 13, 2026. Bethany Primitive Baptist Church, 5 miles west of Ecu, MS will have its annual Christmas singing on 2nd Sunday night in December 2026 (Dec. 13) singing beginning at 5:30pm with refreshments served afterwards. Come and worship the Savior in song with all the saints. Elder Jeremy Wise is Pastor of Bethany.

Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS. Dec 20, 2026. Laodicea Primitive Baptist Church, Lafayette Springs, MS will have a Christmas singing 3rd Sunday night in December 2026 (Dec. 20) singing beginning at 5:30pm with snacks afterwards. Come and sing and worship with us! Elder Steve Weaver is Pastor of Laodicea.

YOU ARE SO BLESSED

Unknown

IF you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

IF you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

IF you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

IF you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

IF you have money in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

IF your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

IF you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

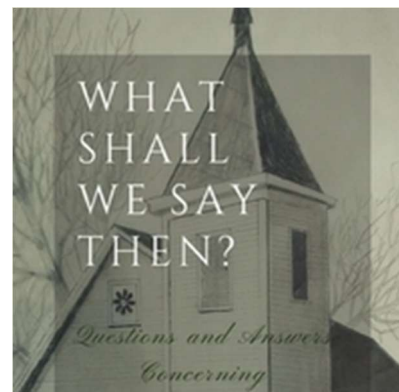
IF you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

IF you can read this message, you are blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.

(*"In The Master's Service"*, May 2007)

FEATURED BOOK



What Shall We Say Then? By Jeff Winfrey

A thoroughly readable volume on the beliefs and practices of Primitive Baptists. The author addresses subjects such as: Primitive Baptist Doctrine, The Existence of God, The Deity of Jesus Christ, The Difference in Primitive Baptists and other Christian Groups, How People are Born Again, The Meaning of John 3:16, The Purpose of the Gospel, The Place of Good Works, Spiritual Gifts ...and many more.

"What shall we say then reads like a comfortable, afternoon chat with an accessible and experienced Primitive Baptist minister. Anyone who knows Jeff Winfrey knows his passion for communicating Biblical truth in popular terms. This populist approach makes this title extremely useful to young people who are attempting to understand Primitive Baptist convictions, as well as inquirers of every age who may be asking the way to Zion."

You may purchase this book at the link below:

<https://www.sovgrace.net/product/what-shall-we-say-then/>

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/>

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

Zachary (my 3-year-old son) was playing with the tape measurer after I was done with it. He stretched the tape measurer out to about two feet, and he told me, "Dada leg. 10 pounds." Unbeknownst to me, apparently our tape measurer has a pounds metric on there too. (DW)

Christmas Carols & Songs Standard Notation/Large Print By Bryce Lowrance



A collection of the most popular Christmas carols and songs from around the world. Arranged by Bryce Lowrance in shape note format.

Follow this link to purchase:

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/bryce-lowrance/christmas-carols-songs-standard-notationlarge-print/paperback/product-84j6n59.html?q=Bryce+Lowrance&page=1&pageSize=4>

Bethlehem: The House of Bread

by Elder Ben Cordes
Lexington, Kentucky

The little town of Bethlehem that we love to sing about has a fascinating name. Beth (Beit/Bayit) means "house," and lehem means "bread." The "House of Bread" is a fitting name for the city in which Jesus Christ was born.

Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

The prophecy of where Christ would be born was written approximately 700 years before His birth. God declared from ancient times that the ruler in Israel would come out of Bethlehem, yet His "goings forth" (His origin) have been from of old, from everlasting.

The place of the birth of Christ was foretold because it was arranged by the everlasting God, the same God who would one day dwell among men.

When the Christ child was born, it was the first appearance of the life-giving God of heaven in human flesh. He who created heaven and earth, and all that is in them, became part of His own creation. For what purpose? To give life, and to give it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Long before the birth of Christ, the children of Israel were fed in the wilderness from the manna God supplied to them. That light bread, which appeared on the ground six days out of the week, represented Christ to those wandering pilgrims. It was a bread from heaven that sustained them through their forty years in the wilderness.

When Christ came to earth, likely born on the hay-covered ground of a stable, He was gathered up and placed in a manger—a trough from which animals would eat. Now that Christ is born, we can see what was hidden from the children of Israel while they were in the wilderness: that the true manna of heaven has appeared. He is the Bread of Life, born in the House of Bread. He came to give life to His people—those whom He has made partakers of His flesh and blood. John 6:32-33, 35

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Your everlasting life has a source: the Bread of Life. As partakers of His gracious life, you shall never die. Glory be to God for His glorious appearing, and for the wisdom He unfolds unto us, His people.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Elder Michael Ivey
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward man" Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest". Resplendent in the glory of God, the angel of the Lord heralded humble shepherds with glorious news: "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

And even as the shepherds marveled in awe and trembled at the majesty of God's messenger, a greater and more magnificent wonder appeared, a heavenly host of angels, who in adoring worship to God

proclaimed: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Truly, God's glory shone in his highest, most magnificent, excellent, preeminent expression of divine power, dignity and grace when He gave us Jesus, the Christ-child, God incarnate, the "fullness of the godhead manifest bodily." He came to us in humble form but with glorious bearing amidst heavenly adoration; Christ Jesus the LORD, who-is-God-who-is-man-who-is-God, is born!

What wonder! What knowledge too wonderful! What joy unspeakable! What glory! Forever to be praised! Glory to God in the highest forever and ever! Amen.

"and on earth peace" With highest praise to God the whole multitude of heavens angels proclaimed to humble shepherds "peace on earth" as God's purpose in giving us his only begotten Son, the Christ-child named JESUS: "For he shall save his people from their sins." LORD JESUS is the "Prince of Peace," who came to earth to bring peace through reconciliation to God.

The "I AM" all holy and righteous God sent His perfect Son to reconcile us to Himself; that by the sacrifice of LORD JESUS on Calvary's cross, the heavenly Father revoked forever our condemnation, delivering us from the bondage of sin and destroying corruption itself having swallowed up death by Christ's victory.

Christ's peace on earth "perfected for ever them that are sanctified." "His people," being reconciled to God by Christ stand "holy and without blame" before God in love while awaiting the return of our blessed peacemaker. Then, with the host of heaven assembled to praise God, we shall join them and proclaim, "Unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"

"good will toward men." Highest praise to God for the goodness of His sublime will to save "his people from their sins." For by divine grace with goodness toward men Christ the LORD was born in Bethlehem. Though with lowly appearance in a manger, He was adored by angels, worshiped by shepherds and revered by wise men. For the call to behold God's goodness rang out from heaven to pastures and plains: Come and behold the "holy thing" begotten of God to take away your sins!

With goodwill toward men, He humbled himself to take man's form and made himself a servant unto death on Calvary's cross to do the good will of the Father as sacrifice for our sins.

Come country shepherds, come wandering wise men, come all who see yourselves as undone sinners. Come to Jesus and adore Him! For though he made himself a little lower than angels to suffer death for us, God highly exalted Him.

Even so, at the name of Jesus let us fall to our knees and worship the KING of kings and LORD OF Lords, our Savior and God. For by His obedience according

to God's goodwill, Christ the LORD secured perfect goodness for us in which we shall forever be with the LORD in witness and worship of His immortal glory.

NAMES OF THE SON THAT WAS GIVEN

Elder John Staten
Greenbrier, Arkansas

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

This Christmas, let us consider five glorious names given to the reason of our daily celebration, Jesus Christ. First, it is often quoted as being wonderful counselor. However, if we look at the true text His name is called Wonderful. That is to be full of wonder. Jesus is indeed full of wonder. Born of a virgin, wonder. Emmanuel, God with us, wonder. Performing miracles, wonder. Living the perfect sinless life, wonder. Willing to die for us, wonder. Risen again from the dead as the first fruit, wonder. Seated on the right hand of God, wonder. Making intercession for us, wonder. Coming to take us home, wonder. Jesus is indeed wonderful. Be amazed by His goodness and wonder. Praise His wonderful name. Today and everyday.

The next marvelous name given to the son that was given is Counsellor. Jesus is the Word of God. As we watched him in his life we find he was always ready to counsel anyone. We have the woman at the well. We have the woman caught in adultery. We have all those he taught. We have recordings of him counseling Peter often. Jesus is the mediator between God and men. He is ready to listen and instruct. He is a high priest that knows our feelings and issues. He is an ever present and ready counsellor. May you be encouraged to talk to Him daily, and study His teachings daily. Through comfort of His scriptures we may find hope and peace.

The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father. Jesus was indeed born of a virgin, a very important point, in Bethlehem as promised. This making him all man. He grew, he learned, he aged, he slept, ate, and everything else that goes along with living in this world. This is what makes an awesome counselor. However, He was and is also 100% God. He was and is Emmanuel, God with us. God himself came to this world to live and die for us His children. What an awesome amazing love and Father we have.

The Prince of Peace. The last name for our Brother, Friend, and Savior given in this verse. He is the Prince of Peace. Jesus did not promise a life of ease if we follow him. He challenged us to take up our cross and follow him. A walk that would likely cost us family,

friends, popularity, money, even our self identity. He told us of a life that would be the world hating you, just as it hated Him. In this life we may not have calm and no struggle. This is what the world declares to be peace. The reality is we live in a broken sin cursed world. But Jesus said "be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." Walk closer to him and find peace in the storm. Find the ability to stand when the world beats hard on us. He is the Prince of Peace in a world of chaos. God bless you all the Christmas and everyday. Draw closer to your Wonderful, Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace Savior Jesus.

WORSHIP

Elder Chris Folsom
Kingsland, Georgia

What does it mean to worship? Worship is more than attending a church service. It is more than singing a hymn, bowing our heads in prayer, or listening to preaching. To worship is to recognize God for who He is and respond accordingly. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)

True worship begins with God, not with us. It is not built around what entertains us, what excites us, or what makes us comfortable. Worship turns our attention away from ourselves and toward the Lord. We worship because He is holy. We worship because He is sovereign. We worship because He is merciful. We worship because He has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

Christian worship is therefore Christ-centered. We do not gather merely to feel better about ourselves. We gather to remember, proclaim, and rejoice in what Christ has accomplished for His people.

Worship also involves humility. We come before a perfect Savior as imperfect people, bringing no righteousness of our own to boast in. Our confidence is in Him. David wrote: "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker." (Psalm 95:6)

That is the heart of worship: God made great, man made small, and Christ exalted. May our worship never become merely something we attend. May it be the sincere response of hearts that have seen something of the glory of God and cannot help but say, "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:3)

What does worship look like in everyday life? We often think of worship as something that happens on Sunday morning, but worship reaches much farther than a church building.

Worship is what happens when life is busy, the phone will not stop buzzing, the bills are due, the news

is discouraging, the family is stressed, and yet we still recognize that God is worthy. It is worship when we choose prayer instead of panic. It is worship when we thank God for a meal that may not be fancy, but is enough. It is worship when we sing His praise even though the week has been hard.

It is worship when we open the Scriptures instead of allowing social media, television, and the noise of the world to shape every thought. It is worship when a family gathers together and Christ is more important than schedules, sports, entertainment, or convenience. It is worship when we come to church tired, burdened, distracted, and imperfect, but come because the Lord is still worthy of our praise.

Worship is not about creating the right atmosphere. It is not about putting on a performance. It is not about making ourselves feel something.

Worship is our response to who God is. In a world constantly telling us to focus on ourselves, worship says, "Look to Christ." In a world telling us to chase comfort, worship says, "The Lord is worthy even when life is uncomfortable."

In a world filled with distractions, worship says, "Be still, and know that I am God." Real worship does not require perfect circumstances. It requires a worthy God. And we have One.

What Happens When a Child of God Believes?

(Continued from page 3)

The "end" result of justification by faith – to the end – is that the "promise" would be made sure to all the seed. *"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all."* (Rom. 4:16) When we believe, the Holy Ghost comes to witness and testify to our conscience to make God's promise of eternal life sure to the child of God. The Holy Spirit comes to seal our pricked hearts with the Holy Spirit of promise to make us feel at peace with God and to now have full access into the grace wherein we already stand.

Salvation of the answer of a good conscience towards God. When we publicly confess our belief in the resurrection of Christ and are baptized, we are saved "now" – doth now save us – by the liberation of our conscience from bondage and sorrow and delivered unto the answer of a good conscience before God. *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"* (1 Pet. 3:21) The children of God in Acts 2 and the publican in Luke 18 were all "pricked in the heart". They did not have a clear conscience before God, did not have peace in

their heart, but were convicted in their heart over their sins. When the devout men in Acts 2 were baptized, they went from a “pricked conscience” to the “answer of a good conscience” towards God. They received the “now salvation” of a peaceful and clear conscience before God when they came up from the waters of baptism and were delivered from the pricked and heavy-laden conscience they had before.

Salvation of yourself from the untoward generation around you. For the children of God who repented and were baptized in Acts 2:37-39, Peter also promises that they can save themselves from the untoward generation around them. *“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”* (Acts 2:40) It's evident this salvation is different than eternal salvation because we certainly cannot save ourselves eternally to heaven. We can save and deliver ourselves from great perils in the world around us by following the command to believe and be baptized. Simply by submitting to baptism, these men had now submitted to the accountability of godly living as a member of the church. They were obligated to change their manner of life to conform to Christ's teaching in his word and in his church. By these men implementing the word of God in their life, it would save them from great suffering and destruction that the worldly generation around them would be susceptible to. Take a simple example of following the Biblical command to not be drunken to intoxication. Just by following the scriptures to avoid drunkenness which is required to be a member of the church in good standing and being sober, you can save yourself from all the heartache that can come in people's lives around you because they continually partake of alcohol to excess. You are avoiding the problems in your family, marriage, and employment; the hangovers; the liver problems; the mistakes in actions and words you will inevitably make when you are intoxicated; possible DUI or worse if you drive intoxicated. Everyone around you is plunging headlong into all these mistakes by not controlling their alcoholic consumption in moderation, and you are saving and protecting yourself from all these perils simply by following the command of God's word and requirement of church membership. The same could be said for all type of moral sins – adultery, drugs, sodomy, transgenderism, theft, covetousness, and hosts of other besetting sins. Destruction is associated with all these sins of the flesh, and if the whole untoward generation around you is plunging headlong into the destruction of these sins, you will be delivered from all that peril of those around you by simply following the commands of the scriptures and the requirements for church membership.

Additional salvations in faithful discipleship. In addition to these powerful deliverances for God's children in their initial belief and baptism, we find

additional subsequent deliverances and salvations in their walk of discipleship by the child of God remaining faithful to serve the Lord in a godly way in the church.

Save yourself and others by taking heed to the scriptures and doctrine. Any verse that says you can save yourself, and certainly can save others, manifests clearly it has to be talking about some degree of conditional time salvation, and not eternal salvation to heaven. We find Paul's exhortation to Timothy that applies to all of God's children, not just the ministry, that we can save ourselves and others by taking heed to the scriptures and to sound doctrine. *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”* (1 Tim. 4:16) This aligns closely with saving yourself from the untoward generation around you. By taking heed to the standards of God's word as the sole authority in our lives, we will be saved from all types of perils that come as a result of engaging in sins of the flesh. We will also save ourselves and others from the yoke of bondage of a works salvation that we have already discussed. If we put the word of God as the first filter and decision maker in our life and encourage others to do the same, we will all be delivered from many dangers in both a spiritual and physical sense.

Saved by keeping in memory the gospel and God's word. Here we find that not just do we receive a salvation in our original belief of the gospel, but there is also a continual salvation in keeping in memory the gospel, lest we should let it slip at any time. *“By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15:2) This verse again makes it very clear that there is a salvation here in time is our discipleship that is in addition to eternal salvation. If our eternal salvation is contingent upon us keeping the gospel in memory, what about those whose memory fades and get Alzheimer's later in their life and have no recollection of the gospel they once believed? The lesson here is that if we keep the gospel in the forefront of our mind and memory, then we will receive a continual deliverance from all the things we have already noted before. If we go into false doctrine as the Galatians did, we are entangling ourselves again with a yoke of bondage we had already been liberated from (Gal. 5:1). The remedy from that entanglement again with spiritual bondage is to keep the gospel in your memory and reject any false doctrines when they come your way.

Can save an erring brother from death of fellowship if they do not take heed to God's word and keep the gospel in memory. If we do not keep the gospel in our memory, we might be tempted to go back and backslide into our former mistakes of either incorrect doctrine or immoral living. If that is the case and a brother does backslide and err from the truth, then we can bring the word of God to that brother and

call on him to repent, and if he is converted, then we have saved a soul from death and hidden a multitude of sins. *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; [20] Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”* (James 5:19-20) Our intervening in the life of an erring brother in Christ is not what keeps him out of hell (not eternal, second death) but it saves him from a death to fellowship of the brethren and the church, and if he repents, it shall save him from the multitude of sins he might commit in the future if he continued headlong into a life of immorality or false doctrine.

Conclusion. Therefore, for the child of God that hears the gospel and is pricked in their hearts, if they belief, confess, repent, and are baptized, they are saved from ignorance, shame, bondage and conviction; they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit of promise; they receive an experiential feeling of remission of sins; they receive the witness of the Holy Spirit to their spirit that they are God’s child; they are justified by faith and feel at peace with God and have full access into the grace wherein they already stand; they have salvation of conscience and the answer of a good conscience before God; and they save themselves from the perils of the untoward generation around them by living godly. When all of that is experienced in the heart of the child of God, that is why it is called “salvation”! When one believes and is baptized, that is the greatest day in their spiritual experience they have ever felt! They feel the deliverance of all these things and thus their testimony is that “I got saved that day”. Not that they were born again, but they experienced all these powerful deliverances and salvations in their heart that gave them for their first time in their spiritual walk of discipleship a peace that passes all understanding in their heart and joy unspeakable and full of glory in their soul. Then, if they continue in the gospel, and continue in following the word of God, they can save themselves and others by keeping in memory the word and can even help save an erring brother from possible destruction in their discipleship if they are not vigilant to keep the gospel and word as a priority in their life. Repentance, faith, belief and baptism are not how we are eternally justified; it’s not how we are born again; but it’s how the born again child of God lays hold on the eternal life they already have and lives in joy, peace, and good answer in their soul, instead of constantly living with a pricked heart carrying around a spiritual yoke of bondage around the neck of their souls. (David Wise)

BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

(Puzzle on Page 8 – Answers are Backwards)

Across

- 3. lemraetnuom
- 6. eelilag
- 12. stca
- 13. razzahsetleb
- 14. eerht
- 15. leumas
- 18. leinad
- 21. dogofdrow
- 23. trah
- 24. keemeht

Down

- 1. slemac
- 2. liev
- 4. divad
- 5. dnaldesimorp
- 7. saihhtam
- 8. nomolos
- 9. hael
- 10. ohcirej
- 11. lebezej
- 16. leinahtan
- 17. haiasi
- 19. boj
- 20. sworra
- 22. htif

A GARDEN ENCLOSED

Elder R. H. Pittman (Deceased)
Advocate and Messenger—1923

In Solomon’s Song 4:12 the church is compared to a garden enclosed. “A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.” A garden is a plot or parcel of ground distinguished from the great fields round about. So the church in this age is not a place of broad acres and expended fields. It does not extend all over the world. It is an inclosure in the world. It is the “treasure hid in the field” (Mat. 13:44). The church is hid in the world. Not all people find this treasure, but some do, and those who do see the beauties of this Garden. In it are trees of our heavenly Father’s planting. God plants them, waters and cares for them, and they shall never be rooted up. Others will be rooted up. “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Mat. 15:13).

This garden is indeed *inclosed*,--separated by God’s grace in election, redemption, and effectual vocation,-hidden from the world, walled about by His power, cleansed by His Spirit and saved by His grace.

A well kept garden is of great value. Every family that has one knows the value of this special plot of ground, and every child of grace who has walked in the Garden of the Lord knows something of the sweet spices, the beautiful flowers and luscious fruits that are to be found therein.

TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

By Elder Rickey Taylor
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Psalms 92:12: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

The children of God are the apple of his eye. Through Christ's shed blood, God looks upon us as if we never sinned. Understanding that we don't labor to enter into the eternal kingdom of God, then we need to understand the purpose of us doing good works while here on earth. There are two reasons that the scriptures teach that we should walk in obedience to God. One is for the well being of our spiritual lives here on earth, and the second is to bring honor and glory unto the Lord who has been so good to us. The more that we serve him, the more that his name is glorified and the higher we hold his standard. A standard held high, such as obedience to God's word, we become as a high tree in the forest of this sin cursed world. That is what our verse is about. The righteous stand as trees, even as the palm tree or the cedar. Similar metaphors are in the scriptures that say a city that is on a hill cannot be hid, and let your light so shine before other men. Matt 5:14 and Matt 5:16.

With this verse the Lord uses a tree. National Israel was the first that were given the opportunity to stand forth as trees. In its fifteen hundred years history of having the oracles of God, they have some good examples of trees in people such as Abraham, David and Ruth, to name a few. In the days of Christ's earthly ministry, Israel had forsaken the principles in the law, diluted it down by the teachings of men. Thus John the Baptist warned that the trees would be cut off from the roots of righteousness. "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 3:10. In the days of the gospel dispensation, the trees of righteousness will flourish under the Lord Jesus Christ. Psalms 72:7 "In **his** days shall the righteous **flourish**; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."

Imagine looking upon the palm tree in a dry desert, its beautiful trunk and leaves that stand out against the sand arid desert. Welcoming the exhausted traveler who just came across the desert to lie under its shade. The cedars of Lebanon, standing tall in their radiant beauty. How eye catching that would be for people to see and look upon, against all the trees of the forest.

A tree goes through four cycles or seasons throughout the year. The spring and summer cycles which are its growing times and the autumn and winter cycles, which are its none growing or dormant stage. Disciples of the Lord will too experience these cycles throughout their lives. There will be times when they will experience a growing or flourishing period in their service to God, thus our scripture for this article which reads that the righteous will flourish. These are the

times that we are upon the mountain top of spirituality with the Lord. How we wish that all times could be like this, but alas as there is the wintertime for the trees, so too will we go through a dormant stage in our service to God. The winters can be long and hard on the trees; they even look like they are dead in the coldest time of winter. When the spring comes again, then the sap will rise and the trees once again go through their growing stage. Remember that when your spiritual life seems to be in a winter stage.

Sometimes we want to do something for others that God lays upon our hearts to do so. The opportunity however may not be there. When it isn't we should wait and seek for his guidance just as the church did at Philippi when they heard that Paul was imprisoned and they wanted to help him in his time of need. "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath **flourished** again; wherein ye were also **careful**, but ye lacked opportunity." Philippians 4:9-10. The word "careful" means to have a mindset. The church had a mindset to help out people in need, but they waited until the right time to do the most good for someone. Hearing the news that Paul was in bonds at Rome. At first the church sorrows and prayed for his release. Seeing this wasn't going to happen anytime soon; they came out of their sorrow, and prayed what now to do for Paul? The prayer was answered when they decided to send Epaphroditus to go to Rome where Paul was in prison. Sending a present which probably consisted of food and money to comfort him, to see after his needs. Here the trees of righteousness **flourished** in their deed toward Paul. They waited for the opportunity and staying faithful in what Paul preached to them. They were given the opportunity to help the minister who had brought the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them! They stood out as trees of righteousness, and were a good example to all the churches that heard of their faithfulness.

May God grant us the grace and strength to be trees of examples for our brethren. (December 2017)

Numbers 6:24-27 "*The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: [25] The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: [26] The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. [27] And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.*"

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