

# REASONS TO REJOICE!

“REJOICE EVERMORE!” (I Thessalonians 5:16).

There are many reasons to rejoice or be happy. Most of the time, our happiness or joy depends on what we are thinking about.

If we are thinking about what we have, we are happy.

If we are thinking about what we don't have, we are sad.

“As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he!” (Proverbs 23:7).

There are many circumstances and conditions which typically make us happy:

1. Our family being together! (Ps. 133:1).
2. The church coming together in peace, and unity, in the Spirit. (Ps. 122:1).
3. Having a sufficiency of necessities (food, clothing, shelter) be content!
4. Good health; freedom; blessings of living in America!

The only reason Eve could be tempted to go after the forbidden fruit is because she was not thinking about what she had, but let the devil get her concentrating on what she could not have. Her “thinking” resulted in her taking what she should not. Her disobedience brought much sorrow, not happiness!

The Apostle Paul said, “I think myself happy!” (Acts 26:2). He tells us how to think ourselves happy when he said, “Rejoice in the Lord!” (Phil. 3:1). “Rejoice in Christ Jesus!” (Phil. 3:3). “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice!” (Phil. 4:4). Then he tells us what to think about in order to be able to rejoice: “Whatsoever things are true, ...honest, ...just, ...pure, ...lovely, ...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS!” (Phil. 4:8).

Study Phil. 4:8-13! Also look at Matt. 2:10; Acts 8:39; 16:34; Rom. 5:2.

There are some circumstances and conditions in life which may change, therefore, we MUST learn to rejoice even when the circumstances in life change: family, church, food, clothing, shelter, health, etc. What are some things in which we can rejoice which CANNOT CHANGE!

1. **Rejoice that Christ is preached!** (Philippians 1:18)
2. **Rejoice in the Lord!** (Habakkuk 3:17)
3. **Rejoice because your names are written in heaven!** (Luke 10:20)
4. **Rejoice because we are “counted worthy to suffer shame for the sake of Christ”** (Acts 5:41). See also I Peter 4:12,13!
5. **Rejoice because you can rejoice in sorrow!** (II Corinthians 6:10)

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## Seeing Jesus

by Sis. Marie Counts  
St. Simons Island, Georgia

I have the privilege of teaching my children at Saint Simons Christian School. The day begins with all the faculty in a meeting to read the Word of God and pray as a group. Each class begins with a Bible lesson and prayer in each classroom. It is a blessing to hear the prayers of each student. Throughout the day, there are Scriptures at the bottom of each worksheet to keep the teachers and students focused on Jesus.

When we eat a snack or lunch, it is sweet to hear the prayers of students. We sing praises to God during transitions. We have a chapel service each week and we enjoy praising

God in songs and in the study of His Word as a group. Once a month, the chapel services are called Bible Buddies, and the older students instruct the younger students from the Word of God.

When the headmaster asked me to teach P.E., he explained that my main goal was to keep the students focused on Jesus while participating in physical activity to the best of their ability. Today at the end of our P.E. time, the students were asked to grab their water bottles and sit in a circle for one minute of reflection on what they saw around them that was created by God. I told the students that

they could see Jesus in everything God created if they just took time to notice. The students were looking around and naming things they saw, such as other students, grass, trees, birds, and the sky. When the student who said the sky and clouds looked up, she gasped and said "Look!" pointing to the sky. All of my fourth and fifth grade students saw a beautiful cross made of clouds in the sky. We need to take time to magnify and glorify the Lord for who He is and what He has done. Take time each day to notice the work of His fingers. We are surrounded by His beauty and majesty.

# The Word Was Made Flesh

by Elder Greg Phillips  
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*"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).*

Christmas in this country has become a secular "holiday." Here and in other countries, even those with no Christian background, the season is a time of festivities and celebration with no knowledge or thought of Christ.

Many may see the season as a time for kindness, giving, and doing good, yet have no regard for the Saviour. Many see only a time of parties and feasting, and perhaps including drunken revelry. There is a concerted effort to make the season all-inclusive by referring to the "holidays" instead of Christmas.

It is no surprise that the world acts worldly. The unbelieving world has always hated Christ and sought to destroy all that pertains to Him. We constantly hear people preach open-mindedness, tolerance and acceptance, when in fact they tolerate everything except Christianity. We should expect that trend to continue and increase as "...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Timothy 3:13).

While the world's hostility to Christ and Christians is disturbing, it is not surprising. What is even more troubling, however, is seeing professing Christians caught up in the worldliness of the season. It is all too easy to get caught up in all the activities, emotions, and traditions of the season and forget Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans 14:5). I personally am one who "...esteemeth every day alike," and believe every day should be a celebration of not only the birth of Christ, but also the death, burial, and resurrec-

tion of our Saviour. I have no problem with those who "...esteemeth one day above another," so long as everyone is "...fully persuaded in his own mind." We should be knowledgeable of what the Bible teaches and not blindly accept the traditions handed down by men. We should have a good understanding of what the birth of Christ really means rather than being swept away with emotions of the season.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" is a truth that we can only partially grasp. God became man. The Invisible became tangible. He Who was far off drew nigh. That which was beyond the reach of the human mind became that which can be seen and touched. "The word became flesh." He became what He was not previously. He did not cease to be God, but He became Man.

"And the word became flesh." The plain meaning of these words is, that our Divine Savior took upon Him human nature. He became a real Man, yet a sinless, perfect Man.

God the Creator identified Himself with His creature. He took part of flesh and blood. Though as God He existed from all eternity, yet in the fullness of time He took our nature into union with His divine nature, and became really and truly Man.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted,

he is able to succour them that are tempted" (Hebrews 2:14-18).

According to Jewish law a forfeited inheritance could be ransomed by the nearest of kin. In becoming man, Jesus Christ became our nearest of kin. He assumed humanity, in order to be our Redeemer.

When we think of a birth, we think of life. New life is brought into existence and we focus on all the potential of that life. While we concentrate on life, we know that life here is fragile and relatively short, and unless God intervenes, death awaits the end of this earthly life.

Jesus "...likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15). God became man in order to die, and in dying, destroy death. He was born to die so that His kinsmen might be redeemed from the bondage of death. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14, emphasis added). The Word (Christ) was made flesh in order to reveal the invisible Father. The glory of which John speaks is that manifestation of Christ's majesty, which is the glory of the only begotten Son of God, who is "...the brightness of his [the Father's] glory, and the express image of his person"

(Hebrews 1:3). Jesus told Philip, "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

John did not imply that he had seen all the glory of Christ or of the Father. Man in this sinful flesh cannot see the fullness of God's glory. Peter spoke of glory that was yet to be revealed (I Peter 5:1). In Christ all the glory that can be revealed to man has been revealed. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Christ especially reveals the Father's grace and truth and is said to be "...full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). He was not only a partaker of grace and truth, but was full of the very substance of grace and truth. The word grace denotes the whole fruit of God's purposes of love towards sinners, which had existed only in promise. In Christ all God's promises are fulfilled. "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (II Corinthians 1:20). He is kind, merciful, gracious, doing good to all, and seeking man's welfare by great sacrifices and love. He abounded in favors to mankind.

He was also full of truth. He declared the truth. In him was no falsehood. As well, there were no types or figures in Christ, but the true revelations of the Old Testament types. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). He is the "true light" (John 1:9), the "true bread" (John 6:32), and the "true vine" (John 15:1). Jesus called Himself "the light of the world," and it is the nature of light to reveal. Jesus Christ reveals to us our heavenly Father. Jesus told Pilate, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37).

While Jesus is fully God and has revealed God to us, He is also fully man, and revealed to us how man is to live before God. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38). Jesus, in His incarnation, made Himself a Servant of His Father. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation,

and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8).

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:1). Christ is the Servant of Jehovah, doing His will. As Jehovah's servant Christ would redeem those given Him by the Father in the covenant of grace. He served God by serving God's people. "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:10-12). On behalf of the chosen of God, Christ satisfied the justice of God by bearing the punishment due to their sins.

Just as Christ served His Father by serving God's children, we serve Christ by serving one another. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). The Lord (their Lord) accepts service to the needy as a personal service to himself. Christ identifies himself with the needy and the suffering. Helping others is proof of possession of love for Christ and likeness to him.

Our service to Christ and to one another must be motivated by love, and Christ is also our pattern and example for love. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Followers of different teachers are identified as disciples when they imitate their teacher and reflect his life in theirs.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). Jesus' life and teaching was marked by love. When we love in the manner Christ loved, we give evidence that we are truly His disciples.

To love was not a new commandment. It had been commanded before in the law of Moses (Leviticus 19:18). Under the law, man was to love his neighbor AS himself, but Jesus loved him MORE than Himself, for He laid down his life for others. In this He calls upon the disciples to imitate Him; to be ready on all occasions to lay down their lives for each other.

Christ gave a new commandment to His disciples in that there was to be a new degree and new motivation for love: "...as I have loved you." Believers are to "...love one another with a pure heart fervently" (I Peter 1:22).

Christian love for one another is to be evidence that we are like the Saviour. It shall be the thing by which we are known among all men. Of the earliest Christians the pagans wrote, "See how they love one another! They are ready to lay down their lives for each other."

Of all the commandments of Jesus Christ, love one for another is perhaps the least apparent to a surrounding world. There is today a lack of true sacrificial Christian love among believers. We do love one another, but often to no greater degree than unbelievers love one another. "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:46-48).

Jesus is God's gift to us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Christ's coming into the world was evidence of His love for us, especially when we realize that

He came to die for us. In this we are to be imitators of Christ. "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 sweetsmelling savour" (Ephesians 5:2).

Men may celebrate the birth of Christ in many ways, in giving gifts, in acts of kindness, in religious exercise. None of these things will truly honor Christ as much as our seeking to be like Him. We often hear men encourage others to "put

Christ back in Christmas." We can only do that by giving as He gave, living as He lived, loving as He loved. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

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## Grow in Knowledge

1. "And one of the elders saith unto me, \_\_\_\_\_ not: behold the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

2. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, said the Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_ not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

3. "\_\_\_\_\_ not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

4. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and \_\_\_\_\_ not unto thine own understanding."

5. "\_\_\_\_\_ not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity."

6. "Thus saith the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."

7. "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and \_\_\_\_\_ not the law of thy mother."

8. "\_\_\_\_\_ not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

9. "\_\_\_\_\_ not the world, neither the things that are in the world..."

10. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren concerning them which are asleep, that ye \_\_\_\_\_ not, even as others which have no hope."

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## The Old Path

'The Old Paths' was written by a retired minister who lives in Tennessee.--  
submitted by Elder Jason S. Solomon

I liked the old paths, when  
Moms were at home.  
Dads were at work.  
Brothers went into the army.  
And sisters got married  
BEFORE having children!  
Crime did not pay;  
Hard work did;  
And people knew the difference.  
Moms could cook;  
Dads would work;  
Children would behave.  
Husbands were loving;  
Wives were supportive;  
And children were polite.

Women wore the jewelry;  
And Men wore the pants.  
Women looked like ladies;  
Men looked like gentlemen;  
And children looked decent.  
People loved the truth,  
And hated a lie.  
They came to church to get IN,  
Not to get OUT!  
Hymns sounded Godly;  
Sermons sounded helpful;  
Rejoicing sounded normal;  
And crying sounded sincere.  
Cursing was wicked;  
Drugs were for illness;

And divorce was unthinkable.  
The flag was honored;  
America was beautiful;  
And God was welcome!  
We read the Bible in public;  
Prayed in school;  
And preached from  
house to house.  
To be called an American  
was worth dying for;  
To be called an American was  
worth living for;  
To be called a traitor  
was a shame!  
I still like the old paths the best!

# The Purpose of Predestination

by Elder W. H. Durrence  
Brooklet, Georgia

If the objective of this study was simply to establish that predestination is taught in the Bible, Romans 8:29 & 30 and Ephesians 1:5 & 11 could be cited. Some might point out that predestination is not mentioned very many times in the Bible. What does that have to do with its importance? When Paul said that things written before our time were for our learning, he did not say that it must be mentioned a certain number of times to be believed (Romans 15:4). Importance is not based upon frequent occurrence. Neither does a subject have to be mentioned a specific number of times to be accepted as divinely inspired, for "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). Even if predestinate or predestined was mentioned only once in the Bible, it would be just as inspired, and we should be just as challenged to understand its meaning.

After all, the word "atonement" is used only once in the New Testament, in Romans 5:11. Christ is called our "Advocate" only once in the entire Bible (1 John 2:1). Yet where would we be without Christ's filling these vital positions? No, my friends, the fact that predestination is taught by only a few Scriptures does not justify the negligence of this important subject. What it does is simplify our study and help us to focus more clearly upon it. Therefore, we are going beyond the fact that predestination is taught in the Bible, we will also endeavor to understand the purpose of God behind it.

At this point, we need to establish the fact that God is a God of purpose. He does not just randomly and haphazardly do things. We need to recognize

that God has a purpose in the things He does. This fact should be evident from the account of creation recorded in Genesis, chapter one. Notice that on the first day, God created light. Later, on the third day, He created vegetation. What is the point? It is this, God did not create vegetation and then say, "Oops; I forgot it takes light for photosynthesis to work." On the next day after He created vegetation, He divided the light and darkness so there would be day and night. Why? So that the animals, birds and creeping things would have time for rest. It was necessary for their survival. In the order of creation, there was purpose. God made the light before the plants so they could grow, and He made the plants before the animals so they would have something to eat.

If we see that God had a purpose in the order of creation, then it follows that there is a purpose in predestination, for that is God's work too. In fact, predestination cannot be separated from the purpose of God according to Ephesians 1:11. Paul said, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." It reminds us that our spiritual inheritance comes to us because God predestinated according to the purpose of God. He would have us to understand His purpose as He sovereignly works out His grace in the people He chose and predestinated. These plans were settled before the world was created, because God knew that after He created humanity, they would all fall into sin. If He did not devise a plan, all would be hopelessly lost. His plan was perfect! He would send His Son into this world to live without sin, and at last die for ours. All this was done according to the "purpose" of God, Who has power

to work sovereignly and bring about every purpose of His will. As we study the doctrine of predestination as taught in the Bible, the Holy Spirit reveals its purpose. After all, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would not only comfort us, but teach us also (John 14:26).

Here is what He taught me about the purpose of predestination: first, in predestination God purposed that the elect be adopted into His family. As we study carefully Ephesians 1:5, we note that purpose plainly stated. It says, "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." The "elect" are those whom God had chosen before the foundation of the world. They were chosen by God the Father, in Christ Jesus our Lord, according to Ephesians 1:4. Those same people were then "adopted" into the family of God. In the adoptions of men, the child does not do the adopting, the parent (to be) adopts the child. Here Jesus is shown to adopt "the elect" into the family of God, according to His will and purpose; not ours. It is very important for us to remember this truth.

Some may wonder why this adoption needed to take place at all. The answer is simple; we were all in Adam's fallen family. In the family of fallen humanity, there was spiritual poverty and sin. Left there, all of us would have been eternally banished from the presence of God. Something had to be done, and we were in no condition to do anything about it. According to the Scriptures, all of us had sinned (Romans 3:23), and sin brought death (James 1:15). Because we were dead (not physically, but spiritually) we could not solve the problem. Someone had to save us and that someone was God, through Jesus Christ. When our heavenly Father chose us and Christ adopted us

into His family, all our indebtedness became His responsibility, and all His possessions became ours. That is the way adoptions were during Bible times (as I understand it). All our sin debts were paid by Christ on the cross (Romans 5:21), and all the riches of His righteousness and glory became ours as joint-heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17). Think of it, if this purpose of predestination were not accomplished, we would still be in our sins and would not be a part of the great family of God.

Second, in predestination God proposed that we be restored to all we lost in the fall. Keep in mind that God created us good and without sin. He made us in His "image" and "likeness" according to Genesis 1:26. The Trinity jointly created us and gave us dominion over all the created world. God gave this authority to His highest earthly creation. As such we were given more than just dominion, He also gave us His image and likeness. Remember that when idols were worshipped, the people had made IMAGES in the form of some creature (Exodus 20:4). The Bible says that God made us to be very much like Himself, and we shall marvel at the similarities when we look upon Him in heaven (1 Corinthians 13:12), for "we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:3).

The "image and likeness" declares that more than a resemblance is involved here. It also suggests that his "nature" was shared with man (to a degree). After all, God was without sin, and man was created sinless too. So predestination not only "corrects" the problem of sin, but actually "restores" us to the condition of man before sin. None of us has ever known what it feels like to be free from sin. All of our lives we have been sinners. Because Adam fell and became a sinner, all his posterity were afflicted with his sinful nature. That does not mean we can blame it all on him. It is true that our sinful nature came from him, but our sinful actions have been our own doing. We sin whenever we give in to our lust (James 1:14); and every time we sin, we are

breaking God's laws (1 John 3:4). We have never experienced what Adam felt before sins entered this world and into his being. That wonderful state lost to sin will be regained because God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son. Jesus will come again and raise us from the dead, and our vile bodies shall be changed into His likeness (Philippians 3:21). Paul wrote in Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." How else will this glorious state ever be achieved? None of us has the know-how or the power to bring it to pass. We are totally and absolutely dependent on the God of all grace, for the enjoyment of this blessing. Predestination is then God's word of guarantee that this lost estate shall be eternally enjoyed by the saved. Won't it be wonderful when the weaknesses and imperfections of the sinful flesh will give way to the sinless perfection of our Lord!

Third, in predestination God proposed that the pinnacle of all blessings shall be enjoyed. We shall actually enjoy a better state than Adam enjoyed in the beginning. It reaches beyond all privileges previously mentioned, for we will experience the glories of heaven forever. Paul not only informed us that we will be like Jesus, but that we will be glorified also. In Romans 8:30 he said, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." The interesting thing is that predestination is one of the initial steps that began the process of salvation. Step by step the process continues, and higher and higher we are elevated until at last we shall be "glorified" and gathered around the throne of God in heaven. There we shall experience the exhilarating ecstasy of His eternal glory.

He predestinated it all to happen in the course of time. Keep in mind that

God predestinated in eternity past, but in time those He predestinated are called (effectually by the irresistible grace of the Holy Spirit). Those whom He called are justified (washed in the blood of Christ and made as if sin never occurred). All this we experience in time, but the final step will be enjoyed in eternity to come. Those who were justified are finally glorified. God speaks of the glorification of His saints as though it has already occurred because it is that sure and certain. How can He be that certain? Because He has predestinated it. Let me remind you that all God has purposed in predestination He will bring to pass because He "...worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11).

In conclusion, let me remind you that in the process of this study we have considered all verses that mention predestinate or predestinated, and none of them has taught anything negative and unpleasant; all of them are good and beneficial. Those who try to make this doctrine negative and repulsive, are people whose only purpose is to discourage others from believing it. We should never allow such people to deter us from loving and rejoicing in the word of God. Predestination, as God revealed it, is a positive and beautiful truth, filling the hearts of the saved with hope. In the verses we have studied it is easy to conclude that God's purpose was Divinely designed to bless His people. One day by His grace, we will be able to better understand all that our heavenly Father has purposed, and we will have eternity to learn the fullness of them.

If you are blessed by the Holy Spirit to understand these truths which are proclaimed in the Bible, share them with others to the glory of God and His Son our Saviour. If you have not seen them clearly as yet, pray for insight and study the Scriptures more intensely. The ultimate objective of such knowledge is to glorify God for His goodness and grace to man. These teachings are divinely designed to focus our atten-

tion on God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In believing these truths, there is no room for man to glory, for all glory belongs to God. Those of us who hold these truths in our hearts should glorify

God by the lives we live. Paul said we should glorify Him in our bodies and in our spirits (1 Corinthians 6:20). Every day should be an occasion to praise and serve our loving and gracious

God. Are you willing to do so? Think about what He purposed in predestination, and think about how you may glorify Him until He comes to glorify you in heaven.

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# FOUND: MAGAZINE TO HELP ME AND OTHERS!!!!

Recently, my mother underwent surgery at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. As I sat waiting, I thought, "I sure wish I had a Bible or something spiritual to read!" It was then that I saw your magazine.

As I began reading, I was greatly impressed, and my spirit was lifted a great deal. I planned to bring the magazine home with me and share it with some friends. But God had other plans for the book. Later, a nurse from the recovery room came to check on my mother, and she seemed depressed or

discouraged about some problems. I kept on reading your book as she was talking with my mother. Then she asked me, "What are you reading?" I told her and she wanted to know where I found the book. Since this was the only one there, she wanted to know if she could borrow the magazine when I was finished reading it. Because she seemed so burdened, I went ahead and let her have it.

My problem is that I was not through reading it, and would like to get a copy of it, and receive the magazine regular-

ly if at all possible. That magazine was truly a blessing to me (and the nurse!)

Thanks, and God bless you!  
Kay Rogers  
Thomasville, Georgia

(Ed. Note- We encourage all our readers to place the magazines around in hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices, laundromats, etc. God will get them into the hands of His children who need an encouraging word. We receive numerous letters like the one above because of the faithfulness of His children sharing the truth with others!)

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## *Answers to Grow In Knowledge*

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. weep - Revelation 5:5       | 4. lean - Proverbs 3:5   | 7. forsake - Proverbs 1:8         |
| 2. touch - II Corinthians 6:17 | 5. fret - Psalm 37:1     | 8. neglect - I Timothy 4:14       |
| 3. fear - Luke 12:32           | 6. learn - Jeremiah 10:2 | 9. love - I John 2:15             |
|                                |                          | 10. sorrow - I Thessalonians 4:13 |

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# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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# Warriors, Wrestlers, Workers, and Worshipers

by Elder William M. Mullis  
Waycross, Georgia

As children of God who have been saved by grace, we need to remember there are many things God has called us to do in our lives here on earth. He has not merely saved us to go to the eternal heaven when we die, but also to honor and glorify Him in this earthly pilgrimage.

## WARRIORS

One night recently as I was in bed praying, the Lord began putting many Scriptures on my heart about God's people being good warriors, or good soldiers of Jesus Christ. The first Scripture that came to my mind was: "No man that warreth, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (II Timothy 2:4). I felt God was warning me about getting too entangled in the affairs of this life. So many times along my journey here, I get too involved in the affairs of this life, and begin to set my affection on things of the earth, rather than on things above. The cares, riches, and pleasures of this life begin to choke out the word of God (see Luke 8:14), and I fail to bring forth good fruit as I should. I lose fellowship with God, and lose the joy of my salvation. I know my eternal salvation is secure in Christ Jesus, but sometimes I do not feel I am His when I fail to be a good warrior. When I fail to keep on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6: 10-18), I cannot overcome the temptations of Satan. One by one I yield to his "offerings," just a little here and a little there, until before I realize it, I have strayed far from the front lines of combat, and have abandoned the warfare.

The battles with Satan are never ending. Occasionally, all soldiers get battle fatigue and feel the odds are so much against us we can never defeat the enemy. We sometimes weary of "enduring hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 2:3). Satan puts a "defeated" attitude in our minds,

and if we forget "the battle is not yours, but the Lord's," and if we take our eyes off the captain of our salvation, then we sink in the sea of despair as Peter sank in the sea of water. When we forget to be "looking unto Jesus," we do become weary and faint in our minds. (See Hebrews 12:1-3).

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:3-5). Oh what a battle we fight in our minds, keeping the imaginations and thoughts pure; keeping in memory the wonderful promises of God; overcoming the temptations to run, compromise, or give up!

..."But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Corinthians 10:13). Just think about the beatitudes of Matthew 5:1-12! Think about the glorious promises Jesus has made to warriors who overcome! Think about His promises, such as "My grace is sufficient for thee," (II Corinthians 12:9), and ..."I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Hebrews 13:5). We have no reason to ever be discouraged, depressed, or despondent! Even if other soldiers abandon us (as they did Paul- II Timothy 4: 16, 17; as they did David- I Samuel 17; and as they did Jesus Christ- Matthew 26:56), we are not alone! And "if God be for us, who can be against us?!" (See Romans 8:31).

God touched my heart in many ways that night about being a good warrior or a good soldier. I studied many Scriptures pertaining to our warfare, fighting the good fight of faith, and laying hold

on eternal life. I got out of bed, reading and studying under the blessings of the Holy Spirit; and now I charge you all: "War A Good Warfare!" (I Timothy 1:18). (For more related Scriptures to study on this subject, please read Revelation 11 :7; 12:10-17; 13:4,7; 17:14; 19:11,19; I Peter 2:11; James 4:1,2; Numbers 31 :7, 42; Joshua 24:9; I Kings 14:19; 20:1; 22:45; II Chronicles 11:1; 26:6; Isaiah 9:5; and Romans 7:23.)

## WRESTLERS

After rejoicing in the Lord for a couple of hours that night, studying about being a good WARRIOR, I got back in bed, feeling especially close to God. In a few minutes, the thought came to me that we also need to be a good WRESTLER in order to please the Lord. I jumped out of bed, and started studying the Scripture which says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities; against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6: 12).

The first declaration about "wrestling" is, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood..." Satan is gaining great victories today because we "wrestlers" are often wrestling against flesh and blood. In other words, we fail to correctly identify the true enemy. As children of God, we need to stop wrestling with each other, and join together in wrestling against our enemy- Satan. Even when there are individuals being used by Satan to promote ungodliness, false doctrine, and heresies, those people should not be the focus of our attention. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, "Wrestling against flesh and blood" (humans) would be much easier than the task set before us! We wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places! These principalities, and powers, and rulers of the darkness of this



world, and the spiritual wickedness in high places are continuously tempting us, luring us, prodding us, provoking us to evil. Each time we yield to temptation, we lose a wrestling match. We do not have to give in or give up so easily. We need to wrestle. We need to resist. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7). The more we wrestle with these principalities, powers, and evil rulers, the stronger we become. The more we wrestle, the more we learn about wrestling! When more of God's people begin wrestling with the forces of evil, instead of wrestling with each other (flesh and blood), Satan will cease gaining such strongholds in America. We need more who will be committed to wrestling, resisting, and overcoming all devices of Satan.

May God bless us all to stop wrestling with each other (flesh and blood), stop wrestling with God and His angels as did Jacob (Genesis 32:24, 25), and start actively wrestling with the evil principalities, and powers.

### **WORKERS**

After studying "wrestlers" for a while, I returned to bed hoping to sleep before daylight came. But in a short time, I began thinking about how the people of God not only need to be warriors and wrestlers, but we need to be good workers! I thought about the people of God in Nehemiah 4 who accomplished so much because "the people had a mind to work." (Nehemiah 4:6). The city of God and the temple were restored to glory as the people of God were willing to diligently work even in the midst of ridicule, reproach, and oppression from their own brethren as well as from the enemies. (See Nehemiah 4:1-3, 11 and Nehemiah 5:1-13).

"They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon." (Nehemiah 4:17). Do you see that these people were workers as well as warriors? As Primitive Baptists, we sometimes emphasize only a portion of God's word: SALVATION IS BY GRACE ALONE! While it is true that

our eternal salvation is by grace, not of works (Ephesians 2:9; Romans 9: 11), not by our works (Titus 3:5), and not according to our works (II Timothy 1:9), the word of God also dwells repeatedly on the works the redeemed family of God should be performing while we live here. Immediately after saying, "Not of works lest any man should boast," (Ephesians 2:9), the word of God declares, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).

Paul said to the Church at Corinth, "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." (II Corinthians 6:1). When we are not working and laboring, serving the Lord, we have received the grace to work in vain. God gives us the desire to work, and the ability to work. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13). But when we fail to work, even after He gives us the desire and ability to work, we have received the grace to work in vain. Some of God's people turn the grace of God into lasciviousness (see Jude 4), and use the truth of the grace of God as a license to do evil, and be lazy, failing to be zealous workers to the honor and glory of God. God pours out His wrath on His people who will not work and labor, serving Him with their lives. God is merciful, loving, gracious, and long suffering. But He is also a jealous God and a consuming fire. He judges His people whom He saved by grace! He saved His people from their sins, a people so great no man can number, out of every nation, kindred, family and tongue. (See Matthew 1 :21, Revelation 5:9, 10). Our eternal destiny is secure! But the same people He saved, He judges (His people) according to their works while we live here in this world! (See Hebrews 10:30, 31; Matthew 16:27, 28; II Corinthians 5:10; I Peter 1:17; Revelation 20:12; 22:12.)

If you are a child of God, He has called you to be a worker. Because of human nature, we have too many

"chiefs" and not enough "Indians." We have too many who are not willing to be a common laborer in serving God. Not so with David! He said, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalm 84:10). Are you ready to be a worker? There is much work to do! "The fields for they are white already to harvest." (Jn. 4:35).

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37, 38). There needs to be much prayer today for God to move mightily in the hearts of His people to work! Christianity in America is a pitiful sight. The army of God is running like Saul's army did from Goliath. We need warriors; we need wrestlers; we need workers!

Satan has many workers who are actively fulfilling his purposes and desires. There are over 20 references in the Bible to "workers of iniquity." There are "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." (II Corinthians 11:13). Paul warns us to "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." (Philippians 3:2). With all these workers of iniquity, deceitful workers, and evil workers, one might feel the task we face is too great! Without God, it is a useless effort. But with God's help, and us all working together, we can build again the walls of Jerusalem! We can restore the righteous principles upon which our nation was founded! We can return to being one nation, under God!

As we begin to work and labor, and God blesses us, there is a danger of becoming "proud" in the work and "proud" of what we are blessed to accomplish. Remember the words of Paul: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. Now then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. So he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's

building.” (I Corinthians 3:6-9). God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him! He rewards us, while we live here, according to our works! When our works are righteous, we are rewarded by God with blessings and fellowship with Him. When our works are evil, we are rewarded with the chastening hand of God, as the one talent servant who failed to work and was cast into outer darkness. It happens to God’s children when we fail to work!

Faithful workers are blessed to enter the holy city, the kingdom of heaven (righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost). “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” (Revelation 22:14). Jesus says, “And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12).

Though our eternal salvation is not contingent or dependent upon our works, yet our works have a tremendous effect on our lives while we live here on the earth. “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.” (Hebrews 6:10). When we do the right works (as set forth in His Holy Word), and do them for the right purpose, God will bless us in our deeds!

Jesus said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” (John 9:4). May God help us all to work, for the night is coming.

(For other Scriptures to study these verses: Luke 13:27; James 1:25; 2:14-26; I Peter 2:12; Revelation 2 and 3; I Timothy 2:10; 5:10, 25; II Timothy 2:21; 3:17; 6:18; Matthew 5:16; Titus 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14; II Timothy 2:15).

## WORSHIPPERS

It had been a good night of fruitful study under the blessings of the Holy Spirit! My cup had overflowed several times, rejoicing in the beauty of God’s word, and His grace in leading me to study about Warriors, Wrestlers, and workers. I wanted to praise His name! I wanted to worship Him.

Aha! More beautiful study on another “W” word. God has called us to be worshippers! “God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24). Truth is important! Without truth, we cannot worship God! We need to buy the truth, and sell it not! We need to always be careful to sing truth as well as preach truth. Worshipping God in singing **MUST** be in the Spirit, and in truth. Songs that do not harmonize with God’s holy word do not worship Him! Preaching which does not harmonize with God’s holy word does not worship Him! “True worshippers shall worship The Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.” (John 4:23b).

Worship! Praise! Adore! Glorify God! The Father seeketh such to worship Him! But Satan is always trying to get God’s people to worship something or someone besides God! Satan will try to get us to worship people (football, basketball, baseball players; musicians; family members; T.V. personalities; etc.). And Satan tries to get us to worship things (money, jobs, houses, land, cars, etc.) Deer hunting can become an idol. Golfing can become an idol. Fishing can become an idol. Too often, we worship, honor, and glorify people and things more than we worship God. Just as in the days of Rome, many people today “worship and serve the creature more than the creator.” (Romans 1:25). The songwriter expresses it beautifully: “The dearest idol I have known, what e’er

that idol be; help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee!”

Worship only God. Satan is satisfied if you’ll worship God and \_\_\_\_\_. Whatever your idol is, fill in the blank. Satan is satisfied with half your worship, but God is not satisfied with half worship! When Satan wanted Jesus to worship him, Jesus responded, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10). We need more true Christians (followers of Jesus) who will only worship God! We need more men like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who told the king, “we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” (Daniel 3:18).

True worshippers must worship God in spirit and in truth! “And **TRUE WORSHIPPERS** also worship God even in times of great trouble and distress. There are those who may be willing to worship God as long as He is pouring out blessings materially. But consider Job! He lost it all: possessions, children, health. What did he do? “Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped!” (Job 1:20). Job worshipped God in good times and in bad times. He did not worship his possessions, or his children. When he lost these dear possessions and children, he continued to worship God! Oh how we need true worshippers! People who really want to praise God from whom all blessings flow!

It was a good night of study! I’m thankful for His blessings upon my unworthy life. God is gracious to me everyday! I hope I can be a better warrior, wrestler, worker, and worshipper because of what He has shown me in His holy word!

**One the best ways to get yourself a reputation as a dangerous citizen these days is to go about repeating the very phrases which our Founding Fathers used in the struggle for independence. Charles Beard**

# Looking to Christ

by Elder Jason Solomon  
Cumming, Georgia

*"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God" (Psalm 146:5).*

## Foolish Children

When I was a boy, I spent a great deal of time on my grandfather's farm in rural North Carolina. Many of my memories from that time are warm and comforting. A few stand out as having an extreme effect on my outlook on life. One such occasion happened when I was somewhere between five and seven years old, when I disobeyed my father's direct command. Like most little boys, I was often foolish and more than often hard-headed, and that stubborn, foolish nature showed itself that day. Consequently I nearly paid for it with my life.

As it happened, my grandfather, my uncle, and my father all went in together to buy some Angus cows in the hope of maybe making a profit. While they never broke even financially, I was able to learn lessons that are without price. As I mentioned above, one of those lessons occurred while my father and uncle were cleaning stalls in the barn. They used an old home-made plywood-sided trailer to haul the trampled mud, hay, and manure. Frankly, I do not recall what they did with the stuff because of the events of that day.

While they scraped up the filth with shovels and pitchforks, I was hovering around as usual. The only place to sit down besides the ground was the tongue of the trailer. However, when I tried to sit on the metal A-frame hitch, my father yelled from the door of the barn for me to get away from front of the trailer. Finally, I was able to slip under his attention and rest for a few moments. I had not been there long when all of the sudden I felt this searing pain in my right arm above the elbow.

When I looked down, I saw my skin sliced open to the muscle underneath.

Immediately, I cried out. My father came running. He did not scold me for disobedience. He did not lecture me on the reasons for not sitting at the end of the trailer. Instead, he ran me to the farm house and called the town doctor. Later that day I was bandaged up with a clean wound and the beginnings of a story provoking scar.

The reason I was told not to sit on the tongue of the trailer was because my father was slinging a hay fork with rusty, twelve inch tines directly toward the trailer each time he scooped up some the nasty mixture from the stall. What happened was out of a parent's night mare. While I was sitting on the tongue of the trailer, my father had finished cleaning the stall. Deciding to put the pitchfork in the trailer, he cast the tool like anyone might. Rather than sink into the muck, the sharp tool slide across the top of the pile and off the front of the trailer. I was in the way.

## Delivered Not By Much Strength

I am thankful to God that my foolish young life was not snuffed out that day on the farm. Though I scared my father half to death, I learned several important lessons that day. Listen to your elders. Listen to those in authority. Listen to those wiser than you. Do not let your foolish inclinations destroy you.

It is easy to think we have everything figured out. If for no other reason, we do so because it is staggering to consider how little we really do know. Add to this combination of pride and fear, we also do not know what we do not know. So, it is simply easier to delude ourselves into believing we have most, if not all, the answers. However, if we have all the answers, then why do we still make mistakes?

The Bible teaches us not to put

our confidence in human strength. In Psalm 33, the psalmist writes, *"There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine"* (Psalm 33:16-19).

This passage not only admonishes trust in the Lord, but also warns us not to trust in the empty promises of the flesh. Ask anyone who has suffered a debilitating injury or who suffers from a chronic disease or who fights depression, and you will quickly learn that you cannot trust the flesh. It will fail you. Any true hope must be placed in the Lord's mighty and eternal hand. Let your heart be knit with God's saying with the psalmist, "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help" (Psalm 146:3).

## Trust Not My Bow

Beyond ourselves, we should not trust implicitly in material things to bring us happiness or salvation. We must always realize that while God may use earthly means to chastise and reward us, these are merely shadows of the true blessing of eternal life with Him. Good heavenly citizenship should start now in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Above all we must acknowledge God's mighty hand in salvation and blessing. In contrast to the passage above from Psalm 33, Psalm 44:5-7 highlights the vanity of earthly means compared to God.

*"Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, nei-*

*ther shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us"* (Psalm 44:5-7).

Certainly, the young David did not trust the 5 smooth stones in his pouch as he approached Goliath. Rather he firmly placed his trust in the Lord saying, "This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand..." (I Samuel 17:46a). This statement is one of many that this godly king said giving him the designation, "a man after God's own heart." Would that we were more often called as much.

### **God is my salvation**

About 2700 years ago, the prophet Isaiah wrote, "*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation*" (Isaiah 12:2). Isaiah lived in, through, or during four reigning kings in Jerusalem. His time of prophecy comes on the eve before the fall of Jerusalem. Certainly most people living have not seen what Isaiah had seen. He lived through good kings and bad. Through it all, he realized his humble state before the Almighty God and devoted himself to the work of the Lord, often coming before these kings bearing the Word of God.

Seeing the example of his faithfulness, we should look to figures like Isaiah and realize that our trust also best be placed in God. This is the same God who promised through Isaiah to send a child, born of a virgin, Immanuel (*God with us*), to bear the sins of His people. In time, He fulfilled this promise in Jesus (*God is salvation*), the Christ, the Son of God.

### **The Stony Heart**

The people of the world often try

to convince themselves that they do not need saving. They either deny or justify their sinful actions in the face of their conscience. Among the formerly faithful, the Apostle Paul refers to this process as searing the conscience. By searing the conscience, the feeling of pain and sadness for sin is numbed. Once this feeling is deadened, then sin can and often becomes more pronounced and prolific. For this reason, you do not normally see someone go from faithful Bible Study teacher to a lecherous scoundrel over night. It takes time to sear the conscience that badly.

At the point where the conscience is burned and deadened, the heart cannot feel the pricks of the Spirit of God. A change must first occur in the heart to renew it. Ezekiel gives us wonderful insight into this process.

*"Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence. And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God"* (Ezekiel 11:17-20).

Once the heart is renewed, it can once again feel the pangs of genuine guilt and sadness over sin. Repentance follows. Only then can the heart of man respond to the calling of God through the Scriptures which say, "Re-

pent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### **A Contrite Heart**

There are popular leaders today who teach that we need only to be positive and find the good within us to attain righteousness. God teaches a completely different path to holiness. The Psalmist David wrote, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

The mindset of David is contrasted in the Scriptures with that of his predecessor, King Saul, to whom Samuel said, "*Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams*" (I Samuel 15:22). Saul had directly disobeyed God and was not genuinely repentant for his sin. Rather he sought to justify his actions. Samuel tells the unruly king that he has been rejected by God as king over Israel.

These events lead directly to David's anointing to be the next King of Israel. David, a man after God's own heart, is not free from sin, but he clings to God's salvation. When David sins, he readily repents knowing his place before the Almighty God.

We too must keep a contrite heart before our holy Lord. Only with humility should we dare to approach the throne of God. Living out this maxim to the fullest, Jesus Christ said, "*And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted*" (Matthew 23:12). Let us look to Jesus Christ and follow the great example set down by our Lord. Amen.

**Freedom is... never more than one generation away from extinction.  
Every generation has to learn how to protect and defend it,  
or it's gone and gone for a long, long time.**

**Ronald Reagan**

# Refusing to Compromise

by Bro. Jeff Counts  
St. Simons, Georgia

We are called Primitive Baptists because we have refused to change with the times. This does not mean that we don't support technological advances, but it does mean that we don't support or tolerate the "changing" of the word of God. It also means that we refuse to make compromises concerning the true meaning of the word of God.

Refusing to change is not something that you can do only once or twice and call yourself successful. To be success-

ful at refusing, you must refuse always. Job had his wealth and his children taken away from him, and his wife asked him to "curse God, and die." But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh." (Job 2:9,10). Because Job refused to compromise his beliefs, "the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before" (42:10)

A lot of people, including some "Christians," are now saying that we should change our "narrow minded"

views concerning murder, homosexuality, abortion, adultery, and drunkenness. Job said to the wicked people that wanted him to change, "God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me." (Job 27:5). When we are asked, by a child of God or anyone else, to compromise our biblical beliefs, we should remember the words of Job, and say, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish..."

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# The Beast Is Alive!

by Bro. Robert Varn  
Jacksonville, Florida

Satan has been lurking to and fro since the beginning of time. God Almighty has kept a protective hand around His children in times past to protect them from Satan. However, sometimes, the hand is slowly lifted. John the Baptist was given by God a vision into the future. He tells in Revelation 13:1, "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his head ten crowns, and upon his heads the name blasphemy."

This beast is of Satan and blasphemy written in his heads signifies the mark of the beast to be placed upon the ungodly.

In Revelation 13:7, the Word says, "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and

power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Verse seven tells of the beast being released to make great turmoil in the lives of God's children. Satan is as strong today as ever and he is looking to tear apart you and your family in many ways.

If you will take the time to look around, Satan is tearing apart society with rampant sex, homosexuality, abortion, etc. If you are a true Christian, you will stand against these things and fight. You will be labeled an outcast, but you will have true peace within your heart.

It is harder than ever to stay strong in your walk with God because the powers of darkness are being released more and more. We must put more time in prayer, scripture, and fasting to overcome Satan's strongholds. God

is lifting His protective hand from our nation because of unrepented sins, and the beast is becoming stronger. To protect our families and ourselves from this great beast, one verse comes to mind. Romans 10:9 speaks, "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." Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Eternal salvation is not what I'm referring to, but salvation from hell on earth. Romans 10:9 is referring to salvation from hell on earth concerning the Jews. May God bless us all to call on the great and Holy name of the Lord to protect us from the beast.

God has promised forgiveness to your repentance,  
but He has not promised tomorrow  
to your procrastination. Augustine

# Remembering Miss Reba

by Sis. Sarah D. Ledger  
Bartow, Georgia

Miss Reba was a member of our church family, a dear friend, and since my mother and Paul's mother had long since departed this life, she was like a second mother to both of us. Although she had two sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren of her own, we like to refer to ourselves as her "other children."

Each year before the Thanksgiving meeting at our church, Miss Reba would begin assembling material for what she and I called the "Harvest Table." Basically, it was a cornucopia which contents seemed to spill across the entire communion table. She would search for the perfect pumpkin, the reddest and greenest apples, the plumpest pomegranates, the most colorful squash, the reddest yams, the juiciest grapes, both red and white.

She would even collect fall berries and leaves. The leaves would be preserved in her microwave. When she had assembled the materials, she would call us to come have coffee and cake and see what she gathered. During her later years, I put the coffee on and sliced the cake or got out the cookies. I did very little toward the arrangement except to help put it together when we got to the church and maybe add a few pecans. When we had it all assembled, she would tenderly unwrap her special candlesticks and candles to complete the arrangement which would have been a wonderful subject for some artist to paint. It truly was an example of God's bounty that we all have to enjoy while on this earth.

Miss Reba passed away several years ago. We have kept the tradition

of the "Harvest Table" every year at our Thanksgiving service. One or another of the ladies in the church puts it together. I have done it a couple of times. It always looks very much like the ones she worked on and I trust that we always do it in her memory, remembering the love we shared with her and the wonderful example she left with us.

I miss Miss Reba every day. I miss her friendship and love, the opportunity to talk to her about anything, and her wonderful sense of humor. I miss coffee and dessert in her little country kitchen. I miss her more at Thanksgiving than at any other time, but I also know in my heart of heart how happy she must be. She's spending Thanksgiving with Jesus.

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## Cherokee Legend

### Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of Passage?

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone.

Once he survives the night, he is a MAN.

He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because

each lad must come into manhood on his own.

The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man!

Finally, after a horrific night, the sun appeared, and he removed his blindfold.

It was then that he discovered

his father sitting on the stump next to him.

He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We, too, are never alone.

Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us.

When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

### Moral of the story:

Just because you can't see God, it doesn't mean He is not there. "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

**IT IS ONLY THE FEAR OF GOD  
THAT CAN DELIVER US FROM  
THE FEAR OF MAN.**

John Witherspoon

# If I Were the Devil

from Paul Harvey

If I were the Devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. Just let those run wild until I would have to have drug-sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing; I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the

houses of Congress. And in His own churches, I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls and church money. If I were the Devil, I would make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

If I were the Devil, I'd take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What do you bet I couldn't get

whole states to promote gambling as "the" way to get rich.

I would caution against extremes in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on t.v. is the way to be. And thus I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the Devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

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# Abraham Lincoln

You cannot bring prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You

cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You

cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

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## *Getting Rid of the Pastor*

(Please Read: I Timothy 5:17-25)

*"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor."*  
I Timothy 5:17

A Christian leader told of a group of laymen who came to see him one day for some advice. They wanted to know of a diplomatic way to get rid of their pastor. The man, sensing that they were not being fair, offered several possible solutions:

1. Look your pastor straight in the eye while he is preaching and say "Amen" once in a while. He'll preach himself to death!
2. Pat him on the back and tell him

his good points. Before you know it, he'll work himself to death!

3. Rededicate your own life to Christ and ask your minister for a job to do. He'll die of heart failure!

4. Get the church to unite in prayer for him. Soon he'll become so effective that a larger church will take him off your hands!

If your pastor faithfully preaches God's Word and tries to live an exemplary life, do all you can to support and

encourage him. Of course, no pastor is perfect and sometimes a careful rebuke may be needed (I Timothy 5:20). But a pastor carries a big responsibility (Hebrews 13: 17), and a faithful man of God is worthy of loving respect and generous financial support (I Timothy 3:1; 5:17-18).

By the way, when did you last say to your pastor, "I'm grateful for you and all you've done for me"?

*We give the help the pastors need, for burdens they must bear,  
When we entrust them to the Lord, and hold them up in prayer.*

**A PASTOR LEADS BEST WHEN HIS PEOPLE GET BEHIND HIM**

# Bible Reading Calendar for February

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Exod. 27,28	Matt. 21:23-46
2	Exod. 29,30	Matt. 22:1-22
3	Exod. 31,32,33	Matt. 22:23-46
4	Exod. 34,35,36	Matt. 23:1-22
5	Exod. 37,38	Matt. 23:23-39
6	Exod. 39,40	Matt. 24:1-22
7	Lev. 1,2,3	Matt. 24:23-51
8	Lev. 4,5,6	Matt. 25:1-30
9	Lev. 7,8,9	Matt. 25:31-46
10	Lev. 10,11,12	Matt. 26:1-19
11	Lev. 13	Matt. 26:20-54
12	Lev. 14	Matt. 26:55-75
13	Lev. 15,16,17	Matt. 27:1-31
14	Lev. 18,19	Matt. 27:32-66
15	Lev. 20,21	Matt 28:1-20

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Lev. 22,23	Mark 1:1-22
17	Lev. 24,25	Mark 1:23-45
18	Lev. 26,27	Mark 2
19	Num. 1,2	Mark 3:1-21
20	Num. 3,4	Mark 3:22-35
21	Num. 5,6	Mark 4:1-20
22	Num. 7	Mark 4:21-41
23	Num. 8,9,10	Mark 5:1-20
24	Num. 11,12,13	Mark 5:21-43
25	Num. 14,15	Mark 6:1-32
26	Num. 16,17	Mark 6:33-56
27	Num. 18,19,20	Mark 7:1-13
28	Num. 21,22	Mark 7:14-37

**ANSWERS TO  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
JANUARY 10**

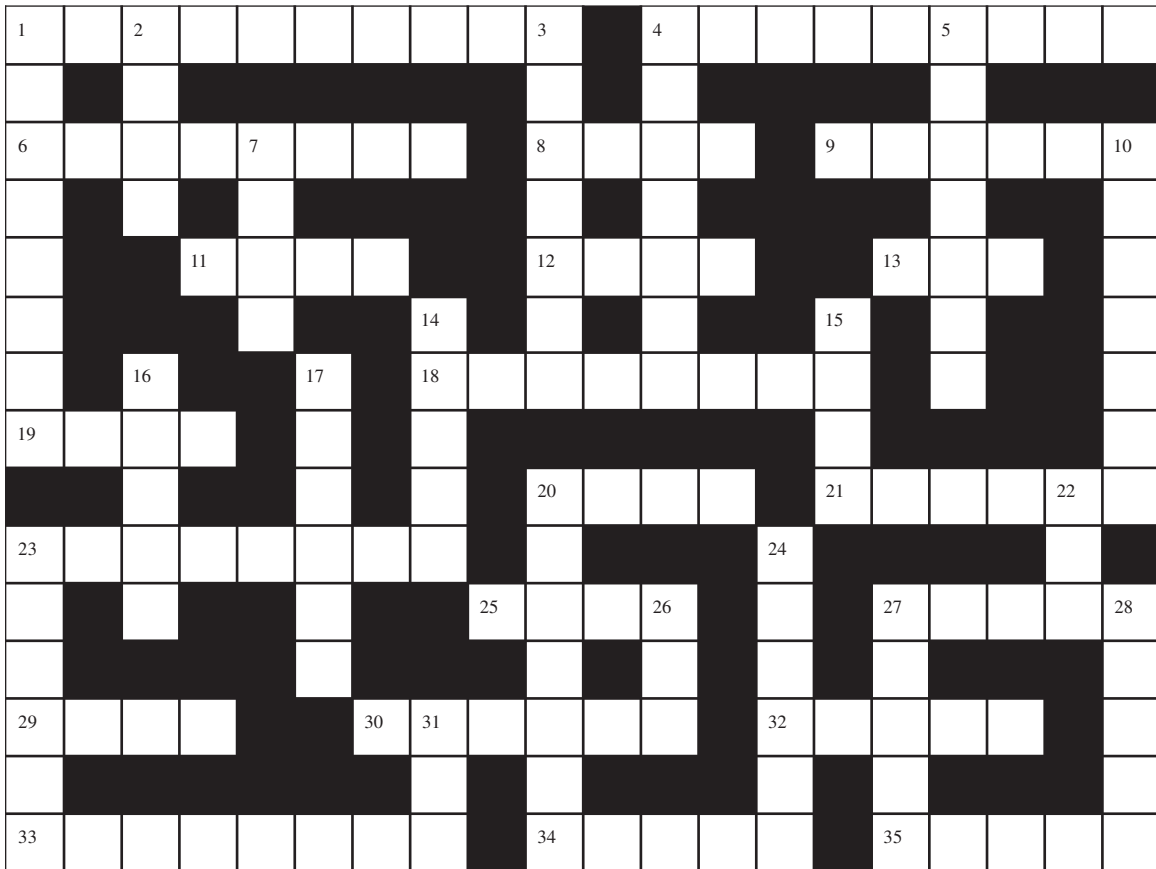
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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. "No man that warreth \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 4. "In the \_\_\_\_\_ was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." 6. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good \_\_\_\_\_." 8. "Obey them that have the \_\_\_\_\_ over you, and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." 9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? he that hath seen me hath seen the \_\_\_\_\_; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" 11 "God forbid that I should justify you: \_\_\_\_\_ I die I will not remove mine integrity from me." 12. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know \_\_\_\_\_ as also I am known." 13 "And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed \_\_\_\_\_ thou among women." 18. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with \_\_\_\_\_ the race that is set before us." 19. "And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee; if thou wilt fall \_\_\_\_\_ and worship me." 20. "And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt \_\_\_\_\_ his name Jesus." 21. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto him the \_\_\_\_\_ of his father David:" 23, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the \_\_\_\_\_ more than the Creator, who is blessed forever, Amen." 25, "The \_\_\_\_\_ was in the beginning with God." 27. "And in the sixth \_\_\_\_\_ the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth," 29. "I can of \_\_\_\_\_ own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." 30. "And he said unto his men, The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord." 32, "And the \_\_\_\_\_ said unto her, Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God." 33. "And when she saw him, she was \_\_\_\_\_ at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be." 34. "And he shall \_\_\_\_\_ over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end," 35. "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job \_\_\_\_\_ as much as he had before."



## DOWN

1. "To a virgin \_\_\_\_\_ to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." 2. "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord had commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded \_\_\_\_\_." 3. "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh \_\_\_\_\_? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." 4 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that \_\_\_\_\_ on his name." 5. "But the \_\_\_\_\_ man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 7. "And the king lamented over Abner, and \_\_\_\_\_, Died Abner as a fool dieth?" 10. "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we \_\_\_\_\_ good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." 14. "While he yet \_\_\_\_\_, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." 15. "Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou: And all the people \_\_\_\_\_ again over him." 16. "His mouth is most \_\_\_\_\_ yea, he is altogether lovely This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem." 17 "Thou therefore \_\_\_\_\_ hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 20. "And the King was moved, and went up to the \_\_\_\_\_ over the gate, and wept and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" 22. "All things were made by him; and without him was \_\_\_\_\_ any thing made that was made." 23. "This charge I \_\_\_\_\_ unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before oh thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;" 24 "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still \_\_\_\_\_ thine integrity? curse God, and die." 26. "And it came to pass, when he had made an \_\_\_\_\_ of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved his and his own soul" 27. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his \_\_\_\_\_." 28 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee \_\_\_\_\_, Satan. for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." 31. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: \_\_\_\_\_ things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

# Quench Not The Spirit!

"QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT!"  
(I Thessalonians 5:19).

Quench not the Spirit! Have you ever disobeyed this command from God? Have you ever felt led by the Spirit, but did not follow the leadership of the Spirit? The Spirit of God always leads us to do what is right.

Sometimes, He leads us NOT to do something, and sometimes He leads us TO DO something. When we are about to do wrong, about to sin, about to yield to temptation, the Spirit of God is there to warn us.

When we do not quench the Spirit, we will do what is right in the sight of the Lord! It is serious to quench the Spirit, and walk contrary to His leadership! (Hebrews 10:26-31). We have "done despite unto the Spirit of grace" when we quench the Spirit and proceed to sin willfully after He has warned us! Remember Matthew 12:31!!!

**THINK about the seriousness of quenching the Spirit!!!**

Jonah quenched the Spirit when

he was told to go to Nineveh!

The children of Israel vexed his Holy Spirit! (Isaiah 63:9,10).

Grieve not the Holy Spirit! (Ephesians 4:30).

**But think about those who did NOT quench the Holy Spirit!!!**

Peter- Acts 10:19, 20

In choosing leaders- Acts 13:2

In knowing where to preach- Acts 16:6

Balaam- Numbers 24:2, 12, 13

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## My Shepherd

by Sis. Burdie Brannon  
Thomaston, Georgia

The 23rd Psalm has always been a comfort to me. Many years ago while going through a most difficult time, I wrote this poem based on the 23rd Psalm. May the message it conveys bring comfort to others as it has to me.

*The Lord is my shepherd,  
no want shall I know.  
His hand it will guide me,  
wherever I go.  
If I climb the high mountain  
where joy doth abide,  
I can feel His sweet presence;  
He is there by my side.*

*When I walk in the valley,  
the days are so dear;  
He is right there beside me  
to comfort and cheer.  
He has set me a table,  
now I must eat.  
My cup runneth over,  
what a bountiful feast!*

*When my journey is ended,  
my chores laid aside,  
I will be with Him,  
and there will abide.  
The Lord is my shepherd,  
no want shall I know.  
His hand it will guide me,  
wherever I go.*