

Lilies of the Field

by Sis. Sarah D. Ledger
Bartow, Georgia

Along the side of the road in our area, there is a little flower blooming. It grows about six inches tall, is white, and looks very much like a miniature Easter lily. Late one afternoon, my husband and I had ridden to town to get something to eat. On the way home, we were talking about the "lilies". He told me that he remembered picking "lilies" like these, along with violets, when he was a child. I have enjoyed them so much as I pass back and forth by where they are growing. They have become a reminder of something Jesus taught us about in the Scriptures.

For the past several months, I have been bothered with a persistent pain in

my hip, leg and foot. Some days I have almost let it get me down, not so much the pain, but the "what if's" associated with the pain. "What if" I get to the point that I can't drive. "What if" I can't keep my part time job. "What if" I get where I can't take part in the activities at Church. On the days that I feel really low, I can think of all kinds of "what if's." In the latter part of the sixth chapter of Matthew's gospel when Jesus challenged us not to worry so much about what is going to happen to us, He spoke of the lilies of the field and how they were arrayed. I don't know what those lilies looked like, although I have read somewhere that they were

colorful, very much like our anemones today. They must have been beautiful if they exceeded Solomon's glory. I don't believe they looked like these little plain wild flowers that are growing beside the road here. However, these have a beauty that only God could give them.

I'm thankful that the "lilies" have bloomed. I think God knows that I needed a reminder of the wonderful lesson Jesus taught. If He "clothes" these little wild things, He surely cares about and provides our every need. I'm not sure why I ever worried about what is going to happen to me.

The trials we have to undergo in the course of a year might be compared to a great bundle of firewood too large for us to lift. God does not require us to carry them all at once. He mercifully unties the bundle and gives us first one stick and then another to carry, but we increase our burdens by carrying yesterday's stick over again and adding tomorrow's burden before we bear it.

John Newton

A Man Called Reverend?

Question: Why do Primitive Baptist ministers use the title "elder" rather than "Reverend" like most denominations?

Answer: The word "reverend" is only used one time in the Bible. In Psalm 111:9, we read, "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: **holy and reverend is his name.**" God's name is Holy! His name is Reverend! His name is exalted above every name in Heaven and in Earth. From the beginning, we find that the devil has tempted man to exalt himself. Men are weak, frail, vile, wretched creatures. The Holy and reverend God has taught us in His holy word that men chosen of God to preach the gospel are to be loved and

respected. But we should never worship or exalt a man or give him glory due to God alone! "Holy and **reverend** is **HIS NAME!**"

Let us briefly notice an occasion where a man wanted to be revered. "And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and **reverenced Haman:** for the king had so commanded concerning him. But **Mordecai bowed not nor did him reverence** ...And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, **nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath**" (Esther 3:2,5). The natural part of man wants to be exalted and lifted up. Haman desired and conspired to kill Mordecai and all the Jews because Mordecai refused to reverence him.

There is not enough reverence given to God, and too much reverence is being given to men. While **God's name is HOLY AND REVEREND**, it needs to be emphasized that **no man and no man's name is reverend!** Therefore, we should not allow ourselves to be called reverend, nor should we call any other person reverend!

It is not really necessary to have any title attached to a man called of God to preach the gospel. A God called man is not desiring to exalt himself, but is endeavoring to exalt Jesus Christ. He holds the office of an elder or bishop. (Please read and study I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-3!)

If I Was Called Away Today

If I was called away today, from this time world here below, is there anything left undone that I would want to make others know?

Is there a spiritual brother, sister, friend or acquaintance that I have offended, hurt or caused the sadness of heart within?

Is there someone that I need to approach with Divine caused love, where I may have caused any discord, unharmonious and hurtful wounds?

If as I wing my way above, and could look to some I love below, would there be some wishful thought that could have brought peace from what I had done or said?

Oh! Dear God, my Saviour, Lord, ne'r let this sinful man depart with vexation upon my heart, but cause this wretched frame to make right the things while I can.

For if my blood-bought brother be my family member as unto Thee, how could

I leave this realm here below with discord and hurtful things undone?

Yea, if my heartbeat was to cease and breathe, inhale no more, shall I drop my earthly garments stained with my brother's tears caused by me?

Oh! please dear merciful, sovereign Master, Friend, soften my heart with contrite spin, to beg my brother's forgiveness of any selfish motive that may of caused me to sin.

Then may I wing my way above as carried upward by a dove, as the angelic host beckons me to that mansion in the sky.

That I may depart with restful peace, knowing that God has caused me to reconcile any ought, offense or hurtful words that has offended one of my Father's little ones.

My God, please spare this sinful frame from fear of having a millstone tied around my neck, for being guilty of offending one of your elect and ordained

children as I walked through this world below.

Yes, Almighty Redeemer and Shepherd of Thy chosen and called lambs and sheep, please cause my departure to be with peace among all Thy appointed heirs of grace.

Although we shall not all agree about the Holy Writ in this low ground here below, may the CROSS be our common cause, which draws us to see our Saviour's hands and feet, with blood-shed stains upon His flesh for such unworthy ones as we.

Bring sweet and joyful fellowship, I beg, among those of Thy family Lord, that as I take my heavenly flight, I may be able to say, "Grace has caused me to make all things right."

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The Church is... The Bride of Christ

by Elder Greg Phillips
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Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (Ephesians 5:25-33).

The union of Christ and believers is here represented by the marriage union. By the Holy Ghost, Paul quotes some of the words spoken by Adam when he beheld for the first time the woman the Lord had made for him. "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:23). Adam was a figure of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is called "the last Adam" (I Corinthians 15:45). We can learn much about Christ as He is prefigured in Adam.

When God created Adam and placed him in the garden to "dress and to keep it," He made him lord of that creation.

Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast

of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him (Genesis 2:20).

In the midst of a creation that he was to oversee, Adam was alone. God recognized his need for companionship, and said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). In like manner, God determined that a similar help should be provided for His only begotten Son. The Father ordained that His Son should have a bride; and the Church, the born-again ones, are the gift of the Father to the Son.

"The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam" (Genesis 2:21). This is the figure of death. While Adam slept, God "took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man" (Genesis 2:21,22).

At Calvary, God caused a deep sleep, the sleep of death, to fall upon the Last Adam, His beloved Son. The prophet Isaiah foretold it, saying, "it pleased the Lord to bruise him" (Isaiah 53:10). In that first operation in Eden, though performed by the fingers of God, blood must have come from Adam's opened side. Of this we are certain, the blood of the Son of God was shed that God the Father might present Christ with the Church, His bride. It is "the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). It is unlikely that Adam felt any hurt when the hand of God opened his side. But the Last Adam, the Lord Jesus, experienced all the agony of the cross. Isaiah said, "He hath put him to grief," a grief so deep and intense that the smitten Son cried from the cross,

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The suffering Savior was graphically portrayed by the Psalmist centuries before when he said, "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death" (Psalms 22:14-15).

It is well known that in Old Testament times the parents of a young man usually selected a bride for him. This custom goes back to very early times. When Esau married against the wishes of his parents, he caused trouble in the home (Genesis 26:34, 35). One can almost feel the torment in the voice of Rebekah, "And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?" (Genesis 27:46).

Herein is the reason for this parental privilege. The new bride was to become a member of the bridegroom's clan, and therefore, the whole family was interested in knowing if she would be suitable. There is evidence that at least sometimes the son or daughter was consulted. Rebekah was asked if she was willing to go and become the wife of Isaac (Gen 24:58). The parent, though, felt they had a right to make the choice.

The bride of Christ is of the Father's choosing. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame

before him in love" (Ephesians 1:3-4). While the bride was of the Father's choosing, the Son was in full agreement, having loved His bride with an everlasting love.

Jesus said, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:6-9). "For this cause," for His bride, Jesus left His heavenly Father and the glories of heaven to be joined to His bride. She became "one flesh" with Him. "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Ephesians 5:28-30).

In the event that the bride was indebted in any way, the bridegroom assumed her debt as his own. In the case of the bride of Christ, the debt was great. It was a debt of sin. The debt was owed to God, for it was His law that had been broken. Thus we read, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:4-6). Furthermore, it is said that, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). He "...openeth not his mouth," because He had no objection to this transaction. He had assumed the debt of His bride; it is now His and

He will gladly pay the price to assure that He is never separated from His beloved.

The love of Christ for His bride is far beyond human understanding. However, one who has truly and deeply loved a spouse can begin to grasp a hint of that great love. When a marriage is built on love, one can overlook faults and endure the hurts that are sure to come in human relationships.

The love of Christ for His bride is expressed in the love song of Solomon. "Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee. Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse, with me from Lebanon: look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards. Thou hast ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; thou hast ravished my heart with one of thine eyes, with one chain of thy neck. How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse! how much better is thy love than wine! and the smell of thine ointments than all spices!" (Song of Solomon 4:7-10). When Solomon, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said, "...there is no spot in thee," it speaks of one who, through the eyes of love, sees no fault. When Christ sees His bride, however, He is not simply overlooking faults. He sees His bride as she is in the fullness of redemption. She has no spot, for he has sanctified and cleansed her, and made her "...a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." She is "... holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:26-27). The glory of the bride will be fully revealed at the coming of Christ.

Perhaps the greatest blessing of human marriage is communion or fellowship. There is an inborn need for humans to communicate with others and to share feelings, ideas, and dreams. This need finds its deepest fulfillment when there is one with whom we can freely share our deepest and most intimate feelings. Our bond with another is strengthened when there are common plans, dreams, and hopes. Even

the struggles of life can be a joy when there is a loved one to share them.

The marriage relationship between a Christian man and woman, as wonderful as it can be, is only a dim outline of the love for Christ and His bride. His love toward the bride is perfect, and He is perfecting her love for Him. He knows and fulfills her every need. He feels her pain and sorrow and is "... touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Hebrews 4:15). Christ is, with infinite love, constantly calling His bride to His side that He might bring to perfection her love for Him. "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away" (Song of Solomon 2:10-13).

Too often the bride, the church, is as it was in Solomon's song, asleep upon her bed. "I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night. I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?" (Song of Solomon 5:2-3)

She is asleep, yet her heart waketh. There is still love for Christ in the heart. She is asleep; she is not dead. She has settled down for the night. She has taken off her coat and is at ease. The Bridegroom's "...head is filled with dew," and His "locks with the drops of the night." He has been out in the night so long that He is wet with the dew. He knocks to gain entry, but the bride cannot arouse herself enough to rise and open the door. The picture is a sad one, but it accurately depicts the church today.

The bride finally arose, only to find that her Love had withdrawn Himself.

"I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock. I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer"

(Song of Solomon 5:5-6). He had left behind "sweet smelling myrrh" where He had touched the handles of the lock. He is only found of "them that

diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6), yet He leaves fragrant tokens of His love to signify that He still desires His bride.

Myrrh was an ingredient in the anointing oil used in the tabernacle service. The anointing with this oil signified the separation and sanctification of the vessels for the service of God. "And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy" (Exodus 30:29). Christ's church is anointed, set

aside for communion. He remembers the early love, "... the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness" (Jeremiah 2:2) and seeks that kind of love again, when "Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the first fruits of his increase" (Jeremiah 2:3). He bids His bride to "...come unto the marriage" (Matthew 22:4). We can sit down "...under his shadow with great delight" where his fruit is "sweet to the taste" (Song of Solomon 2:3).

Grow in Knowledge

1. "Tremble, thou earth, at the _____ of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;"
2. "...and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the _____ of the garden."
3. "Then shall the trees of the wood _____ out at the presence of the Lord, because he cometh to judge the earth."
4. "So went _____ forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."
5. "The hills _____ like wax at the presece of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth."
6. "I behold, and, lo, the _____ place was a wilderness and all the cities thereof where broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger."
7. "But Jonah rose up to flee unto _____ from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa;..."
8. "For what is our _____, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"
9. "Repent ye therefore, and be _____, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."
10. "And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and _____ in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden."

Where to Look When...

Afraid

Psalm 33:4
Matthew 10:28
II Timothy 1:7
Hebrews 13:5-6

Anxious

Psalm 46
Matthew 6:19-34
Philippians 4:6
I Peter 5:6-7

Backsliding

Psalm 51

I John 1:4-9

Bereaved

Matthew 5:4
II Corinthians 1:3,4

Bitter - Critical

I Corinthians 13

Conscious of Sin

Proverbs 28:13

Defeated

Romans 8:31-39

Depressed

Psalm 34

Disaster threatens

Psalm 91
Psalm 118:5-6
Luke 8:22-25

Discouraged

Psalm 23
Psalm 42:6-11
Psalm 55:22
Matthew 5:11-12
II Corinthians 4:8-18
Philippians 4:4-7

Changes I Have Seen

by Elder McKinley Wright
Jacksonville, Florida

The last article that I wrote about changes that I have seen among the Primitive Baptists caused more comment than any writing that I have made since THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH began publication. One writer was glad that Primitive Baptists are finally joining the main stream of religious thought, but all of the others were in agreement with what I had written. That article dealt with the idea of God using the gospel to bring about the New Birth in His children. Sixty years ago (when my ministry was just beginning) hardly anyone that I knew believed in that doctrine and the few who did so would not teach it because they knew that doing so would generate a fire-storm of opposition. The teacher knew that the consequences to himself would not be pleasant. In these times when someone comes up with a new doctrine those who disagree are hesitant to disagree loudly because they do not want to be described as a "fomenter of division." Hence, there is an opening of the door which allows the entrance of this and other unscriptural ideas. In this article, my desire is to look at a change in practical things. This article is about changes in attitude toward the reading of the Bible.

Sixty years ago, I did not know of even one church that encouraged her members to read the Bible. The members were not even encouraged to bring their Bibles to church. Anyone bringing his/her Bible to church would be looked upon as "putting on airs." Pew Bibles in a Primitive Baptist church were unheard of. Ministers (and laymen) would acknowledge privately that they knew we should be studying the Bible. They knew that the lack of knowledge of what the Bible teaches hindered the church in her efforts to glorify God. Everyone was afraid that if they suggested that

church members begin spending more time in studying the Bible they would be accused of being "Missionary," and no one wanted to face that accusation.

This writer believes that our people made a mistake in the division among the Baptists that occurred about a hundred and fifty years ago. The mistake was not in that there was a division. Divisions are not something to be sought. However, when two ideas that are incompatible begin to be accepted among groups of individuals in a larger group, the larger group needs to divide so the two smaller groups can each begin to move forward along their chosen paths using their energy for the forward movement instead of using it to fight the other group. The mistake was not in that there was a division. Clearly there were two incompatible ideas being advocated among the Baptists. One group believed that a person's New Birth took place because of something that the person did while the other group believed that it was all in God's Hands. When a group of Baptists would get together the meeting would degenerate into unpleasantness because of the incompatibility of these two ideas. So division was necessary. The mistake was in what was identified as the point about which they were dividing. There were several differences involved in the division but the main point of disagreement was "Sunday Schools."

Some Baptist churches began having Sunday Schools. This happened at about the same time as the development of a new doctrine, that before a person could be born again that person must realize that he is a sinner, and must accept Jesus as his personal Savior. We should say at this point that they based this teaching on Romans, chapter ten beginning at verse thirteen and defined

the word "saved" as being born again. Most of the churches that had Sunday Schools believed this new doctrine so that is what they taught. Before this new doctrine was developed, the churches were united on the teaching of Romans, chapter eight beginning at verse twenty-eight and defined the expression "the called" as being those who had been born again and the "calling" mentioned in verse thirty as having reference to the New Birth. As the new doctrine began to spread among the Baptists, those who held to the old doctrine (they were frequently referred to as "Old School") objected to it. They argued that Sunday Schools ought not to exist among the Baptists because they (Sunday Schools) taught erroneous doctrine. The dissension led to a resolution of non-fellowship against churches that had Sunday Schools. If the discussion had focused on the erroneous doctrine instead of the Sunday School, and the resolution of non-fellowship had been made on that basis, the bias that developed against Sunday Schools would not have appeared. Then those holding to the old doctrine could have used their own "Sunday School" (actually a Bible study) to teach the truth. As it was, the arguments were so vehement that the reading of the Bible was actually discouraged. This led to the condition that was described earlier in this article.

Soon after I began preaching, there was a pastor who had several young people in the church he was serving. Over the years, he had seen young people grow up in the Primitive Baptist church, reach their teen-age years, become interested in spiritual things, begin attending a Sunday School operated by another denomination, and join that denomination. How many of our young people have been lost

from among us in this way! He realized that this would probably happen to the young people of whom he was pastor. He resolved to do something about it. He decided to begin teaching a Bible Class in which they could learn the truth taught in the Bible. He began such a class. The reaction was exactly what we would have expected. He and the church were almost thrown out of the denomination. But the opposition quieted when those young people became grounded in the truth and began to join the Primitive Baptists instead of the other orders.

I know many of these young people. Today they are middle aged and most of them are pillars in Primitive Baptist churches. If their lives had followed the same path that was usually followed, they would be serving God in some other order. But the meaningful thing is not that they are Primitive Baptists instead of something else. The important thing is that their lives are a testimony of what God has done for them, and what

He does for His children, instead of what they have done for Him.

Several of our churches are now having Bible classes. Some of them have such classes for wrong reasons. Some have such classes to be like the others. Some have them to build membership in the church. No doubt some have them for other similar reasons. But some have them to learn more about God and Christ. That idea was emphasized by the pastor teaching the young people which were previously mentioned. Jesus said, "...take my yoke upon you and Learn of Me; ...and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matthew 11 :30). Learning about God and understanding His dealings with us leads us to a place of rest. Nothing can be more restful than a person who has seen the ugliness of his Sin and his own inability to do anything about it, suddenly realizing that Jesus took his Sin away, and he will one day be in heaven with God. But if we "learn about Him" because we want to have that rest, we shall prob-

ably be disappointed. If we learn about Him simply because we want to know more about Him, when life's burdens become so heavy that it seems that we cannot carry them any longer, we will find that He draws nigh to us and helps us carry them. The more we learn about Him, the more restful we shall find our place to be. So learning about Him is important.

In the matter of reading and studying the Bible, our people have come a long way. But we still have a long way to go. There seems to be a formality of Bible Study today, but very little true learning. I once heard a preacher say (He wasn't Primitive Baptist) "No doubt you have heard the saying 'Give until it hurts' but I am telling you to give until it stops hurting." The same idea pertains to the study of the Bible. We ought to strive toward such a closeness with Christ that our greatest joy comes with reading and learning more about Him. May God lead us in this way.

Bible Reading Calendar for June

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	II Chron. 1,2,3	John 12:1-19
2	II Chron. 4,5,6	John 12:20-50
3	II Chron. 7,8,9	John 13:1-17
4	II Chron. 10,11,12	John 13:18-38
5	II Chron. 13-16	John 14
6	II Chron. 17,18,19	John 15
7	II Chron. 20,21,22	John 16:1-15
8	II Chron. 23,24,25	John 16:16-33
9	II Chron. 26,27,28	John 17
10	II Chron. 29,30,31	John 18:1-23
11	II Chron. 32,33	John 18:24-40
12	II Chron. 34,35,36	John 19:1-22
13	Ezra 1,2	John 19:23-42
14	Ezra 3,4,5	John 20
15	Ezra 6,7,8	John 21

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Ezra 9,10	Acts 1
17	Neh. 1,2,3	Acts 2:1-13
18	Neh. 4,5,6	Acts 2:14-47
19	Neh. 7,8	Acts 3
20	Neh. 9,10,11	Acts 4:1-22
21	Neh. 12,13	Acts 4:23-37
22	Esther 1,2,3	Acts 5:1-16
23	Esther 4,5,6	Acts 5:17-42
24	Esther 7-10	Acts 6
25	Job 1,2,3	Acts 7:1-19
26	Job 4,5,6	Acts 7:20-43
27	Job 7,8,9	Acts 7:44-60
28	Job 10,11,12	Acts 8:1-25
29	Job 13,14,15	Acts 8:26-40
30	Job 16,17,18	Acts 9:1-22

A Letter to my Friends

Although I find strength, instruction and encouragement throughout the Bible, I do have a favorite passage. I think that most of us have some Scripture that we keep coming back to from time to time. It is interesting to see over time that what you are drawn to within a certain chapter of the Bible changes. It is good to focus on Scriptures from different perspectives as you grow older and to have a fuller understanding. I wish sometimes that I could talk to the inspired servants of God who recorded the Bible and ask them what their focus was at the time that they recorded their feelings and beliefs. I wonder if what they witnessed, or lived through or recorded answered questions for them that they had not even thought of when they were sitting down with a pen in their hand.

For me, the Scripture that stays on my mind is the 144th Psalm. As a young man, I was impressed by David's strength. God blessed him to say, as recorded in Psalm 144:1, "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight." I could study the 144th Psalm and focus on God's protection of David, as well as David's dependence on God, and always find encouragement.

As I studied more, it became obvious to me that the Scripture also taught humility. David was not boastful in his declaration. He was not taunting those

who wished him harm. At this point in his life, he was amazed and thankful that God would take notice of him and he was giving thanks to his Protector. David was thankful that God had given him the gift of strength and capacity to fight the wicked. But I believe that he was even more mindful of his own insignificance. I believe that it inspired him to make full use of his talents once he realized that the God of the universe would take notice of one man.

In Psalm 144:7,8, we find what kind of people David felt compelled to defend himself against. "Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood." We can look at this and determine that if God was willing to help David overcome these people, its not just for David's peace of mind, but also because God does not put up with vanity and lies.

As a more "seasoned adult," I'm paying more attention to the latter part of the chapter where David is explaining his reasoning for fighting the wicked, praying to his God and praising God. Psalm 144:12 proclaims, "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace". When younger, I mainly wanted the strength and abil-

ity to win a confrontation for my own well-being. Although I wasn't wicked or deceitful, I suppose I had a "touch" of vanity. That is when the humility side of the story started to mean more to me. As I gained strength and humility, I began to more righteously despise vanity and untruthfulness. Now I realize that I was once acquiring God-given strengths for myself. However, I now hope to use them to transform the world into a better place for me to raise my children. The strength that I once desired and the victory that God gives from time to time means very little to me any more unless I'm fighting, not for myself, but for my children or for others who aren't fully capable of fighting for themselves.

Please read Psalm 144 and see what you gain from it. Hopefully you will feel burdened to eliminate vanity from your life, to fight against evil, to prepare a way for your children, to pray for what you need and to praise God for what he has given you. If you do this earnestly, you will surely feel the same way that I do after growing in Christ through the study of this passage. David sums it up well in Psalm 144:15 when he states, "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

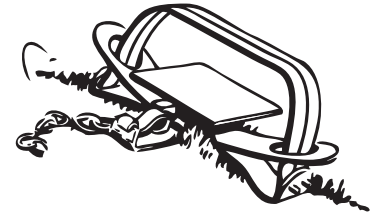
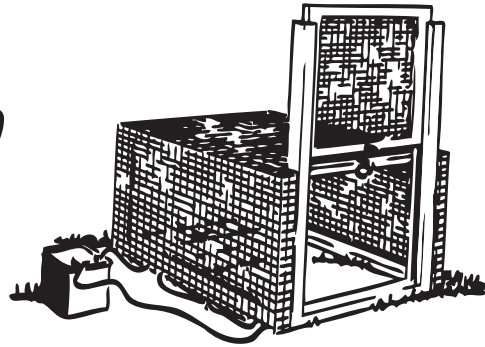
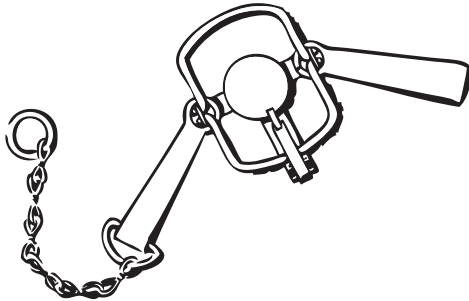
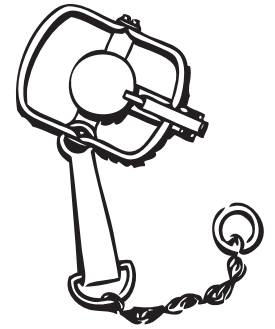
Sincerely,
Uncle Neal

Answers to Grow in Knowledge

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Presence - Psalm 114:7 | 6. Fruitful - Jeremiah 4:26 |
| 2. Trees - Genesis 3:8 | 7. Tarshish - Jonah 1:3 |
| 3. Sing - I Chronicles 16:33 | 8. Hope - I Thessalonians 2:19 |
| 4. Satan - Job 2:7 | 9. Converted - Acts 3:19 |
| 5. Melted - Psalm 97:5 | 10. Dwelt - Genesis 4:16 |

The Trapper

by Elder Willam Mullis
Waycross, Georgia



Trappers use various devices, tricks or other means for trapping animals. The placing of lures and bait, plus the tedious setting of traps is a skilled art.

As we look at nature, there are numerous examples of trappers. The trap-door spider digs a burrow in the ground and covers the entrance with a lid or trap-door. The spider waits under the trap door for its prey. When it feels the footsteps of an insect, it pops open the door and catches its victim.

Venus's fly trap is a plant off the coasts of the Carolinas, whose hairy leaves have two lobes at the end that fold together to **trap** and digest insects.

While both men and animals have become very skillful at trapping their prey, there is one Trapper who can be considered the greatest trapper of all time. Beginning in the garden of Eden, this trapper has been using schemes, devices, bait, tricks, lures, and traps to destroy the lives of the people of God. He disguises his traps in numerous ways, endeavoring to keep us blinded to the fact that he is at work!

The Trapper has "snared" many saints of God through the years. The dictionary defines a "snare" as a noose for catching small animals and birds; a trap! It goes on to say that "popularity is

a snare in which fools are caught." Who can count the number of young people today who have been "snared" by The Trapper **because they wanted to be popular?** But once they are "snared" by The Trapper, that is the end of their popularity! How many young girls today are willing to do things they know are wrong, hoping to become more "popular?" The Trapper is disfiguring and ruining our young people by using various devices. Are they aware of the devices of The Trapper? Do they realize The Trapper is constantly working to devour? Could it be possible that a fox spends more time teaching her young to recognize the devices of a human trapper than parents are spending to teach their children the devices of Satan- The Greatest Trapper?

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul teaches that when we are ignorant of The Trapper's devices, he will take advantage of us! (II Corinthians 2:11). God declares that His people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge! (Hosea 4:6). It is the purpose of this article, to teach more about The Trapper and his devices. May God bless us all to give careful attention to learning more about the devil and his devious devices.

As Jesus Christ was speaking about

The Trapper, He said the devil "was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44). The Trapper (the devil, satan, that old serpent, the great dragon) was a murderer, liar, and deceiver from the beginning. "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression" (I Timothy 2:14). Going back to the book of Genesis, we find The Trapper working through lies and deceits to bring about the fall and death of all mankind. God commanded Adam not to partake of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The warning was given that "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die!" (Genesis 2:17). The subtil serpent began preparing his trap by raising a question in the mind of Eve. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). The Trapper often begins leading people into his trap by raising questions about what God has said. He may say, "Has God really said you must go to church?" "Does God really require us in our modern 'enlightened' age to follow the rules of a book written almost 2,000 years ago?" "Times are chang-

ing! Things which were condemned and shunned by your grandparents are 'acceptable' today because we are not so narrow minded!" The devil goes on and on raising questions in the minds of God's dear children: "Yea, **hath God said?**" Hath God **really** said? God HAS SPOKEN! His word is sure and steadfast! "Let God be true, but every man a liar!" (Romans 3:4). God CANNOT LIE! Satan is a liar and murderer. He is trapping many of God's people because they are either ignorant of God's word or do not believe His word! Satan, The Trapper, said to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die!" (Genesis 3:4). "And when the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat!" (Genesis 3:6).

Mission accomplished! The Trapper made the biggest catch of all time! He worked hard, encouraging Eve in every way possible: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life! The tempter kept pushing, pulling, and prodding until she finally bit. And he is still working today in much the same way!

We need to be conscious of the fact that the devil is still trying to trap the people of God today. He **cannot** separate us from the love of God, but he can destroy and devour our lives while we live here in this world! If we do not prepare ourselves and look to Christ for strength and wisdom, we can be devoured by the devil and suffer a hell while we live here on earth! "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour!**" (1 Peter 5:8).

Let us now consider the ways of a trapper to see if we can better acquaint ourselves with the methods of the devil. For the past 25 years, my son and I have been trappers. A professional trapper spent much time teaching us the skills and devices needed to catch foxes, beavers, otters, bobcats, and

raccoons. One of the most important techniques in trapping is to remove all evidence that a trapper is in the woods! Human odor is a danger signal for the wild animals. Therefore, the successful trapper takes precaution to cover all traces that a human has been in the woods. He puts on scent to smell like wild animals. He covers his tracks.

Can you see that this is exactly the way the devil (The Trapper) works daily? The word of God warns about "false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves** into apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed** into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works!" (II Corinthians 11:13-15). How does a trapper work? He disguises and covers himself to appear (and smell) like something that is not dangerous! Christ Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in **sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are **ravening wolves**" (Matthew 7:15). They look like sheep, they smell like sheep, but that is their disguise! They do not look harmful or dangerous, but that is all a part of being a trapper!!!

Brethren, the devil and his angels are not dressed in red suits, having long pointed tails, and carrying pitchforks. The devil and his angels will appear lily-white and harmless. Only those who have exercised their spiritual senses will be able to detect danger! Too many of the people of God are unskillful in the word of righteousness. They are like babes, and are unable to distinguish between good and evil! (Please carefully read Hebrews 5:11-14!)

The devil is putting out bait and lure to lead the people of God through the wide gate and broad way that leadeth to destruction! (See Matthew 7:13,14). In Revelation 13:11, the word of God warns us about a "beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns **like a lamb**, and he spoke as a dragon." This beast had power to do great won-

ders and miracles! Now, if you were to see something or someone who looked like a lamb (possibly even like the Lamb of God), and could perform miracles, is it possible that you might follow and worship him?! This beast was an instrument of the devil! Only one whose spiritual senses were keen by exercise would hear the **uncertain sound**. For he spoke as a dragon! He looked like a lamb! Do we realize the power of the devil? Do we recognize the tricks and devices of the devil?

Oh how we need the chief Shepherd, the good Shepherd, that great Shepherd of the sheep! Without HIM, we cannot even identify the devil and his devices! Without Him, we cannot resist the devil! Without Him, we cannot overcome the temptations of the devil! But WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH US!!! The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want! God is faithful! He will never leave us nor forsake us! Every time the devil tempts us to do evil, God will make a way to escape! "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). Though The Trapper is skillful, God has given us a map showing every trick device, scheme, and plan of The Trapper. The Trapper **is exposed in the Bible! By praying**, studying the word of God, and ever looking to Jesus, "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet!" (Psalm 91:13). Jesus Christ not only trampled the traps, but also **The Trapper! Praise God!** When we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him, we too shall be able to live the victorious life with Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven while living in this world.

While we live in this world, it is like we are walking through a waste-howling wilderness with traps all around! As long as we follow our guide (Christ and His Holy Word), walking in the narrow way, The Trapper will not be successful in destroying and devouring our service to God and our joy, peace and happiness in this world.

"All Israel Shall Be Saved"

by Elder George R. Daniel
Dawson, Georgia

Who is Israel? The name was given to Jacob by a man whom Jacob had wrestled with until the breaking of the day. (Genesis 32:24-28). I believe that man was the Son of God, because, after he had changed Jacob's name to Israel, he blessed him, and Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

God's chosen or elect people are "preserved in Jesus Christ, and called," (Jude 1). Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23). The mystery of godliness is great. "God was manifest in the flesh" (I Timothy 3:16). The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:6) was seen by saints of the old testament; and the new testament in the man, Christ Jesus. This man that Jacob wrestled with was the Son of God, who said of himself, "I know my sheep" Jacob represents the elect people of God. (Deuteronomy 32:9 and Romans 9:11-13). Jesus said in John 6:38-39, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of **all which he hath given me** I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." This "will" had been declared to Joseph by the angel before Jesus was born. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save **His people** from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The Father's will was ever, is now, and ever shall be that Jesus Christ "By himself purged our sins" (Hebrews 1:3). When Jesus finished His work in the offering He made at Calvary for the sins of His elect people, He sat down at the right hand of God.

The gospel is the message of good news to the elect people of God, telling them that **the work** is finished.

Redemption is accomplished, and because Jesus pleased His Father in all things, it is said of God, "He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness In Israel: the Lord his God is with him" (Numbers 23:21). Israel (or Jacob) was the father of twelve sons. Their descendants came to be known as the nation of Israel. Israel as a nation differed from all other nations and people because they alone were chosen of God as a nation of people to be His peculiar treasure in the earth. This nation of people was also known as the Jews.

In Romans 3:1-2, Paul wrote, "What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God." This same writer refers to the Jews in Romans 9:4-5, as "Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen." In verses 6-8, Paul shows that not all the nation of Israel are the true Israel of God. "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel" (Galatians 6:16). Verse 8 tells us, "They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed." This means that the true Israel of God is made up of the children of the promise, and that embraces both Jews and Gentiles. It means that **not all** of the natural descendants of Jacob were chosen in Christ "before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).

Being a Jew or Israelite in the flesh is not what saves a person for heaven.

Some Jews and some Gentiles are not included in God's election of his people in Christ Jesus to be saved from their sins, and to some day live with God in glory. Jesus was speaking to some Jews when he said, "Ye are of your father the devil." (John 8:44). The true Israel of God are the children of the promise (Romans 9:8), and includes Jews and Gentiles in all ages. These are counted for the seed. Earlier, In Romans 4:16, Paul wrote, "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." It is "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues." (Revelation 7:9). In this number are people who lived from Adam to Moses when there was not a written word of God given to man! Also included are Gentiles who lived from the time of Moses until Christ came! During this period of time only the Jews were favored with the written word of God. Ephesians 2:11-12 states the case of the Gentiles during this period. It even included Jews of whom Paul said, "As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes." (Romans 11:28). From Romans 11:29-36, we learn that the true Israel of God are Jews and Gentiles of all ages who are the objects of God's mercy in His sovereign grace. "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all (Romans 11:32). This teaches me that the mercy of God is greater than the unbelief of His people, who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

Born-again sinners ought to believe God and what He has said in His word. The fact is, we do not always believe

as we should. We are like the one who came to Jesus, "and said with tears, Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:24). **Does unbelief indicate that the unbeliever is yet a dead alien sinner?** I think not! Paul wrote in Romans 3:3-4, "For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar." When Jesus "Came unto his own", we read, "His own received him not." (John 1:11). There are many Jews who do not believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. But there are some of those Jews whose sins have been put away by the blood of Jesus Christ, and who will be with him in heaven's pure world! Paul prayed for these his brethren, "My kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites." The context shows they were Israelites who were truly the Israel of God. His prayer for them in Romans 10:1-4 was, "That they might be saved." He was not asking God that they might be born again, or that their names be put in the Lamb's book of life. God had already done that for these brethren of Paul. Paul's prayer for them was that they might be saved from their ignorance. They worshipped God under the law system that Moses had given to Israel, and were going about to establish their own righteousness which no man can do. They had a zeal of God, but they were ignorant of God's righteousness. Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God, and he is made of God "Unto us: wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (I Corinthians 1:30-31). Paul would have exchanged places with these brethren he loved, and so stated in Romans 9:3. Paul had once been in their place. He now knew the glorious liberty of the believer in Jesus Christ, and with great zeal; yes,

with even greater zeal than he had manifested under the law, he went about to save all that he could of the Israel of God. "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means **save some**. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (I Corinthians 9:22-23). This salvation **was to the truth, the gospel, and the kingdom of heaven, which is in the world here in time**. The gospel can save God's blood-bought children while we live here in this world, provided we "Keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." (I Corinthians 15:2).

We too, like Paul, should have a zeal to preach the gospel to all who will hear us. What an honor it is that poor men are called by the God of heaven to be "labourers together with God:" (I Corinthians 3:9), not to get men born-again and saved for the eternal heaven and glory, but saved to the truth and the joys of The Kingdom of Heaven here in the world.

In this labor of love by which believers are made to enjoy that **more abundant life here and now**, we need to always remember that we only sow the seed, or water the plant, but God gives the increase. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase" (I Corinthians 3:5-7).

Sometimes, preachers and churches fail to be the witness we should be in the world. We are not as concerned for "The lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6) as Christ would have us to be. God would say to us today as Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in I Corinthians 15:34, "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have

not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame!" It is to our shame that others do not know the truth or the gospel, if we have been entrusted of God with it.

We may fail to do our work. But God says of His servant Jesus Christ, His elect, in whom God delighteth "He shall not fail nor be discouraged" (Isaiah 42:1-4). And that is why Israel shall be saved! "But Israel shall be saved in the Lord with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end." (Isaiah 45:17). Paul preached this, and rejoiced in Jesus Christ alone, and had no confidence in the flesh. (Philippians 3:3).

I find rest for my poor soul and joy in the Holy Ghost in believing the great truth of Romans 11:26-36; "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. **As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes**. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! "How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen".

THE SON OF GOD... SONS OF GOD
The Son of God became the Son of man, so
the sons of men would become the sons of God.

Salvation By Grace

by Elder W. H. Durrence
Brooklet, Georgia

Salvation is one of the most interesting subjects in the pages of Holy Scripture. Those who carefully pursue this subject realize that there are many different salvations taught in the Bible. This fact often causes complications by confusing those who casually consider the subject. In both the Old and New Testaments, the meaning of salvation is virtually the same and has reference to deliverance and safety. The definition has to be vague in concept, expressing a general idea that is applicable to many different situations. It is the objective of this study to distinguish between the different salvations, and to better understand God's work of grace in our lives.

As Moses led the Jews to the shores of the Red Sea, there seemed to be no way of escape. "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, standstill, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians who ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever" (Ex. 14:13). It is obvious that they were not about to be caught up into heaven, but the salvation they experienced was a deliverance from the Egyptians.

In the Book of Psalms, David often expressed his concern for those who sought to do him harm or take his life. What he needed and sought was salvation. He prayed, "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me..." (Ps. 7:1). The salvation sought by David was simply to be delivered from his enemies and to be given safety from them.

In the New Testament there are many similar passages. Peter preached that men should save themselves. "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). They could not save themselves from the penalty of sin, but they could

deliver themselves from the fellowship of crooked and perverse people.

As Paul wrote to the younger preacher Timothy, he said, "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" (I Tim. 4: 16). Paul was not saying that Timothy could save himself and others for eternal heaven but that he could save them from the errors they would otherwise fall into.

There are other similar illustrations that can be given, such as Jonah's being saved from the belly of the whale (Jonah 2:9), Israel's being saved from its enemies (Ex. 14:13), people who were saved by their memories (I Cor. 15:2) and women in childbearing (I Tim. 2:15). It should be clear that all these instances deal with salvation in life here and now, not in eternity. These "salvations" which have been listed have nothing to do with eternal salvation and eternal heaven. Other salvations may be gained in a variety of ways, but are not to be confused with eternal salvation by grace. Salvation which comes by grace is far more important than any of those previously mentioned, for it is of eternal duration and cannot be gained by our efforts. This simple rule will help us in making this distinction: if we can do something in order to gain the salvation being considered, then it will occur here in this world. The salvation which is eternal and by which mortals are saved from sins' penalty comes only by the grace of God. Failure to "rightly divide" the Scriptures (2 Tim. 2: 15), and to understand this fact has resulted in the mistaken idea that people are saved to enjoy eternal heaven by a combination of divine actions and human endeavors. Please remember that the work we perform in the field of this life will be reaped in the same field. We sow here and reap here, but only the grace

of God ensures that sinners will reach eternal heaven.

The concept of salvation by grace embodies the idea that it is free and unmerited. Not realizing this truth, some believe that God gave His Son to die for sins and that Jesus offers salvation to those who will accept Him and His work in their behalf. Others suppose that God has certain requirements, such as baptism or belief or being a member of a certain church, and that a person who meets the criteria will be saved. Such ideas suggest that Jesus died to pay for the sins of people, and yet they are unsaved until they do something to secure salvation. If such beliefs are true, then the actions of sinful mortals achieve what a perfect God could not achieve, and the actions of man become elevated above the actions of God. If man in any measure affects or accomplishes his salvation, it of necessity becomes a salvation of works, not grace. I testify to you that salvation from sin is not by man's work, but by the grace of God. Such salvation is eternal in duration and is completely the work of God. Paul preached the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24), so consider these Scriptures which were inspired by God: "... Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began..." (2 Tim. 1:9); "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9); "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more of grace: otherwise work is no more work" (Rom. 11:5,6); and "More-

over the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound..." (Rom. 5:20). Peter also trusted in grace saying, "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved..." (Acts 15: 11). It should be clear from these verses and others that salvation from sin does not come by man's works, deeds, thoughts, or words! It is dependent entirely upon God's work in our behalf. God is sufficient for the task and **His work is complete**, therefore He does not need any action by man. He is still quickening people, but redemption has already been accomplished on the cross. God is still saving fallen and ruined sinners wholly by His sovereign free grace without the use or instrumentality of mortal men.

Salvation by grace is the only real hope that sinners have. The reason is simply that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) and the "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). When Adam sinned, he died as God said he would (Gen. 2: 17). At first he died to the fellowship of God and was separated from Him; later came physical death. As the descendants of Adam, all humanity fell under this same death sentence. Paul wrote,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5: 12). Man is dead (separated) and therefore cannot bring himself into fellowship with God. Those physically dead have no ability to function in the physical realm, and those spiritually dead have no ability to function in the spiritual realm. Spiritual death means that people are dead in sins. Paul said, " And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins... Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"... " (Eph. 2:1, 5). Because man is dead in sin, he is unable to save himself, so God quickens him into spiritual life, which is salvation by grace. The grass cannot lift itself up to the higher life of the cow, the cow cannot lift itself up to the higher life of the man, and man cannot lift himself up to the higher life of God. God must reach down and lift up man and this work of grace brings salvation to the sinner.

Having established that God saved us by grace, let us look at some of the components which make up this gracious state. First Paul tells us that before the foundation of the world God chose

a people to be His special possession (Eph. 1:4). He made that choice so that the purpose of grace might be established (Rom. 9: 11). Second, God predestinated those whom He chose out of Adam's family to be made part of His family (Eph. 1:5). The indispensable hub of this wheel is Christ. We were chosen in Jesus, predestinated to be adopted by Him, and redeemed by the death of Christ on the cross of Calvary (Eph. 1:7). Then in God's good time, the Holy Spirit enters us, the objects of grace, and we are born again (John 3:7). All this is done that it might bring glory to His grace (Eph. 1:6), and all the glory belongs rightfully to God.

Having been saved by grace and by grace alone, "...we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). The Bible teaches about grace that God might receive the glory due His name. Let us glorify God through the declaration of these truths and by our "good works" bring further glory to our Saviour. Let us love this God of grace and live for Him each day. This is the very least we can do for Him who saved us eternally by His amazing grace.

**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD PUZZLE
VOLUME XXX MAY 2008**

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Christ Superior to Moses

by Elder Philip L. Smith
Ambrose, Georgia

Hebrews 3:1-6

(1) Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

(2) Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

(3) For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

(4) For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

(5) And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

(6) But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

When thinking of great men of the Old Testament, who do you think of most? To me, Moses is who I think of when it comes to prominence. I always remember the 10th verse of scripture in the 34th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 34:10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

That scripture carries a great deal of weight, a prophet in Israel, who there's never been one like, whom God knew face to face. So Moses, in my opinion, carries some superiority and prominence when compared to other men of the Old Testament. I then decided not to let my opinion be the ruling factor when studying God's Word, let the scriptures speak for itself. How many times are men of the Old Testament, who are considered prominent men, mentioned in the New Testament?

Adam- 7

Abraham- 70

Abel- 4

Enoch- 3

Noah- 3

Issac-18

Jacob- 25

Joseph-34

Samuel- 3

David-54

Solomon -10

Moses-79 verses carry his name.

The writer to the Hebrews is making a comparison, seeking to encourage faithfulness to Christ Jesus, by illustrating His superiority over the prophets- Hebrews 1:1-3 and over the angels- Hebrews 1:4-2:18, both of which were very important to the Jewish people.

There was no one so highly honored to the Jewish people as the man by the name of Moses. He wrote the first five books of the bible, he was known as the deliverer of the Israelites from the rigorous Egyptian bondage, he was known as the leader of the Israelites through the strain and struggles of the wilderness era. He was the leader of God's people to the Promised Land. He is considered as, the Law giver, through whom God revealed much of the way to live and worship. If the writer to the Hebrews here seeks to be successful in encouraging his Jewish audience in this Christological book, he must make a case for Christ being superior to this famous Old Testament man, whom the Lord knew "face to face."

1. Christ an Apostle and High Priest. (v1) The writer digs in immediately, addressing his audience as "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling," consider:

a. Who are the "brethren?" To whom is he speaking? He's saying, You are yoke brothers with me, you are brethren who are sanctified, set apart for a holy purpose, consider the sanctifying work of Jesus Christ. Consider what He did for you and me. He brought many sons to glory, (2:10) He

is the captain of our salvation, He was made perfect through sufferings. He, the sanctifier, sanctified us. Because of this, we are all yoked together under a common bond, the love of God, therefore we are all brethren. We, the brethren, are

b. partakers of the heavenly calling. We are God's called people. Have you considered at all the great promises that this man, Jesus Christ has made to us? He is the Saviour, the One Who destroyed death and has the power and will to finally destroy the devil, (2:14) He is a merciful and faithful High Priest, who made the final, perfect, satisfying to God, sacrifice, making reconciliation for the sins of the people. (2:17) Consider what He has done.

c. He is the Apostle and High Priest of our Profession. The word apostle means "one sent", just as Moses was sent by God, so was Jesus. This was recorded in Acts 3:22.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Act 3:24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

Act 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

Act 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of

you from his iniquities.

The words ring out- "him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." This is the Word of God, it was He and the doctrine of God who was sent.

John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

His is the Apostle, sent from God.

d. But not only Apostle, He is the High Priest. Not even Moses had this privilege, for it was Aaron his brother who was high priest during his 40 years with the Israelites (Exodus 28:1). To the readers of this epistle **the High Priest title carries great prominence.** He is introduced to us as the High Priest in 2:17 "...a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God..."

I am reminded of the event in Matthew 17, the transfiguration. Jesus and some of His disciples were on the mountain top, the scriptures declare that His face shined like the sun, his clothing was as white as light. (my paraphrase) In the third verse, there appeared to be two men with Him, like Moses and Elijah. Bold Peter speaks out, "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias."

The scriptures declare:

Mat 17:5 While he yet spake, 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.

Holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider this man Jesus Christ, as Apostle and High Priest, the One who God approves of and is well pleased.

2. Both Faithful- (v2) The scriptures say,

(2) Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Just as Jesus was faithful to the doctrines of God- John 7:16, So was Moses faithful in all his house. The word

house refers to the tabernacle, the center of Jewish worship. Moses had faithfully obeyed Gods instructions, in receiving the law, the ordinance of worship, the laws of sacrifice, dietary laws, and all the other Levitical stuff that pertained to Worship, keeping the house of God, and following closely, keeping the law. In the same way, Christ was faithful as He had been obedient in fulfilling the mission of God, as the One who would come and accomplish the plan of salvation that God had ordained before the world began. Through the faithfulness and obedience of the Son, God established a new house of God, what is known today as the church.

Were they both Faithful? Yes, they both were faithful, Jesus to the doctrine of God and Moses to the reproach of Christ. Hebrews 11:26.

As we study the faith of Moses in the Faith hall of fame, Hebrews 11, we can clearly see that Moses was faithful for the sake and purpose of Christ.

v24- Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh. He refused rank, greatness, glory, and riches.

v25-Moses chose to suffer affliction over comfort and ease.

v26-Moses thought of the reproach of Christ, greater than riches. He looked forward to God's blessing instead of man's temporal blessings. God's things are eternal, man's things are temporary. The reproach of Christ was greater than all the treasures of Egypt. He had respect in what God would do, and looked forward to God's eternal blessings rather than man's temporal glory.

V27- By faith he looked beyond Egypt, beyond Pharaoh, seeing him who is invisible. He looked to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Moses' faith was in Christ.

3. The Builder has more honor than the house. (3-4) The builder is Jesus Christ, He is worthy of more honour. Jesus Christ built the House, here the writer equates Christ to God, entitling Him to more glory and honor than Moses. Moses is only a part of

the house. What Moses did was a part of his service to God, and to the work of His Son.

Jesus is the contractor, Moses was the laborer. We, like Moses, are charged to keep the House of God. Jesus Christ is the Creator. He created the house:

1:2- He made the worlds

1:10-He laid the foundation of the earth

3:4- "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."

Moses portrayed Christ likeness, but was only a servant, a part of the house, a laborer in the house. His life is typified of Christ in many ways; we can go into many similarities of the two to show how Moses was a type of Christ. Staying with the context of the house, let us go to the writing in **Hebrews 8:1** (pardon my paraphrase) - Jesus Christ is the High Priest and at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. He is Minister of the Sanctuary and True tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. Now, let's move on to verse 5.

Heb 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Heb 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Heb 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my cov-

enant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

Some phrases ring out immediately that shows how Christ is more superior to Moses as a type. The words pattern, more excellent ministry, better covenant, better promises, and new covenant. The summation to this better covenant is given in verse 13. The first covenant is old, decayed, and has vanished away. The new covenant with Christ is eternal and everlasting.

This saying says: Jesus is--- Moses was. He is the builder, worthy of more honor, the Creator. Moses was a worker and a part of creation.

The implication is that the covenant established through Jesus' death is more glorious than the covenant established at Mt. Sinai. What was established at Mt. Sinai could not have been completed without what Jesus did upon the cross at Mt. Calvary.

4. Moses was a faithful servant.

(5) The writer says that Moses was a faithful servant in the House of God. Moses was a testifier of the word of God.

Num 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Num 12:8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Moses was a testifier of things to come.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

Jesus confirms the words of Moses in Luk 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Moses was a servant, his work pointed forward to Christ. The regulations of the Law of Moses pointed out both the sin of humanity and the need for a final and perfect sacrifice to reconcile men to their holy creator, Christ, the Son.

5. Christ as Son. (6)

Jesus is a faithful Son over His own house. Moses was a servant in the house. The Son did the work, (John 17:4), and in doing so, was given authority over all things, see also **Matt 28:18, John 3:25, Ephesians 1:22.**

The Son is one who sits on the heavenly throne, He rules today over the church and all creation, His opponents will all be defeated, His house consists of all whom God has chosen as His, His house will stand forever, Thank God we are His house. We can hold fast to the confidence and rejoice in the hope we have in Christ, until the end. (my paraphrase)

Moses was a man faithful to the work, to the commandments of God, and the One whom he proclaimed- the Son- Jesus Christ. He is over the house. We are the house, the church, Gods people, the "church of the living god." (1Timothy 3:15).

We can not hold on to the confidence

in Moses, as good a man as he was, he was a man, with flaws. Yet Christ was a man, but more than a man, the Son of the Living God. Be confident in Him, hold fast to Him, rejoice in Him, claim Him, cling to Him.

HE IS:

1.) Heir of all things and the One through whom God made the worlds- 1:2

2.) The brightness of God's glory and the express image of his person, upholding all things by the word of His power

3.) seated at the right hand of the majesty on High-1:3

4.) better than the angels-1:4

5.) captain of our salvation-2:10

6.) destroyer of the de veil-2:14

7.) merciful and faithful high priest-2:17

8.) worthy of more glory than Moses-3:3

9.) builder of the house of God-3:3-4

10.) a priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses-4:15

11.) always alive to make intercession-7:25

12.) Mediator of a better covenant-8:6

13.) Our model, the author and finisher of our faith-12:2

14.) The Great Shepherd of the sheep-13:20

15.) He is our Saviour, redeemer, friend, Master, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hold firm to Him until the end. Moses was a faithful servant, but this Christ, this Jesus, He is the Son of the Living God, superior to Moses.

May the Lord bless you today, as you ponder these things.

Great Faith will bring Heaven to your soul.

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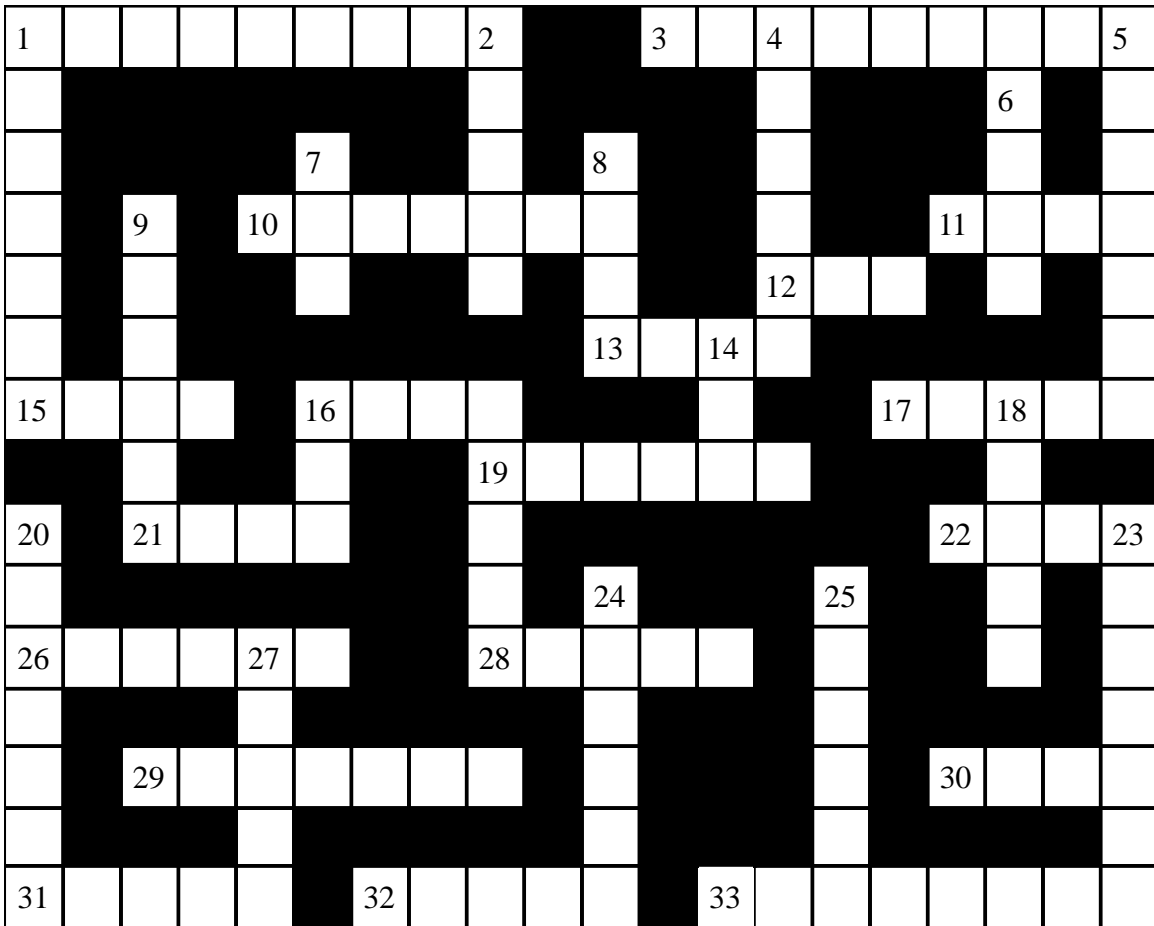
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she _____." 3. "And you hath he _____, who were dead in trespasses and sins." 10. "For the Lord's _____ is His people, and Jacob is the lot of His inheritance." 11. "...If I make my bed in _____, behold thou art there." 12. "Ye do _____, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." 13. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the _____ of him that sent me." 15. "I am the _____ of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys." 16. "Fight the _____ fight of faith." 17. "_____ in me, and I in you." 19. "For all have _____ and come short of the glory of God." 21. "Your Father knoweth what things ye have _____ of before ye ask him." 22. "Behold the _____ of God that taketh away the sin of the world!" 26. "As concerning the _____, they are enemies for your sakes." 28. "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I _____ this to your shame!" 29. " ...what he had promised, he was able also to _____." 30. Jacob said, "I have seen God face to _____, and my life is preserved." 31. "And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and _____" 32. "So teach us to number our days, that we may _____ our hearts unto wisdom." 33. "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother _____ me!"



DOWN

1. "Remember now thy _____ in the days of thy youth..." 2. "Ye are of your father the _____." 4. "For they are not all, _____ which are of Israel." 5. "I have not shunned to _____ unto you all the counsel of God." 6. "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that ye should not _____ the truth..." 7. "This is my beloved _____ in whom I am well pleased." 8. Jesus said, "I _____ my sheep." 9. "According as he hath _____ us in him before the foundation of the world." 14. "He maketh me to _____, down in green pastures." 16. "For the gifts and calling of _____ are without repentance. 18. "For in _____ shall thy seed be called." 19. Jesus Christ "By himself purged our _____." 20. "Glory to God in the _____, and on earth peace, good will toward man." 23. "...Lord I _____, help thou mine unbelief." 24. "Keep in _____ what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." 25. "Repent: for the kingdom of _____ is at hand." 27. "In thee shall all families of the _____ be blessed."