

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

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\$1.00 per year.

Our Risen Lord

By Rev. M. L. Sutton, Pastor First Free Will Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Jesus is alive! He arose from the dead! Every one who is born of the Spirit of God knows that this is indeed true. Those who do not believe this doctrine cannot believe Him to be the Savior of the world, which means that they cannot accept Him as their personal Savior. If there is any one that I am in sympathy with it is one who says, "I believe the Bible, I believe in God the Supreme Ruler of the universe, but I can only accept Jesus as the highest type of humanity and the greatest moral teacher that the world has ever seen." It is not enough to accept Him as the highest type of humanity, neither is it enough just to accept Him as the world's greatest moral teacher; but He must be accepted personally, as the Christ the Son of the living God, the Savior of the world. And unless He is accepted as such we cannot possibly be saved, because He says, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the Father but by me." There is one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus, and He is the only way by which we can enter into everlasting glory. Of course there are those who say that they are Christians and are teaching that Jesus did not rise from the dead, but calling one's self a Christian and really being one, are two different questions entirely. I say then, that all who are regenerated from above believe that Jesus died for their sins and was raised again for their justification, but there are so many things that depend on the teachings of His

literal bodily resurrection, that I feel that many who are really children of God, and are serving Him to the best of their knowledge and ability, do not fully realize the significance of this grand and glorious Bible doctrine.

We know how the good women came to the sepulchre very early in the morning on the first day of the week, and how they found an empty tomb. We know that that tomb was sealed with the seal of the Roman Empire, and that it was guarded by sixteen Roman soldiers who knew that it meant death to them, if they allowed that seal to be broken and that body to be stolen away. We know that those strong, stalwart soldiers became as dead men when a mighty angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the tomb and sat upon it. We know that He was seen of His disciples for forty days after His resurrection, and that He showed Himself alive, after His passion, by many infallible proofs. We know that when He had led them out to the mount of Olives, while He talked with them, He was taken up to heaven and a cloud received Him out of their sight, and He sat down at the right hand of God. Again I say that we who know Him in the free pardon of our sins, know of a truth that He did rise from the dead, but what does His resurrection mean to us? Have we given this thought much of our serious consideration? I believe that when all true Christians come to fully realize what the resurrection of Jesus means to the Christian religion, that they will put forth every effort to exterminate every teaching that has a tendency to destroy this precious

doctrine. So with these thoughts in view, I take up this theme: "Our Risen Lord," and ask your prayers while I bring you the message.

I want to invite your attention to a portion of scripture found in the First Epistle to the Corinthians, fifteenth chapter, first to eighth verses inclusive. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye now stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory that which I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; after that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once of whom the the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as one born out of due time."

For a text I want to use the eighth verse of the second chapter of second Timothy. The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, who was then a young preacher, exhorts him with these words: "Remember, that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel." What a wonderful thing it is indeed, that God has equipped the human mind with that little machine that we call memory. How could we appreciate Jesus as our Savior if we could not remember that He died for our sins

on Calvary's cross? How could we love Him as our Mediator if we could not remember that we were once strangers to God and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel? But thank God, we can remember, so throughout this entire discourse let us remember the words of the text, and in so doing, let us try to see some of the things about the teachings of His resurrection.

First. His claims that He was the Messiah that should come and that He is the Son of God, died with Him, and are buried yonder in Palestine, if He did not rise from the dead. When He met the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well and talked to her about the Water of Life and what it meant to the children of men, she told Him that she knew that when the Messiah came He would tell them all things. Jesus said, "I that speak unto thee am He. The woman believed that statement and went back to the city and told it with such joy in her heart that she caused all that heard her in that wicked city of Sychar, who had been worshipping they knew not what, to go out to see Him and they too accepted Him as their Savior. Thousands have followed the example of those people and have found peace to their troubled souls. Other thousands have suffered their bodies to be burned, to be fed to the wild beasts, their heads to be cut off, and many have died in exile because they would not renounce their faith in a risen Lord. Why do you suppose these people underwent such miseries rather than give up their faith in Him? Was it because they were all ignorant and half-witted as the modern teacher would have us believe? Was not the apostle Paul, who was called a ring-leader of the sect of the Nazarenes, accused of having so much learning that it was driving him mad? No beloved, it was not because they were ignorant or half-witted, but, as Paul said in the eighth chapter of Romans, they had received the Spirit of adoption whereby they cried, "Abba Father," and that same Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead, made them know of a cer-

tainty that He was risen, and that some day, in His own good pleasure, He would come back and quicken their mortal bodies. Just a few years after Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at the well, Phillip, the deacon evangelist, went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. These people had been following a sorcerer named Simon, who had bewitched them with his sorcery and was giving out that, himself was some great one: but when they believed Phillip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Do you suppose that they would have had such a revival if old Simon the sorcerer could have pointed them to a tomb that still contained the dead body of Jesus, that Phillip had told them had risen? I say no a thousand times. They would have laughed him to scorn to say the least, and most likely they would have stoned him to death. But they knew that the tomb was empty, that the body was gone. They also knew that the tomb was sealed with a Roman seal and that it was guarded by Roman soldiers whose business it was to see that no one came by night and stole the body away, and that only a supernatural power could have moved that body. And believing this, they accepted Him as their Messiah and were made happy in His love. So His claims to His Messiahship and the Son of God depended on Him being raised from the dead. But praise God! He did arise and proved these claims then, now and always.

Second. In the fourth chapter of Romans, and the twenty-fifth verse, Paul tells us that He was delivered for our offences and raised for our justification, and in first Corinthians 15:17 he says, "If Christ be not raised your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins." So you see, my brethren, that faith in a crucified and buried Christ alone, cannot be the means of salvation to any soul. It is our faith in Him as our risen Lord, a living Savior, and not a dead martyr, that justifies us in the sight

of God the Father. If it is true, as modernists claim, that the resurrection of Christ is no essential part of Christian religion, then Paul did not know what he was talking about when he said, "Your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins." But as for me, beloved, I believe that the apostle Paul, filled with the Holy Ghost as he was, knew more about Jesus than all the modernists in the world will ever know about Him, and he says that it is very essential that we believe in His resurrection. Rom. 5:1 says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. But how could we have enough in Him to trust Him with our souls, if He still lay yonder in Palestine in Joseph's new tomb? Who could have faith in a dead hero as an eternal Savior from sin?

Third. His resurrection proves to us and gives that sweet assurance that He has the power to keep us after He has saved us. Not only to keep, but to comfort us in time of sorrow, help us in times of need, supply us the grace to overcome temptations, give us wisdom in times of ignorance, and ever so many other blessings that go to make us better and stronger men and women for God. Sometimes we forget that Jesus is just as much with His people now as He was while in His earthly ministry, but don't forget His promise to not leave or forsake us, and again, "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Now if He did not rise from the dead, how can He be with us always? Has He not left us and forsaken us if He is still dead? It is shameful how some people try to lower the standard of the morals of Jesus by trying to place Him on the same plane with men. Why, beloved don't you see that Jesus could not have been even truthful if He had not risen? What would you think of me if I should win your utmost confidence by promising a lot of things then fail to keep those promises? You would brand me as a deceiver and say that I had betrayed you!

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Organ of

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Eld. B. F. Brown, *Editor*.

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Editorial

The first Mile-Post

The "Gem" is one year old with this issue. Its message and its mission are well known by many yet we realize, as we think of the thousands of Free

Will Baptists who do not read the "Gem," that its circulation is not what it ought to be.

The past year has been a busy year for the editor and wife; we have done our best with what we had to work with, and are glad that our paper is appreciated by so many. The many good words which our friends have spoken for the "Gem" have wonderfully helped, and they make us feel that our efforts are not in vain. We realize that something has been accomplished and we are grateful to every member of the "Gem Family" for their help and co-operation in making our paper what it is, for we could never make a success of it alone. How thankful we are for those who have written the articles, letters and reports for the pages of the "Gem." They have been, not only interesting, but instructive and inspiring, and have greatly encouraged us. It seems to me that we have printed some as good articles as I ever read.

Our subscription list has grown from nothing at the start to almost six hundred. This is really good, yet we had expected more. Of this six hundred more than one hundred expire with this issue. If a blue pencil mark appears on this page, it means that this is the last copy of the Gem we can send you unless you renew or notify us to keep on sending it. Of course we want you to renew, and you know as well as I know what you and your folks will miss if you don't renew; so, for your good and theirs too, I must again remind you that we will be looking for your renewal. The subscription price is only one dollar, but the editor needs the dollar to help pay expenses. While the "Gem" is not like other magazines, every number will have a message and a thrill you will not get from any other magazine.

The future for the "Gem" will depend on how much its friends care for its welfare, and how much they care that our denomination really grows and functions to the glory of God. Our work cannot go forward and accomplish for God as it should without a paper, not a paper that one man, (the editor) has to support on what he receives for subs, and to which only a few subscribe. Before we can really prosper, we must have a paper in which the whole denomination is interested, and interested enough that those who are able will willingly put more in for its support than just the dollar their sub. costs. But we have 10,000 Free Will Baptists in Missouri alone who don't even pay the dollar for a year's subscription.

We are glad that the State Association agreed to buy and own a linotype to be used in the Gem plant. When the money is paid in for this much needed machine, we'll rejoice. Now don't say, "I'm afraid it can't be done," but prove that you are willing to help by sending a few dollars to our State Treasurer, Elder Winford Davis, R1, Monett, Mo.; and say, "For the Linotype Fund."

The Risen Lord

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on the Calvary's cross? How could we love Him as our Mediator if we could not remember that we were once strangers to God and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel? But thank God, we can remember, confidence in me, and had broken relationship. How could you trust the keeping of anything to one who was a deceiver, and could not keep his promises? That is just what Jesus was if He did not rise from the dead. But, praise be to God, He did rise, and has kept, and will keep all His promises to us who love and obey Him, for He is called "Faithful and True," and is the "same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Fourth. His resurrection assures us that some day, in His own good pleasure, He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we, which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. If we have this hope burning within our breasts, we can truly say with the apostle Paul, "O death where is thy sting! O grave where is thy victory!" What does it all mean? It simply means that when we have fought the good fight of faith and finished our course, that when we have come down to the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil. Why? Because Christ will be there to meet us at the edge of the river that flows through the valley, the river that we all must cross, and will take away the sting of death: then we can fold our arms, relax our bodies and fall asleep in the arms Jesus, with full confidence that some day He will rob the grave of its victory. Writing to the church at Thessalonians Paul says, "But I would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if

we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." Before any of God's promises can be put into effect, the conditions that secure the promise must be met. What is the condition here? It is: If we believe that Jesus died and rose again. D. L. Moody said, just before he departed this life to be with his Lord, whom he served so faithfully, that he did not wish his friends to sing any sad doleful songs over his body; but he wished them to sing songs of triumph, songs of victory, for the day that he went out to meet his Christ would be the most victorious day of all his life. Why could he say that? It was because he had that firm unshaken faith in a risen Lord.

Then again, His resurrection assures us that we shall have a body in the resurrection. That we shall not be like butterflies flitting about from place to place, but that we shall have a body fashioned after His own glorious body. A body of bones covered with flesh, just like He had when He went into that upper room, the doors being shut, and told His bewildered disciples, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." What kind of a body is it then? It is a glorified body, a body that sin will never be able to touch, a body that can never know pain nor death, a body that is wholly spiritual.

Then last, but not least: His resurrection assures us of everlasting joy and bliss with Him in heaven. In the 14th chapter of John, just before Jesus was crucified, He told His disciples that in His Father's house there were many mansions, and that He went to prepare a place for them and, if He did go, He would come again and receive them to Himself, that where He is, there they might be also. Upon what conditions was He to come back, and His disciples be with Him? Upon the condition that He go away. Now, if he did not rise from the

dead, it is an absolute fact that He did not go away. And if He did not go away He will never, or can never, come back to receive us to Himself. But, thanks be to God, while John was in exile on Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus, he saw heaven open, and the first being that he saw was One like unto the Son of Man, all of celestial glory, and when he saw Him he fell at His feet and was dead. But He laid His right hand on him, and he heard the sweet gentle voice of my Savior, my God, saying, "Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

And again John said, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds, and people and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. And cried with a loud voice saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Robes that have been washed white in the blood of the Lamb. And in their hands were palms, the sign of victory, victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. They were praising God and the Lamb for salvation. What was said of them? That they should serve God without a hinderance of any kind, no heat, no hunger, no thirst, for the Lamb shall lead them unto fountains of living water and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Oh! Beloved, won't it be glorious when we stand there with that host of blood-washed saints? There we shall see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Daniel, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, and so many others. Our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children, friends and loved ones from all over the world will be there. I say, Won't it be glorious just to be near Him forever, who was delivered for our offences and

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FROM THE FIELD

**4301 N. Broadway, St. Louis,
Missouri.**

(Macedonia Gospel Tabernacle)

Brethren:—It was decided at the Quarterly Conference held in our church that the following comment on "Temperance" should be sent to the "Gem" for publication, as a declaration of the attitude of the F. W. Baptists toward temperance.

Temperance

Temperance should be preached from the pulpit, emphasized by the Sunday School teacher, and lived by every earnest Christian. This is a day when the average American home has a private still of its own. When friends call, they look for and are ready to accept a glass or two or three of "home brew." In place of reading the Word and having prayer together while visiting, even those who profess to be Christians drink toasts to each other with their "home brew."

In many churches the young people are taught that intemperance is sin, but are not shown the evils that follow indulgence in strong drink. The warning must be given and the awful results of drunkenness must be shown. It robs a man of his manhood and self respect, besides causing those around him to suffer.

The first chapter of Daniel gives us the beautiful example of a young man who was brave enough to stand up for the right, even when it may have meant persecution and death. "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat."

Paul said, "I keep under my body, lest by any means after I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway." And again, "He that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things."

Would to God that we had more today who were willing to stand for

the right as fearlessly as these, and for the same reason: because they love God and long always to please HIM.

Written by the Missionary Committee of the conference,

{ Mrs. Jennie Wright,
Mrs. Souden,
Lillian M. Elliott.

**4301 N. Broadway, St. Louis,
Missouri**

To the Editor of the Free Will Baptist Gem:

We have been requested to send you for publication a detailed report of the work which we have recently begun. The report is as follows:

Educational and Industrial Work at the Macedonia Gos- pel Tabernacle

We believe it is necessary to consider the class of people whose children we are to deal with, in order that we may by all means avoid disputings among them. There will naturally be children whose parents have leanings, one way or another, toward the different denominations. Therefore, in order to conduct a work of this kind successfully, it must be free from denominational features, that we may insure harmony and good will.

The aim of our undertaking is to provide a way whereby we may mould and shape the lives of the children and young people about us. We long to fortify them with Christian principles and help them to develop into earnest, loyal, steadfast Christian citizens.

In order to accomplish this we have a missionary on the field. She holds afternoon classes for the children of different ages. These classes will include sewing and cooking classes for girls, two classes a week for the smaller children (when they learn Bible verses and gospel songs and are told Bible stories. There will be a class in simple construction for small boys also, and we hope a reading circle for young people. Two large rooms are being

equipped for the classes.

We have a stereopticon machine and will give a lecture with lantern slides one night a week; sometimes this is replaced by a chalk talk. All of this work is followed up by visiting the mothers in the homes and seeking their co-operation.

It is, of course, understood that this is a new work and that time is required to get it well under way. Therefore we ask your earnest co-operation, your prayers and if God lays it upon your heart, your financial aid.

Sincerely yours in His joyous service,

Eld. Edward Hilliar, Supt.
Lillian Elliott, Missionary.

Evangelist's Report

Following is a brief report of my last month's travels in the Lord's work.

In last report I had just begun a meeting for Eld. Selph Jones in Webster County near Niangua, Mo. Must say with much pleasure that the meeting was a success. I surely was glad to make the acquaintance of these good people. We joined hands together in the work, which resulted in the salvation of six precious souls, one being a blind man, who was deprived of seeing with natural sight, but now can help sing that old song,

Amazing grace! how sweet the
sound,

That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Closing the meeting in the best of spirits, I was taken to Niangua by Bro. Bennie Blackwell and from there took the train for St. Louis. When I arrived here (St. Louis) I was asked to preach a few nights before I went to Mill Creek to dedicate the church there. Elder W. C. Hill is the faithful pastor of this church. Have been here one week to date. God has blessed nine precious souls.

Bro. Hill is one of the many

servants of the Lord who have really been a blessing to me, as he is a man to encourage the young ministers, in place of wanting to cast them down. This is the most sacred place in the world to me, as this was the place where I found Christ the Lord.

There surely is a fine bunch of young people here. Any and all will lead in public prayer.

I will be here possibly this week, after which I will go to Mill Creek to dedicate the church, if it be God's will.

I was proud of the "Gem" this month more than ever. Bro. Brown may never be praised here for his wonderful work, but God is remembering it. I enjoyed all the good letters and sermons, and the write-up from Sister O. T. Fast was much appreciated, also the comments on the Sunday School Lesson by our dear editor B. F. Brown.

Pray for me. Let's make our paper still better. "Where there is no vision the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18).

Anderson, Mo.

Dear Readers:—We thought we would write a few lines to let you know we are still in the land of the living, and as the Lord has worked so wonderfully through us, we would like for others to know about it.

We are now in a meeting at the Owens School house, about eight miles northwest of Anderson, Mo. We are having wonderful interest, and good crowds.

We have been steady in the field for the past eight weeks. The Lord through us has picked up the Coy Church and organized a Sunday School, and they are having prayer meeting weekly, and also revived the pleasant Grove Church. Altogether there have been several conversions and several baptized, and a wonderful revival among the brothers and sisters in the whole country round about.

So, with love to all, and hoping

the Lord will bless every reader of the little Gem, will close.

Yours forever in Christ,
Elders B. Clark and J. A. Posey.

Cassville, Mo.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:—We are in a meeting near Cassville, Mo. having a wonderful meeting. We have been here three weeks, and twenty-six have been converted, only two reclaimed out of the twenty-six, so many heads of families getting saved. I don't know when I'll close. Please remember me in your prayers.

Your sister,
Miss Merl Robberson.

Evangelist's Report Weatherby, Mo.

After sending in my last report, I went to the Mo. State Association in the town of Flat River, sixty-seven miles south of St. Louis. We had a fine State Association, this time, and the largest delegation we have ever had at a Missouri State Association.

After leaving the State Association, I went to St. Louis, Mo., and preached four times for our church at 611 Rutger St., and there were two professions. We were glad to meet this good people, and to meet and be once more in the home of their faithful pastor, Elder W. C. Hill. The church is just doing fine.

I went from St. Louis to Carlow, Mo., a small place on the Wabash R. R. in north Missouri and preached a few nights for our church there. The meeting was rained out twice, and the roads were a fright with deep mud, but God gave us a good meeting in spite of bad weather and roads, and a lot of sickness. When the roads and the weather were fit for people to get to the church we had good crowds and the best of attention and good order. Elder House of Santa Rosa, Mo. who has been preaching for this church two sermons a month through the week between Sundays, has been called by the church to

continue to preach for them the same way, until the Association meets. This was done at a business meeting of the church the last night of the meeting.

We were glad to be in the home here of John McKown, a son of old Elder McKown that so many remember so well, now gone on to his rest. We hope and pray, many of us, that God will lay his hand on the son, and that he soon will step out in his father's place and go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and take up the work his father had to lay down.

I shall always remember the people of Carlow for their goodness and kindness to me, and I have promised to go back and hold another meeting for them later on. I aim to hold a few nights' meetings at Atta Vista Church near Weatherby, Mo., beginning tonight.—T. C. Ferguson

St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Readers of the Gem:—I am glad to report that the Lord is still blessing us. Since our last report, we have had a number of professions, and two additions to the church. I do not know just how many professions, as I have been away holding meetings. Bro. Mike Cleaver, one of our State Evangelists, is with us at this time and is having a splendid meeting. God is blessing his labors. If you need help in a meeting, you will make no mistake in calling on him. He is one of our boys, saved at our church here, and the writer looks upon him as a son in the ministry.

I have just returned from a ten days' meeting at Wortham, Mo. The Lord was with us and we had ten professions and a nice baptizing at the close of the meeting. Elder Pearl Hildebrand is the beloved pastor at Wortham. Bro. Hildebrand is a fine man to work with in a revival. I had the pleasure of baptizing his parents, one sister and a brother twenty-five years ago. Bro. Hildebrand was then just a boy.

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CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Eld. C. E. Mann, "Uncle Charley," Editor.

Greentop, Missouri

Teddie's Black Thanksgiving

Teddie was a small boy with blue eyes and auburn hair who lived with his papa, mamma, seven sisters and three brothers in a large sod house. Times had been very bad, and Teddie's papa had tried so hard to earn enough to provide for the needs of his family. Yet, with all his noble efforts he seemed to fail. At last he decided to go away in order to earn money to provide for those whom he loved.

Teddie's mamma cried when his papa went away, and this made Teddie feel very sad, for his mamma seldom cried. Then too every one seemed to miss papa, but as the days went by and a letter from papa informed them he was all right, Teddie's mamma began to smile and sunshine appeared again. Yet, Teddie was very lonely without his papa because they were great pals, and Teddie loved him dearly.

Teddie's mamma cared for the children, saw that each did his part of the work, looked after the cattle and horses, and did her best to provide for the large family, yet with all her care there was a falling away of eats, and often the children were put to bed hungry.

One day Teddie's big brother was sent to town, and on his way home stopped at the big house on the hill. When he came home Teddie asked him about the town and the big house. It was then he took Teddie off to the barn, told him about the town and the big house, and how the lady of the house came out and fed her big dog a plate of biscuit, meat and other things. Then Teddie's big brother cried and said, "I don't see why she couldn't have given those things to boys and girls who are hungry, and Oh, I was so hungry!"

As the days passed by things to

eat in Teddie's home became more scarce, until they had nothing to eat but parched corn. One night while eating their supper of corn Teddie noticed his mamma didn't have any corn to eat, then Teddie offered her some of his corn, and Teddie's mamma replied, "No, you eat it, dear, mamma is not hungry," and then she turned away and cried.

A long long time after Teddie went to bed, but he could not sleep. He wondered why mamma was not hungry, and why she cried. Teddie then thought, "Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and we haven't any thing to eat but corn, and there isn't much corn, and Mamma cries and Papa is away." He wondered why it was called a Thanksgiving Day when people didn't have enough to eat, and when his Papa was away and when Mamma cried. Then Teddie cried and continued to cry until he fell asleep.

Thanksgiving morning came and Teddie's mamma called him for breakfast. But Teddie didn't want to get up, and he didn't want breakfast, and he didn't want a Thanksgiving day with Papa away, and Mamma crying, and nothing to eat but parched corn.

Mamma had called, so Teddie began to dress, but he didn't want to, and it took him a long time to get ready. At last he was ready, but he went along rather draggy until he reached the dining room and then—Oh, my! What a change, for there on the table were hot biscuits, meat, and so many good things to eat! At the head of the table stood Mamma with a smiling face and beside her stood Uncle Jim whom Teddie's Papa had sent home with good things to eat, and who said Papa would be home in time for Christmas. It was then Teddie's Black Thanksgiving flew away, and

Teddie was really glad it was Thanksgiving day.

Here is a nice letter from a nice little girl who lives near Stahl, Missouri and who wants to join Uncle Charley's family of boys and girls. We hope she will write again.

Stahl, Mo., Nov. 11, 1929.

Dear Uncle Charlie:

I thought I would write and tell you I go to the Green Grove School. I am nine years old, and am in the fourth grade. My teacher's name is Sharrod Collins. I go to Sunday School at the Green Grove church. I like to go to church and Sunday School. I like to read your letters in the Gem.

Your friend,

Naomi Sanders.

Here is a nice letter from a little friend of Greentop, Missouri. My! How we enjoy these letters!

Dear Uncle Charley:—I want to be counted one of your friends. I am ten years old, and go to school every day. My teacher is Miss Cuma Adams, and my music teacher is Miss Vansicle. I am in the fifth grade and enjoy my school work very well. I go to church and Sunday School every Sunday.

Your true friend,

Charline Miller.

Here is a little Thanksgiving Poem "Uncle Charley" has written for his boys and girls, which I hope they will like.

Thanksgiving

The sun is hid behind the clouds,
The snow is falling fast;
Thanksgiving Day is passing by,
The evening shades are cast.
And yet with gratitude I come
Unto the throne of love;
And praise His holy, matchless
name
Who cometh from above.
He shed a ray of light serene
Upon my pathway here;
I want just one Thanksgiving Day
That lasts throughout the year.

Improved Uniform International

Sunday School

Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Member of Faculty, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
(©, 1929, Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for December 1

THE CHRISTIAN HOME IN A MODERN WORLD

LESSON TEXT—Deut. 6:3-9; Matt. 19:3-9; Luke 2:40-52; 24:28-32; Eph. 6:1-9; II Tim. 1:3-5; II Tim. 14:15; Luke 2:40-52.

GOLDEN TEXT—Honor thy father and thy mother.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Pleasing God in Our Home.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Pleasing God in Our Home.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Living as Christians at Home.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Christian Home: Its Helps and Hindrances.

Instead of an exposition of the printed text, as suggested by the lesson committee, it will be better to make a synthetic study of the salient points of the several reference texts proposed by the committee:

I. The Makers of the Home (Matt. 19:3-9).

The home is a divine institution. Its makers are the man and the woman joined together in holy wedlock, according to God's primary law—one man for one woman and one woman for one man.

1. The union is so vital that God declared the man and the woman to be one flesh (Gen. 2:24).

2. Divorce was not in God's thought for man (v. 6).

It was only permitted because of sin (v. 8). Divorce has the disapproval of God and right thinking men and women.

3. Fornication—the one and only ground for divorce (v. 9).

Laxness of the divorce laws causes the Christian to hang his head in shame.

II. The Ideal Child (Luke 2:40-52). Marriage has as its primary purpose the propagation of the race. Children are to be desired and expected. Christ stands as the ideal child in the home.

1. His central interest (v. 49).

"My father's business." Being conscious of His Mission He entered the temple to inquire into the meaning of the ordinances of God's house.

2. His obedience (v. 51).

Though fully conscious of His divine being and mission, He went down to Nazareth and lived a life of filial obedience.

(1). Bodily—"Increased in stature." His body became strong. A strong, healthy body is the inalienable right of every child, and parents are obligated to provide food and raiment such as to preserve their health.

(2) Mental—"Increased in wisdom." As a normal human being, his mental powers developed.

(3) Spiritual—"The grace of God was upon him," and He increased in favor with God and man. How beautiful is the picture of the symmetrical development of the Savior of men.

III. The Place of God's Word in the Home (Deut. 6:3-9).

The home has a vital teaching function. The child develops slowly; remains in the home for a long time to give an opportunity to be taught the things of God.

1. The central truth to be taught (vv. 4, 5).

This is twofold. The unity of God (v. 4) and man's supreme obligation to God (v. 5).

2. How the truth was to be kept alive (vv. 6-9).

(1) It was to be diligently taught to the children (v. 7).

(2) It was to be talked of everywhere and under all circumstances.

(3) It was to be bound upon the hand and placed as frontlets between the eyes (v. 8).

(4) It was to be written upon the posts of the houses (v. 9).

IV. The Early Training of the Child (II Tim. 1:3-5; 3:14, 15).

Timothy was taught the Scriptures from his childhood by a godly mother and grandmother. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God in the salvation of children as well as adults.

V. Christ a Guest in the Home (Luke 24:28-32).

At the urgent invitation of certain disciples, Christ tarried in their home and sat at meat with them. Christ will come into the home and bless those who sincerely invite Him.

VI. Mutual Relation of the Members of the Home (Eph. 6:1-9).

Each member has certain rights and privileges which must be respected. Children are to obey and honor their parents. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath, but to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Servants are to be obedient to their masters and to render service as unto the Lord. Masters are to show consideration to their servants, since they themselves are servants to the heavenly Master.

Faith

When we are confronted by misery which needs relief, suffering which requires sympathy, folly which should be reproof, ignorance waiting for counsel, sin pleading forgiveness, the true prayer is, "Lord, increase our faith." Nothing is impossible to faith.

A Daily Thought

I say to you truly, the heart of him who loves is a paradise on earth; he has God in himself, for God is love—Lamennais.

Lesson for December 8

HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

LESSON TEXT—Luke 10:25-37; James 1:26, 27; 2:14-17; Matt. 25:31-46.

GOLDEN TEXT—Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Being a Good Neighbor.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Being a Good Neighbor.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How to Be a Good Neighbor.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Modern Good Samaritan; Who Is He?

It is difficult to discover a thread of unity running through the texts selected by the lesson committee. The teacher should choose between them making a study of the one best suited to the needs of the class. If the use of all the texts be desired, the teacher will be under the necessity of selecting the verses from each unit best suited to the needs of the class. Perhaps the nearest approach to unity of treatment of the texts in the light of the lesson subject would be the following:

I. Who Is My Neighbor? (Luke 10:29, 30).

The parable of the Good Samaritan makes clear who is a neighbor and also what it means to be a neighbor. This destitute and wounded man left on the highway by the robbers, needed a neighbor. My neighbor therefore, is the one who needs my help—whether he lives next door or on the other side of the world.

II. What Being a Neighbor Means (Luke 10:31-37).

Our primary concern is not—who is my neighbor? but whose neighbor am I? Being a neighbor is:

1. To be on the lookout for those in need of help (v. 33).

2. To have compassion on the needy (v. 33).

Human need called forth Christ's compassion. All who have His spirit will be likewise moved.

3. To give to those in need (v. 34). This means not only to give money but also to minister to the poor.

4. To bind up wounds (v. 34).

5. To set the helpless ones on our beasts while we walk (v. 34).

6. To bring to the inn and take care of the unfortunate (v. 34).

7. Genuine love is not spasmodic, but completes its service.

8. To give money (v. 35).

It costs much to be a neighbor. Love is the most expensive thing in the world. It cost God His only Son; it cost Christ His life.

III. The Test of Pure Religion

(James 1:26, 27).

1. The tongue is bridled (v. 26).

This means that those who have experienced Christ will speak with discretion.

2. Sympathizing with and helping those in need (v. 27).

The widow and orphan are the symbols of helplessness and need. Those who have true pity will visit such and render necessary aid.

3. Keep unspotted from the world (v. 27).

The one who has truly experienced the life from God will separate himself from the world.

IV. Judgment of the Nations (Matt. 25:31-46).

It is difficult to see what bearing this text has upon neighborly responsibility as it is a picture of the judgment which is to take place at the end of this age.

1. The Judge (v. 31).

He is the Son of Man who died to redeem the human race. He will then be clothed with majesty and power, occupying His throne as Judge.

2. The time (v. 31).

It will take place when the Lord comes in His glory, accompanied with a retinue of glorious angels. It will take place after He has gathered the elect remnant of Israel.

3. The place (v. 31).

From Zechariah 14:1-5 we learn that it will be in or near Jerusalem. Since, according to Luke 1:31-33, Christ is to sit upon the throne of His father David, we conclude that the place and the throne will be real.

4. The people judged (vv. 32-45).

They will be the living nations upon the earth after the translation of the church (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). They will be people unto whom the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached (Matt. 24:14). Those who preach this gospel will be Jews (Rev. 7 and Romans 11). They will be the brethren of the Lord in the flesh.

5. The issue of the judgment (v. 46).

(1) The sheep, Israel, shall enter upon their inheritance of the prepared kingdom.

(2) The goats, rejecters of Christ, go into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

A Glowing Service

There is no greater or more glowing service in the world than that of recovering from the human refuse pile those who have been thrown there by a world's bitter condemnation, and giving to them that new hope that will "turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God."

Beneath the Humblest Garb

Gentleness and a kind heart are often found beneath the humblest garb.

Lesson for December 16

THE CHRISTIAN SPIRIT IN INDUSTRY

LESSON TEXT—Deut. 24:14, 15; Matt. 20:1-16; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 3:14; Eph. 6:5-9; 1 Tim. 6:17-19.

GOLDEN TEXT—As ye would men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Kindness to Those Who Work for Us.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Kindness to Those Who Work for Us.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Fair Play in the Day's Work.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Golden Rule in the Work of the World.

While some of these instructions were given to Israel, showing what God required of them, we should remember that He requires no less at our hand.

I. Treatment of Hired Servants (Deut. 24:14, 15).

Political and industrial power have been used through the centuries in the oppression of the poor and weak.

1. Oppression forbidden (v. 14).

The man who hires out is usually poor and needy. The employer should not take advantage of his poverty.

2. Foreigners to have the same treatment as fellow countrymen.

2. Wages to be promptly paid (v. 15).

The laborer was to be paid at the end of the day. The credit system in industry is greatly to be deplored. It places the purchaser at a disadvantage, and causes a bad psychological reaction upon his personality.

II. Fidelity to Contracts (Matt. 20:1-16).

In this parable it is clearly made known that there was agreement between employer and employee as to wages and time. Though those employed at a later hour received the same wage, there was no occasion for complaint by those first employed, for they received their wage according to agreement. Fidelity to agreement is essential in industry.

III. Unfaithful Tenancy (Mark 12:1-9).

In this parable a valuable vineyard was rented out to husbandmen. They not only refused to turn over the just returns to its owner, but shamefully treated his servants who were sent to collect rental. Those entrusted with possessions and power are under solemn obligation to make proper returns therefor.

IV. Contentment With Wages (Luke 3:14).

One of the chief difficulties in the industrial world today is discontent with wages. Oftentimes workers fail to take account of the conditions of business even to the extent of going on strike and make demands as to wages which the proprietor cannot meet. Contentment with wages does

not mean that one should not be ambitious to prepare himself for a more efficient service and higher wages.

V. Reciprocal Duties of Servants and Masters (Eph. 6:5-9).

1. Servants are to be obedient to their masters (vv. 5-8).

This obedience should be (1) "with fear and trembling"; that is, the servant should have a proper regard for his master and an earnest desire to please him. (2) With singleness of heart. Servants should perform their tasks as though doing them for Christ's sake. (3) Not with eye service. Acceptable service should be honest, not merely to please the eye of the one who looks on, but as unto Christ. (4) With good will. This expresses the spirit of service. It should not primarily be for approval or pay. Christian servants will perform their duties with the same fidelity as they would unto Christ. (5) Rewarded by the Lord (v. 8). The Lord takes account of our service in the common rounds of life and will one day reward us accordingly.

2. Masters to be considerate (v. 9). Just as servants are to give whole-hearted consideration to their masters, so masters are to look out for the best interests of their servants. (1) Masters should desist from threatenings. (2) They should be impartial in dealings with their servants.

VI. Responsibility of the Rich (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Riches are possible to Christians, but most perilous. God charges such:

1. Not to be high-minded; that is, to have a sense of superiority.

2. Not to trust in the uncertainty of riches.

3. Riches to be properly used.

(1) To do good. Not for selfish gratification, but for the welfare of others. (2) To be minister to good works. (3) The rich are under obligation to minister to the poor and the needy.

Intolerable Pride

I think half the troubles for which men go slouching in prayer to God are caused by their intolerable pride.

Many of our cares are but a morbid way of looking at our privilege. We let our blessings get moldy and then call them curses.—Beecher.

Preparedness

He is to be pitied, indeed, who has seen better days ahead of him, yet has made no preparation for living them better.

Build Industries on the Bible

The Bible makes, "Love thy neighbor as thyself" the foundation of justice in all industrial relationships. Neither laborer nor capitalist would suffer under that rule.

Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. F. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Member of Faculty, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for December 22

THE CHILD IN A CHRISTIAN WORLD

(Christmas Lesson)

LESSON TEXT—Matthew 18:1-8;
Mark 10:13-16; Luke 2:1-20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Suffer little children and forbid them not to come unto Me for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of the First Christmas.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The Story of the First Christmas.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Finding and Following Right Leaders.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Christian Obligations to Childhood.

I. The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 18:1-8).

Jesus answered concretely the disciples' question as to who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven, by placing a child in their midst and declaring:

1. The condition of entrance into the kingdom (v. 3).

In order to enter the kingdom one must become childlike. He thus showed to these ambitious disciples that a change of heart was necessary in order to even enter the kingdom, let alone having an honorable position therein. Birth from above is essential, even to see the kingdom (John 3:3, 5).

2. Those who possess childlike humility are the greatest (v. 4). The child is dependent, lowly and modest. Such characteristics are only possible to those who have been regenerated.

II. Little Children Brought to Jesus.—(Mk. 10:13-16).

1. The mothers' desire that Jesus might touch their children (v. 13).

Doubtless they had witnessed the healing power of His touch and coveted it for their children. All Christian parents want their children to come into contact with Jesus Christ.

2. The disciples' rebuke (v. 13).

They thought the children were too insignificant to be allowed to interfere with Jesus' work, therefore they rebuked the mothers for bringing them to Him.

3. Jesus' reply (v. 14).

He declared that the kingdom belongs to the children, therefore the children have a right in the presence

of the king.

4. Jesus blesses the little children (v. 16).

He took them up in His arms and blessed them. Christianity is peculiarly favorable toward children. Only where Christ is known is the child duly recognized.

III. The Child Jesus (Luke 2:1-20).

1. His birth (vv. 1-7).

It took place at Bethlehem according to prediction (Micah 5:2). The Lord moved upon the emperor to enforce the decree of taxation just in time to bring Mary to Bethlehem. His surroundings were of the most humble sort. The eternal God condescended to be thus incorporated with humanity, to be born in a manger, becoming the poorest of the poor that none might be hindered in coming unto him.

2. Jesus' birth announced (vv. 8-14).

(1) By whom. An angel of the Lord was the first to give the gospel message.

(2) To whom. His birth was announced to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night.

(3). The nature of the message. It was good tidings of great joy. It was good tidings because the darkness of heathendom which had so long covered the earth was beginning to vanish; the casting out of Satan, the prince of the world, was about to take place. Liberty was soon to be proclaimed to those who were in bondage. The way of salvation was to be open to all. So glorious was this message that a multitude of the heavenly host accompanied it with their song of praise.

3. The shepherds investigating (vv. 15, 16).

They did not stop to argue or raise questions, though these things were no doubt passing strange to them. They went immediately to Bethlehem where they made investigation and found everything just as represented. They had the privilege of first gazing upon the world's Savior, the Lord of glory.

4. The shepherds witnessing (vv. 17-20).

They found things as announced. When they beheld the Lord of glory they could not remain silent, therefore they went back praising God and making known what their eyes had beheld. Those who really hear the gospel cannot be silent—they must tell it out to others.

Earth a Rebuke to Atheism

God never wrought miracles to convince athelism, because His ordinary works convince it. It is true, that a little philosophy inclineth man's mind to athelism; but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion.—Francis Bacon.

(3) Their blessings were shared with others (vv. 10-12).

II Jerusalem the World's Central Place of Worship (Micah. 4:1, 2).

1. Its place of supremacy (v. 1).

In the last days, Messiah's kingdom, with Jerusalem as its capital, shall prevail over all kingdoms.

2. The peoples, Jews, shall flow unto it (v. 1). It will be a beautiful sight to see the Jews who have been scattered all over the world come to Jerusalem as a mighty flowing stream.

3. The Gentile nations shall go there to worship (v. 2).

4. The supreme purpose of their going will be to be taught of God, that they may walk in His ways (v. 2).

What a wonderful day when all peoples of the world shall worship together in God's holy temple!

III. The Song of the Worshipers (Ps. 122:1-9).

This psalm is one of the songs sung by the Jews as they made their pilgrimages to Jerusalem to worship at the great festivals. This song embodies the following great ideas:

1. The joy of the worshipers (vv. 1, 2).

The invitation to go up to the house of the Lord to worship stirred within them delightful emotions.

2. Love and admiration for God's house (vv. 3, 4).

We should go to the house of worship because we love the place. Like Jesus, we should regard it as our Father's house.

3. It was the seat of royalty (v. 5).

When Christ's kingdom shall be established in Jerusalem, worshipers will delight to journey there because of their love for Him.

4. Prayer for God's house; prayer for the peace of Jerusalem (vv. 6-9).

It is our duty, as well as privilege to pray for Israel. God blesses those who are kindly disposed toward His chosen people (Gen. 12:1-3).

One Way to Help God

There is but one way in which man can ever help God—that is by letting God help him; and there is no way in which His name is more guiltily taken in vain than by calling the abandonment of our own work, the performance of His.—Ruskin.

The Book of God and Prayer

Give the Book of God its place in prayer. Prayer is not talking to God simply; it is listening first, then speaking.—S. D. Gordon.

Good Breeding Shows

There are few defects in our nature so glaring as not to be veiled from observation by politeness and good breeding.—Stanislaus.

Lesson for December 29

FELLOWSHIP THROUGH WORSHIP

LESSON TEXT—Neh. 8:1-12; Micah 6:1, 2; Ps. 122:1-9; Heb. 10:22-25.

GOLDEN TEXT—As his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Worshipping God Together.

JUNIOR TOPIC—Worshipping God Together.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Taking a Real Part in Worship.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Common Worship and the Community Spirit.

I. The Place of the Bible in Worship (Neh. 8:1-12).

1. The reading of God's word (vv. 1-3).

(1) The eager assembly (v. 1). The people gathered themselves together and requested Ezra to bring the book of the law. God had touched their hearts, creating within them a yearning for His Word.

(2) It was a representative assembly (v. 2). It was made up of men, women and children. God's Word should be taught to all classes, men, women and children.

(3) An appreciative assembly (v. 3). So eager were they to know God's Word that they did not get tired, although the lesson lasted five or six hours. Their ears were attentive from morning until midday.

2. The attitude of the people toward God's Word (vv. 4-6).

(1) They revered it (vv. 4, 5). When Ezra opened the law all the people stood up out of respect for God's Word.

(2) They joined heartily in the prayer (v. 6). As Ezra led them in prayer, they united in saying, Amen, Amen, bowing their faces to the ground.

3. God's Word being interpreted (vv. 7, 8).

(1) Ezra stood up where the people could see him (v. 5).

(2) He read distinctly (v. 8). The manner in which many read the Scriptures greatly discredits them.

(3) He caused the people to understand the reading (v. 8). The supreme business of the minister is to make the Word of God plain to all, old and young.

4. Effect of the application of God's Word upon the life of the people (vv. 9-12).

(1) Conviction of sin (v. 9).

The divine method of convicting men of sin is the application of God's Word in the energy of the Holy Ghost.

(2) Weeping turned into joy (vv. 10-12). Forgiveness follows the recognition and confession of sin.

The Free Will Baptist League

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

Ora Mae McKinney Davis, Editor

Editorial

"The Christian Warfare"

1 Tim. 6:17-19

What is our Duty?

1 Tim. 2:1-6

As parents and servants of the Lord, there is a great responsibility we must face squarely—no way of getting around our duty. The withering fig leaves of excuses could not meet the demands of mankind under the law. Our lives were wretched and miserable, and we sought a hiding place from footsteps of our Father. But Jesus came to our rescue. Have we time, as workers and laborers in the vineyard, to strive and plead with our children, and others, through the Gem? If we cannot go and tell others of a Savior who shed His blood for them, we can write. We have many ways by which we can be the means of saving others. If we cannot write, we can subscribe for the Gem. If we have already subscribed for this paper in our home, we always know of some other home that has not the sweet privilege of reading the literature of the different writers in the Free Will Baptist Gem. Will you help? You can give your gifts to God in different ways; though you may not give of your time in writings, you can give a small portion of your money for just one subscription to some home. You know not what it will mean: some soul may be saved by the effort you put forth; so that the writers and subscribers may rejoice together. These few brief statements have been made in regard to the Gem.

Now in connection with this, there is the most vital question still facing us—"Our young people!" They are going to have a paper—their

very own. Our children are the rising generation. What about it, parents? Are we willing to do our part? God has written upon the flower which blooms in its beauty these words, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1).

Upon the dewdrop which falls on the moss in the desert, the voice of God breathes the words of Life, "None of us liveth unto himself." Let us think of others—our responsibility we owe to our children and those around us. Let us consider our giving unto others as unto the Lord; for He said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Dear readers and parents, think over this problem thoughtfully, prayerfully, sincerely.

The Gem furnishes material which is wise for instruction to parents concerning their children and loved ones: the Young People's Paper will furnish the material for the "Child Faith" necessary for the Children and Young People's Department.

If we, as parents and teachers, will be faithful and do our part, the Holy Spirit will take charge and control of our young people which, in a large measure, are running the whole nation. We older people know well the snares of the enemy. The young people want a good time, and it is well to enjoy life with its beauties which God has given, but the devil has control of this world, and we must be vigilant, prayerful, ere the grim Reaper, Death, take away the loved ones from our homes—without God and without hope.

What Prayer Means To Us

By Elder Winford Davis

What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

Now, we shall not attempt to tell just what God is, for we realize that is beyond the power of finite minds to understand. Job, who was human as we are, was, in his mind, doing just as we do so many times, inquiring into the great mysteries in the realm of our God, which are hid to a great extent from our sight and understanding here. Job said again in chapter 11:7, "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection?"

While there are many things we can know of God, many of His qualities we can understand, yes, and even possess—deep are the depth and high are the heights we can go with Him—but as to God Himself, the actual Being, just what He might look like could we behold Him with the natural eye, as to just what He is, we never can know while here in the flesh.

John tells us, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Jesus told the woman of Samaria, (John 4:24) "God is a Spirit." Leaving out the small but so important "a" which greatly changes the meaning of the passage; while we know God is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent; but that does not prove to me that He is not an actual, intelligent, spiritual Being—not a being like the person of man, no, never! only in intelligence and affection. We can look all around us and see the manifestation of the great intelligence of the matchless Creator. In studying astronomy, geology, physiology, zoology, botany, biology or any other subject which pries into the handiwork of God, there is found manifested so wonderfully the great intelligence of the Almighty. There is said to be very few atheist astronomers. Why? Because they

find so much work in this vast space around us, which they know could be only the real fruits of intelligence. God has so carefully, perfectly and accurately prepared things for your comfort and mine; should the sun have been placed just a short distance farther from the earth in winter we should freeze to death, or the reverse; just a short distance closer and in summer we would perish with unbearable heat. What great disturbances, what great collisions would take place in this universe were the planets not placed in their respective orbits and kept there by the hand of an intelligent God. No wonder David had learned—in my mind, when but a shepherd boy—that "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork" (Psalms 19:1).

And again: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;" (Psalms 8:3)

Within the earth is such a wonderful network of veins of water, veins of fuel, and precious metals—all placed there. How, accidentally? No, intelligently, to meet the needs of humanity, in the make-up of man, of animals, of plants, and in the science of life, is displayed the wonderful intelligence of God.

With God there is no past nor future; everything with Him is in the present tense. In talking to Moses He addressed Himself as "I am" (Ex. 3:14), not I was, nor I will be, but "I am." He is a God that can see, hear and feel. He is a God of affection, a God that sees our needs, hears our cries, and feels our pains and sorrows.

God made man and endowed him with the wonderful power of choice; hence our greatness above other creatures, and the only way for man to serve and honor God is by exercising our will power toward Him. The child is a real honor to the parents when it serves them willingly; but it is everything else but an honor when everything it

does for them, it has to be forced to it. The same is true with God and man.

The love that God has for His creatures is inexpressible. He is truly a great God of love, while on the other hand, when necessary, He is just as severe as He is good. Paul said, (Rom. 11:22) "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God." How it grieves the Almighty today when He sees this world of humanity so steeped in the gutter of sin. The rocks of the hills, the trees of the forests, the fowls of the air, the beasts of the field, and all creation have stayed in their place except man, and Oh! the vile, filthy, ungodly, sinful and impure things that man has stooped to! But God in his tender love has given the most precious jewel of Heaven, that we might have a way of escape.

Then when we come to deal with the profit of prayer, language cannot be found to express the profit we should have by praying to our Heavenly Father. Who can tell the great comfort and blessing one receives in stealing away in secret prayer to God. When trouble comes, when burdens get heavy, when you feel forsaken, when sickness or death visits the home; the only real comfort is in taking it all to God in prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!

That calls me from a world of care,

And bids me at my Father's throne.

Make all my wants and wishes known.

I once knew a minister of the Gospel that lost his good companion. He stood over the casket at the church and said, "It seemed the load was more than I could possibly bear, and beyond my strength to stand until I went down the road from the house a short way to my old place of prayer, and there I laid it all at Jesus' feet, and now, thank the Lord, I have grace to sustain me in this trying time."

truly it is God that has given it to me."

It has been rightly said that prayer is the key that unlocks the door of heaven, regardless of where we are, or our surroundings, or our position, we can hold that sweet communion with God in prayer. We can pray on the house-top like Peter, we can pray in the bottom of the sea like Jonah, we can pray at noon like Daniel, we can pray at midnight like Paul and Silas.

All men that we consider truly great men who have made a mark in the world, have been praying men. Abraham Lincoln realized the great profit in prayer when he took his secretary, went into a closed room and spent a night in prayer to God just before a serious battle the following day.

General George Washington also realized the profit in prayer when he, too, spent an entire night calling on God to help fight the great war for independence.

William J. Bryan realized the profit in prayer when, as chairman of a Democratic Convention in the West he said in the beginning, "Let us kneel and ask God's Spirit to lead as to who we shall nominate for president."

Andrew Jackson realized the profit in prayer when he was found in his tent on his knees before God, at a serious point in the Civil War.

"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas 5:16). Great is the effect it has upon God. He is moved with compassion, when a righteous one comes to Him in fervent prayer. Let me tell you it means something when we pray—I don't mean just say our prayers, but I mean *when we pray*. When Moses came down from the mount and found Israel worshipping an idol God said, "Now therefore let me alone that my wrath may wax hot against them" (Ex. 32:10); but did Moses let Him alone? No, but in verse thirty-two he said, "Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin—and if not,

blot me, I pray thee, out of Thy book which Thou hast written." How desolate life would be, how miserable and lonely, were it not for the privilege of going to God in prayer. The poor woman that goes into the scandalizing confessional box and there is compelled to confess things to an unmarried man, the priest, that would make the vilest of women blush with shame, would be free of this awful burden if she but knew of the wonderful profit of prayer to God. The Brahmin woman that burns her body on the corpse of her husband to appease the wrath of the wooden gods, would be free of such despised-of-God acts if she but knew the profit of prayer to the true God.

Man never learned a greater lesson than when he learned the worth of prayer. So many battles we try to fight alone in this life when we should take them to God in prayer and let Him fight them for us! When all other means of help fail, when all other sources of comfort are exhausted, then we can go to a rich throne of divine grace and find help and comfort in abundance.

There is such a thing known as "Mental Telepathy," that is, you might be in a foreign land, and if our minds were in accord with each other I could think, real strong, just what I wanted you to know, and you would be made to know it. I once knew a man that practiced that with his daughter. If that can be accomplished between man and man, how much greater will it work between man and God, *if we are in perfect accord with Him*. How wonderful it is to send a wireless message to God and get an answer back. Paul and Silas prayed and a great earthquake and a revival followed. The disciples prayed and Peter by an angel of God was led out of prison. King Hezekiah prayed and 185,000 of the Assyrians were slain; Elijah prayed and the rain ceased, he prayed again and the heavens gave rain; Joshua prayed and the sun, with no doubt

the whole solar system, stood still. Jesus prayed and Lazarus arose from the dead. May the Lord teach us more and more, day by day the great profit we should have through prayer.

Seymour, Mo., Nov. 15, 1929

Dear Bro. Brown: I promised you at our Union Association that I would get two subscriptions to the Gem; so here I come with the two, and one more for good measure.

I haven't done much preaching this fall. Bro. O. L. Claxton and I have held two meetings with very good success: one at Harmony Church, six miles southwest of Seymour closed with ten conversions and eight additions to the church. Our other meeting was held at Lone Star Church, three miles east of Seymour with one conversion and one addition to the church.

May God bless the Gem and all of its readers.

Eld. John W. Silvey.

St. Louis, Missouri,

(Continued from page 6)

I have made arrangements for a good house of worship at Elvins, Missouri and will begin a meeting November 13th. The house is a new one and just been used for a short time by our Nazarine Brethren. Their membership has moved out, and so badly scattered that they are not having meetings at present. I have rented the building and have an option on it to buy. If we can have a good revival, we will endeavor to organize a church and buy the building. It seems to me that we should be able to do this easily. Elder Hildebrand will help me in this meeting at Elvins.

Our Sunday School at 611 Rutger Street is doing fine. Every Sunday School of late brings us a good, substantial increase. Our Young people's meeting is doing splendid work, and our young people are looking forward to better things. All in all, we feel that the Lord is most wonderfully good to us.

W. C. Hill, Pastor First Free W. Baptist Church, 611 Rutger Street.

Mansfield, Mo.

Dear Bro. Brown:—I am sending you a short autobiography of Elder A. J. Barnett, who passed away November 8, 1928, exactly as he dictated it to me more than two years before his death.

It was his request that it be printed in the denominational paper, but at that time the paper was in such straits, and had such a small circulation, that I wanted to wait until conditions were better, so I hope you will be able to get this in the December issue.

We are all well. I am in a meeting now in Mountain Grove, Mo., with Eld. G. W. Scott Jr.

Am certainly proud of our paper, and am recommending it highly.

Your Brother in Christ,

(Eld.) Selph Jones.

Autobiography of Elder A. J. Barnett

I was born in Wright County, Mo. November 9, 1849, son of William and Margaret Jane Barnett, and must pause here to honor them by saying that I am proud I was reared by Christian parents.

I was married to Eliza Jane Calhoun January 11, 1866. To this union eight children were born, five of whom are now passed away, and three are living.

On August 17, 1867 I professed hope in Christ, and at once I felt the call to the ministry. Handicapped on account of limited education, it was necessary that I put forth every effort, so by the light of a fire, made by sticks gathered for that purpose, my wife taught me my letters.

By her patient teaching and the help of the Lord, I soon learned to read. Many times since then have I studied the blessed word, and when I could not understand, I have laid the open Bible on the floor, and then with knees upon the book, have asked God to help me to understand, and, thank God, He has.

I joined the United Baptist church, and was licensed to preach the 4th Saturday in November, 1867, and was later ordained by them, having the care of two churches.

Becoming dissatisfied with their doctrine, I soon left them. I later found a Free Will Baptist Treatise, and after carefully examining it, I found it to exactly correspond with my understanding of the Bible, so I gave my membership to the Free Will Baptist church. I pastored four churches for several years then rode as evangelist for a number of years.

During my work as minister, I have helped organize two F. W. Baptist Associations, witnessed about 3000 conversions, baptized 968, organized many churches, and ordained many preachers and deacons.

I lost my wife January 6, 1903, after thirty-seven years of companionship, and her last words to me were, "Go on and preach the Gospel, until your time

shall come." In 1904 I married Rosa Murr. To this union one son was born. I have lived and died a loyal Free Will Baptist. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge shall give me in that day.

PROGRAM

*Sunday School Convention to be held at
Park View F. W. B. Church, Desloge,
Mo., Dec. 29th, beginning at 10 o'clock a. m.*

10:00 a. m.—Song Service Bro. Vesper Hand

Opening Remarks Pres. Willard Lackey

Devotional Eld. Lester Ferguson

Song Desloge Sunday School

Topic, "Scriptural Authority for the Sunday School,..... M. J. Mounts, Mrs. Effie Brown and others

Topic, Some things the Teacher owes the Class and the Class owes the Teacher,.....

..... Raymond La Brot, Mrs. Luther Laws, Gladys Black

Song,..... Wortham Sunday School

Topic, Leaks in the Sunday School,.....

..... Frank Hale, Charley Miller of St. Louis, Mo.

12:00—Noon Hour Dinner

1:30 p. m.—Song,..... Allsbury Chapel

Topic, Application of II Tim. 2:15 to the Sunday School Worker,.....

..... Ruby Daniels, Harrison Phillips, Earl Hughes

Topic, "Value of the Cradle Roll Department in the Sunday School,

..... Mrs. Nettie Rogers, Miss Lillian Elliott and others

Song,..... Flat River Sunday School

Topic, "The Sunday School and the Temperance Problem,"..... Mrs. Ora Davis, Luther Elders,

Open Discussion.

Topic, "What has our Sunday School Gained by the Conventions of the Past Year?".....

..... J. B. La Brot, Rupert Arnoldi and others

Closing Song,..... Congregation

Benediction,..... Bro. Hale of Leadwood

Willard Lackey, President.

Program Committee { Anna Reed,
Oscar Womack,
S. A. Hand,
Oda Halbrook.

The Risen Lord

(Continued from page 4)

raised for our justification? I wonder, as I talk to you today, if you won't determine in your heart, stronger than ever before, that by his grace, you will make your landing safe and sure.

In conclusion, I want to leave with you the same word of exhortation that Paul left Timothy; "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel." If we will remember this wonderful gospel truth, I know from experience that it will help us to fight our battles in this life, and finally overcome by the blood of the Lamb. Brethren, pray for me and let us work on, pray on, just doing the things that God wants us to do, and if we have gotten the vision of what the resurrection of Jesus really means to us, let us try to help to come to a fuller realization of its meaning, and when we are ready to bid farewell to this earth, and the cares and toils of this life, when we have crossed the river Jordan into the promised land flowing with the milk and honey of God's eternal happiness, I am sure that we will not be sorry then that we put our trust in, **OUR RISEN LORD.**

St. Louis, Mo.

(First Free Will Baptist Church)

Dear Readers of the Gem:—I received my paper this month, but saw very little that was said about Sunday School. I think we ought to be more interested in our boys and girls.

We surely have a fine Sunday School, and it is growing, and we are crowded for room. Some of these fine days we will have to have more space.

The Cherryvale Sunday S. sent our S. S. a challenge to come down there in the near future and see who could answer the most questions on some of the books of the Bible. Well, I am going to tell you those boys and girls had better study, for we have some boys and

girls that are surely good, and we will not let pass an opportunity to let people know we are a wide awake bunch, and always ready to advertise our Sunday School.

Brother Mike Cleaver came to town about a week ago and started a revival meeting, but I think the revival was here when Mike got here, for it was a success from the first, many souls being saved almost every night. We surely are having some fine services, good singing and fine preaching. This all started because the church gave the young people full charge the first Sunday in every month, and they conduct the services, and have been holding this revival meeting. Been lots of shouting and praising God for His saving grace. Brother Hill, our pastor, had been down in the Lead Belt holding a two weeks' meeting, and he came home just in time to get in our meeting, but he is leaving again this week to start another meeting, and don't know when he will get back home, but we hope he will have a good meeting.

We will have a baptizing Sunday Nov. 17th. Brother Cleaver will administer the ordinance of baptism, and we hope there will be a lot more saved before this week is past. The Lord surely has been blessing this revival meeting.

Francis McCauley, S. S. Supt.

Hermitage, Mo.

Dear Brother in Christ:—I have been thinking of writing to the Gem for some time. I took the New Morning Star for several years, then I took "The Mission World" and it stopped and I lost out. I don't want to be without our Church Paper. I live twenty miles from our church, and don't get to go very often.

I will be eighty years old in January. I like to read the good letters and to know about the good work that is going on.

I am sending you \$1.00 for which please send me the church paper.

I want to see the good work go on, so pray for me, that I may live close to the good Master.

Love to the editor and readers of our good paper.

Your sister in Christ,

Harriet Walker

We wish to say just here that letters like the one from this dear mother are certainly encouraging and heart-warming to the editor, as well as to other readers. Hope you will write again, Sister Walker.—Ed.

The Texas State Convention

The editor had the privilege and the pleasure of attending the Texas State Convention, at Fort Worth.

They had a good delegation and an interesting program, well carried out. We enjoyed it very much, and was glad to meet and become acquainted with so many of our Free Will Baptist brethren of Texas. And we received a nice list of subscriptions to the Gem.

They elected delegates and expect to represent at our Co-operative General Association, Dec. 3-10.

We are hopeful for the Co-operative General Association that it will be well attended from the different states and that, through it, the states will unite in one common effort and build not only our paper, but other denominational enterprises, desired and needed.—The Editor.

The F. W. B. League Lessons

for our young people are to be an added feature of the Gem, beginning with Jan., 1930. There is no doubt about this being a wise step. The young people are interested; let us encourage them to real activity in this work: it will help our denomination to grow and do a greater work to the glory of God.

Let every League send its \$1.00 a month to the State Sec'y-Treas., Miss Melba White, Hemple, Mo., R1, so there will be funds to pay for the necessary printing and for that "Young People's Paper" so many of the young people so much desire.

The Editor.

F. W. B. League Report

By Miss Melba White, State Sec'y

Dear Readers of the Gem: I wish to report that we are making progress with our State League work.

Money received from the Free Baptist Leagues of the different churches for printing stationery, the Constitution and By-Laws, etc., as follows:

Mine La Motte, Oct. 20th,	\$2.00
Flat River, Oct. 20th,	1.15
Dasloge, October, 27th,	1.00
Oak Grove, Oct. 27th,	1.01
Freewill offering at Young People's Meeting at Mine La Motte, October 27th,	2.52
Total Am't received,	\$7.68

A League has been organized at Wortham Church at Wortham, Mo. by our State President, Elder L. A. Ferguson and vice President, Wm. Reeves, with a membership of twenty-two Seniors and eight Juniors.

I received a letter a few days ago from Sister Ilah Harris of the Wortham League which stated that they now have a membership of fifty-three and were expecting to receive more members soon.

Our president and vice president are doing their very best to put the "League" work over the top. Let us all help to make our League a real success. The young folks need the "League;" it helps them to keep interested in church work.

We need more finance to make our work a success; so let every League member remember this need and don't forget to pay.

May the Lord bless you all.

Melba White.

Myrtle, Mo., Nov. 15, 1929

Dear Readers of the Gem: I am glad that I can say a few words for our dear little Free Will Baptist Gem, because when you say, "Free Will Baptist," that's enough for me, because that's what I am and intend to be as long as I live. That's the way my husband and I were raised and the way we are trying to raise our dear little boy. Our home seems awful lonely sometimes be-

cause I have been sick for a year. but I just thank God that I haven't given up hope. I ask God daily that if it is His will, I may regain my health; and if it isn't His will I intend to gain a home in heaven; what more could we want?

I think we Christian people ought to pray more and be more thankful for what our dear Lord does for us.

I am thankful because I know I was raised by praying parents. My father passed away two years ago; and all of us children are so thankful to know that he lived a Christian life before us.

I sure do enjoy reading this paper. The first copy of the Gem I ever read was given to me by Bro. Ferguson. I enjoyed it so much because I knew it was full of the good Lord's word.

Pray for me and my husband that we may always travel on this good way with the Lord with us.

Gladys Carroll.

Stahl, Mo.

To The Free Will Baptist Gem: Dear Readers:—Will write again to our paper, and also send \$2.00 to renew my subscription, and please send the paper too, to Mr Earnest J. Bybee, Stahl, Mo., R. 2.

Well, I just thank God that our prayers have been answered. I spoke in my other letter about giving up our pastor, Bro. J. F. Miller, but we have one that I think we will all like as well as we did Jim, his brother, Eld. George Miller. George is surely a "live wire" for God. He has already organized a Young People's Union with a membership of twenty-three. We had our first meeting last Sunday night and the Spirit of God was surely with us. Our first lesson was the first chapter of St. John. So let us all work to help our pastor, and I am sure he will help us.

Yours for Christ,

Mrs. O. A. Gates.

Flat River, Mo.

Dear Readers of the Gem:—This evening I am writing a few lines to our wonderful little paper, the Gem, and I am glad I can say that I am on the firing line for God.

I have just finished reading some of the sermons in the last copy of the Gem, and they were wonderful.

I want to report on our League work as I think it is fine. Bro. Ferguson (who is our state president of the League) organized a league at Wortham with a large enrollment, and it is doing fine.

I was at Mine La Motte last Sunday and they re-organized with a large enrollment.

We now have five leagues here in the Lead Belt, having a total membership of 200 or more.

As we need all the co-operation we can get, we suggest that every League president or secretary write to us, as we would like to correspond with them.

We are now trying to raise finance enough to get our By-Laws and other necessary printing done. It will not take very much. We have a little in the treasury, but not very much; so we would like to hear from each League so we can explain it to them.

If any one feels led to give to help start our work, it will be very much appreciated, for we have much to do.

I have prayed for this, for some time, and now we have it started, we ask the prayers of all the Christian people, and their co-operation in this, for we can accomplish nothing but by trusting in God for help.

I ask your prayers for myself, that I may fill the office to which I have been appointed, that I may be ever at my post of duty, and not be a disappointment to others, for I feel my weakness in God's sight.

May God bless in all the work for His cause.

Wm Reeves, Vice President,
The Free Will Baptist League,
Box 277, Flat River, Mo.

Make the editor feel good, and help the Gem to grow, by sending in your own subscription and as many more as you can get.