

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM

ORGAN OF THE MISSOURI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
AND OF THE CO-OPERATIVE GENERAL ASSOCIATION—FOR FREE WILL BAPTIST EVERYWHERE

Vol. 3 No. 3.

Purdy, Missouri, March, 1931.

\$1.00 per year.

## A Sunday School Teacher's Creed *By J. M. Doughty*

I believe that the Sunday School is the greatest organization for the promotion of Christian citizenship.

I believe that the greatest need of our nation is earnest, well qualified Sunday School teachers, who will be present and on time each Sunday.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should commence a week before and have the lesson well prepared.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should make a study of the things that interest his or her pupils so that there may be a common interest between the pupils and the teacher.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should be sociable with the pupils at all times and show a personal interest in them.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should live as near as possible to Christ, so that Christ may be reflected from the teacher to the pupils.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should pray for the individual pupils, for the prayer of a righteous man or woman availeth much.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should be hungry for souls and should always welcome pupils who are not in Sunday School.

I believe that the Sunday School teacher should surely feel that there is a spark of the Divine in the life of each boy and each girl and it is the teacher's duty and pleasure to kindle and fan that

spark into a spiritual flame.

I believe that the faithful performance of the teacher's duty to the class will give the teacher a contentment and joy on earth, and a happy home in heaven.

## THE SIN OF NEGLECT

*By Eld. Winford Davis*

There are two ways for us to sin in this life: one is the sin of commission, the other the sin of omission. We have, Oh, so much open rebellion against God—murder, theft, robbing, cursing, drinking, etc., and we look upon it with hatred and horror, and rightfully too, but what about the individual that "knoweth to do good and doeth it not?" God said, "To him it is sin" (James 4:17).

We get awful hard on the man that steals his neighbor's hog; we jerk him up, try him, convict him and sentence him because God has said, "Thou shalt not steal;" but the very same God said, "Quench not the Spirit" (1 Thes. 5:19). This is a very serious disease that our people, generally speaking, are infested with today, the sin of neglect. We neglect the principles of right, the fundamentals of the Bible, the upkeep of the cause, our soul's salvation, and practically everything needed, and reach out after the soul damning, disqualifying, filthy, ungodly things we do not need.

Paul said in Heb. 2:3, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" This Scripture is most always thrown off on the sinner, which is right from one standpoint of view; but, dear reader, I want you to notice that

Paul included himself when he used the pronoun "we." We can do nothing, merely fail to do anything, and go to hell; but it takes an action, an effort, an exertion on our part if we enter heaven. Any old chunk can float down stream, but it takes something with life and power in it to move up stream. When boys here at home we used to sled ride on the ice, like you little boys that are reading this like to do so well. We would get all set then away we would go down the hill, helter skelter, zigzag, rough and tumble, and end up with an old time bone testing summersault at the bottom: that was real sport but getting back up the hill was where the sweat raised, that was where the will-power was tried. Say, isn't it true with many of us now? People are just like they were on a toboggan slide, drifting recklessly down the hill of time with a speed impossible to calculate, eternal destination waiting below: "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure" (Isaiah 5:14). "Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming" (Isa. 14:9).

I was once riding through the little town of Exeter on the train; I noticed a wonderfully nice school building for which, in my heart, I was giving glory to the town of Exeter, but a few yards farther on I noticed, out the window, a church building all weather beaten, needing repair, needing paint. I thought, "We are like the Pharisees: we go on extremes in some things, but leave off the

weightier matters. We are inconsistent, we strain at a gnat and swallow a camel." Thousands of dollars are spent for foolishness, things they don't need, and would be better off without; money in amazing sums can be raised to finance worldly amusements, but we neglect our religious press, we can't subscribe for our church paper, we can't pay the preacher, we neglect our church property: Oh! this deceptive, destructive parasite, which is preying upon the church today—this sin of neglect. Not I would if I could, but I could if I would. I can, but I don't; I could, but I won't. My own lusts, passions, desires, must first be satisfied, then if I have any time or anything left I will give it to God—how sad!

Most folks intend to go to heaven, but do you know that hell will be largely populated with people of good intentions? In the meeting I closed recently one man said, "I don't want to get saved till after Christmas. I fear that during Christmas I would go back on it." I wonder if he could put it off till after Christmas if death should call. So remember, though you may not be doing the big acts of commission, you are neglecting, failing to receive Christ. You are neglecting not only your own best interest, but your children's best interest also, and when you neglect your church, Sunday school, prayer meeting, etc., and the upkeep of the same, you are neglecting your community's best interest, and when we neglect the Gem and the upkeep of our press, we are neglecting our denomination's best interest. When you neglect your soul's salvation, you are selling your birthright with Esau—selling out with Judas, and in it all we are sinning against Almighty God. Oh, may God help us to get out of our drowsy, loosed, slothful, negligent condition and wake up for God! We need some of the dynamic power of the living Christ to electrify and spiritualize our very being; to come with such a shock that it will open our heart, head, and pocket-book; electrocute completely the old man of sin with his grudges, selfishness, stinginess,

pride, hatred, etc., and make us pillars in the church, supporters of the cause and fearless, jealous, volunteer soldiers for God.

### FOLLOWING JESUS

(Continued from the February issue)

By Ora Mae McKinney Davis

Paul didn't realize the necessity of this "thorn," so he prayed to the Lord thrice that it be removed from him. (2 Cor. 12:7-9). But the Lord in His wisdom and love did not see fit to do so, but His answer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Then Paul said, "I take pleasure in my infirmities and distresses, for Christ's sake" (2 Cor. 12:10).

The "thorn" rendered Paul helpless without God's power. He was forced and driven by his very circumstances to cast himself upon the grace of God if he would continue in his ministry. What a mercy that thorn was to Paul! Without the sense of his helplessness Paul, in his temptation and suffering would have to depend upon himself. The thorn thereby enabled him to lay hold upon the resources of the Omnipotent God by faith, bringing them into his life and ministry.

There was a price to pay; Paul had been called to preach the Gospel. If he was to follow Christ, he must share the suffering and follow on. Jesus said, "Take up your cross daily and follow me." Have you a handicap? Thank God for it. Have you something that holds you down? Then increase your sense of dependence upon Him. Have you a peculiar limitation that seems to prevent you doing your best? Let God's power make up for your deficiency. Call upon Him. Fragile, weak, your frail humanity which, in itself, is not sufficient to account for the deeds wrought in it, and through it, the world will see that you, as a Christian, "have the treasure of salvation, in earthen vessels." Thus will God be glorified in your life and ministry. Handicaps urge us on; they take the laziness out of us. We use our time and strength for God's use. God has not called many noble, not the mighty and the wise of this world, but He has called the

"weak things" to confound the "mighty." The jailer was confounded, was he not? Why? He could not understand when the jail doors came open. He did not know the Lord, but he got acquainted with Him, he and all his house. The small weak instrument was Paul in the inner prison. The "thorn" of torture was present with him, his body was bleeding, but he shouted and sang through it all, and there was victory in the jail house: not only did the prisoners hear the singing, but Jesus heard, and cared, and came to the rescue. Paul carried the "thorn" so long as he lived, for wherever he went he was always aware of the constant suffering it brought him.

The Lord had said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee." In other words, yet with the same meaning. Let us get the full measure of just what Christ meant when He said these words, "My grace" (the robe of righteousness), the grace of the Lord. We must pray! The Lord provides sufficient clothing of patience and strength for the day, if we go to Him to dress us for day; our robes will be clean and fresh; "the robe of righteousness" for the day. "His grace"—day by day—"His grace is sufficient."

He gives us beauty for ashes.

He gives us the oil of joy for that of mourning.

He gives us life, He took death.

He gives us riches, He had nothing.

We must be willing to wait upon the Lord in prayer. We must be thoroughly convinced that our lives will be complete failures without the help of God. Our human strength does not enable us to fight the fight of sin and evil which confronts us daily, only through the power of God. The dear Lord will give us a "thorn," but that will be good for us, or He would not give it to us. It is to keep us humble. The devil has workers and demons which we are not able to fight with. We dare not step out on the battle field to fight alone; God must go ahead of us! It is only through the power of God that the enemy of our souls is captured.

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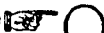
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We are always glad to receive articles, letters, reports, etc. from our readers for publication in the Gem, along any line that will help the cause.

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**The Law—The Ten Commandments**  
*By the Editor*

We are now to consider what part the Ten Commandments were designed to play in the religious development of mankind.

Paul tells us very plainly that no flesh could be justified by the works of the law.

To Abraham the father of the Hebrew race faith was reckoned instead of righteousness: and he coveted the blessedness not of the obedient, but of the pardoned (Rom. 4:1-6). In four places in the Bible (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38), it is declared, "The just shall live by faith." The law is not of faith, and offers life only to the man "that doeth these things" (Gal. 3:12; Lev. 18:5). We see then that salvation is by faith and not by any works of law.

Paul never meant to teach that a Christian is free from the obligation of the moral law. If we cannot gain heaven by keeping the law, neither can we break it without penalty. Paul insisted that the law has no gift of pardon or of inspiration. The law only reveals the feebleness of him who tries to keep it: it only reveals the contrast between the spiritual beauty of a pure ideal and the wretchedness of the sinner, "carnal, sold under sin" (Rom. 7:11-14). If among the millions of Israel, one had lived a sinless life by obedience to the law, how could he have made the sacrifices and offerings required by the law? A sinless high priest under the law would have been paralyzed by his virtue, for his duty on the greatest day of all the year was to make atonement first for his own sins.

The law expresses the righteous demands of an allwise God, of them that are His, and is the authorized statement of what innocence means. The law is an organic whole, expressing the only terms upon which a man might hope to live by works; we must, therefore, keep it as a whole or break it: if a man "offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10-11). If we have not thoroughly kept it, we have thoroughly failed.

But man's failure to keep the law involves no failure of the law—it must accomplish its intended works. Men not being able to meet the demands of the law, brought them to Him Who "came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"—it was thus that the law became a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ (Gal. 3:24). The law entered and awoke the conscience, bringing a sense of guilt, that sin might abound in men, whose ignorance had not known sin without the law.

But the Scripture does not teach that Christians must always live in a condition of baffled striving, hopeless longing, and conscious transgression of a law that testifies against them. By nature man is carnal, and naturally takes to sin and selfishness—under the "law of sin and death." But the "law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus" emancipates us from that "law of sin and death." The natural man becomes a new creature, partaking of the nature of God, and is at home in a new sphere. The Christian is free from the dictation of the law, being crucified with Christ, Who is the power of the new life, and Christ is love; therefore He is able to satisfy the law for us, for "love is the fulfilling of the law." Martin Luther said, "Unless faith be without any, even the smallest works, it does not justify, nay, it is not faith. And yet it is impossible for faith to be without works—earnest, many, and great."

(Continued on page 20)

## FROM THE FIELD

### Monett, Mo.

Dear Gem Family:—Just a short letter to let you know we are still in the battle.

After closing at Earlsboro, we went home for a little visit, and then back to Earlsboro for a week. We found Bro. Epperson at the front. It was like a revival when we stopped in the church. They had been having four prayer meetings at Earlsboro, and souls were being saved. The Mission, Sunday School and Young People's work was doing fine. We had six souls saved the week we were there. We then said good-bye, and came on to Bro. Davis' church at Macedonia.

The meeting is moving out just fine. A number have been saved already. Most of them are grown men. Pray for us here, that God will give a great victory.

This is a wonderful neighborhood, and we have a splendid home to stay in, with Sister Clyde Davis and children. Her dear husband has passed on to his reward about two years ago. This is a Christian home, and such lovely children, God bless them!

We will report all along.

Yours for Jesus,

H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

### Niangua, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers:—I have felt impressed to write a few lines for our little paper.

I am happy this morning because I know I am on my way to glory, and am glad to know there are others on the road too. I know the Lord has wonderfully blessed me, and I love Him and want my life to please Him. I am trying every day to do what He wants me to do. The road sometimes seems rough and dark, but we know there is light ahead, and a reward that is worth suffering for, and I am determined to receive that re-

ward, by the help of my Heavenly Father. So, dear Christians, let's not get discouraged, but let us add to our faith patience, and work on, for Paul said in his letter to the Romans, "For I reckon the suffering of this present time is not to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). So let us pray more for ourselves and for one another, for there is nothing to go back into the world for. Let us work and pray more, and trust God more and not ourselves, for we can do nothing without Him.

Dear sinner friends, I say this much to you: I love your soul, whoever you may be, and I hope you also will get ready to meet God, for life is uncertain and death is sure. Pray for me.

Your sister in Christ,

Lucy Deckard.

### Eldorado Springs, Mo.

Evangelist's Report—I have just lately got back to Missouri again from holding meetings at our Pleasant Valley Church near Rose, Kansas, and our Union Valley Church near Chanute, Kans. These two churches are about twenty miles apart. I have been preaching for these two churches off and on for about thirty years, but it has been mostly off. They have had no pastors for so long that there are but few members left, but they have been revived up again, and good Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies have been started at both places. At the Union Valley Church they have just completed a fine new church house. The old church house was completely blown away in a windstorm. This church has a nice Aid Society of about forty members, and they surely are workers. I hope they can get a pastor for their churches. I am making arrangements for Bro. B. F. Brown to visit them and preach some for them the second Sunday in March.

Say, in my last report there was a mistake made where it stated that our Fairview Church had no pastor. I did not mean it that way, as Elder W. H. York of Hannon, Mo. is the pastor of this church. I am sorry that this mistake was made. Eld. T. C. Ferguson, Evangelist, Ash Grove, Mo.

### Elizabeth, Arkansas

To The Free Will Baptist Gem—As it has been some time since I reported to the Gem, I now take pleasure in doing so.

I began a revival at Piney in Carroll County on Saturday night before the 2nd Sunday in July, and continued seventeen days. There were thirty-nine conversions. Of the thirty-nine, there were eleven mothers and ten fathers, some of them had been gamblers and drunkards.

At times the church would not hold half the people. There were several that crowded their way into the house during the altar call and bowed at the altar of prayer, and remained there until God saved them.

After this meeting closed, I assisted in the revival here at home. Then held one week at Hand, Baxter County. Four conversions, five additions to the church.

Then about ten days at Jordan, one conversion, four additions to the Church.

Then at two other places with but little results.

Then one week on Tremble Flat. At this place there were eight conversions, and organized a church with seventeen members. At this meeting and the one at Piney, there was much shouting and praising God. I surely never heard more in one meeting than I did at Piney.

I still preach the old-fashioned way, that is, I preach that there is a burning hell, that there is a personal devil, that when we are saved we know it. I call sinners to an altar and instruct them to remain there till they know that they are saved. When our sins are pardoned

and Jesus Christ comes into our hearts through the power of the Spirit, there is joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. That love that we have for the brethren is a divine love, much different from anything ever possessed while in sin.

I believe that when we make someone believe that they are saved, when they are not, or pull some one into the church without salvation, that instead of helping them, we have them vaccinated against religion. Let us pray earnestly.

Carl Davis,

### Green Forest, Arkansas

Dear Gem Family:—I just feel this morning that the Lord wants me to write a letter to the brothers and sisters on the subject of "prayer," for a deep and thorough-going, spiritual awakening is getting more and more upon the hearts and consciences of the Christian people. In this day of need, we call upon Christians every where to pray earnestly for a heaven-sent, world wide revival that shall awaken the church, put the pulpit on fire for God, make soul winning the chief business of Christians, bring conviction of sin upon the sinners, and the fear of God upon the community. May we have such a day of prayer as the world has never seen, and which will bring about results so far-reaching that Hell shall be poorer and Heaven richer and earth encircled with revivals that will bring multitudes to Christ. I firmly believe in prayer for *all things*, not only that, but in *living* as we believe and following the example of our Lord Jesus; going about doing good, and living each day as near to God as possible. If we do the right our prayers will be answered. I thank God that praying people are awakening to the need of earnest prayer for the sins of the world. May we, who are for God, do our part in

every way, penitently crying to God, that he will open the windows of heaven and bring down showers of blessings.

"Be ye therefore ready; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." I find myself each day trying to shape my affairs and my life so that, when I lay my head on my pillow at night, I can honestly and happily say, "Ready!"

May God bless you all. Pray for me, that I may always be true.

Your sister in Christ,

Mrs. Lizzie Shipman

### Niangua, Mo.

Dear Readers of the Gem: I have just read the last copy of the Gem, and think it a very fine paper. I surely do miss it very much, and I thank Bro Selph Jones for subscribing for it for me, and I also thank Sister Willie Blackwell for subscribing for it for me this year. I will always remember them in my prayers, and I do thank God for the paper, for it has meant so much to me.

I am sending a short poem that I thought would be good.

#### THE PRAYER OF FAITH

God is my help in every need;

God does my every hunger feed;

God walks beside me, guides my way,

Through every moment of the day.

I now am wise, I now am true,

Patient, kind and loving too.

All things I am, can do, and be

Through Christ, the Truth, that is in me.

Lord, let me live each lovely day

So I may know that come what may

I've done my best to live the way.

You want me to.

Forgive me, if I do not pray.

The ultra, sanctimonious way,

In church, on every Sabbath day,

As some folks do.

Pray for me.—Mona Johns.

### More About the "Crop Planting"

Following is the list of those who have already pledged to get in on the "God's Acre plan" in the Spring. A full list of their crops will be given later.

Mr. Joe Turner and sons, Noel and Rupert, Granby, Mo. expect to plant corn.

Eld. G. A. Garner, Stella, Mo. has not decided.

Eld. O. T. Allred, Monett, Mo., Sweet Potatoes.

Eld. Winford Davis, Monett, Mo., Sorghum Cane.

Mrs. B. F. Brown, Purdy, Mo., Sweet and Irish Potatoes.

Miss Clarabelle Roberts, Aurora, Mo., undecided.

Kenneth Turner, Monett, Mo. Sorghum Cane.

Johnnie Swaffar, Purdy, Mo. tomatoes and potatoes.

Mrs. Lizzie Turner, Carterville, Mo., quilt.

Herman Finn, Monett, Mo., undecided.

E. O. Callen, Blue Eye, Mo., undecided.

Erskil Henderson and wife, Purdy Mo., undecided.

Time is growing limited, spring will soon be here. Can't we persuade you to get in on the plan now? This will bring in a good sum, if you will just respond. You can plant a part of an acre or more than an acre. Choose your own variety.

If you are situated so you can not plant a crop, then let us know how much money you will pledge to be paid in by October 1, 1931

Let's finish paying for the Linotype.

Sincerely,

Winford Davis.

You can not make a crooked path in the narrow way.

He who makes the Lord his "dwelling place" never gets homesick.

The people who do what the preacher says seldom find fault with the preacher.—The F. Baptist.

## FROM THE FIELD

RED BAY, ALABAMA, February 10, 1931.

Dear Bro. Brown: Please allow me a few words in the Gem to let the readers know of some of the things that are being done by the Free Will Baptist of Alabama.

Last year I was asked to preach in the afternoon, that being the only time that I had available, in the Methodist church at Brilliant, Ala. I preached there every first Sunday afternoon, going out from my church at Guin. In June I held a two weeks' meeting there. During this meeting we received forty-eight members into the Free Will Baptist church, yet we had no church building. So I kept going over and preaching for them, taking in new members every service, until in December, we began work on a new church building, and I have never seen a work go forward as that work did. We completed the building, painted it, inside and out, and had it ready for the dedication services the forth Sunday in January. This was a great day with the people there. The house would not hold the people present for the opening service. This is one of the nicest buildings that the Free Will Baptist have in Alabama, and we have a membership of over 200 now, with an average of 150 in Sunday school, and a F. W. B. League with 76 young people enlisted.

I have never seen a people more interested than the people of Brilliant, and this church bids fair to be one of our largest churches in the near future, pray for this work.

I am enclosing a program of the Ministers' Conference of Alabama, that is to be held with this new church, in March, hoping that some of the ministers from other states may see it and visit our Conference at this place. All ministers please accept this as an invitation, and meet with us if you can. We are expecting a great time in the service of the Lord. If any one should want information as to how to reach this place by train or auto, write to M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Alabama.

**PROGRAM of the Free Will Baptist Ministers' Conference of Alabama to be held with the Brilliant-Boston Church beginning on Friday at 7:30 p. m. before the fifth Sunday in March, 1931.**

7:30 p. m. Devotional..... Rev. A. L. Warren

7:45 p. m. Sermon..... Rev. O. C. Weaver

### Saturday Morning Session

8:00 a. m. Devotional.....Rev. J. H. Potts

8:15 to 9:00 a. m. Business Session.....

9:00 a. m. Address, "The Task of the Church."

Rev. S. T. Shutes and others.

10:00 a. m. Address, "Winning the World to

Christ." Rev. J. B. Bloss.

11:00 a. m. Sermon.....Rev. J. M. Haas

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:00 p. m. Devotional.....Rev. Ollie Knight

1:15 to 2:30 p. m. Business Session

2:30 p. m. Address, "Training the Young for Christ," Rev. Eddie Hughs, General Secretary for the Tri-State F. W. B. League Convention

3:00 to 4:00 p. m. Closing Business.

7:30 p. m. Devotional.....To be supplied

7:45 p. m. Sermon.....Rev. J. D. Byers

### Sunday Morning Session

9:00 a. m. Sunday School.

11:00 a. m. Sermon.....Evangelist, J. B. Bloss

12:00 Noon Lunch.

1:00 to 2:00 p. m. Song Service.

2:00 p. m. Sermon.....Rev. S. T. Shutes

7:00 p. m. Free Will Baptist League.

7:45 Sermon.....By Pastor, M. L. Hollis

The Song Service throughout the meeting will be under the direction of Rev. S. T. Shutes. We are expecting several visitors from out the State, whom we welcome and hope to be able to use on this program.

COMMITTEE

## SALVATION

I have been impressed by reason of my experience and observation, and mixing and mingling with people to write this piece.

I want to say that salvation and religion are two different things. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). This Scripture gives us one of the many reasons why we know. This is a wonderful change from being dead to that of being made alive. A man that is made alive in Christ Jesus has salvation, and a man that has salvation knows it, and the man that doesn't know it doesn't have it. Paul says, "We know if this earthly house of our tabernacle were dissolved, we have a house not made with hands, eternal and in the heavens." There is a theory being preached, believed, and practiced, which is not a Bible doctrine, that we will be saved on account of what little good we can do here in this world, and these are numbered by the thousands, yea multiplied thousands. In the 25th chapter of Matthew Jesus gives us a picture of His second coming, the General Judgment, and the church, going out to meet Him. What is meant here is the organized church—the Church of God, or Church of Christ is a spiritual church; that is what Jesus referred to when He said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Jesus says in this chapter, "then," not "now," the kingdom of heaven.

(Continued on page eight)

### Some Hints to the Wise

We noticed in last month's Gem that Bro Davis had asked those who were interested in paying for the linotype to plant something and donate the proceeds on the machine. We think that is a splendid plan and in all our folks will just plant a patch of something we will have more than enough. I have talked with several that are planning to plant potatoes. Another good plan, if you can't plant anything, set aside a hen and chickens. And still another plan, all our Mission Circles could give a donation out of their treasury. We are glad our people are waking up in a financial way.

We are asking Bro. Brown to run in the Gem the Budget formed by the committee at the State Association. We have decided that it will be better to run it in the paper several times than to send a letter to each church clerk, for it will be our pastors that will have to put it before the people any way.

Last year a number of our pastors did fine, and we find that our churches will do what their leaders ask them to do. Ten cents per member is very small, and most any little child would give that if they were asked to; and the thing to do is to ask for the ten cents. This will be a system that our denomination will be proud of some time, when we get it established. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let's pray about these things, and not just pass them up lightly.

Let's try to work for the Gem and get all the subs we can. We have a plan we want to offer. In the month of April, let every one that possibly can, donate a sub to some sick person, or a shut in that can't get out, and does not take the paper. If you don't know of any like that just send the paper for one year to some friend or relative.

God bless all who read this.

Yours for Jesus,

Lizzie McAdams.

### A Big Meeting at our Macedonia Church

Bro. and Sister McAdams are having a real revival at our Macedonia Church. The meeting has been running now for about three weeks. The interest is good and the house is crowded every night. Many of the unsaved are under conviction, and we are expecting that many of them will be saved before the meeting closes. About twenty-four have been saved so far. Help us pray for victory at Macedonia.

**WE ARE** sorry that we are late with the paper again, and sincerely regret that we must leave the Sunday school lessons out and send out a sixteen page paper, but we have done our best. We have worked every day early and late, until we had no strength to do more. We have both been sick and we have had some trouble with the linotype. But we finally overcame the trouble and we have it in running order again, after it is too late to prepare and print four more pages for the paper. We also have quite a number of articles and letters

from the field that we could not put in this time. If we can have our way about it, we will make up for our shortage in future issues of the Gem—Editor

STAHL, MISSOURI, February 20, 1931.

Dear Readers of the Gem: Thought I would write you a few facts about the North East Mo. Association of F. W. B., and some of the work in this field. Our Yearly Meeting is not large; we have eight organized churches, three active ministers, and five Sunday schools. Four of our churches are pastorless, and part of these idle churches would love to have pastors, provided we could get some new material in the field. I believe there is a splendid opportunity here for the right man.

Our Sunday schools have not been better at this season for years. Our quarterly report shows our Free Will Baptist Sunday schools for the fall and winter months to be as follows: Average scholars enrolled each Sunday per quarter, for the Association, consisting of five schools one hundred sixty-nine and one fourth. The combined collection per quarter, net, sixty dollars and thirty-eight cents. Combined expense for literature thirty-eight dollars and six cents. Number of classes twenty-five. Cradle Roll, two. Organized classes, two.

Money spent for other than literature being for coal, insurance, janitor work, and Holiday treats for the children, approximately seventeen dollars and fifty cents per quarter.

We also have the promise of being able to add two more schools to this report as soon as spring opens up, which will bring our total much above the average for some time past.

In concluding this letter we confess that we love to read the letters in the Gem, of Bro. and Sister McAdams, Bro. Ferguson, Bro. Miller, and others that have passed this way.

We remain in the Master's name,

Chas. A. Phillips, N. E. Mo. S. S. Evangelist.

### THE BAR

The saloon is sometimes called a bar, that's true.

A bar to heaven, a door to hell.

Whoever named it, named it well,

A bar to manliness and wealth,

A door to want and broken health,

A bar to honor, pride and fame,

A door to grief and sin and shame.

A bar to home, a bar to prayer;

A door to darkness and despair.

A bar to honored, useful life;

A door to brawling, senseless strife.

A bar to all that's true and brave;

A door to every drunkard's grave.

A bar to joys that home imparts;

A door to tears and aching hearts.

A bar to heaven, a door to hell;

Whoever named it, named it well.—Selected.



## SALVATION

(Continued from page two)

en is likened unto ten virgins that took their lamps and went forth to meet the Bridegroom. Of the two pictures given here: one is the brightest one could think of, the other the darkest, saddest that could be thought of. These virgins represent members of churches of all denominations. The wise are those who had salvation when they joined the church, they had oil in their lamps; the foolish represent those who joined the church without salvation, who expected to get salvation by being loyal to the church, and other good works. While the Bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and slept, representing the state of the dead. At midnight the great cry was made, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him." Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us." This is the saddest picture I ever tried to look at. Remember that those that were ready were the ones that had salvation when they joined the church, the foolish were those that tried to get to heaven on their own merits, by their good works. While Jesus was here on earth, teaching the people, they got the idea that everybody that was trying to get to heaven wouldn't get there, so one of them asked Him the question, "Are there few that be saved?" And He answered, saying, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in and shall not be able." Some may say, "He is one of those Baptist that don't believe in apostasy. If you think that you are just as right as can be. I have always said that a man ought to preach and practice what he believes, and if I believed in apostasy, I would preach it, and that is what is wrong with the world today, they preach too much of that kind of doctrine, and don't preach enough of Christ. However I believe there is a possibility of a man being lost after he has been saved. I believe this because God says in His word that there is a sin unto death. Now a man that's dead could not commit a sin unto death, seeing he is already dead; therefore it must be a man that is alive spiritually, and a man that is alive spiritually is a man that has been saved, for he is talking about spiritual death. Now, that you may understand what I believe about this sin unto death and who it is that has and can commit this sin, I will give you an example that came under my observation down in Parker county where I used to live: There was a family of old fashioned Methodist people whose father and mother believed in people being saved at a mourners' bench. They had a boy that was converted and joined the Methodist church. There

was another family in another community that belonged to a different church, and they had two children, a boy and a girl. This man was very wealthy, so the Methodist boy got acquainted with this man's girl, and through their acquaintance and association they became attached to each other and decided to marry. The young man, in order to get the girl, the good will of her father, and part of his wealth, the young man joined the church that the girl belonged to, and was baptized by one of their preachers in order to be saved; so he got the girl, the good will of her father and part of his wealth; but to my mind he lost his soul.

I don't believe that God will send a man to hell for stumping his toe. Now the more you think of these things the bigger they will get.

In order that you might know what it means to have salvation before you join the church, I want you who read this to get your Bible and read the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians. Before you read let us see if we can find out what Paul means by that word "charity." All Bible scholars agree that it means love, but it could not mean human love or affection, for Paul says it is greater than faith and hope, so it must be the love of God. Paul says, "Hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." So the man that has the love of God has salvation; so with this view of the word charity we can understand why Paul made such wonderful statements.

Now someone may think I am one of those Baptist that don't believe in works. When you think that you are just as wrong as you can be. God says we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." I got the best illustration from an old negro woman who was preaching on the streets in Weatherford, Texas. I want to say that a woman, though she be a negro, has as good a right to preach as any man in the world, if God wants her to. This woman was preaching on works. She said, "What would you think of me if I went out into your field to hoe cotton and not take a hoe to work with?" She said, "If you want to work for God you must take the Holy Spirit to work with." Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Some one may ask, "How are we to know we have salvation?" Now I will ask you a question: "If you were to place a red hot coal of fire to my flesh, how would I know I was burned?" Now I want to say that the one that has salvation knows it better than any one else could tell him. God says in His word, "Ye believe the witness of men: the witness of God is greater: and this is the witness that God has testified of his Son. Whosoever believeth on the Son of God hath the witness within himself."

I will close, hoping that God's name may be glorified in the salvation of some in the church or out of it, who may read this.

—N. B. Stanley

208 West Tenn. Street, Floydada, Texas.



## FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

John Swaffar, Reporter

### Report of Macedonia F. W. B. League

I hope this reaches the editor in time for printing in the March issue of the Gem. I have been so busy the last few days that I had neglected making the report of our league for this month.

Our league is holding its own, I am thankful to say, and growing by degrees. I want to say that our Juniors, especially, are improving. It does me so much good to see these little fellows getting up before the congregation to recite their lesson in their own words. Why? Because these boys and girls, though young in years now, are to be the men and women of tomorrow. It shows that parents desire to see their children learn of the Christ that suffered and died for the sins of mankind.

We have criminals today that fill the penitentiaries for wicked crimes they have committed. Folks, did you ever stop to think that there will be criminals in the future? Who will they be? Ask yourself the question, will it be my boys and girls that help to fill the places of punishment?

Then the other side, there will be righteous people in the future: People to fill the sacred stand, people to take leading parts in Sunday school, league work, etc. Will it be my boys and girls? We want them to be in that class that lives for God. Folks, it depends to a great extent upon the training we give them. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). So I urge the fathers and mothers to see that their boys and girls take part in the league work, or some good young people's organization.

I must say that our Seniors are doing well also, and I hope that the revival that is in progress at this place will give us a large number of new members, so we can do a great work in our community for our Lord. — KENNETH TURNER.

### Report of Norman F. W. B. League

ALTON, MISSOURI, January 22, 1931.

Dear Bro. in Christ: I received your few lines of encouragement on our league.

Our league is doing some excellent work. We are sorry that we did not get our report in for this month. We have our literature for this quarter, and I am sure our league will keep growing and will be a benefit to the young folks that have just started out for the Lord.

We have thirty league members, seventeen of them were saved during the revival and at the Association. You could feel the power of the Lord almost as soon as you entered the door. Most every night the house wouldn't seat the people.

We are planning to organize more leagues soon. We hope and pray that it will be a success. Pray for us as we are young in the Lord's work and need help in going through life. I feel tonight that I have so much to thank God for, knowing that He is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

And I certainly enjoy reading our church paper and get much help from it.

We will be glad to co-operate with you as our league is young. Let us pray for better and stronger leagues everywhere and ever do our best for the Lord.

I think our league is doing as well as can be expected, while there is much room for improvement.

We are trying to carry on our league work in a way that will please God, and will strengthen and benefit the young people, and how wonderful our lessons are! Our subject for Sunday night, Feb. 15th is, "The ministry of the Holy Spirit." And we are studying, working, and earnestly praying, that great good may be accomplished for which our league is intended.

Nancy Duncan, Sec'y-Treasurer, Alton, Mo.

### Report of F. W. B. League Convention of S. E. Mo.

The officers of the Association are:

President, Blanche Barker, Mine La Motte, Mo.  
Vice President, Nettie Adams, Mine La Motte, Mo.  
Sec'y-Treas., Naomi Lincoln, Esther, Mo.

The presidents of the leagues are:

Desloge, Charley Vance.  
Flat River, James Miller.  
Leadington, Loyd Crepps,  
Mine La Motte, Blanche Barker.

The number of classes:

Desloge, 3; Flat River 6; Leadington 3; Mine La Motte 3.

Average attendance:

Desloge 50; Flat River 84; Leadington 43; Mine La Motte 60. Total in the Convention 237.

Amounts in Treasures:

Desloge \$6.00; Flat River \$10.00; Leadington \$10.32; Mine La Motte \$5.70. Total in Convention \$32.02.

Remarks: The Leadington League helped to put the new addition on the church. They also helped with donations to the poor.

The Flat River League paid thirty-three (33.00) dollars on their new church house.

The Mine La Motte League paid a standing debt of \$5.00 on their piano. They also gave a dear old brother \$8.00 in groceries and money.

Dear Sister White, I feel, as this is our first report, that it is not very good, but we hope that our report next month will be much better.

Esther Lincoln, Sec'y-Treas., S. E. Mo. Ass'n.

**WE ARE** giving the League workers two pages this time, but we are glad to do it. We are glad that our young people are awake and doing things for the Lord: we want to help and encourage them all we can. We hope that, through these monthly reports of the work in the different leagues over the State, the league workers will come to realize the help and advantage of being organized over the State for a greater work.—The Editor.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAUGE

*John Swaffer, Correspondent*

### Mt. Olive Church, Blue Eye, Mo.

Dear Gem Readers: I have been a member of the Free Will Baptist Church a year, and a member of the League for about three years.

I have been thinking seriously about writing something for the Gem, but never could decide just what to write. As I was looking over the last issue, I thought about writing something concerning our League.

Our members are divided into two different departments, Juniors and Seniors. If I am not mistaken, there are twenty-four Junior members, and sixty-two Senior members. We have four different groups.

Our officers are as follows:

President, Denver Hollars  
Vice Pres., Finis Newman  
Quiz Leader, Clell Butler  
Sec'y-Treas., Lois Dodgen  
Ass't Sec'y, Mae Carr

#### GROUP CAPTAINS

Gladys Taylor, Joyce Weaver  
Lenna Butler, Alta Rose Goodwin

I hope a large number of our members will enter on the honor roll, also all the other members of our Leagues.

I ask an interest in your prayers

Alta Rose Goodwin.

#### IRONDALE, MO.

Dear, Leaguers, and Readers of the Gem: No doubt you have wondered why I haven't written to the Gem. Many things have hindered me, one is, I have been very busy in my field of work, trying to get them organized so they can work together, and also helping our State field workers to get lined up in their work, and they are working at the job, showing great interest in the work.

I thank God for young people that will take interest in the work like they have. Leaguers,

let's support them, encourage them, and back them with our but field workers, stay at the job, don't give up, the victory will come for those who endure to the end. I can almost see the victory now. Things look encouraging now as I see the interest growing among our young people day by day. Just a few words about this Association, the Southeast Missouri. They are organized and doing a great work, such as helping the poor and needy, and helping the churches and Sunday schools. We called a meeting November 9th and organized, there being about sixty present. We elected officers and transacted business.

Officers as follows:

President, Blanch Barker, Mine La Motte, Missouri.

Vice Pres., Nettie Adams, Mine La Motte, Missouri.

Sec'y-Treasurer, Naomi Lincoln Esther, Missouri.

We met again with Mine La Motte League, with a good delegation, taking up our business in regular form, for the Scripture says, "Let everything be done in decency and in order;" and this is God's work. We had a wonderful meeting, God's Spirit being in our midst.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday before the first Sunday in May at 7:00 p. m. with the Flat River League.

On February 1st I organized a league at Wortham, Mo. with a membership of 25, and shows great interest and doing well.

Now leaguers, let's get our shoulders to the wheel and get things going—let's do everything we can, then trust God to do the rest. You know Paul said to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity;" and when

we do this God is always ready to help us.

May God bless you all in your work for the Lord. Pray for us.

Wm Reeves.

### Blue Eye F. W. B. League Report

As we haven't reported our league work to the paper, we thought we would let people know what our league is doing at Blue Eye.

The first thing we want to say is, we do have a wide-awake league, and the young people here are doing a wonderful work, under the leadership of our president, Denver Hollars.

We have sixty-two Seniors and twenty-four Juniors, making a total enrollment of eighty-six members. We have our league divided into four groups, with an average of twenty-one members to each group, under the leadership of four group captains. Each group captain takes the responsibility of supervising the work of their own group, realizing it is their duty to see that their group carries out their own program in an orderly way. We have an interesting program rendered, and a good attendance each Sunday evening. The group captains usually plan something special for each Sunday evening in connection with the lesson to make it more interesting.

We must add a word of encouragement for our Juniors, for they are always busy and serve as great boosters for our league. They are all wide awake workers and are always willing to do their part when called on.

We have such a large number of members on each group that it is sometimes hard to find something to do. Any suggestion from anyone along this line will be highly appreciated.

Pray for us, that we may ever be found working for the Master. prayers, for I realize what discouraging times they will find,

**Purdy, Mo.**

Dear Gem Readers:—I haven't sent a report about my work for some time. We had wonderful services at Merl's Chapel Saturday night. Sunday Feb. 22nd Bro. and Sister McAdams held services at 2:30 p. m. Sister McAdams delivered a wonderful message, and after the message one precious soul was saved, an aged man.

We have been having good Sunday School and prayer meeting, also having a wonderful singing taught by Mr. Floyd Inman of Cassville. Our Mission Circle has a quilt which they are working names on for the benefit of the church. The Circle has several names already placed and worked on the quilt.

May God bless each and every one.

Your sister in Christ,  
Merl Robberson.

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## Obituary

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**Wilson**—Bro. J. A. Wilson, a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at Mulberry, Arkansas was born Jan. 22, 1842, and passed away February 8, 1931, aged eighty-nine years and sixteen days.

He was married to Miss Nancy Holman in 1861. To this union was born fourteen children, eight girls and six boys, of whom six girls and two boys are yet living and all are Christians. The two boys and also one grandson are Free Will Baptist ministers. All this added much pleasure to Bro. Wilson's life.

He was converted when eighteen years of age, and joined the Missionary Baptist church in Alabama. He also soldiered in the Civil War.

He came to Arkansas in 1867, and a few years later Bro. Sabe Loftland organized a Free W. B. Church near Gravelly, and Bro. J. A. Wilson was one of the charter

members. He was a faithful member to his church, and to his Maker. He was always ready to help in all church activities when possible, not trying to reflect big things unto himself, but always in the name of the Lord.

Tho he was very feeble, having had a stroke of paralysis the last year he lived, he made it possible to get to his church at most all the meetings, to praise the Lord. Like Job of old, he bore his afflictions with patience, and also like Abraham of old, "he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11)

Since the death of his good wife, he has made his home among his children. For the last few years he has been with his baby daughter, Lillie King, where he died. He was rational until death, and passed peacefully away. We are sure that loving hands did all they could, both day and night.

He was loved by his friends, his neighbours, his dear children, by the Denomination and by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his children and friends, and especially by his little grandchildren, who were so attentive to him. I am sure he will ever be in their little memories.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer, who tried to speak words of comfort to his heart-broken children.

His body was laid to rest in the Young Gravelly Cemetery, there to await the resurrection.

Dear Children,

Let us not think of dear father as dead,

But just moved to a wonderful place,

To await the coming of his dear ones,

Where we can again him embrace.

Let us bow in submission to God's holy will,

Offer tribute of praise to His name

For his father is gone and his voice here is still,

Yet what is our loss to Heaven's gain,

Elder C. C. Kitchens.

**Shields**.—Estel E. Shields, farmer and respected resident of Prospect neighborhood, died Thursday morning, January 15, 1931 at the Springfield Baptist Hospital, following an operation for appendicitis. He was sick only a short time. He was born November 1, 1883, being forty-eight years, two months and fourteen days of age at his death.

Funeral services were held at two o'clock Friday afternoon, January 15th at Prospect Church, east of Niangua, conducted by Rev. Selph Jones of Mansfield, assisted by Rev. Joe Day of Niangua, and burial was in the cemetery there, under direction of McMahan Undertakers.

E. E. Shields was married to Ollie Bass. November 27, 1907, and to this union were born two children, Edward and Ezra. He leaves to mourn his death, his wife and two boys, and sisters and brothers as follows: Mrs. Ida Rader, Mrs. Hulda Duncan, Mrs. Levia Gardner, Frank Cunningham and Mrs. May Rader, Mrs. Pearl Scott, Isom, Fred and Jodie Cunningham, Mrs. Senda Chandler, and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was converted at the age of thirty-four years, and joined the church at Prospect. It can truly be said by all that he was a good neighbor, and was loved by all who knew him. All that loving hands and sympathetic hearts could do was done for him in an effort to save his life, but God in great wisdom saw fit to call him away from earth to heaven. In his dying hours when he realized death was near he said he was not afraid to die.

**Stevenson**—Jennie Adelia Stevenson was born March 11, 1875, departed this life December 24, 1930 aged fifty-five years, nine months and thirteen days.

Her illness lasted two weeks, after she had undergone an operation. The doctor thought she would soon be strong again. Her condition seemingly was nothing to be alarmed over, but as in many other cases, God in his mercy saw best to take her to her heavenly home.

Sister Stevenson was reared in a sweet Christian home, and early in life she gave her heart to Jesus. At the time of her death she was a member of the North View Free Will Baptist church.

She was united in marriage to J. A. Stevenson March 6, 1892. To this union four children were born, two boys and two girls, all of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, Mrs. F. C. Hardin, Mrs. R. W. Whitall, Rolland and Armor.

She leaves a devoted husband that will always love and cherish her sweet life that made him happy and helped to lift the shadows and burdens of life. She also leaves two sisters, Mrs. Cora Long of Piedmont, Oklahoma, Mrs. N. J. Wells of Bruce, Okla. and one brother, J. P. Steward of Orlanda, Fla. Mrs. Long was the only one able to be present at this time.

We would say to the family and many friends: Let her life be a beacon light in future years to guide you on to the land, fairer than day, where no good-byes are ever said, but one eternal day.

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**George**—Lula McKeel, daughter of Newton and Angeline McKeel was born September 20, 1874 and died November 29, 1930 at the age of fifty-six years, two months and six days. She was married to David George on March 7, 1896. To this union twelve children were born, three having passed on to the better land in infancy. She is survived by her husband, David George, four daughters, Mrs. N. F. Tower of Seattle, Washington, Mrs. Job Smith of Marshfield, Mo., Mrs. Lee Hill of Monett, Mo. and June

George, at home and five sons, Earl George of Grove Springs, David J. R. and Herbert at home, Boyd of Seattle, Washington and Seigal of Marshfield, Mo.; three stepsons, Jeff Robert and Sol George of Niangua, Mo. Also her mother, Mrs. Angeline McKeel, two brothers, Joda McKeel of Niangua, Mo. and Jesse McKeel of Dayton, Washington; four sisters, Mrs. Elco Scott of Niangua, Mo., Mrs. Lillie Langdon of Tarkio, Mo. Mrs. Ella Morgan and Mrs. George Hicks of Palisade, Colorado.

At an early age she joined the Methodist Church, remaining a member of it for several years. Later she moved her membership to the Free Will Baptist church remaining a faithful member until her death.

She bore her great suffering with remarkable patience and courage until the end. Many times her family and friends have listened to her sweet, weak voice chant her old familiar songs, when it seemed she was too weak to talk, such as, "Where I am going, there is no dying." "Oh, blessed rest!" "Waiting for the morning." "Life will be sweeter some day." In her last hour she sang out clear and strong "When I can read my title clear."

Funeral services were held at Prospect Church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. Selph Jones, with burial in adjoining cemetery with services by Rev. Joe Day. She will never be forgotten, and never will our hearts be healed. When the shadows of night are falling, and we are sitting all alone; to our hearts there will come a longing. "If she only could come home!"

Peaceful be your sleep, dear Mother,

It is sweet to breathe your name.

In life we loved you dearly,

And in death we do the same.

More and more each day we miss you;

Friends may think the wound is healed,

But they little know the sorrow  
Lying in our hearts concealed.

—Miss Mona Johns.

Mrs. Dave George passed away Saturday morning November 29th. Funeral services were held at Prospect Sunday November 30th at two o'clock, conducted by Rev. Selph Jones, who, at her request, preached the sermon. She will be sadly missed by her relatives and friends. All who knew her loved her; she was so kind and loving to her family, and not only to them, but kind to everyone, trying always to speak some good thing about everybody. We know she has gone to live with the angels, for she was so anxious to go, and said so often that she had so many friends to meet over there; so why should she want to stay here and suffer. Then the happiest time would be when we all came to meet her. She was so happy when she was saying these words. Mrs. Walter Davis, the nurse, went home Saturday evening, after she had done all she could for Mrs. George. She will not be forgotten, for she was so kind to her patient. Also Miss Stella Hargus, the hired girl, must not be forgotten. She had been with Mrs. George for over a year; was kind and good to her, always ready and willing to quit her work any time to help wait on the sufferer. Also the children at home, Herbert, David and Eunice were ready and willing to get up any time during the night to sit up and wait on their mother.

Mr and Mrs. Jabe Smith and little daughter Marjorie, and Siegal George left for Arizona on Tuesday before their mother passed away on Saturday. They said they hated to leave, but felt they had to go on account of their little daughter's health. Marie Hill had not been able to be with her mother for about two months. She was always so kind to wait on her mother, and would spend weeks at a time with her. Mrs. George said relatives and neighbors could not have been better to her.

## The Second Coming of Christ

By Gladys Taylor

I am wondering how many of us as Christians, are really looking for the second coming of Christ.

The time is drawing nigh at hand, as little as some might think about it. Are we ready for that great day?

"And unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb. 9:28). May we all be looking for His coming. Christ is not coming the second time to tell us to get ready for heaven, but He is coming for those that are already prepared, and have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, waiting for His coming. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

We sometimes hear people who are not Christians say, "I don't want to be living when Christ comes again," but we are going to experience that great day, dead or alive, so may we strive to be ready. "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26).

We remember in God's word how Noe warned the people of the flood that was coming, but multitudes only made fun of him. So it is in our day. The word of God is being preached, but so many turn it down and say, "I want to be saved some time, but not now." That "some time" may be too late, and how sad in that last day to be turned away! "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26).

So many think they have a long time to prepare to meet God, and that the world is at peace. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they

shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them" (1 Thess. 5:2-3). I want to be living and ready to go at Christ's coming. So much of the prophecy is being fulfilled that the time surely can't be far off. How glorious it will be to those who are ready and waiting for Christ's coming, to see our Savior and our loved ones who have gone on before! "For the Lord himself shall 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" (1 Thess 4:16-17). Heaven will really be wonderful beyond human power to explain.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Let us as Christians put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand in the evil days. Those who are not ready will say to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:16-17)

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world; looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

## THE LAST HOUR

The sunset burns across the sky;  
Upon the air its warning cry;  
The curfew tolls from tower to tower,  
O children, 'tis the last, last hour!

The work that centuries might have done,  
Must crowd the hour of setting sun;  
All through all lands the Saving Name,  
Ye must, in fervent haste, proclaim.

The fields are white to harvest,  
weep!  
O tardy worker, as you reap;  
For wasted hours that might have won  
Rich harvests ere the set of sun.

We hear His footsteps on the way,  
Oh, work, while it is called today,  
Constrained by love, endued with power,  
O children, in this last, last hour!

## THINK IT OVER

"I'll do what you want me to do,  
dear Lord,  
Real service is what I desire.  
I'll sing a solo any time, dear Lord,  
But don't ask me to sing in the choir.

I'll do what you want me to do,  
dear Lord;  
I like to see things come to pass,  
But don't ask me to teach girls or boys, dear Lord,  
I'd rather just stay in my class.

I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord,  
I yearn for the kingdom to thrive;  
I'll give you my nickles and dimes,  
dear Lord,  
But please don't ask me to tithe.

I'll go where you want me to go,  
dear Lord;  
I'll say what you want me to say,  
But I'm busy just now with myself,  
dear Lord,  
I'll help you some other day.  
Contributed by Eld. Winford Davis.

## FOLLOWING JESUS

(Continued from page 2)

God gives us a "thorn," that we may realize our weakness. He wants us to know the excellency of His power, when our strength is weak and insufficient. We must rely on God. Without Him we perish. God always knows what is best for us. Whatsoever your "thorn" is, know that God placed it there for a purpose. I once knew a dear minister of God, a consecrated man who would always break down" and cry in the pulpit. He would generally take his text, then pray, and then he would begin to preach. But as he would preach the tears always came flooding down his face. It embarrassed him greatly before the people to cry so much. He began to pray: he did not want this "thorn" of tears God had given him. It was a thorn that tortured him until it seemed to penetrate into his very soul and body. He was burdened for souls yet, in his body, he felt ashamed of the flood of tears. He always had an "altar-call" and always there came people pouring into the place of prayer. He kept an old-fashioned "mourners'-bench" ready. The tears and the bench—both were old fashioned. You don't see many tears now-a-days for the lost. This dear man of God kept praying to the Lord to remove the "thorn," so the Lord placed the thorn in another place. The "thorn of tears" was taken away. As he stood in the pulpit preaching something seemed to be wrong. People looked at him, wondering—why, was this still the tender hearted, soul-winning man of God? As he gave the altar-call, there seemed to be no power, what had happened? Had the Lord entirely removed the thorn? No, the thorn was pierce-through his heart. He was smothering with sorrow: he had sinned by continually pleading with the Lord to remove the "thorn." Falling on his knees at the altar of prayer he cried out, "Oh God, fill my eyes with tears again, if it takes that to save the lost. I can stand the tears streaming down my face better than I can stand this gnawing at my heart. O God, have mercy, my heart is

breaking, and he burst forth with a sob, as the tears came rushing down his face. The "thorn" was given him in mercy, to save others. The Lord had taken the "thorn" and placed it through his heart, that he might see the Divine will of God. He did not want the tears, but God wanted him to have them.

The weak, the despised, and the common people, those hated by the world because of their lack of personal attainments: these are the ones who are handicapped and have thorns in the flesh. These are the ones who trust not in themselves, but in God. If you are saved, chosen of God, and called, you belong to the class of people with a "thorn" in the flesh. You have your thorn, but thank God for it. It is a mercy and a blessing to you. Stop bemoaning the fact of your thorn: God put it there for a purpose. He wants your body to be a "living sacrifice." Are you willing to be broken like Gideon's band? Do you remember Gideon when he started out to take the camp for the Lord? They carried pitchers with candles in them. Your body, your will, is your pitcher, and the Lord says, "When I tell you to shout, you shout. When I tell you to say, Amen, you say it." When your pitcher is broken the light will shine out. A broken heart over the lost will break your pitcher. It may take persecution, suffering, financial distress, and unpleasant surroundings to break your pitcher of self, that the light of God may shine through, but it will be good for you. Let your nerve, your heart, your will be broken in the will of God.

Paul was a man whose pitcher was broken as he labored in the Gospel. He was a tent maker by trade, as he strove to make his living honest and upright, and still carry forward the great work of the ministry. Paul had two names, Saul and Paul. Saul was his Hebrew name, known among the Jews. Paul was his Roman name. He being a tent maker by trade, continued to abide with the two names. Under the Jewish name he was called Saul. After the Lord called him to bear the light of the Gospel to the Gentiles, he was called Paul. The

Lord Himself called Paul to preach the Gospel, and sent him out, therefore he is reckoned as an apostle of Christ. How bitterly must Paul have wept and mourned over the share he had taken in Stephen's death. The murder of dear old Stephen, a man full of the Holy Ghost! Often, perhaps, even before his conversion, the apostolic face of the martyr haunted him. Often after Paul's conversion did he marvel at the courage, the firmness, love, and forgiveness of dear Stephen whom he had regarded as an imposter.

The Lord had called Paul, he had been a faithful servant and his ministry was about ended. Just before his death, he said, "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 at that day." Paul was in prison, waiting his execution: death was waiting, but Paul's work was finished. He was sentenced to be beheaded. How many would give their heads for Jesus' sake? The scene of his martyrdom was three miles from Rome. As they led him forth from the city, there were three soldiers who became converts to the "faith" of Christ. As they arrived at the fatal spot of death, Paul solemnly prepared himself, and cheerfully he counted not his life dear to himself, but submitted to the stroke of the executioner, and Paul entered into his rest. The execution of Paul took place, it is believed, on the 29th day of June, A. D. 66. He was sixty-eight years of age.

By the death of Paul the Christian Church lost its brightest luminary rays of God's sunshine. One whose faith, devotion, learning, humility, tenderness, patience, zeal, and fidelity were unequalled. No danger, no weariness, nor pain ever caused him to rest from his labors. Above every difficulty he rose triumphant, though the trials he passed through were far greater than those which ordinarily fall to the lot of man. He himself gives a record of the sufferings he had endured up to the time he wrote his second

(Continued on page 19)

## OUR SONG BOOKS

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### FOLLOWING JESUS

(Continued from page 18)

epistle to the Corinthians.

All the epistles written by Paul were cherished by all who received them. The latter part of his stay on earth was much spent in writing. The first epistle to the Thessalonians is supposed to have been the first epistle that Paul wrote. The Lord had called Paul to follow Him—he had been called to preach the Gospel, answer the call of a missionary, and to write. Then Paul must give his head, his life, his all. If God has called you, don't expect to live easy, or die easy. If God demands your life for Him, give it cheerfully, withholding nothing from the Lord. He has recorded a warning, "He that will lose his life for my sake, shall find it; but he that will save his life shall lose it." "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). God 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 was (2 Tim. 1:9). What will the cost be to follow Jesus? It may be your "all." Jesus gave His "all" for you. "Then answered Peter and said unto them, Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee, what shall we have therefore?" (Matt. 19:27-29). And Jesus said unto them, "Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit eternal life."

If we will closely study God's word, we will soon find that all who live a consecrated life of prayer and discipleship with the Lord, must endure suffering and hardships. If our lives have been planted by the hand of God, it is well to surrender our lives to Him, and obey Him. He will guide us with His power and love and mercy until we have fully surrendered and given all. He wants your life, He wants mine—He needs all of us. Jesus died to save the whole world, if only they will come to Him. The Savior of the world is calling you. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The same voice that called to Peter, Andrew, and Paul: "Follow me," two significant words of beauty, spoken by the Lord Himself. Two words that have power to change your whole life, if you will obey. Will you join the ranks in the service of our King?

### A FIFTY CENT BOOK FREE

We have arranged with Eld. A. B. Talbert of Drumright, Oklahoma for a supply of his HAND BOOK for Christian Workers, which we will give free with each yearly subscription to the Gem. This book gives valuable helps for Bible readers, with reference to Miracles, Parables, Bible Prayers, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, the Great Commission, and many other helps to Bible study. The book retails for 50 cents, postpaid.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement of your Association, Quarterly Meeting or 5th Sunday Meeting should appear here. Send in your announcement so it can be printed in the next issue of the Gem.

### Butler-Dunn Theology

The Butler-Dunn Systematic Theology, the standard book on Free Will Baptist faith and doctrine, is now reprinted, and every minister and Christian worker should have a copy. This is an important book in the SCHOOL OF THE BIBLE, conducted by Rev. John H. Wolfe. Ministers and Christian workers, wishing to better prepare themselves for Christian work, should have this book, and should take the correspondence course offered by the "School of the Bible." The book is well bound, has 476 pages, \$2.50 postpaid.

Send orders to the F. W. B. Gem, Purdy, Missouri or to Rev. John H. Wolfe, Pawnee City, Nebr.

### To the Churches of the First Mission Association

Please remember that our Quarterly meeting convenes with Cushing Church on Friday night before the 4th Sunday in February.

We hold our Quarterly meetings in November, February and May, so as the Associational Year will be equally divided. Since we have changed to this plan, several others have told me they have also adopted this plan, as 5th Sundays come sometimes just before or just after the Association, and many times comes in mid winter.

The Tulsa and Cushing churches have just closed wonderful revivals. Bro. Bingham, pastor of Tulsa Church, wrote me that they had enlarged their church building since

we were there in November.

Yours in the Lord's work:  
A. B. Talbert, Clerk of Association.

### Cavespring Q. M.

The next session of the Cavespring Quarterly Meeting will be held with Many Island Church on Friday night before the fifth Sunday in March 1931.

### THE LAW—TEN COMMANDMENTS (Continued from page 3)

All this agrees with the contrast between the giving of the law and teachings of Jesus while here among men. The former echoed from crag to crag, and across the valleys; the latter was heard on grassy slopes, and on pleasant hillsides, by the peaceful sea, etc. The one was spoken by the great voice of the trumpet amid the flash of lightning and peals of thunder; the other came graciously from the lips of Him Who was fairer than the children of men. The former was uttered in stern warning, "Thou shalt" or "Thou shalt not!" the latter brought healing, peace and joy to His hearers, and said, "Blessed are ye." To touch the mount meant death, but Simeon took the Divine Infant in his arms.

This difference is not because God has become more gentle, or man more worthy: God the Law-maker has come down to be God the helper. The beatitudes could not have been spoken if the law had not been spoken: for it was the law which created the hunger and thirst for the spiritual beauty of the commandments, which could not be attained. Yes, the law is spiritual as testified by Paul when he said, "The law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin" (Rom. 7:14).

We learn from the Book that the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments were written upon both sides of two tables of stone. Various ideas have prevailed as to how to divide them, but in Deut. 5:6-21 they appear to divide five and five. The first five, each one standing alone, form the first group and forbid sin against God in thought, word and deed.

The second five, joined by the copulative "neither," forbid sin against man in deed, word and thought.