

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

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The Choice of a Life Time

By Ora Mae McKinney Davis

Listen! I can hear a voice of prophecy handed down to us from the generations of Ruth:

"The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2:12).

The fulfillment of this prophecy is to be found in Luke 10:42: *"But one thing is needful, and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."*

Travel with me, if you will, back almost six thousand years ago. In a beautiful garden called Eden, there lived the first human life. God placed Adam and Eve there and He let them make their own choice between right and wrong. Listen, Adam, what was that noise I heard, Oh, so terrible like a rumble in the earth! Fear seized them both and they sought to hide from the presence of their Maker, who called, "Adam where art thou?" They were hid, the shadows were gathering. In Genesis we read that "the Lord God walked in the garden in the cool of the day."

A serpent more subtle than any beast of the field had crept into the garden; there were shadows. A shadow of sin had cast itself around the beautiful flowers and foliage that had thrived and bloomed under the sunshine of God's love. A shadow of the old Serpent! They were so afraid—they had made the wrong choice. There they were; hid among the trees of the garden—they could hear the voice of God. I can almost hear Him saying, "Where

are my children? what is wrong? They have always run to meet me, surely they have not eaten of the forbidden fruit, for I told them if they did they would surely die." But the next verse in Genesis reveals to us that God was serious about the matter, and "He did call them (Gen. 3:8-11).

"Adam where art thou?" Adam said, "I heard thy voice in the garden, but I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid myself." The day of innocence was gone. Then God said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked?"

Our choice does not mean just our own lives, but it means others also. Because Eve made the wrong choice, Adam made the wrong choice also. Someone is watching your life. Your children, your loved ones, your neighbors. Whatever choice you make will determine some other choice to be made; other eyes are fastened upon your life.

In order to clear away sin from the beautiful garden of Paradise, the Lord God drove out the man and the woman, and the devil went with them. Therefore we have Satan right in the earth with the human race.

There were only two people who lived in the first day, according to the Bible, in the day of innocence. They were Adam and Eve. But when they sinned, the day of conscience began. The devil being driven into the earth with them, followed right into their dwelling place. The prophecy which was given by the mouth of the Lord God (at the fall of man) was fulfilled in the first earthly

home ever constructed. God had said that the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman (the seed of the Lord and the seed of the devil) would be at enmity.

It came in the home of Adam and Eve. Cain was a tiller of the ground, and Abel was a keeper of flocks. They both gave their offerings unto the Lord, but Cain was of that wicked nature of Satan; while Abel worshiped God in a spiritual manner, which was pleasing unto the Lord. God had respect unto Abel's offering, but unto Cain's offering He had not respect. Cain had made a wrong choice and the hand of death arose between his offering and the life of his brother (Gen. 4:8).

We read in the 6th chapter of Genesis that when men began to multiply on the face of the earth the sons of God made a wrong choice. Oh, such a wicked subtle snare of the devil, he was in the earth with power over them that wandered after him. The sons of God had made a wrong choice.

God saw the wickedness of man that it was great in the earth. It even repented the Lord that He had made man, it grieved Him at His heart (Gen. 6:6). Just think for a moment, think of God the Ruler of the universe, being grieved at the wrong choice being made by man, a clay form moulded in the likeness and similitude of God, which had fallen because of the devil which was in the earth. And God in His anger said, "I will destroy both man and beast, the fowl of the air, and the creeping things from off the face of the earth; for it repenteth me that I have made

them." But God, even in this hour of regret, remembered the man that had walked with Him three hundred sixty-five years, and this man had pleased God (Gen. 5:23-24). One day as he walked with God. He just took him home with Him, he was translated into the Glory-world. His name was Enoch.

Even though God repented and was grieved at heart, He remembered Enoch. There was at this time a man living who closely resembled Enoch. It was dear old Noah, a minister of righteousness. Enoch had made the right choice, but God had taken him away—just one man living upon the earth who was worthy to live, except those of his household who, through his righteous living had been permitted to enter into a place of safety with him.

Noah had made his choice for a life time, let come what may, he would still be true to God. Noah was a just man and upright, and perfect in his generation (Gen. 6:8-9). And God said unto Noah, "The end of all flesh is come up before me: for the earth is filled with violence." Up to this time sin had multiplied; and only one man, Noah and his family, were willing to make the right choice, and be saved in the ark.

Enoch was before Noah, living in the days of conscience, but look! Enoch is gone! All of a sudden he seemed to step out of line; look up your Bible quick, we must find out what became of Enoch. "And he was not, for God took him." God came along and Enoch went walking home with Him. But listen, I hear some one hammering just as fast as they can hammer! Each hammer blow seems to be saying, "There is going to be a flood (Noah is reaching for another nail), and destroy the whole earth." Every hammer blow seemed a warnig of

destruction, but look! there stands in the street: scoffers, mockers. "Look at that crazy man," they are saying. "He claims to be a preacher, and there he is, preaching that a flood will destroy the whole earth; he must be crazy." Enoch is gone, but Noah steps in line.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. God made a covenant with Noah, with the rainbow as a token, and folded away among the silken folds of the beautiful rainbow ribbons were God's promises to man. But the devil knew this; he was in the earth. He came roaring with a multitude of people that were going to build a tower and a city (Gen. 11:1-9). And they said, "Let us make us a name." They had gathered to build the tower of Babel, but who is the One which walketh among them? The soft, gentle tread of the Savior of men. He had come down to see the city and the tower (Gen. 11:5). The Lord was displeased, and He rebuked them. Their language was confounded, and they were scattered abroad. The city and the tower were never finished, for they could not understand each other; therefore they had not the wisdom to finish their task. They had made a wrong choice, and Jesus walked in their camp to overthrow their earthly plans and imaginations (Gen. 11:6). But there was a righteous man living among his kindred. Jesus stands near Abraham, a man that had made his choice for God. What is he saying? "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, into a land that I will show thee; and I will make of thee a great nation" (Gen. 12:1-2). The flood had come and destroyed both man and beast, except Noah and his family; but one thing was not destroyed. The earth was cleared of sin with its vio-

lence and corruption, but the root of sin was still in the earth. Listen! what was that horrible roaring as that of a lion—such a monstrous shadow to be seen in the earth, walking up and down, and to and fro, seeking whom he may devour? Yes Sir, the old devil happened to be coming enroute of the journey concerning Abraham. I can see them as they journeyed, they were going from Haran to Canaan. Creeping along in the shadows, as with muffled tread, the enemy followed them. He knew Abraham had made the right choice, but since God had said that Abraham would be a great nation, he must in some way attack Abraham, in order to hinder God's plans. Sarah was very beautiful. It has always been the beauty of real womanhood the devil has hated so much. She was to be man's comfort and a help mate unto him. So the devil followed them in their journey.

They came to the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:5), but Abram passed through this land to the plain of Moreh; and the Lord appeared unto him there, and he built an altar there unto the Lord. But the devil was watching him. Ah yes, the devil was in the country; there was famine in the land, and because of this, Abraham was driven into Egypt; but the devil followed him there also. God had laid His hands on Abraham, and the devil sought to overthrow him. His wife Sarah, being beautiful, the devil suggested to Abraham that he present to her a lie. She was to say that she was his sister, but God's eyes were fastened upon Abraham's life; He was watching him. Something must be done. Sarah had been received into the house of Pharaoh (Gen. 12:15). So the Lord visited the costly home of Pharaoh with great plagues, revealing to Pharaoh that sin was

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

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We will be glad to change your address for the Gem, if you notify us. Please give the old address with the new.

Your time is out if a pencil mark appears here 

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 EDITOR'S COLUMN**What Shall We Do About It?**

Dear Friends and Readers of the Gem: As we have the Gem about all set up for the June issue, and will soon mail it out, we wish that we might have a word with each one of you individually concerning the Gem, its size, contents, purpose, mission, prospects for the future, and how we might make the Gem all it should be in all these things.

I know that you all have noticed that the Gem contains only 16 pages. We used to print 20 and include the S. S. Lessons, but we have been forced to cut down on the size and leave the S. S. Lessons out, because the amount we get for subs is so small that it won't half pay expenses, then we have to work so hard doing job printing, etc. that we have neither time nor strength to write the S. S. Lessons.

We have no complaint nor apology to make for the contents of our paper. We have manuscript left over this time and we are glad we have, for it gives us something to start on for the next issue. We occasionally receive manuscript which we cannot fully endorse, but sometimes the other fellow is right and we are wrong.

Our purpose is to help the cause of Christ to advance and enlarge among men, and especially among our own people. The responsibility to make this purpose good in Missouri and among our people elsewhere rests upon the Free Will Baptist of Mo., but they are supporting the Gem largely by proxy, for almost the whole burden falls on the editor. We thank God for those who have done and are doing all they can to make the Gem a success.

Our prospects for the future are certainly good, but we must do something, if we really prosper. We have the opportunity now, provided by Bro. York's proposition, to pay all our indebtedness and have money left, and we can easily put it over if we really try; will we do it? Some don't seem to understand how that publishing company can pay us \$1000 for the \$250 we will send them for 1000 subs at 25c each, but it is very simple, and the Gem is facing the same condition. The 1000 subs added to the circulation of that magazine will enable them to increase their income from advertising to the extent of \$10,000 in a year. If the Gem had 1200 or more paid subscribers, we could get advertising that would pay all our expenses, and the 1200 subs would bring us \$100 per month, besides the ads. We get less than \$50 per month now. Now, brethren, let's put this proposition over and get that \$1000, and while we are doing it let's increase the sub list of the Gem, and let's get free from our financial cramp. We are giving a sub to the magazine with each yearly sub to the Gem; so send in your \$1.00 and get two papers, each one year for it, and put \$1.00 into our publishing fund at the same time. The \$1.00 pays for the two papers and adds \$1.00 to the publishing fund, don't miss this.

FROM THE FIELD

Tulsa (Okla.) Jr. Mission Report

Dear Readers of the Gem:—I will write just a few lines telling you all about our Junior Mission. I think we have the best Junior Mission of any church in town.

The young people are taking an interest in the Lord's work. The Junior Mission meets on Friday nights at seven o'clock p. m. and they study about the Bible. If we hear of any one that is sick, we go and try to tell them about the Lord. We don't go just to show off, but we go and pray that the Lord will heal their bodies, and if they are unsaved, that He will save them.

If the young people's missions are dead down your way, just drop us a letter, or come up to the Free Will Baptist Church on North Utica and Jasper at Tulsa, Okla. We will try to help you put life into your missions. We have right around twenty-five or thirty in attendance in class.

Will close, and may God bless you all.

Miss Margaret Baumgardner,
Tulsa, Okla., Route 8, Box 37.

New Edenburg, Arkansas

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:—Just a word from Old Macedonia: We are still in the fight for Jesus.

I am thankful to my blessed Lord this morning for the past blessings, realizing they are consumed, and pray a continuation of blessings, "for the Lord knoweth the things we need" far better than we know how to ask for them.

It seems strange, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, that so many fail to give thanks to God for his rich blessings and tender mercies, for God even gives us the very

air we breathe, saying nothing about the other things that come from his bountiful hand. Oh, God, touch and tender the hearts of those who know thee in the free pardon of their sins!

Dear friends, I must mention the good services Saturday night, Sunday and Sunday night. Bro. Dixon gave us a wonderful message Saturday night, and on Sunday Bro. Willie McGhee of Russellville, Arkansas, who came with Elder Dixon, made a very soul stirring talk, in fact he preached a real sermon. Many a soul was exalted, and sinners put to silence by hearing the good things that he said. Bro. McGhee is a Sunday School man. He has visited us several times, and we have learned to love him, especially the little folks.

And too, Bro. West of Russellville also came with our pastor. We believe him to be a genuine Christian, one that loves the Lord. We all feel benefitted by these men having come, and being in our midst again, and tho we may never meet again in this world, we have the hope of meeting them again in yonder's world.

Pray for me that I may live humbly each day of my life.

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. Iva Mae McClellan.

Olney, Texas

Dear Gem Readers:—As it has been some time since I have written, I will endeavor to tell the good readers how much I do enjoy reading the letters in the little paper, but am hoping some day it will be a weekly paper.

But I don't find my paper more interesting than the Bible. I take it for my guide day by day, and I think the second verse of the 23rd Psalm is more needed now, than at any time in the world. Many centuries have hurried away, nations have risen, reigned and fallen, great chieftians have met each other on field of blood, and the

world has registered its story of prowess, but here in the similitude of the sheep and the pasture David ascribes to our Heavenly Father, in the person of Christ, the care, the tender care, by and through which He feeds and cherishes His own, and here is also a suggestion of sustenance, tranquillity and peace. The Psalm says, "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." There isn't much rest in our every day lives as we look out upon the sights and scenes of an epoch in which more jangling voices are heard than in any other period of time. The rest men need and crave seems far away. The automobile carries millions of men and women speeding to their daily tasks or journeying from one center of population to another with tense nerves and palpitating hearts, as they tax to their utmost their burdened energies. If there are green pastures, this nervous age heeds them not, to say nothing of the relaxation and joy that may be found in pausing to lie down in life's asylums of peace and think of those outcrying problems knocking at the doors of our hearts for solution, or of the mercies of God that guide us whether we rest in peace, or fly away in some throbbing airplane. Nobody seems to rest these days, Everybody is in a hurry. The country has hurried to the town. What were once green pastures have become hard surface streets. Men and women are consuming their vitalities without seeming to have a care for the needs of the body or the soul.

When I was convicted of my sins, this Scripture came to me, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Even then was my soul converted, and ever since the hope of that heavenly rest has

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FROM THE FIELD

St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Friends and members of the Free Will Baptist body of New Testament believers, Greeting:

It has been a grief to me to see and to know of the depth of poverty and misery among the poor of our district. Parents dejected, discouraged and almost desperate have had to keep their children home from Sunday School.

Several good families from a near-by district who have helped our work financially, have had to break up housekeeping, and are using two of our classrooms to store their furniture till times get better.

Compelled to drop my magazines in consequence, I had to give up the Moody Monthly, The Free Will B. Gem, "The Chosen People," a Jewish paper, and my Sunday School supplies

Sister Hilliar's sickness. For more than eighteen months, she has been sick, and only two weeks since back from the Hospital, requiring my entire attention. I do not believe she is long for this world.

I rejoice to be able once more to send my subscription for the Gem, made possible by a dear friend sending me a little money I least expected.

The Gem gets my first consideration. I will be glad to renew contributions for publication if the Lord so wills. I lost out on "The Story of Joseph, a Type of Christ."

Sincerely yours,
Elder E. Hilliar

Our \$1000.00 Campaign

Hannon, Mo., May 6, 1931

Dear Readers of the Gem: Our subscription list has started nicely and some have written in and volunteered as solicitors, many thanks to them. I have received

sixty subscriptions to "Mother's Home Life," and seven to the Gem, and by the last of next week no doubt the list will have grown to one or two hundred.

One of my churches has volunteered to try to get one hundred subs. Now if ten churches will do that we will have the required list. Our people in this section of the work are greatly elated over our opportunity and are taking an active part.

I sent in several names as solicitors and am wondering if the company has sent them sample copies. Those of you whom I have notified, if you have not received a sample copy, please notify me at once.

Now brethren, let us move this right along, and victory is ours. Do not delay. I want all the solicitors I can get, the more the better.

Yours for the cause,
Eld. W. H. York.

—o—

Earlsboro, Okla., May 18, 1931.

Dear Gem Family: We wish to report the Purdy meeting and tell of our trip to Oklahoma.

The meeting in Purdy was real good, and meant much to the church members there, more than it did to the world. We only had 19 saved and reclaimed together, but the last week of the meeting was the best. We had early prayer meetings at 6 o'clock with good attendance, and splendid children's meetings. The revival was held in the M. E. church. These dear people are big hearted and treated us well. Bro. and Sister Fitch, the pastor and his wife, were splendid people to work with. We will never forget them. Then the good people from the Baptist and Christian churches lined up and helped too. Their homes were also open to us. Our first two weeks were spent in the home of Bro. and Sister Ed Beeler, two young people who were saved in a meet-

ing Bro. Davis held at Purdy last spring, but on account of them having boarders, we moved to Bro. and Sister Browns, our beloved editor, where we spent the remainder of the time. We also were in many homes which were opened to us.

After closing at Purdy, we went to Blue Eye for one night, and Oh, such a crowd that was present to hear the Gospel. Bro. Davis has a real church at Blue Eye. We had a glorious service and met so many nice people, our only regret was that we couldn't stay longer.

From Blue Eye we came back to our dear old Macedonia church for one more service, where we met a number of the dear hearts we had worked hard with during the snow and rain of the winter. Another good service and we said good bye to them, and started the next day for Oklahoma, accompanied by one of the dear saints of God that had been good to us during the Purdy meeting, grand Mother Hammock, as we all call her, came along with us to visit her son in Okla. We spent our first night in Muskogee with Mr. McAdams' sister. Had a precious visit there, as she and her dear husband are both Christians.

Saturday morning we started for Drumright, where we found a happy band waiting for us. We missed seeing the dear pastor Bro. A. B. Talbert, as he was in Ark. with his father who is sick. But Sister Newman is a live, brave soldier of the cross, and she is doing her best in Bro. Talbert's absence. We had three glorious services and, Oh, such crowds! Nine precious souls were saved Sunday and Sunday night, five men and four women. A real revival was on Sunday all day. God bless the dear ones at Drumright. We look for a great revival there in the near future.

We came on to Earlsboro Monday, and last week was spent in

getting the tabernacle ready for the revival. Yesterday morning we were gladly surprised to have Bros. Bingham and Staires from Tulsa drive up to be with us for the day. Yesterday was a solemn, blessed day. In the morning Mr. McAdams preached the dedication sermon of the new church, and the blessed Holy Spirit accompanied the message, reminding all that God was in the erecting of the Free Will Baptist Church at Earlsboro, also the dedication of the same. Bro. Bingham was invited to fill the stand at night but wouldn't promise until he had prayer over the matter. But that night while Bro. Bingham was preaching, you could tell that God had laid the message on his heart. It was the first communion service in the new church, and the message was wonderful for the occasion. God bless Bro. Bingham and his noble work in Tulsa, is our prayer.

Pray for us here, that God will give a great harvest of souls.

Yours for Jesus,
H. M. and Lizzie McAdams.

—o—

St. Francois Co. Q. M. Report

Dear Editor: If you will allow us the space in our Gem, we wish to be numbered once more with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are still fighting the battle for our blessed Master.

We have just closed our quarterly Conference and surely had a fine time. God being in the midst, did bless in the service.

We, as the St. Francois County Quarterly Conference, have set aside the third Sunday in May and the third Sunday in June, at eleven o'clock a. m., a one hour prayer service, to pray for the unemployed, and for the betterment of our country, and the salvation of lost souls. We cordially invite all Free Will Baptist, and others to join with us in this service. Let's all be faithful and prayerful, and pray that God, in His wisdom and power will see fit to touch the hearts of men, that labor might be helped, that humanity might not suffer, and that God may check the power of Satan that is causing so much distress, and that the lost might be saved.

May God bless all is my prayer.

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Chas Huey, Q. M. Clerk
Flat River, Mo.

Okmulgee, Okla., May 22, 1931

To the Gem: Greetings in Jesus: I have just closed a meeting that was unusual for the time in which we are living.

I was on a visit in Maumee, Ark. and preached seven nights. The Spirit of the Lord was with us and we had one of the best meetings I have experienced for many years. We had 22 converted and 15 baptized in water. Am sorry that there is no one to feed the little flock, but am praying that the Lord will send some good preacher that has the Spirit of love and a burden for lost souls in his heart, there to feed and take care of them. I want the children God who read this to pray that God will keep and prosper that little flock of God's children.

Yours in the service, of God,
Rev. J. E. Phillips, R4, B145.

Brentwood, California

Dear Editor and Gem Readers:

I will send in my testimony: I moved to California March 18, 1930. They all said, "If you go out there, you will go back on the Lord," but I said, "No, I am taking the Lord with me, and I am for Him always." When I first got here and wanted to talk about the Lord and His goodness, they made fun of me. I went to the Methodist church a few times, but it was so dry and so still, the Lord never knew such a place. I just began to pray for the Lord to send some one this way to help in His work. I never failed each day to ask Him to send some one. The first one was a Missionary Baptist preacher that came and preached a little that helped some, but I didn't feel like the Lord had given me an answer, so I just prayed more for the Lord to send some one to start work; so in March He sent us a bunch of Christians, part Nazarenes and part Pentecost, and they were ready to work for the Lord. I just invited them into my house to have services. Yes, and we did have some services. The Lord blessed and we had preaching every Saturday

night, Sunday at 11, and Sunday night in my house, and the first Monday in April we organized a Sunday school and had it every Sunday in my house, and the first week is May I began to beg for an arbor, the crowd was so large the dwelling house wouldn't hold them. The Sunday school average is about 50, and good interest. A lady preached for us Sunday evening and the Lord sure did bless. Oh, how we felt His power!

I was afflicted with rheumatism and I had the saints to lay hands on and pray for the Lord to heal me. I hadn't walked for three days, and I was healed at once, never hurt me again. I praise God for His healing power. When I think how good He has been to me, I can't keep from praising Him. He answers my prayers every day, and I am praying for a revival at the little arbor, and I want you all to pray for us, that we may do what the Lord wants us to do. There are some Christians here that got back so far they are rusty like an old plow that has laid in the ground all winter. You farmers know how they look, what would have to be done to them before they will work? I think they need to be cleaned up and consecrated so they will work for the Lord.

Thursday night is our prayer meeting, so you all come over and help us.

We have just received a letter from Bro. Frank Purser at Non, Okla., asking about Bro. Elzia Yandell, where he is. I was told that he had gone back to Redoak, Okla. I haven't heard from them since last October. I just pray that the Lord will bless at Non this year, and I aim to pray that the Lord will send us Bro. McKee some time this summer to preach for us some. The people like to hear a real man of God, who has power, why won't a real Gospel preacher come this way? I often think, like Elijah of old, that they have all gone back on the Lord, but we hear Him say, "I have 4000 over in Mo. that have not bowed the knee to Baal." I thank the Lord for that, and just wish

Sister Lizzie McAdams would take a little airplane trip and light one mile north of Brentwood, and stay a month; I believe she could do a great work here for the Lord. There are many plunging into hell each day, let us try to rescue some of them.

I will close for this time.

Your sister in Christ, one that loves the Lord.

Mrs. E. R. Heyne.

Kirkville, Mo., May 11, 1931.

Since I last reported to the Gem I have been holding meetings among the churches of the Northeast Missouri Association of Free Will Baptist. We have had real bad weather and bad roads, and lots of sickness and deaths. Since I have been up here this spring we have had storms of rain and snow and sleet, and a great deal of the time, the roads were so bad that one could hardly get anywhere, but in spite of all these hinderances we have had several good meetings, and souls have been saved, and baptized, and united with the churches. A few days ago Eld. Geo. Miller had a fine baptizing of young converts at our Hazel Creek Union church as a result of meetings I held there. There are others yet to be baptized at other churches where I have held meetings. Eld. Geo. Miller is the faithful pastor of our Hazel Creek Union church, and of the churches at Stahl, Shibleys Point, and at Bethel, yet many of our churches up here have no pastors, and some of them have fine church houses to worship in.

I went and preached a few nights in our Martinstown church. The F. W. B. have a fine church here, but no pastor. We got some officers elected for the church, and a prayer meeting started, and we expect them to start a Sunday school soon.

I preached some at our Jewel church. This church also has

a fine church house, but no pastor. This church was named after my daughter Jewel. In the spring months it is hard to hold a revival meeting in this part of the country, when the farmers are rushed with their work from day light until dark. The people will only stand for a few nights meeting at each place.

Eld. George Miller's address is now Sublett, Adair Co., Mo.

T. C. Ferguson, Evangelist.

Mt. Grove, Mo., May 4, 1931

Just a few lines to our paper to let you know that I am not dead yet, though I haven't much news to write.

I am trying to pastor three churches at present.

Our church at Springfield, Mo. sold out and disbanded.

Our church at Mtn. Grove is getting along fine; almost out of debt and enjoying salvation, but I don't want you to think it is because I am pastor, for G. W. Scott, Sr., L. J. Gearing and Ocia Allen a young preacher, but a real live wire, all belong to the church and preach there, and are doing as much good as I am, and possibly more. I am proud of our young ministers and old ones as well, but we have some young preachers in our Association that any church would do well to call as pastor.

G. W. Scott, Sr. went to Cedar County with Bro. Lester Branstetter to a church he had pastored for about three years and, after he quit, it didn't have any pastor for some time; so they called Bro. Branstetter and I am sure he will make good, knowing him as I do. I know he has the cause of Christ at heart.

I have been in some good meetings since I met with you brethren at the State Association, but I am somewhat of a back number. I still believe that a sinner has to be converted by the Holy Ghost and pray his way through to sal-

vation. I have been made to weep and wonder to see and hear the way some folk instruct poor unsaved ones. They just say, "Now don't you love the Lord?" and get them to say that they do; "That's all you need." That is why so many people can't quit swearing and drinking; just can't possibly quit playing cards; and when the preacher says anything against such things, they are ready to quit. They need a real experience with God, and the one that told them to just confess, needs as much as they do. I may not have many conversions to my credit, but I would rather have one soul born into the kingdom of God than to have a thousand that didn't know God.

May the good Lord bless all who may see this and read it, is my prayer.

Yours for the Master,

G. W. Scott, Jr.

Chips from Sermons

By Eld. T. C. Ferguson

You are strong and well, that's fine.

You hope to remain so, that's natural.

You may be disappointed, that's possible.

You will die, that's sure.

You had better start to get ready, that's wisdom.

You want to start right, that's proper.

You don't know the way, then read St. John 3:7.

If you don't know anything, make a big noise. If you know something, you don't have to.

Why does a dog chew on a bone? Because he can't swallow it. That's why some people chew on good Gospel sermons; because they can't swallow them.

To receive is selfish; to give is divine.

Prayer is the soul of man in communion with God.

FREE WILL BAPTIST LEAGUE

John Swaffar, Reporter
Purdy, Missouri

Dear Leaguers: I have been quiet for some time and, as I've been busy with other things and could not attend league, I've had no report, but I've had the privilege of visiting different leagues the past three weeks, and am even prouder than ever of the league, of its work, and most of all, for what it will do and is doing in the lives and experience of those who are striving to know more about Jesus, and about His Word, that they may be able to follow Him more closely in every day life, and qualify themselves for a life of service. And Oh, how it behooves each member everywhere to be up and doing, improving the time, grasping the opportunities of the present, doing and getting good that in the past we have passed idly by.

Dear fellow workers, we who have the privilege of attending league and know about its benefits: have we considered those who are deprived of the privilege or have no league, but read each report are eager to know more of what our good lessons contain? I know of Free Will Baptist churches that have no league, but have asked me many questions, and are watching for each report.

Dear correspondents, you can't realize what, and how much good your report may do; so let me admonish each correspondent, as a brother in the cause, to never let an issue of the Gem pass without your report in it. Let's make it as service unto the Lord and His cause—let's let others know what the good points are in our lessons, what does us most good, what our lessons are about and what they teach.

Dear Leaguers, let me ask you to send in your report the first week of each month, that I may have more time to put it into the

report for, as at present we are detaining Bro. Brown about the paper when the reports are a little late. Please help me, as I must have the report to put in the paper and the paper must have it to make it complete.

Johannie Swaffar, Reporter.

—o—
Purdy, Missouri

Would like to say a few words of encouragement to the Leagues. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for us young people to develop ourselves for a greater work for the Master. It is just wonderful to see the junior leaguers recite their topics and to see such great interest manifested. It does me so much good to see the little folks take such interest in this kind of work. As the times are now, of a day and age that the majority are thinking of something that is not in this line of work—not only the younger, but the older ones as well.

I would like to say something that might help someone to see the great opportunities that are offered us to do something for our Savior. The lessons are interesting and helpful in our every day life. Our lives will count, Oh, so much more for our Savior, if we begin when young. Then we have a whole life to live for Him, and, though we do something every day of our lives for Him, we can never repay Him for what He has done for us. So let us try to live up to the "League Motto," and see the great change that will make.

Would like to say, too, that I sure enjoy reading the reports of all the leagues, so don't forget to send in your report each month.

I have not had the privilege of attending league as would like to, but I am praying that this good you have begun will continue to prosper and be of benefit to all who attend and to every community. —Hazel Robberson.

STELLA, Mo., May 18, 1931.

Dear Bro. Swaffar: Noel has asked me to send you the names of those on the honor roll of our League (Jones Chapel). They are:

Seniors—

Bessie Campbell, Otha Campbell,
Cecil Campbell, Jewell Lewis,

Mrs. Mae Lewis,

Mrs. Mildred Ferbrache,

Mrs. Jennie Eaton.

Juniors—

Kenneth Lewis, Doris Turner,
Russell Ferbrache, Wilma Eaton,
Donald Campbell.

Will try to send a report for next issue.

Otha Campbell.

Report of the Macedonia League

How quick the months roll around! It seems but a few days since I wrote concerning the League (a month ago). I just wish we all could realize that, as fast as time is going by, just that swift are we nearing the end of a time, when our work on earth will be done. And have we, as individuals, done our part in putting God's work forward? As Leaguers, let us examine ourselves and see if we can put in more and better efforts in our league to make it better and more efficient for God. Let's not be slothful. Let me give you some Scripture on slothfulness: Read Prov. 18:9; Rom. 12:10, 11; Heb. 6:12. Instead of being slothful let's be up and about our Father's business.

Some may say, "You can't find recorded in the Bible where we should have leagues." We can find where Paul speaks of organizations in his letters; he was writing to an organized people, who were working for God, and we can find where it speaks of government. There can't be government without there is an organization. I believe we can produce evidence enough to prove that we have just as much right to carry on our league work as

we have to carry on a Sunday S. and no one is going to down our Sunday school.

I do want to see the cause of Christ prosper, and the young people can do a great part to help. Let's start in with a stronger determination and a greater zeal to go over the top for God.

Kenneth Turner.

Blue Eye League Report

We are truly glad that we can say that our League is growing and improving.

We have one new member since our last report: Ona Johnson. We welcome her into our league as a member.

We are thankful for all the young people who take their parts as league members; also for the older ones who help us.

There is one thing we are not satisfied with, and that is, we would rather bring more and more into the work and the service of our Lord. If we are true Christians, this work will never fail.

As I come to a close of my report, I ask the prayers of you all, as praying people, to pray for our league and every league; as we know that all help comes from our Savior through prayer.

Darline Yochum, Sec'y.

DISCUSSION

This write up, and one more, then we have given the readers a brief report of the Discussion.

When Eld. Black took the affirmative, he affirmed that the Church of Christ was established at Pentecost in A. D. 33; and that baptism was a condition of getting into the church. Mr. Black quoted several Scriptures from the Old Testament, referring to things that were later fulfilled, but never could he read where the church was established at the late date of A. D. 33, which would have been four thousand years too late to contain all the redeemed.

I asked Eld. Black if baptism was a condition of entering the church or kingdom, how were the prophets saved? He said they were in a safe condition by the offering of the blood of beasts, but he would not admit that they went on to their heavenly home. But I quoted where Enoch was taken, and Elijah was taken from

earth, and went into heaven. Abraham was in heaven and Lazarus in his bosom. All this was before Pentecost, and none of them could have lived to get into the church at Pentecost. I admitted that there was a church at Pentecost, but there was nothing said about the establishment of a church at Pentecost; not one word said that would intimate that the Church of God had its origin at that date. Campbellism teaches that there is or was no remission of sins until the blood of Christ was shed. If that be true, there was no one saved until the blood was shed, and we know that those old prophets went home to glory, and they could not do that without remission of their sins. Hear Paul. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:4).

Eld. Black affirmed that water baptism was the door into the church or kingdom, and that was opened at Pentecost. It is a certain fact that, if the door of the church was not opened until Pentecost, the people who lived and died before were not in the church, so I will let the readers judge for themselves, whether men can be saved out of the church, I mean the Church of God. There are people saved outside of the human made churches, but we must be a member of the body of Christ, if we are saved.

I asked Eld. Black who he baptized, a child of God or a child of the devil? He was fair, he said he baptized a child of the devil. Then I asked him if he could take a goat and make a sheep out of it? I received no answer, but if he had answered me, he would have had to say, "Yes, according to my doctrine." Eld. Black is said to be one among the biggest debaters the Campbellites have, and I was glad to meet him.

I wish for the readers to know the doctrine of Campbellism. I said to Eld. Black, "You can't touch Pentecost, your church had its origin with Thomas and Alexander Campbell in 1827. Here is where the doctrine of Campbellism began. Then men hold up that human made creed, that teaches water baptism for remission of sins, and condemn all who do not believe as they do. I asked Eld. Black what it took to be

a legal administrator for water baptism. He knew that, if he said, "A man who has been baptized for remission of sins," I would ask him who baptized Thomas Campbell; so he said it didn't take any qualification to administer baptism. "Well," I said, "Why then, can't I administer water baptism?" No, he wouldn't have it that way at all. Thomas Campbell baptized Alexander Campbell, his son, and no Campbellite can go further back than that date of 1827 for Campbellism.

We had some fun along with the discussion. Mr. Black said that what we call religion is excitement, then he told of two boys who were walking the railroad, when they became tired and thought they would lie down and rest, so they went to sleep, and in the night a train came along. It awoke the boys, and one of them, hearing the train and seeing the light, said, "Oh my, they are moving hell." That was the way Mr. Black had to make fun of religion, but when I answered him on that, I told the people that was a trainload of Campbellite preachers hunting a hole of water. Eld. Black liked to quote Acts 2:38 until I took that Scripture and showed the people that Acts 2:38 was applied to the murderers of Jesus Christ, and to no one else.

In Luke 7:30 we read, "But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves; being not baptized of him." John was doing the baptizing, the Pharisees and lawyers would not have Him. They rejected the counsel that God gave, and when Christ offered them life, they rejected Him, and said, "Away with Him, let Him be crucified." Then when the time came for the Gospel to be preached by the apostles at Pentecost, the apostle Peter was the preacher, the Jews were the hearers. Note that this preaching was addressed to the house of Israel; "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). We learn from this scripture that the house of Israel was the guilty party, they were the murderers

of Christ, and so when the Spirit reproved them of sin, as Jesus said, "He would do, they said, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Listen to the answer of the apostle, 'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost' (Acts 2:38). Note that this was said to the murderers of Jesus Christ, and to no one else. The little word 'for' means because of and on the account of, so the first thing for them to do was to repent, second to be baptized, and third to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. The reason they were commanded to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, they must own up to what they had denied, by being baptized in His name. I asked Eld. Black if he baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, or in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost? I also said, 'Eld. Black, if you don't baptize in the name of Jesus Christ, you quit quoting Acts 2:38. If Acts 2:38 applies to this age, baptism should be in the name of Jesus Christ, and not in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ceased with the Jews. After Jesus arose from the dead, He gave the broad commission to go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo I am with you allway, even unto the end of the world' (Matt. 28:19-20). This is the last command, how and what name to baptize in. Campbellites always quote Acts 2:38, but they never baptize in the name of Jesus Christ only. I once heard of a class of Campbellites that baptized only in the name of Jesus Christ, but all I have met always refer to Acts 2:38, and then won't baptize in that name only. There isn't any use of us preachers trying to make anything else out of Acts 2:38 but water baptism; it is water baptism. I have heard some say that we didn't know what baptism this is, but I can't be honest and call it anything but water baptism. The same

apostle preached to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius: "While Peter yet spake the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44). We see that the Holy Ghost fell on these Gentiles before anything was said about water baptism, but not so with the Jews; they were to get the gift of the Spirit after they were baptized. Why was it they were commanded to be baptized for remission of sins? Because they stood among that mob that said, "Away with him, away with him, let him be crucified! Let his blood be on us and our children!" They had denounced John the Baptist; they had refused to accept the only begotten Son of God; they had killed the Prince of life, and for that they must now repent, and act upon that command to be baptized, and then receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. God withheld the Spirit until they publicly acknowledged to all these things, and then being baptized in His name. The apostle added more when he preached to the Jews at Pentecost; he said, "The promise is unto you and to your children, and to all them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord thy God shall call." The promise came to the Jews first. "He came unto his own and his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to all them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12). The Jews received the gift of the Holy Ghost after baptism, the Gentiles received the gift before baptism. See Acts 2:38; 10:47-48.

If water baptism is for remission of sins, then sins are not remitted unless men are baptized. Then think, dear readers, how many people are lost because they could not be baptized. God pity the people who think that men must be baptized for remission of sins, or go to hell. That poor man on the cross, when he saw he must die, no chance to be baptized, no chance to become a member of any church, but must soon go to hell, or to heaven. He knew that Jesus had power to save, and said, "Lord, remember me when thou cometh into thy kingdom." And Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:42-43). Where is paradise?

Read 2 Cor. 12:4. This man went on to glory without water baptism. Next we will notice what water baptism is for. "For Christ also suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit; by which he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:18-21). Note that Noah was saved by water, not in water. Noah was a saved man before the flood, and he was saved by obedience. What was he saved from? From the deluge of water. He was a saved man, and a preacher of righteousness before the flood. Now the like figure, doth baptism save us, after we are saved? after we are made righteous? then to keep saved, we should obey that commandment, not to put away the filth of the flesh, but to answer a good conscience, that we got when we were saved. Water baptism represents a burial and a resurrection, not a death, burial and resurrection; we die out to sin when we are converted. It takes three things to constitute baptism: An administrator, an element, and subjects, and baptism always takes its name after the element. John baptized in water; John was administrator, the water was the element, and those who were baptized were the subjects. In Mark 1:4 we read, "John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for remission of sins." We know that John was a baptist and baptized with, or in water, and he preached the baptism of repentance; so if the baptism of repentance remits sins, that settles the question; it is no water baptism that remits sins, but the baptism of repentance does remit sins.

"Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death," not into the creek, "like

as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so also we should walk in newness of life." There is no water in this baptism; this is the baptism of repentance. Men arise to walk in newness of life, when they die out to sin; and note that in this baptism spoken of in Rom. 6:3-4 we are raised like as Christ was raised by the glory of the Father, and not by the hand of man. "Raised to walk in newness of life." "By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13). In the baptism of repentance, the Spirit is the administrator, repentance is the element, and those who repent are the subjects. Not by the order of the Spirit are we baptized into one body, as the Campbellites would have us believe, but by the Spirit are we "all baptized into one body," and that body is the church; so says the apostle Paul (Col. 1:16).

Watch for the next write up. Thomas H. Dixon, Gravelly, Ark.

PHENIX, MO.

To the Readers of the Gem: I am interested in the discussion between Eld. T. H. Dixon and Eld. Black. I have heard Eld. Black in debate, and there are many things that he presents that I don't see as he does; and from the fact that I have always considered myself rather strong on the doctrines of the General Baptist, and consequently in harmony with the Free Will Baptist, and have never favored the doctrine that Eld. Black stands for, yet in fairness to all men, I want to accept the truth presented by any man. I don't want to butt into this discussion nor be considered impertinent, but I think the logical conclusions of Elder Dixon are not such that I can accept them without question; so here are a few questions I wish to ask Bro. Dixon for information:

If I understand his position, he believes that the church has ex-

isted from the days of Abel; that it includes all the saved, and don't include the unsaved; that the kingdom and the church are the same thing; that to be in the kingdom is to be in the church and to be in the church is to be saved. Now I am not out of line with all of this, but did the Jewish church include all the saved, and were all in the church saved? I suppose Bro. Dixon believes the infant and idiot are saved; are they in the kingdom and in the church? If so, have they been baptized into that one body which is the church? Did the kingdom exist prior to the time of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 2:4)? If so, in the reign of what kings was it set up?

I would be glad to have an answer through the Gem.

Eld. R. F. Haskins.

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OBITUARY

Wormington—Ruby Erma Stansbury, daughter of S. B. and Iva Stansbury was born near Purdy, Mo., May 27, 1906.

She was married to Nevil Wormington September 30, 1923. To this union two children were born, Margaret, and an infant who died Nov. 29, 1926. Ruby departed this life May 4, 1931, at 24 years, 11 months and 7 days of age.

She was converted at Mt. Joy church when about 14 years old. She was a good Christian wife and mother, and loved by all who knew her.

Everything was done to restore her back to health, but all failed.

She leaves to mourn her departure: husband, daughter Margaret, father, mother, two sisters, Mrs. Gerald G. Richter of Chicago, Ill. and Mrs. Homer Selvidge of Purdy, grandmother, Mrs. Alice Davis, Wheaton, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Wormington where she has made her home for the past five years, and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Eld. Winford Davis, at New Salem Methodist church, and interment was made in the New Site Cemetery, southwest of Mo. nett, Blankenship Undertaking Company of Purdy in charge.

The Choice of a Life Time

(Continued from page 2)

in the camp. The hand of God was writing on the wall: "Sarah is Abraham's wife." Pharaoh then rebuked Abraham and sent him with his wife, and all he had, from Pharaoh's house (Gen. 12:17-20). And the Lord God took hold of Abraham and led him back to the altar made unto God at Bethel and there, the Scriptures say, "He called on the name of the Lord." Abraham had sinned, but God was merciful; He loved him and had compassion on him. Abraham was willing to go back to the altar and make right with God; for he was a true servant of the Lord, and there appeared unto him one like unto the Son of God, made after the order of the high priest, Melchisedec.

Going yonder up the hillside is the tear-stained face of Abraham when he obeyed the voice of God, to place upon the altar his only son, Isaac. It was through Abraham that all nations should be blessed. The great power of God which was concealed in the covenant (the ark of the covenant) was given to Abraham by promise, four hundred and thirty years before the Law of Moses was given. One section of the race had been blotted out, but the devil was roaring in the earth because he knew Abraham was to be a great blessing to all nations. The blotting out of the human race (by the flood) was working forward with sin multiplying, towards a blotting out, with fire and brimstone (Gen. 19:23-25).

If we are sensible we will study the specific sins of Noah's day, and Lot's day in Sodom, that drew the water and the fire which blotted them out. Sin had mounted to such heights and sank to such depths that God had to blot out the race and start things anew. Those who made a wrong choice were always destroyed; those who

made a right choice were always blessed with many blessings of God's protection and love.

Which will be your choice, dear reader, the right or the wrong? The day of judgment is near, the end of time is not far off; today is the day of salvation, tomorrow may be too late, may never be. A spirit of preparation pervades every scope of life at present; will you have made the right choice when Jesus comes? Are you ready to meet God? Have you made the right choice? See 2 Cor. 4:18, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." What choice have you made? Are your eyes on the world with its pleasures and possessions, or are your eyes on heavenly things, the glories of a home for the redeemed, and the Savior's smile? If you make a worldly choice, "The wages of sin is death," but if you make a heavenly choice "The gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." It will mean much to be a true servant of Christ, in that day when He comes. Make your choice now, the harvest fields of God are white unto harvest, but the reapers are few. God wants you, He needs you; Jesus gave His blood to redeem you, "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price." Give Him your time, your talent, your bodies "a living sacrifice," your all, and be ready when Jesus comes to catch away His bride. Will you have on the bridal robe, waiting, watching, when He shall come? Decide now!

DOUBTING

By Miss Stella Stark

Doubting God and His word is a habit imposed by the devil, and the longer it is indulged in the stronger becomes its binding power. So many people are contin-

ually doubting God and, to some, doubting becomes almost a second nature.

Possibly the worst phase of doubting is doubting what God has done for the soul. If Satan can succeed in getting a person to doubt that God has saved his soul or has power to save, he has gained a great headway.

A great many people will go to the altar and doubt before they go there that God can save them. Some of them will say, "Yes, I know that I should become a Christian, but I'm afraid I can't keep saved," therefore doubting God's power to save. Listen dear reader, if you are unsaved, and a doubter, there is deliverance for you if you will accept God's way. Settle it that God is true and that He loves you with an everlasting love and, though you have failed many times, God loves you still. Your doubting, unbelief and failures will not make God unfaithful. Meet the conditions of God's word as best you can, implore the help of God and resisting Satan, set your face heavenward, determined to conquer or die and Satan, doubts and fears will get behind you. Take Jesus by faith and not by sight, believe where you cannot see nor feel. Your fight may be feeble for awhile, but put your trust completely in Jesus and you will soon be able to vanquish every foe and stand on the banks of sweet deliverance and sing the victor's song. Never be discouraged; all discouragements are of the devil and should be resisted. Use your reason and strengthen your conscience, read the Bible and obey it despite all your feelings to the contrary. After you have once gained a victory over Satan you will be much stronger.

There are two things you must rely on, trust in, cling to. These are: The word of God and your God-given reason or judgment. Feelings will deceive you, doubts will assail you and past experiences fail you, but the unchanging word of God and your better judgment are way marks on the road to peace.

High Points in the Parable of the Prodigal Son

By Eld. Winford Davis

Luke 15th Chapter

1. Tired of Home:—Verses twelve and thirteen. A thot that will invariably, if yielded to, lead young folks to destruction.

2. Getting Down to poverty and want:—Verses fourteen to sixteen. Never will we get right with God, until we come to feel our need and dependence. Plenty damns thousands of souls.

3. A Coming to his Right Mind:—Verse seventeen. He was not the boy the dear old father had known and loved at home. He was not himself as the other brother and the servants had known him. To be saved, there must be a stopping and thinking, a due consideration. Many folks would be saved, could they be induced to stop and be serious.

4. The Exercising of the Will Power:—Verse eighteen. Never will a soul be saved, until use is made of the power God has given us all as free moral agents. There must be the resolution "I will," and the putting into action of the same. The Father compels no man to return to Him.

5. The Spirit of Confession:—There must be the confessing out to God and sometimes to man. There must be the surrender, the giving up. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." First John 1:9.

6. Realization of Weakness: Belief in the Father's strength:—Verse nineteen. Man's extremity is God's opportunity. This boy realized his weakness; also his fathers ability to make him a servant.

7. The Effort really put forth:—Verse twenty. Premeditations and thots are now actually put into action. A sinner might think about getting saved a lifetime, and meditate on it ever so

much, and then die without God for the lack of moving or acting.

8. Showing of the Father's love:—Verse twenty. God loves the vilest sinner. The saving of the soul is not something we have to beg and persuade the Lord for, to get Him in the notion to do; He is standing ready. The thing the sinner must do is not beg him, but submit to him.

9. The Confession actually made; the giving up really done:—Verse twenty-one. He left all his hogs and harlots behind. If he had brought the hogs to root up the yard, the harlots to occupy the house, the father would never have received him. In coming to Christ, we must come out of sin.

10. The blessings of the father bestowed:—Verses 22-24. Inexplainable are the blessings awaiting those who will turn their backs upon sin, and make a full surrender to God.

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"Praise Ye the Lord"

By Kenneth Turner

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord" Psalm 117.

Folks, do we praise the Lord as we should? I'm afraid too many of us never stop to think that the Lord placed us here on this earth to glorify and praise him. David surely realized what it meant to praise God, for he was a man of God and had had experience with Him. David, in this chapter, is urging us to praise the Lord. People this day and time are robbing God of glory and praise. I was once talking with a man who went so far as to say that God had nothing to do with the creation. He said there was no God. But in answering the next question I asked him to acknowledge that there was a higher power. I asked, "What causes the seed to germinate, sprout and grow into a plant after its own

kind?" He said, "Oh, that's just nature." Common sense teaches us that God controls nature, but there are so many people who will not give Him credit and honor for it. They had rather praise self, or some one to whom God has given wisdom, knowledge and ability to accomplish some great work, for instance Edison. We all admit that his inventions have been a great help to the human family. But, folks, let's stop and see who made it possible for him to succeed in this work. God did, and we can prove it. First, God created man, from whom Edison was a descendant. "So God created man in his own image" Gen. 1:27. Second, *Wisdom* belongs to God. "For the Lord giveth wisdom" Proverbs 2:6. Therefore, without God the great works of this man could never have been accomplished.

But we know that Edison never believed in God, (until lately). He praised himself for his work. Even the people say, "Edison is a wonder. *He did this and that*" They never give God the praise.

Let's stop praising man, and praise God "from whom all blessings flow."

Tithing

By Elder Noel Turner

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts; if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"—(Malachi 3:10).

Read also Luke 7:30-38 and 21:1-4. Then read Acts 20:35.

Here is a promise to us, with a challenge to prove it. God says, "Prove me," or try me, see whether or not I'll keep my promise. We are always ready to accept the natural challenge, but hesitate to accept the spiritual, where real bravery and courage is needed.

Just any careless, reckless person can accept the challenge of the temporal, but it takes real heroes to accept the spiritual.

Some say that tithing was just for those Israelites that Moses led out of Egypt, and not for the people of today. We know that God told the people to give one-tenth then, and if it was good for them, it is still good for us. In 1st Cor. 16:1-2 we are told to have system in giving, and what better plan can we find than that of tithing.

The Israelites that Moses led out of Egypt were not the first to practice tithing, for in Genesis 14:20 we find Abraham gave thithes of all. Genesis 28:22 tells us that Jacob practiced tithing. Now we see that it was not just for a few people under the leadership of Moses who were to tithe, but for every one of God's children, great or small, rich or poor. If we have one dollar, we can lay aside ten cents for the Lord's work, and if we have one hundred dollars we can give God ten dollars and He has promised to prosper our way and bless us abundantly, not only spiritually, but financially also.

People go around crying, "hard times," financial depression, panic" etc., wondering "what to do," and "What will become of us," and some of them blaming God for it all, when it is their own fault. God says in Mal. 3:11 that He "will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field," if we will give him his part.

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and the first fruits of thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and thy presses burst out with new wine."—Proverbs 3:9. What could be plainer? Here God tells us again that He will bless, if we will honor him with our substance. There will always be plenty for us, if we do as He tells us. We are just stewards here, using God's property and His

blessings for our own selfishness. Everything we have in our possession belongs to God, our farms, grain, live-stock, money, implements, and even our own lives were given to us by God. The plant food, sunshine, air, rain, all these God gives us, yet we use them for our own selves, never thanking Him for them, nor paying Him the part we owe to Him. We can place the seeds in the ground and pour water on them, but God gives the increase. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."—Haggai 2:8.

People of today place money in the bank in care of the bankers, trusting them to keep it safely for them. But, if the banker uses that money or the trust funds, for his own personal use he is guilty of embezzlement, and the people become indignant and send him to jail or to the penitentiary, because of his unjustness to man. Yet these same people are guilty of the same thing before God. They use all his blessings for their own selfish purposes, never *recognizing* God, only *using* Him.

God has given us all we have, even the breath we breathe, health, wisdom and strength. "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth."—Deut. 8:18. Men are robbing God every day in tithes and offerings.

When we know God wants us to prosper, and wants to bless us, why won't we let him? He is anxious to pour out his blessings upon us, both spiritual and temporal, if we will only let Him. Let us, as God's people, not complain of conditions until we have done all that He requires of us, then we will have nothing to complain about.

If we will conscientiously give one-tenth of our increase, we will be blessed, and our churches will be better, our nation will be better and the world will be better. The cause of Christ will be advanced and lost souls will be brought to Jesus. Our church houses would

never be in a dilapidated condition; the pastor would always be paid and the poor would always be taken care of. No one would be compelled to give more than their part. That which just a few in each church have to do now, would be taken care of without being a burden to any one, and our Lord would be called "blessed." The frost wouldn't get the fruit nor berries, for God has said that the vines would not cast their fruit before their season. (Mal. 8:11)

Can't we give unto God the things that are his? He gave to us more than we can ever pay back, even though we give all. He gave Jesus, and Jesus gave his life. (John 3:16). He has given us all we have, and has promised to be with us to the end and give us a home in heaven if we are faithful. Let's remember Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Believing the Scriptures

By Elder O. T. Allred

Will take for a subject from which to write St. John 5:39. I choose this special Scripture because I believe it is more often misapplied by many preachers than most any Scriptures.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Since childhood, I have heard this Scripture given as a consolation to believers. For many years I tried to look at it in this light, yet testifying of something that "*ye think ye have*," didn't seem to harmonize with the doctrine of "*know so*" salvation which I believe in with all my heart. Recently I have seen the light on this Scripture which shows it was spoken as a rebuke to the Jews who were disbelieving in Jesus and His teaching. If you will read a few verses preceding this thirty-ninth verse, you will see that Jesus called the attention of these people to the fact that many had believed the

teachings of John. Jesus said John was a burning and a shining light and that these people were willing, for a season, to walk in that light, but that he (Jesus) had a greater witness, even the works that He did bare witness that the Father had sent him.

He tells them in verse thirty-eight that they had not his words abiding in them, for whom he (God) had sent, Him ye believe not. Then Jesus said, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life." These Jews thought by keeping the letter of the law, they had eternal life—altogether different from *knowing* that we have passed from death unto life.

Now may we get the *real meaning* of this Scripture. It was not these Jews that thought they had eternal life, but the Scriptures that Jesus asked them to *search* that *testify* of Him.

Many are trying to entertain a hope of eternal life in this day by belonging to some church, or doing some other good deed, but leaving *Christ* out of their lives. Do you think such people are testifying of the Christ? No! but, thank God, the *Scriptures* are still testifying of him and his power to *save*. So are those who have been redeemed by his blood.

Obituary

Dear Gem Readers:—I am sending an obituary of one of the oldest ministers we have left in our Association, (Northeast Mo.)—Chas A Phillips

McFarland—William Dennis McFarland was born in Putman, Co., Mo., May 15, 1853 and departed this life May 13, 1931 at the age of seventy-seven years, eleven months and twenty-eight days.

He was united in marriage to Susan Richmond in 1875. To this union was born eleven children, three having preceded him in death and eight surviving him.

Those surviving him are: Jim McFarland, Mrs. Fred Vincent, Mrs. Orville Numan, Mrs. Noah Shipley, Mrs. George Roland, all of Livonia, Missouri also Jess McFarland and Mrs. Fred Sparks of Centerville Iowa. Those preceding him in death were Noah, Charles and Viola.

Besides his wife and children, Bro. McFarland leaves to mourn his departure, thirty-four grand children, fourteen great grand children and a host of relatives and friends. He was the last one of the old family to leave this world, as his father, mother, four sisters and four brothers have preceded him in death. He was widely known, having preached the Gospel for the past forty-seven years. During his ministerial years he has married eighty-nine couples, his first couple being married in 1900.

Bro. McFarland belonged to the Free Will Baptist church and was an active minister until a few years ago, when he was stricken with paralysis. God was his great hope and comforter through all his suffering. He was not afraid of death, and his faith never wavered at any time. He left this world in ease, to join his many friends and loved ones on the other shore.

The funeral service was held May, fifteenth at 2:30 p. m. in the open air, before a very large gathering. The sermon was preached by Chas A. Phillips whom he loved as a son in the Gospel, who also loved him as he would a father, after which he was laid to rest in the Graysville Cemetery. The entire North East Missouri Association of Free Will Baptists, with his many friends, join with his loved ones in mourning their loss.

Griffin—Bro. W. C. Griffin was born in North Carolina, April 25, 1852. Moved with his parents to the state of Miss., and in 1875 was married to Mary Frances Chisholm. To this union was born seven children, two dying in infancy.

Bro Griffin died very suddenly at his home near Sulphur, Okla. on the second day of April, 1931.

Bro. Griffin was converted when quite young, and united with the Missionary Baptist church, but later becoming dissatisfied with the restrictions placed about the Lord's Supper, united with the Free Will Baptist church, and served as a deacon in that church for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters, two sons, eleven grand children and four great grand children. Those surviving him are his wife, Mrs. George Batterton, J.W. Griffin, Claude Griffin, Mrs. Walter Smith and Miss Fleta Griffin, also one sister, Fannie Garner of Wewoka, Okla.

The funeral services were held at the Green Hill Cemetery at Davis conducted by the pastor of the Methodist church, and his body laid to rest to await the resurrection morn. The Free Will Baptist church of Sulphur has suffered a great loss, and this church extends to his bereaved companion and children our deepest sympathy in their sore bereavement.

Farewell, Brother, till we meet again.

Walker—On April 27th Miss Edith Walker passed away in death at her father's home in Adair Co., Missouri. She was forty-six years old. She leaves to mourn her loss her father, an uncle, James Hardin, a grandmother, Mrs. John Hardin and a host of friends. Miss Walker was baptized by the writer about twenty years ago, and she at that time united with the Jewel F. W. B Church, and was still a faithful member at death. She was an invalid and helpless for many years, but she bore her suffering patiently, helped by her strong faith in God.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer in the Jewel church, text 1st Cor. 15:55, and she was laid to rest in the cemetery behind the church. —Elder T. C. Ferguson.

Information

The Gem office is well prepared to do your job printing, and that at prices that are right.

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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.

Olney, Texas

(Continued from page 4,

been in my heart. I felt the drawing of its peace and light, and never again could this world be my home. That vision made me a pilgrim and a stranger here. It caused me to seek for a city "which hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God." I know there is no night there, nor any pain. I know its inhabitants shall never say, "I am sick." I know that sorrow never broods over its smiles-lighted walls, and that the tread of death shall never

echo in its golden streets.

We need especially to note the leadership of God. Every Christian is led by the Holy Spirit, and this leadership of the Spirit is made either intimate or remote by the lives we lead and by the measure of our dedication to the service of God. God never leads us into sin, but is always seeking to lead us out of sin. He does not save us *in* our sins, but he saves us *from* our sins. The Good Shepherd never led a Christian into a liquor soloon, a bootlegger joint, a gambling den, a dance hall or a carousal of any kind. When a Christian is found in alien resorts, he has, for the time, divested himself of the leadership of God and has gone either at the behest of Satan, or in response to the lust and frailties of his own flesh.

Well, my mind is wondering why I don't see some letters from my friends back in Missouri, but I know they will be glad to read my letter and to know that the Lord in his tender mercy is still sparing my life for some purpose. May the Lord bless the readers of the Gem, and the editor and his wife. I ask an interest in all your prayers.

A sister in Christ,
Mrs. M. B. Cockman.

SERMOM CHIPS

By Elder T. C. Ferguson

Where is Hell in this life? Just where you make it.

Where is Heaven in this life? It's just where you make it.

If you succeed in church work—you must leave your feelings at home.

Prayer is the key that opens Heaven's gate. Do you use the key?

Keep lined up, and these chips will not hit. But if you don't it is just too bad for you. Look out for more chips next month.