

The

# Apostolic Faith Report

May 1979

Vol. 26 No. 5

## CLASS OF 1979

### Apostolic Faith Bible College and Faculty



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**2nd row left to right,** Demerita Pletcher, Dora Beydler, Kathy Arnall, Janae Harris, Molly Lewis.

**3rd row left to right,** Andy Perry, Janice Perry, Rick Christenson, Karen Trowbridge, Deana Fish, Barbara Cooper, Vicki Bartel.

**4th row left to right,** Lisa Klein, Cinda Sanger, Peggy Brenning, David Jaurez, Joyce Mathis, Tony Bartel.

**5th row left to right,** Demi Urick, Kathy Jett, Savoy Grimmer, Mike Benning, David Buschman, Tamara Oakes, Steve Arnall.

## Doctrinal Teachings Of The Apostolic Faith

### Trinity of the God—Head

1 John 5:7

### Repentance [Act of Man]

Mark 1: 14\*-15

2 Peter 3:9

Acts 3:19

### Conversion [Justification] [Act of God]

Matt. 18:3

Acts 13:38, 39

II Cor. 5:17

### Consecration [Act of Man]

Romans 12: 1,2

### Sanctification [Act of God]

#### [A second definite work of grace]

Neb. 13: 12,13

Ephesians 5: 25\*-27

I Thess. 5:23

### Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Luke 3:16

Acts 1:5

Acts 2:4

Acts 10:45, 46

### Divine Healing

Matt. 4:23

I Peter 2:24

James 5: 14-16

### Ordinances

#### Water Baptism [by immersion]

Matt. 28:19

Romans 6: 3,4

#### The Lords Supper

Matt. 26: 26-28

I Cor. 11: 23-30

#### Feet Washing

John 13: 4-5, 14

#### NO Divorce and Remarriage

Luke 16:18

I Cor. 7:39

#### Second Coming of Christ

John 14:3

Acts 2:11

Matt. 24:30

#### Thousand Year Reign of Christ

Rev. 20:6

Rev. 20:4

#### Conditional Immortality

##### [Life through Christ]

John 10:10

I John 5:11, 12

Romans 2:7

#### Destruction of the Wicked

Matt. 7:13

II Thes. 1:7-9

Romans 6:23

Mal. 4:1

#### Tithes and Offerings

Mal. 3:8, 10

Luke 11:42

## THE APOSTOLIC FAITH REPORT

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### DEADLINE!

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## EDITORIAL VOICE

Our hearts are full of thanksgiving and praise unto our great and wonderful God for all of His blessings to us. In recent days we were privileged to attend all of the convocation services held at the Apostolic Faith Bible College. It was so wonderful to hear the precious truths of God's word being delivered unto us once again and to feel the precious Holy Spirit dealing with our own lives, urging us once again to draw closer to the Master, and making us to know that His coming is very soon. God truly is getting His church ready for the return of His son, Jesus, back to earth. As I listened to the word of God going forth each service, I thought of those that met Christ on the Emmaus road and the question they asked themselves "Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures." Surely those of us that were privileged to attend convocation services this year could ask the same questions. Brothers and sisters, did not our hearts burn within us also as He talked to us through the divine word of God and while the precious Holy Spirit quickened those words? Did not our hearts rejoice to hear of His love, and power given to those that serve Him? His precious word made us to realize once again that He is with us and will lead us through perilous times ahead if we "buy the truth and sell it not" and if "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering." God's church will truly be a victorious church without spot or wrinkle. May we all press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus for His return is soon.

Karen

**FAITHFUL . . .  
IS HE WHO HAS PROMISED**

— John E. Zoller

Are you passing through a testing.  
Is your pillow wet with tears?  
Do you wonder what the reason,  
Why it seems God never hears?  
Why it is you have no answer  
To your oft-repeated plea,  
Why the heaven still is leaden  
As you wait on bended knee?  
Do you wonder as you suffer,  
Whether God does understand.  
And if so, why He ignores you,  
Fails to hold you in His hand?  
Do black doubts creep in, assail you,  
Fears without, and fears within,  
Til your brave heart almost falters  
And gives way to deadly sin?  
All God's testings have a purpose—  
Some day you will see the light.  
All He asks is that you trust Him,  
Walk by faith, and not by sight.  
Do not fear when doubts beset you  
Just remember--He is near;  
He will never, never leave you,  
He will always, always hear.  
Faithful is He who has promised,  
He will never let you fall,  
Daily will the strength be given  
Strength for each and strength for all.  
He will gladly share pain with you,  
He will gladly give you peace.  
Till your tired and weary body  
Finds its blessed, glad release.  
When the darkened veil is lifted,  
Then dear heart, you'll understand  
Why it is you had to suffer,  
Why you could not feel His hand  
Giving strength when it was needed.  
Giving power and peace within  
Giving joy thru tears and trial  
Giving victory over sin.  
So till then just keep on trusting.  
Thru the sunshine and the rain,  
Thru the tears and thru the heart-aches  
Thru the smiles and thru the pain--  
Knowing that our Father watches.  
Knowing daily strength He'll give,  
Victory for each passing hour,  
This is life, so let us live!

## Pearls Of Promise

**Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts:  
for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

**James 5:8**

Sanctification is a word meaning to render holy; to hallow; to make free from sin; to set apart for a holy or sacred use. Sanctification is a work of God, through the blood of Jesus. Sanctification is a second definite work.

### **Sanctification Is Mentioned In**

I Thess. 4:3 This is God's will for His believers.  
I Thess. 4:4. To possess his vessel (or body) in sanctification.  
II Thess. 2:13. Chosen by sanctification of the Spirit.  
I Cor. 1:30. Note four attributes: wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.  
I Pet. 1:2. Strangers (Gentiles) were elect through sanctification.

### **Sanctification In Old Testament**

Num. 8:7 The first-born were sanctified.  
II Chron. 30:19. Many of Israel's congregation were not sanctified.  
Lev. 10:3. But God sanctified them that came near Him.  
Ex. 31:13. I am the Lord that sanctifies.  
Ex. 13:3. I have commanded my sanctified ones.  
Num. 19:1. A purification from sin was made without the camp.  
Heb. 13:11-12. Outside the gate or city Jesus suffered to sanctify His people.

### **Sanctification In New Testament**

John 17:9-19. Jesus prayed for our sanctification.  
Matt. 23:19. The gift is sanctified. (Man is the gift; Jesus sanctifies.)  
John 10:36. Jesus was set apart, so are we to serve.  
Acts 26:18. Paul taught sanctification.  
Act. 20:32. There is an inheritance for the sanctified.  
I Cor. 6:11. Sanctification is a present state.  
I Tim. 4:4-6. Everything is sanctified by the Word and prayer.  
Eph. 5:26-28. The price is paid for a spotless church.  
I Thes. 5:22-24. Sanctification for spirit, soul and body.  
I Pet. 3:12-15. Give to every man an answer for this hope.  
Rom. 12:1-2. We are to present ourselves to Christ.  
I John 1:7-9. Christ will set free from all righteousness.

### **Hebrews, The Book of Sanctification**

Heb. 2:10-11. Sanctification makes us all one.  
Heb. 9:11-14. Christ, the new offering.  
Heb. 10:8-21. Sanctification is a new and living way.  
Heb. 10:28-29. We must honor the sanctifying blood of Jesus.  
Heb. 13:10-14. Jesus suffered for our sanctification.

### **Sin**

John 1:29. Jesus takes away the sin of the world.  
Rom. 6:1-2. We are not to continue in sin.  
Rom. 6:12-17. Let not sin reign, we have obeyed the doctrine of obedience.  
II Cor. 5:21. Jesus, without sin, took our sin.  
I John 1:7-8. Blood of Jesus cleanseth from sin.  
Psa. 32:1-2. Blessed is the man whose sin is covered.  
Zech. 13:1. A fountain open for sin.

### **We Are To Be Holy**

Col. 1:21-22. Christ was to present us holy.  
Lev. 11:44-45. We are to be holy.  
Eph. 1:4. New Testament demands the same.  
Heb 12:14. Follow holiness.  
I Pet. 1:15-19. Be ye holy.  
Rev. 20:6. Precious promise to the holy.  
I Thess. 3:12-13. We are to be established in holiness.  
Eph. 4:20-24. There is a new man or new life.  
II Tim. 1:1-9. God's calling is holy.  
Lev. 10:10. Discern between the holy and unholy.

# Apostolic Faith

## Superintendent's Report

April Convocation is now history. All of our more than 300 visitors have returned home, after having enjoyed three days of services in which many prayers were offered and many victories won. Every message both in word and song was inspirational.

Without you, our visitors, Convocation would not have been possible. May we say Thank You for coming. Also, we appreciate all the ministers and singers who took part in the services. Your labors were such a blessing.

We are back into the routine of classes, busily planning for the close of school. We encourage each of you to be here for our closing exercises, Wednesday evening, May 9, and Thursday, May 10.

Once again, Thanks, for your attendance, prayers, and support of the Bible School. May God continue His blessings on your life.

Yours In Christ,  
Lyndel Arnall

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## From The Girls' Dorm

The girls have really been going strong this past month. We all enjoyed the choir tour and were blessed greatly. It is so exciting to go out and work for the Lord and meet Christian people. We greatly admired God's handiwork as we traveled through Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. It was the first time some of us had traveled through these states. We would like to thank those who opened their homes to us while we were traveling. We also appreciate all the prayers that went forth on our behalf.

We are all seeking the Lord's will for our lives after Bible College. He has a work for each of us to do and we each one want to be in the will of God. We desire your prayers that we might go where the Lord would have us to go.

As Convocation has just concluded, we are all very excited about the good services we did enjoy. The Lord did bless, very much. We thank the Lord for the great opportunity we had to gather together and worship God.

The Lord has been so good to all of us. He has really blessed me while I have been at Bible College. I am so glad the Lord allowed me to come to Bible College for I have found Him as my personal Savior. He has helped me through so many trials. It seems the devil is always here trying his best to get me down but, Praise God, the Lord is always the victor. I don't know what I would do without Him.

We appreciate deeply all the prayers and support of each person in regard to the Bible College. May God Richly Bless You.

by Cinda Sanger

We have really had a great year this year at the Bible College. We have seen many victories won and many lives come closer to the Lord. The Lord has blessed each and every one of us. I have really enjoyed working in the Bible College this year. The Lord has been with me and has blessed my life greatly. I appreciate each one of you for your prayers and support for the Bible College this year.

The girls in the dorm have been an inspiration to me. They have really been great. We have had many great times in the dorm. May the Lord richly bless each one of them as they leave the Bible College and begin in the work of the Lord.

Dorm Mom  
Tony Bartel

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## From The Boys' Dorm

### THE TESTIMONY OF RICK CRIESTENSON

As I think of the words to say, I think of all the people who receive the Report. And I try to think of something to say that will encourage you all and also to tell you what the Lord has done for me. It's hard to give something encouraging, the devil is fighting so hard in every place and with everyone. He has so many blinded and deceived. But we are made to realize the mighty power of God who is able to overcome all.

Time is coming to an end so fast as we see the middle East peace treaties and nine other countries ready for the common market set up. We see the prophecies coming into being all the time. How much will the Lord tarry. Times are getting harder yet it is still not as hard as it is going to be. Still we have the promises of God, which will be made real to those who keep the faith and trust in His mighty hand. He has made His presence so real to me, His never-failing power, showing me to put my trust completely in Him. If we are going to trust Him and do His will, now is the time to serve Him with all our heart, all our soul and body. The Lord has been so good to me I could never go back on Him. He has always met my need if I would ask and I know He will always be there. I could not express myself of the so many blessings the Lord has placed upon me. If you haven't felt those blessings or don't know the Lord in a personal way you don't know what you are missing. If we could learn to give ourselves to the Lord 100% as so many times we say we have done. Have we honestly given 100%? Think of the way the Lord could use us every day. I am convinced we have become slack in our Christian lives. I include myself in this. Talking to some of the elders in the movement of some of the ways we used to believe in healing and so many other things. Even in just the little things throughout the day. We, any more, say "pray for me, I'm going to the doctor." We have the Greatest Physician, yet we go to the arm of flesh.

God is eternal and His power never failing. We say, "We don't see as many miracles anymore." It's not God's fault, it's ours. Jesus said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you?"

# Bible College

Bring him hither to Me." So many times we are this way, if we don't see something happen right away we think it just won't happen. All we have to do is wait upon the Lord and He will always answer. If we could only have the faith as a child and in all things give thanks. God is still on the throne if we would only go to Him He will answer our every need.

He has answered my every need, and has shown how much we need to pray for each other. Not putting each other down because the devil does a good job of that. Where is the real Christian love we should have? Where is the desire to see those that are lost, saved? Are we loosing sight and that love for the lost or needing souls?

God loves you and me. I love Him and want to do His work. How about you? Do you love Him enough to do His work?

## TESTIMONY OF DAVID JAUREZ

Jesus is the sweetest name I know and He's just the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

In a time when friends, family and church people seem to be so far away in my hour of desperation I called upon the name of Jesus and He rescued me.

Though before I doubted and kept saying to myself "Why should Jesus help a backslider like me? Why should I call to Him for as many times I've turned my back on Him."

But once I had partaken of the heavenly gift and knew that He was good. I called to Him.

Thank the Lord today because in James 2:13 "Mercy, rejoiceth against judgment" and it isn't the will of God that any should perish but all should come to repentance.

II Peter 3:9

I'm glad today I can say with the Psalmist in Psalm 40:2-3: "He has brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings. And He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God . . ."

Yes, once I was lost and then again found; how hard it was and still is to face those who kept to the faith and did endure. Knowing, that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to forgive and forget!! Some don't forget.

I thank the Lord today when He washed my sins away and being justified by faith I had a peace with God. And, friends, He took those past sins and cast them into the sea of forgetfulness.

Still we can happily say there are those who rejoiced with me when I was brought back into this wonderful grace and movement.

But, my prayer to anyone who may read this, remember, Jesus cares for you and He always will. Let me share this Scripture in closing in Acts 17:27;28 "That they should seek the Lord, if happily they might feel after Him and

find Him, though He be not far from every one of us. For in Him we live. . ."

Thank you, Barry, for pointing the way.

## TESTIMONY OF DAVID BUSCHMAN

I want to thank the Lord for His salvation plan, for the whole armour of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.

The Bible School has been a real asset to me. It's been just what I've needed to be able to go out into the world and be a witness, and be able to stand up for the gospel of Christ Jesus, our Savior.

When I came to Bible School last semester, I was a Christian but a weak one. I was in a state of compromise, and I stood less and less on the gospel. But praise the Lord, since I've heard and have been grounded in the Word of God, I know I can go out and be a real witness for Christ.

I desire your prayers that with God's help I can go on living a Christian life, and will continue to give God all the glory. And in the end I can say, "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: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Timothy 4:7-8.

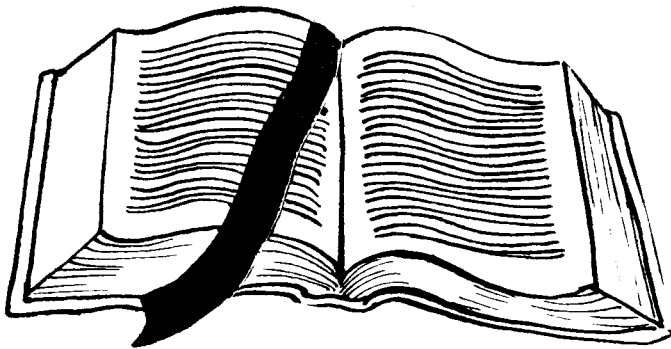
## TESTIMONY OF STEVE ARNELL

WITH TREMBLING lips and a joyful heart will I praise my Lord for what He had done for me. Isaiah 59:1 tells us that my Lord's hand is not shortened, that He cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that He cannot hear. As a young child at the tender age of seven I reached up to that outstretched hand of my Savior and found that peace that only comes from God that passeth all understanding. Being raised in a Christian home and being a preacher's kid I had the privilege of having the full Gospel preached, taught,— but most of all lived in front of me. Only the love that I have for my Savior exceeds that love I have for my parents and two sisters. Some people have said that I have lived a sheltered life away from sin but sin was there—it's just that I had found something better. There have been many times that I have failed my Lord and made mistakes and had to get on my knees and ask for forgiveness. My Lord has always heard my prayer in my time of need. I count it a real opportunity to have been here at Bible College. I've found out how important it is to become steadfast, established, rooted and grounded in the truth of God's Word. With Jesus as our Chief Cornerstone we have a firm foundation that we can build upon. Praise be to my Lord whose hand is not shortened when I need help and whose ear isn't heavy when I cry unto Him. Humbly seeking His will.

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As the students leave Bible School, let us each one not forget to hold them up in prayer as they seek to do His will. Let's also use them in our churches and camps, and continue to encourage them in the Master's work.

# WHAT GOD SAYS



By Dora Beydler

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning," James 1:12-17. There are many temptations which confront God's people today, the same as in all ages, but the first verse we are using from the book of James says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation." There is nothing unique in temptation for we read in 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Let us look at the word. The Webster dictionary says temptation is "the act of being tempted or enticed to evil." James says in the scripture above, that it is being drawn away of our own lusts and enticed. There is only one kind of temptation but many things a person may be tempted to do. To lust means to have a sensuous desire; an inordinate or sinful desire. With this in mind, let us take a look at what God says about one specific sin which today has become a downfall in many homes, and has even become accepted in many churches. Today is saturated with a spirit of permissiveness and what was one time whispered about and frowned upon has become one of the fastest growing sins of our day.

After God made Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden to dress it, He then made all the animals but there was

no companion for Adam. God then took one of Adam's ribs and made Eve. Genesis 2:24 "—a man—shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

The prophet Malachi gives a very firm look at the sin of divorce. In chapter 2 he preaches to the priests and the people because of their marrying heathen women. God has always warned against intermarriage between the people who know the word of God and those who are unbelievers. The time of Malachi was several hundred years after God had sanctioned the marriage of Ruth and Boaz, but Ruth, though she was a Moabite had come to believe upon the same God as the Israelites. A heathen is one who does not know God. The prophet continues to say this sin has been compounded because the priests have been the leaders in the offense. Any direct disobedience of God's commands is a sin, yet with the continual practice of this sin in their lives, the Hebrew people covered the altar with their tears because God would not receive their offerings. If any people want the blessings of the Lord they must return to the commandments of our God.

Malachi continues in verses 14-16 of chapter 2. He says they made the sin of intermarriage even worse because they divorced the wives of their youth then married the younger heathen women. God witnessed those marriage vows of that first wedding and made them one. Therefore, according to God's word in verse 14, even though a man shall divorce his wife, she is still his companion. Those marriage vows promise to care for one another, for better or for worse, until death shall part them. Anyone who breaks those vows, whether husband or wife, Malachi says they are dealing treacherously with the other.

By divorcing that first and only companion, the home has been broken and the spirit of virtue and trust which God intended to be in the home, has been destroyed. The children in the home need to feel that trust in both parents. The prophet continues by saying "Therefore let none deal treacherously, (or unfaithfully), against the wife of his youth," meaning that first wife. The Revised Standard Version translates this portion as, "I hate divorce, says the Lord God of Israel." The Living Bible reads, "You were united to your wife by the Lord. In God's wise plan, when you married, the two of you became as one person in His sight. And what does He want? Godly children from your union. Therefore guard your passions! Keep faith with the wife of your youth. For the Lord, the God of Israel, says He hates divorce and cruel men. Therefore control your passions—let there be no divorcing of your wives." The Jewish Talmud says, "Hateful is he that putteth away his wife; even the altar sheddeth tears because of this."

Where Malachi says "one covereth violence with his garment," he is referring to an ancient custom of a man claiming a woman as wife by casting his outer garment over her. When Ruth went down to the threshing floor of Boaz, as Naomi had bidden her to do, she asked Boaz to cast his skirt over her because he was a near kinsman of Ruth's first husband who was dead. The rest of that story can be read in the book of Ruth, chapters 3 and 4. In Ezekiel 16:8, God likens Israel to a young woman whom He claimed for His wife by casting His skirt over her. Now, back to Malachi 2:16, another translates this phrase, "For one who hates and divorces, says the Lord God of Israel, covers his clothes with violence—so take heed of your spiritual life, and do not be faithless." The same commentator continues with, "Such a man does injustice to her who is as near to him as his garment."

In Mark 10:1-12 as Jesus left Galilee for the last time and went through the Jordan valley and into Perea on His way to Jerusalem, the Pharisees tried once more to ensnare Him with a question. Their subject this time was divorce. They hoped to embroil Him either with Antipas, who was a divorcee, or the Sanhedrin, through a conflict with the Law. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?" Jesus answered them with another question, "What did Moses command you?" The Pharisees then referred to Deuteronomy 24:1 where Moses authorized a bill of divorcement to be given to the women, when her husband left her, that she might be free to marry again. This was not to encourage the practice of divorce but was given as a merciful provision for the wife. Jesus says this provision was made because of the hardness of their hearts. Men were leaving their wives and taking younger women as their wives without provisions for the first wife or the family. In those days, womanhood had no rights. Jesus reminded them that it was not that way in the beginning when God made them male and female and said that a man was to forsake his father and mother and cleave to his wife. God's intention from the beginning, for the human family, was monogamy, which ruled out both polygamy and divorce. Verse 9 says, "What God therefore hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

The Israelites originally were intended to have been an example to their neighboring nations that they might see the power and goodness of the Living God, but instead, they were constantly adopting the heathenistic influences of the heathen neighbors. The divorce subject was no exception. They had, for many years, calloused their hearts to God's words on the subject and made their own rules. In Jesus' day they were under Roman rule and though, previously, for a Jewish woman to divorce her husband had been unheard of, it was possible among the Romans. When the disciples, later on, asked Jesus about the same matter, Jesus was not attempting to set forth anything new on divorce but was merely setting forth principles which would raise the entire subject back to the spiritual level of God's will from the beginning.

Matthew, in 5:32 and 19:9, adds another clause to the same instance found in Mark, which we have already discussed. That clause says, "except for fornication," which some feel gives legal grounds for divorce and remarriage to another. This is not the correct interpretation. In the first place adultery or fornication was and still is a personal denial of the marriage vows but does not alter the fact that God joined them together as one when they took those vows. In the second place, to be found guilty of adultery was punishable by stoning." If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto a husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of the city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbor's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you," Deuteronomy 22:23,24. This is the scripture the people were referring to when they brought the woman found in adultery before Jesus. Even then, they were not holding to the law because it said both the man and the woman were to be stoned. They only brought the women. Jesus does not excuse the fornication which is in this clause in Matthew but continues by saying if either of the divorcees, what ever the excuse for the divorce, if they shall marry another, they are guilty of adultery.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:10,11, "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." Divorce is considered a sin, by God, but to save compounding it, let the divorced people remain unmarried or be reconciled to that companion whom he, or she divorced. Paul says this is not his command but the Lord has said it: then he finishes by saying to save committing sin, do not divorce.

Man may change times, laws and customs but God's Word never changes. When He was naming the sins for which He will judge the people in Malachi 3:6, He specifically named adultery. Then in the following verse He says, "For I am the Lord, I change not." Jesus, as one of the three in the Godhead, made it very clear that in the day He was on the earth, the marriage vows were still as sacred as they were in the beginning. In Hebrews 13:8 we find these words, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Not only is Jesus the same today but His word changes not. What was sin then in the sight of God is still sin today.

Let us look again at the verses in James, used in the beginning of this article. Every man, or in this case, every person, is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Satan did not tempt Eve to eat the forbidden fruit until after she had looked upon it, Genesis 3:6. One is not tempted to be unfaithful until after he has looked with lustful or desirous eyes upon someone else. James continues with saying when lust has taken root it brings forth sin. As the Living Bible translates Malachi—control your passions because James says when sin is finished, it brings forth death.

It is true God will forgive the sin of divorce and remarriage just as He will forgive any sin but divorce carries a scar that cannot be erased. 1 Timothy 3:1,2 says "—if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife—". Another translation reads, "married only once." A person who has been divorced and married to another cannot receive God's approval as a bishop. A bishop, according to the dictionary, is a clergyman or a spiritual overseer or director. Verse 11 of the same chapter says the same applies to the deacons and if it applies to them, it undoubtedly applies to the other workers of the church. As already stated, this sin can be forgiven and those who have been guilty can have the fellowship in the church with the other Christians, but in those moments of weakness and yielding to temptation he has cut off the privilege of being a leader, Sunday school teacher, singer or minister because he is not living an irreproachable life.

If you should ever be tempted to break up your home, think twice and, together, call earnestly upon God for in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Martin Luther once said if he were God he would "knock the world to pieces;" but because God is God, He is always there with outstretched hand, ready to help those who will call upon Him.

God put a curse upon the priesthood of Malachi's day and withheld the rains from the land because of their indulgence in this very sin we've been talking about. If we want God's approval upon our homes and our churches we must heed His words and return to His ways. "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." I Corinthians 2:9.

# CHURCH NEWS

## DICKINSON, TEXAS

It is with saddened hearts that we report the resignation of Brother Harold Wills as our pastor. Brother Wills has had severe problems with high blood pressure. He has taken leave from his job in an attempt to gain control of this problem. His request of us, as a church, is to pray for a complete recovery, as we have done. We know that through prayer this request will be fulfilled. We are currently having services conducted with the help of Peggy and Darrell Sutton. God has really supplied our need.

We shall dearly miss the services conducted by Brother Wills, as well as the presence of both he and his family in our midst. We dearly love and feel very close to the Wills family. They have become very close and dear to every member of the Dickinson Church.

Some of the members of the Dickinson Church made a trip to Kansas during the Easter holiday to visit the Bible College. We prayed for God's will in this matter; for a safe trip and possibly an answer to our prayers for a new pastor.

**Dee Boles**

## HARDESTY, OKLAHOMA.

We have enjoyed a wonderful revival with Ted Barker as evangelist. Our church was full each night with many from our community attending. Bro. Ted brought some real soul-searching sermons that aroused each of us to our spiritual needs.

In recent weeks we have seen several souls saved and new families added to our fellowship. There is a moving of God's spirit for which we are thankful.

We have also enjoyed the ministry of several visiting ministers in recent months. Bro. and Sis. Jacob Regier filled in while our pastor and wife were in Israel. Bro. Mike McClenagan was with us for a Sunday evening service and sang many songs that he has written. Many of these songs were written as a testimony of how the Lord was with him through the dangers of the Vietnam War. He has recorded these songs on a long play album and tape, which are a blessing to all who hear them. These are available through Jack Cornell of Hardesty.

Also a recent visitor in our church was Hilton Sutton of Houston, Texas, speaking on recent events in Israel in relation to the last day. This was a wonderful service with the Lord touching many hearts.

We invite Ministers of the Faith to come visit us any time.

**Jack Cornell, Pastor**

## CENTERPOINT, TEXAS

Friends in Christ,

It's been a while since we have been able to write and give praise unto the Lord in the report.

God has truly been good unto us and is worthy of all our praises. Sickness has been such a battle, but the outcome has well been worth it. When Jesus has passed by, you have known it.

The hill country is beautiful here with spring in full force. We feel the presence of life and the resurrection of our Lord. All things seem to praise the Lord and lift him up. Surely there is a God in heaven.

Please remember those that have been sick in the church. Bro. Lemmons has had a stroke and needs God's strength. Also Bro. Claude McLeod needs a definite touch from the Lord; he is now on a kidney machine. Sis. Donnie Methvin needs your prayers for her body.

May 1979

We have a lot of needs but we also have a God that meets our every need.

May God bless you.

**Frank Arnall, Pastor**

## PINE CREST CHAPEL QUITMAN, MISSISSIPPI

The Lord does continue to bless us at Pine Crest. We have seen souls saved, sanctified and many rededicated. The month of February was set aside as youth awareness month. The entire month was spent in teaching the young people their responsibilities in, and part of, the church family. The last Sunday night we had a Youth Dedication Service. This has proved to be a great blessing to the church. They seem to have a new desire and zeal. Of course, the "older" members of the church got a really big blessing seeing the youth learn and be so inquisitive about their work.

We recently enjoyed having the Cupbearers. They were a tremendous blessing to Us.

Bro. and Sis. Anderson recently moved into a new house. We at the church planned a surprise dinner and housewarming for them. So Sunday after church all of us went home with them, and really surprised them!

We have two from our church family who are sick and in need of your prayers. We wish you'd remember to pray for them. Also pray for our church. The Lord is really moving in the services. Some are acting on their convictions, yet there are some who continue to hold back. Help us pray that these will see the urgent need in their lives to get ready. The Lord will not continue to tarry as he has in times past. The world is shaping up for his glorious appearing !! We pray we will be found ready and doing his will.

**Dorothy Anderson, Pastor  
Lynette Barker, Reporter**

## ASHLAND, ALABAMA.

It was a great joy to have the Bible College Choir with us in concert on March 16th. Their testimonies and ministries in song was a wonderful spiritual blessing. We appreciate each of their lives and the difference the Bible School has made in so many people's lives. Only time and eternity will reveal its real worth.

God has blessed our church family with some wonderful services lately. It was a thrill to see the altars filled and our people respond to the message of Sanctification and Consecration recently.

We have been meeting on Thursdays for Cottage Prayer Meetings and Bible Study in the different homes. The Lord has really blessed our hearts and given greater knowledge and understanding of his word.

The church surprised us with a new deep-freeze for our wedding anniversary, and we really appreciated their thoughtfulness.

Remember us in your prayers. We desire to be used of God daily.

**In his Service  
Bro. Jim Arnall**

## KINGMAN, KANSAS

Several members of the Enid, Oklahoma, church came to our city March 24 and held a service for us. The Lord blessed as we had a time of singing, testifying, and fellowship with one another. Refreshments were served afterward. Some of our people had the privilege of attending convocation services in Baxter Springs at the Bible College and received much from the Lord.

**Melvin and Lavone Shepherd, Pastors  
Nyla Myers, Reporter**

A. F. Report



## TANEYVILLE, MISSOURI

We at Taneyville are so thankful for the beautiful weather. Everything is green and the early flowers and trees are blooming. We are extra thankful the snow seems to be over.

The winter was hard but our church was blessed anyway. Members have been writing songs, poems and readings. The whole church has been blessed through this and even more people are working harder and all are being encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

We recently closed a revival with Bro. George Clay, from Bentonville, Arkansas. It was an unusual revival. It was just for our church and we all realized we need more of God's spirit in us to ever be a successful witness for our Lord.

We are fasting until the 16th of May. We fasted seven days and nights and then every seventh day and then three days. God is blessing us for it. And by his grace only can this be done.

We are looking forward to building a church that God would be proud of. We need to build on to our building too, but the church body is being built up also. PRAISE GOD!!

We had another revival starting Easter Sunday with Rev. Ted Barker. There are two more revivals starting at the same time in our community. PRAISE GOD!! He is getting his people ready for his return. I want to be ready, DON'T YOU??

**Rev. and Mrs. Winston Barker, Pastors**

## DUMAS, TEXAS

Greetings to all, The month of February passed quickly, but we managed to get a lot accomplished. We had our revival with Brother and Sister Winston Barker. There was a lot of teaching and new insight on living a "spirit led" life. One night the Deitz Brothers from Amarillo gave a short concert before the sermon. Brother and Sister Dean Royce came one weekend and held a Sunday School seminar. It livened up our ideas on teaching techniques and we believe it will profit the Sunday School a great deal. Several of our congregation were able to attend the Mid-Winter Convention at Pampa, Texas, and they brought back many good reports.

The "Ladies Fellowship Group" had begun some projects with the goal of purchasing new song books for the church, but Praise the Lord for supplying the need. Now we're deciding on a new goal.

Some of us went to see the Bible College Choir at Pampa and Amarillo in March. We enjoyed the good singing and the fellowship, also meeting the students with whom we were not previously acquainted.

Brother and Sister David Lively visited one Sunday morning and participated in the special song service. We enjoyed having Brother and Sister Gary Foster with us one Sunday for services. Brother Gary taught our adult Sunday School class and ministered from the Word in the evening Service. We're thankful for those who continue to serve the Lord wherever they are. "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:27

**Jim Russell, Pastor**  
**Debbie Fish, Reporter**



Daniel and Diann Poffenberger announce the birth of a son, Marcus Jeremy, born February 10, 1979. He was welcomed home by four year old Shalena and two year old Jerrod.

Grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Larry Welsh, pastors of Apostolic Faith Church, Bellville, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Curt Hammer of Anaheim, California, announce the birth of a son, Garret Paul, on February 11, 1979. He weighed 8 lbs., 7 oz. and was 29 in. long.

Maternal grandparents are Paul and Marilyn Mahan of Malibu, California.

The Mitchells, Mark and Donnis, joyfully announce their firstborn, Joel Benjamin, on February 13, 1979.

Grandparents are Dona and Raymond Barker and Eleanor and John Mitchell.

Lance Allen Watkins was born to Butch and Jackie Watkins of Dumas, Texas, on February 22, 1979.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Iris Cornell of Perryton, Texas. Great-grandparents are the Rev. and Mrs. E. K. Cornell, Galena, Kansas.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. James Ray Routh of Des Arc, Arkansas, Sunday, March 11, a girl weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. named Melody Janae.

Grandparents are Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Christensen of Shattuck, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Floy Routh of Des Arc, Arkansas.

Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Buchanan of Leakey, Texas, and Mrs. Alice V. Christenson of Texarkana, Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Barnett of Amarillo, Texas, announce the birth of their baby boy, Todd Marshall. Todd was born March 12, 1979, weighing 9 lbs., 10½ oz. His brother is Kevin.

Grandparents are: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Deal, May, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Barnett, Tulia, Texas. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Audrey Baker, May, Oklahoma, and Mrs. and Mrs. George Deal, May, Oklahoma

*I shall pass this way but once; any good I can do, any kindness I can show let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.*



## 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

*Bro. and Sis. Homer Coberly, 1307 30th St., Lubbock, Texas, will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary June 6, 1979. May God richly bless them for their faithfulness unto Him.*

# Fasting

by Sara Buschman

Reprinted from May 1950

Fasting is one of the ordinances of God which we are to keep. We are advised how to fast in Isaiah 58:3-6: "Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all labours.

"Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness; ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

"Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul: Is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?"

"Is not THIS the fast that I have chosen? TO LOOSE THE BONDS OF WICKEDNESS, TO UNDO THE HEAVY BURDENS, and TO LET THE OPPRESSED GO FREE, and THAT YE BREAK EVERY YOKE?"

Often our fasts are not honored because we do our work as on any other day. We carry on conversations and visit our friends. God will not honor such fasts. He wants us to forget the things of this world and have our minds on Him. If we come to God fasting for the Gospel's sake, denying ourselves for the glory of God, then our fasts will be honored in heaven. Fasting was not placed upon us as a means of punishment or affliction, but the Lord has given us fasting to use as a weapon against the devil. With this weapon the bonds of wickedness are loosed, the oppressed are set free, heavy burdens are rolled away, and every yoke is broken.

We should pray as much as possible while fasting, and we need to study God's word. When Jesus was fasting and the devil came to tempt Him, He said, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

We can gain nothing by fasting if we are fasting for a selfish purpose, or to be seen of men. In Matthew 6:16-18 Jesus says, "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." If we are fasting for the praise of men, then we have our reward in their praise; but if we are fasting for spiritual reasons, we will have treasures laid up in heaven.

What rewards and blessings shall we receive for fasting? In Isaiah 58:8-9 we read, "Then shall thy light spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am . . ."

**The will of the Lord will not lead you,  
where the grace of God cannot keep you.**

## Thank You Anyhow

Oh, Lord, I'm not worthy of all of your love,  
And I don't deserve your son, Jesus, sent from above.  
And I shouldn't have all of your everlasting peace  
And your precious commandments  
That cause troubles to cease.  
Lord I don't know why you sent your son to die for me  
Or why you found me when I was lost,  
Or why you made my blinded eyes to see.  
And I cannot see why you're keeping me safe right now  
I don't know why you did all these things,  
But, Lord, thank you anyhow.

— Vanessa Oakes

## GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE

by Mrs. E. A. Greever

Friend as you walk are you trusting Jesus  
Do you know you are uncondemned today  
If you are he will still the tempest  
A quietness and peace give to thee.  
Don't sin and come short of God's glory  
Ever abide in his presence I pray  
Where no plague can come high thy dwelling  
And no evil befall on life's way.

If you walk in my statutes, keeping my commandments  
I'll allow no diseases to come upon thee  
Jesus said, I come to fulfill things recorded  
In the law and prophets concerning me.  
Lean not to your own understanding  
Pray neither make flesh your arm  
But look to the dear loving Saviour  
Who will protect your life from harm

Put not your trust in man nor in princes  
Be strong in the power of God's might  
Looking to Jesus the author and finisher of Faith  
When he comes 'twill be a glorious sight  
Give, yes, even pour out your life for others  
All your needs will be provided by him  
For the earth and fulness belong to God  
And you are only a steward for him.

He speaks and brings wonderful deliverance  
Prosper, gives health and strength as the day  
As your life is fully surrendered  
And willingly God's will you obey  
His body was bruised and broken  
By sinners stripes were laid upon him  
That we might enjoy a full salvation  
From all the work caused by sin.

If your life is filled with pain and sorrow  
And your soul by sin bowed down  
Jesus came to restore that lost by Adam  
In the garden where he communed with God  
For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus  
Will make you free from the law of sin and death today  
Believe, trust and look for his coming  
The immortal in his presence we will stay.

### JESUS—ALL SUFFICIENT

**Lonely?** No, not lonely  
While Jesus standeth nigh,  
His presence always cheers me,  
I know that He is nigh.

**Friendless?** No, not friendless  
For Jesus is my Friend;  
I change, but He remaineth  
True, faithful to the end.

**Tired?** No, not tired,  
While leaning on His breast,  
My soul hath full enjoyment,  
Of His eternal rest.

**Helpless?** Yes, so helpless,  
But I am leaning hard  
Upon the arm of Jesus,  
And He is keeping guard.

**Waiting?** Oh, yes, waiting,  
He bids me watch and wait.  
I only wonder often  
What makes my Lord so late?

**Happy?** Yes, so happy,  
With joy too deep for words,  
A precious, sure possession,  
A joy that is my Lord's.

*"The Lord is nigh unto all them that  
call upon Him" Psalms 145:18.*

### DON'T LOOK AT IT

A story is told of a man who once asked an eastern king if he could tell him how to avoid temptation.

The king told the man to take a vessel brimful of oil, and carry it through the streets of the city without spilling a drop.

"If one drop is spilled," said the king, "your head will be cut off." And he ordered two executioners, with drawn swords to walk behind the man to carry out his orders.

There happened to be a fair going on in the town, and the streets were crowded with people. However, the man was very careful, and he returned to the king without having spilled one drop of oil. Then the king asked, "Did you see anyone while you were walking through the streets?"

"No," said the man, "I was thinking only of the oil: I noticed nothing else."

"Then, said the king, "you know how to avoid temptation. Fix your mind as firmly on God as you fixed it on the vessel of oil. You will not be tempted to sin."

**OPEN FOR CALLS:**  
**Elmer Christenson**  
**Box 796**  
**Shattuck, Oklahoma 73858**

We have resigned as pastors of the Church at Amarillo and are open for pastoral duties after July 15, 1979.

Austin and Shirley Sutton  
628 N. Bivins  
Amarillo, Texas 79107  
Phone: 806-374-0546

**TEACH ME, O GOD** so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth the fruits of holiness.  
Let me use disappointments as material for patience.  
Let me use success as material for thankfulness.  
Let me use suspense as material for perseverance.  
Let me use danger as material for courage.  
Let me use reproach as material for long-suffering.  
Let me use praise as material for humility.  
Let me use pleasure as material for temperance.  
Let me use pain as material for endurance.

### TAKE HEED LEST NO MAN . . .

**By Brent Blythe**

Men for ages have heard of the soon return of Christ. In the eyes of most humans nothing has happened. Like all men throughout the ages, men's eyes are blinded to what is really shaping up. The sad part is that even spirit-filled Christians are blinded today and just don't have the vision of what is really shaping up. The purpose of this article is to wake up those sleeping Christians and open their eyes to just what is happening. (Romans 13:11. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.)

One of the original signs Christ gave to the apostles was in his ministry right after he left the temple and gave the prophecy of its destruction. The apostles asked him to tell them of a sign they could watch for and Christ told them to "take heed lest no man deceive you." \* Today people all over the world are looking for a man to bring peace to this troubled world. They are looking for a messiah to help them out of a situation that no one man can solve. But one man will bring a false or non-lasting peace that shall deceive many and today all mankind is begging for this man. Of course we that study the Bible and know God's word know this man as the anti-christ. We have all just been shocked by one of the most bloody and cruel massacres in history, the Jonestown massacre, but did mankind learn that one man cannot bring a lasting Utopia or heaven or earth? As we look down through history man has always searched for a Utopia and has never found it. There isn't now or never will there be a man that can bring this peace. We just get a little peace and just a little taste of what heaven will be like as we serve Christ on this earth. So I ask you and warn you to beware of the man who says he can give you a peace and a perfect life. Beware of the Jim Jones and the Moons who promise a perfect society. Look to Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith who can give us a heaven and eternal life. TAKE HEED LEST NO MAN . . .

Christ also warned that there would be wars and rumors of wars. In our society today there are wars on every hand. At this present time in Vietnam, China has fighter planes ready to attack and in the South China Sea the U.S.S.R. has ships waiting for the signal to attack. The U.S. itself has ships on their way to the South China Sea. All are ready to defend what they think is right. Africa is in the midst of civil war and Iran is ready for one and the list goes on and on and on. I say as Paul, it is high time to awake out of our sleep and ask the Lord if our soul is completely prepared. It is not time to criticize or complain and hunt for a better tomorrow but to pray and TAKE HEED . . .

\*Matthew 24:3-8. READ.

**QUESTION:** Is Cheating a sin?

**ANSWER:** Because cheating takes such varies forms, we resist the desire to say a flat "YES" and will discuss the subject a little more in detail.

Webster's definition is to mislead, deceive or to defraud. Some of the synonyms are: swindle, trick, hookwink, hoax, dupe, deceive, defraud, gull, overreach.

In the light of these words we see how easy it is to cheat and yet blind ourselves to the fact that we are guilty.

In business dealings one might trick, mislead, or even outwit another and soothe the conscience by saying, "It is just business." Really, is it "just business" when we take advantage of one who is weaker than we? To be honest, it is a form of cheating. We might just as well face it.

Overreach . . . to go too far in pushing oneself forward . . . cheating.

Have you ever known one to climb higher by pushing another down or back? Have you ever been guilty of trying to gain favor by belittling another? It is cheating.

Hoodwink . . . to conceal as by dissimulation (Hypocrisy).

Paul said to let love be without dissimulation, Rom. 12:9.

Deceit . . . fraud, falsehood, double dealing. Psa. 101:7. "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house . . ."

To be dishonest is to be inclined to cheat, steal, defraud, deceive, or to be lacking in uprightness or fairness.

Here are a few things the Lord says about honesty:

Romans 12:17. "Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

Phillilians 4:8, "We are admonished, among other things, to think on honest things."

I Peter 2:12. "Having your conversation honest among the gentiles: . . ."

II Cor. 13:6,7 . . . "That ye should do that which is honest . . ."

These and many other scriptures condemn any form of cheating. Certainly it is not Christian behaviour. If it is not Christian, it is not of faith. "What so ever is not of faith is sin." Rom. 14:23.

According to the word I believe we are within our rights when we say, "Cheating is a sin."

I believe in God and in Jesus Christ.

I believe the Word of God as given in the Old and New Testaments.

I believe in family prayer.

I believe in the sanctity and responsibility of motherhood.

I believe in having a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of my child.

I believe in making the home attractive, so that my children will not seek enjoyment elsewhere.

I believe in an intimate companionship between myself and my children.

I believe in pointing out the moral dangers to which my children are exposed.

I believe it is my privilege and duty to know the companions of my children, and to be familiar with their forms of amusement.

I believe in teaching my children, by precept and example, to know and follow Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

—Adapted from the Christian Evangelist

**MY**

Jesus is my pilot  
He is my dearest friend,  
Though trials oft beset me,  
On Him I can depend.

**PILOT**

Perhaps on highest mountain  
Or lowest valley go,  
My Jesus walks beside me,  
For this I surely know.

Nyla Myers

Friend, are you worn and weary?  
Can't see the light of day?  
Let Jesus lead and guide you,  
For He doth know the way.

## So You Want To Prosper, Huh?

By David Turner

Much has been written lately about the scriptural concept of prosperity and how that it is God's will for His children. To that I add a hearty, "Amen!"

If we were choosing up sides right now and I had my choice to join either the team of the prosperous or the ranks of the unsuccessful, I would chose the prosperous! After all, who really wants to be a failure?

The promise of prosperity really appeals to me. (And, why not, it is God's will!) The condition of God's promise, however, is less appealing than the promise. Nonetheless, it is so very important to me also. Being still wrapped in my natural flesh wrapper and not so long off the shelf, I can remember wanting the results of prosperity without wanting to really fulfill the conditions.

The psalmist begins his collection of songs and praises (the book of the Psalms) with the singular word "blessed." Connected to it is a principle which runs consistently throughout not only the Psalms but the entire Word of God as well. What is that principle?

If a man will simply learn God's Word and diligently apply it to his life, he will make himself blessed and successful.



This thought occurs time and time again throughout scripture. David, by beginning the Psalms with this principle, builds the correct foundation for all his writings.

In the New Testament we are told that God will test or shake everything that can be shaken. Can anything connected to man be left standing after God has shaken it? Let's read Luke's Gospel, Chapter 6, verses 46, 47 and 48.

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,  
and do not the things which I say?

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

He is like a man which build an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

Notice what is left standing. Go farther than that and notice why it has been unshaken. The man of Luke six remains successful because of three conditions that he has met.

- (1) He came to Jesus. (Jesus was his Source.)
- (2) He heard His sayings. (He was attentive to His word.)
- (3) He did them. (He obeyed the Word of God.)

Notice any parallel between the Luke six man and the blessed man of Psalm one?

The basis for any measure of lasting success is dependent upon continued obedience to God's Word.

Let's return to Psalm 1:1 and that neat word "blessed." It is translated from the Hebrew word 'esher which means "happiness" or "how happy!" 'Esher is derived from the basic root 'asher which means "to be straight, level, right or happy." Figuratively, it means three things.

- (1) To go forward (this speaks of advancement.)
- (2) To be honest (This refers to having pure motives and attitudes.)
- (3) To prosper (This is an all-inclusive term relating to every area of life, not just riches.)

Happiness, then, could be defined as the divine reflection found in a man after God intervenes in his happenings.

What about it, man? Do you want a life that is always on the move in the right direction? Who doesn't! Do you long to be a person whose motive and conscience is right before God and man? You bet! Do you dream of being totally successful? I mean so successful and prosperous that whatever you do ends in success rather than defeat? Come on now, this is beginning to sound like a fairy-tale. Get back down-to-earth, man! O.K., then, let's do get back to earth! Let's get to where the rubber meets the road. God's Word will never present an attainable ideal (in our case, prosperity or blessedness) without also revealing a plan whereby we can achieve the ideal.

God's Plan can be discovered in those first three verses of Psalm one. The "blessed" man has four characteristics. Or, for us, there are four things we need to be aware of and appropriate (personalize) if we are to become prosperous. The first three are negative in nature while the fourth is utterly positive.

First of all the blessed man does not walk in the "counsel of the ungodly." The key word to note here is "counsel." It is translated from the Hebrew word 'etsah. It means "advice or plan."

The prosperous man does not dare go to the ungodly for advice. They see things without the aid of the mind of God.

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However, by seeking the wisdom and advice of the saints of the Lord, the blessed man receives little bits of God's mind. Of course, this should be in conjunction with diligently seeking God through prayer and the study of His Word.

Secondarily, the prosperous individual does not stand in the "way of sinners." "Way" surfaces as our key word in this phrase. Derek is the word translated "way" and means "a trodden road; a course of life; and a mode of action."

The highway of the unrighteous is well-traveled. Many have driven on its cold, gray asphalt surface. It is four-lane and 70 m.p.h. all the way! And today's life appears to have that highway jammed bumper-to-bumper with rush-hour traffic. Each exit ramp affords so many sensual allurements complete with flashing neon lights secretly cloaked in darkness. God's highway (in sharp contrast) is a single-lane, ever-climbing road that offers no exit ramps. To voluntarily run off this road would mean the same as self-destruction. Hey, but at the end of this straight and narrow road lies a crystal city snugly wrapped in warm, white light. It is there we end our journey. It is there we receive our welcome, our crown, and our final king.

Thirdly, the successful person does not sit in the "seat of the scornful." "Seat" and "scornful" become our key words here. "Seat," the Hebrew moshab, refers also to "a site, an abode, or an assembly" of persons. Luwts is the word for "scornful" and means "to make mouths at!"

Notice the natural regression of the action verbs used to describe the road of the ungodly and unprosperous man of verse one. Giving in to the haunting of Satan leads a man to begin WALKING in the advice of sinners. Once he has begun this, he finds it very easy to just STOP and STAND around. STANDING around doing nothing for a long enough period of time makes it so easy to just SIT DOWN. Once SITTING this unprosperous man begins to make fun of his former life. He also begins to criticize the faith of believers. Let us take this as a gentle warning from God.

Oh! But that isn't characteristic of the prosperous or blessed man. This leads us to point 4 in our study. The prosperous man has "his delight in Law of the Lord.\*\*"

"Delight," or the Hebrew chephets, means "pleasure in or desire (of a valuable thing.)"

Not only does the word "delight" give us an idea of the ideal attitude toward God's Word, but it also infers that the object of his delight is extremely valuable. (Take time to read Psalms 19:10, 119:72, and 119:127.)

Delighting in the Word touches me inside in a way I have no words to explain. But, listen, just how do I delight in scripture? Verse two tells us both how and when to do it. "And in his law doth he meditate day and night."

Mr. Bill Gothard, founder and instructor for the Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts, remarked that there is only one thing we are allowed to meditate on. That is scripture. He continued to say that if any person could discover an area of time which was neither day nor night, then he or she was at liberty to meditate on other things.

To further increase our understanding of what meditation is, let's study its Hebrew equivalent, hahah. Hahah means "to murmur (in pleasure or anger) or to ponder." Synonyms might be to think about, talk about, study about, sing about, meditate upon, read about and more.\*

So, here is the final unfolding of the plan. Delight yourself in His Word! How? Read it. Have a set daily time to systematically read through both the Old and New Testaments. Study it, ask questions about the author of each book, why he wrote it and to whom it was written. Ponder

it. Ask how it applies to us today. Obey it. Internalize it. Hide it in your heart and do it. Confess it. Let it become a natural part of your conversation.

Until now our study has concentrated on the conditions or plans given by God. Now let's see what happens in the believer's life after he has begun to saturate himself with scripture. Results, man! Let's get to those results!

There are three main results. The first of these is summed up in the first word of the first verse of the first chapter of the Psalms—"Blessed!" The man who delights himself in God's Word becomes "blessed." He becomes ever-advancing. His motives become pure and honest. Generally speaking he is prosperous.

The second result is that he will "be like a tree." This "tree," 'ets, has firmness as its dominant characteristic. The connotation is that this man is firm, not like a bowl of jelly which is easily shaken and divided.

The tree itself has three characteristics of its own. Notice, first of all, that it is "planted by the rivers of water." The two most striking words found here are "planted" (Shathal) and "rivers" (peleg).

The definition of shathal is not merely to plant but "to transplant!" What insight we gain when we visualize this tree being yanked out of poor, dry, wind-blown and sun-parched ground to be re-planted in rich, humus, moist, black soil.

Peleg doesn't strictly mean a river like the Mississippi, Missouri, or Arkansas Rivers. It doesn't even mean a little stream like Sugar Creek or Shoal Creek. It actually refers to "small irrigation channels." The implication could be that these irrigation ditches have flood gates nearby which regulate the flow of nourishment to the tree. The insight we gain from this knowledge of the facts is that the gates are kept wide open in relation to the amount of quality time spent meditating in scripture.

A tree that is healthy can survive for an extended amount of time after the flow of food has been cut off. The same is also true in the spiritual realm. We do not always immediately reflect the effects of decreased spiritual feeding. Beware. Time will tell on that tree and time will tell on us.

The second characteristic of the tree is that it brings forth its fruit "in its season."

Fruit is a natural by-product of scriptural meditation. But, in an edict set down by God in Genesis and in effect until the cessation of time, there will always remain a season of planting, dying, cultivating, bearing and reaping. In less technical terminology, don't look for AUTOMATIC RESULTS! A farmer doesn't plant his rice on Monday then gather his family and hired hands together on Tuesday to harvest mature heads of grain. Unthinkable! Yet, I've been guilty of wanting automatic spiritual fruit the very next day or week or month not realizing that "to EVERYTHING there is a season." (note Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.) So, don't be like me and see "fruit" in verse three without realizing it can only come forth "in its season."

Be aware of the third characteristic of the tree itself. This tree had "leaves" which "shall not wither." These "leaves" which neither "fall away, faint, nor fail" are relative. That is, the promise of an unfailing leaf is only in effect in relation to the quality time invested in the meditation of God's Word. The word "wither" also means "to be foolish." It is foolish not to meditate upon scripture.

To me a leaf would connote shade and protection. With that in mind, I envision my total life as one of those great,

spreading oak trees that sit so magnificently on the inky-black banks of Oyster Creek near Bailey's Prairie, Texas. With over 60 inches of annual rainfall and an unceasing supply of food; those giant oaks reach upward toward the heavens with great leafy boughs. Talk about a work of protection and shade! Why, to stand beneath one of them is to never come into contact with that scorching-hot, Gulf Coast sun. To seek the great oak's protection is to be safe and dry from those sudden, South Texas cloudbursts. They become God's natural umbrellas.

As I mature in God's Word and His love, I can become a great spreading oak of shade and protection for some person. My leaves can provide protection and healing as I become increasingly sensitive to the hurtings of God's people. (Do you remember the tree of life in Revelation 22:2 and the function of its covering?)

Now, let's touch on the third and final result found within the man who saturates himself with scripture and seeks to make it a vibrant part of his life. The final part of verse three says, "whatever he does will prosper!"

Wow, that's a mouthful! But "whatever?" Whatever he does will prosper? Yes, but here is the catch. No one who fulfills the requirements of meditation will attempt to do anything contrary to the nature of God expressed in His Word. Meditation, for our study purposes, goes far beyond simply musing about God's Word. Meditation is the function which directs us to make scripture the center of our very being. Therefore, every plan we make, every deed we do, every thought we think, every word we speak revolves around that scripture hidden in our hearts. Yes, "Whatever" the blessed man does will push forward. It will be a success. He will be a success.

How does your tree appear right now? Is it weak and sickly with drooping limbs and crusty, falling leaves? Are those ditches near the trunk completely dry?

Perhaps your's appear strong and healthy but those irrigation ditches running next to its root system have only a trickle of stagnant, muddy water in them. It could only be a matter of time for you.

However, you might be growing and growing and experiencing and experiencing and beginning to bear more and more fruit. You may honestly be able to say that the flood gates are wide open and those ditches cannot contain the flow of water.

"I'm patiently waiting for my season to come," might sum up your life presently.

Well, no matter which tree you or I might resemble right now, Jesus doesn't condemn us. Instead, He tenderly calls us unto Himself by saying, "Come unto me. Dive deep into the crystal clear waters of My words and let their healing flow deep within you. Let them restore you. Let them cleanse you in every area of your life so that whatever you do will prosper."

(\*Read Joshua 1:8. This is the only time in the entire Bible the word "success" is used. What are the three requirements for a man to fulfill in order to be successful?)

(\*\*"Law of the Lord" in the O.T. sense refers to the Pentateuch. Since we are fellow heirs of the N.T. (a new covenant,) how much more have we to "delight in!")

(Author's note: All words researched in the Hebrew can be found simply by making use of **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible** James Strong, S.R.D., L.L.D., copyright 1890.)

# **CAMP MEETING 1979**

**JULY 19 - JULY 27**  
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There will be some rooms available at the Apostolic Faith Bible College. These can be reserved by contacting Rev. Neil Ragan. Bring your own linens. There are also dorms on the campground, trailer hookups and plenty of motels in the area. Come expecting God's blessings.

## **CLOSING SERVICES** **OF THE** **APOSTOLIC FAITH BIBLE COLLEGE** **BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS** **May 9 - May 10, 1979**

**WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.**

Concert By College Choir

**THURSDAY 10:00 A.M.**

Ordination Service

**THURSDAY 2:00 P.M.**

Homecoming Service

**THURSDAY 7:30 P.M.**

Commencement

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The Board of Trustees of the Apostolic Faith Bible College has asked that each church elect their advisory board member and send that name, address and phone number to the Apostolic Faith Bible College, P. O. Box 110, Baxter Springs, Kansas 66713. There will be a meeting soon after the fall term of Bible School starts.

**If we miss eternity, we'll not come back and reroute our journey.**