

THE WORD OF TRUTH

Published Monthly

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"—Jno. 8:32.

Volume 12

MAY, 1968

Number 4

"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (James 1:18).

SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

WHEN GOD HIDES HIS FACE

" Thou didst hide Thy face, and I was troubled" - Psalms 30:8
It is a loving and beneficent Father that deals with each one of us "in all wisdom and prudence" (Eph.1:8). His leading into the "paths of righteousness" is for His own great "Name's sake" (Psa.23:3). It is even as it is written; "I do not this for your sakes . . . but for Mine holy Name's sake . . ." (Ezek.36:22). *He deals with us in ways that will promote His own glory*, which is also to our eternal welfare and interest. If the course of this life seems bitter at times, it is only because that is a necessary part of our development and the Father's glory. *Thereby we are brought, furthermore, into a fuller measure of the "stature of the fulness of Christ"* (Eph.4:13). During times of trial, it is good that the heart possess a spiritual knowledge of the case. Many of God's people, because of their ignorance of these things, experience sorrow and discouragement beyond measure, as it were. It is therefore my intent to instruct your heart, dear suffering one, concerning one of the attributes of God which often "seemeth to be grievous". It is written; "Thou art a God that hidest Thyself" (Isa.45:15). It is during such times of hiding that we are "troubled", experiencing deep discouragement and humility, together with grief and sorrow. The waves of the deep seem to nearly overflow us, and our "sore runs in the night" (Psa.77:2). Many saints mistakenly attribute the cause of such lowly experiences to the surrounding circumstances - but such thinking is only the result of a spiritual darkening of the understanding. *When God hides His face from the righteous, they are truly "troubled", and nothing can abate or mitigate that trouble, or cause it to dissipate.* Even if the external environment is ideal in everyway, and the circumstances seem to be favorable, yet no effect is wrought upon the heart whereby the "trouble" of a hiding God may be alleviated. The soul is still distraught and cast down! We do not always know why our Father which is in heaven obscures Himself to us. True, it is often because of our sin and slothfulness, and therefore His hiding is a sometimes form of chastisement - *effectual* chastisement! But, such is not always the case. *We do greatly err in attributing all grief and sorrow to the recipient as punishment for sin.* It was not so with Job (Job, chapters 1 and 2), and often, as in His case, the Lord God has a *higher purpose which is accomplished* by Him hiding Himself. It is not for us to question, furthermore, the judgements of the Lord, for "He giveth not account of any of His matters" (Job 33:13). *Indeed, it is far more comely for the righteous to confess that God is upright and judicious in all of His judgements (pertaining to them, especially). "Will not the Judge*

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The Word of Truth

Published monthly by The Church Meeting at 26th and Colfax Street, Gary, Indiana.

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Crown Point, Ind. 46307

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Crown Point, Indiana 46307

Sent Free upon request to all interested parties.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

of all the earth do right"? (Gen. 18:25) If His glory is best served by me suffering "for a season" because of the momentary hiding of His Face, ought not I to seek grace to reconcile myself to His mind, while at the same time earnestly, with prayer, and supplications pleading for a reappearing of His Face?

Ought I, my God, to question Thee
Who reigneth over all
Because Thy Face I cannot see
When I partake of gall?
O no! Still righteous art Thou, Lord
though trouble sore I taste
I seek with Thee a sweet accord
and to Thy mercy haste.

Is it not during such times that we begin to sense our own inner corruption? "Woe is me, for I am undone" (Isa. 6:1-6) we cry out, confessing that "in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18). Too, we are more able to sing; "I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord." No one has difficulty at that time in persuading us of the necessity of grace, or of the insufficiency of our own works and righteousnesses, which are but "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6). The earth has no lure to us, but is only a sorer trouble than ever before. **Now, all of these things existed in truth before — our circumstances and external environment did not change when the face of the Lord was hidden from us — it was our perspective that was changed.** It is a true perspective too, though on a lower level, because it is but the under-side of grace. The question arises; "Are these truths adverse to our spirits"? And, the answer thunders back; "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Beloved, **there is a liberating ministry to be found in trouble and grief!** It frees us from our misapprehensions about ourselves and the world. It liberates us from the notion that we have advanced further than we actually have. It instructs us in the all-sufficiency of our Savior and the sweetness of His grace.

God's purpose, concerning us, is to conform us to the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29-30). This He

does prudentially through knowledge as wrought upon the faculties of the heart and of the mind. **Our experiences are one of the primary means of attaining true knowledge, and trouble is one of the chief avenues whereby experience is wrought** (Rom. 5:3-4). So it is that **many essential lessons and truths may only be learned when our Savior's face is hidden from us.** Oh, it is ever true that none seek to have it hidden from them — such would be very foolish indeed. Only our Father which is in heaven may dictate such seasons and times, and therefore they are initiated by Him **alone.** Our lot is to **continually seek His face,** and to "draw nigh with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled of an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:22). The Lord cries out to the inhabitants of the earth; "Look unto me, and be ye saved" (Isa. 45:22), and so we "look unto the hills from whence cometh our help" (Psa. 121:1), in anticipation of the Lord **graciously showing us His Face,** and thus relieving our periods of woe and grief. If, while in such a spiritual posture, the **Divinely instigated cloud of obscurity** passes over the horizon of God's glorious Face and hides it from you, believe that He is still "wise and prudent" in His dealings with you, and that He has not "forgotten to be gracious". **There is a wise and beneficent design behind His working toward you, and you need not despair, but rather "wait upon the Lord."** He yet is dealing with you as with a son, even though it be a grievous portion indeed that you taste at that time. **He is executing the high and immutable will of God in all holiness. There is no question, beloved reader, but that your chief troubles come when God hides His face from you. But, it is equally as true that some of your chiefest blessings and benefits are wrought in such times.** "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22),

A WORD TO BELIEVERS IN THE GENERAL CHICAGO VICINITY

Several hundred copies of THE WORD OF TRUTH are being sent to believers in the general Chicago area, or the Calumet region. Many of these people are being deprived of a regular ministry of the Word of God by the religious institutions which they attend. We want to urge them, in the Name of Christ, to avail themselves of the truth of God as it is in Christ Jesus, by attending a fellowship where there is true liberty, and where the Word is not fitted into traditional moulds. Realizing that such fellowships are very few, we commend unto our readers the brethren meeting at 26th and Colfax, mentioning that there are several brethren there which are willing to meet in private homes for regular and methodical studies of the Scriptures, and for prayers and supplications. At present we have four available brethren. If this sort of ministry would interest you, please contact us. We are eager to feed the sheep, and to nourish the people of God. Do not hesitate concerning the strengthening of your soul, if you sense the need of it. We stand ready to assist you in spirit and in truth.

“THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN”

“For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe” — I Timothy 4:10

It is a glorious thing to possess the Scriptures in liberty; not having to fit them into any pre-conceived molds, but to merely accept them as from the Lord and give Him all of the glory. The passage before us is one that cannot be preached in its fulness by many sects, seeing that it directly contradicts some of their basic tenets; but, then, **the Holy Ghost is not at all interested in substantiating the dogmas of men, or in maintaining the lot of denominations.** No, there is no place in the Divine economy for institutionalism or sectarianism. God is the “Savior of all men” in a revealed sense, or senses, and it matters not whether it may be received by all or not! Oh, I love this text, for it is so rich with meaning; so abundant with the marrow that satisfies, as we are given to see the Lord of heaven and earth in the capacity of SAVIOR! Praise the Lord! This text speaks of several great truths to my heart, and I seek now to expound them to you, in hope that your vision of the Lord might be expanded, and your heart lifted with the knowledge of His greatness.

It is of note, first of all, to mention that God is the Savior **especially** of those that believe; ah, there is a balm for the ones possessing the “faith of God’s elect” (Titus 1:1). Those who believe that Jesus is the Christ” (I John 5:1) taste of the Saviorhood of God to degrees unknown by all else! Praise the Lord! We are saved from our sins (Matt. 1:21), from the wrath to come (Rom. 5:9), and from death (James 5:20). There is deliverance (for that is the true meaning of salvation) from temptation (II Pet. 2:9), from evil (Matt. 6:13), and from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4). **The Lord gloriously works in the behalf of believers so as to separate them from this evil and wicked generation in order that they might forever dwell with Him.** The subsequent blessings of eternal fellowship (John 17:3), intercession and mediation by the Lord Jesus Himself (Heb. 7:25), and the continual awareness of forgiveness of sins, together with the purging of the conscience (I John 1:9; Heb. 10:22-26; 9:14) come along to rejoice the heart with that joy that is “unspeakable and full of glory” (I Pet. 1:8). Now these people who have come unto God through the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 7:25) are as the “apple (pupil) of His eye” (Zech. 2:8), and “nothing” is able to “separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39). Nay, they become “more than conquerors through Christ that loved them” (Rom. 8:37), and no one is able to lay anything to their charge, seeing that it is God that justifieth (Rom. 8:33). Being justified freely by His grace, and through faith, they now have “peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1), enjoying Divine favor and blessing because of the merit of Another.

They “live” and “walk by faith”, and are “led of the Spirit,” thus evidencing their sonship (Rom.

8:14). Not being “under the law, but under grace”, sin no longer has “dominion over them”, and they “yield not to the flesh to obey the lusts thereof”, but rather “yield their members as instruments of righteousness unto true holiness” (Rom. 6). Their hope is “laid up for them in heaven,” whereof they heard before in the word of the truth of the Gospel (Col. 1:5); and that hope saves them and takes them on to eternal glory (Rom. 8:24). Their’s is the honor of being called “the sons of God”, and “it doth not yet appear what they shall be”. “But we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (I John 3:1-2). And, as they journey through this life, “strangers and pilgrims” abstaining from “fleshly lusts that war against the soul” (I Pet. 2:11), they look at the Lord with an “open face” (i.e., without any hindrance or veil between them and Him) and are “changed from glory into glory, even as by the Spirit” (II Cor. 3:18), being “conformed unto the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29). What manner of blessings are these; and yet, they are truth, and are experienced by those who “receive the love of the truth”, and are sanctified by the Spirit “unto obedience and the belief of the truth” (II Thess. 2:13); I Pet. 1:2). I should dearly relish spending more time on this especial Saviorhood of God, but I must get on to the text with which I seek to acquaint you. It is enough to here say that such benefits as have already been mentioned are only for those that believe — or to put it more positively, **they are for all those who believe!** And, such are especially blessed of the Lord God — yea, of the “LIVING GOD”, as our text calls Him!

But the text also declares that He is the “SAVIOR OF ALL MEN”; and that is a point of stumbling to many! But, O, what a blessed truth is this! Were it not for the Lord Himself, every child born would die immediately — and in that sense He truly is “the Savior of all men”. He preserves the sons of men from sudden and permanent destruction, upholding them by “the word of His power”. He does this in the role of Creator and Sustainer. One ancient writer declares of this great Saviorhood of God; “Sin hath hurled confusion over the world, brought a vanity on the creature. And had not Christ undertaken the shattered condition of the world to uphold it, it had fallen about Adam’s ears.” **Men owe their very existence to the Lord of heaven and earth; it is only by His great mercies that all are not consumed!** Men are to regard the very possession of life itself as a kind of salvation — for there is sufficient evil all about, sufficient demonical power, to snuff the life of every mortal this very hour! Was it not Job that confessed; “All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils” (Job 27:3).

He was here acknowledging that the very physical life that he possessed was from God and was sustained by Him, and Him alone. If you have never come into the knowledge of the Lord, and are not trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, then you must recognize that you are not in hell this very minute only because of the

great longsuffering of the Lord, which healeth thee to repentance (Rom. 2:4). In a sense, He is even now your Savior — though not in an eternal sense, yet in a sense that is necessary to the preservation of your soul in glory. **Men are permitted the grace of life in order that they might repent and believe the Gospel — and if this be not the case, then they shall be able to say that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ was not merciful and longsuffering with them beyond any degree of worthiness.** “Safety is of the Lord” (Prov. 21:31); and that is ANY safety. Let all give glory to God for that temporal salvation of the earth-life; for therein is a token of mercy and goodness which will, if heeded, bring us into that “salvation which is with eternal glory” (II Tim. 2:10).

But, there is another sense in which Christ is “the Savior of all men”; and that is in the matter of the resurrection. In Adam “all die”; yet in Christ shall “all be made alive” (I Cor. 15:22). **There is an unconditional salvation granted to every mortal — that is the resurrection of the body.** The body is subject to mortification because of sin (Gen. 3:19). “It is appointed unto man once to die”, declare the Scriptures in Hebrews 9:27; and that is the “wages of sin” insofar as the body is concerned. The Word of God asserts that “all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass; the grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away” (I Pet. 1:24); and again; “As the flower of the grass, he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth. . .” (James 1:10-11).

Let all men confess with Job; “For I know that Thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living” (Job 30:23). Man’s days are short, relatively speaking, and he is sure to pass from this life and drop the carcass into the earth, where the worms shall consume it. But, in Christ, there is a resurrection provided for all — though it shall not be a joyous one to some. **In Christ’s resurrection, there was a glorious reversal of the death penalty for all, and the promise is made that “the earth shall cast out her dead”** (Isa. 26:19). God is truly “the Savior of all men”! Speaking of this general resurrection, the Lord Jesus declared; “. . . the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29). This is a salvation; salvation from the power of the grave! While it is not that “great salvation” (Heb. 2:3) of which we are so mindful, yet it most certainly depicts the Saviorhood of God. **God shall extract from the very mouth of the Prince of death every one of his victims, and alive they shall stand in resurrection bodies before the Judgement seat of Christ, to give account for the things done in the body, whether they be good or bad!** This is the great message of the Holy Spirit in First Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter. It is declared;

“the dead shall be raised incorruptible” (I Cor. 15:52). “This corruptible (the present fleshly body) must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So **when** this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory... O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**” (I Cor. 15:53-54). Now, this is of great comfort to the saints, for this speaks of the time of their fuller liberation, when they shall have finally put off that which hinders them, and shall have put on that which is gloriously compatible with their renewed spirits in Christ Jesus. But, for the ungodly, it shall not be so, but they shall eternally be in an incompatible state, where “the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:41-47). In such a condition, their bodies will not be able to carry out the fleshly lusts of their wretched spirits, but will rather be immobile in respect to fleshly passions. Therefore, it is written that the “worm dieth not”; i.e., there is a certain gnawing at the conscience, an eating at the vitals of the mind, for that which shall never be brought to pass nor facilitated by expression. But for the saved — praise the Lord — that resurrection body shall be ready to obey the stimuli of the soul, which has been conformed to the image of God’s Son (Rom. 8:29), ready to worship and serve the Creator, world without end. Happy prospect! Oh, reader, you shall be redeemed from the grave — Christ is “the Savior of all men” — but that is not sufficient for you to dwell in heaven. You must partake of the “first fruits of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:23). That is why you must seek Christ as your Savior in an especial sense! **Those who so taste of Christ anticipate with joy the resurrection, for that speaks of their final deliverance.** Those who know not the Lord look forward with dread to such a time, for then they shall hopelessly be “filthy still,” and destined to be separate from the Lord forever.

But, there is yet another sense in which the Lord is “the Savior of all men.” He is the “Savior of the world” (John 4:42), i.e., in respect to “every kindred and nation and tongue and people” (Rev. 5:9). **There are no national boundries whereon are found all of the Lord’s adopted children; no special physical race; no class or sect of people.** In the matter of salvation, “God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34); i.e., He does not deal with merely Jew, or Sythian, or bond or free! He is the Savior of “all men”! In Christ Jesus there is neither “Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female” (Gal. 3:27-29). What a glorious Gospel is this! The middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile has been broken down, and now “he that is athirst may come and drink of the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17). “Everyone that thirsteth”, and not just those of a certain nation, are enjoined to come and drink (Isa. 55:1-2), and what a blessed invitation it is. Under the Law, those that were Gentiles were “not a people”; but now, in Christ Jesus, they have become a people (Eph. 2:19-20), and from them God has taken a people for His great Name

(Acts 15:14). God does not merely visit the rich, or the poor, or the educated, or the uneducated, the free or the slave; but extracts from them all a people for Himself. **Faith is what fits a man for God, for without that it is impossible to please God** (Heb. 11:6). Your educational or social standards, your nationality or race, may seem to be a hindrance to you spiritually; but they are not. Christ is the Savior of all men — irrespective of social and natural distinctions. In Christ the distinction is **“ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT BELIEVE”**; and that is the only distinction that we may recognize. Our fellowship is based upon this; together with our relationships and our influential affiliations. The “unlearned and ignorant”, the “Jew and the Greek”, and “bond and the free” — they all walk together in Christ esteeming each better than themselves (Phil. 2:3). By grace, they have been given this truth; that Christ is “the Savior of all men.” This, incidentally, is what is meant by the “Savior of the world”. It speaks of the enlargement of the tent of God’s dwelling. From the limitation to the Hebrew nation, God now “commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:31), and proclaims that the Gospel is to be preached unto “every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15-16).

Now, I commend unto you the “living God”, who truly is “the Savior of all men, especially those that believe.” Recall that “to as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). Such are they which enjoy “special” benefits, which none of the other sons of men enjoy. True, the Lord sends the rain upon the just and the unjust alike (Matt. 5:45), but **the glory of eternal salvation is alone for those that are “hid with Christ in God”** (Col. 3:3), who were “chosen” from the beginning to **salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth** (II Thess. 2:14). Our God has saved everyone from the power of the grave, but only those that trust in Jesus Christ are saved “from their sins” — yea, His own people, chosen in Him from the beginning, and ordained that they should bring forth fruit unto God (John 15:19). I exhort you who bear the name of the Lord to live lives becoming of your calling, walking worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing (Col. 1:10). Special people ought to live special lives, ought they not? And now, I commend you to the Lord, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up. Amen.

“Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me Do?”

You may held this ministry in at least two ways:

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2. By helping to print Gospel literature. Martin Luther said, “God’s supreme gift to Christendom to aid the spread of the Gospel is printing.” We will be printing THE WORD OF TRUTH and other tracts by brother Given O. Blakely. Did

you know that it takes only \$200.00 a month for printing 10,000 copies of THE WORD OF TRUTH? The tract GOD AND MAN is already being printed as you read this. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Beloved in Christ, this is an important new arm of THE WORD OF TRUTH, and we are looking to the Lord to guide us in these efforts. Above all else, we covet your prayers to undergird this work of faith, that the Lord’s word might go forth with His blessing. Make this a regular subject of your prayers as you come before the Throne of all grace. Pray for us, that we might speak boldly as we ought to speak, and that the Word of God might have free course, and run and not be hindered. It is not often that we make appeals of this sort to our readers, but it was believed that many of you will be interested in this work, as it is surely a move of the Lord.

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SPIRITUAL REST

BY BROTHER DANNY POWERS

Brother Danny Powers is the eldest son of our circulation managers, brethren Andrew and Maxine Powers. He is 20 years of age, and has been given grace to speak in our fellowships with some degree of regularity. Each Lord's day he introduces the messages and prepares the hearts of the people for the reception of the Word of God. Within the past few months the Lord has abundantly bestowed grace upon this young brother, granting him insight into several of the precious truths of the Spirit. The following is a message ministered to us by brother Danny on the Lord's day morning of May 12, 1968. We commend the message to you for your edification, and also commend to you our brother in Christ, bidding you that receive him as one that has tasted of the Lord, that He is good.

"This morning we are going to be speaking upon spiritual rest. As I meditated upon this, the Lord really blessed my soul — it is a wonderful subject. The truth has dawned upon me, here of late, that **there is no rest in our earthly lives, save the taste that God gives us of our heavenly home**; for the only rest that we have upon this earth is sleep. Even after a good night's sleep, you will find that you still have the same problems that you had the day before. So this rest is not rest, and **the hope of finding rest upon this earth is not hope**, but vanity.

"Spiritual rest, on the other hand, is quite a different story, and it embraces altogether a different form than that of an earthly rest. **Spiritual rest is of God, not man, and it holds heavenly things, not earthly things, to be precious.** Let us behold Job, who knew that death was rest; and this is really a spiritual concept, because the carnal mind cannot see it. Job 3:11-18; 'Why died I not from the womb? Why did not I give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? Why did the knees prevent me? Why the breasts that I should suck? For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: **then had I been at rest**, with kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves; or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver: or as the hidden untimely birth I had not been, as infants which never saw light. There the wicked cease from troubling; and there **the weary be at rest.** There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of oppressors'. That blessed my soul when I read it! Note verse 17; "There the wicked cease from troubling; there the weary be at rest." And, are you not weary of this trek on earth already? Brethren, this will not be rest merely because the earthly life is over, but because we shall be with Jesus; with the Lamb that was slain. Amen! There we can cease from all of our daily strife, and futile earthly attempts to be Christlike. **There we shall be made like unto Him, and all our struggles will be ended.**

"Now, resting isn't a bad thing, because it was ordained of God long before man started

voicing his opinions. On the seventh day after the creation, God rested. **After His labors came His rest**, and so it is with us; **after we have fought a good fight, and run a good race, then do we find the rest that dwells only in the Lord God Almighty.** This is seen in Psalms 16:8-11; "I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall **rest in hope.** For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine holy one to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Here David clearly states in verse 8; "I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved'. And, **because of this, he rested in hope.** Amen! Have you ever noticed that when one of God's children is drawn nigh unto Him, that their enemies seem to take a beating, or have a rough time. True, 'when a man's ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him'. Yes, brethren, **being able to rest in our heavenly hope is truly God-given rest, and can never be matched by carnal rest.** It is written in Micah 2:10; 'Arise ye and depart, for this is not your rest, it is polluted; it shall destroy you, even with sore destruction'. Brethren, this earth has nothing to hold for us! So, take heed, and **when you find that you are able to be content and restful here upon earth, be fearful! FOR THIS IS NOT YOUR RESTING PLACE.** You must work now, even as God worked in the creation. But, **your rest is near, yea, as near as your God.** So, be not discouraged! You notice too, that there are times when God seems so near to us that we receive a small portion, or just a taste, as it were, of the heavenly rest here upon earth; and then only because the Lord loves us so much, He wants us not to forget it — that's why we get it. Some will not forget what awaits us in heaven, the Lord will bless us in trials: whether it be by comfort or assurance, you shall feel the overwhelming peace and rest that comes upon your soul; for the Lord is good.

"We have not yet come unto our **perfect rest**; for a while, we must dwell in Egypt, as it were. **Our rest is on the other side of Jordan** — we must cross Jordan first, as seen in Deuteronomy 12:9-11; 'For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the Lord your God giveth you. But **when ye go over Jordan**, and dwell in the land which the Lord your God giveth you to inherit, and when He giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; then shall there be a place which the Lord your God shall choose to cause His Name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the Lord'. I thought that was wonderful. We may have a **short time** to travail in the wilderness, but soon we shall all have to come to Jordan's banks (we do have to cross that — that being

Exposition of Philippians

Introduction.

Paul's epistle to "all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi" is indeed a gift from God. It has been called "the epistle of joy" because within its brief span of four chapters we find the word "joy" and "rejoice" used many times. This is good, because the Scriptures as a whole emphasize joy in the Lord. It is our strength (Neh. 8:10). It is good to major on what God majors on and to minor on what He minors on. Many churches today have their pet doctrines or experiences which they harp on. As for me, I would like to see more churches known as "the rejoice-ites", "the trust ites", and the "obeyists". Though Paul wrote this epistle from his prison at Rome (A.D. 62), his joy in the midst of adversity perhaps reminded the Philippians of the time when they had personally known him to sing songs in the night with Silas in the jail at Philippi (Acts 16:25). Paul had not lost this godly trait.

Philippi was a "chief city" of the western part of Macedonia (Acts 16:12). Profane history tells us that it was named after Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, and that its plains witnessed the historic defeat of Pompey by Caesar, as well as the defeat of Brutus and Cassius by Antony and Octavian. An earthling will remember it for no more than that, but we who are citizens of heaven will remember it in connection with this beloved epistle, for when the Lord of hosts honors a city, it is honored indeed!

Paul and these brethren were especially dear to one another. He himself had "begotten them in the gospel" and though at first the church was small (consisting only of Lydia, the jailor, and their families), yet the Lord "will not despise the day of small beginnings" and who can measure the tremendous influence of a godly family? Worldly churches spell success with large enrollments, but where are the godly families? David sinned in numbering Israel. Let us learn the wisdom of "thinking small" even unto the "offering of a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple," for life is mostly made up of humble men doing small things. Let us do them as "unto the Lord." This small group of brethren seem to have proven more zealous than the larger city of Thessalonica (Phil. 4:15, 16).

Paul had been extraordinarily called to these brethren by a "man from Macedonia" in a vision (Acts 16:9). (Truly "the heavens do rule.") He had experienced scourging and imprisonment (Acts 16:23) at Philippi, teaching us that when Satan senses that a great work is about to be done he opposes us more fiercely. Let us take the cue to return the fierceness.

Epaphroditus, the pastor at Philippi, had traveled to Rome bearing temporal gifts to Paul in exchange for his "spiritual things" (I Cor. 9:11) and doubtless had related to him the spiritual state of the brethren at Philippi so that Paul could write his epistle in a manner that would profit their souls. Now Epaphroditus is about to bear the epistle back to the brethren. Next month we will begin with verse one.

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death); and we even have One that has crossed over before, and knows the way; even Christ Jesus, to show us what a glorious salvation we have. When death has finally been cast down shall we enter into the rest of the saints. I have found, too, that there is danger in being lost from this wonderful rest. This is seen in Hebrews 4:1-2; 'Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to **come short of it**. For unto you was the gospel preached, as well as unto them but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it'. Please, don't let this be said of you, for this is a horrible thing! There are also those that would not **accept it**, (the rest that God offers) as Israel once did in Isaiah 30:15-16; 'For thus saith the Lord God; the Holy One of Israel, in returning and rest shall ye be saved; and in quietness and confidence shall be your strength, and ye would not. But ye said, NO; for we will flee upon horses! therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift.' **You see here that there is no middle ground**, it is either heaven or hell! You will enter into rest in heaven, or be forever tormented in hell! God is not mocked, and none of those that rejected Christ shall enter into rest, for Jesus is the only way! I thought too, that not only for the sins that they committed will they be condemned, **but for not believing Christ**: His death and everything that He did for us — they just will not accept it or believe it to be true. For this, shall the greater condemnation be, I believe.

"Jeremiah 6:16 says; 'Thus saith the Lord; Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the god way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein'. They gave up the warfare, and they lost the race. **Pray, unless ye fall into the same snare and lose everything**. For those of us that may have slipped and fallen along the way, there is hope, for in Jeremiah 50:33, it is written; 'Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Hosts is His name. He shall thoroughly plead their case, that He may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.' Their Redeemer is **our** Redeemer, and their Redeemer can be **your** Redeemer too. His arm is not shortened, and His love is not quenched through all the long years that He has waited. **It may be that it is for you that He has waited, if you have not accepted Him**; if so, then "Repent and be baptized" that ye may enter into this heavenly rest.

"In closing, we should look at perhaps the most important verse that we will read this morning — the words of Jesus Himself. Matthew 11:28-30; "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." May the Lord bless you all."

India's Challenging Hour

BY P. ABRAHAM SAMUEL,

a Native Minister from India

India is one of the ancient countries of the world, and has a history which traces back into many centuries before the birth of Christ. Her people were in contact with many foreigners, and they carried on trade with different parts of the world even from the early times.

Next to China, India is the world's most populous country. It has five hundred millions of people belonging to different castes and creeds, and speaking a diversity of languages. Every seventh man in the world is an Indian. India is about half the size of the United States of America.

India is the birth place of many religions. There are about ten religions there, namely Hinduism, Muslem, Buddhism, Sikhs, Christianity, and others. Nearly 85 percent of the people are Hindus and only 2.30 percent are Christians (including nominal and Roman Catholics). There are about 845 languages and dialects spoken in India. This multiplicity of languages need not dismay anyone, because only 14 are of major importance.

Christianity was introduced into India in the first century by the Apostle Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though India had the Gospel even from the first century, the Christians failed to spread it. Nearly 40 years ago God sent a mighty revival, and raised many men with a vision and sent them in different parts of India. Now, we have the fast growing indigenous work in India, having several hundred churches, a Bible College (not after the order of the United States — editor), and God is moving in a mighty way.

From Feb. 7 to 11, we had our annual convention in Vijayawada. Every day 15 to 20 thou-

sand people attended it. Several were delivered from the power of darkness and entered into the Kingdom of God. Each day they had five services starting from 4:30 a.m. — a time of prayer and seeking God. At the end of the convention 199 people were baptized in water.

Already many countries have closed doors for foreign missionaries to their land. In fact, our government also does not allow any new missionaries, but at the same time has given full freedom for us, the natives, to preach the gospel. The only way to evangelize India is through the natives. The scope and opportunities to reach the perishing millions of India is unlimited.

Dear child of God, the vast majority of people in India are without Christ. Just think of the 98 percent of the 500 million people who need salvation. Let us work while it is day. Let the Spirit of God enable all those who have received the light to realize and see the need and condition of India with their own eyes. In the industrial world of today, India no longer ranks among the wealthy nations. Many of the people can spend only a few cents a day for the bare necessities of life. The need is almost incomprehensible. But the greatest need is CHRIST!



Twice daily 3 to 5 thousand were fed at this great Convention



Part of the great crowd at the Convention in 1968



199 people were baptized by 12 pastors at the end of the Convention.

