

**-WHICH CLASS?-**

There are just two classes of people in this world; those who **HAVE** and those who **HAVE NOT**. To which do you belong?

**HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE, AND HE THAT HATH NOT THE SON OF GOD HATH NOT LIFE.** 1 John 5:12.

Of course you will immediately notice that having life has a condition attached. Life cannot be had outside of the **SON**. No man cometh to the **FATHER** except by (or thru) **HIM**. **HE** is the **TRUE AND LIVING WAY**.

Then the question arises, How may I have or obtain the **SON**? That is easily answered. He is a gift. He is free to all. There is nothing to do or to pay to obtain the gift. God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. There is the good news all in one verse. To believe is just to simply receive. A good gift is an easy thing to receive. When some friend or loved one offers me a gift, I have little trouble receiving it.

Do not be troubled by those who would add to the Word of God and try to impose conditions for the receiving of eternal life. Some may say that you have to repent. Repentance was a requirement for entrance into a special calling called the **KINGDOM**. It was something connected with a special line of service. John's gospel deals exclusively with the good news of eternal life, therefore he does not even use the word **REPENT**.

Do not be troubled by those who would have you submit to water baptism. That also was connected with entrance into the **KINGDOM** with its blessings and privileges. Eternal life may be had by simply believing and receiving. Ordinances and rituals have to do with special callings which are another step beyond receiving life.

Observing the Lord's Supper or the Passover is not required for eternal life. That is for the Israelite who will submit to the New Covenant and be in the kingdom here on the earth.

**-WHY LIFE?-**

Why does a man need eternal life anyway? Why does a man need to die? Isn't man good enough as he is for heaven? These and many similar questions may have gone thru your mind at some time or other.

By the disobedience of one, sin entered the world. Adam fled from the presence of God and hid himself among the trees. Fellowship was ruined. Sinful man could not stand in the presence of a holy God. The guilt was too overpowering.

This guilt and nature have been passed down thru all the progeny of Adam. All in Adam die. Death is at once a penalty and a benefit. One of the most severe punishments God could mete out to man would be to force him to live forever in the sinful flesh. Would you want to? Would you like to go on experiencing for ages and ages the sorrows, sicknesses, and disappointments of this life? No one in his right mind would for a moment wish such a calamity.

Since Adam forfeited his life by disobedience there was no hope---until God revealed a new thing. A new life was offered as a gift to fallen man. It could be gotten by merely accepting it as a gift. That involved faith in the Giver.

Death then opens the way to a resurrection and a new life. In that new life fellowship with God is restored. Man can again enjoy walking with God.

Since the old nature is contrary to the law of God and never can be changed, a new nature must be put on. That new nature is another phase of eternal life. We can enjoy it here and now in this life. It is a guarantee of resurrection.

So a man must die in order to get a new life and restored fellowship with God. What Adam was before the fall I do not know. It is only after the fall that flesh and blood are mentioned. Flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom. Neither can flesh and blood enter heaven. Like our Lord, we will have flesh and bone after the resurrection. The Spirit then will be the life.

**-SALVATION-**

SALVATION is a very flexible term and has many shades of meaning. It may mean most anything from DELIVERED to MADE WHOLE.

Sometimes SALVATION is used of the obtaining of eternal life. Also it is used in reference to entering upon a calling or position. The context must decide the meaning.

A man can obtain salvation today by believing John 3:16 and identifying himself with the WHOSOEVER. He can also obtain another salvation by believing the gospel of the MYSTERY. That is what the Ephesians did (Eph. 1:13). If you will read very carefully from the first of the chapter you will notice that these saints and faithful at Ephesus to whom Paul writes are members of the CHURCH which is the BODY of Christ. They had been chosen from before the overthrow of the world. They had been subject to the will of the Father, received the work of the Son, and had been sealed by the Spirit.

In verse 12 Paul speaks of himself and some others who had first received the new gospel. Then in verse 13 he speaks of the Ephesians as having believed THE GOSPEL OF THEIR SALVATION and as a consequence being sealed. This sealing, as the following context shows, has to do with their position and inheritance in the BODY. The GOSPEL OF THEIR SALVATION was none other than the good news concerning a new dispensation of God to end for a group chosen in the dim and distant past, the gospel of the DISPENSATION OF THE MYSTERY. They received that salvation by trusting in Christ as the HEAD. This same salvation is again spoken of in Eph. 2:8,9. There again the method of obtaining it is given. It is BY GRACE THRU FAITH. It is a gift. It is in no way of works. Therefore a position in the BODY is not a reward for faithfulness or works. It is a gift that is received by faith and trust in Christ as the HEAD.

We have no word or revelation that there has been any change in this principle yet today. This salvation is still received by faith.

**-PRAISE AND GLORY-**

The word PRAISE occurs just 3 times in Eph. You will find it in 1:6,12,14. It is a word that is so lacking in our conversation today. It is the opposite of MURMURINGS AND DISPUTINGS, which are all too common.

The first occurrence is in connection with our being blest with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. That God should do such a thing for undeserving Gentiles is such an act of mercy that thruout the universe it is TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE. I wonder if we really know anything about the glory of His grace.

The second occurrence of PRAISE is in connection with our trusting in Christ as the Head and becoming members of the Body. It is to the praise of His glory that we should trust or believe in Him. The principalities and powers in the heavenlies are shown the manifold wisdom of God thru the church which is the Body of Christ. It is a display sample to show forth His workmanship. Such a glorious body which will stand before Him some day holy and without blame will be to the praise of His glory.

The third occurrence of PRAISE is in connection with resurrection. When the Lord calls and all those who are His body respond, having been sealed unto the day of the redemption of their bodies, it will again be to the praise of His glory in all creation. What a glorious victory it will be when the hold of death is broken and they that sleep come forth! When the great power that raised Christ from among the dead is again displayed and even the power of death overcome, then will all creatures know that He indeed is Lord. Surely every knee would bow and every tongue confess and give praise to His glory.

But tho these things be ever so great and glorious, we must ever be ready and willing to praise Him ourselves for His grace and mercy. May our walk and conversation be such as will be to the praise of the glory of His grace and to the praise of His glory.

**-SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE-**

In the margin of an old Bible from which I used to study I found the following translation of 1 Sam. 13:1. **AND SAUL WAS ONE YEAR OLD WHEN HE BEGAN TO REIGN; AND HE REIGNED OVER ISRAEL TWO YEARS.**

It is a little hard to think of this as a true translation when we know that Saul was a grown man when he took the throne and that he had a son, Jonathan, who was also grown and a warrior to boot. Translators have also had trouble reconciling such a translation to known facts and so we have it in almost all versions as we have it today.

But could the original be true? Just what could the Holy Spirit mean by saying that Saul was one year old when he began to reign? What could he mean by saying that Saul reigned over Israel two years? We know from other Bible passages that he reigned 40 years. Can there be a hidden meaning or a spiritual truth we may have overlooked?

As we go back and read the record of the anointing of Saul as king of Israel, we find that it took place fully a year before he actually became king. It is well to begin reading at the beginning of chapter 8. Then as we read thru the story, it becomes apparent that about two years after he became king, Saul disobeyed the Lord and was rejected as king.

In 10:6 Samuel said to Saul, **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL COME UPON THEE....AND (THOU ) SHALT BE TURNED INTO ANOTHER MAN.** That settles it. As a new man, Saul was one year old when he began to reign.

He reigned with the approval of God for two years. The following 38 years did not count as far as God was concerned. In God's sight Saul was rejected and no longer a king. The last 38 years of Saul's life were wasted years. He was out of fellowship with God. God would not speak to him or reveal anything to him.

Herein lies a great and solemn warning to us. As long as we obey God and are in His will, we can expect to know the doctrine. But when we go off on some tangent in self-will, He will hide His face from us.

**-OPENED EYES-**

**AND GOD OPENED HER EYES, AND SHE SAW A WELL OF WATER.** Hagar had given up. She felt sure her boy was going to die. What little water she had brot in a bottle was all gone. Help was at hand, a well was there, but in her despair she could not see. So God had to open her eyes. It may be that when we despair and all is dark we would do well to pray for opened eyes.

**AND ABRAHAM LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND LOOKED, AND BEHOLD BEHIND HIM A RAM CAUGHT IN A THICKET BY HIS HORNS.** Abraham had raised the knife to take the life of his son, but was stopped in the act. The test was complete. God knew his heart. But Abraham had come to offer sacrifice to God. A substitute was there all the time, but Abraham had not seen it. With what joy he must have offered the substitute!

**THEN THE LORD OPENED THE EYES OF BALAAM, AND HE SAW THE ANGEL OF THE LORD STANDING IN THE WAY, AND HIS SWORD DRAWN IN HIS HAND.** In his own self-will and greed for money, Balaam had disobeyed the Word of God. Three times he had been in danger of death and had not known it. But when his eyes were opened and he saw the angel, he understood how dangerous and slippery are the ways of the disobedient. Only by the mercy of God had he been permitted to live.

**AND THE LORD OPENED THE EYES OF THE YOUNG MAN; AND HE SAW; AND BEHOLD, THE MOUNTAIN WAS FULL OF HORSES AND CHARIOTS OF FIRE ROUND ABOUT ELISHA.** The young man had seen the multitude of the enemy. He did not think about the power of God. He had to have his eyes opened so that he might learn that God protects and cares for His own.

**AND THE LORD OPENED THEIR EYES AND THEY SAW; AND, BEHOLD, THEY WERE IN THE MIDST OF SAMARIA.** These men had come up to fight against God's chosen people. Their eyes were closed till they were in the midst of those they fought. Then they saw. They learned how futile it is to fight those whom God has chosen.

Texts: Gen. 21:19; 22:13, Num. 22:31, 2 Kgs. 6:17,20.

-PLACE OF PSALM 2-

There are some who would claim that this Psalm is TRUTH FOR TODAY. In missionary conventions you will hear verse 3 quoted as applying to missionary work today. You will see banners with ASK OF ME, AND I SHALL GIVE THEE THE HEATHEN FOR THINE INHERITANCE, AND THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH FOR THY POSSESSION. But that is as far as they dare to go. The next verse says, THOU SHALT BREAK THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; THOU SHALT DASH THEM IN PIECES LIKE A POTTER'S VESSEL. That certainly does not refer to missionary work!

Some would say that this Psalm has to do with a period preceding the Millennial Kingdom, that maybe Israel going back to the land now might be a beginning of the fulfillment of this as a prophecy.

According the verse 6 it is a time when God has set His King, the Messiah, on the throne in Jerusalem. That in itself indicates its Millennial character. The Kingdom at that time will not be something that will make the earth perfect. The Satan may be bound in the bottomless pit (whatever that may be) still human nature will not be suppressed. We only have to read Rom. 1 to understand the awful depravity of the natural man without any encouragement or prodding from the evil one. Therefore during the whole of the 1,000 years there will be necessity for ruling with a rod of iron. There will be a necessity of judging and executing criminals daily. Human nature knows only one language, that of superior force. Those who dwell in the ends of the earth will not care for the Ruler and His righteousness.

The fact of the Millennial setting of Psa. 2 is firmly established by Rev. 2:26,27. We know that the great tribulation immediately precedes the Millennium. So to those in this great tribulation is the promise given, AND HE THAT OVERCOMETH, AND KEEPETH MY WORKS UNTO THE END, TO HIM WILL I GIVE POWER OVER THE NATIONS: AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON; AS THE VESSELS OF A POTTER SHALL THEY BE BROKEN TO SHIVERS: EVEN AS I RECEIVED OF MY FATHER (from Psa. 2:8,9).

-PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT-

In Eph. 6 we find that prayer is connected with the putting on of the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD. It comes immediately after the mention of the taking up of the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.

God speaks to us by His Word. That is why it is so much easier to talk to God in prayer after we have let Him speak to us thru the reading of His Word. He can introduce a more fitting subject of conversation than we can.

Many think that prayer is just a begging from God the things that He is slow or unwilling to give. They forget that He is an ideal Father and is ready and willing to give to the uttermost what is good and useful for us. Then why does He not give us more than He does?

Therein lies the answer to the main reason for prayer. Prayer is not to change God in any way, but it is designed to be a CONDITIONER, to change the one who petitions. It is to put one in the place where he will be able to use that which God is so willing to give. It is a good thing that few prayers are answered. If a man had all he wanted, he would not like what he had.

So it is good to pray without ceasing. It is good that men everywhere pray. It is good to be praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

We have no business praying for power unless we are willing and know how to use it. It may take a lot of praying to get us to the place we will do just that. But that is what prayer is for.

So prayer is of little use unless it is in the Spirit. There are times when we do not know how or what to pray for. The Spirit can give us utterance. He knows what we should pray for.

Prayer is a mighty power which we should be using more, not because it in any way changes God, but because it changes men. If our Lord felt the need of prayer in His life, how much more you and I should feel its need and practice. Let us pray for each other.

## -STUDIES IN JOHN- BML #3.

1. In 2:1 it speaks of the 3rd day. What were the events of the first and second days?
2. The Lord and His disciples were invited guests. Have you any idea of why the Lord's mother was there?
3. Look up your marginal references and jot down the occurrences of MINE HOUR. What do you think it means?
4. In verse 8, did the servants draw water from the water pots or from the well? The word DRAW is the same as in 4:11. Would they be likely to take water from pots where it was stored for washing purposes and give it to people to drink?
5. For what purpose was this miracle? Verse 11.
6. Look at your map and tell in what direction and how far it is from Cana to Capernaum.
7. Who, besides the Lord, went down to Capernaum?
8. In Exodus 12:14 the Passover was to be a feast unto the Lord or Jehovah. Why is it called the JEWS' PASSOVER here in verse 13?
9. Can you think of any excuses the money-changers and sellers of sheep and cattle might have had for being in the temple?
10. He drove the sheep and the oxen out, but did not turn loose the doves. Why? Did He take any of the money? Why? Isa. 52:13.
11. What drove out the merchants, the whip or the regal authority of an angry God?
12. Where is the O T quotation found in verse 17? (See your notes in the margin of your Bible).
13. How long did it take to build the temple?
14. What temple is the Lord speaking of in verse 19?
15. When did the disciples next think of this saying?
16. What effect did this remembrance have on them at that time?
17. Did the miracles in Jerusalem have any deep and lasting effect on the people?
18. Did the Lord need to have SPIES to find what folks thot?

DEAR FRIENDS; Several more have sent in answers to the questions in the STUDIES IN JOHN. They are now members of the BML (Berean Missionary League) and have received their membership pins. They are; Walter Rodman, Warsaw, Ind.; Sue Hosking, Milwaukee, Wis.; Em Hosking, Milwaukee, Wis.; R. S. Paul, Kankakee, Ill.; Mrs. Frank Miller, Dietrich, Ill.; C.G.Haberman, Bourbon, Ind.; Robert Perschke, Lake Forest, Ill.; and Philip Fahlgren, Franklin Park, Ill. I have plenty of membership pins. Answer this month's questions and join us now. Take a little time to study your Bible.

I have appreciated letters from some of the young folks in foreign countries. Some are; Mary Hirst of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England, Wm. J. Hunt of London in England, and three young folks from the Philippine Islands; Margarita Calimbo, Domingo Calimbo, and Pacifico Tabuccon. I want to hear from some of you young folks in Scotland, New Zealand, and Australia.

Have received several fine letters from a shut-in, Miss Marion Oaks of Oshkosh, Wis. It is hard for young folks to have to keep to a bed or a wheel chair for years.

I don't have the space to mention all the fine letters I am getting from this country, but I really do enjoy them. Just keep it up.

In all the pictures I have seen of Daniel in the lions<sup>8</sup> den, the lions have their mouths open. Is this according to the Bible? Also Absalom is pictured as hanging by his hair from the branch of a tree. Is that correct? You see, you just cannot read your Bible too carefully. You may miss some very important things by either being careless or reading something into the Word that is not there.

Here is another brain-teaser for you to work on. Which tribe of Israel was half-baked (a cake not turned)?

WHATSOEVER THINGS...TRUE...HONEST...JUST...PURE...LOVELY...OF GOOD REPORT; IF...ANY VIRTUE...ANY PRAISE...THINK. Think! Think!  
--Yours in His love, Oscar M. Baker

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

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TRUTH FOR TODAY Bible Class at my home (4 miles south of Atwood, or 6 miles west of Warsaw on the Harrison Center Rd.) each Tue. nite at 7:45. U R welcome to come.

Back to three sheets this time, but had to put in a lot of time.

July 1 was in Grand Rapids, Mich. Went via Ft. Wayne and took daughter, Ruth, along.

July 8 was again in Grand Rapids since Bro. Hazekamp was unable to come home.

July 22 was in Evanston. Mrs. Baker and daughter, Ruth, were along.

Enjoyed speaking before other groups very much and the hospitality and fellowship were greatly appreciated.

Plans now are to be in Washington, Ill. on August 19.

The wheat made only about 20 bu. to the acre. The first wheat I have ever grown. Quack grass was partly responsible as well as some freezing during the winter.

Had some more "bad luck" lately, but you probably have yours too.

The Lord has provided for all needs.

RECEIPTS FOR JUNE 1951; B96 Ind. \$1., B97 Ill. \$25., B98 Calif. \$5., B99 Ind. \$1., B00 Mo. \$7.42, C1 Ill. \$1., C2 Mich. \$8., C3 Wis. \$6., C4 Ill. \$2., C5 Ill. \$1., C6 Calif. \$3.10. Total receipts \$60.52. Total paid out \$52.38. Thanx a lot.

There have been some changes in book prices, so have revised my list. Just got in 12 Companion Bibles and have ordered 30 more. Sorry to make some of you wait on these, but just couldn't get them from across fast enough.

BOOKS by C.H.WELCH for sale:-

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