



Matt. 28:19-20

Baptist

Banner

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Life In Christ Jesus Is Everlasting

By James H. Smith

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on Him." John 3:36.

There is nothing in this great statement of Scripture that is in the least hard to understand: for it is clearly stated as to what kind of life the believer has. It is not the kind that endures for a while and then come to an end. In fact, if it were to come to an end it wouldn't be everlasting life: everlasting means enduring forever, indefinitely, without end.

I believe that this life in Christ Jesus can be further clarified when contrasted with our natural life, which, of course, is not eternal. When we were born into this world our parents didn't give us everlasting life: we are born to die. As Job said, "Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he fleeth also like a shadow, and continueth not." Job 14:1-2. But the real believer in Jesus Christ is born again, and unlike the natural birth he is born of an

(Continued on Page 4)

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS SCHOOL

By H.C. Vanderpool

Pictured above are the ministers attending the Sixth Annual Session of the Old Union Baptist Ministers School at Old Union Baptist Church, Highway 240, Bowling Green, Ky., on March 28, 29, 30, 31, 1978.

Kneeling front row: 1. to r. are Jimmy Whitney, John A. Keen, Jr., Larry McClain, Rufus Chandler, Floyd Mince, Berlon Roy, Kenneth Davis, J.W. Briley, Brad Adams, James Gardner, Jimmy Sorrell.

Back row standing: 1. to r. are Charles Chapman, Roger Fowler, Thomas Terrell, Bobby Gann, Landon Long, Morris Cothron, Bernard Skaggs, F.L. Ray, Darrell Hicks, Leon White, W.T. Russell, J.H. Smith, Don Curtis, F.W. Lambert, Eugene Brown, Charles Moore, Jerry Reynolds, Vernon Roark, William Shoulders, Ray Sutton, Richard Huskins, Marvin Emberton, Calvin Perrigo, Nathan York, Harold Carver, Kenneth Massey, H.C. Vanderpool.

There were five ministers who attended the school who were not in the picture. They were, Dexter Bacon, Jr., Rex Hunt,

Jack Herring, Walter Childers and Truman Hedges.

Pictured in the inset at the top is Elder Paul W. Bryson, pastor of Old Union Baptist Church. Since he didn't get to be in the group photo, the editor is placing his picture with the group.

Missionary Report From Japan

Karuizawa, Japan, April 1978

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We have been in Japan for one year and we want to give you a short report of our first year. We try to keep all of you informed with our monthly news letter but
(Continued on Page 3)

The Christian Pathway

By Rex Hunt

A Christian is one who is Christ like. To become a Christian one must be born again, be a new creature in Christ Jesus. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." I Peter 1:23.

In the remainder of the journey of life from our salvation, we should expect to experience, to some degree, the trials our saviour did. Jesus said, "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my sayings, they will keep your's also." John 15:20b.

A saved person is a two-fold being of conflicting natures. The inward man "which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph. 4:24b. The outward man as described in Rom. 7:18a, "For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing."

We are admonished in Gal. 5:16-17, "This I say, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." "There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the
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EDITORIAL

By H.C. Vanderpool

MINISTERS SCHOOL

Several years ago, when a number of aged ministers who are now dead were still living, they spoke often of wanting to have a school where our ministers could study the Bible and true doctrines of Baptists without having to attend and support schools that were liberal, modern and unsound. It is a known fact today that so many so-called Baptist schools are so modern, liberal and co-operative with all kinds of unscriptural doctrines and denominations, that they do not deserve to have the name "Baptists" on them.

After many years of talking, more interest developed in this important manner. Old Union Missionary Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. voted to sponsor a school where ministers could study. Pictured on page 1 of this publication is a majority of those attending the sixth annual session of that school. While the sessions are limited at present, plans are to expand gradually in the future for a better schedule and maybe more time, or more subjects.

There were 44 ministers from eight states attending this past session. All lessons taught throughout the entire session are on tape, and may be ordered from the school. Write: Old Union Baptist Ministers School, c/o Pastor Paul W. Bryson, Route 2, Alvaton, Ky. 42122, or call him at, (502) 843-9339.

Each school session provides a great time of fellowship. Our prayers go forth for the growth and well being of this school.

Jesus Prays For His Own

By Gary D. Nicholas

Lesson: John 17:1-26

We notice in this great prayer that Jesus prayed after he had come to the world, and had finished his work in which he had come to do; and was about to ascend back to God the father, he prayed for his own. He included you and I that have been saved, or born again. These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father the hour is come; glorify thy son, that thy son also may glorify thee: The hour had come, the hour of his completed suffering on the cross was finished, and the hour had come, that the son of man should be glorified.

Christ did not seek some honor here for his own sake, for in his own glorification through death, resurrection and exaltation, or being lifted up; he sought only to glorify the father. Glorify thy son, in his exaltation as mediator to be head over all things to the church. Paul speaks to the church at Ephesus saying: God hath put all things under his feet (Christ), and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. (Ephesians 1:22-23) Paul in speaking to the church at Philippi said: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11) Jesus said in his humble prayer to God, glorify thy son, that thy son also may glorify thee: (John 17-1) Peter and the other apostles said: Christ hath God exalted with his right hand to be a prince and a saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:31) This glorification of the Father includes in it the elevation of the Son to glory and power, where he is head over all things. Power over all flesh; all mankind as sinful and guilty. The prophet Daniel had this to say: And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him, his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7-14)

We notice that Jesus has all power. Jesus said: All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Matt. 28:18) He has power to give life, for through him and him alone we are saved. Peter said in speaking to the people, and elders of Israel: Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4-12) Jesus said: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me. That of all which he hath given me I should lost nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. (John 6-37-40) Eternal life is set forth in terms of knowing God. The Jews did not know God, though they knew much about him.

And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hath sent. (John 17-3) It is the claim of this verse and this whole gospel that the knowledge of God which brings eternal life comes only through the knowledge of the Son. John said: And we know that we are of God, and the whole

world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life (I John 5-19-20)

Since the Father and the Son are one, the knowledge is one. The knowledge of God implies the knowledge of his ways, as well as of his person, And so includes the perception (or understanding) of his plan of salvation from sin. This knowledge is eternal life. Peter had this to say concerning this great knowledge: According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corrupted that is in the world through lust. (II Peter 1:3-4)

Jesus said: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with the before the world was. (John 17:4-5)

Jesus looks at this moment upon his whole work on earth, including his sacrificial death as finished, and the work the Father gave him to do which included: The choice and the sending out of the twelve apostles, the establishment, or setting up of the church kingdom, and the revelation of God the Father.

Jesus having spoken of his work on the earth, now sought glorification with the Father in the heavenly realm, so the contrast (or likeness of the Father) is double consisting of place and person.

My friends it is plain to see that Christ has already fully accomplished the work of salvation, and has gone back to God the Father, and is there making intercession for the people of God. The plan was made complete and is sufficient (or is adequate for the purpose) to all that will come believing in him.



Jerusalem

In closing, permit me to call your attention to a verse recorded by Jesus in this very humbled prayer that he prayed. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. (John 17-20) This prayer reaches out to include those who will believe because of the testimony of these men and women, boys and girls that have experienced salvation and have tasted the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost.

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.

May God bless you in your labors for the Lord. May he send lost people to hear the truth of God's Holy word preached in its purity, so they too, can be saved.

BIBLELANDS PILGRIMAGE

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Report From Japan

(Continued from Page 1)

we want to take this means to bring you up to date on the work here. We want to begin by saying that we appreciate Bro. Vanderpool and his work in preparing the Banner. We enjoy reading articles about the work back home and about missionaries on other fields.

Our first few weeks in Japan were like a whirlwind. Everything seemed to go wrong but with every trial the Lord gave the needed strength. We came to this small town of Karuizawa and moved into the house that I had rented during my previous trip. The house was a mess and all the plumbing was bursted. We went to work and by and by it started to look like home. Our most valuable items were a small tape player and a few gospel music tapes. We would play the tapes over and over until the batteries would run down. A little later our furniture and other items began to arrive and we were really happy. This was a wonderful experience for us because many things that we had taken for granted before, now made us very

thankful. Such a little thing as hot water became a precious item and a reason to thank the Lord.

The primary reason we came to Karuizawa is to study the language. There is a very good Japanese Language School in Karuizawa. They offer a two year course in the language and customs. We feel that the Lord



Brother Carman

wants us to have the entire course. All of the teachers are christians and they are eager for the gospel to be preached. Each class is started by prayer and reading the Bible is the first item of each morning. I enjoy studying under such good conditions.

After we had been here two months, I was about to burst because I wanted to tell someone about my Lord. I was becoming very discouraged but just when I needed it, the Lord opened a door of utterance. I was asked to have a Bible study with four junior high English teachers. Oh, was I happy and the Lord blessed the study. I would tell them over and over about Jesus and each time was so precious to me. I still have this class and now the Lord has blessed me with four more weekly classes. I'm very busy, that is, with the language study and the Bible studies, but I'm happy to be busy for my Lord. He is coming again and I believe we should be hard at work. Please pray that my strength will continue to be sufficient to meet all these various responsibilities. I like the verse of scripture that says "though the outward man persih, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Please pray for the people that I meet with weekly. The Lord is working conviction in their hearts.

I have had the opportunity to preach and witness every week for the last several months. My congregation has been as small as one or as many as thirty. I have witnessed in houses, schools, streets, trains, restaurant-well, just about anywhere. I get some laughs and strange looks, but I love these people and I don't mind the strange looks.



Well, 1978 rolled around and I hadn't seen any fruit. I was becoming impatient but all I knew to do was to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord."

On the first day of February, 1978, a young girl was saved. She had been in one of my classes. Her name is Yoko. I think I could have leaped to Tennessee. The Lord had glorified His name and filled our hearts with joy. Please continue to pray for Yoko that she will grow in the Lord.

The Lord is leading us to southern Japan. We don't know exactly where yet, but He will show us in His own time. Pray that we will follow wherever it may be. We want to be where the Lord wants us to go.

I want to express my thanks to all of you for your prayers and support. We are all working together in this mission effort. You all are just as much a part of this work as my family and myself. Please pray daily for the Japanese people. Pray for my family. Helen has been and is a brave soldier but she needs your prayers. Gene and Ray Wilson are really growing and they are a joy to us.

It has been our pleasure to tell you about the happiest year of our lives. So, thanks to all but most of all thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

Your Brother in Christ,
Harold Gene Carman, Jr.

GOD'S GAIJIN (gy-genes)

Well, unless you are a Japanese Or someone who has studied their language.

You want have the slightest idea Concerning my tittle and its wordage.

Gy-gene is a familiar word To visitors that come to Japan. It simply means "Foreigner" Or "you are not one of the clan".

At first it really bothered me I mean to be called by that name. But now the Lord has shown a meaning That's truly blessed and plain.

You see, God's children are always Gy-genes Yes, they are Foreigners wheresoever they go. They are even Gy-genes in their home town Its the TRUTH, I know its so.

Nowhere on this earth is home Oh no it just can't be. Because Jesus has gone to prepare our home And soon we will go and see.

As Abraham and the others That are mentioned in Hebrews eleven. So we also are just passing through Very happily on our way to heaven.

So now when I hear that word I say thanks to my Lord Jesus. He took something that was a bother And made it oh so pleasing.

Harold Gene Carman, Jr.



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee

BOOKS

In 1888, Elder J.H. Grime wrote a book, "Close Communion and Baptists," which received wide circulation. His son, Elder J. Hall Grime, has had the book reprinted. Every person, especially all Baptists, should have a copy. Churches would do well to order a bundle for distribution to their members. These valuable booklets are 60 cents per copy. Order from: Elder J. Hall Grime, Route 9, Box 390, Lebanon, TN 37087.

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144 Issues

With this issue of the BAPTIST BANNER, we complete 12 years of publication without interruption. This month's paper makes 144 issues.

I wish to thank all ministers, laymen, churches, writers, supporters and every concerned person who has by prayers, money and labor made this publication possible to our people for these past twelve years. I ask everyone for your continued support as we begin our 13th year next month. ---Editor

Missions

The Antioch Church Sounded Forth Missions, Acts 13:1-4.

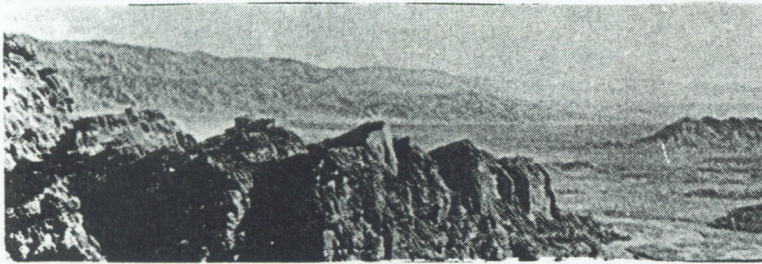
They were founded upon missions, and grounded upon missions; it wasn't anything but natural for them to begin sounding forth missions. Barnabas, Saul, and the other brethren named were vitally concerned about missions in other places and as a result, three things took place very shortly.

A. Missionaries were sought, verse 1-2a. They didn't place a notice in the Want Ads for missionaries; rather they sought them from the Lord. These men believed in a divine call to the ministry and to missions so they prayed to the Lord of the harvest. Surely when they prayed for missionaries, they must have considered the possibility that anyone of them might be chosen of the Lord for the work. When we pray for workers and Missionaries, we can only pray aright when we are willing to go ourselves.

B. Missionaries were separated, verse 2b. As these men prayed, ministered, and fasted, the Holy Spirit revealed God's will by choosing Barnabas and Saul to be separated or set aside for mission work. What a solemn occasion — men prayed and God called! Surely the hearts of these men were humbled before the Lord. God's method of choosing missionaries (or preachers for that matter) has not changed one iota since that early day. Other mission work had been done on a somewhat limited scale, but this day inaugurated a world-wide missionary endeavor.

C. Missionaries were sent, verses 3-4. they fasted and prayed again; then they ordained them as missionaries through the laying on of hands. Then they sent them forth with their prayers and support behind them. Saul and Barnabas left Antioch and went by land to Seleucia from whence they set sail to the island called Cyprus. Thus began Paul's first missionary journey.

CONCLUSION—Because of a mission-minded group of men, the Antioch church was organized. Begun with a missionary zeal, the church at Antioch soon became the home base for the mission work of Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and many other men of God. Is your church a "base" for mission work? If it is, pray that it will continue to grow in that direction; if it isn't pray and work that it may become one.



THE RED SEA

The Red Sea and the Gulf of Eilat are Israel's door to Africa and Asia. The port city of Eilat is situated close to the biblical city Ezion-Geber, where Solomon built a fleet of ships for trade with Ophir (Ethiopia?) (1 Kings 9:26-28). The beautiful scenery, coral reefs, year round swimming and warm climate, make Eilat one Israel's most popular resorts.

The Christian Pathway

(Continued from Page 1)

Spirit." Rom. 8:1.

When one becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus he should be careful that his statements are ordered by the Lord, as the Apostle Paul plainly tells us in Gal. 5:24-26, "and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory provoking one another, envying one another."

If we are to accomplish the purpose the Lord has for us we must heed the statements found in Phil. 2:5-7, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

When one desires or leaves the impression that he desires to dominate others, it creates friction and destroys the spiritual fellowship which is so essential to our labouring together with God. We are not to be lords over God's heritage.

The flesh has a tendency to desire vain glory and provoke and envy others. If we live after the Spirit the mind of Christ will dominate our lives. We then can truly bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ. Jesus rebuked the disciples for striving about who should be accounted the greatest, and said the one that serves should be accounted chief. When the mind of Christ controls our lives, we are willing to acknowledge by word and deed that he is our master and we desire his worthy name to be exalted among men to the glory of God the Father.

When we become carnally minded there is a desire for personal glory and envy of anyone who may enjoy a close fellowship with their brethren and sisters. Some are moved with so great envy as to try to destroy those they envy.

Our Lord warned us as what to expect when he said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matt. 10:16. We are taught to refrain from violence, but remain on guard. We are to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Our goal should always be as stated in II John 2, "For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us forever." We should never yield to temptation to receive a personal benefit while we pretend to be labouring for the truth's sake.

We should never compromise the truth as Pro. 23:23a states, "Buy the truth and sell it not." However, we should never abuse others as stated in I Cor. 10:31-32, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God."

We are to be careful to speak the truth, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Eph. 4:25. Some think that a statement of true facts is always the truth. However, if we willfully leave off part of the facts or state them in a manner to be misleading and create a false impression it constitutes a

Baptists Missions

A new Baptist Mission is beginning at Hartsville, Tennessee. Bro. Jackie Wilburn of Carthage, Tenn. will be in charge of the work there and will be doing the preaching.

The Mission will meet for services in the old First Baptist Church building which is located near the theatre building on the street leading to the hospital in Hartsville.

On Saturday night, April 29, a gospel singing was held. A revival is in progress at this time, having begun on Sunday night, April 30, with services being conducted each night at 7:30 p.m. Bro. Wilburn is being assisted in the meeting by Elder Charles A. Gentry.

Sunday School is to be conducted each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and preaching will be at 11:00 a.m. Bro. Wilburn said 10 percent of all offerings taken at the Mission will go to Foreign Missions, and that some of those to be supported will be Elder Harold Carman and Elder Koji Tajima in Japan. Prayers have been requested for Bro. Wilburn and the Mission, which will be known as Hartsville Missionary Baptist Mission.

Anyone wishing to contact Bro. Wilburn concerning the work may write him at, Route 2, Carthage, TN 37030 or call him at 735-3650.

Amen Corner

Dry hearing is responsible for much dry preaching.

Many church members are like the farmer's well. It had only two faults; it froze up in the winter and dried up in the summer.

Go to church just for entertainment and soon you will be forsaking the church to find entertainment elsewhere.

The grace of God still enables men to live straight in a crooked world.

HOLY BIBLE
ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL

HISTORY

The 182-year history of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Davidson County, Tenn. has been written and published. The hard bound, large volume is \$5.00 per copy including postage. Order from New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Rd., Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072.

lie. It has been said that in our journey of life we should give as much road as we take. It would be much safer if each of us would allow the other person sixty percent of the road, there would be fewer personal collisions. We need to make this allowance to compensate for the tendency to judge in our own favor. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Pro. 4:18.

Revivals

MAY 14

Grace Missionary Baptist Church, 9835 Hayes St., Detroit, Mich. Pastor Charles Moore is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey of Greenwood, Indiana.

MAY 14

Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church, 1723 N. Lindsay St., Kokomo, Ind. Pastor Mitchell Smith is to be assisted by Elder Kenneth Davis of Louisville, KY.

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Just Suppose

This article was revised and lengthened and contributed by Elder F. L. Ray.

Just suppose the Lord would begin tomorrow to make people as sick as they claim to be on Sunday.

Just suppose the Lord should take away the child whom the parents use as an excuse for staying away from church.

Just suppose the Lord should make people as poor as they claim to be when asked to help finance His great cause.

Just suppose the Lord should have everyone stoned to death for covetousness as was Achan.

Just suppose the Lord would let some parents look into the future and see what their example did for their children.

Just suppose the Lord would kill every one who lies to him as he did Ananias and his wife, Sapphire, as recorded in Act. Chapter 5.

Just suppose the Lord would require the souls of every one who have stored away much goods and thought they did not need anything more. As the man we read about in the Bible.

Just suppose the Lord would take away a child from every one who has committed adultery as David did. The Lord took his child away.

Just suppose that Communism should close in on this great land of freedom, and take away our freedom.

Just suppose that every born again child of God would put on the whole armour of God, and take the weapons of our warfare and fight against Satan.

Just suppose that every member of the church would do their part in the work of the Lord.

Just suppose all christians really loved the Lord. Just suppose and then, by the help of the Lord go forth and live and serve as if eternity were soon coming.

Country Parson



"A preacher must be more interested in doing a job than in keeping one."

Life In Christ Jesus

(Continued from Page 1)

incorruptible seed, as we find in Peter, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." I Peter 1:23.

Everlasting Life Means Eternal Security

There is nothing in this material world than can give us absolute security, and any man who trusts in material wealth for his safety and well being is classified in the Scriptures as a fool. (Luke 16:20) This fact has proven out in human history over and over again, for all of us have seen examples of just how foolish it is to bank on worldly riches. Back in the thirties when the stock market crashed in the United States there were men of great wealth who became paupers overnight; they lost their fortunes, and some of them, as a result, lost their minds. If what a man has of a material nature doesn't pass from him while he lives, it will certainly pass from him to somebody else when he dies, and it will be nothing to give him aid and comfort when he is passing over the Great Divide. So it is a settled fact that man must look beyond this world in order to find blessed security. Where?

The Word of God is the only source of information that we have as regards to how and where we can find eternal security. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:27-29. Now, Jesus says that my sheep shall never perish, but many people will tell you that it is possible for one of His to perish; but it is their word against His. Which should we believe? It is much safer to take His blessed Word.

Jesus Christ is the Rock of Eternal Ages, and those who have their feet on this Rock will never sink down into eternal night, but he shall weather the storm, and one day, thank the Lord, be at home with Jesus! "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word! What more can He say than to you He hath said, You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?"

Everlasting Life A Basis For Rejoicing

The very thought that we have eternal life, and that we are eternally secure in Jesus Christ, having been redeemed by His precious blood, causes my heart to rejoice. I can't believe that a Christian who thinks that he can be saved today and lost tomorrow is a happy person; and there are many such persons in the world, some of them can actually give an experience of salvation; but when they are not on the house top in their fellowship with the Lord, they are fearful and doubtful, and even arguing with others that one can lose their salvation. This is due primarily to what they have been taught, or the lack of having been taught. In any event, they can become very miserable, and in this state they are being cheated out of great blessings from the Lord. The devil would like nothing better than to keep one of God's children in such a miserable condition, because as long as the person is in that state he can't serve the Lord very well.

The Lord wants His people to be happy and rejoice and not be letting Satan and the world cheat us out of the joy that we can have. So in order for us to have this joy, we must believe His precious promises; and He has promised that our life will never end, that we are eternally secure by having committed our all to Him. He is certainly able to keep that which we have committed unto Him, just like Paul said in II Timothy 1:12: "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." Yes, it is a joy to know that we are in such good hands, and that He will hold on to us. Some people think we are just holding on, but the Bible truth is, we are being eternally held.