

The Flaming Sword

And he placed at the east of the garden *Nelms, M. L. 6 44* Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.—Gen. 3:24.

VOLUME 11

TABOR, IOWA. U. S. A.

JULY 1, 1944

NO. 1

The President of the United States

The man who heads our Government
Should be a man of might,
A man whom God has called and sent
To lead and rule us right;
A man who loves our Nation's flag,
Our country and her laws,
Who's not content to see us lag
And lose sweet Freedom's cause.

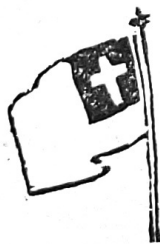
He ought to love our people much
And be a man of truth;
Intoxicants he should not touch,
But warn our noble youth
Against degrading beer and wine,
And liquor's curse and blight,
And show that only what's divine
Can lead and guide us right.

His life should be an index great
That points to things sublime,
And proves to us our only fate
Is sin and waste of time;
Then leading upward he should find
A mighty, mighty throng
Were in his footsteps just behind
Singing the victor's song.

He ought to be a living gem
Of princely love and right,
And prove his crowning diadem
Is not to gain the height
Of President, with power to rule,
And fame that soon shall fade,
But it's to teach us in life's school
How character is made.

He ought to have communion sweet
With God from day to day;
The Word of God should be his meat
Along his toilsome way;
And he should show that right alone
Can win the final race,
And bring us to the crowning throne
Where we shall see God's face.

—Walter E. Isenhour.



WHAT IS TRUTH?

L. J. Reckard

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

THERE are hundreds of questions in the Bible, many of them are worthy of our consideration. I have found them a good source of textual material. This question was asked by pilate of Christ, but he acted as if he did not expect an answer for he turned and left without giving Christ a chance to answer it. Philosophers for ages had been trying to find the answer to it, and he did not suppose that the condemned man standing before him could do it any better than they. The fact is that He is the only one who could answer it. If the word of God was silent about it we surely would not attempt to answer it. But the Bible is not silent, therefore we might find the answer by consulting its pages.

Truth is defined as:

"An eternal principal as old as God; gospel doctrine, ethics and precepts; intellectual, moral and spiritual certainty; inward purity, honesty, rightness—the opposite of deceit and error."

Truth is an eternal principal as old as God. "The truth of the Lord endureth forever." Psa. 117. Eternal truth may be seen in the following. "The Sabbath was made for man." Body, mind, nerves, industry, all derive great benefit from it. Home life is not as it should be if children do not honour parents. The sin of adultery is a sin against truth, because such promiscuity endangers and contaminates the life stream of the human race. To steal is a sin against the right of all to hold property. Covetousness is a fundamental sin; it is the cause of so many others; it ruins health, disorganizes family and community life. These are not just transitory or arbitrary laws, they are eternal truths. Truth as a principal is a very part of God. Christ said "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." The Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of Truth." It is His work to guide us into all truth.

Truth is gospel doctrine, ethics and precepts. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of TRUTH." II Tim. 2:15. The church is to be the stay of the truth

CARELESS WORDS

May cost you your experience with God.

Cannot be recalled, even though you desired such.

Does not prove that you are immune from temptation. —Standard Bearer.

One modern battleship costs as much to build as the maintenance expense of all the missionaries throughout the world for a period of one year, according to Dr. Glenn Randall Phillips, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Hollywood, California.

and its conservator for the world, and God's agent or instrument for securing its continuance in the earth. "Thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the TRUTH." I Tim. 3:15. The truth as it is in itself is to be distinguished from the truth as it is acknowledged in the world. "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold (hinder) the TRUTH in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18. "As darkness overspreads the mind, so impotence takes possession of the heart, when the still small voice of conscience is first disregarded, next thwarted, and systematically deadened. Thus the truth which God left with and in man, instead of having free scope and development itself, as it otherwise would, was obstructed." So the church must hold to a standard of truth to keep it for the generations to come.

Truth is intellectual, moral and spiritual certainty. The fact that two plus two equals four is a mathematical truth. That there are 360 degrees in a circle is a geometrical truth. Two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen always forms water proving a scientific truth. That selfishness does not pay is a moral truth as is the law of sowing and reaping and also "the wages of sin is death." There are also some spiritual certainties: "God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him." "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Truth is inward purity, honesty, rightness, the opposite of deceit and guile. It is the inseparable ally of love. "The law of truth was in his mouth," Mal. 2:6. "Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour." Zech. 8:16. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts." Psa. 51:6. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." Psa. 15:1, 2.

Since it is important that we have the truth in our heart, a little heart examination may be in order. These seven evidences of a dishonest heart were given by Brother L. B. Reese several years ago.

1. A clutching fear of discovery. It should not be the normal experience of a Christian that he is doing things that he would be afraid to be caught doing.
2. Arguing with conscience.
3. Giving evasive answers.
4. Conveying false impressions.
5. Coaxing God.
6. Putting off a known duty for no legitimate reason.

7. Shading a confession of guilt for one's best interests.

There is freedom from all of these for if ye "know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. (Editor of Good Tidings. The above is the substance of a chapel talk. Editor.)

§ THAT BLESSED PEACE!

Thank God for the comfort the Flaming Sword has brought to my heart from time to time; for the earnest testimonies given, which no doubt are backed up by the power of God and are able to stir the hearts and souls of unregenerated men, that they, if honest before a living God, might also find Him as their Saviour and Sanctifier. I was asked some time ago to give my testimony, and just now after reading the last edition of the Flaming Sword, and after a real battle with the Prince of this world, God blessed my soul and moved me to write and send it in.

It was in the middle of the year of 1943 God sent across my path a dear and holy child of His, Sister Hazel Gaines of the Fire Baptized Holiness Movement, with whom I got acquainted and later played with in the Peoria Gospel Messengers Orchestra, and who was able to prove to me that man can live without sin. In 1932 after my father's departure, I became a Christian but soon the enemy swept me off my feet because I was taught that all men sin. Sin surely separates us from God but I still went on with a dead profession. I attended church, played the songs of Zion, played in prisons, and religious services, but all this did not meet the need of my poor, bewildered, hungry heart.

Eventually Brother Carter F. Gaines arrived at Peoria, Ill., for a meeting and I soon saw my condition, and so in May 1943, Brother Gene Arnette and I attended week ends at the Troy, Mo., Camp Meeting where on the first Sunday morning I was the first to reach the altar and there he and I prayed for some four hours. I really meant business with God. On this morning Brother Arnette got sanctified, and my, how the saints did shout and feast and I believe it was that morning that God saved me all over again. We attended the following week end again. How well I do remember how I dreaded to go to that altar again, for the "dying out process" is indeed a hard one, but thank God, who is worthy of all praise, once the old man is dead and the blessed Holy Ghost comes in to abide, floods of joy and peace beyond description is ours. I used to have to force myself to read the Bible but now, bless God, I almost literally eat it as John did in Revelation. Yes, Brother Gaines used to keep saying, "Obey God!" "Obey God!" And there is the secret of getting and staying

sanctified and by so doing He helps to fight every battle, but not with carnal weapons as the ungodly fight the present wars, but by His "Spirit saith the Lord" and not "by might nor by power" of two ton block busters, but we destroy our enemies by loving them as Jesus, Paul and others in the Bible asks us as Christians to do. That morning Brother Bona Fleming pointed his finger at me and said, "I know you're going to get sanctified this morning," so I decided if he had enough faith why shouldn't I, and knowing that my consecration was complete, I staggered to the altar and it was not so hard as the enemy tried to make me believe, for it was but a few minutes and God completed the work and sanctified me wholly. What a blessed peace has been mine since that morning for He is my sustainer, and helps me fight the battles of life. How I now love to go to the house of real worshippers where God can have His sweet way; where saints get blessed and sinners saved. I have been attending the Canton, Ill., church where Brother Oliver Allen has been proclaiming the Word of God in its fullness. Pray for me that grace may be mine, and again thank God for the saints that took interest in me by praying with me in the 1943 Troy Camp Meeting. John Staub.

§ I SURRENDERED TO GOD

I am glad this morning for the presence of God in my soul. He means everything to me. This is a dark old world to travel in when you try to travel alone but when the sunshine of heaven floods your soul and God smiles on you, it is a wonderful place to be. For about six months I tried to fight my own battles and lost every one, but when I finally surrendered the whole thing to God He fought them for me. I am glad for a captain that has never lost a battle. Pray for me and my family. We need a good place to attend services. We have three children that are interested in Sunday School and Endeavor but they don't have spiritual people to lead them. They have no services as we live in the country and they go to Sunday School at a little school house. May God send a good Holy Ghost man to this community to hold a revival. I need to be sanctified. Mrs. Jim Nelson, Galena, Kans.

§ INDEPENDENCE CAMP MEETING

The Independence Camp Meeting of The Southeast Kansas Fire Baptized Holiness Association will be held in their beautiful grove near Independence, Kans., August 18 to 27, 1944. Detailed announcement later. In reference to rooms write Eldie Smith, Troy, Mo.

The Flaming Sword

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

Except the issue nearest Camp Meeting
BY THE SOUTHEAST KANSAS FIRE
BAPTIZED HOLINESS ASSOCIATION

Subscription only 50c per year
Foreign subscriptions 75c per year

Editorial & Publication Office Tabor, Ia.

Louis J. Duewel General Editor
J. L. Allen Associate Editor
Mrs. John Smith Children's Editor
Martin Nelms and Naaman Dowty
Young People's Editors
Mrs. L. J. Duewel Missionary Editor

Entered as second-class matter, Oct.
15, 1940, at the postoffice of Tabor, Ia.,
under the Act of March 3, 1879.

HOLY DISTRESS

E. E. Shelhamer

"And being in an agony he pray-
ed more earnestly." Luke 22:44.

WE read that in the last days
there shall be "Distress of na-
tions . . . men's hearts fail-
ing them for fear." This is
the distress that comes because of war,
famine, and pestilence.

But there is another kind of distress
that comes directly from God. Abraham
had it, Moses had it, and Paul had it
when they agonized for their people.
Easy-going Christians know little, or
nothing, about this "holy distress." They
are content to drift with the tide and
say, "Nothing can be done! What is,
has to be!" But, here and there in each
generation, God raises up an extraor-
dinary saint who dares to "stand in the
gap" and turn the tide.

Not until a man becomes dissatisfied
with his present attainments, will he
stir himself to improve. Apathy is al-
most equal to blasphemy. Indifference
will hinder progress more than drunken-
ness. Better make blunders in trying to
correct an evil than sit back and wonder
why it could not have been done a dif-
ferent way.

Every mighty demonstration and ev-
ery far reaching answer to prayer was
brought about because some one lived
ahead of his sluggish brethren, caught
a vision and cried mightily to God until
something happened.

Occasionally, thank God, we find a
person who shakes himself and declares
he will not be content to live on the
same plane with the generality of peo-
ple. He turns to his account adverse
winds and compels them to drive him
to his desired port. He capitalizes his
failures and profits by his defeats until
men and devils feel ashamed that they
ever tried to hinder him.

Friend, God is waiting, yea, anxious

to release His power, but will not do so
until some one, (perhaps in your com-
munity) arises and announces with holy
anguish that through Divine Grace,
"Something shall come to pass." Will
you be such an one? —Selected.

HOMESICK FOR HEAVEN

To the Flaming Sword family, in Je-
sus' name: I am still headed for the
City and feel like going on. Sometimes
I get homesick for heaven. Sometimes
I feel like I was on the last mile of the
way. I do want to make it to heaven
and see Jesus, and my dear husband. He
went to be with Jesus in 1930. I am so
lonely without him. This old sinful
world seems dark to me, but my home
is not here, I am looking ahead to my
home above.

I wonder sometimes that I am still
here. It is because of the hand of God.
The Lord has blessed me on the long
road that I have traveled, preaching the
Gospel. In July I will be 82 years old
and I have been preaching the Gospel
48 years. God is with me and I feel like
traveling on. I have been sick and the
doctors gave me up but the Lord healed
me to His glory, bless His name! Will
it not be wonderful to enter the pearly
gates; but we must strive to enter in
at the strait gate.

I was born into the family of God.
Some people think if they join the
church that's all there is to it, but that
is what the devil tells them. May we
cry aloud and spare not. May God help
us all.

I get so many letters from the dear
boys in the army wanting me to pray
for them. May the Lord stop this awful
war and give us peace.

The Lord is blessing here at our
church, Brother George Bowers is pas-
tor, doing good preaching. The Lord
is blessing. Pray for me. Melissa Raney,
Elk City, Kans.

MEETING NOTES

We learn from Sister Esther Darbro,
Elk City, Kans., that Brother and Sister
George Bowers have moved to Elk City,
to become pastors of that congregation
for the time being. May the Lord bless
their labors.

Brother Elliot Hodge began a revival
meeting in the Bartlesville, Okla., Holi-
ness Church, May 31. Brother Hodge
asks: "Please pray that God will visit
this place with a great outpouring of
His Spirit." (This note should have
gotten in the June 15 issue but owing
to the Troy Camp the mail was not
handled in time. Please pardon. Editor.)

Brother Oliver Allen writes from Can-
ton, Ill., "We began our tent meeting
June 14, with good attendance the first
night. Prospects look good for a revival,
Brother and Sister Eldon Kirks are

helping us in this work. We desire the
prayers of all God's children that souls
will be saved and sanctified."

Brother and Sister Frank Milam and
Brother Floyd Gaines began a revival at
the Holiness Church at Whiteside, Mo.,
June 6. Brother Milam writes, "Quite
a number here are seeking sanctifica-
tion, others need to get saved. We ask
the prayers of the saints for this place.
The Lord has been helping."

Brethren Howard Johnson and James
Beddow and workers began a tent meet-
ing a few miles South and West of War-
renton, Mo., June 14. They desire the
prayers of the saints that God may give
them souls for their hire. This is a new
field.

We are informed that Brother and
Sister Charles Douglas and Sister Alice
Dryden are in revival meeting at Long-
ton, Kans. May God give them souls in
that place.

We learn that Brother Naaman Dowty
is having a good meeting at our Inde-
pendence, Kans. church, Sister Nellie
Johnson, pastor.

Brother and Sister Clarence Smith,
assisted by saints from Troy and Hawk
Point communities, began a tent meet-
ing at Hawk Point, Mo., June 18. May
the Lord give them souls for their hire.

REPORT OF ELK CITY MEETING

Brother George Bowers, pastor at
Elk City, Kans., reports that Brother
Harold Armstrong closed his meeting
at that place Sunday night, May 28. He
reports that two were sanctified and the
church was wonderfully helped. Brother
Bowers declares he preached the Word
without fear or favor and he recom-
mends Brother Armstrong - to other
Bands.

FOURTH OF JULY MEETING

There will be an all day meeting at
the camp ground at Independence, Kans.
on July Fourth. Everybody is invited
to attend. Come expecting a great out-
pouring of God's Spirit. Basket dinner
on the ground. The children from the
Orphanage will render an appropriate
program. Come praying. We are ex-
pecting you, Nellie Johnson.

ASSOCIATION TENT

There is an urgent need for an Asso-
ciation tent at this time. Various places
are calling for meetings but the meet-
ings will have to be denied unless a
tent is procured. If the people of the
Association would rally by sending \$1.00,
\$2.00, \$3.00 or \$5.00, the tent would
soon be provided for. Brethren, let us
rally to this cause. Send all offerings
to John F. Smith, 2001 Willow, Coffey-
ville, Kans. "The King's business re-
quired haste." H. G. Willoughby,

Chairman of Board of Home Missions,

TESTIMONY OF HECTOR

I was born in Sandula District, Har-
doo in 1922. I went to government
school and along with me were Hindus,
Mohammedans, and some Christians. My
father was a pastor and he taught me
daily in the home about religion. I was
much interested in my religion and I
had religious discussions with the boys
and with my father's help answered
them and took them to church also.

I got a great deal of Bible teaching
in childhood. For this reason I argued
much about religion and in the years
of my youth I went with my father in
Christian work and in the villages.
Two years ago my father became sick.
I prayed very much and with tears,
fasted, but my father died. However,
before he died he told me that I was
very sick in childhood and that the
Civil Surgeon had said there was no
hope for me. Then my father prayed
and told the Lord that if He would
heal me then he would give me to Him
for His service. Then he said, "You
leave this government service and con-
secrate yourself to Christ." However I
gave no thought to this saying of his
and after his death stopped praying and
became entirely separated from Christ.
I stopped going to church, reading the
Word, and began to spend my life in
sin. But one day the scales fell from
my eyes and this verse, I Chron. 29:5
came before me: "And who then is
willing to consecrate his service this
day unto the Lord?" I read it and my
father's request came to mind and an
unrest came into my heart. At that
time I saw the notice of the Allahabad
Bible Institute and sent in my request
to be received into the school. With
the application I prayed that the will
of the Lord might be done. I told God
I would be happy in His will. I was ac-
cepted in this school and made ready
to come but the devil did not let me go
and one after another hindrance came
but I prayed to the Lord and got vic-
tory over the enemy and came here. But
there was unrest in my heart. However
after coming here the spiritual teaching
I received from the teachers of this
school brought a wonderful joy and com-
fort to my heart and through this I
acknowledged my sins before Christ
and a wonderful power was born in me.
My former life was changed and I en-
tered into new life and now I am living
a life near to God and pray that He will
lead me on. Amen.

HUDSON TAYLOR'S MOTHER

Little did I know at the time what
was going on in the heart of my dear
mother, seventy or eighty miles away.
She rose from the dinner table that af-
ternoon with a tense yearning for the
conversion of her boy, and feeling that,

absent from home and having more
leisure than she could otherwise secure,
a special opportunity was afforded her
of pleading with God in my behalf, she
went to her room, and turning the key
in the door, resolved not to leave that
spot until her prayers were answered.
Hour after hour that dear mother
pleaded for me until at length she
could pray no longer, but was con-
strained to praise God for that which
His Spirit taught her had already been
accomplished—the conversion of her only
son.

When our mother came home a fort-
night later, I was the first to meet her
at the door, and to tell her I had such
glad news to give. I can almost feel
that dear mother's arms around my
neck, as she pressed me to her bosom,

PLASTIC AND LIVING CLAY

"I took a piece of plastic clay,
And idly fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it, still
It moved and yielded to my will.
I came again when days were past;
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

"I took a piece of living clay
And gently formed it day by day,
And moulded, with my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart.
I came again when years were gone—
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress bore,
And I could change it nevermore."
—Selected.

and said, "I know, my boy; I have been
rejoicing for a fortnight in the glad
tidings you have to tell me." "Why," I
asked in surprise, "has Amelia broken
her promise? She said she would tell
no one." My mother assured me that
it was not from any human source
that she had learned the tidings, and
went on to tell me the incident men-
tioned above. You will agree with me
that it would be strange indeed if I
were not a believer in the power of
prayer.—The United Evangelical.

OBITUARY

Hendrix

Mrs. Mertlie May Hendrix was born
in Fanning County, Texas in 1884 and
passed away May 13, 1944.

She was married to Joseph F. Hendrix
on Nov. 21, 1902. To this union seven
children were born, one dying in infancy.
Six children survive her: Mable, Wil-
liam Lafayette, Bert Munroe, Albert
Franklin, Mrs. Harris and Claude Jo-
seph of the U. S. army somewhere in
England. Also seven brothers survive.

Mrs. Hendrix professed faith in Christ

in 1899 and united with the Methodist
church. She lived a good Christian life
till her death. In her latter days she
worshipped with the Fire Baptized Holli-
ness people.

Funeral services were conducted by
C. B. Huff and George Williams at
Pace's Chapel Cemetery.

C. B. Huff.

A CHAPLAIN RESIGNS

Rev. Norbert G. Talbott, a Methodist
minister, took training in the Naval
Training School for Chaplains, and was
given the rank of Lieutenant.

Before they were to go on active duty
the "Survey Board" asked questions of
the newly-appointed men. Under oath
Mr. Talbott publishes several of the
questions put to him. One was like this:

"For instance, suppose your ship is
coming into port after several months
at sea. The men have been under weeks
of strain in a battle area. They have had
little recreation and no opportunity for
liberty. The Captain calls you into his
office and says, 'Chaplain, here is \$500.-
00 which I am making available to you.
I want you to go ashore, rent a hotel,
make arrangements for a dance, get the
orchestra, provide some beer for the men
and let them have a real good time and
express themselves.' What would your
reaction be?"

Other similar questions were asked,
and one perhaps more revolting. The
candidate felt that there was a demand
for co-operation with the liquor traffic
and for compromise on the matter of
the relations of the sailors with loose
women. (This in a question too bad to
quote). When Mr. Talbott had stated
his feelings and objections, a superior
officer advised that he resign from the
service. This he agreed to do and did do.

Very Well.

But this American Navy is our Navy.
We maintain it and pay for it. We know
that our National Administration is the
good friend of booze and willing that
rummies shall debauch our sailors and
our soldiers. But we wonder whether the
American people agree that even chap-
lains, and this at the cost of their com-
missions, must be friendly to booze and
immorality.

Probably many chaplains in the Army
and Navy have never run into such ques-
tions and demands.

When one does we must admire him
if he resigns and, as Mr. Talbott has
done, tells why.

But think of a chaplain in the United
States Navy being compelled to resign
because he is decent! Before he ever
gets to the matter of religion! How does
this seem to you?—The Free Methodist.

The uncommon life is the product of
the day lived in the uncommon way.