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OWNERS / EDITORS:
Elders Emerson Proctor, Patrick McCoy, Dean Robbins, & Craig DeLoach
Webmaster:
Elder Andrew M. Tucker

Send Church News, Denominational Activities, Announcements, Obituaries, Subscription and Address Changes, & Contributions to:

THE BANNER-HERALD
C/O Elder Dean Robbins
P.O. Box 125
Statesboro, GA 30459
thebannerherald1918@outlook.com

Send Church Directory Information to:

THE BANNER-HERALD
CHURCH DIRECTORY
C/O Elder Pat McCoy
14194 GA Hwy 74
Culloden, GA 31016
pm4dmi@outlook.com

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Discipling Ministries International Update

January 2026

Sasha Malov
Missions Director - DMI

Dear Martin and Pat,

(Martin Heikoop is a dear friend and fellow servant with COAH in Canada. We worked with Martin for many years in Donetsk Region.)

I wanted to send a message to both of you with a brief update on how things are over here.

First of all – we're fine and that is by His Grace and undeserved mercy to us.

The situation with the electricity is on the edge of complete disaster. You might have heard the Russians have strike all power plants and the main electric lines except nuclear plants. Kyiv and the area probably have the worst situation with the power whole of Ukraine.

In practice it means – in my area we have power for 4 hours per day and there were some days we hadn't power for over 24 hours. When we have electricity, the voltage is low and most of the home appliances just doesn't work (instead of 230 volts the power is 140 volt)

Our situation is better since we live in a private house and we're better prepared and in better situation than those people who live in those huge apartment houses in Kyiv and in other cities around.

In our case living without electricity means:

No stable internet and cell service for most of the day. I have my Star-link dish, but it went off since those ups and downs of power.

The heating unit for the house needs electricity, so we run the generator 2 times a day for 3 hours each time in order to keep some warm in the house and keeping the heating system from freezing-up at nights, you need to pump it up for keeping

it running and not losing the whole heating system and a water supply pump. There were nights when the temperature below -20° Celsius and these later days it is usually -10° – 15° at nights and -5° – 10° at day times. The temperature in the house is between +10 +16 which is chilly but not such bad. I also need to run the generator for charging batteries I have for a light inside and for running the heating unit at night. Our doors are open for those neighbors who don't have generators for coming and charging their phones and power banks. We also have some reserves of fire wood for giving out to the neighbors. Some number of people have left the village, so again as at the first days of war our concern is for the elderly lonely people in the village.

The consumption of fuel for generators is high – like with the 6 hours of running it consumes 10-12 liters per day so every second day I need to fill in 20 liters canister. There are some issues to get fuel because some of the gas stations have closed their doors. As well as many grocery stores and other stores. They might not have generators or their generators are broken, so many smaller businesses are closing their doors, as well as some of the food producers in the area. Some food brands are not available at stores, but in general the food supplies are not a problem at the moment.

If you don't have internet you cannot pay with the card and you need to find a working ATM for getting some cash and it could be a problem, or at least it takes longer time to find a place for getting cash.

But our situation is nothing to compare with those people who don't have generators or who live in apartment houses. In Kyiv a lot of apartment houses are heated with centralized lines, so people might have no heating, no electricity, no running water and no internet and with the freeze heating pipes in the building. It was said yesterday that 600 000 people have left Kyiv over the last week, and the office of a mayor is asking those who may leave to leave the city.

So, it's difficult, but it reminds me of the beginning of war when people were supporting and helping each other, and that is what I see happening now. The

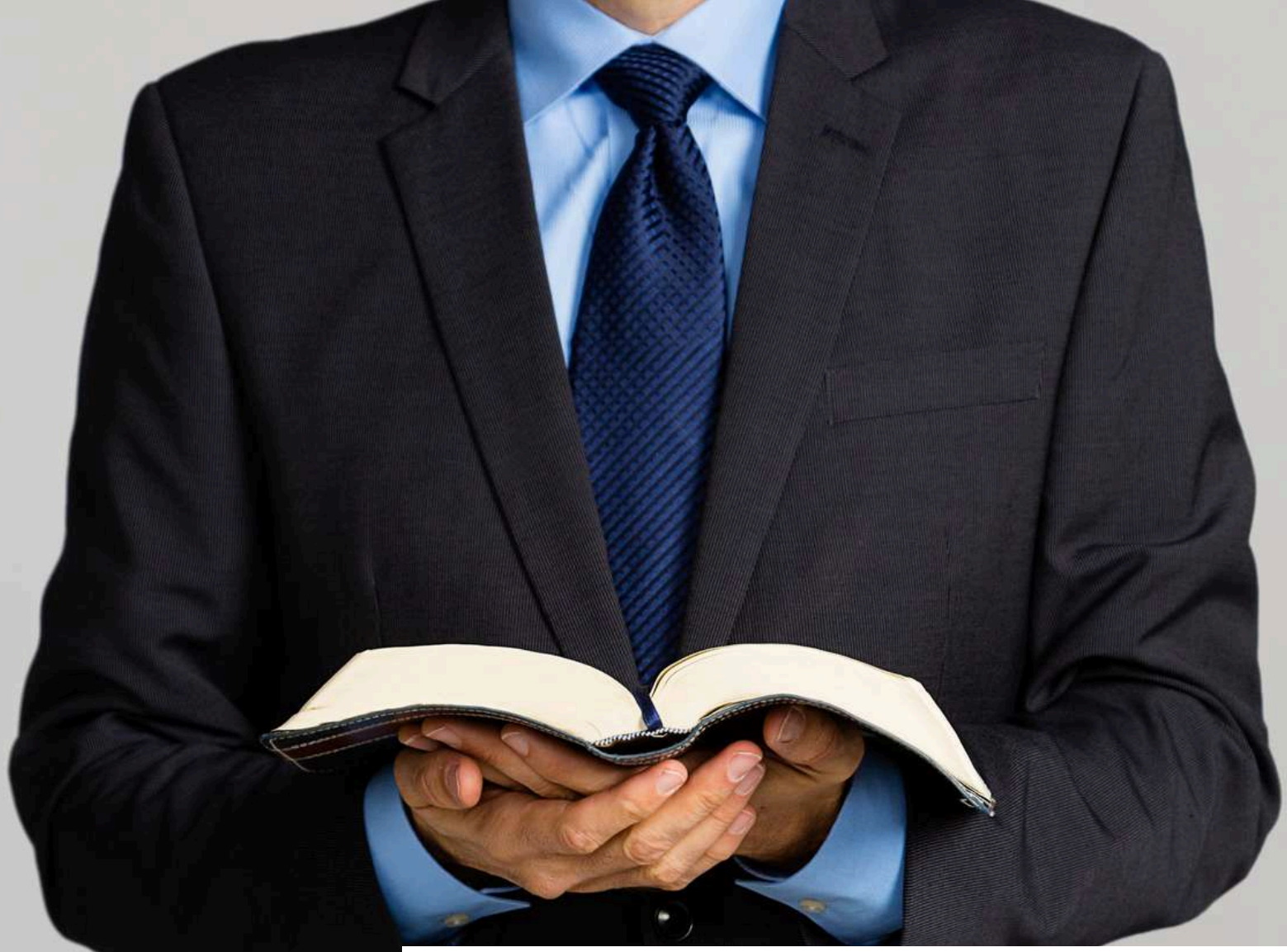
weather is going to change for better I believe next week we'll be in above 0 zone, which is great. But everything is so fragile and we understand one more massive drones and missile attack on Ukraine and the complete blackout may happen and nobody knows how to survive then.

This week we have our son Nikita with us. He finished his 66 days intense military training and they gave him one week off before sending him to his active duty. This coming Monday he is going to for a duty in Kharkiv area. We are praying for his safety while he'll be on the front line.

Thank you, dear friends and fathers, for your love, prayers, support!

May the Lord be with you and all of yours,

In Him,
Sasha



Preach The Word

(A Memorial to Elder Lavone Anderson)

Elder Dean Robbins

2 Timothy 4:2

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.
Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

"Preach the Word!" This is the plea of the Apostle Paul given to Timothy, a pastor and beloved by Paul as a fellow laborer in the word. Well, this admonition is stronger than a plea, isn't it? It is more on the lines of a directive, a command. Preach the Word! This is a special passage to me for two reasons. The first reason is because this is the primary task for which God called me to do. This is the primary task for all who called into the ministry as an Elder. In the book of Acts, the apostles called for men to be selected to take care of the physical needs of widows so the Apostles could give their attention to the ministry of the word of God - "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to ***the ministry of the word***" (Acts 6:3-4, emphasis mine).

There are other duties that falls under the command to "Shepherd the flock of God" (*1 Peter 5:2*). But the primary duty of a pastor is in the ministry of the word of God. The second reason as to why this directive to "preach the word" is special to me will be shared later in this article.

"Preach the Word!" Timothy, in his being calling by God, and set apart by the laying on of hands by a presbytery, is being reminded by Paul that he must remain diligent in this primary task of the ministry of the word. Why? Why is there this need to remind Timothy of his obligation to preach the word? The answer is provided in verse three, "***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine…***" Timothy is to preach the word because there will be people whom Timothy will lead, as their pastor, who will challenge the truth of God's word. These are described in the passage as having "itching ears" (verse 3). Itching ears is another way of saying they will desire to hear their own truth. Their desire will be for the preacher to preach what they want to hear rather than hearing

what God wants them to hear. What is inferred in this reminder is that discouragement and despair can quickly overcome the servant of God. He is human and subject to times of depression. It is possible that Paul here is giving the remedy for Timothy in dealing with such people. It is to "preach the word."

Paul is warning Timothy to be ready to confront these "itching ear" hearers who either are believers who are greatly deceived, or they are false believers. No matter which is true, the remedy for this problem is for Timothy to "Preach the word." The Greek word for the verb "preach" means not only to publish or proclaim by voice, but it is do so as a "herald." All who are ministers of the word of God publish or proclaim that which is given to them. Timothy is a herald. He, like all pastors, speak on behalf of God by preaching the word of God.

Timothy is to publicly proclaim, to those for whom he has the oversight of what God has revealed in his word. And Timothy, as well as all who hold the office of Elder/Pastor, must be ready at any moment to preach the word. For Paul writes, "Be ready in season and out of season." The one who preaches the word is to always be ready to convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (Verse 2).

The "itching ear" hearer is not unique to the people of the first century in Israel. There are people today who want the preacher to preach what they want to hear. This is plainly evident in denominations who have recently experienced a schism. The core issue in all such divisions is most often the authority of the Scriptures. Is the bible authoritative or is it adaptable? Who defines moral teaching? Is it God through his word, or is it the culture?

What Paul is telling Timothy is what he himself experienced. In most of the letters of Paul to the churches, he is correcting errors that have come into the church by false teachers. Now the letters he wrote that were circulated among the churches of the first century are recognized now as Holy Scripture. Paul made sure of making known to those assembly of believers in real time that he was sent by Jesus and therefore what he writes to them is authoritative. Paul preached the

word. He was always “ready in season and out of season to “convince, rebuke, exhort.” This is Timothy’s calling and it remains the calling for pastors today. Preach the word!

Now, the second reason as to why this admonition to “preach the word” is special to me. It is special to me because it is what a pastor said to me upon the occasion of visiting him in an assisted care facility. In this facility, he was confined to a bed, his body failing him. Because of the progression of the disease of Parkinsons, he was unable to lift his head. In one of the moments of our visit together, he spoke those words to me, “Preach the word!” This pastor was Elder Lavone Anderson. I would often refer to him as “Brother Uncle.” He was a family member of mine by marriage. I emphasize "was" because he recently put off his present tabernacle and is now enjoying freedom from a body that failed Him. He is now in the presence of the One whom he loved to preach about.

His words to me that day, I will never forget. I will never forget them not just because they were a reminder to me of my duties as an Elder, but because it was spoken by one who, like Paul, experienced much in the way of hardship in the latter years of his life. His wife, Elizabeth, suffered from dementia and subsequently passed away. His son, Brad, passed away because of cancer. Both sorrowful events happened as he was declining in health. Paul, in the latter years of his life lived in a Roman prison. Elder Lavone Anderson was imprisoned in a body that was ravaged by Parkinsons. Yet that day of our visit, it was important for him to tell me what Paul told Timothy – “preach the word.”

Elder Lavone Anderson no longer could stand in a pulpit to declare publicly the gospel of Jesus Christ. That did not mean he ceased from sharing the gospel to those who would visit with him. The caretakers that would sit with him could attest to that. Preach the Word! This is what he loved to do. He did it in season and out of season. His saying those words to me spoke of how much he longed to fulfil this most sacred duty entrusted to him. I am thankful for his life and for his ministry. To my fellow-laborers in the word, I say “preach the word!”

Below is a link to his obituary. Please keep in pray his daughter Tamela and extended family.
https://www.joineranderson.com/obituaries/Lavone-O-Anderson?obId=46973551

Peace – The Illusive Fruit?

Lesson #6 - A Study In Christian Ethics

Galatians 5:22-23 | John 14:27

Elder Patrick McCoy

Contributing Editor

Galatians 5:22-23

"(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Introduction

Over 20 years ago a retired couple, concerned about the threat of nuclear war, decided to carefully research the safest place on earth to which they could move and live. They studied and traveled, traveled and studied.

Finally they found THE PLACE. And on Christmas they sent their pastor a card from their new home – in the Falkland Islands – just prior to the war between Argentina and England in the early 1980's over their control!

Have you heard about the newest gadget to insure peace and quiet at home? It is called a phone less cord! Peace, could we call it the illusive fruit? We seek it for the world. Millions and millions of people expressed their desire for peace several years ago as we prepared for war in the Middle East.

We seek it at home as we try just about anything – herbal supplements, sleeping aids, and meditation – to relax and find peace.

We seek it in our relationships. We enter counseling to find peace within ourselves and with one another. We read books, and listen to sermons, and ask for advice of close friends and newspaper columnists to help solve relational problems.

But, peace now seems more elusive than ever before. Is peace a possibility? In a unique devotional on this fruit of the spirit, called Tasting the Fruit of the Spirit, (published by Group Publishing) is this exercise.

(*Prepare the following for the class*) Mix water and cooking oil are mixed together. Shake it a couple of times and then set it to separate. In a moment come back to this bottle and see what has happened.

Alexander Cruden notes that there are three different primary meanings of the word peace in the Bible. They are: a. Peace with God b. Submission to God's plan or will c. peace with others.

Peace with God has two aspects: a. reconciliation with God b. peace with ourselves because of this reconciliation. Peace involving following God's plan involves obedience of God's will or plan. Peace with others also has two aspects: a. Mutual respect b. Deliverance/safety from that which threatens us.

Now, let's see what has happened to your mixture of water and oil. They have separated. Oil and water do not mix.

There are many "oil and water" issues in the world today. Some countries and ethnic groups just cannot get along. They would as soon kill the other as live in peace nearby or even next-door. Some families just seem to live at opposite ends of the house. Various political groups are as far apart as they can be on the important issues of the day. They agree on next to nothing and important laws and regulations get tied up because of their agendas and disagreements. Is it any wonder that peace is illusive?

DISCUSSION:
Talk about an "oil and water" issue!

Is this the kind of peace that Paul speaks of in our text, Galatians 5:22-23? Read these verses and discuss.

Peace With God

Let's return to Cruden's suggestions and see what turns up. As has already been noted, peace with God has two aspects, reconciliation with God and peace with ourselves because of this reconciliation. Over in chapter 2 we read, "For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us."

As Paul traveled throughout the Mediterranean Sea area (modern day Southern Europe) he was in almost continuous conflict with those who believed that there could never be any peace between Jews and non-Jews unless, of course, they all became Jews. But, as we see in Paul's own life, only when God was in control of Paul's life, did he experience a peace that allowed him to reach out to those different from him and that was only possible when Paul was reconciled to God. Read Acts 9:3-6.

Paul was a man with a mission! He was going to rid the faith of this new group of people who claimed some outrageous things regarding the coming of the Messiah! Paul was at war! He was not at peace with anyone who crossed him! And Jesus, in the segment just read from Acts 9, told him in so many words, "You are at war with me Paul!"

The first way that the fruit of peace becomes a part of our lives is that we are right with God. We confess our sins. We acknowledge our guilt and ask for forgiveness. Why? Because until we are able to let go of our past (and all the junk that is attached to it) and ask God to forgive us of our past, we will always be miserable and real peace will elude us and we will not be in full relationship with God.

But when Paul encountered Christ, the past became just that, the past. And Paul would later write that all that was a part of his past was like trash and he could say with certainty "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."

Peace With Ourselves

The second aspect of peace with God is peace with ourselves. And we see how important this kind of peace is in the lives of Peter and Judas. Peace went out the window when, as we read in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Peter denied Jesus after his arrest. It also left Judas who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Tragically, one could not reconcile to God and himself for what he had done. The other, in a moving passage in John 21, allowed himself, as Jesus spoke to him, to be reconciled with himself as well as with Christ. But, in both men's lives, the inner turmoil was great.

Point of Discussion:
Have you ever been around someone who was not at peace with themselves? Hard and difficult, isn't it?

Peace, a Fruit of the Spirit

If peace is one of the fruits of the spirit, then doesn't it mean that God wants us to be at peace with ourselves? Why is that? Because we matter to God. He created us. He loves us. He cares for us. And it is His desire for those who follow Him to experience His peace through their lives.

Point of Discussion:
Why then is it hard to love ourselves and be a peace with ourselves?

In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul gives us some reasons why we have trouble experiencing peace with ourselves as he tells us how to have that peace. Paraphrase: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand."

Experiencing God's Peace

We fail to experience God's peace when...

- we constantly worry
- we fail to pray about everything
- we don't cultivate "an attitude of gratitude"
- When we fail to let God's peace take root in our minds and souls

Discuss personal experiences where one or more of the above conditions were present in you.

Worry sucks the peace out of life. Worry and peace cannot co-exist together. It's an "oil and water" issue. Worry is based on 100% of our efforts and 0% on God's. A relationship in with God is not a solo effort, it is a relationship and when I last checked, a relationship still involved two people.

Prayer gives us perspective. Prayer reminds us that God knows what he is doing. Prayer is one of the ways that He cultivates peace in our lives.

Then there is thankfulness. Two of the most important words that we can say on a regular basis are "Thank you." Saying thank you to God creates an "attitude of gratitude." And peace thrives and grows in an environment of thankfulness.

Now in cultivating the peace of God in our lives we must also follow God's plan. And there is one word that captures that effort – obedience. We have to keep letting God lead us in the directions that we need to go. We must follow Him day in and day out in order to really experience the peace of which Paul writes in this passage. Just as it takes time for real fruit to grow and ripen, so it also takes time for the Fruits of the Spirit to grow and ripen in us.

Cruden also notes that peace with God involves submitting to God's will. In Job 22:21, Job's friend Eliphaz says to Job, "Stop quarrelling with God! If you agree with him, you will have peace at last and things will go well for you."

Quarrelling with God? How can we be at peace when we are quarrelling with God? It's one thing to ask questions of God as a way of working through challenging situations; it's another when we continuously argue with God. Peace cannot take root and grow in our hearts and lives.

The final aspect of Cruden's observations regarding peace in the Bible has to do with the importance of mutual respect and deliverance and safety.

Paul's counsel to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:22 is a good summary of this observation. "Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts."

Peace grows and thrives where respect and love of other believers is present. We also experience the peace of God when we stay away from things that will take us away from what is right and pure and clean.

We also build credibility with one another and with others as we live out this counsel and God's peace becomes a clear witness of God's power in our lives. But, then there is also the issue of what to do about living with those who do not believe as we believe and live as we live. Where does God's peace come in? Proverbs 16:7 says, "When the ways of people please the Lord, he makes even their enemies live at peace with them."

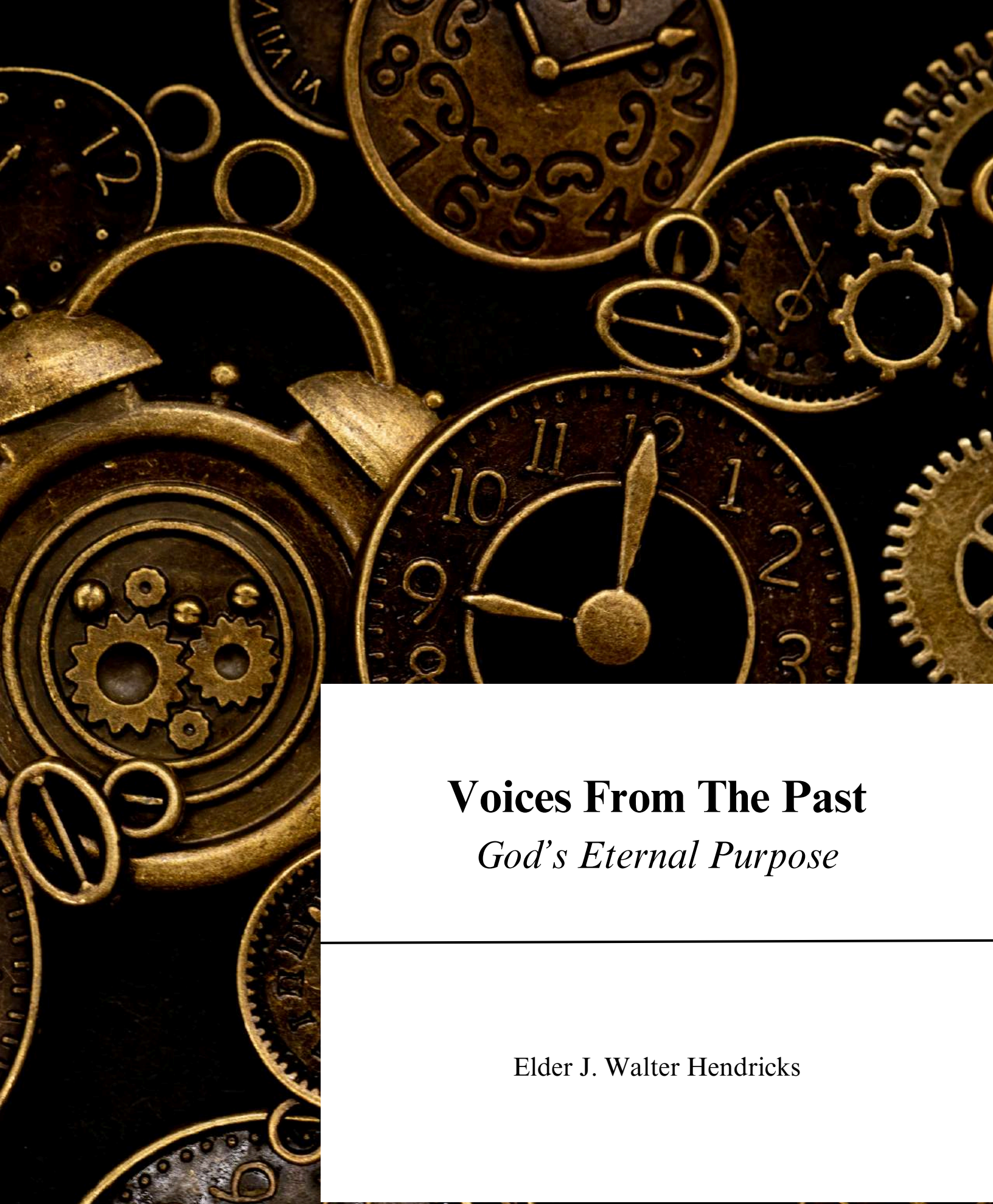
Now I can almost hear some of you saying, "Pat, I wish that were true. But, I have people who mock me and laugh at my way of life, how can this be true?" Good question!

What's behind that mocking? Anger? Sometimes. How about jealousy or guilt or shame? Sometimes the greatest razzing we get is due to the fact that people see the fruit of peace in our lives and they want it. But, they are not quite ready to give up their current way of life for your way of lift. The pain or shame or guilt has not gotten heavy enough for them to make the changes they need to make by inviting Christ into their lives.

So how do we cultivate the fruit of peace in our lives?

- Be reconciled to God
- Allow God's peace to take you over
- Seek to be at peace with others as much as possible
- Obey the Lord – daily!

May you truly experience God's peace in your life. Amen



Voices From The Past

God's Eternal Purpose

Elder J. Walter Hendricks

Ephesians 3:11

"According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2 Timothy 1:9

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

1 Peter 1:20

"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world."

Romans 8:28-30

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that Love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

Ephesians 1:4-5

"According as he hast chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (his purpose)."

John 17:24

"Thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

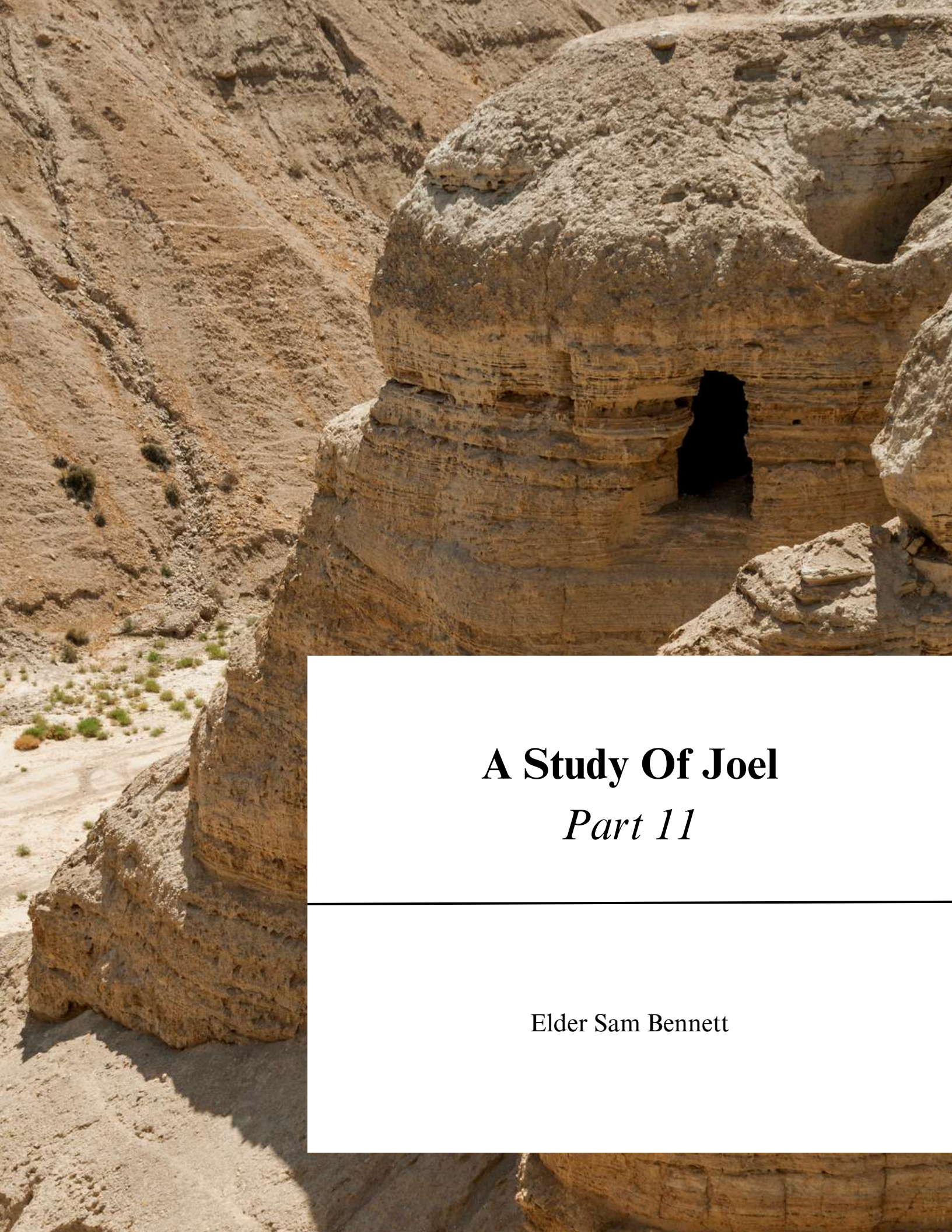
It is impossible for us to think of God as anything but eternal. There has been no beginning with God and there will be no end with Him. If God has always existed, and that is the teaching of the Bible and the faith and confidence of our hearts, then God could have formed and fixed His purpose at one time as well as at another.Many of the passages quoted above affirm that God's purpose

was formed before the foundation of the world. He does not say how long before, just before. Could it possibly make any difference to us when God fixed His purpose? Certainly not, but the fact that He did fix it before the foundation of the world makes it certain that Man did not have anything to do with the fixing thereof, and was not consulted. That is just the trouble with vain man. According to man's opinion God should have waited to consult man before He did anything that involved the eternal destiny of man, or else He should have formed only such purposes as might be ratified by man or made available and workable by the will of man. Get that, bud, and keep it; you may need it before long.

Having shown by the Scriptures that God's purpose was formed before the foundation of the world, let us now consider what that purpose involved. It most certainly involved the whole plan of salvation, the advent of Jesus Christ into the world, His life, His death upon the cross, His burial and resurrection, His ascension to glory, His mediation and intercession at the right hand of God, His second coming to raise, change and glorify His redeemed that are asleep and to change those still alive, and gather them all home to the Father in heaven above. "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God." Acts 2:23.

God's purpose involved the salvation of His people, His elect, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, every one of them who were included in the covenant which He made with His Son, before the foundation of the world. God made the choice of His people. Modern theology says wait a minute and let man make his choice of God. Since all men are sinners by nature, not one of them would ever choose God, but would go on in the depravity down to an endless hell. If God has chosen the sinners that are to be saved, and the Scriptures affirm that He has, then God will work on them the salvation of Jesus Christ by the Holy Ghost, and they will then seek God because there is no other help to a heave born soul. Do you see?

The previous article is taken from the April 1947 issue of the Banner Herald. Elder J. Walter Hendricks wrote it. He was the Editor of the Banner Herald. The Progressive Primitive Baptist Library and Archives, located in Statesboro, Georgia, houses not only previous issues of the Banner Herald, but many more historical materials related to the Progressive Primitive Baptists. You are welcome to visit the Library and Archives. The address is 8 South Zetterower Ave. Statesboro, GA 30458. Please consider supporting the work of the Library and Archives by making a tax-deductible donation. Mail to P. O. Box 784 Statesboro, GA 30459. Email address, PPBLA@frontiernet.net. Phone number, 912-489-5762.



A Study Of Joel

Part 11

Elder Sam Bennett

Joel 3:1-8

"(1) "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, (2) I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. (3) They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. (4) "Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head; (5) Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions. (6) Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them far from their borders. (7) "Behold, I will raise them Out of the place to which you have sold them, And will return your retaliation upon your own head. (8) I will sell your sons and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah, And they will sell them to the Sabeans, To a people far off; For the LORD has spoken."

Throughout the study of this book, we have repeatedly stated that prophecy in general tends to have more than one fulfillment, and that some of the imagery presented may be symbolic. Concerning the locusts, there may have been an actual devastating invasion of these voracious insects that left the land of Israel in dire straits. It is also possible that the locusts were symbolic of invading armies of conquering empires that attacked the land of Israel. It is also possible, and most probable, that both are true. The devastation by the locusts may have been a preview of what was to come.

Verses one through three of chapter three state basis for God's judgment. We have previously indicated that from verse one of chapter three to the end of the book is future from Joel's point of view. The voice of God in verse two plainly says that He will enter into judgment on account of His people. No invading army, whether locusts or world-conquering empires, could possibly inflict damage

on God's people without God's permission. God could have restrained Assyria and Babylon, and thereby prevented them from making war against Israel. However, Israel was guilty of turning from God.

Joel 2:12-13

"(12) "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." (13) So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Those verses would not have been necessary had Israel not turned from God in the first place. But they had. The locusts and the world-conquering empires were instruments in God's hand to bring His people back to Himself. God did not have to motivate Assyria or Babylon to invade Israel, He merely allowed them to do what they naturally wanted to do. God used those empires to chastise Israel.

However, those empires were also guilty of doing what they did. God did not cause them to attack and conquer, He simply allowed them to follow their own desires. They were still responsible for they did. And what they did was that they attacked God's people. Because of what they have done, God will enter into judgment with them.

Verses four through eight of chapter three are presented in the form of a lawsuit. And, there is an important principle that we must remember: God's judgment always matches the sin. The judgment of God is precisely matched to the nature of the sin against God.

Verses four through six are a presentation of the charges against the nations. Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia are the nations in closest proximity to Israel. Being so close to Israel, these three nations particularly should have known that Israel was not like them. Israel was a nation chosen by God to represent Him and His holiness to the world around them. However, instead of Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia being influence by Israel, they pressured Israel with their own worldly influences.

At this point in Joel's writing, the time for ignorance has expired. The basic premise of this event is similar to what we read in Acts, chapter seventeen, when the Apostle Paul spoke on Mars' Hill.

Acts 17:29-31

"(29) Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. (30) Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, (31) because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

While we are right to say that God is long-suffering and full of mercy, the passage in Joel and Acts 17 along with many others indicate that God's long-suffering is not limitless. When the fullness of time (or iniquity – see Genesis 15:16) is complete, God acts. All that God does is right and holy and for His own glory. The conquering armies of Israel's neighbors and their allies, symbolized by the invasion of the locusts, did what they naturally desired to do, and God allowed it to happen. Israel was devastated. The people were brought to a place of repentance. The locusts and the other enemies had accomplished God's purpose of bringing His people back to Himself. However, the locusts and the neighboring enemies and conquering empires were guilty of sinning against God. They had retaliated against Him by attacking Israel.

Two points of indictment are charged in verses five and six. Conquering empires literally stole the precious metals from the treasury of the temple. And the people were taken captive and sold into slavery.

2 Kings 24:8-14

"(8) Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. (9) And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. (10) At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. (11) And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. (12) Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner. (13) And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. (14) Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land."

Daniel 1:1-4

"(1) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. (2) And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. (3) Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, (4) young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 5:23-30

"(23) And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. (24) Then the fingers of the hand were sent from Him, and this writing was written. (25) "And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. (26) This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; (27) TEKEL: You have been weighed in

the balances, and found wanting; (28) PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians." (29) Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. (30) That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain."

The conquering nations have committed these atrocities against God and His Temple and His people. From Assyria to Babylon to Greece to Rome, conquering empires scattered the defeated people of God. This was God's chastisement of His people for their waywardness and wandering away from Him. This was done by the nations. They are guilty. God will not allow sin to go unpunished. He has entered into judgment with these nations and has level charges against them, describing their crimes.

Verses seven and eight is God's promise of justice. As the nations have done to God's people, so will God repay them for what they have done. God avenges. He avenges righteously and completely. He will judge righteously, and the punishment will match the offense. We find a parallel of this promise in the New Testament in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9:

> *(6) since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, (10) and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, (11) in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (12) These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

There are two main ideas that we should understand about the final judgment of God:

1. It is God's judgment, not man's. Therefore it is perfect. None can argue against it.
2. It is final. There will be no appeals.

John was given a preview of this in the Revelation.

Revelation 20:11-15

"(11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (14) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

Dear reader, God is serious about sin. He will not allow sin to go unpunished, whether you believe in Him or not. If you are a child of God, the penalty for your sin has been paid by Jesus on the cross. You may have wandered away from God. If you are facing unbearable struggles, it may very well be that God is calling you to turn back to Him. Do not delay. Repent. The Lord is rich in mercy, and He loves His people. Turn back to Him. Accept that He has used the events in your life to show you your need of Him. Leave vengeance to Him.

If you have never known the forgiveness of sin that is found only in Jesus, but you are feeling the weight of your sin bearing down upon you, do not harden your heart. Jesus Christ is the sinner's only hope of salvation. Call upon the name of the Lord while it is today!

News, Events, & Updates

MINISTERS SCHOOL

– PASTORAL MINISTRY –

Metter Primitive Baptist Church

Metter, GA

FEBRUARY 16 – 18, 2026

234th SESSION

Ministers School – February 16 - 18, 2026

Monday - February 16

2:45 PM	Welcome – Song & Prayer
3:00 PM	Shepherding & Leadership – Elder Jason Solomon
4:00 PM	Preaching, Teaching, & Worship – Elder Keith Hamilton
4:45 PM	School Dismissal
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Evening Worship

Tuesday - February 17

8:45 AM	Song & Prayer
9:00 AM	Prayer & Fasting – Licentiate Ken Clouse
10:00 AM	Visitation & Hospitality – Elder Andrew Tucker
11:00 AM	Discussion Period
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Service & Outreach – Elder Jackie Deal
2:00 PM	Counseling & Mentoring – Elder Pat McCoy
3:00 PM	Discussion Period
4:45 PM	School Dismissal
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM	Evening Worship

Wednesday - February 18

8:45 AM	Song & Prayer
9:00 AM	Church Discipline – Elder Matt Yawn
10:00 AM	Business Session
11:00 AM	Discussion Period
12:00 PM	Lunch & School Dismissal

2026 PRIMITIVE BAPTIST FOUNDATION MEETING

WHEN:

April 28, 2026

WHERE:

Union Grove Church
6370 Chestnut Ridge Rd,
Winchester, TN 37398

www.progressivepb.org

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE

MUSIC
WORKSHOP

JUNE 2 - 5, 2026

THEME: “THE SOJOURNER’S SONG”

After two years of prayer and consideration, the Music Workshop Board has voted to move the date of the 64h Annual Music Workshop from July to June. This year, the date for Music Workshop will be Tuesday, June 2 through Friday, June 5, 2026.

Hopefully, this will solve some of the problems that go along with a July Workshop: Central States Bible Conference, sports and band activities, pre-planning. It is our hope that this move will make it easier for some of you to attend. It will be an amazing way to kick off your summer! We realize that the problem of back-to-back weeks for MW and camp will exist, but we pray that the good outweighs the bad. Go ahead and mark your calendars so that you will consider this NEW date when you plan your summer activities. Our theme for this year is "The Sojourner's Song." You will receive more info in the first Quarter Note for this year shortly. Please share this news with everyone you know, but especially your young people. We would appreciate an interest in your prayers as we take this giant step. We feel this is what God is leading us to do. We pray God will bless us all.

Information regarding the 2026 gathering of Music Workshop will be announced in the near future. To stay up-to-date, make sure to subscribe to The Shofar newsletter:
https://www.pbmusicworkshop.com/contact.html

GEORGIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CAMP
7159 HILLVIEW RD, CLAXTON, GA 30417

Progressive
Primitive Baptist

Southern States Bible Conference

Why not spend your vacation fellowshipping & worshipping with your brothers & sisters in Christ from all across the country?

St. Simons Island offers plenty of youth oriented & family friendly activities you can enjoy while attending the conference.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

1 Peter 4:16

When:
July 6-9, 2026

Theme:
How To Be A Christian
1 Peter 4:16

Where:
St. Simons Island, GA

CONTACT DARRYL HARRIS FOR MORE INFORMATION

(770)-693-2948

darlynhar@aol.com

Hosted by the Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church

Epworth by the Sea

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Elder Emerson Proctor
C/o The Lodge at Bethany
77 Bethany Way #210
Statesboro, Georgia, 30458

AVAILABLE FOR SUPPLY:

Elder Matt Yawn
(478)-960-8574 - (Matt)
(478) 960-8574 - (Jennifer)
mattyawn53@gmail.com
104 Clover Hill Dr., Kathleen, GA 31047

AVAILABLE FOR SUPPLY:

Licentiate Jacob Yawn
(478)-508-2306
jacobyawn53@gmail.com
104 Clover Hill Drive, Kathleen, GA 31047

OBITUARIES

ANDERSON, Lavone (Elder) –
December 6, 1944 to January 15, 2026
Turner Primitive Baptist Church, Enigma, GA.

CLAY, Henry –
September 18, 1929 to January 5, 2026
Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

WHITAKER, Betty –
January 29, 1932 to December 27, 2025.
Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

In accord with the historical position of the Primitive Baptists, the editors of The Banner-Herald subscribe to the scriptural principles stated in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. The following is an abbreviated statement upon that confession.

- We Believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant, and the only rule of faith and practice.

- We Believe in the only true and living God. That there are three persons in the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three agree in one, are coequal, coeternal, and coexistent.

- We Believe in the total depravity of the entire human family; that is, sin pollutes man's faculties - his heart, mind, and will - and he is unable to recover himself from his lost and ruined estate.

- We Believe in particular, eternal, and unconditional election, the effectual calling of the elect, and the final perseverance of the saints.

- We Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, the only Savior and Redeemer, and that Salvation is by His grace alone.

- We Believe that believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ. We Believe the only baptism taught and recognized in the Bible is immersion. We Believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of our Lord's death and should be regularly observed in the church. We Believe that the washing of the saint's feet is an example of humility and service to be observed by the church.

- We Believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper but such as are called by God and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.

- We Believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust; that the just shall be raised, changed, and fashioned like unto the glorious body of the Son of God, to dwell in heaven forever, soul and body reunited; and, that the unjust shall be raised, soul, and body reunited, and consigned to punishment in hell forever.