

# THE FREE WILL BAPTIST.

"LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE"

Vol. 24.

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From Will Baptist, services every 4th Sunday at 11 o'clock, and at night, Editor E. T. Phillips pastor. Prayer meeting every Friday night. Sunday school every Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock. Prof. T. E. Peden, Supt. Amphibian Society meets every Wednesday night.  
Missions Baptist Church, services every 2nd Sunday at 11 o'clock, A. M., and at night, Rev. T. E. King, pastor. Sunday school 8:30 p. m., W. C. Jackson, Supt. M. E. Church, south, services every 2nd Sunday at 11 o'clock, A. M., and at night, Rev. Standish pastor. Sunday school at 8 o'clock, P. M., W. M. Edwards, Supt.  
Christian Church, services every 1st and 3rd Sundays at 11 o'clock, A. M., and at night, Rev. R. H. Jones, pastor. Sunday school at 10 o'clock, A. M., E. L. Brown, Supt. Ladies' Auxiliary meets every 3rd Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.  
St. James' Episcopal church, services every 4th Sunday, except months containing five Sundays, then on the 5th Sunday. Rev. W. E. Coe, Greenville, S. C., rector. Sunday school every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. E. G. Cox, Supt.

#### LODGES.

A. F. A. M. meets every first and third Thursdays. R. W. Smith, W. M.  
I. O. O. F. meets every Monday night at 8 o'clock. Dare Lodge of Rebekah meets every Friday night at 8 o'clock. Town Commissioners meet second Friday night in every month. E. G. Cox, Mayor. R. W. Smith, Clerk.  
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There is always a kind of man who makes easy jets at the small beginnings of great enterprises. Sidney Smith laughed at "consecrated cobblers" going out to convert the world with a few pounds laid on a green covered table in a little village in Northamptonshire. But most great things begin small.—Ex.

### THE KINGDOM.

As I have not written in some time, I feel impressed to write on the subject of the kingdom found in Daniel 2: 44. "And in the days of these kings shall never be destroyed. And the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces, and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." We understand that Daniel was a man of God, and looked in the future as the spirit gave him light, and saw that God would soon take the kingdom away from the Jews, his chosen people, who had broken his law, and failed to repent of their transactions. God is going to take the kingdom and set it up for the Gentiles. For proof of this go to Acts 1: 6 "When they therefore were come together they asked him saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" The text is decisive. Look at the fulfillment of this prophecy. Matt. 3: 1, 2, 3. "In those days came John the Baptist." "What days? In the days of these kings, that is while they lived. Daniel said, in the days of these kings, or while these kings live, or before they die, God is going to set up a kingdom. John said, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We can see from the time that Daniel spoke, to the coming of John, that the kingdom had come, and John declared it to the people.

Luke 16: 16 "The law and the prophets, were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Does this mean the church? No, for Jesus says in John 3: 3. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then it is a spiritual kingdom. Matt. 4: 17. "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt 11: 12. "From the days of John the Baptist, until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Then surely Daniel was right. God did set up a kingdom. We have the words of Daniel fulfilled. John declared it—Jesus declared it. Men were going into it. It would be absurd to say that men could go into something that was not in existence. You see the words of the old prophet came to pass. You will say, "What is the kingdom?" Jesus said in Luke 17: 20, 21. "The Kingdom of God cometh not by observation, for behold the kingdom of God is within you." Rom. 14: 17 "For the kingdom of God is not meats and drinks, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." We see that the kingdom of God is invisible. Now we have the kingdom located. It was prophesied by Daniel, John and Jesus, declared it fulfilled, and yet the church has not been mentioned. Here, on this ground, I affirm that the kingdom is not the church. Jesus said to rightly divide His word. I am going to do what Jesus told me to do. We find in Matt. 16: 18, "And

I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Now let us look at the words, I will build my church." This means in the future. I have not built my church, but I am going to build it. So we see that the church never was in existence. But the kingdom is come. Now let us go to the prophecy of the church. Isaiah 2: 3. "But in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountain, and it be exalted above the hills: Now, look at Mich. 4: 1, 2. Ezek. 17: 22, 23. Now, turn with me to the Gospel, Luke 6: 12, 16. "And it came to pass." What came to pass? The very words of Isaiah. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established." Luke 5: 12. "And it came to pass in those days." What days? The last days, gospel dispensation. That Jesus went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night. Verse, 13th. When it was day, he called unto him his disciples, and of them he chose twelve whom he named apostles. He commenced with Simon Peter and ended with Judas Iscariot these twelve Jesus sent forth to preach. Now, look at Mark 3: 13 "He goeth up into a mountain and calleth unto him whom he would, they come unto him and he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach. In 16th, verse, he commences with Simon and takes in Judas Iscariot which betrayed him. They went into an house. What house? The Lord's house that Isaiah said would be established in the top of the mountains. Now, let us find the Lord's house. Heb. 3: 6. "But, Christ as a son over his own house, whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence, and the rejoicing of the hope, firm unto the end." But, if I tarry long thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of the Lord, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground. Here we have found the Lord's house, and not the kingdom. We found that Daniel spoke of the kingdom 2: 44 Isaiah spoke of the church, Isaiah 2: 2. Look at the meaning of kingdom, and then at the meaning of church. It does not mean the same thing, neither is the kingdom and church the same. May God bless the words and guide us into all truth, is my prayer. Now, look at I. Cor. 12: 18. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostle. Then it is a fact that Jesus put them into the organization, or church on the mountain. When men get into the kingdom by regeneration they are saved, and prepared for the church, and not until then. Men can get into the church without being saved, but cannot get into the kingdom.

Seek ye the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. So when we get into the kingdom we are saved, but many get into the church not saved. If the church and kingdom are the same, then was a denomination believe that the church that we belong to, is the church of God. Then if it is, and I believe it is, then men are bound to come to the Free Will Baptist church, to get salvation, for salvation is in the kingdom and damnation is out of it. We believe men can be saved without joining the Free Will Baptist church. Let us look well into this subject.

I will close my letter. God bless truth and pardon error. Your brother in Christ,  
J. G. HODGES,  
Bruceville, Tex.

ELD. J. K. RUFFIN WRITES.

DEAR EDITOR:—Please permit me to speak freely to my brethren through out the many parts of the vineyard, to whom the Holy Ghost has made overseers, by the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ. Among whom also we had our conversation in times past, in the lust of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind, and were by nature the children of wrath even as others. But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sin, has quickened us together with Christ (By grace ye are saved) by which we look for him a second time to present us to himself, a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5: 27. With these, and other such scriptures spoken by Jesus and his apostles, and all the holy prophets of old, moved upon by the Holy Ghost, what is the good and accepted will of our God. It should constrain us to ever stand for the great needs of our denomination, that we believe to be the church of Jesus Christ. Oh brother, can each of us come to ourselves as an individual and put our hand to our breast, and say, "Lord Jesus, I have done what I could." Can we really say, "I am ripe for the harvest, and ready to be offered up." Can we say, "come quickly Lord Jesus, for in my person there is no spots, and the blemish of a worldly mind is taken away, all wrinkles have been smoothed by faith, and my labor is in the vineyard of the Lord. If we cannot let us remove our hand from our breast, and whatsoever we find to be profitable that do with all our might, then we shall be able to hear the weekly cry of our paper, and heed the many calls, as they come from such worthies as the Editor, Bro. Peden and others, telling us what is most needed in our midst to make us strong like men. Oh, why not rally to the call, to repair our institution at Ayden? Why not enlarge her walls and endow her, that she may be fully

equipped with the necessary means, so that the tender branches, (our young men) may beautify and strengthen this our most beloved denomination, the vineyard of the Lord Jesus, and church of the first born. In conclusion brethren, lets get together in mind, heart and hand and do more in 1906 for his cause, than ever before. The promise is unto you and to your children, and to all them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall.

Spring Hope, N. C.  
FROM R. F. SKELTON.

DEAR EDITOR:—I would like to say a few words through the paper. Notice Eph. 5: 27 "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing." The apostle here represents Christ as giving himself to sanctify and cleanse the church. Paul here enjoys the privilege of a vision of a church to win men to Christ. It is striking that this vision came to him while in prison. Certainly their was nothing in his environment to lead him to such optimism. A more miserable dungeon one never saw. Some times God has had to put his children in the dirtiest dungeons to get from them their best. The best in most of us is kept back, because of the alloy which needs to be burnt out. It seems at times that God is very hard, but if we could only see as He sees, how much easier it would be for us to submit to His refining power. In this vision of Pauls, it is well for us to understand that he had reference to no social band or body of believers. It is not my church or denomination nor is it yours. Pity the man who would attempt to expound this scripture, and go no further than the bounds of his own local church or denomination. I do not criticize the local church, nor do I reflect on the denominational idea, both are essential, but in this connection let us be true to the scriptures. Paul is speaking of the bride of Christ. Every honest believer in Christ is a part of this bride, and is brother to us all. It must also be remembered that this vision which he had is ideal, some think it is for the millennium, that the cleansing process is here, while the bride is presented to him at his second coming. However, this may be. We know that the ideal is the pattern for the present day church, that heaven is concerned in the perfecting of the church militant, that Jesus, its head, deserves a glorious body. "If ye abide in me and my word abides in you is the blessing." John 15: 7. It is also the only church that commands the respect of the world. The reason christianity to day is making such slow progress, is because the church is so indifferent. I believe the lack of power in the many pulpits, is because of the church back ground. Of course you would not expect me to take up all

the church doctrines. I will leave those for consideration another time.

There are three essential truths which need especial emphasis in a soul winning church. The integrity of the Scriptures, the Deity of Christ and, salvation through the cross. I know these are old, but I think that we shall see before we are done, that this is the more reason why they should be pressed at this time. 1st. *The integrity of the Scriptures.* No one with his eyes open can fail to see that there is to day much more upon the old books, as we see it.

I have watched the trend of the day with reference to this matter, with prayerful interest. I have watched young men in the ministry, who have come out of such institutions. I have observed their progress in the work, I have studied carefully the prophecys of the great spiritual men of the past the men who have moved the men godward, have been men, who held forth the old book, revised it, preached it, and tried to live by it. Christ himself did not waver concerning the old Scriptures. He ever mentioned sections of the Old Testament. Jesus quoted in some way, or read it in His short ministry. He never was heard to doubt the authenticity of any of it, even quoted Jonah in the whole Matt. 12: 39-40. Surely where Christ went we may venture to follow. The church or preacher that does not accept the Scriptures as the whole truth, might as well exchange the Bible for any work of philosophy. But says one, "I cannot see what I am to do." Quit the pulpit. The failure to sound a certain note is spreading death among the churches, and sending souls to perdition. May the Lord help us to be more zealous in the future than we have been in the past.  
Littleton, Ala.

### WHAT ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

So be patient in all things for the dear Lord's sake, and let the light of patience shine brightly for this is the fourth light. Add to patience godliness. Godliness or piety to God consists in reverencing his perfections, esteeming God's will as our chief good in this life, fearing to offend him, doing all we can to promote his honor in all things, as our Father in heaven does forgive us. God-likeness, is that ours? Is it possible that we can inherit this great honor of God-likeness of forgiving and loving and caring for the great cause of God and human souls, so as to be like God, to pass by the sins that hat have been committed against us, and to love their dear precious souls. May we be like the Lord on the cross, pray for our persecutors and try to lead them to God. This is the fifth lamp and should be kept burning brightly always, and the way to keep it clear is to love God, His ways, and works. Add to godliness brotherly kindness. Now, we have before us the sixth and one of the greatest of all the

graces. Joan said, "if we love not our brother, whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?" And again, "He that sayeth, he loves God and hateth his brother, is a liar. Now, brethren, do we love merc-popularity extend to each other our needs? Or do we look at each other as being born into the family by the same spirit that set us free from sin and darkness, to a new life. A new hope and bless God a new life in the soul. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. We should love each other with great love, and make it manifest by our care and protection of our dear brothers, good names and happiness in this life. Our treatment of our brother should be as our selves. Have we this spirit in our hearts? Are we humble and submissive to our brother? Do we seek to elevate our brother? Does it make us happy to see our brother attain to some honor? If not we had better pray to God to let the sixth light shine on our hearts, by driving pride and selfishness out, and letting brotherly love shine in.

Add to brotherly love charity. This is the big lamp. If there is one christian grace above another it is this. Now, brethren, this is the grace we should covet, but to attain to this we must contain the first six, so that the seventh will be ours. This is the heart made perfect by the love of God, and it is then we can pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done."

Charity is the seventh lamp and should be kept burning brightly. Brother, if you let either of these lamps go out, it is sure to put out this one for it takes all of the six to light the seventh, so it will shine with glory and beauty, and all people can see a halo of light and glory. Our faith will display the stone with seven eyes and all looking at once with purity and love beaming, that people will be compelled to say, "This is a child of God, for we see the seven lamps." These lights make a reflection that pierces as the seven eyes of God, or the seven stars in one stone that was laid before Joshua. Now brethren, we believe that the seven spirits of God are displayed in the seven christian graces, and each does its perfect work, to bring man to perfection in this life, and holiness, without which no man can see God.

Dear brethren and sisters, we should let the seven lamps burn every moment of our lives, for it is ours to fight sin, and bless God to overcome it as the dear Lord did. What a victory we can gain through Jesus, by destroying the works of the devil, and bringing his kingdom to naught. We should be glad that God has endowed us with weapons that the devil cannot stand, for when a child of God comes in contact with the devil, and the seven lamps all burning, and the eyes of God aglow in us the devil will flee from us, thank God.

Now, there is a greater cause for us to let all the lamps burn at once, and all the messengers of God sound in us at once, for we do not know when God will call. If we have all the spirits aglow, we can fall into the dear arms of Jesus, and repose on his breast as we loose sight of this world, and hear the sweet voice of God saying, "come up higher, my child, inherit eternal joys forever."  
Oh what a light to a christian is the Seven Spirits of God.  
H. S. SPEAR.