

stop interest and feel that I can travel and keep a home for my family.

I know this plan will be as easy for the whole community, as it will be for me to travel as I have done.

I shall take a general response to this appeal as evidence of its being of God, and as evidence of my past ministry being appreciated, of your sympathy for me and family personally, and of your wishes for me to continue preaching the same precious gospel of our common Lord.

With these remarks I submit all into the hands of a beneficent Creator, hoping he will resign me to whatever providence he appoints, is the sincere prayer of

Your humble servant,
L. I. BODENHAMER.

FLOYD SPRINGS, FLOYD COUNTY, GA.

"And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: This sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith," Eccl. 1: 13

God's people are spoken of in the scriptures as fellow-citizens in the same household; they are all taught of the Lord; they have the same Father, the same mother; they are brethren; God is their Father—Wisdom is their mother. They have one ruler, one law-giver, one Lord. They are one—of one church, "the fullness of the Godhead dwelleth in us."

Wisdom is justified of all her children," Luke 7: 35. "I wisdom shall be with prudence, and find out the hidden things, and I will have knowledge of witty inventions." Prov. 8: 12. Again, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," and whosoever then is born of God hath wisdom and he hath the fear of God, and the Spirit of God that searcheth all things—yea, the deep things of God. And I gave my heart, with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, the heart is the place where God dwells. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Again, Surely the Lord is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart: nothing is pure, nothing is clean but that which God cleanseth.

Jerusalem is a holy city because God dwells there; so God dwells in his people and walks in them. And I gave my heart, my affections, my mind: for to be spiritually minded is life and peace. "To seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven," then, is when the children of God, by wisdom give the "heart to seek and search out concerning all things that are done under heaven," and can by the Spirit discern the things that are of the Spirit, and also know the things that are of the flesh. "This sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." To be exercised is to be employed in "searching out the things that are done," to see if they are of

the flesh or of the Spirit—of man or of God. And when we can make the separation we say with David: "Ye that love the Lord hate evil," Psal. 97: 10. I hate every false way, I hate vain thoughts, I hate lying.—Do not I hate them that hate thee? Truly then it is a sore travail that the children of God have in their hearts when they can discern between the flesh and the Spirit "concerning all things that are done under heaven." Many things are done, many things are taught—and just as opposite as the Spirit and flesh are. So opposite are the works of man and of God! Man that walketh alone deviseth his way, directeth his steps; he speaketh of the world and the world heareth him. They speak and teach that the world by wisdom has learned; but man that is not alone but hath the Spirit of truth to teach him of a truth can say, "I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps," Jer. 10: 23. "A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps," Prov. 16: 9.

So, by these scriptures and by our experiences we are taught that God rules in Zion, yet there is another law in our members warring against the law of our minds, bringing us into captivity to the law of sin which is in our members. "This sore travail hath God given!" Yes, he who knoweth what was in man and what he hath given them, hath given them the law to keep them from sinning in spirit, meek and lowly in heart, self-denying, self-abhorning. Even the greatest is the least, the strongest is the weakest, the richest the poorest; "for in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow," Eccl. 1: 18. A "sore travail hath God given them" because he hath, by wisdom, enabled them from the heart to "seek and search out all things that are done under the heavens." The mind is laboring to find out the exceeding sinfulness of our nature, and the more we learn of it the more sore is the travail, by which we are exercised—and, if we have no warfare it is evident that we have not the Spirit of Christ, for the Spirit lusteth against the flesh and the flesh against the Spirit. These are contrary—the one against the other.—Then whosoever can truthfully bear testimony to this sore travail, experimentally hath the true witness that he is of God, and those that are of God hear and believe them; in the world they have tribulation—in God's only they have peace. All the doctrines and commandments of men, lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, they loathe and abhor. Yea! it is a "sore travail to be exercised therewith." "Behold I have refined thee, but not with silver: I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction," Isaiah 48: 10.—Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation, was made perfect through suffering; even so God is perfecting

his people through sufferings that are incident to the flesh. Bear hardness then as good Soldiers of the Cross, and remember that the sufferings of these present times are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us, and, "if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances. "Touch not, taste not, handle not," which all are to perish with the using after the commandments and doctrines of men, which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship—Colossians 2: 20. Cannot those that have the Spirit discern between the will-worshippers and those that worship in Spirit and in Truth? They have the outward show, and worship thus according to the will of the Creator; but we see no marks of this sore travail. Nay! we do not hear them crying out, "Oh, my leanness, my leanness!" but, after the commandments and doctrines of men.—What are they—rudiments or elements? They are the first principles of science, first part of education—earthly things—that which the natural mind can solve and comprehend.

These things are good in their place, as the law is good if we use it lawfully; but they belong to the old man, and we should put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt, according to the deceitful lusts—then all of the ordinances that have been introduced by the old man are like himself, corrupt—yet they have a shew of will worship and seem right to the natural mind; but, when the Spirit of Truth comes in its all-prevailing power it kills with Christ, from the rudiments of the world; this death is not instantaneous but we die daily and count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Such then worship God in Spirit and have no confidence in the flesh, and though they are living in the world they are not subject to the ordinances of man, but they are daily travailing and musing in their minds upon the goodness and mercy of God, and are crying out, "Oh, the depth of the riches—both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out." But though the works of the Lord are great, they are sought out of all them that have pleasure therein—Psal. 3: 2. The children of God can discriminate between the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit, and can both see and feel the exceeding sinfulness of our nature, and the time past of our life suffices us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, no longer any use for the will or fleshly worshippers though there be great humility manifested, though they neglect, punish, or afflict the body—it is not in any honor to Christ, but satisfying to the flesh or the natural will of man. Then God is a Spirit and his children are spiritual,

and nothing but that which is pure, lovely, heavenly and divine, can satisfy, feed and comfort their hungry souls. Then, we should give our hearts to "seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven," so that we can rightly divide the word of truth, "comparing spiritual things with spiritual," giving spiritual food to spiritual subjects, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever God has commanded," and nothing more, nothing less. Let your communication be—yea, yea! nay, nay! For whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

May we all heed the admonition of John, by keeping ourselves from idols.
F. M. CASEY.

MACON, GA., Oct. 4, 1874.

Dear Brother Gold.—

I take this opportunity of requesting you to send me one of your valuable papers. I think it is valuable because I think it contains the true Evangelical doctrine of the gospel of Christ our Saviour, and, I am truly glad to find so many able pens employed in contending so earnestly for the faith delivered to the Saints; and not only this, but through them we can hear from our beloved brethren and sisters, in the different sections, in this great time of trial and affliction among God's people, "who see eye to eye and speak one and the same language." To me this is a source of joy amidst all our afflictions. If I live to see this coming December I will be a member one year—at Shiloh. I was baptized by brother Simmons, a lovely preacher to me.

Brother Gold, I sometimes think I am not worthy to be there, and then at other times I can break forth in the language of the poet:

I would not live away, I ask not to stay
Where storm after storm rises dark o'er the way;
The few lucid mornings that dawn on us here,
Are followed by gloom or beset with fear.

I would not live away—no! welcome the tomb,
Since Jesus has lain there I dread not its gloom;
There sweet be my rest till he bid me arise
To hail him in triumph ascending the skies.

Who would live away from his God,
Away from yon heaven, that blessed abode;
Where the rivers of pleasure flow over the plains,
And the noon tide of glory eternally reigns?

There saints of all ages in harmony meet,
Their Saviour and brethren transported to greet;
While the anthems of rapture unceasingly roll
And the smile of the Lord is the feast of the soul.

Your little sister, in christian love,
L. F. BAZEMOISE.

Elders J. B. Parker and James A. Jones will preach, the Lord willing:

First Sunday in January,	Chinoe pin.
Monday,	Cypress Creek.
Tuesday,	Maple hill.
Wednesday,	Bay.
Thursday,	Stamp Sound.
Friday,	Yopp's.
Saturday,	Ward's Mill.
Second Sunday,	North East.
Monday,	South West.
Tuesday,	Muddy Creek.
Wednesday,	Sand Hills.
Thursday,	Beaver Dam.
Friday,	Sandy Bottom.
Saturday,	Pleasant Plains.
Third Sunday,	Bear Creek.