Our meeting has been a great success! The Gospel was preached in purity, many heard the plan by which God promises to save, and the Christians at Getwell and our sister congregations were edified and encouraged. We are indebted to brother Cameron Freeman for his help in all these matters! To all who visited with us we say, “Thanks,” and we hope you will return to visit with us again soon.

Some wonder if we are still under the Old Law of Moses today. Some accuse us of not believing the Old Testament. We answer that we believe the entire Bible, but that we must “rightly divide” the Scriptures so that we may know the Christian Dispensation under which all live today (II Tim. 2:15). We must learn that Jesus “abolished” the Law of Moses, meaning that he removed its power as a binding law on everyone today. Notice some important passages: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Mt. 5:17); “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col. 2:14); “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” (Eph. 2:15). Paul teaches by inspiration that we are delivered from the Old Law (Rom. 7:1-7) and, also, that it has been done away with (II Cor. 3:6-11). And further, we see that we are under a “better covenant” today in the Gospel (Heb. 8:6-7). We exhort all to hear and obey (Rom. 1:16).
A Merciful God Bringing Utter Destruction?

To many it seems inconsistent to say that God is a God of love and mercy but also a God of utter destruction. These refuse to admit both ideas taught in the Bible and “cannot” reconcile the two in reference to God. It is certainly a lopsided matter to suppose that God can be just and good and not bring destruction on the ungodly and disobedient. Justice demands that God will save the righteous and destroy the wicked in Hell. God’s mercy is firmly affirmed throughout the Bible (Ex. 34:6; Deut. 5:9-10). Psalm 136 is given entirely to the fact that “his mercy endureth for ever.” The compassion, kindness, love, and good will toward those who are suffering, whether by physical or spiritual afflictions, have been known by all who have “called on his name” in the proper way (Rom. 10:13-17; Acts 22:16). We would affirm with many others that God is merciful! But we must not forget another attribute of God mentioned in the Scriptures: “Our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:29). And again the Bible says, “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses” (Heb. 10:28). Amos warned even Israel about being on the opposing side of God in battle! He said, “Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12). The enemies of God, Satan and his people, will know God’s wrath! The Old Testament abounds with those who defied God’s will, turned from their Creator, and suffered His wrath! He has the sovereign right to call every mortal into judgement and will do so “according to their works” (II Cor. 5:10-11). God’s mercy is wonderfully shown in the Gospel for our salvation! Peter spoke God’s mercy even to the murderers of His Son: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). What exceeding mercy! What wonderful love! But what if men reject His offer of love and mercy in the powerful Gospel? (Rom. 1:16). For sure, God promises to those who reject His long suffering and offered mercy that He will send His Son in vengeance! (II Pet. 3:9; II Thess. 1:7-9). All can enjoy the mercy of God by obeying His Son (Heb. 5:8-9). Or we can reject His Son and receive His wrath against sin (Jn. 12:48; Rom. 6:23).
My article this week begins by wishing a very special person a happy birthday. Sister Wanda Barringer had a milestone birthday last Thursday. I understand she had 80 of her closest friends and relatives in a blowout party to help her celebrate. As a distant cousin I did not receive my invitation to the party so I suppose it got lost in the mail. Sister Barringer is definitely worth the honor, as the adage says to give honor to whom honor is due.

I am sorry to report one of our longtime faithful members is moving away. Sister Tina Sparks is moving to Hernando, Mississippi. I have had an association with the Sparks family since I was a young boy. The family lived down the street from our family. Tina’s son, Buddy, was my first baseball coach. I had a crush on her daughter Carol, and her daughter Lori was in my youth group. We will miss sister Sparks and her willingness to help in any way possible. Getwell’s loss is another congregation’s gain.

Last Wednesday, April 27, was Administrative Professionals Day, formerly known as Secretaries Day. We here at Getwell have three hard working, talented secretaries: Brenda Smitherman, church secretary; Karen Wallace, Spiritual Sword secretary; and Anita Shepherd, part time Spiritual Sword secretary. These ladies are an able resource to the congregation and to the elders. Their duties are too numerous to list but range from the list management and mailing of The Spiritual Sword to getting the bulletin out while making a certain youth minister’s article read better.

When you see one of these ladies, be sure to tell them thank you.

We here at Getwell are truly blessed with such good and talented people who keep coming our way to work with the Getwell family for the cause of Christ. Four such individuals have recently come our way: Ivory and Brenda Wilkerson, Rob Simpson, and Tom Pinner. Each one of these individuals bring unique talents to the table for the work of the kingdom. Welcome to Getwell.

As I pen this article, we are in the midst of our spring Gospel meeting. On Sunday following morning services we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and fellowship one with another. Prior to that, brother Cameron Freeman gave two wonderful lessons from God’s Word. Best of all, Dermaine Gonzalez was baptized into Christ. He is the significant other of Jessica Matthews and was baptized by her father, Jesse Matthews. Also, Sunday evening Markel Seay was baptized into Christ by his uncle J. R. Mayberry. With this baptism I am reminded of a goal set by J. R. to convert every member of his family to the Lord’s church. We all ought to have a similar goal. Be sure to welcome and encourage these young men.

Lastly, but very important, remember that Sunday, May 8, is Mother’s Day. If you still have your mother, be sure to spend some time with her. Stanley and I have a wonderful mother whom we love and treasure.

—Ron Wallace