

LIFE HISTORY OF MRS. M. E. COALSON June 18, 1908

Yesterday was **my** birthday, I was sixty-nine years old. In looking over my past life, I can see many defects, but it is too late to correct them now; so, by God's help I will try to make better use of the few remaining days or years I may live.

I was born in June, 1839. In the year 1853, God, for Christ's sake, pardoned my sins. I am so glad I gave my heart to God in my youthful days. It was at this time I resolved to live a Christian life and try to do something for Jesus. What success I have had shall be revealed to see when God makes up his jewels.

I have been a member of the M.E. Church, South, for fifty-five years. I can truthfully say I love the Lord's Kingdom; the house of Thine abode; the Church our Blest Redeemer bought with His own precious blood. I have never had any desire to quit the Church or go back to the sinful pleasures of the world, knowing full well they drew me from Christ. I am well satisfied with my infant baptism-- , know that water does not cleanse the soul from sin. Redeeming grace has been my theme, and shall be until death.

I have dedicated my children to God in prayer before they saw the light of this world. The Lord promised that not one would be lost if I would hold out faithful. My Lord and My God have been faithful. If I have been negligent, show me and pardon me, for Christ's sake.

I have had times of refreshing and drinking that precious fountain of life. I have helped to organize two Churches in Texas; have witnessed the saving of many souls, saw them brought into Christ's Kingdom, happily converted and have made good and faithful soldiers of the cross. I wonder how many will meet me at the beautiful gate, and will there be any stars in my crown. Yea, Lord, I think so. My greatest desire is to see my family, my children and grandchildren humble followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. O grant that we may feed thy lambs and help to send the Gospel to the people of earth who know Thee not. The tenth of all I possess shall be my Lord's, Father in Heaven, help me to be faithful in this Thy command.

February 8, 1919

As my days draw to a close I am seventy-nine years and eight months old. I want to add this testimony: The religion of Jesus Christ is true. I love the cause better and better. I want to do something for the great Centenary Cause, the Lord helping me. I know He will for the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

I am yet regular attendant at Sunday School. It is my purpose to go for personal benefit and to set an example of good for my children and grandchildren, which Thou has given me. Keep them under the shadow of Thy wing and safe from evil that might lead them astray.

This I am in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

signed: Mary Eleanor Coalson