The Christian
COURIER
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P. O. Box 718,
Lorenzo, Texas 79343

JANUARY 1966 FEBRUARY

Thanks Unto God

Most of us are careful to express our thanks to those who do a favor for us. We are also careful to teach our children to say "thank you" for gifts and favors done them. But do we think to give thanks to God for the good things of life? Do we realize that every good and perfect gift cometh down from God, the Father of lights, in whom there is no variableness or shadow of turning as James 1:17 says. In Acts 17:28 Paul says, "In Him we live and move and have our being." Do we remember that God in the beginning created all things that are in the heavens and the earth and man out of the dust of the earth, set him over the works of His hands, gave him command to multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it? Gave them every herb and tree bearing seed for food, forbade them eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of which they partook and ate, and God drove them from the garden. Death was pronounced upon all mankind.

But God provided a way by which man could be redeemed from this curse. "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ are all made alive." (I Cor. 15:22) Are we thankful for the sacrifice Christ made to save us from eternal death, when He came to earth, suffered, bled, and died on the cross of Calvary in order to atone for our sins? Are we thankful enough for this sacrifice to come together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and keep in memory His death by the breaking of bread, which he asked his disciples to do? (I Corinthians 11:23)

We should also be thankful to submit to Romans 12:1,2- "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and perfect, and acceptable will of God." Col. 3:5 says, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affections, evil concupiscense, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Col. 3:15-19 reads, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, unto the which ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in

all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father, by Him." I Timothy 2:1-2, "Exhort, therefore, that first of all, that prayers, supplication, intercession, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all Godliness and honesty." We should be very thankful that we live in a country where we can worship God as we understand the scriptures--worship Him acceptably, with reverance and Godly fear. Heb. 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverance and Godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." We should be thankful that we are protected in our worship by the laws of our land.

Do we realize that we should be thankful that God has provided a way for our escape from temptation, and will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to bear? Cor. 10:13

Phil. 4:6--"Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. Eph. 5:20--"Giving thanks always for all things, unto God and the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Col. 1:12-- Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in Light." Ps. 100:4--"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise." Let the peace of God rule in your hearts and be ye thankful. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.--- IICor. 9:15--"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." Col. 1:12-14--"Giving thanks to the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sin.

We find an example of unthankfulness in Luke 17:17 where Christ healed ten lepers. Only one returned and with a loud voice glorified God. He fell down at His feet and gave thanks. "And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" Only one had returned to give thanks to God.

Let us always be thankful--not just once in a while.

J. H. LACKEY

Why?

Why don't we understand the Bible alike? Is it a lack of study? Paul told Timothy to study to show himself approved unto God, and we are certainly admonished to study just as Timothy was.

Could it be a lack of meditation? The Apostle Paul wrote, "Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly unto them." I Tim. 4:15. David wrote, "But his delight in in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate both day and night."

Is it because we let our feelings enter in? Our feelings will lead us astray. The commandments of God are to be obeyed instead of our feelings.

What author would write so as to confuse his readers or tell us to receive something we couldn't understand? James 1:21--"Receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your soul." If we can't understand the Bible, then Christ died in vain. He died for the sins of the world, and he brought God's will unto men. If the new covenant which he sealed with his blood cannot be understood, then do we need Christ to come again and give it to us again? This would make his death on the cross in vain.

The Word of God is perfect and its author is perfect. It is thoroughly furnished and furnishes us unto every good work. (IITimothy 3:16,17) Misunderstanding God's Word then, must be the result of man's stubborness, his holding to tradition of his openness to Satan's deceit.

Eph. 4:14--"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."

The Apostle Paul charged Timothy before God to preach the Word, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine and they shall turn away their ears from the truth." (II Tim. 4:1-4)

What is the reason we don't understand the Bible alike? It is time we find out. We have been given every thing we need. II Peter 1:3--"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." CLAUD PERIGEN

NEWS--E. O. NOYES, Aztec, New Mexico--I am sending you our new address. We sold out at Sedan, New Mexico. We had to drive 115 miles to church there but it is only about 1½ miles to church here--quite some difference. Yours in the Faith. . .

DON TAYLOR, Loco, Oklahoma--We have just had a very nice visit with Brother and Sister Kenneth Baldwin. Ken held a short meeting at Ringgold, Texas, and here at Loco. We went to Ringgold two nights and then Ken held a three day meeting here at Loco. My family and I just returned from a trip to Lorenzo and Rallo, Texas, to visit with Brother Earl Howe and family.

We also visited with Brother Jimmy Loftus and family. We stopped in Seymour, Texas, to visit with Ken and Verle, Brother and Sister Studer, Brother and Sister Goodwin, and

Brother and Sister White. Sister Studer is not at all well, but is out of the hospital now. She is at Jo Goodwins, her daughter. Ken wasn't feeling too well either. If he gets to feeling better, he plans to be in Lorenzo next weekend. With Christian love. . .
(Note: Brother Ken Baldwin was confined to the hospital in Seymour with another heart attack. I talked to him last week while he was in Abline, Texas, visiting Brother Jack White who had an eye operation. Everyone was getting along fine. Baldwins were planning to go to Lorenzo for a few days and then on to California. Let us remember all those who have been confined to their beds by sickness when we pray.)

LOUISA A. PARKS, Broken Bow, Oklahoma--I just received the paper and enjoyed reading it very much. I am sending a small donation to renew my subscription and you can use the rest as you wish. The church here at Park Drive, Broken Bow, is doing very well now. Your Sister in Christ,

LAURA E. WILLIS, Carlsbad, New Mexico--I received the last two issues of the Courier and I enjoyed it, as I always do. I hope you and your family are well. We are all well here. The church here is continuing to worship God in spirit and in truth, but we have not increased any in number since our meeting last April. We are expecting Brother and Sister Couchman back home from Colorado anytime now. We sure do miss them. I am glad to note that Brother McCluskey is able to get out and preach the gospel again. I do hope the brethren will get behind him and will support him. I know he offers to go on his own, but it is the church's place to support their preacher in the field. If he is willing to give his time to the Lord's work, he should be supported. Yours in Christ. . .

WILLIE DOAN, Broken Bow, Oklahoma--I am sending an article for you to print in answer to the question, "What is Compassion?" I hope this letter finds you all in good health and full of the spirit of the Lord. Winter has begun here even though we had a very beautiful month in November. The church here is doing very well. We always welcome visitors coming through Broken Bow to stop and worship with us. Your friend and brother in the Lord. . .

J. D. JOHNSON, Lakeside, California--We here at Lakeside are doing pretty well. I have lost a lot of work because of the rain, but you folks in Los Angeles have had plenty of rain, too. Brother and Sister Hunt were here Dec. 5--we were so glad to see them. We are glad Sister Hunt was able to travel a little. Brother Dan Greenway is still in the Navy here at San Diego. He is suppose to get out on January 20, 1966. When he gets out, he is going to Oklahoma to visit his mother and father. He said he was coming

back to San Diego to find work, if it is the Lord's will.

Brother Dan Greenway's wife, Karen, is visiting in Washington and Oregon and will be back soon. My wife is in Kingman, Arizona, with her daughter, Retha Morris, who is expecting her second child. Brother George Morris and Brother Ralph Roads are there at Kingman, Arizona. These young brethren have taken a big step as they have bought one acre of ground. There is a building on it, which they are fixing up, so they will have some place to meet besides their home. Kingman, Arizona is on Highway 66. Their address is 1110 Carkinal Lane. Anyone passing that way is welcome to drop in and see them. I had a phone call from Brother and Sister Bixler on Dec. 10. They live in Farmington, New Mexico. They were here with us until he got out of the Navy. Sister Bixler is Brother Dabb's granddaughter. They are doing pretty well. These folks are wonderful people, sure did hate to see them leave. We all had a wonderful time at the camp meeting at Delta, Colorado. This is something a Brother or Sister should not miss. After we got back from Delta meeting, Brother Greenway baptized Charles Louis, my son.

This is about all the news I have. In this letter we are sending some help for the paper. We need the paper badly to keep in touch with other Brethren.

Anyone coming to San Diego please stop and meet with us. Yours in Christ. . .

EARL ATCHLEY, Westville, Oklahoma--I've put off writing to you for so long that I'm really ashamed, but we have so much good news that I must write you about it.

Brother and Sister Baldwin dropped in for a short visit and we asked him if he would preach a few nights for us. We contacted the Pleasant View Church of Christ near Stilwell and all decided it would be nice if we all worked together and have him hold a split meeting--half at Pleasant View Church and half at Baron Church.

This meeting got underway Sunday night, Nov. 28, at Pleasant View Church and went on through Wednesday night. Then it moved to the Baron Church and closed Sunday night with three services on Sunday with dinner at the church. We had good attendance at both places as we had 100% co-operation between the two congregations as well as several from the Bohanan Mountain Church attended several services. Best of all was the final results--six souls were united in Christ through baptism!

Two will be meeting with us here at Baron. They are Sharon Clinton and Trudy Brown. Sharon lives near Baron and is a close friend of one of Brother and Sister Jim Brown's daughter. She has been attending church regularly for some time and we were so happy when she made that noble confession. Trudy is Brother and Sister Brown's daughter. Another happy moment in all our lives.

Those from Stilwell were Jessie Walkingstick, the daughter of Sister Nettie Walkingstick. Another was Gerald Chastine.

This young man has been attending church pretty regularly at Stilwell for some time. Denat Spence, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Spence, and Glenda Cantrell, daughter-in-law of Bro. and Sis. Cantrell were the other two.

There was much rejoicing here and I'm sure there was much in heaven also.

Brother Baldwin did a wonderful job as you can see from the results. We all enjoyed the meeting and the wonderful admonition through his teaching, as well as our visits with both of them in our homes.

We at Baron are well pleased with the progress we have had since we began meeting in the new church house here. (Thanks to the Brethren who helped in the financing of the building.) We have had seven additions and two restored. We are yet few in number, but we are all striving for that heavenly home we hope to receive for our labors in the work of the Lord.

Hope to be able to help some as soon as we complete the payments on our meeting house. Hope you and your family are all well. Was good to talk with you on the phone. Yours in the one faith. . .

W. E. DANIELS. Stillwell, Oklahome--Just a few lines to let you know my wife and I are fine and the church here is gaining a little. In the recent weeks one was restored and two were baptized. This we are thankful for. I was with the Tiner congregation (east of Broken Bow) the third Sunday of Nov. All were fine except Sister Queen who was in bed with a heart ailment. We are glad she is improving.

All other churches I have visited or know of are doing as well as could be expected. At this writing Brother Earl Baldwin is in a meeting with us here which will close tonight. He will then go to Baron, Oklahoma for the remainder of the week. We have been made happy by Brother and Sister Baldwin's visit here with us in our homes.

Brother Ken brought some good gospel sermons and four young people made the good confession and were baptized. We are very happy. We are having fair attendance at worship, although there are some who are sick around the country--but none seriously. I think we are doing fair, considering the times in which we are living.

One thing we can be thankful for is that we are at peace among ourselves. We pray that the churches everywhere are doing well, and we ask God's blessings on all his faithful children wherever they are. Yours in Christ. . .

MRS. JOHN D. USREY, Sacramento, California--I would appreciate it very much if you would please publich my request in the Courier. We would like to know of anyone living in Santa Barbara, California area who believes and worships as we do. There are several churches of Whrist in town, but none are worshipping according to the Bible. Mother would appreciate it more than you ever know if it is possible to find a loyal church where she can worship each

and every Lord's Day. Thank you very much. Your Sister in Christ. . .
(Is there anyone in Santa Barbara, San Hose, or El Centro, California or Portland, Oregon? If so, write us and let let us know where they can be reached. Roy)

HOWARD McCAY, Yakima, Washington--I'll try to write a few lines to let you know that all is well. The church here is coming along about the same. There are the usual number of colds and so forth, but mostly the members have been in fair health. Delma Loveland had surgery on her wrist and Veda is to be operated on tomorrow. The weather here has been a little cold, but this is natural for this time of the year.

About 3 weeks ago, Brother and Sister Edge came back and are with us again. They had been out of Duty for some time. Brother Edge is a very good speaker and knows the Bible well. Why people do as they do is a great mystery to me.

Yesterday, January 16, Jim Colvin was baptized for which we are very thankful. He is the husband of Sister Maxine Colvin.

We here at Yakima are planning on at least two meetings this year, Lord willing. We are planning for June 12 - 19 and October 30 - November 6. We do not know who our speaker will be. I will let you know when we find out. We wanted to get the dates in early so if any of the Brethren have vacations about these times and can be with us, we will be very happy to have them. Also if any of the preaching brethren come, we would probably have extra services with guest speakers the last Saturday and Sunday of each meeting. I feel that all the congregations need more meetings for the spiritual upbuilding of the members and growth of the church; also the preaching brethren need to be out preaching the Gospel and bringing the Brothers and Sisters in Christ closer together.

January 20-I was delayed in finishing this because Veda was operated on. She is doing as well as can be expected. She will be down for some time.

Well, guess I'll close and mail this. I hope this finds you and your family in good health. Tell everyone hello for us. Your Brother in Christ. . .

IRA BROWN, Escalon, California--Will you please announce our meeting. We are to start our meeting here at the Waterford church June 19 for one week ending June 26. Brother Jerry McCay and Brother Richard Johnston will be our preachers. Both are from Yakima, Washington. Anyone of you who can come and be with us is welcome. There is plenty of parking space at the church for campers or trailers or we would be glad to have you in our homes. We hope you can come and be with us to help make our meeting a success.

CLYDE L. COUCHMAN, Carlsbad, New Mexico--We hope this finds

all well on the West coast. We are all fairly well but Sister Willis has been sick. She is much better now. I am sorry about not writing more often for I have depended upon Sister Willis too much to write the news. We are t... thankful to have nine worship with us most of the time. We sometimes have visitors here with us. We were so glad to have Bro. & Sis. Baldwin in our home. They have been on a tour of the churches in several states. We enjoyed two hours of singing at Bro. Bruces home. Bro. Baldwin is not well. We met with the church 6 miles north of Hoffs, New Mex. one Lord's Day and Bro. Bruce and family on another Lord's Day. Bro. & Sis. Algood are to be commended for holding out faithful. They meet in their home and there are five members there. May God's richest blessings fall on all Christians. In Christian love and love of the truth. . . BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA--Happy and sad are we for Bro. & Sis. Olan Taylor for their son Dick is home having served his required time in the service, but son Bill has just begun his required service in the Air Force. He is stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. Bills mailing address is A/3C William A. Taylor 9F 17749796, Squadren 61, Box B9012 CMR2, Sheppard A. F. B., Texas 76311. Dallas Mickey, son of Rex Mickey of Cave Junction, Ore., is stationed with the Navy at San Diego, Calif. Dallas has been attending church here in Bellflower and was beptised Jan. 23. His mailing address is Dallas Mickey 5A, 9150316 6026, SSC 13B NTC, San Deigo, Calif. Write these young men and let them know that we are thinking of them. It will help them, I know, to hear from you. Bro. Elmer Forsman from Yakima, Wash., who is in the Navy stationed at Point Mugu, Calif., visited with us here Jan. 30. You can mail your letters to him at this address: AA Elmer Forsman 3909858 Code 6200, Box 35, NAS Point Mugu, Calif. 93041. Other visitors here with us have been Carl Taylor, Ron Tiffs roomate, Eart & Zelma Broadway, from Yuma, Arizona, Sis. Stringham from La Habra, Bro. & Sis. Brown, and Bro. & Sis. Elmer Hunt. We had weekend service Dec. 11 & 12 with Bro. McClusky of Sacramento and Bro. Logan Sr. of Modesto preaching for us. There were many visitors from La Habra and Pomona with us for this good meeting. Bro. Nelson was unable to attend as planned. Bro. George Meadows is home from the hospital and was able to attend services this morning, February 9. Roy

The Christian Courier (formerly The Gospel News Courier) is published and mailed at La Habra, California, entering as third class mail under permit 72, La Habra, Calif. 90631, Po Box 97 with return postage guaranteed. Publisher and Editor is Roy L. Snoderly. All material received for publication is received as the sole property of The Christian Courier and is retained and used as such at the discretion of the Editor. Roy L. Snoderly