The Christian
COURIER
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SIN IN ITS MANY FORMS

F H Logan

This subject should be most interesting to all Christians, for our souls' salvation depends upon how much we know of it. In 1 Peter 1: 2-3, speaking to Christians, Peter said, "--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." Also, in verse 5, "--add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge,--" Let us then add knowledge concerning sin, lest we be found sinners in the sight of God.

WHAT IS SIN ??

1 Jno 3: 4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law." It follows then that when we transgress God's law, we have sinned. How could we hope to know this except through knowledge of his word? and how could we obtain that knowledge, except through study?

THERE IS FORGIVENESS

1 Jno 2: 1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. Peter and John told Simon, the Sorcerer to repent, therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Acts 8: 14-24 This priveledge is afforded only to Christians. Sinners (aliens) must obey the gospel to have their sins forgiven.

EXAMPLES OF SIN

1 Jno 3: 15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Rev 22: 14-15 "Blessed are those that do His commanements, for they will have a right to the tree of life---" Cont'd page 2--

Those, however who fail to keep his commandments, have no such right. Thus it was that He said that without are dogs and sorcerers,-murderers- whoso loveth and maketh a lie." (Are we certain we are free from that sin?) We see why Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my father--" Matt 7: 21 We must also love our enemies, Matt 5: 21 Brethren, let us be careful what we do in this life, for our works must be perfect when we stand before God in judgement.

GOD'S REMEDY FOR SIN

1 Jno 5: 16 "If any man(Christian) see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and He shall give him life, for them that sin not unto death: There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

What of this "sin unto death"? God has answered our question in His word. Matt 12: 31-32 "--all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto man: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, shall not be forgiven unto men." In verse 32 He defines blasphemy; "But whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, (Jewish Age) neither in the world to come." (Christian age.) Christians should take care not to speak evil of the Holy Ghost, for in this age there is no forgiveness. (This is the only sin for which the bible declares there is no forgiveness.)

OTHER ASSUMPTIONS

It is well to note that murder, lying, adultery, theivery, etc. are not called "sins unto death". All these sins, and many others can and will be forgiven through prayer to God. When you commit such, you are not committing the "sin unto death."

It then follows that the sin referred to by John (1 Jno 5: 16) was the same sin referred to by Christ. Matt 12: 31 Note well that Jesus said all other sins would be forgiven men. Christ was addressing His disciples while John was writing to the Church. This blessing was extended only to God's children, and not to the world.

I have written this article in hope that we will study the scriptures, and recognize the truth concerning sin, for only the truth can make us free. St Jno 8: 31-32.

Written in love of the truth,
F H Logan

"A ZEAL OF GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE"

By Bert Weakley

The story is told of a preacher who was preaching about the creation. He was doing fine until he started to tell about how God made man, and that was where his zeal and lack of knowledge got him into trouble. This is what he said;

"The Lord God went out and got himself some mud, a big pot of mud. He took his hands and made a ball and flattened it out. Then he made another ball, and made it long, and hooked it to the big ball. Then He made another and flattened it and hooked it on to the long one. Then He said, 'The big ball I have made is a body, the long peices are legs, and the ones hooked onto his legs are his feet.' Then He made two more, and these were arms. He then made a little ball and stuck it on top of the big ball, and said, 'Now I have made man.'"

That was the beginning; that was the first man. Then He took him over and stood him against a fence to dry. At this a little voice spoke up from the back of the church and said, "Parson, didn't you say that was the first man?" The parson said, "I sure did, he surely was." Again the little voice spoke up and said, "What I would like to know is, who built the fence?" The preacher answered him by saying, "You know, it is ignorant questions like that one that make me wonder why I ever became a preacher."

Sure, you can laugh at this; this man was carried away with his own voice and his own thoughts. Yet he was no different from some of us who get carried away with our theories and conceits so that we fail to see the true word and the sense of it.

In other words, no man has a monopoly on brains or ideas, or theories and instead of doing as the apostle Paul told Timothy to do in 1 Tim 2: 15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God,--" we surmise or presume on the teaching of God's word as this preacher did.

We are like the good old sister who remarked that she felt as though she was full of dope. Upon being asked how much dope she had taken in her life, she admitted she had never taken any.

So, in the future, let all of us have our zeal of God according to knowledge, for no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake--

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as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2Pet.1:21. If we leave out all our ideas, presumptions, and theories, then when we are called upon to give an answer for the reason of the hope that is within us, we can readily, easily,and emphatically do so.

Your Brother in Christ,
Bert Weakley.

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NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Brethern:

We are really encouraged by your response,both financially and with your articles and news. We have news for November to overflowing. Some letters we must condense,others we will print as we received them. Don't be offended at this. We of the staff feel it is better to get as much in this way, than to have to delete sone due to lack of space. However, there are some congregations which have not responded. We hope you will reconsider and do so soon. Remember,"WE BE BRETHERN," and our responsibility is to each other.

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COTTONWOOD, CALIF.

Dear Brethern:

Inclosed find a check to help in the publishing of the Courier. I received one of the first editions and will look forward to receiving one each nonth.

C.M.Brockman
Rte.3 Box 418
Cottonwood, Calif.96022

Brother Brockman worships each Lord's Day in Chico,Cal.

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GLENDORA, CALIF.

Dear Brethern:

We are pleased that the Courier is again being published and send this money as our personal contribution.

On our recent vacation, we had the priviledge of attending the Church at Grants Pass, Oregon while on a short visit with our brother and sister, Fay and Myrtle Kellems of Rogue River. Our Best wishes for much success.

Sincerely,
Randolph and Olive Kellems
20125 E.Crestglen.
Glendora,Calif. 91740

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FROM SELF TO RIGHT

From fear and worry may we find release,
By serving Christ the Lord, the Prince of Peace,
If we will truly turn from self to right,
Belold love's star and follow in its light,
All wars, and talk of wars on earth will cease.

B B Edmisston

CARTER, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern:

We received your most welcome and long desired, first edition of the Christian Courier. To again be able to read the news of other brethern and congregations is like receiving a belated letter from "home"

Brotherly,
W.R.Farrar
Rte 1 Box 99
Carter, Oklahoma.

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TUCSON, ARIZONA

Brothers and Sisters, In Christ:

Greetings from the church in Tucson, Ariz. We hope this letter finds all Churches of Christ throughout the country meeting in harmony and love, which we are commanded and must do.

The main purpose of this letter is to let all churches know that our beloved Bro. Roy Dabbs from the Aztec, New Mexico church is gravely ill in an Albuquerque, N. Mex. Hospital. It is my understanding help could be needed, both in prayers and finances. We here in Tucson will do every thing we can to fulfill this goal.

As for the church, it is doing fine. Sis. Galleo is sick and is awaiting surgery. She is the former Sis. Lonie Chadwick. She can be contacted at St. Joseph hospital, Tucson, Arizona.

Anyone coming through Tucson who would like to worship with us please do so as we would like to meet you. We meet at my home at 6044 E. 21st. St., every Lord's Day. Call my home at 298-1367 anytime day or night, or Bro. Jack Morris at 296-7935.

Yours in Christ,
Abram Lobato

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GRASS VALLEY, CALIF.

We received word from Brother Ken Harper and family, that Bro. Ronnie Tibbs and Sis. Gail Deschaine were married Sept. 19th. and are living in Sacramento, Calif. Our congratulations to you Ron and Gail. May you have many happy years and much service to the Lord.

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LAKESIDE, CALIF.

We here at Lakeside are all well, except for a cold or two. Bro. and Sis. Orendorff and their grandchildren were here the 13th. and brought a lesson. We love to hear him talk. We were glad to get the paper. We are sending some money to help.

Brother J.D. Johnson
11032 Fillbrook Dr.
Lakeside, Calif.

SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Bro W A Nelson was called to Farmington, N M Sept 16 by the serious illness of his Brother, Tom Nelson. He had a stroke and passed away Sept 19. W B Nelson and Mary Nelson Smith, son and daughter of W A Nelson went for the funeral of their Uncle on Sept 21.

Brother Jack Renick, who has been sick for a long time was out to church Sunday. Also, Vernie Davis was out again. He had quite a seige with his illness and surgery.

Sister Carrie Long will celebrate her 85th birthday Oct 17. She makes her home with son Donnie and his wife, Mary.

Claude Allen Nelson, oldest son of W B and Verda Nelson, was drafted into the army last April. He is in Viet Nam.

Bro and Sis Broadway (Earl) left last Thurs to visit her parents in Arkansas. They plan to be gone about three weeks.

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The above was received from the W A Nelsons of Somerton, Arizona. Their good letter also contained news of Bro Roy Dabbs' recent illness, which news we also received from others. For this reason, we deleted that portion of the letter.

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EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

First of all, may I say that I was pleased beyond words to have received the Christian Courier. It was indeed a blessing to know that others wanted to know about the small church here in Eureka, Cal. My wife and I are holding services in our home, but only for a short while. We visited the faithful saints at Grant's Pass, Oregon, and hope to move there shortly, so we may help the saints there. Brother Tom Broadway was very kind to let us stay with him and his family during our visit.

If any want to visit us, please come; Your'e indeed welcome to stay and worship with us. Our address is, 4468 Walnut Dr., Eureka, Calif. Phone 443-2174. Thank you again for sending the Courier to us.

In Christian Love,
N C Quinn

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We received our copy of the little paper, and think it is a good thing that you brethren have taken upon yourselves to publish it. We can have a means of contact between the churches and know what is going on among the brethren. We can have some good articles from the brethren and grow closer together in the work of the Lord. The church here is glad to receive the paper, and are striving to do all we can here. Sometimes it gets discouraging, but we should all look to the things that Christ said in Matt 7: 13-14 "--few there be that go in thereat". Also, Matt 7: 31 only those that do the will of the Lord will be saved. So we must press on and continue to do the best of our ability.

We were made glad, and were fortunate to have Bro Howard McCay with us for a short meeting. Wish it could have been longer. Bro McCay is a man that is sincere and is striving to do what he can to build up the church wherever he is needed. We need a lot more in the field, but it looks like most everybody is too busy to take the time to work in the Lord's vinyard. Now is the time when we should wake up to the fact that now is the day of salvation, and get to work in a sincere effort for the Lord.

Sincerely Yours, in Christ,
Lloyd Treat.

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Brother Ray Shea, and family from La Habra congregation worshipped with us on Oct 6. We are happy to announce that they have an addition to the family. A baby girl, Julie Ann.

On Oct 13, Bro and Sis Dick Taylor who are presently living at Lakeside, Calif, attended services here. Having been recently married, we wish them the best.

Sister Litha Meadows was in the hospital with neck complications, but is now home and feeling well. Also Sister Al Way and children have been ill with the flu, and we have had our share of sickness in the congregation during this past month.

In Christian love, Gerald Perigen

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For all who can and wish to send contributions for Bro Dabbs please send to "Roy Dabbs, Rt 1, Box 19 Aztec, New Mexico." Let us all remember Bro Roy in his difficulty, with both our prayers, and assistance.

GRANT'S PASS, OREGON

Dear Brethren:

Every one that I have talked to that has read the paper was very pleased with the first edition and are looking foreward to receiving future editions. We enjoyed the articles very much and it is a pleasure to read of the activities elsewhere in the Brotherhood. Keep up the good work.

About two weeks ago on Lord's Day, Bro Rex Mickey and family worshipped with the congregation in Springfield, Oregon. (Eugene) and visited with their daughter and her family. This past week-end, Oct 20, we enjoyed having visitors from out of town, worship with us. Bro Ellis Forsman and family of Yakima, Washington, and Bro Clarence Quinn and family of Eureka, Calif. Bro Quinn spoke Sunday morning on "Faith and Works". Bro Buckner is seriously ill and is in the hospital at Medford. He has asked an interest in our prayers.

The Brethren here asked me to send in the news from Grant's Pass last Lord's Day, at which time I also learned from Bro Forsman that the cut-off date each month is the fifteenth. Hope you can squeeze this in this time.

Tom Broadway, Grant's Pass, Oregon

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

It's good to have the paper going again. There is a great need for a general newsletter to coordinate the news of activities and events to Christians in the various parts of the land. Just knowing the dates of gospel meetings is a valuable asset in knowing when to set our vacations to attend these meetings.

This past year my wife, Lynell, and children, Paul and Kelly, and I spent my vacation taking in a couple meetings in the South. We travelled together with Howard McCay and supported him in his meetings at Peoria, Arizona, and Lorenzo, Texas. On this trip there were several people that we met for the first time--- people whom we have heard of through the paper and other Christians. The association and Christian Hospitality we received everywhere we stayed and visited was wonderful. We feel like we have known these people for a lifetime after approximately a week at each meeting.

In August we were able to attend the first week-end of the meeting at Indian Springs (Grass Valley), California. We were sorry that we couldn't have spent more time with these wonderful brethren, but my work

did't allow me to be away any longer time.

Unfortunately, our attendance at further meetings will be somewhat curtailed. September,Friday the 13th. brought us good luck in the form of a 2 day old baby girl, Lori Jenell.

It is our hope and prayer that the paper will be able to accomplish the purpose for which it is published. We know the various contributing efforts will not go unrewarded, but we do want these efforts to be entirely successful.

In Christian Love,
Ellis,Lynell Forsman &Family

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REDMOND, WASHINGTON

Sister Ada Johnston of Redmond, Washington, would like to have someone that is in the area to let her know of a congregation near. She and her two teen-age sons are now meeting in their home. The closest congregation is near Port Orchard, which is 70 miles from Redmond.

They moved from Eugene, Oregon a year ago and left many loved ones, who they greatly miss. Due to work they have an early worship. They would like to find a congregation near so they could worship with them. If any one knows of someone in that area, please contact Sister Johnston at 20642 N.E. 85 th St.Redmond, Washington 98052

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STANTON, TEXAS

Brother N.E. Bergstrom wrote in August,(please forgive the delay) concerning the passing of Bro. I.F.Berkstresser. He passed away May 17th of a fatal heart attack. He passed away at his home quietly. Bro.Berkstresser was in advanced years, his mid 80's. Sister Berkstresser lives now in Midland, Texas. Burial was at Edmond, Oklahoma.

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STOCKTON, CALIF.

We are sorry to report that last Saturday, the 26th. our daughter, Patricia was involved in a serious automobile accident in Stockton. She was injured very severely, and probably will be in the hospital about 2 weeks, after which recovery at home will be lengthy, doctor says at this time she possibly may be up by Christmas. As most of you know she is 18 yrs. of age.

Her mother and I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation for the many kindnesses shown to Patricia and ourselves at this time. We have received many phone calls, some from very long distances, and many letters and cards.

If any would like to send a card, I'm sure it would cheer her up.Her address is, Dameron Hospital 1049 No. Lincoln Room 227 Stockton, or our home address Thanks for your Prayers and thoughts. Fern &J.D.Logan

Brethren:

As you probably have noticed, the paper is a little late this month. There are several reasons. We received lots of news, for which we wish to thank everyone. We had to condense some letters down to get them in. There were also several which dealt with the same subject, so we eliminated some of the references, but only for the sake of space.

Also, between our first stencil, and the writing, our daughter suffered her accident, so that held us back several days. But we do intend to be on time, Lord willing, so be patient, and above all, KEEP WRITING. God bless you all.

J D L

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STRIVING ABOUT WORDS TO NO PROFIT

Words are mere expressions of thoughts. As a rule, a word has a primary meaning which we may safely interpret as the correct meaning. There may be, however, secondary or even more meanings to the word. In such cases, we must determine the proper usage for the word by considering the general context in which it is used.

This is especially important in deriving the proper meanings of the scriptures. We may read a certain passage, study it intensly, and presume to have the meaning properly implanted in our mind, only to find that we were so preoccupied by the words that we missed the meaning of the entire passage.

In 1 Tim 1: 4 it is stated, (referring to bishops) "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity." This is a good case in point. The word "children" here is definitely in the plural. At first sight, one would assume the apostle is insisting that all bishops (elders) have a plurality of children. But is this so??

That an elder must be a father I do not believe anyone familiar with the scriptures would question. The apostle Paul so directed both Timothy and Titus. However, I find ample reason to question this particular interpretation to mean a plurality of offspring.

For one thing, the word "children" does not necessarily mean a plurality. It is used here, as in other places in the Old and New Testaments, in its common form and does not convey necessarily a plurality.

Permit me to deviate one moment from the scriptures. In our home city of Scockton it is mandatory, if one lives on our street, to send ones children to a particular high school. This certainly does not mean that I may evade this law if I have only one child. But the term here used is plural.

Recently, there was a note sent out from one of our local schools inviting parents who had children of a certain age to attend a special meeting. Did this exclude parents with only one child?? Certainly not!

SOME EXAMPLES

In the Old Testament it is said of Sarah following the birth of Isaac, "And she said, "Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given suck unto children"? for I have born him a son in his old age." It is evident that the term "children" here is equivalent to "a son".

In 1 Tim 5: 4 any widow having "children" is to be kept in support by them, and not burdensom to the church. Surely, we could not suggest that if a widow has only one child, this relieves that son or daughter of any obligation. But lthe scripture says "children" and this is plural.

I believe we can understand the scriptures better if we seek the over-all thought in each passage. What is the author trying to convey? Did Sarah litterally have "children"? Must a man have more than one child to have his "children" in subjection? Must a widow have more than one child to be supported by children? I believe the answer to be self-evident.

I believe the over-riding thought in the case of 1 Tim 3: 4, is that a man must be mature, showing by his good judgement and discipline over his offspring that he is capable to rule over the house of God wisely.

Let us be very careful that we do not overlook the main meaning of a passage by straining too hard on the meaning of a single word.

Or, to put it in the words of Paul, --strive not about words to no profit.

Written in respect of the truth,

J D Logan,
130 W. Acacia St.,
Stockton, Calif.

PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON

We meet here in our home and would like for our address to be put in the Christian Courier in case anyone is ever up this way that would like to meet with us. Most of the time we can only be sure of my wife, her mother, and myself being here. Wes Orendorff gets over when he can. He works for the weather bureau in Seattle, and can't get over every Sunday.

The last two Sundays we have had a young sister, Hire from Yahama with us. She is taking training at Western State Hospital South of Tacoma, and we look for her to be with us for some time.

There is one thing you might be able to do for me either in the paper, or otherwise. I would like to get as many addresses as I can of Christ's Churches in the U S A.

Am sending a small check now and expect to help more later.

Yours, in Christ, Robert and Ellen McCay

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STANTON, TEXAS

Brother N E Bergstrom writes, "Sister Thomas Whelan, 1309 So Hickory, Salem, Missouri 65560, has not found a place to worship. If anyone knows of any place, please send her the address.

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MUNDAY, TEXAS

We received the copies of the Christian Courier, and were very glad to get them.

Sister Earl How of Ralls, Texas, had an operation for the removal of a goiter this past Wednesday, Oct 23. She is doing quite well Wednesday night.

We'll be looking forward to the next copies of the paper.

With Christian Love, The Jack White Family.

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The letter from Bro McCay brings up a point worth consideration. It is our plan to print, at the earliest possible time, a directory of churches which are faithful in work and worship.

The staff.