The Christian
COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353
Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ

DECEMBER 1968

JUST A LITTLE REMINDER

W. E. Daniels

We read Paul's admonition to the church at Corinth in 1 Cor 10: 12, "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

The above verse really covers more than we might at first think. From the scripture it is evident that we can be too sure of ourselves and when we are thus minded, we are likely to let our guard down. Then we have opened the way for Satan to give us a swat. As long as we are a little in doubt of ourselves we will be on the watch, but if we are too sure of ourselves we get careless and neglect to take heed lest we fall.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Cor 13: 5, "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. Proove your own selves." My comment is: When we are too sure of ourselves we are likely to neglect to examine ourselves. We can only proove ourselves by God's Holy Word, the Gospel of Christ. Brethren, may I say the best sermon we can preach is the life we live. While we are looking for the faults of others, we are not looking at our own.

I have not written this because I think other brethren and sisters are in the fault, but because I realise I must keep a constant watch on myself.

My prayers are that with one mind and one mouth we will glorify the God of Heaven in keeping ourselves in the love of the Eternal God.

Written in love of the Brotherhood, and the truth.

****

CAMP MEETING

We hope to have news in the near future concerning the West Coast Camp Meeting.. Keep in touch.

THE SABBATH

F H LOGAN

The question is often asked,"Is the sabbath of the decalogue binding on man today?" This is a valid question and deserves a scriptural answer.The following is offered as I find in the Bible, and hope to be of value to whomever may read.

NO! IN NO WAY

The sabbath given by God in Deut.5:15 was a uniquely Hebrew institution, and was never given to a Gentile, wheter saint or sinner. The fact that God gave the sabbath to the Jew precluded its being given to the Gentile; "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt and that the Lord, thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and a stretched out arm; therefore the Lord, thy God commandeth thee to keep the Sabbath day.

THE HEBREW SABBATH WAS TO CEASE

"I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days her new moons and her sabbaths,and all her solemn feasts--? Hosea 2:11

This is not limited to part of her feasts,part of her new moons, or part of her sabbaths. He(God) rather said "her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths."

Has God fulfilled this promise?Has He kept His Word? If so, when?

WHEN CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS

Notice Col.2:14 and in verse 16-17 "Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink,or in respect of an holy day or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come, but the body (Church) is of Christ." This should settle the matter forever. But apparently,to some,this is not enough.

ISRAEL TRANSGRESSED

Israel despised and broke the Old Covenant,Therefore God determined to make a New Covenant. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel, and the House of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the Land of Egypt:Which covenant they brake."Jer.31: 31-32

Amos brought God's message to those wicked Jews who had broken God's covenant, and wanted to oppress the poor. They wanted to know when the new moon and the sabbath be gone? that they might sell grain and cheat the poor.

Amos answered, and said, "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, Jehovah, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day." Amos 8: 4-9

Note: when the sun should go down at noon, and the earth become darkened in the clear day, then the new moon and the sabbath would be gone, and the prophesy of Amos would be fulfilled. Note also Hosea 2: 11.

WHEN??

When did the sun go down at noon, and when was the earth darkened in the clear day?

"Now from the sixth hour (twelve O'Clock) there was darkness over all the whole land, until the ninth hour." Matt 27: 45 Luke 23: 44-45 This occured at the crucifixtion of Christ. Hence, the Old Covenant was then removed, the solemn feasts were then abrogated, all their new moons were gone, and the sabbaths had ceased. "Nailed to the Cross".

We see then, why Paul said we should not be "judged--in respect to--the sabbath days". Col 2: 14-16

NOT A UNIVERSAL LAW

The Hebrew sabbath was never given as a universal law, but only temporarily, and not for all nations. It is first mentioned in Exo. 16: 23, over twenty five hundred years after creation. God then made known the sabbath, and gave it to the Jews exclusively. As proof, see Neh. 9:13-14 "Thou camest down upon Mt. Sianai and madest known unto them thy Holy Sabbath."

Again: Exo. 20:12 "I gave them my Sabbaths to be a sign between me and them." The Sabbath, them, was given to the Jews exculsively, hence the "Jewish Sabbath." It was given for a "sign" between Jehovah and Israel. Obviously, it could not have been intended for other nations. Their deliverance from slavery in Egypt was commemorated in the Sabbath. Proof: "Remember that thou wast a servant in the Land of Egypt. Therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Dabbath." Deut. 5:15

Nowhere can it be found that God ever spoke such language to any other race or nation than to Israel before or since.

UNTIL CHRIST

The Mosaic Law, which contained the Sabbath ordin-

ance remained in force until the death of Christ, and the establishment of his kingdom.

Gal. 3:23-25 "Before faith came we were kept under the law (Mosaic) shut up unto the faith which should afterward be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ; that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster (th Mosaic law)."

PENALTIES OF "THE LAW"

Concerning the "Sabbath Law",if a Jew was caught doing no more than picking up a stick on the sabbath, he was to be stoned to death. Exo. 35:1-3 "Six days shall work be done,but on the seventh day there shall be to you an Holy Day, a sabbath of rest to the Lord. Whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations, upon the sabbath day."

In Numbers 15:32-36 it is recorded that a man was found picking up sticks on the sabbath, and the penalty was stoning to death.

Sabbath keepers today violate the"sabbath" when they cook a meal, or even kindle a fire. To insist on keeping the sabbath, and then to ignore the penalties attached to it for violation thereof is not consistent. Consistency, thou art a jewel!

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: DEATH!

Why will anyone contend that Christians today must keep the Hebrew Sabbath when they know that they themselves do not intend, nor do they attempt, to keep it as God gave it to the Jews?

The aforementioned scriptures clearly set forth that the sabbath was given to the Jews exclusively. Can anyone find where God ever commanded a Gentile to keep the sabbath? Where? God wrote it for the Jews with his own finger and gave it to them upon tables of stone as a compact between Himself and them.

OUT OF THE WAY

The Apostle Paul wrote that Christ took the old law" out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Col. 2: 13-17. Then said to let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an Holy Day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days, which are a shadow of things to come:but the body is of Christ."

Now the"body"is theChurch,Col.1:18This should forever settle the question. But some require more...

"AFRAID OF YOU"

Gal. 4:10-11 Paul here said the Galatian Church was observing days, and months and times, and years, and said, "I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

He was upbraiding the Jewish Brethren at Galatia for trying to live according to the old covenant and its laws, which most certainly contained the sabbath.

They could not, apparently, understand that when Christ came He fulfilled the old law, and nailed it to His cross at His crucifixition.

In Gal. 2:16 Paul said "Knowing that a man is not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Remember, the sabbath was part of the "law". If this be so, why will some insist that to be pleasing to God, we must keep the sabbath today? Not: In Gal. 3:10-14 Paul says, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the Book of the Law to do them. Why teach others to keep the sabbath when this makes one a debtor to keep the whole law?

"NO MAN JUSTIFIED"

"But that no man is justified by the law is evident; for "the just shall live by faith" and the law is not of faith: but the man that doeth them shall live by them." Gal. 3:11-12 Again, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

Wherefore, the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

YOKE OF BONDAGE

In Gal. 5:1 Paul again refers to the law, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, (from the law) and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (the law)."

If we attempt to keep a part of the law, we are a debtor to keep the whole law. Gal. 5:3-4 "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, (a part of the law) that he is a debtor to do the whole

law. Christ is become of no effect unto you whomsoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

It is illogical to keep part of the law and refuse to keep it all. Nevertheless, if we try to keep it in its perfection, we can only "fall from grace"

"NO FLESH JUSTIFIED"

Rom. 3:20"Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified in his sight: For by the law is the knowledge of sin." See Verses 21-22

Why will some attempt to keep the law? Is it possible that some do not want to be justified in the sight of God?

"END OF THE LAW"

Rom. 10:1-5 Paul said the Hebrews in his day were ignorant of the righteousness (true will) of God, and went about to establish their own righteousness (substituting their own will) But he said "Christ is the end of the law to all them that believe." That is, when He came into the world an ' died on the cross, he fulfilled the law and brought it to an end according to the purpose of His Father.

With this in view, is it any wonder Paul warned the church of the Colossians to not allow anyone to judge them by the sabbath? Continued in January Issue.

****

It has come to our attention that several churches have not written in news or articles.We don't know the reason, so don't know what to think.

Surely, all the churches are active. Without a doubt all are busy in the Lord's work.If this is so,let us not be so shy about our activities. Let all the brethren know of your work.They are all interested in activities of the churches in several states.

There are some in all states which are not in communication with the brotherhood at large, and we are certain they, as well as others, would profit from a more diligent approach to the paper.

We urge each congregation to appoint someone from their number to write, and to do so on a regular basis.

We have several items of interest to all the brethren coming up in forthcoming issues, so, keep in touch.

The Courier Staff.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Anyone knowing of a loyal congregation in or near Kansas City, Missouri-- Contact this paper,please.

****

GRANTS PASS,OREGON

Dear Brethren:

The snow has been dusting the hills all around us most of the day and a little fell and covered the ground lightly on the valley floor for a while.

The Reed Thompsons have been visiting with the Eldred Peytons in Portland for several days now and plan to go to Kansas after their return. Bro. Estel Bucknor is in the Intensive Care Unit of the Rogue Valley Memorial Hospital in Medford. His condition has remained critical for several days following a very serious operation on one of his lungs.

The church meets here in Grants Pass at 10:30A.M. each Sunday. We invite anyone passing thru to stop and be with us, at 1615 N W 6th St.

Tom Broadway

****

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA
Pleasant View Church of Christ

Dear Brethren:

I know this won't get in for the Dec. issue of the paper, but you can use it when you have space. We here have not organized ourselves as to who should write in the church news, but we will get organized on that matter soon. We like the paper very much and will do our best to support it both in church news,articles and financial support.

The church here is doing as well as could be expected. We are having Thursday night services in which we are giving the younger brethren a chance to develop their talent and they are doing surprisingly well.We have very little outside interest but do have sone.We are glad to have Bro. & Sis. Hayse Morse and Daughter with us. Bro. Morse can be a great help to our singing service.

W.E. Daniels
Rt. 2
Stilwell,Okla.74960
Phone: 774-2428

WESTVILLE, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Recieved the Christian Courier several days back and was really glad to see the paper in circulation again. I enjoyed reading it all. Hope there will be nothing to hinder the continuance of it. We really need a good Christian paper even if it only carried news of thw Faithful Congregations.

Bro. Hayse Morris and Family have moved back this way and I think he plans to split his time with us here at Baron and with the church at Stilwell. He gave us a good lesson last night. We also had a good lesson Sun. morning by Bro.Jackie Warford. Yesterday was a wonderful day of rejoicing here at the Baron church. One young man came forward for baptism, another to be restored to the faith after being out of duty for a while and 3 yoong Christian girls asking the prayers of the Church. These were at the morning services. Then at night there were 4 more come forward asking the prayers of theChurch We have a creek a few hundred yards from the church so immediately after services we all went down and Bro.Jackie Warford baptized the young man. All in all this was a wonderful day. I understand there was one restored to the Faith at Stilwell, also.

Beginning this Thursday night we plan to have midweek meeting alternating between Stilwell and Baron for the purpose of the younger Brethren getting experience, of teaching and carrying on the works of the Church.

We pray that all is well with you on the West Coast and that you may be rewarded for your efforts with the paper. We will try andsend some help soon.

Yours In Christ,
L.E. Atchley (Earl)
for the Church of Christ,
Baron,Oklahoma.

****

HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

The Church here moves along in one accord.We are few in number, but we all work together and there is love and peace among the brethren. On thefourth Sunday we have singing in the evening. The last fourth Sun. we had visitors with us: Bro.& Sis. Earl Atchley from Baron, Okla. Bro.& Sis. Earl Broadway from Yuma,Ariz.,Bro,Paul Ferguson, Bro.James Vanderpool & family also most of the Goshen congregation were here. Had a real good singing. Bro. Ulysessus Laney went to Baron last Lord's Day to preach. We wish to thank all the Brethren and many friends who have helped in anyway.

George Vanderpool
Rt. 1 Huntsville,Ark.

So sorry to say the next 2 articles were overlooked in last issue. Please forgive us! In the future we will try not to let this happen.

****

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

The church at Aztec N.Mex. enjoyed many visitors October 6th. and reported that Bro. Roy Dabbs was to be addmitted to the hospital for surgery Oct. 8th. for throat cancer. Also the passing of Bro. Tom Nelson the brother of Bro. Allan Nelson, on the 19th. of Sept. due to a stroke. Bro.& Sis. Dabbs' 14yr. old grandson Ronnie Berry, was baptized there last summer and has now moved to 3209 Alpine Rd. Agusta, Ga. Being active in the church worship, he would like for anyone to send him scripture diagrams or simple lessons. If there is anyone meeting in Agusta, Ga. Please contact him. They plan to move to Modesto, Calif. around the 1st. of Feb.

Sister Myra Dabbs
Aztec, N. Mexico

****

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers:

We were glad to get the new paper. The news is real interesting. Everything is about the same at Yuma Bro.Earl Broadway spoke for us last Sun. He usually is at Somerton. Sis. Virgie Childress is feeling much better than she was. Bro.& Sis. Prinke are back with us after their vacation. We hope you keep up the good work.

In Christian Love,
Sister Jean Orendorff
West Yuma, Arisona.

****

STOCKTON, CALIF.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Everyone for their calls,letters,cards,visits,gifts, flowers and last but surely not least the many, many prayers offered up for our Daughter Patricia. As most know she was seriously injured in an auto accident Oct. 26th. She came home Sun. Nov.17th.She is in be most of the time, but can walk with the aid of a walker. Too, Bro.F.H.Logan is improving after a mild heart attack here in our home,Sat.Nov.9th. Again THANKS for the help to us at that time also, J.D. & Fern Logan

CHICO, CALIF

We have received your papers and have enjoyed them. I'm sorry I haven't written sooner. Finally finished rice harvest Saturday. Enclosed is a check to help with the paper expenses.

Sincerely,
Clif Brockman and family.

****

THE GOLDEN THREAD OF LOVE

If we will study the word of God properly we may be shocked to find that the greatest teaching that Jesus ever gave has been the most neglected by His followers.

Let us go back to the night of the last passover kept by Christ. After He had washed the feet of His twelve disciples, and Judas had departed to betray Him, He began talking to them as if a burden had been lifted from his heart, talking earnestly and tenderly of the things nearest his heart, as recorded in John 13. "Little children, a new command I write unto you that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." As we look back to the giving of this new commandment, this holy passion of love (particularly for one another) is the animating principle of Christianity. This golden thread of love runs through out the New Testament and on it, this thread, is strung all the other graces and virtues of Christianity.

The Apostle Peter, in 1 Pet 1: 22, in obedience to Jesus' command, "Feed my lambs", writes what Peter loved to call the sincere milk of the word. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another fervently". Also, in 2 Pet 1: 7, Peter binding the seven Christian graces on Christ's believers, says the greatest of these is LOVE.

In John 1: 8-12-16 the Apostle John, writing in his declining years, still filled with the Holy Spirit says, "He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is Love. No man hath seen God at anytime, if we love one another God dwelleth in us and His love is made perfect in us. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him."

Now we come to the Apostle Paul who was not a natural lover as was John, for, when we first meet Paul, his hands are stained with blood, but his 13th Chapter of 1 Corinthians is regarded by many as the finest chapter in the New Testament written by an apostle on humility and love. Arn't these words the most strik-

ing that ever fell from the tongue and pen of man ? "Though I speak with the tongues of man and of angels, Though I have the gift of prophecy" could speak to a mountain and see it move into the sea,"Though I give all my goods to feed the poor, though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing," what Paul is telling us is simply this: If I have not love, I am a lost soul! I would still lack something that makes me absolutely unacceptable to my Father in Heaven. If there is something so tremendously important as this, (and there is) let us not rest until we find it and embrace it, and proclaim it to all the professed followers of Christ.

It is told of John in religious history that he would repeat over and over, "Little Children love one another" and the Second Century Tertullian describes the impression made upon the world by Christians. For everyone said, "See how they love one another?" "They are ready to die for each other!" It is significant that the cause of the Church of Christ's decline today is that the love of the early church has been forsaken and abandoned.

Love is certainly the greatest thing in Christ's religion, but it seems there is a great lack among us of such love today, formalism, legalism and materialism have largely surplanted brotherly love and heartfelt religion.

For many years I have been an active member of the church, yet only in recent years have I been awakned to the vital importance of love in our religion and need of it by every one of us, including elders and preachers as well. I appeal to you who preach the Gospel as one who has looked up into your faces for many years: Preach more love to your congregation and live a life of love before them, and this would be the greatest thing a preaching brother could do and it would I am sure fulfill the churches greatest need.

Let me close now by saying: The greatest difficulty is the failure of almost everyone of us to realize his own need of it. Yet although we may have preached and tried to lead others into it, and it has brought us unbounded joy, yet have we but touched the hem of the garment, and stand in need of it every day.

And now abideth faith,hope,charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.

Written in Christian Love,Bert Weakley

"LATE NEWS"

We recieved a very nice letter from Bro.Jerry Mc Cay informing us that Bro.Jim Cheshire was added to the Lord's Body. Bro.& Sis. Oren Johnston celebrated their 25th. anniversary,welcoming visitors from Eugene,Oregon & Port Orchard, Wash. Thanks to the Brethren for their contributions. The Staff.

****

We are glad to recieve the paper and are thankful for it because we are so far away from everyone.Before we moved to Georgia we were at Aztec,N.Mex.,but now we are moving even farther away. We are moving to Flordia in Feb. If there is anyone near enough we would be glad to have them. We have church in our home and everyone is welcome. Our address is:3209 Alpine Rd.,Agusta,Ga.

With Brotherly Love,Ronnie Berry.

****

We also recieved a letter from Sis.Doris Berry(Dabbs) and she reported that Bro.Roy Dabbs is home now and improving very slowly. She said it was good to hear about so many of the members she remembered when she was going to church in Modesto. She says that even though Ronnie is only 14,he is doing a very good job, with which we all agree. She also said with our prayers and God's help they will make it. Amen. The Staff.

****

Dear Bros. Logan,Burtis, Guyer & Bryant;

We were so glad to recieve the paper. We sure do need one.I hope and pray that some good can be done through the paper.

We are about the same here at this congregation. We were very pleased when my neice,Karla Taylor,became a Christian this past summer at a meeting held by Bro. Paul Ferguson at Ringold,Texas. Karla is the daughter of Bro. & Sis.Howard Taylor. Tell everyone hello for us.Our prayers are with you and your work.

With Christian Love,Harold Don Taylor

A later letter expresses great sorrow in hearing about Pat Logan's accident and prays that she is doing well. Thank you Bro.Taylor for the letters and prayers.

****

Bro.Floyd Morse has just returned to MemorialHosp. in Modesto,Cal.,the past few days,after a very short stay at his home. Word has reached us that he is very critically ill.Anyone wishing to send a letter or card to him or his family may do so to: 400 Glenn Ave,Modesto Calif.95351 Also Bro.Ben Rollins is in a convalscent home in Modesto where he has been for a few years.His wife(Hattie) passed away about a year ago,so we are sure a few lines or a card would cheer him.His address is: Driftwood Convalscent Hosp. 1611 Scenic Dr.Modesto,Cal.

****

Late word GRANTS PASS,ORE.:Bro.Estel Bucknor is showing much progress,able to sit up some.Thanks for your prayers and help in anyway to him at this time..