The Christian COURIER

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Church is not an exclusive or proud organization. It is very plain and simple. It does not purpose to feed vanity with a great display of vain things. It's aim is not to amuse or entertain those who attend its services; it exists as a simple body of Christian men and women, pointing all who look its way to Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, the Hope of the World.

Its doors are open to those who want to hear and know of the Saviour and whose hearts reach out to God in simple worship and obedient living.

There is no ready-made or man's doctrine in the Church. One must take the Word of God as his guide and believe everything it teaches.

There are no ready-made prayers or creeds. In its services, one male Christian voices thanksgivings for all blessings and guidance, and makes requests known to the Heavenly Father in the Name of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

There are no musical instruments in the Church of Christ. Everyone sings a selected hymn, making his own music as the early Christians did, and it is just as sweet to the ears of God as if there were music.

Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

There is no Priest, no Reverend, no Rabbi in the New Testament Church. There is no distinction--no "clergy"--no "laity". Members are called Christians-brothers and sisters in the family of God. Their gifts and abilities may differ, but their status before the Lord is the same. Christ is our High Priest. The same apostolic Christian can be produced today by the same living word which produced it in the be-

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inning of the Church. Members of the Church do not claim rfection as human beings. We are all sinners, who were aved by the Grace of God upon our trusting obedience to the pspel, and continue therein. Members of the Church of rist are under the care and treatment of the Great Physican. tt. 9:12-13, Luke 5:31-32. Our aim is to glorify God by xalting Christ in our lives and in our teaching. To be Free ew Testament Christians without dictation from men, is a glo- ious privilege!

Christian Love,
Dean Guyer.

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"CAN WE FALL FROM GRACE?"

There are many people who have been misled into the idea that's all it is) that once they have obtained God's grace, hey will never fall from it. The writer intends to show in his article where this idea first came from, and who was the irst to believe and practice it. This is not new; it is al- bst as old as Satan himself. In the Old and New Testament ombined, there are 31,101 verses of scripture and, not one f them uphold the idea of not being able to fall from Grace his side of the Judgement day.

"Yes, Satan Fell"

All that we know about Satan is what the Bible tells us. therwise, we wouldn't even know of his existence. Of the ible's 1,189 chapters, Old and New Testament combined, there s not one that reveals any more about Satan, in detail, than he 28th chapter of Ezekiel. In the 15th verse of this chap- er, we read, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day hat thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." erse 17 tells us what this iniquity was: "Thine heart was lfted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wis- om by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the round, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold hee." Satan did so exalt himself to the point of causing ther angels, less power than himself, to obey his instead of od's will. Yes, after being created of God and walking per- ect before him, he usurped his authority. His ideas seem o be running wild the world over in these last days, as we se his will being accepted almost without question among so alled "religious leaders" of today. "Once in Grace, always n Grace" is the off-spring doctrine of Satan. He believed t first and has been peddling it every since, for he just new he could not fall, yet he did!

"When Cast to Earth?"

In Rev. 12:7-9, we read of a great war that took place n the heavens, between Michael and his Angels, and Satan

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and his Angels. Satan and his Angels were cast out onto the earth and never found again in heaven. About when did this take place? Ezekiel 28:13 says, concerning Satan, "Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;---".

In verse 12 of this same chapter, we read of his continuing works of iniquity; "---Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect beauty." Yes, Satan has so many ways about him that it is easy for some of them to go undected by the majority of well-meaning people. And still others have a natural appeal to many. Yes, Satan still manages to seal up the sum of wisdom, sti fle it, and keep the truth hid from the majority. It is becoming apparent, as time is allowed to go on, that it is becoming more and more difficult for people to realize that the beauty, of which the Bible speaks as being sealed up, is loving God according to his scriptures, which is in spirit and truth!

"When Will We Remain in Grace?"

There are, in my Bible, 791,328 words of instruction from the first word in Genisis to the last Amen in the book of Revelation--almost three-fourths of a million words of instruction conveyed from the mind of God to the mind of man, and nowhere are we assured of remaining forever in God's grace this side of the Judgement Day.

One may ask, then, "What is there to assure us of not falling away from God after attaining the promise of those heavenly mansions?" This promise (a home in Heaven), to all of God's children, is only promised after the great Judgement Day; (1) The former things are passed away--(no more pain, no more death) Rev. 21:4 (2) Death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:14-15 (3) "---and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:17 (4) In St. John 10:29, Jesus says, "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (Also, see Acts 2:47.)

Yes, God isn't willing that any should perish. Satan cannot touch a child of God by over-powering them forcefully--the only way God's people can fall from his kingdom is by their own doing while on earth and this side of the Judgement Day. To fall from God's grace, they must walk the same path that Satan did, entirely on their own. Even if misled, they must answer according to their works. Rev. 20:13 "---and they were judged every man according to their works." Verse 12 "---and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

It must surely follow, then, that what we believe and practice in the church and our daily lives make up our deeds and will some day either save or condemn our souls.

In Hope of the Gospel, Harry Wegley, Grants Pass, Oregon

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren;

The congregation here at San Pablo is fine. Some have been out with colds.

Bro. & Sis. McCluskey from Sacramento visited us. Bro. McCluskey brought us a very good lesson. We also had Bro. J.D. Logan and family here visiting last Sunday. We enjoy having visiting brethren. We are a small congregation, so outside visitors help us alot. Since there aren't many of us, we don't get a chance to visit other congregations very often.

Anyone passing through this area is very welcome. We meet at 10:30 A.M. each Sunday morning. Our building is on the corner of 15th and Market Streets in San Pablo.

In Brotherly Love,
Gene McKinney

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SOMERTON, ARIZONA

We all hope Brother Claude Perigen is well on his way to recovery and is home by now.

Here in Yuma everyone is glad the weather is cool again. Most everyone was at church Sunday and Bro. Earl Broadway gave us a good lesson.

Bro. Harry Dye has been sick. However, he was feeling better Wed. night, and is now able to be back at his work.

Two of Bro. Nelson's grandsons were in separate car wrecks the past week: Friday evening Steven Nelson in his pick-up, and Sunday night Benny Smith in the family car. Neither was hurt too badly, and neither was at fault for the wreck. Benny had to have 8 stitches in his knee, so is off work.

Claude Allen Nelson was home from Viet Nam for a month, but is now gone to Fort Hauchua, near Tucson, Arizona. He is in the motor pool, and has 6 more months in the service.

Kenny Morris (son of the Robert Morris's) is back in college at Tempe Arizona. He had 2 years at Arizona Western at Yuma, and now is at Tempe to continue in his 3rd year.

We hope those sick other places are better at this writing, too.

W.A.Nelson for Somerton
Congregation

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

I would like to use this media to express our appreciation and our thanks to all for the beautiful cards, telephone calls, and visits recieved while I was in the hospital and at home. Most of all, thanks to all of you for remembering me when you prayed, for God was surely with me.

I am up and around at home now; am improving-butslowly. I am able to attend Church services, for which we are very thankful.

With Christian Love,
Claud and Eunice Perigen

Baron, Oklahoma

Dear Brother Logan and the Staff of the Christian Courier:

Greetings! Since you printed the paper with blank pages, I was reminded that I decided to not write any and let the leaders do it. However, it looked as if everyone else had the same idea, so I have broken my promise to myself and here I am.

The last of August, Bro. Lloyd Allgood, Rose, and family, along with myself and my wife, left Stilwell on Friday morning and went to Broken Bow for four services. Bro. Lloyd preached Friday night and Lord's Day morning, and I preached Saturday night and the farewell sermon Sunday night. We had a wonderful visit. We met brothers and sisters we had never before met; they are a wonderful crowd of Christians. We hope to be able to go back sometime.

There is a meeting starting at the Bohannon Mountain Congregation this coming Lord's Day, Oct. 5th, with local brethren doing the preaching. We plan to go over one or two nights and help them out, if it be the Lord's will.

My wife and I have had to go to Kentucky three times lately, as her parents, being in their 80's, are failing fast. I hate to go very often for there isn't a loyal church near. I have tried to start one, but have had no success. I cannot get any help from other churches, and we only have our Social Security to live on.

Well, the church at Baron is getting along just fine, as is the one at Stilwell. We have changed our mid-week service to Wednesday night instead of Thursday night. For anyone passing through or moving into this part of the country, our meeting times are: Wed. 7:30 P.M. Sun. 10:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. These are, as far as I know, the meeting times for the Stilwell congregation, also.

This is all for this time. Hope everyone is well.

Your Brother In Christ,
Hayse Morris
Rt. 3
Stilwell, Oklahoma

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Bellflower, California

During the past several weeks, the congregation here has seen a considerable amount of good work being done. Brother Bill McCay, from Yakima, Washington, held a meeting for us. As a result, five were baptized and one restored. Visitors of that meeting were from the Waterford, Modesto, San Pablo, LaHabra, Pomona, and San Diego, Calif., Yakima, Wash., Aztec, New Mex., and Yuma,

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Ariz. congregations. We wish to thank all for their support!

Also, during the week of the meeting, sister Debra Dabbs and brother Bill Taylor were united together in marriage. We wish them the best of luck.

A few weeks later, there was another addition to the church when Donna Dabbs was baptized. She is the sister of Debra Dabbs.

The congregation here also had brother Isaac Ferguson and brother Gordon Evans from the Pomona congregation, and brother Roy Snoderly from the LaHabra congregation to speak for us on various Sunday mornings.

Brother Claud Perigen is now recovering from an operation performed in September, and is doing quite well.

Yours In Christ,
Bro. Jerry Perigen

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Modesto, California

The congregation here at Modesto is faring about as normalexcept for a few illnesses. Sister Alice Weakly has been unable to attend the past few Sundays. Brother Doyle Ivy, too, has missed several Lord's Day services. We all hope they eill be well and able to attend again in the near future.

Recently, Bro. J.D. Logan and family journeyed to San Pablo, California, and attended the services of the church there. The Gene McKinney family was sick and unable to attend, and was missed very much. In visiting them that afternoon, we found Bro. Gene still in bed with the flu, but improving.

There have been a few visitors here at Modesto since the last edition of the Courier. These include: Bro. Wayne Baker, home from the Navy for the weekend, Bro. and Sis. Weakly's daughter Carolyn Oakden and family, Sis. Marietta Bryant's son Marvin and his wife, and Bro. Carter from Modesto.

Bro. Homer Bryant and family have recently moved to Concord, California. This is a loss to us but a gain to the San Pablo congregation.

A Brother came forward asking the prayers of the church last Lord's Day, which always makes us happy.

Remember that the Modesto church of Christ meets every Lord's Day at 10:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Anyone that is in our vicinity, please stop and be with us at the corner of Glenn and Dallas Streets.

Written In Love,
Lloyd Logan

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"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..."
Psa.111:10

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I will write to you again from this place. We here at Broken Bow are still trying to do what we can for the cause of Christ. Except writing articles for the paper, that is. We are lazy and no more apologies can be made. We could all have the time, if we would take the time, but our feelings enter in and we don't do what we should.

We went to Dallas, Texas a few days ago and met with the Teauge family. Sister Dabb's daughter, Bro. Jay Bedingfield and Sis. Brown, that lives in Dallas, were there also. All in all it was a good crowd. I wish it were possible for someone to move there to Humble, Texas to help those sisters out, so they could meet and serve God.

We had visitors from Stilwel, Okla. a while back-Bro. & Sis. Morris, and Bro. & Sis. Allgood and family. We had the two brothers preach for us from Friday to Sunday night. We sure did enjoy them, and would like to invite anyone else coming this way to worship with us.

We went to the Camp Meeting at Delta, Colo., and were dissapointed that there were not as many people there this year. We got there the first Saturday and left there on Thursday. Although the crowd was small, we had some good preaching and singing. While we were there, Bro. Ken Baldwin was sick part of the time. As a result, we could not enjoy it as we would have liked to.

We also took in part of Bro. J.D. Logan's meeting at Stilwell, and enjoyed it, along with the others there. I wish we could have a lot more meetings but it seems like we can't. One thing or the other comes up and hinders us.

One of my grandsons departed this life a few days ago and we were made very say. But it is our loss and heavens' gain, and sometime I hop we meet again.

Well, the news is not too much here, so will close with love to all.

Bro. & Sis. Lloyd Treat
13 N. Brock
Broken Bow, Okla. 74728

P.S. For anyone passing through and needing Church information, here is Bro. Treat's phone number: Area Code.405-584-2649.

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GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

We had a meeting August 17th to 24th, with Brother W.A.Nelson of Somerton, Aria., as our speaker. We enjoyed him to the fullest. Every night after church, the entire congregation would come to our house, and we would talk Bible until almost mid-night. There were no baptisms or restorations. However, we were all strengthened and there were some people put to thinking. The Lord says, "So shall

my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." So, we see it has accomplished what it was meant to.

The Brockman and Bentz families from Chico, Bro. & and Sis. Couchman from N. Mex., and Larry couchman from Loomis(I believe), attended our meeting. We also had some outsiders every night, but one. Both families from Chico came to the meeting 3 different times.

We wished we could have turned back the clock and kept Bro. Nelson longer. He is one of the nearest to the strong, devoted preachers of days gone by that we have left.

K.I.Harper
Star Route,
Smartville, California

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DELTA, COLORADO

Dear Ones:

Sorry we haven't written before now-please forgive us.

Bro.& Sis. Ira Brown and Bro.& Sis. Roy Brown are here, and we are really enjoying visiting and hunting together. Brother Ira Brown brought us a real heart-warming lesson Sunday morning. We are going to miss them all when they go home.

We are having unusual rainy weather here, instead of the beautiful sunshine we usually have. But everyone seems to be enjoying deer hunting, anyway.

Bro.& Sis. Wilkerson's grandson, little Bobby Wade, is in the hospital very sick, but is improving some. He is the son of Bobby and Vernie Wilkerson, of Cedaredge.

Bro. Charles Baldwin was injured several months ago and had back surgery. He still has quite a lot of pain and is unable to work.

Bro. Harold Smith (son-in-law of Bro. & Sis. W.A. Nelson) of Yuma, Arizona is here, visiting and deer hunting. We are enjoying his visit very much.

The Delta Camp Meeting was again a great sucess. Thanks to each and every one of you that came so far to make it the success it was. We had lots of good gospel singing and fellowship. We think the sermons get better each year-thanks to all the good speakers for the good spiritual food that they gave out. We are sure each and every one benefitted from the wonderful sermons.

Thanks to-Bro.& Sis. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, Okla; Bro.& Sis. E. Noyes and children,Anith, Utah; Alvin Noyes, Delores, Colo; Bro.& Sis. J.D.Johnson and children, Lakeside, Calif; Bro.& Sis. H.Pounds, Bro.& Sis. Ed Tate, New Castle, Tex; Bro.& Sis. Jim Loftis andchildren, Lor-

enzo, Tex; Guy Lackey and family, Sweeney, Tex; Bro.& Sis. Claud Perigen, Bellflower, Calif; Jimmy Murry, Pomona,Cal; Sis. Becky Forsman, Olalla, Wash; Sis. Marshall Spence and daughter Dena, Westville, Okla; Bro.& Sis. Duane Bixler and children, Bro.& Sis. Roger Bixler and children, Sis. Myra Dabbs, Sis. Chadwick and family, Aztec, N. Mex; Bro.& Sis. Horace Orendorff, Yuma, Ariz; Sis. Louise Lytle and Karen Wilcher, Roll, Ariz; Bro.& Sis. F.H.Shepherd and grandson, Glendale, Ariz; Bro.& Sis. J.L.Jared and children, Chesterton Ind; Bro.& Sis. J.E.Wilkerson, Keith & Pam, Bro.& Sis. Paul Kinne, Eddie Wilkerson, Bro.& Sis. Robert Potts, Bro.& Sis. L.Moore, Bobby and Vernie Wilkerson and Bobby Wade, Cedaredge,Colo; Bro.& Sis Ron Herbert, Kim & Jill, Bro. & Sis. Charles Baldwin, Chuckie, Greg, Brian & Denise, Connie Kirkham, Dayton & Pam, Bro.& Sis. Ken Baldwin, Delta, Colo; and several visitors, whose names we didn't get. Perhaps we may have missed some of the Church member's names, that didn't register in the guest book. If we did miss someone, please forgive us and let us know. Again, thanks to all that came, and we pray you will come next ear and bring some one with you. We did indeed miss all of you from Yakima, some from Calif,, Okla., Texas and various other places that usually come. Hope you will plan to be with us next year.

Yours in Christ,
Ken & Verlie Baldwin

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MUNDAY, TEXAS

We have had possession of a church building here in Munday for about nine years. It is an old building, but looks pretty good on the inside. It is located at the corner of 9th and D Avenue. Our meeting time is 10:30 A. M. each Lord's Day. We would be very glad for anyone to meet with us.

With Christian Love,
Jack White

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CONFUCIUS SAID

"If there is right in the soul,
There will be beauty in the person;
If there is beauty in the person,
There will be harmony in the home;
If there is harmony in the home,
There will be order in the nation;
If there is order in the nation,
There will be peace in the world."

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A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

Why Not Forget?

Why do we always call to mind some old and hidden hurt?
Or worry over little words that sounded somewhat curt?

Why do we make an issue now of what is gone at last,
Instead of overlooking it and burying the past?

Instead of spreading happiness by turning wrath aside
And thereby helping other souls to overcome their pride.

There is no good in jealousy or any vengeful gain
And every ounce of selfishness is finally in vain.

They only lead to sorrow and the deepest of regret
When it is so much better to forgive and forget!

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From the richest to the poorest and from the greatest to the least of individuals in this world comes many things which cause us to think and to build a better person from. The following is a short piece worthy of printing and will help each of us if we will heed it. by

WHEN TEMPTED TO CRITICIZE

"Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. God calls upon us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise.

Earnest workers have no time for dwelling upon the faults of others. We cannot afford to live on the husks of others' faults or failings. Evilspeaking is a twofold curse, falling more heavily upon the speaker than upon the hearer. He who scatters seeds of dissension and strife reaps in his own soul the deadly fruits. The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by holding Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. By contemplating the lofty ideal He has placed before us, we shall be uplifted into a pure and holy atmosphere, even the presence of God. When we abide here, there goes forth from us a light that irradiates all who are connected with us."

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"If a man love not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (1John 4:20)

THE MOON

When man first lived upon the earth,
That Old Moon hung up there.
Out there so high, up in the sky
Among the stars so fair.
It all was planned, by the Master's hand,
Who knew how it all should be.
The story's old; it has oft been told,
And that's good enough for me.
Yes, the moon rolls on, in its regular path,
For the purpose, its plain to see.
It's there for the poor, as well as the rich,
It's there for you and me.

So let it shine, till the end of time,
So lovers can, spoon, and dream,
Of that final home, in days to come,
Across that silver stream.
It's hard for man, to understand
The mind of the One above,
Who made it all.
On whom we call.
The one all men should love.

By Brother Earl Jones
Eugene, Oregon

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MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Sometimes it seems that difficult times come upon us and adversity causes us to despair. At such times we tend to forget the many reasons the Lord gives us for which to be thankful. Perhaps it would be advantageous for us to pause and review a selected few reasons for which we should be thankful to God.

THE WORLD IS UNDER SENTENCE OF CONDEMNATION. Jno 3: 19 ,"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light.'

We, who are redeemed are not so. Rom 8: 1-2, "There is therefore, no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."

THOSE IN THE WORLD WILL BE REJECTED. Luke 13: 27, "But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence you are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."

Those in the Lord are justified. Rom 3: 24, "--being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

NO PEACE FOR THOSE SEPARATED FROM GOD'S REDEMPTION. Rom 2: 8-9, "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation, and

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wrath, tribulation, and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile.

Those in Christ enjoy a wonderful inner peace. Rom 5: 1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THOSE WHO OBEY THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN FOLLOW A WAY OF LIFE THAT LEADS TO DISHONOUR.
Col 2: "--why, as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances,(--which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? --not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

Honour by the Lord awaits the children of God. Romans 2: 7, "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and immortality, eternal life."

THOSE WHO REFUSE GOD'S ADMONITION WILL BE CONDEMNED.
Mark 16: 15-16, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

Not so, those who obey God!
2 Tim 2: 10,"Therefore I indure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

THOSE IN THE WORLD ARE UNDER THE CURSE OF ETERNAL DESTRUCTION.
2 Thess 1: 19,"Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

In Christ we have the promise of salvation, eternally. 1 Cor 15: 53, "For this corruptable must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

THE CHILDREN OF DARKNESS WILL BE CAST AWAY FROM GOD.
Matt 8: 12, "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The rdeemed shall enjoy the blessings of eternal redemption. Heb 9: 12, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us."

With these thoughts in view, let us remember the blessings of God. He has been good to us, and for this we should be eternally thankful.

Let us reject the urge to complain when things do not go to suit us. We have much to be thankful for.

Yours, in Christ, John D Logan
Stockton, Calif.