The Christian
COURIER

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IT'S UP TO YOU

Those who do not undertake difficult assignments and carry them through to the best of their abilities are missing an experience that is richly rewarding. Those people who get the most out of life are those who put most into it. The spectators miss all the thrills that are derived from active participation. Every where there is a need for fewer observers and more who will take on personal responsibility. God blesses most those who serve Him best, and the key to a life that is full,rich and satisfying is sacrificial service rendered freely and willingly to the glory of God and the welfare of man. We must accept responsibility as a challenge and use it as a means to develop our talents and broaden our interests. The community is little benefitted by the spectator, the church is little benefitted by the spectator, but is definitely made better by those who can be depended upon to take a job and do it.

What did you do with the day you've had?
Did you make someone happy or make someone sad?
God gave it to you to do just as you would;
Did you do what was wicked or that which was good?

Did you give them a smile or just hand out a frown?
Did you lift someone up or push someone down?
Did you lighten some load or some progress impede?
Did you look for a rose or just gather a weed?

What did you do with your beautiful day?
God gave it to you--did you throw it away?

--Selected--

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Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.

Matt. 11:29,30

DIVISIONS

I am perplexed, dismayed, and often discouraged because of divisions, fractions, doctrines, and beliefs of man in the scattered congregations. One place we do not fellowship this, and another we do not fellowship that. We do not believe that here, so don't teach it, because where you are from they believe it another way. We believe this and we belive that.

I believe every word from Genesis to Revelations, and I believe that every word menas what it says. I am not going to accept one word, or verse, and reject another to fit what I would rather it said. Being a follower, I am satisfied with what God said it takes to please him. I am ready to go anywhere to preach the Gospel, but if you have a subject you don't want preached, don't ask me. The ones I preach, I am prepared to defend. Paul said, 1Cor. 14:33, "For God is not the author of confusion..." So, why is there confusion. 2 Pet. 1:3-4, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." Acts 20:26-27, Paul said, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." 2 Pet. 1:20, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." This means the same to each of us. Then why do some say one thing and some another? Pride! That will take us to hell! 1Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgement." Can we no longer take the ordinances at being what they are? Why do we have to make something else out of them? 1Cor. 11:2, Paul said to keep them as he delivered them. If there is a difference of opinion, can we arrive at the same conclusion? I say that if we are truly in search for the truth, and put pride and prejudice aside, we can.

We are warned about being heady and high minded. Gal. 5:15, He said, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

Eph. 4:14-15, let us not be carried about by every doctrine that comes along. Let us be guided by what we know, not what we think, and let us make an effort to erase divisions and together seek the truth and reason together that we may all speak the same thing. God's word was not preached by college graduates, but by unlearned men except Paul, so we don't have to have a

degree to understand it. But, it wasn't pleasing to a lot of people the, nor is it now, nor will it ever be.

Let us not forget, 1 Peter 5:1-3...
Written in Christian Love,
Jack Morris

Brother Morris states he will be free the week between Christmas and New Years (27th-3rd) if anyone is interested in a meeting. Anyone who is interested contact Brother Morris by way of the Yuma congregation.
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"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"

This is one statement from the Old Testament which we should apply to our Christian lives because it is plainly written also in the New Testament. Let us study it:

Leviticus 19:17, "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart:..." 1 John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.: (Also, see 1 John 2:9-11 and 1 John 4:20)

Leviticus 19:17, "...thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him." Luke 17:3, "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." (Also, see Gal. 6:1, 2 Tim. 4:2, and 1 Cor. 4:21.)

Leviticus 19:18, "Thou shalt not avenge..." Rom. 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Also, see 1 Thess. 4:6, 2 Thess. 1:8, and Heb. 10:30)

Leviticus 19:18, "... nor bear any grudge..." Jas. 5:9, "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." (Also, see 1 Pet. 4:9 and 2 Cor. 9:7). We should pay close attention here because a grudge, whether conscious or unconscious, can cause us to think and/or do something we should not do.

James 4:11, "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law:..."

Leviticus 19:18, "...but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself:..." Gal. 5:14-15, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love

thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Rom. 13:8, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." (Also, see Rom. 13:9 and Jas. 2:8-9).

Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Isn't this the same thing as "loving thy neighbor as thyself" ?

In Christian Love,
Harry Dye
828 Oak Dr.
Yuma, Ariz. 85364

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WESTVILLE, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers;

It has been some time since I've made a report on the activities of the church here at Baron. We are still striving to keep that unity which our Saviour prayed for.

Our attendance has been rather poor the last two Lord's days. Several have been sick and Bro. Morris has moved to Stillwel. Brothers Ralph and Bill Rhodes have gone to Ohio looking for work. They plan to move their families as soon as they find work. We at Baron will miss them. Bro. Ralph was a great help here, as he is a wonderful teacher. We pray that he may be successful in establishing a church wherever he settles.

My wife and I were away one Lord's day visiting relatives in western Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. I had the privilege to speak for the congregation at Elk City, Oklahoma last Lord's day morning. Then Sunday night we went out to the Coulter church, which is near Elk City, and I spoke for them. Both of these congregations are very small in number, but strong in the faith. They could use some help from any of the brethren who feel they could go there and work with them for a while.

I also had the privilege to speak two nights at the Bohannon Mountain church during their week-long meeting, at which local brethren did most the preaching. They had a wonderful meeting, and I feel all who attended were strengthened. My wife and I were able to attend several nights, I think this kind of meeting

ing is a good thing for every congregation, and would, if nothing else, strengthen the members by giving us more courage to do His blessed will.

Written for the Baron
Church of Christ by
L.E.(Earl) Atchley.

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CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

Dear Brethren;

Sister Laura Willis and I had a nice surprise Oct. 10, from her brother and my uncle, Bro. W.E. Daniels, and his wife, Mary. They stayed two weeks and worshiped with us two Sundays.

Also, Sister Maude Scott, from Lorenzo,Texas,came and stayed for a few days. We were all glad to have her with us for a short time.

Bro. & Sis. Couchman are planning to move to Reydon, Oklahoma, so I will carry on the services, as long as I am here.

Your Brother In Christ,
Charles R. Bruce.

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SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Sister Ruth Duncan had to have emergency surgery for kidney stones, so had to fly home via plane from San Jose, Calif. She is home now recuperating.However, because this is seven trips for surgery she is doing poorly. She is the older sister of Bro. Bud Davis and Sis. Verda Nelson.

Aunt Mary Davis is at home, but she has not been well for sometime.

Bro. Don Dabbs and his family were down for one week-end. Bro. Dabbs preached Sunday morning and evening (Oct. 19th). He brought some good sermons. We hear his mother, Sister Myra Dabbs, is now visiting at his home in Bellflower, Calif.

Bro. J.D. Johnson was at church Wed. night,Oct.29. J.D. is having a bout with arthritis; he has been bothered with it for sometime, but is worse now. This man has surely done a wonderful job and sort of at odds as so much of the time in years past he has had to carry the load alone. He is to be commended for his zeal and his efforts at Lakeside, Calif. Our prayers and good

wishes go out to him. He has, at different times, given us some very good lessons.

Bro. Jack Renick was taken to the hospital Nov. 5th. He had another spell with is heart, but he is home now and doing better. Sister Juanita Jones of Buckeye, Ariz., and Sister Nora Shipman, of northern California, were at church here Nov. 9th. They were visiting their brother, Jack Renick.

Because Bro. Horace Orendorff and Bro. Harry Dye will be away for their gospel meetings for a short while, the Somerton congregation has changed the date of their meeting. It is planned for Dec. 7th through Dec 14th, with Bro. Curtis McCluskey, of Sacramento, Calif., as speaker. Anyone who can come at this time will surely be welcome.

Bro. W.A. Nelson had another sick spell. He had tests and exrays at the local hospital, which showed he has gall stones. As a result, he will have to have surgery. Although it is not an emergency, he will perhaps have surgery some time this winter.

In Christian Love,
Congregation of Somerton.

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren;

We have neglected to mail this hoping to deliver it in person. However, we've had no such luck.

Everyone down here is doing very well, except Brother George Meadows. He has been very ill.

I thought Bro. J.D.'s article on the breaking of the bread to be very good. It was very timely and to the point, and was very much needed by the young brethren as well as the old.

We sure enjoy the Courier. May God bless you brethren for your good work.

In Christian Love,
Claud Perigen

Ed. Note: We are very happy to say that Bro. & Sis. Perigen did make it up for a very short visit two days before Thanksgiving. We were very happy to see them all, but most especially Bro. Perigen looking so well after his sick spell.

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PLEASE NOTE: More articles on timely subjects would be appreciated. The deadline for printing is the 15th of each month.

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren;

It has come and gone; the time to report in the paper is so short that we never seem to get it done on time.

Since I last reporte to the paper,ve have had quite a lot of sickness and death in the church. Sister Ralph Roberson, of the Tiner congregation, passed away and was laid to rest Nov. 20th. Sister Clements is in the hospital doing poorly. One of her lungs has collapsed and she has pneumonia in the other. We need the prayers of all for her.

Fortunately, we also have some good news to report. The attendance has been better than usual here lately, which is always good to see. Also, Bro. & Sis. Lloyd Camp have a new baby girl. mother & daughter are doing fine. All the rest of the congregation is doing fairly well now, and we hope to remain that way.

We enjoy company and any visiting brethren would be more than welcome.

Sincerely Yours,
Lloyd and Sue Treat
13 N. Brock
Broken Bow, Okla. 74728

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

To the brotherhood;

We are proud to announce that Bro. & Sis.Olan Taylor have a new grand-daughter, Renee Michelle Taylor, born Oct. 29th. The proud parents are Dick and Georgia Taylor.

Our guest speakers for the past few weeks have been brothers: Gordon Evans(Pomona, Calif.), Paul Ferguson (Goshen, Ark.), and Halo Serrano (La Habra, Calif.). We thank them all for their support.

Yours in Christ,
Jerry Perigen

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SACRAMENTO,CALIFORNIA

Dear Christian Brothers & Sisters;

Sorry we have taken so long to write.

Since we wrote last, we have a new member in Christ. My neighbor, Ernest L.Bowen, obeyed the gospel last spring.

The loyal Church of Christ here in Sacramento,Calif. will soon be meeting at 501 "C" St. in Broderick,Calif.

The building is located on the corner of 5th and C Sts. We'll start meeting there on the 7th of December.

Yours in Christ,
Bro. John D. Usrey

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

The apostle Paul wrote the young preacher Timothy and told him to "Preach the word...". This commandment has been sent on to any male member of the Church of Christ who wishes to be a preacher of the gospel.

Bill McCay Jr. and I have this wish. We both have the ability to stand before people and speak the truth from God's word, and we feel that whenever we have the opportunity we ought to use this talent.

Bill and I both have some time off in the month of December. If any congregation would like to have a meeting held, we would be willing to hold one. I realize that this is a very short notice, for which I apologize. We are not looking to gain money from this venture. We wish just the chance to preach.

I have the whole month of December free. Bill gets out of school the first week in December and dosen't go back until the first week in January. He may have a job starting the fifteenth of December.

Please consider if there is any way we could help you.

In Christian Love,
Richard Johnston

Write or call collect:
Richard Johnston-4301 Lower Ahtamum-Yakima,Wash.-98903
Phone: 509-966-7274
Bill McCay,Jr.-719 East Viola-Yakima, Wash.-98903
Phone: 509-GL2-2492

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HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

To the Christian Courier;

Greetings from the Bohannon Mt. Church of Christ. Please excuse me for not writing sooner. My health has been so poor, I have not been able to do any thing for the past two months or so. But I am able to be up now, for which I am thankful.

News from the church here is both good and not-so-

good. Our meeting ended without any new additions, but we were made to realize that brothers from different congregations could work together in unity and peace.We feel that lasting good was done. Christ prayed to his heavenly Father that we all be one; where the word is taught and rightly divided, we can be one. Varbie L. Vanderpool was our speaker today. The subject of his lesson was "Standing on the Promises of God." It was a good lesson very well done. We have Brother Goldsmith and family, and Brother Melvin Daniels and family, from Wichita, Kansas, meeting with us now. For this we are very thankful.

The part which is not-so-good, is that a young brother-one of our best speakers-has turned his back upon Christ and walks with us no more. The Apostle Paul spoke of this in 2 Tim. 4:10. His wife comes to church every Lord's day. I know she needs the prayers of all Christians.

We enjoy being able to hear from the brotherhood through the paper very much. Keep up the good work.

Yours in Christ,
George Vanderpool

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers in Christ;
It is time you heard from Yuma again.

We have had quite a few visiting brethren here recently. Bro. and Sis. Staggs, and daughter Peggy and her husband, Ladran Gray, brought two boys, Bryan and Marty, and a darling new daughter, Tracy Lynn. We were also glad to have Gladys Cox, from Tacoma, Wash., meet with us while visiting Bro. and Sis. Earnest Prinke.

A while back, in Oct., we also had Bro. and Sis. Wade Lytle to attend services here, along with twenty members of their families plus three visitors. Then, in Nov., Bro. and Sis. Melvin Lytle brought Vikie, Michele, and Mark Wardly, as well as their four children. The Orendorff grandchildren also attended two Sunday services. It is a blessing to have the wonderful young folks with us.

Bro. Harry Dye recently gave a good lesson on "The Hindering Causes". He listed thirteen hindrances to living a Christian life. The invitation was exceptionally well presented. Every young person in the

world should hear it.

Bro. Horace Orendorff gave a good lesson also recently in Somerton. He usually takes a car-full down there every Wed. night.

Bro. J. D. Johnson came over from Lakeside, Calif. to give a lesson Nov. 2. He talked on "Natural, Carnal, and Spiritual Minds". He feels they can overlap, but we should always strive for the spiritual mind.

Bro. Orendorff's father passed away in Calif., Nov. 8,1969. It is noted he had seven children baptized for the remission of sins, six of their spouses and more than ten grandchildren.

Sis. Childress is feeling a little better and is now able to attend church regularly. Bro. Hughes attends whenever he is able. Sis. Hughes is in poor health and asks your prayers. Their daughter, Murl Tucker, was able to attend services when Bro. Hunt spoke on "Destination" Nov. 16.

We have had some rain but it seems to have cleared up.

We hope you can all come see us sooner or later.

In Christian Love,
The Church that meets in Yuma

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation here at Modesto is progressing along about as normal, except for quite a bit of illness. Sis. Alice Weakly has been ill and unable to attend the the past few Sundays, as has Sis. Mae Johnson. Sis. Minnie Stephens has been ill and unable to attend for a number of Sundays. Sis. Adel Stark fell and broke her shoulder a few weeks ago, but is home recuperating and doing very nicely.

Bro. and Sis. Al Burtis and family, Sis. Jewell Cadwell, Sis. Ellen Jean McCay, and Bro. Lloyd Logan all journeyed to Yakima, Wash. for Bro. Horace Orendorff's meeting over the long Thanksgiving weekend. The trip was very nice; the meeting and fellowship of Christians greatly enjoyed.

We have had a few visitors, among whom were Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Perry's daughter and family. It is always a pleasure to see visiting friends and brethren.

The church here meets every Lord's day morning, at 10:30, and evening, at 6:30. Anyone passing this way would be more than welcome.

In Christian Love,
The Modesto Congregation

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"HOW LONG HALT YE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS?"

"How long halt ye between two opinions?" We find this question was asked in IKings 18:21 by the prophet Elijah. Let us turn back the pages of time and study what conditions prevailed when this was spoken.

Wickedness was on every hand. We find from the study of God's word that at that time man knew there was a God of heaven, but they had turned their back on him and followed the crowd whose leader denied God and his blessed word. Let us study verse 22 of IKings: "Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men." Elijah was outnumbered in men but not in faith; he challenged them to prove that their Baal was greater than the God of heaven and earth.

If all true Christians would stop to think, they would realize this same condition prevails today. Man is trying to hold to the perfect law of liberty, James 1:25, and, at the same time, teaching for the doctrines and commandments of men, Mark 7:7. We find this is to perish, Col. 2:21-22, yet, today we find man halted between two opinions. The sign over the door may read "Church of Christ", but what is being taught on the inside is, many times, things that cannot be found in the perfect law of liberty. Yet, it says man must continue in the perfect law of liberty that he may be blessed in his deeds. A man may tell you your ways are all right, but that any other is just as good; but we find in James 1:8 "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." We find in Rom. 1:16 the apostle Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...". If any other gospel be taught, the curse of God is rest upon it, Gal. 1:7-9. Neither can we add to--neither can we take from, Rev. 22:18-19. And, since the gospel is thoroughly furnished unto all good works, we fing the man who is guilty of these things is without excuse.

Yours In Christ,
Bro. and Sis. George Vanderpool

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"I will call upon the Lord, whose is worthy to be praised:"
Psalms 18:3

Our Brothren In Christ;
We're all doing fairly well other than having tonsillitis and colds. Sister Bergstrom is coming along very nicely after being ill.

In our building fund, the total is now $819.00.We are so very thankful to all the congregations for their financial and Christian support. Our prayers are certianly being answered especially for such wonderful Christian brethren.

May the Lord bless each one of you and do remember us in your prayers.

In Christian Love,
L.C. Barker for Midland,
Texas congregation.

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Dear Brethren;
The San Pablo congregation is fine. We had a few sick, but all is well now.

We have Bro. Homer Bryant & family meeting with us now. He & his family moved from Modesto to the Concord area. We are very happy to have them with us.

Over the Thanksgiving week-end we had Bro.& Sis. Jerry Perigen visiting with us, from Bellflower. Bro. Perigen gave us a good lesson on "Wisdom". We enjoyed having them visit us, & hope they come back soon.

The printing of pictures of the different churches are a good idea. It helps the brethren find a church much easier if they are traveling through different country.

In Brotherly Love,
Gene McKinney

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"THE WAY TO HEAVEN"
Isaiah 36:8

The Lord is the door to heaven
And Gods love is the only key
Christ alone openeth and shutteth
He's beckoning to you and to me

Just obey all His commandments
And bestow on others your love
Then Christ will not forsake you,
But will guide you to heaven above.

Bert Weakley

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"O Praise the Lord, all ye nation; praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 117