The Christian
COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353

Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ

December, 1970
~~JANUARY, 1971~~

YOU AND YOUR BROTHER

It is difficult to win an offended brother. Pro 18: 19, "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle."

But if we approached him with a child-like, forgivingspirit it would not be so difficult. Matt 18: 3, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Col 3: 13, "Forbearing one another, forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

RECONCILIATION

If we have offended our brother, it is our duty to try for reconciliation. Matt 5: 23-24, "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy give."

NOT IMAGINE EVIL

We must not imagine evil against our brother: Zech. 7: 10, "And let none of you imagine evil against his brother."

We must not judge, lest we be judged. Matt 7: 1-5, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then thou shalt see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Every tree is known by its fruit: a christian lives christianity. Luke 6: 44, "For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor

of a bramble bush gather they grapes."

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE

We should have the christian attitude toward our brother. Matt 5: 22, "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without cause shall be in danger of the judgement: and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

"In danger of the judgement." This was a tribunal established by the law of Moses in each city for the trial of criminals. Deut 16: 18

"In danger of the council." This was the supreme court provided for by the Mosiac law. Deut 17: 8-13.

"in danger of hell fire." This is the final punishment of the wicked. The climax of sin and the climax of punishment.

FORGIVE OUR BROTHER

We should forgive our brother: Matt 18: 35, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother his trespasses." And we are to keep on forgiving: Matt 18: 21-22, "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? til seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

We must forgive to be like Christ. If we are not like Christ, we are not real christians: Luke 23: 34, "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

We must forgive if we hope for forgiveness of God. Matt 6: 14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

NOT CAUSE TO STUMBLE

We must not cause a brother to stumble. We can do this by offending him. Tempting his weak conscience or even discouraging him. Rom 14: 13, "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." 1 Cor 8: 11-13, "And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh

while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.

Our whole attitude should be to save a brother; to help and encourage him; never to try him; to destroy him. We must seek to restore him if he has fallen by the wayside. Gal 6:1-2, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

LAW OF PARDON

God has given a law of pardon for the erring christian. Jas 5: 16, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much."

And Acts 8: 21-24, "---for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then Simon answered, and said, Pray ye the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."

WITHDRAW FROM DISORDERLY

We should withdraw from a disorderly brother; not because we hate him, but to make him ashamed, hoping he will repent; because we love him. 2 Thess 3: 6, "Now we commend you, brethren, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

2 Thess 3: 14-15, "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

1 Cor 5: 5-6, "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Sin tolerated by a congregation, leavens the whole congregation.

INFLUENCE ON UNBELIEVERS

Our conduct toward our brethren should be such as to make the unbelievers realize we are christians indeed. We should always be mindful of our influence for good or

evil no unbelievers. Col 4: 5, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

NEVER BEFORE LAW

We should never go to court with a brother, or in any way defraud him. 1 Cor 6: 6-8, "But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong and defraud, and that your brother."

LOVE OUR BRETHREN

We should love our brethren. 1 Peter 2: 17, "Love the brotherhood." 1 Thess 4: 9, "Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." 1 Jno 3: 15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer."

By Brother Ken Harper
104 Quiet way, Penn Valley,
Smartville, California. 95977

****

NOTE ON ABOVE

For several months past we have received little by way of articles and news of the churches to publish. In fact we have been forced to forego publication twice because of this very thing.

Mail is coming in a little better now, but we need more to keep putting out the paper in its present size. Perhaps it has been because of the holidays past that this has been. They are always a strain on everyone, ourselves included.

However, we should not allow this excuse to stand in the way of doing as much good as we are able.

About the above article; this writing is very good, and we want to commend Brother Harper for his efforts. What we need is many more of the same calibre on a variety of good Bible subjects. The writer here has a good grasp of his subject matter and has presented it in such a manner that all can read and understand.

We are acquainted with Brother Harper and think highly of him. The only criticism we have to offer is that he should do more articles of this type. We know he will understand and do all he can to help. We hope all

of our brethren will do the same and help to make the paper grow better and better.

We hope to have news of the 1971 summer camp meeting at Boonville in the February issue of the Courier.

We will in the future print the full address of each writer below his article. This will be done so that if anyone wishes to contact the writer for any reason he will find the address below the article. We have not done this heretofore, and it is a mistake we intend to correct.

****

THOSE WHO FELL
1 Cor 10: 1-12

In this reading we find several important things. These people were baptized unto Moses, ate spiritual meat, drank spiritual drink. Who were they? They were the people of God.

Do you know what happened to these people? They were overthrown in the wilderness.

There is a doctrine today that teaches, 'once in grace always in grace', or once you are a child of God you have nothing to worry about.

Brethren, the fate of these people were written for our admonition that we should not do what they did and fall from grace.

In Jer 2: 32, "My people have forgotten me." But what does Psalms 9: 17 say about people who forget him? It tells us they will "be turned into hell."

Listen, people, to forget God you first have to know him. Yes, the unfaithful children of God will be turned into hell.

Does anyone feel he is more secure than angels? If so, read 2 Pet 2: 4. We find that God cast those who sinned down into hell.

In Matt 13: 40-42 we find that Christ will gather the sinners out of his kingdom and cast them into a furnace of fire.

In light of these few verses, how can anyone still believe in "once in grace, always in grace"?

Written in love, Marion Warford,
Box 238, Westville, Okla

JUDGED BY WHAT IS WRITTEN

We read in Rev 20: 12 how Apostle John in a vision saw the last judgement; how they were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The scripture warns us in Jas 2: 12,"So speak ye and so do as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (So we will be judged by what we say and what we do)

Jesus warns in Matt 12: 37, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shall be condemned."

Jesus said, "He that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, is like a wise man that builds upon a rock. And he that heareth and doeth not, is like a foolish man that builds upon sand. (Matt 7: 24-27)

Jesus sent his disciples to teach all nations. (Matt 28: 20) They were ministers of the New Testament. (2 Cor 2: 6)

Paul says in Gal 1: 8, "--if an angel from heaven preaches unto you any other Gospel than we have preached, let him be accursed." In Rev 22: 18-19 we are warned, Whosoever will add or leave off from the words of the book of this prophesy, (that is,this perfect law of Christ) his name is taken out of the book of life, and is cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20: 15

Paul did not dare to leave off from the perfect law of Christ. He says, (Acts 20: 27) "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

In 2 Peter 3: 16 we are warned that they that wrest the scripture, do it to their own destruction.

Jesus said, "that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father"...Jno 5: 23

When Jesus was serving the Lord's Supper he said, "This do in remembrance of me." He said also, "Ye believe in God, believe also in me....Jno 14: 1 Paul taught the same, as in Rom 3: 26, that God is a justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. And also in Rom 4: 12, --if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, etc.

We notice how the ministers of the New Testament honor, mention both the Father and the Son when they begin an Epistle. Rom 1: 1, "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God--"

God foretold Moses of Christ to come. "I will put my words into his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that

I shall command him...Deut 18: 18. So in Romans 1: 1 Paul speaks of the Gospel of Christ as the "Gospel of God". Eph 5: 23...Christ is the "saviour of the body."

Paul also speaks of "God, our saviour. (Notice, the other epistles, how they honor the Father and the Son in the first verses) In Rom 8: 9, Paul speaks of the Spirit as the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. (He honors both the Father and the Son)

Jesus said, "--I will build my church"...He is the "head of the church which is his body."...Eph 1: 22-23. In 1 Cor 12: 27, "--ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."...Verse 18, God had set the members "in the body as it pleased him." (It is God who translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. Col 1: 13)

So Paul did not dare to leave God out of the Church. We hear him say at times as to the Corinthians (1: 2), "Unto the Church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, etc." and to the Thessalonians, "---the Church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father, and in the Lord Jesus Christ."

We read how Jesus said, that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father..."---teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

H. Stolnake,
1208 So 9th St.,
Yakima, Washington 98901

****

EUGENE, OREGON

The Church at Eugene is progressing along as well as can be expected.

Sunday, Dec 6, Debra McDonald was Baptized into Christ's Body. Debra is the fiance of Brother Ron Johnston.

Sister Arcie Peavy has been ill and in the hospital. She was released Saturday, Dec 12 and is now in her brother's home at Marion, Oregon.

We have been blessed with several good speakers lately. Brother Bill McCay, Brother Richard Johnston, Brother Jerry McCay, all of Yakima, Wash. We invite them all back again, and anyone else travelling through.

Jerry Orendorff for the Church at Eugene.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Just a note to send you our address and to say that we would enjoy receiving the Courier.

Anyone who could come this way is welcome in our home. My husband is stationed at Fort Carson and we will be here probably until April of 1971. We hold Church services in our home Sunday Mornings. Brother Wade Brackett (also stationed at Fort Carson) and his wife, Vicki, meet with us.

Our address is:

Mr and Mrs Evart T Forsman,
1209 So Nevada Ave, #57,
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903.

****

SOMERTON, ARIZONA

The recent meeting at Somerton was a wonderful success. Those visiting here from out of town were Bro and Sis Hunt and Grandaughter, Donna of Garden Grove, Cal., Bro and Sis Don Dabbs and family, of Bellflower, Calif., Bro and Sis Olan Taylor of Bellflower, and his Sister, Minnie Willingham from Ontario, Calif., Bro and Sis J D Johnson and Daughter, Nina of Lakeside, Calif., Sis Myra Dabbs and Sis Flora Bixler of Aztec, New Mexico and her three children.

Guest speakers were Don Dabbs, C C Perigen, Elmer H Hunt, J D Johnson, Horace Orendorff, and Harry Dye. We had wonderful lessons--everyone enjoyed them a lot.

We especially want to thank the Yuma members for helping us take care of the visitors. We appreciate the efforts of all the visitors one and all for coming to help us.

There were no visible results, but much good was accomplished. We had two restorations just before the meeting and we are all glad to have them back.

We are also happy to have Sis Peggy Gray, her husband, and three children with us.

Sis Edwards, Sis Hunter, and Sis Renick who have been ill were able to be out Sunday. All of them are better.

Our best wishes to the sick ones at Modesto.

By Bro W A Nelson for the Church at Somerton.

TOUCHET, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I thought I would write a few lines to let everyone know what is going on here.

We have established a congregation here in Touchet, Washington with the help of God and the congregation at Yakima. The brethren at Yakima paid the rent on the building for us.

We have not added any members as of yet, but I have great hopes of adding to the church.

We already have more than Jesus had when he was here; he had not even a place to lay his head.

We are having services in the Touchet Grange Hall starting at 10:30, Sunday mornings. Anyone coming by and wishing to stop and worship with us will be very welcome. If you wish additional information just call EX4-2664.

In all sincerity and Christian Love,
Your Brother in Christ,
Ernest P Wisehart,
P O Box 21,
Touchet, Washington 99360

****

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Our gospel meeting at Baron was very successful. The house was nearly full with no more sitting room every night. We had speakers from Goshen, Arkansas, Stillwell and Westville, Oklahoma. Brother Treat also came from Broken Bow, Oklahoma to speak for us. We of the Baron Church thank each and every one of the speakers for a very good meeting.

Five people came foreward to give notice they were worshipping in the wrong manner and had a desire to come worship with us. It is a good feeling to see people switch over to true worship. At one time I belonged to the brethren who use a plurality of cups and the Sunday School in worship, but learned the error of their ways.

The five are, Carl Johnson, Bonnie Johnson, Bonnie Gardenhire, Lucinda Smith, and Carolyn Johnson.

We here at Baron are doing fine and hope the other

Churches are doing well.

Sisters Ola and Deana Spence spent a short stay in Washington and we are glad to have them back to worship with us.

Yours in Christ
For the Baron Church, Marion (Jackie) Warford

****

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We are having some cool weather here now, and more important, some more people out to worship part of the time. Sister Clements is still in Talahania hospital. We would like the prayers of the churches for her recovery if the Lord is willing.

All the rest are up and around at this time. We plan to hold our meeting on or about the first part of June, 1971. All are invited to come help us out that can, and anyone passing by here stop over with us: We appreciate having company.

For the Church at Broken Bow, Lloyd Treat.

****

A PUBLIC DISCUSSION

We have received word from Broken Bow that there is planned a public discussion between Brethren Lloyd Treat of Broken Bow and Ellis Lindsey of Fort Worth, Texas.

The subject under consideration will be the manner of breaking the loaf in the Lord's Supper. The dates will be Friday and Saturday of Easter Week and Sunday Afternoon following.

This subject has been much abused for about the past forty years, but not much good discussion has resulted. We hope that all who can will go and attend every night.

We will keep you informed as time goes along.

****

FOR THE RECORD

For those of you who expressed a desire to have copies of the debate on breaking bread between Paul Nichols and John Logan which took place earlier this year in Modesto, Cal.,

we can say that we will have them printed. We cannot be specific on the date, but will keep you informed when they ar ready.

We hope to have sufficient numbers printed so everyone who desires may have one. If you would like to have some, please write to us here at the paper and tell us how many you will need and we will send them to you when ready.

None of the opposition indicated they were interested when asked publicly. All of the brethren who stand with us on the truth of this matter expressed a desire to have copies. We will, of course send any and everyone who desires as many copies as they desire.

****

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA.

We are at present up and about and thankful to our heavenly Father for the priviledge of being so.

Sister Mae Johnson has been hospitalized recently because of a fall, but is doing better . We have the usual sicknesses one can expect this time of the year but not too much at present.

We are happy to report two baptisms this past month. One, an elderly gentleman, and the other a young lady; Sister White's daughter. We rejoice in the power of the Gospel.

We are happy to have Sister Way with us now. She is staying with her daughter, Sister White. The presence of each one is very encouraging to all of us.

We are going to be planning our meeting soon and hope all who can will come, be with us. We all, each congregation, should be planning more work for the church in 1971 than in the year past and gone.

We are sorry to report the passing of Sister A B Weakley, mother of Brother Bert Weakley. Sis Weakley was a resident of Comanche, Oklahoma for 76 years before her death. At her passing she was in Duncan, Oklahoma.

She celebrated her 98th birthday Nov 9. Besides Bro Weakley, she is survived by four other children. Our sincerest sympathies to the family for their loss.

PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY
James 1: 25

This scripture is one I like to think on so much for it means so much to all of us. In this we see two things of utmost importance; "perfect law" and "liberty". Let us think just for one moment on this "perfect law"

If the law is perfect and we live by the law, will we not be perfect? Will not a perfect law make a person perfect? 2 Tim 3: 16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto every good work."
Phil 4: 19, "my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Since all we need is supplied by Christ Jesus, we have liberty in the gospel, not to change or add to, but to do or not do.

We can choose which way we will serve. Josh 24: 15, "Choose this day whom you will serve:" 2 Cor 6: 2, "Today is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time." Why delay longer? 1 Pet 4: 17, "--judgement shall begin at the house of God--if the righteous scarcely be saved, what will be the end of them that obey not--?" 2 Thess 1: 7-9 they shall be punished, but we still have liberty, only use not this liberty for an occasion to the flesh."

Yours in Christ, Lloyd Treat,
13 No Bock, Broken Bow, Oklahoma

****

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

We enjoyed the Boonville meeting again this past year. We had taken our vacation so we could attend both the Far West and Delta, Colorado meetings, but when Delta date was changed we were unable to attend.

May I suggest that each congregation plan their meeting and send the date to the Courier so people can plan their vacations and so that the meetings will not conflict in the same area.

I will be available for meetings this year. The best time for me would be June or July, but perhaps some other arrangements could be made if I knew enough in advance.

Bill McCay, 719 Ea Viola, Yakima, Washington.