# The Christian
# COURIER

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## "SPREADING THE GOSPEL"

How can we spread the Gospel?

1. By preaching. Mark 16: 15, "Go ye, into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

Some say this was only a commission given to the apostles. This is true, but it is also to you and me. Are we not commanded to follow the Apostles and Christ? We certainly are. See 1 Cor 11: 1. Yes we should be about our Father's business as was Christ, even beginning when He was a young Boy. See Luke 2: 49.

2. By teaching. Yes, teaching and preaching go hand in hand. They are very similar. There are several ways a person can teach, and of course one is by preaching; but all cannot preach.

Some do not have the gift of speech even though they have the knowledge. I'm sure every one can teach in some way. We teach by reading the bible. We teach by talking privately on subjects of the bible. Yes, we can teach by our actions, the way we live our lives before the world. This sometimes has more bearing on our friends and associates than we may realize. Remember, Paul said in Rom 12: 1 for us to present our bodies a living sacrifice. One that would be holy and also acceptable unto God, which is a reasonable service. Doing this places no burden on us; it's merely a Christian doing his duty; yes, living faithful.

Where are we to teach or preach? Matt 28: 19, " Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." If this is not enough, let's read again mark 16: 15. Here he says to preach to all the world. These two scriptures just about takes in every one, no matter the color or race.

3. Through our religious papers, such as the Christian Courier. To me, this is one of the best mediums of teaching the Gospel that we have today. Of course, we can preach

to our local congregations and in so doing, spread the Gospel, But how many are reached this way? Sometimes 20, maybe 30, or 40 or even 100, depending on the size of the congregation. Through the Courier we have many congregations with it's individual members, whether 2 or 100.

They can all benifit, yes, even grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Every article that is written and published will be an inspiration to every one that reads it. These articles don't end when read by the individual, but many copies are passed on to non-Christians and many have heard a Gospel sermon who otherwise would not have heard it.

In spreading or teaching the Gospel, either at our local congregation, at another congregation, or through the paper, or even at work, on the street, or wherever we may be: who knows, it might save some soul from torment. Rom 1: 16, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Paul was't ashamed of the gospel. Are we? Again Paul said in Acts 20: 27, "--for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the council of God. Why not you and I, brethren, make this a New Year's resolution to declare all the council of God, holding back nothing. We might be instrumental in winning a few souls to Christ.

Let's work while it is still day: the night is coming when we no longer can work. Yes, night will be here only too soon. Jno 9: 4.

When this night comes, if we are not ready, it will be too late. Heb 9: 27, "And as it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgement." Are we prepared to meet this judgement? Have we obeyed the Gospel? Have we lived faithful? Have we been teaching it at every opportunity? Have we made extra opportunities to spread the Gospel?

THINK.....THINK.....THINK

These two opportunities will be on us before we know it. Will we hear him say well done, enter in: or, "depart, I don't know you"?

Brethren everywhere: we at the Baron Church of Christ would love to have you bring us a Gospel sermon through the Courier this month and every month through the years to come.

Written in love and the hope that more brethren may preach the gospel to their local congregations and that it may be spread through out the land through the Courier or any other loyal Gospel paper.

L E Atchley,
Rte 2, Box 144,
Westville, Oklahoma.

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## WE'RE REALLY HAPPY

The last month has seen a radical upturn in the contributions (written) to the Courier. We really have seen them coming in. Fact is, we have more than enough at the present for one more issue. This makes us happy.

We have seen months when it looked very discouraging, and some when we couldn't put out the paper, but you folks are really coming through. It just goes to show what a little effort on the part of each and every one of us can do when we try.

There are some congregations we haven't heard from in quite some time, and we are hoping to hear soon.

We want to especially commend the brethren and sisters of Baron and Stilwell, Oklahoma Congregations for their exceptional efforts on behalf of the paper. They have put themselves out in a real congregational effort to provide printed material to be published.

Which brings up a point that we have never had to bother with before. If your article is not printed in the same month you send it in, don't be offended by believing we are not going to print it. We will get it in at the earliest possible moment.

So Brethren and Sisters, we thank you. Just keep "them cards and letters comin' in" and we'll work our way to the top of the pile and yell thanks to each and every one of you at the top of our lungs.

P O Box 1342,
Modesto, California 95353

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## HOW ?

Jno 6: 44 "No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day."

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

Many people in the world are waiting for God to send in some mysterious way, and "draw them" to Christ. But if we read the next verse, Christ explains the "how". It is written in the prophets, And they shall be taught of God. Every man, therefore, that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me." So the drawing power is the "Gospel of Christ" which is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom 16:16.

It is the Gospel heard and believed that produces faith. Rom 10: 17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The Gospel draws us to Christ.

But it only draws the people who believe it. To believe it is the Word of God obligates a person to act on that belief. Otherwise, it is no belief at all in reality. A faith that does not act is a dead faith.

Jas 2: 14-26,"What doeth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he have faith and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or a sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things that are needful for the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works; and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest there is one God; thou dost well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness. And he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only. Likewise was not Rahab the harlot justified when she received the spies and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

A person drawn to Christ is lively, not lifeless; and continues lively.

Matt 28: 19-20, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

There is no mystery about being drawn to Christ or

of staying drawn to him. The secred is to "Receive the Gospel, as it is in truth the word of God." 1 Thess 2: 13. All who do this will act on the word, and it will "effectually work in that soul" as Paul says, "even as in all the world." Col 1: 6

In Christian Love,
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SIN

Sin is universal. Rom 3: 23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." 1 Jno 1: 8-10, "If we say we have no sin we decieve ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. If we say we have not sinned we make him a liar and his word is not in us."

OMISSION OF DUTY

This is neglect or failure to do something that should be done. Jas 4: 17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin. Jas 1: 22, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any man be a hearer of the word and not a doer he is likened to a man beholding his natural face in a glass."

Verse 24, "For he beholdeth his self and goeth his way and straight way forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh in to the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW

1 Jno 3: 4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law for sin is the transgression of the law."

PRESUMPTIOUS

To presume something is right without authority. David said in Psa 19: 13, "Keep back thy servant from presumptious sin. Let them not have dominion over me. Then shall I be upright and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

The Apostle Paul was guilty of that great sin when

he was persecuting Christians.

Any religious act not of faith is a presumptuous sin. We read in Rom 14: 23, "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

## FROM THE HEART

Matt 15: 19-20, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts; murders, adultries, fornication, theft, false witness, blasphemies; these are the things which defile a man. But to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man."

Proverbs 4: 23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

## FRUIT OF LUST

Jas 1: 14-15, "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death."

## WORKS OF THE FLESH

Gal 5: 19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleaness, lasciviousness, idolotry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkeness, revellings and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

## WORK OF DARKNESS

Eph 5: 11, "--and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reproove them."

Verse 12, "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

In contrast, Jesus is light. Jno 8: 12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

## DECEITFUL

Heb 3: 13, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called to day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

2 Tim 3: 13, "But evil men and seducers shall was

worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."

FOR A SEASON

Heb 11: 25, "(Moses) choosing rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

SEPARATES FROM GOD

Isaiah 59: 2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

CAN'T BLAME OTHERS

Adam and Eve could not in Genesis 3: 12-13. Each must account for self.

Rom 14: 11-12, "For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

WAGES OF SIN

Rom 6: 23, "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

THINGS WE CAN DO

Rom 6: 2: die to sin by being buried with him in baptism. Rom 6: 3-4: Rise to walk in newness of life; then we become free from sin. Rom 6: 17-18, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin ye became the servants of righteousness."

Written with Christian Love,
James F Brown,
Rte 2, Box 68,
Westville, Oklahoma.

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BY WHAT ARE WE SAVED ?

Eph 2: 8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

Invariably, people of religious organizations will

refer one to this scripture when trying to proove that salvation is of "faith only". It is true that we must have faith in order to be saved, but as the verse points out, it is by "grace" that we are saved. It is not our faith or works or baptism that truly saves us, but the love of God for us. He does not owe us salvation, neither do we earn it; it is a gift which He has promised to give us if we obey his will.

Although works do not save us, we are "justified by works:"(James 2: 24) and "by faith". (Rom 5: 1) James 2: 17 tells us, "Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone." Thus we find that if our faith is to be acceptable, we must have works.

Now concerning baptism, these people tend to dodge the issue with verses such as John 3: 16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." At this verse they stop, assuming that one is saved by "believing only", but what shall we do with Mark 16: 16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Here are two conditions for salvation in order: first belief or faith and second, baptism.

James 2: 19, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." So, we find the devils also believe in one God and that they fear him, but are the devils saved by faith only?

Many people believe that repentance alone saves them, but Acts 2: 38 brings out two conditions again, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Now, if these conditions are added to the first two, we find that we actually have three: faith, repentance, and baptism.

Paul tells us we are "baptized into Jesus Christ" (Gal 3: 27) and Rom 6: 3, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" We are baptized into Christ and his death and we find in Rom 6: 6 that the body of Sin is destroyed. Therefore if we are saved before baptism, we are not in Christ, we have not been buried with him into death, and our body of sin is not destroyed.

Eph 4: 4 tells us there is one body and the body is the church. (Col 1: 18) The church is Christ's body,

(Eph 1: 22-23).and we are baptized into one body ( 1 Cor 12: 13.) Therefore if we are saved before baptism, we are not in Christ's body, or church.

Some people may ask, what then must we do to be saved? As I have pointed out, the bible has set forth three conditions but there is yet one more: confession. Rom 10: 10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Thus God has created a simple plan of salvation which contains four conditions that we must do: we must believe, we must repent, we must confess Christ, and we must be baptized.

Carl E Johnson,
Westville, Oklahoma.

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

The church here in San Pablo is progressing along fairly well, and have been blessed with not too much ilness, and have been blessed with very capable visiting brethren from other congregations.

December 27th, Bro and Sis McCluskey visited us and Brother McCluskey brought a very wonderful sermon. Bro and Sister Olan Taylor, Bro and Sis W M Taylor and Minnie Willingham, all from Bellflower congregation, and Sis Eva Nichols from Yakima, Washington visited with us Jan 3rd. Brother Olan Taylor presented a very good sermon which was of benefit to all.

On January 10th, Bro and Sis John McKinney were also among us, and Bro McKinney was the guest speaker. He said he preferred to hear one of us speak because he hasn't heard any of us bring a message.

We are very thankful to our Heavenly Father for these visitors and very capable speakers and hope they return very soon. We wish to extend an invitation to all who can, come by and worship with us.

I wish to apologize to the brethren and to the Courier staff for failing to send in articles and news-letters. I know how hard it is sometimes to have enough letters to fill its pages. When not enough response is received, it then falls on just a few to write articles. However, the sacrifices become nothing when the benefits are reaped. This is a worthy work and can be helped greatly by the prayers and donations of the faithful.

Remember them and us in your prayers that we all may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Homer Bryant, 1273 Plumleigh Lane, Concord, Cal. 94521

## BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Brethren:

We at Bellflower are doing very well. Attendance has been good, sickness has been practically nil, and the members are circulating throughout the various congregations, which is good.

Over the past several weeks, brothers Olan Taylor, Don Dabbs, Elmer Hunt, and Claud Perigen (including families) have attended services at Somerton, Ariz on various occasions. Brother and Sis Bill Taylor, Donna and Celesta Dabbs were at Lakeside, California for a short time. Brother Al Dodson and family were visiting relatives in Stockton. Olan, and Bill Taylor and families and Minnie Willingham had a family reunion in Northern California. Also attended services at San Pablo, Calif.

We wish to express our appreciation to all that have worshipped with us from other congregations. We are always glad to see visitors.

One last note: Sister Lula Way is now attending regularly at Modesto, California. We are sorry to see her go; she has been a great help to the congregation.

We hope this letter finds all the brethren everywhere physically as well as spiritually well.

Yours, in Christ,
Jerry Perigen.

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## BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We at Baron are still having good interest in both the morning and night services on Sunday. Also Wednesday night which we use for training our young brethren for the ministry.

Bro Jackie Warford sent in a report of our meeting which was a great success. Several came desiring the prayers of the church. Then we were happy that a family consisting of of a lady (Sis Johnson), two married daughters, one single daughter, and a son who is still in school. All came out of error (Sunday School) to be with us. We are proud of all our young brothers.

We were sorry there was not enough material for a paper in December. Brethren don't you feel guilty? We at Baron and Stilwell do, and have decided to do something about it by staging a drive for more articles for the Courier. We may not all get our lessons in this month, but hope to real soon.

Why not all congregations do likewise. Let's flood them with material. Not ever let it be said it was lack of material for not having a paper.

Yours in the Faith,
L E (Earl) Atchley.
For the Baron Church of Christ

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Christian Friends:

Greetings from the Church that meets at I Street and 16th Ave in Yuma.

We have had ever so many wonderful people visit us and heard many fine sermons. The last Christian Courier was better than a letter from home as it had more than one nice letter from our relations as well as news from precious brethren in Christ.

We have had the to-be-expected sicknesses and recoveries. The most important news we have is the marriage of Brother Wilce Bolin and Sister Lovetta Wilcher. We wish them well and hope they can manage to bring their family to church regularly even if it is nearly 70 miles from their home.

We are proud of all our young people meeting with us. Some of them drive a long ways. We are proud of the folks who are still attending after many trials and tribulations. Our prayers are with you all. Do remember us in your prayers. It is the perfect time of year to visit Yuma.

Sincerely,
The Church that meets at Yuma.

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GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

Brethren:

Just a few lines from the Church in Penn Valley (Grass Valley). We are doing just fine. On the third of this month Bro Ken Harper delivered a lesson on "Are you ready?" after which my nephew, Rodney Trihud, came foreward and made the good confession, for which we were all proud. I thank Ken for the lesson which was really good; ,also I am proud of Rodney for coming forward.

After dismissal he asked me if I would baptize him and he was baptized at the Florence St Church of Christ that afternoon.

He is only about 18 years old. You know, at times we get the feeling that we are not doing any real good because we fail to lead anyone to Christ. I know that

in the past I have had influence on Rodney that has caused him to obey the Gospel and I pray God that I may have the same influence on others.

We find in Matt 28: 18-20 these words that Jesus commanded the Apostles. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." It is our duty to do the same whenever we can.

I am sending a prayer that Rodney wrote out after he obeyed the Gospel. We here at Grass Valley are proud of him for this, and Bro Harper asked me to send it to you.

Your Brother in Christ,
L C Starnes.

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GOOD MORNING JESUS

Good morning Jesus! how are you today? Sure are a lot of souls out there to save. Well, good morning Jesus! tell me how to start.

Shall I tell them about the sunshine that comes from deep within your heart? Shall I tell them how you died on the cross so that their souls might not be lost?

Well, good morning, Jesus! tell you what I'll do. I'll tell them about the mansions prepared by you: the mansions in the sky for them when they've all died.

Well, good-by now Jesus! I pray when I die, there'll be a spare room in that mansion where my soul might lie.

Ron Trihub.

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

We are proud to announce that Bro and Sis Bill McCay, Jr, have a baby boy, born Jan 2, 1971: Bill George 111

He is the grandson of Bill and Veda McCay and great-grandson of Elza and Nora Loveland, all of Yakima.

We also have word from Yakima that they will holding their regular spring one week meeting April 11, 1971. Brother Jerry Perigen will be serving as preacher. They cordially invite everyone who can to come, be with them.