The Christian
COURIER

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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE OUT

Did you ever sit by an old kerosene lamp which was all dirty and dim and try to read or work by it? It was so dim you barely could see. But when you got that old globe all washed and polished, it was a different light altogether. "So it is with our lives."

Matt 5: 14, "Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid."

Do we let our light shine out for others to see that our lives are clean, pure and holy? Matt 5: 16, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Or are our lives all cluttered up with filthy and dirty acts of this life and we are so smoked up we can't see the worldly things that we are doing that might be a stain on our Christian life.

Or worse still, it could be a hindrance to some one who is watching our lives. There might be a sinner that is wanting to change from wrong to right! There is most always someone watching us, what we do, what we say, how we act. Is there not? But if he can't see anything different in our lives and the life he is living, what is the use?

Eph 3: 8, "For ye were sometime darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light." 1 Jno 1: 5, This the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all."

For an illustration, as a doctor goes into an operation room to perform surgery, he has to have proper tools, etc. But most of all he has to have a very bright light, a light that will shine out so as not to make a little slip which could mean the end (death) of his patient.

So it is with us. We We don't want to be the cause of one soul being lost by our slackness, our light not shining out to

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to reach them wherever or whoever they might be.

The young girls and boys are looking for something to satisfy. If they can't find it one way, they will another way. Some are looking for things of the world, the joy they can get out of worldly things. We might call these things rotten but to them it is entertainment to satisfy their minds, their lusts.

But still, there are others who would like to be Christian teenagers and I am so thankful that someone let their light shine out for these young ones to follow.

There are others that need our help, our prayers. If we have our lamps all trimmed and burning with our globes cleaned and polished, we can be an example to them. Someone is watching our life whether we know it or not. THEY ARE WATCHING.

It is very needful that we live up to the Bible and be an example. It will lead souls to him but being a hindrance will drag us down and other souls with us.

Paul wrote in 1 Tim 4: 12, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in word, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

None of us are perfect, but the Lord is just and forgiving if we will ask. 1 Jno 1: 8, "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 Jno 1: 9, " But if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

So let us shine our light out for the world to see just who we are serving. Do we pray for the Lord to take the smoke, dirt, and dimness out of our lives--that we might speak freely (with no condemnation on our souls) to lost souls and try to win them to Christ? Do we pray that they might see that our lives are pure and we have joy in our souls?

It will make them want to clean up and change their life from dimness to brightness.

LLOYD AND SUSIE TREAT,
13 North Bock,
Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

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YOUR TREASURE

Matt 6: 19, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.
20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through and steal.
21 for where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Pro 27: 24, "For riches are not forever."

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Matt 19: 21, "Jesus said unto him, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come, follow me."

Brethren, let us lay up our treasures in heaven where no theif can take them from us.

Pro 22: 1, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor than silver and gold."

Pro 8: 13 tells us that riches cause people to forget God.

1 Tim 6: 9, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition."

1 Tim 1: 8, "-----and having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

1 Tim 1: 10, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves thru with many sorrows."

Phil 4: 11, "Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in what soever state I am, therewith to be content."

Rom 8: 35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

This is written by your brother in Christ, and may God bless you all.

S S BROWN
Rte 2,
Stilwell, Oklahoma.

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HEAD OF THE CHURCH

In the world today, a person can become confused about the church. He may become confused about how he might become a member of the church. As a matter of fact, a person may become confused about a number of things.

Perhaps we should concern ourselves, first of all, about who is the head of the church, and then finding his church will be much easier.

In Matt 16: 18 our Saviour says, "and I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Peter had just confessed that Jesus was the Christ and Jesus says he is going to build his church on this rock or confession.

We have found that Jesus is the builder of a church. Who is the head of that church? By whom do we receive our orders? Col 2: 18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning,

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the firstborn from the dead that in all things he might have the preeminence." Are you going to follow Jesus? Can you think of someone offhand who claims to be the head of the church? Jesus is the Son of God and he received commandments to give to us. The other man or men, who are they the son of? and whose commandments did they receive?

Col 2: 24, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.

It is made clear that the body of Christ and the Church are the same thing. We find by bible teachings what the church is and who is the head. Eph 4: 4 says, "There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." There is one church and one head, and we find there is a way to become a member of it. Gal 3: 27, "For as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." The body of Christ is the church and we are baptized into him, so we are baptized into the church.

Written in love,
Marion (Jackie) Warford,
P O Box 238,
Westville, Okla. 74965

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The following article was submitted by a correspondent in Oklahoma, and is unsigned. We do not know the author, but it is good in view of present day thinking we meet on every hand.

IF I WERE THE DEVIL

...I would want to engulf the whole earth in darkness. I would begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent I would whisper to you as I did to Eve, "do as you please" To the young I would whisper, "The bible is a myth." I would convince them that "man created God", instead of the other way around. I would confide that "what is good is bad and what is good is square."

In the ears of the young married I would whisper that work is debasing, that cocktail parties are good for you. I would caution them not to be extreme in religion, in patriotism, in moral conduct.

I'd designate an atheist to front for me before the hishest courts and I'd get preachers to say, "She's right."

With flattery and promises of power I would get the courts to do what I construe as against God and in favor of pornography. Thus I would evict God from the courthouse, then the schoolhouse, then from the houses of Congress.

Then in His churches I'd substitute psychology for religion and deify science.

If I were Satan, I'd

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make the symbol of Christ's resurrection the egg---and the symbol of His birth, the bottle.

I would encourage schools to confine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions; let those run wild.

Then I would separate families, putting children in uniforms, women in coal mines and objectors in slave labor camps.

If I were Satan, I'd just keep doing what he'd doing.

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A BEAUTIFUL LIFE.

The most beautiful life in the world is the christian life. Acts 11: 26, "and the disciples were called Christians, first at Antioch.

A disciple is a learner, a follower. So a disciple of Christ, a Christian, is a baptized believer in Christ.

Mk 16: 16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." This is Christ speaking.

The christian life is a new life. Jno 3: 3-5, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

A new born christian: a new life. Rom 6: 3-4, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

All things are become new: new viewpoint, manner of working, dealings with others, new ways of enjoying ourselves, a new creation. 2 Cor 5: 17, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

A new name: Isa 62: 2, "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Acts 11: 26, "And the disciples were called christians first at Antioch."

New speech: Col 4: 16, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."

New attitude toward our neighbors: Matt 22: 39, "Thou shalt love thy

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neighbor as thyself."

New attitude toward our enemy: Matt 5: 44-45, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

A new social and business rule: Matt 7: 12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you , do ye even so to them." What a beautiful life, when everybody treats everybody else exactly as he wants to be treated.

A new way to spend the Lord's day. Heb 10: 25, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." Acts 20: 7, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them." 1 Cor 11: 23-26, "---the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks he brake it, and said, Take, eat, this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also the cup when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me. For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come." Eph 5: 19, "--in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

A new way to spend our money: 2 Cor 8: 1-5, "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit the grace of God bestowed upon the churches of Macedonia; how that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

Kenneth Harper
104 Quiet Way, Penn Valley,
Smartville, Calif. 95977

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"THE WAY OF TRUTH"

In the United States today, there are about 400 different beliefs, and that many ways of trying to convert people to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. There is so much confusion in this that the average person, and a lot of members of the true faith, do not actually know what they believe, or just what they

can do to be sure they have not been perferted instead of converted. Jus why do some people teach this or that?

The prophet, Isaiah said in Isaiah 33: 3, "And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those, the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Therefore, all one has to do is to find the right way and follow it, and then they can rest assured they will inherit eternal life.

In John 14: 5, after Thomas had asked Jesus, How can we know the way?" Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." So Christ is the one we have to look to and not man, for He says in Jno 12: 48, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Consequently, we know by these scriptures, if we accept the words of the Lord and obey them, we will not be led aside, or become a pervert.

We know what Christ told his apostles to do before he was crucified. Let us now see what he told them to do after he was risen from the dead. In Mark 16: 15-16 he said unto them, "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." In Matt 28: 19-20 Christ said, "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."

In 2 Tim 3: 16-17 Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." So all one has to do to know the right way is to read and accept the Apostles' teaching.

In 2 Jno we read, "If there come <u>any</u> unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not in your house, neither bid him Godspeed; For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds." 2 Jno 10:1.

Let us look further and see if the Apostles can be more specific about disobeying their word, which is the word of God.

1 Tim 6: 3, "If any man teach otherwise and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness: he is

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proud knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." These are plain words and should be readily understood, for Paul said in 2 Cor 3: 12 that he used great plainess of speech, and Peter, speaking of Paul in 2 Peter 3: 16, "--as also in all his epistles. Speaking in them of these things: in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

No man, or set of men can refute one word of the Apostles' teachings, and I am also sure that no true worshipper of the Lord will willingly and knowingly try to twist them around to proove their own theories, unless they have been subverted by one or more of the afore mentioned perversions of the scriptures.

If one is or has taken part in advocating such things, there is only one course that faithful members can take, and this is a command just as binding as any other. Turn to 2 Thess 3: 6 and read this command as given by the Apostle Paul. "Now we command 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, for yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you: neither did we eat any mans bread for naught: but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: not because we have not power, but to make our selves ensamples unto you to follow us, for even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat, for we hear ther there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord, Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing, 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 exhort him as a brother."

Finally, in Gal 1: 6, Paul, talking to the church; "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him who called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel: which is not another: but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say we again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now per-

suade men or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

In 2 Tim 4: 3-4, Paul warns Timothy about unruly and disobedient followers of God, by stating, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables."

Acts 20: 28-30, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grevious wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Verse 31, "Therefore, watch and remember that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

1 Jno 2: 18-19, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that anti-Christ shall come, even now are there many anti-Christs; whereby ye know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifast that they were not all of us."

Verse 20, "But ye have an unction with the holy one, and ye know all things."

With Brotherly love,
Bert Weakley,
413 Rowland,
Modesto, Calif.

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THE ROD OF GOD

We read in the old Testament of Aaron's rod that budded and of the rod of Moses. In Exo 3: 7 we see how the Lord said unto Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt; and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people out of Egypt." Also, in Exo 4: 1-5 how Moses answered and said, "but they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice; for they will say, the Lord hath not appeared unto thee. And the Lord said unto Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" And he said a rod. And the Lord said, "Cast it on the ground", and it became a serpent;" and Moses fled from before it. And the Lord said unto Moses, "put forth thy hand, and take it by the tail", and he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a

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rod in his hand.

Verse 5, "--that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers had appeared unto thee."

Verse 17, the Lord said unto Moses, "--and thou shall take this rod in thy hand, wherewith thou shall do signs."

Verse 20 says that when Moses departed for Egypt, he took the rod of God in his hand. and we read in Numbers 20: 8, where the Lord said to Moses, "Take the rod with you, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock."

In Isaiah, chapter 11, we read of the rod of Christ.

Verse 4, "--he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth." (The gospel is the rod of his mouth.) (The Lord said to Moses, "Take the rod with you.") And now it says in Eph 6: 17, "--take the sword of the spirit;" (the rod of Christ) "which is the word of God."

It is the power of God; Rom 1: 16 (take the rod). We must use it, we must let the water run out of the rock. Eph 6: 15 says, "--and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

We read how Jesus was saying, "I must be about my Father's business." "I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also." (Luke 2: 49) And Luke 4: 43..."always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord", 1 Cor 15: 58... "For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not," Gal 6: 9.

(--he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth.) "--and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword," Rev 1: 16. And Jesus warns in Jno 12: 48, "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words; hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

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

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OUR DEPARTED

Sister Mary Elizabeth Daniels was born at Mena, Arkansas, April 9, 1896, and passed away March 1, 1971.

She is survived by her husband, Brother W E Daniels, of Stilwell, Oklahoma. She was the mother of three daughters: Ruby Looney, Virginia Casey, and Flora Goldsmith.

Also, four sons: Marvin, Melvin, Edward, and Alvey. Two step daughters: Matilda Hunt, and Mary Smith. Two step sons: Tom and Evan.

She is survived by 26 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Bohannan Mountain Church of Christ, Arkansas, March 3, and she was Buried at Ozark, Arkansas.

OUR DEPARTED

Sister Lucy Alice Conder was born in Jarvis Store, Kentucky, 1890, and passed away Feb 16, 1971.

She was the widow of J G Conder, a preacher of the Church of Christ, who preceeded her in death Nov 19, 1964.

She is survived by her daughter, Fern Logan, of Stockton, Calif; two stepsons; Lucius, of Adelanto, Calif, and Roy, of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Also, four step-daughters; Rosa Brown, of Ceres, Calif, Annis Brown, of Escalon, Calif, Myrtle Lee Clouse, of Los Angeles, Calif, and Wyoma Cavin, of Whittier, Calif.

One sister, Ellen Vicars, of Petersburg, Ky, three brothers; Crit, Major, and John Prince, all of Kentucky, two grandchildren, and one great-grand child.

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MUNDY, TEXAS

We received a note from Brother Jack White, stating all is well with them. Sis Frances Franklin, Mother of Sister Johnny Ussery, of Sacramento, Calif. is still able to attend worship, although it is very hard for her to get around.

Anyone passing by, stop in and worship with them at 9th and D Streets, Mundy, Texas. For further information, contact: Jack White Box 494, Mundy, Texas.

SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Everyone here sends sympathy to the Logan Family. We were all sad over hearing Fern's mother, Sis Lucy Conder had passed away. We do hope Brother Logan, Sr and Fern are much better by now.

There have been a num- of illnesses and injuries here.

Sister Annie Koster, of St Louis, Mo. who is making a lengthy stay with her daughter and family, Bro and Sis Earl Broadway, was injoured in a car door accident, but with treatment at a hospital, she is doing nicely now. She is 86 years young.

Brother Earl Broadway fell while working, but was lucky not to have been injoured worse. Just some soreness since.

Bro Horace Orendorff has been in the hospital several days with an injury to his back and leg. We hope he will soon be out and about.

Sister Ruth Duncan has been under treatment in a Phoenix hospital for some time. Also, Sis Mary Davis is ill at this time.

Brother and Sister K M Baldwin have been in this area for two weeks, visiting relatives. While at Brawley, Calif he became ill, requiring treatment, and also, at the Yuma, Hospital. Bro Baldwin preached at Somerton while here.

From the church at Somerton

CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF

Sister Stringham, of La Habra, Calif Congregation has been hospitalized

Bro and Sis Dayton Clouse, also of La Habra Congr. have been ill with the flu. Still unable to be up much.

Modesto, Calif:
There has been quite a lot of colds and flu. Bro Carter is still not able to attend worship and his wife has been in the hospital, but is at home at present. Bro Carter will soon be 90 years young.

Bro Renzo Stephens is in the Doctor's Hospital at present. He's is in the intensive care ward.

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BROWNSVILLE, PA.

Just to let you know that I truly enjoy the Courier and give you our new address.

There isn't a true church here in Brownsville, that I can find, but if anyone knows of one close by, please let me know.

We live about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, and our address is: Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Austin 20 Fifth Ave., Brownsville, Pa. 15417

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WHEN YOU WILLFULLY MISS THE CHURCH SERVICES:

1. Despite what you may tell yourself, and others, your actions prove that God and Christ are not first in your life.

2. You claim to be like Christ, but there is one way you are very unlike Him. He loved the church enough to sacrifice anything so that you might attend its services.

3. You tear down all the teaching we have done to the new converts and become a poor example for them to follow. If they get to heaven someday it will be in spite of you and not because of you.

4. You disappoint Jesus who is present every time two or three gather in His name. He knows you aren't there, and He knows why you aren't.

5. You leave no doubt in the minds of your faithful brethren that there are other things that you enjoy more than worship and that there are earthly pleasures that you prefer to Christian Fellowship.

6. You weaken your soul, hurt the church, discourage the minister and make it impossible to teach your children and your neighbors how important the church is.

7. You disobey a plain command of God, "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25).

Joe Laird,
Altus, Oklahoma.

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PSALM 111

1. Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

2. The works of the Lord are great.....