The Christian
COURIER

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ALL GOING TO THE SAME PLACE

We hear many people use the above expression when talking on a religious matter that is only partly true. John tells us in Rev. 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Also, Paul tells us in Rom.14:10, "...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

From the above scriptures it is unmistakably clear that we will all be at that great judgment, and we will each be judged according to our works.(See Rev.20:12). Jesus tells us in Matt.25:46,"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." We learn from this scripture that we are not all going to the same place from the judgment. In Matt. 15:13, Jesus speaking says; "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." In Matt 7:21, Jesus speaking says, "Not every one that saith unto me , Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heave If we profess a religion which we cannot read of in God's holy word, then it is a plant which God did not plant; if we profess no religion at all, we are a plant that God di not plant, and in either case, will be rooted up.

Our only hope of a heavenly home is to do God's will We must lay aside every man-made thought and turn to God' holy word if we are to expect a heavenly home beyond the grave.

Now, in conclusion, let us take a little advice from the wise old Solomom, in Prov.3:5, "trust in the Lord wit all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understandin

Written in love of the truth and the brotherhood,
W.E. Daniels, Star Route Wesley, Arkansas 72773

(the following is a continuance of an article in last issue)

Now we will see what Paul wrote to the Corinthian Brothers. Paul told the church in Corinth to straighten up by judging those wicked brothers; and the scripture says brothers. 1Cor.5:11-13, "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one, no, not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." There are lots of brothers that are head of the church, or they're in charge, but they don't want that responsibility. Lets read what Paul said about those wicked brothers: 1Cor.5:3, "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed." Paul wasn't backward in this letter or in his preaching: they were told in plain English what to do.

This judging doesn't eliminate the brothers that are in charge or the elders that have never been appointed. In 1Cor.4:2 Paul says: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." Steward means a man intrusted with the household, one who acts as supervisor or a man in charge of a group. So this scripture is directed to the elders of the church, and to find someone faithful is to determine truth, and to determine truth is the first meaning in Webster of judging.

John7:24, "Judge not according to the appearance,but judge righteous judgment." I have used some of the scriptures that are used by the preachers that preach no judging. I ask you to use my scriptures. The preacher that preaches absolutely no judging is preaching contradiction in the word of God and I don't endorse that kind of preaching.

The church or anyone in the church has no right to assume that a man is a Christian on his say so, when his every action denies it. That is unrighteous judgment, and no one can judge what is in the heart without knowing the person's actions, and that reveals the heart. An undisciplined church leads to lower standards of membership and of members in general.

With love of the truth,
Bro. V.E."Dutch" Staggs
Route 1, Box 861-A
Yuma, Arizona 85364

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NOTE: We appreciate these long articles and do hate to print them in two editions. But sometines we can't help it. We only do it when we cannot do otherwise. Editor.

THE NEW BIRTH

1. Holy Spirit-Male-Factor (John 16:13)
2. Seed-word of God (Luke 8:11; 1Peter 1:23)
3. Regeneration (Titus 3:5; James 1:18)
4. Water the Female-Factor (Jonah1:15)
5. Conception, Blood-Contact (Rom.6:4; 1John 5:8)
6. Born into Family (John 3:5)
7. Wear Family Name (Acts 4:12; Eph.3:15)

We come now to the subject at hand for study. The New Birth. Friends, a more important subject has never engaged the attention of humanity than the one that we shall study. Much has been said about it, but thousands are yet in the dark regarding it.

I call your attention to the conversation between Christ and Nicodemus as is recorded in the third chapter of John:"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? 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." (John3:3-5)

Nicodemus was not unlike all other reasoning men when, in response to Christ's astonishing declaration that a man must be "born again" in order to enter the kingdom of God, he seriously raised the question; "How can a man be born when he is old?" Birth signifies beginning; the foundation of something entirely new; a state of being that never formerly existed. To be, if possible, more plain, to be born contemplates a delivery, a coming forth from one state into another.

Friends, I believe that all of you will agree with me that before there can possibly be a birth, there must be first a parentage, or, if you please, a male factor and a female factor must be involved, or a birth is absolutely impossible. This is true in the physical realm, and it is equally as true in the spiritual realm.

Some, as you know, claim that John3:5 has reference to two births; one of water and the other of spirit, but their claim is erroneous. When these who make such a claim wake up to the fact that before there can be a birth there must first be a male and a female factor, I am sure that they will abondon their claim.

John3:5 refers to only one birth, and the Saviour here names both the male factor and female factor in this one birth. The spirit is the male and the water is the female. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a male factor.

Hear him, "Howbeit when he , the Spirit of truth, is come he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John16:13). This is enough to prove to the whole world that the Holy Spirit is a male factor.

This proves point #1: the Holy Spirit is a male factor. Friends, in the physical realm we all understand that there must be first a male and female factor. #2: The seed must be planted. #3: generation, or the making must take place, #4: there must be blood contact. #5: birth must happen. #6: entrance into the family then takes place, and #7: the "new being" wears the family name. We see that, don't we? Well if we can see that in the physical realm, why can we not see it in the spiritual realm? They both work harmoniously.

We have proven point #1: the Holy Spirit is a male factor.

Now to point #2: The word is the seed. Hear Jesus i in Luke 8:11, "Now the prable is this: The seed is the word of God." Now we see that the seed in the spiritual realm is the word of God.

"But," says one, "what connection has the word with the Spirit?" Let the Holy Spirit answer the question. Hear him, "And take the helmet of salcation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"(Eph.6:17).

So we see here that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit. Therefore, my friends, it is under the direction, or guidance, of the Holy Spirit, that the word is planted into the hearts of individuals and a regeneration begins.

This brings us to our point: Generate means to make form, beget. Therefore, regeneration means to again make, again form, again beget. We are generated in the physical realm and regenerated in the Spiritual realm. Let's turn to Titus 3:5, "Not by the works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." I beg of you, my friends, to note that he said, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration?" But what is meant by washing of regeneration? Certainly it means the washing that is caused by, or follows regeneration.

But what is washing? Listen to the Holy Spirit in Heb. 10:22, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Again, hear the apostle Paul in Eph. 5:25-26, "Husbands

love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water by the word." Again, hear Ananias say to Saul; "And now whytarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts22:16) I am sure that you will agree that this washing has reference to baptism which is by the word or according to the teaching of the word, or, if you please, baptism is a result of our obedience of the word.

I again quote, Eph.5:26; "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," So then we see that washing follows regeneration or rebegetting,"Of his own will beget he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." (James1:18). Again, having been begotten again,"...not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."(1Peter1:23) So we see, my friends, that washing is a result of our having been regenerated.

Which brings us to our next point, #4: the water is the female factor. We proved in point #1 that the Holy Spirit is a male factor, and now if we can prove that the water is a female factor, we will have both the male and female in the spiritual birth. Friends, you know that you do not personify water as a male factor. You yourself do not look at a local stream and say he is high today, he is overflowing his banks, do you? No, you do not. You never refer to water as a male. But yuu do personify water as a female factor. You would say she is high today, she is overflowing her banks, now isn't that true? Now, if we find Bible reference to water as a female factor, my contentions are proven. Let us turn to Jonah1:15,"So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging." Notice, friends, it said her raging. Therfore, we find water being personified as a female in the Bible. This of course, enables us to understand that John3:5 refers to only one birth, naming both the male factor and the female factor in the new birth.

Let us notice point #5: conception is blood contact. I believe that you all will agree with me that before one can be born he must first be concieved. So to be born of a thing, we must first be conceived therein. It is agreed that the Saviour's statement, that one must be born of water and of the Spirit, alludes to baptism, and it is clear that the washing(baptism) is the word, or by the direction of the word, and the word is the sword of the Spirit.(Eph.5:26; 6:17).

So it follows that the Holy Spirit said through the apostle Paul in Rom.6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised

up from the deadby the glory of the Father, even we also should walk in newness of life." Again, "Buried with him by baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."(Col.2:12). The Holy Spirit said that we are buried in baptism and, inasmuch as we are buried, we are conceived; and in this conception the blood contact is made. It is impossible to make the blood contact without being first conceived, and we must make the blood contact in order to get our sins remitted.

I know, my friends, that it takes the blood of Christ to cleanse us from our sins, but, the trouble is many are trying to reach the blood without going into the water. My beloved friends, I am, by the help of my heavenly Master, going to prove to you by the word of God that it is a matter of impossibility to reach the blood without first going into the water. Some try to accept one and reject the other, but that is impossible. It takes the blood to cleanse us from our sins. Hear the Holy Spirit through Paul, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Col.1:14). Again, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first-begotten from the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."(Rev.1:5). And again inlJohn 1:17,"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." So we see, my friends, that we must first contact the blood in order for our sins to be forgiven.

But, the Spirit and the water have a part to play also. We have presented proof of the blood, now what about the water? Hear Peter in Acts10:47,"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" "That he might sanctify, and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."(Eph.5:26). "...Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."(John3:5). Here the Spirit and water are associated together. I don't know why God associated the Spirit and water together so often, but he did. Even in the first book of the Bible they are associated together. Gen.1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

But back to the water and blood. I shall point out to my friends, that the Spirit, water, and blood are tied together so tightly that you cannot accept one and reject the other. They are connected with a cordinate conjunction. The conjunction "and", which is used in this connection, connects various things of equal rank, or places them in the same order or class. Watch the connection:

John 19:34, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."

Again, turn to 1John 5:5, "Who is he that over-cometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood." You see one only won't work. Notice, "Not by water only; but by water and blood." You cannot accept one and reject the other. But let us continue with this chapter. "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." Here we see the Spirit is brought into the picture again. But let us continue. "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, the water, and the blood and these three agree in one."

So you see it follows: No Spirit, no water: no water, no blood: no blood, no forgiveness of sins: no forgiveness of sins, no salvation: no salvation, the soul is lost. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ shed his blood in his death, and in order to reach the benefits of the blood, we must be baptized into his death, since that is the only way that we can get into it. Rom.6:3, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therfore 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 aslo should walk in newness of life."

So my friends it is clearly seen that under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we are baptized(conceived) in water, reach the blood, and are therefore cleansed from all of our sins. To be more plain, if possible, it is like a lady who wishes to dye a garment. She doesn't try to dye the garment with dye alone, does she? I should not. She could not sprinkle the dye on the garment and get it dyed; she must put the dye where the garment can reach it. Therefore, she has to have water, doesn't she? She can't accept one and reject the other andexpect to get the garment dyed. She must first have a mind to dye the garment; then under the direction of her mind she dissolves the dye in the water and baptizes the garment in the water; it reaches the dye and comes out a different colored garment. So it is in reaching the blood. The Spirit is to us what her mind was to her. It directs us to the water and, being baptized therein, we reach the blood and come out a different person. We come out "a new creature." 2Cor.5:17, "Sanctified and cleansed", Eph.5:26."A child of God." Gal.3:26-27. and a fit subject to live a new life, Rom.6:4.

This brings us to the next point in our lesson #6: Born into Family. We are born into the physical by a planting of seed, generation conception, blood contact, likewise we are born into the spiritual family. We became born into the spiritual family. We became the "... children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal.3:26-27.

Again: "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2Cor.5:17. We can easily see that this new state is "in Christ" and we enter into this new state by the new birth, or in other words, the new birth, is the process by which we enter into Christ, the kingdom of God, or the family of God.

But what has the water to do with it? I answer, it keeps everyone out until born of it. It is the dividing line between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God (John3:5). But does water mean water? It does, unless it means buttermilk, sawdust or something else besides water. If it doesn't mean what it says it doesn't mean anything. So we enter the family of God by being born orf water and of the Spirit. Therefore, we have a right to wear the family name. And if he should refuse to wear the family name he would dishonor the family and the head of the family is so displeased with all who are guilty of wearing another name that he informs us through the Holy Spirit, that they CANNOT BE SAVED.

Hear him: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."(Acts 4:12).

Five steps are necessary in order to be born therin. You must first hear the gospel,(Mark12:29; Acts15:7). Believe,(Heb.11:6; Rom.10:17). Repent(Luke13:3-5; Acts 17:30). Confess Christ,(Matt.10:32;Rom.10:9-10). and be buried in baptism for the REMISSION of YOUR SINS,(Rom.6: 4; Col.2:12; Acts 2:38). Baptism puts us into Christ, (Gal.3:27; Rom.6:3).

A sermon delivered by E.J.Loveland
Yakima, Washington

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HELP WANTED

Dear Brethren:

I must write you again as Stanley Goodwin the Brother that was holding services for us has moved back to Wichita Falls. There is no one here to hold services for us. Maybe someone will move down this way soon.

Please keep sending the paper as it keeps us informed on what the other churches are doing.

A Sister in Christ, Mrs. J.W.Bedingfield Box "T"
Humble, Texas 77338

SPEAK NO ILL

Nay, speak no ill; a kindly word
Can never leave a sting behind;
And, O! to breather each tale we've heard
Is far beneath a noble mind.
Full oft a better seed is sown
By cheering thus, the kinder plan,
For if but little good is known
Still let us speak the best we can.

Give me the heart that fain would hide;
Would fain another's faults efface;
How can it pleasure human pride
To prove humanity but base?
No, let us reach a higher mood,
A nobler estimate of man;
Be earnest in the search for good,
And speak of all the best we can.

Then speak no ill, but lenient be
To other's failings, as your own;
If you're the first the fault to see,
Be not the first to make it known.
For life is but a passing day;
No lip may tell how brief its span;
Then, for the little time we stay,
Let's speak of all the best we can.

Author Unknown...

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Reflections

Thank you, God, for the mirror that reflects our weakness of finding faults with other souls, of our surroundings, throughout the world you made. As we should never praise ourselves for any higher grade. In this mirror we can see how wrong we really are, to sit in judgment on each other, near or far. Help your word reflect the sins that are our own and why we have no right to cast the smallest stone!

Submitted by Bert Weakley, Modesto, Calif.

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Observation From the Kitchen Sink

Back when the world was young and I was new in the church, one of the older sister(may she rest in peace) lectured me at length on the evils of wearing men's clothing after we had seen some girls wearing slacks. I agree with hernow (as I did then), but I do not do what she did. She did a good job of talking. Now, I hate to admit I am getting old, the younger women come to me with their problems, I remember what she did, and I try not to do the same. No, she had her husband's hat and coat on the whole time she was talking to me. Author unknown

CHURCH NEWS

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will take time tonight to write the news here at Broken Bow. The church is still doing what it seems possible to do although we would like to do more. But a small membership keeps us from doing what we would like to be able to do.

We just closed a meeting here, with Bro. Jack Morris of Coolidge,Arizona speaking. He did some real good preaching. We enjoyed him very much and the church was made stronger through the efforts, although there were no additions. Bro. Morris, Senior, did most of the song leading. There were visitors which came for a night or two: Bro. & Sis. Earl Atchley, Bro. Jerald Buckner & his wife, Bro. Sammy Boen & family from Ft.Smith, Ark. Altogether we had a very good meeting, thanks to all that helped out in it and lended their support to the efforts.

Brother Morris came back Wednesday and brought his wife, daughter & Dad, all of which we enjoyed very much. They visited over Thursday, then went on up to Stilwell for the week-end

We were made sad Tuesday Evening. Around 7 P.M. my son-in-law, Bro. Edwin Crowell's house caught on fire & burned up everything. Left them nothing. It sure is hard to realize that it could happen. They need all the support they can get to help them build back or get a house to live in. So all that can and will, PLEASE HELP! Send to me here at Broken Bow and I will see he gets it. Some of you have met him and heard him preach. He is young in the faith, but is making a good worker, which the church can be proud of.

The rest here at Broken Bow is as usual except for the hot dry weather that we are having plenty of.

So all pray for us here and through your prayers maybe the church here will grow.

Yours in Christ,
Bro.Lloyd Treat & wife
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74928

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MONTEREY PARK, CALIFORNIA

Just recieved a personal note from Bro. Bill Robison stating as soon as he was able he would have some material for the paper. He has been in the hospital for 15 days in June. A fever of 104½, 2 days, had 6 MD's & 3 Spec. Still don't know what was wrong. Sis.Robison was ill, but better at present. Our prayers go to them.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Hello There:

Once again I am slow in writing but will try to catch up on the news here in Yakima.

We had a good meeting with Bro. Jerry Perigen from Bellflower, California, the first part of April. Bro. Jerry is a capable speaker and he brought us many good lessons. We were especially happy that he could bring his wife, Sister Betty Perigen, with him. We enjoyed their visit very much.

On the 30th of May I had the privilege of presenting the first sermon in the new church building at Port Orchard, Washington. These brethren are to be highly commended for the work that they are doing at the Glenwood Church of Christ. My brother, Robert McCay, donated the land with virtually no outside help. We are very excited at the prospects the future holds for the church there. I'm sure that there is great potential there, and I know the brethren are working hard at spreading the word in that area. Surely the field is white and ready to harvest. There were approximately 30 people there, and there was about the same number when we were there on the 20th of June. At that time Bro. Howard McCay prached the sermon. Last weekend Bill McCay Jr. and family, Mike McCay, and Paula Roark from the Yakima church were there with Bill Jr doing the speaking.

We have a new family in our midst for which we are happy-Sister Betty Roberts and her husband Bert. Sister Betty is a sister of Sister Vestal McKinney. We are losing the Berry family for which we are sorry. We'll miss them, but our prayers are with them as they move to New Mexico. Sister Lynette Street (Meek) has moved to Sacramento, California. We will miss her, but our loss is their gain. Bro. & Sis. Dan Ross visited the Grants Pass, Ore. congregation over the July 4th weekend. Bro. Richard Johnston's family were at the Modesto, California congregation. Those of us left at home got together at Bro. & Sis. Vernon Roark's for an old-fashioned home-made ice cream supper and singing, after a few games of volleyball A very good time was had by all.

I must close for now. Keep up the good work. I suppose there are many like me, many who really enjoy the Courier but seldom get around to writing.

Our Love to all the Brethren,
Bill McCay

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ARE YOU HAVING A MEETING? DID YOU HAVE A MEETING? WHY NOT REPORT IT. TRY TO GET THE MEETING DATES IN EARLY!

HAVE WE HEARD FROM YOUR CONGREGATION LATELY? If not, is it because you haven't had a meeting? No serious illness, loss or any blessings to share with others of like faith? Perhaps the one who usually does it can't, why not someone else? Why not let others see that we are still alive and working in your area, someone might be on vacation, visiting or passing through the area or maybe even trying to move and locate near a congregation. We know there are a number of capable writers, which could send us articles of inspiration and thought, but where are they and what are they doing? Please help us in our efforts, for this this is your paper, printed by a few. Any suggestions are always welcomed to make this a better and more beneficial paper.

Editor and Staff of the Courier.

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Late News: Due to lack of space we condensed the following news letter from Brother Treat at Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

Dear Brethren:

The church is still striving to keep the unity of Spirit in the hand of Peace.

Since last report in which the discussion was reported, we had another small one with Bro. Barney Owens at a private house and to which I can say that there never was a more false statement made than he made that night. He stated: quote, "the not breaking of the loaf started with Christ." Where does the Bible say Christ did not brake the loaf?

Now most of those people don't have much to say to us: we know when error is exposed it hurts the ones in error and if they are not really sincere in finding the truth they will not make any effort to change or study to see who is in error. Now the people here of their congregation say somebody is wrong to which I agree. So I ask th question: tell us plainly, where did Christ brake off a piece of the loaf and eat it? The book, chapter and verse? Luke will not do, for he does not say Christ ate the communion: no place can it be found. If they hold to Luke as was done in the discussion here, then why do they fight the cups people. Why not join them.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Lloyd Treat 13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, Oklahoma
74728

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation which meets at Glenn & Dallas St. has been doing well, with some illness as most congregations have from time to time. We have been blessed many visitors and will try to mention them and welcome each of them to return; Bro.& Sis. Dan Teague &family of Texas: Bro.& Sis. Richard Johnston & family of Yakima Willie Howe & a friend stationed at Lemore, Calif.; Sis. Ray Oakden & girls, Mexico City