The Christian
COURIER

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INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

"Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing against me greviously, then will I stretch out my hand upon it, and will break the staff of bread thereof and will send a famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it; Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, they should but deliver their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it so that it be desolate, that no man pass through because of the beasts; Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate. Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it:

Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall deliver themselves.

Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man or beast; Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Ezekiel 14: 13-20

Thus, we see no man can deliver his kin by his righteousness; but every one is individually responsible before God.

Ezek 18: 20, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him,

LOOK TO PAGE TWO

and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." Again we see the individual responsibility of every man or woman who has lived, or will live upon the earth.

In Numbers 2: 7-11 we see Moses' mistake at Meribah. Verse 12: "And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

David also said concerning this, in Psa 106: 32-33, "They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes; Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips."

So we see one of the meekest men that ever lived on this earth had to bear his individual responsibility to God, although he was angered by their sins.

Before we became christians we were individually responsible to hear the Lord, Jno 6: 44-45; Matt 17: 5; Heb 1: 1-2. It was the responsibility of each that we believe; Heb 11: 6; Mk 16: 16; Jno 3: 18. It was the responsibility of each that we repent; Luke 13: 1-5; Acts 11: 18. It was our individual responsibility to be baptized; Mk 16: 15-16; Acts 2: 38; Acts 22: 16; 1 Pet 3: 20-21; in order to enter Christ; Rom 6: 3; Gal 3: 26-27; where all blessings are; Eph 1: 3; including remission of sins; Eph 1: 7; Col 1: 14.

Each of us are individually responsible to study and know what the will of the Lord is; 2 Tim 2: 15; Eph 5: 17. We are to meditate on the word of God and give ourselves wholly unto it; 1 Tim 4: 15. We are to continue in the doctrine, that we may save ourselves and them that hear us; 1 Tim 4: 16. We are perfectly equipped and made perfect unto every good work; hence, need nothing more; 1 Tim 3: 16-17.

We must abide in the doctrine of Christ to abide in the Father and son; 2 Jno 9. As we have heard in the beginning, we must walk in God's commandments; 2 Jno 6.
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The article ends at this point, unfinished. It will never be finished for the author is dead. I say dead, although there is a remote possibility that he could be alive. He, whom I believe to be the author, many times published other men's writings. This may be one. This is not material to the point. The profound dedication to performing the Lord's will was such that the author

continued down to almost the point of death in the pursuit of his ambition.

I would that there were more like him today. We are weaker for the lack of workers in the Lord's fields.

Today we are content to light a candle and put it under a bushel so that no-one can see it. Preachers go to preach; congregations make arrangements for the occasion; and we scarcely know what is happening. I am sure it is possible to advertise more than we do.

We can write letters and cards, call on the telephone, advertise in the paper, over the radio, and, yes, write ahead to the Courier with the news so that others may know of your efforts and help.

And when the meetings are over, do we share in the joys, or disappointments, of the meetings ? Most of the time we know nothing. How many meetings were held this year among the faithful brethren ? How many took time to write notification of the event ? Or of the results ?

In sum, we should take note of our shortcomings and take steps to remedy them. To continue performing as we do now is to invite disaster.

We need to do the following:

Plan our activities sufficiently far ahead to insure the best noteriety; If more knew of our plans, more could help.

Be "willing to communicate". Let us come out of our self-imposed isolation and support the work of the Lord to our utmost at every place.

(I say"self-imposed isolation" because that, in effect is exactly what it is. You all may be somewhat surprised to know exactly how few of the leaders of the various congregations ever write anything to the Courier, either by way of news, or an article of interest on the scriptures.)

There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the cause of the gosple can and will prosper when people band together with one common goal and strive for the unity of the spirit in harmony with His word.

OUR LACK OF SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY IS MUTE EVIDENCE OF OUR FAILURE TO PERFORM UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE LORD. Respectfully, J D Logan.

WE ASKED FOR IT !

In last month's Courier we posed a series of questions for the consideration of all the brotherhood on the subject of Christian sisters' writing articles for publication.

We posed the questions for one reason only. The thought was introduced some time ago and frankly most of us had not considered that there was any disagreement on the subject and we wished to have the views of the brotherhood in general. It is true that "two heads are better than one" (provided, of course, they are filled with God's will), and so we sought the views of the "many".

In doing this we hope there will not be any misunderstanding. We are not attempting to drive a wedge between brethren, or to introduce any "new thought": we merely wish to examine the word of God throughly and to conduct ourselves accordingly.

We received a letter from one Brother which is very good and to the point. We suggest everyone examine it and study to see if it is so. There are some interesting points in the article, and some good conclusions drawn. We print it completely in the following:

"COME NOW, AND LET US REASON TOGETHER-----".

The questions you posed for discussion:

1. Is it proper to print articles by sisters for general edification ?
2. Is this article writing on a par with public teaching referred to by Paul in 1 Cor 14: 34 ?
3. Would it be proper for sisters to write articles for limited edification, such as the teaching referred to by Paul in Titus 2: 4-5 ?

STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT:

1. Fathers are commanded to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, Eph 6: 4.

May sisters (mothers) also teach these children? even boys? At what age must she stop teaching sons, lest she be teaching men ?

2. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear".

Are sisters bound by this command? If they are, they must at times teach on subjects of general edification.

LOOK TO PAGE FIVE.

3. "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col 4: 6. Also: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers", Eph 4: 29. Do these two scriptures apply to Christian sisters?

4. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel", Phil 1: 27. Are sisters to be guided by this scripture?

Bro H Stolnake's article on "Women Teachers" was superb. He proved beyond a shadow of a doubt sisters are not to teach in the church, and that she is not to assume the place as head of the house, but be subject to her husband.

1. "Let your women keep silence in the church: for it is not permitted unto them to speak----". 1 Cor 14:34. Keep silence in the church-----but she is in the church from the time she obeys the Gospel. I think we all agree this "in the church" is the public worship assembly of the church: Not from the time she enters the church-house. But from the time the assembly is called together as a public assembly until it is dismissed. Then she is to keep silence so far as <u>speaking</u> is concerned. Singing is not speaking; neither is writing breaking silence.

2. "---but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law", 1 Cor 14: 34. We have a few examples of God-approved women teachers under the law. It might be profitable to study them briefly.

A. <u>Huldah</u>; read 2 Kings 22: 8-20.

<u>This</u> woman was under obedience to the law, and the Lord spoke to her. With the Lord's approval she taught the priest and other men who came from the king for general instruction from her. They came where she dwelt in the college in Jerusalem. We have no record that this godly woman ever usurped the place of the men by teaching in their worship assemblies. She never tried to usurp the office of the priest, but in her own god-given measure, as a woman of God she taught a priest and four other men instruction on general subjects to be given to the king. Paul says sisters today are to be subject "as also saith the law".

LOOK TO PAGE SIX

B. Deborah; Judges, Chapters 4 and 5.

This God-fearing woman "judged Israel", not as a public figure, usurping man's place as head, but it was Deborah to whom God revealed himself. She was the wife of Lapidoth and lived with him under her palm tree. Men came from all over Israel to her for instruction and general edification. She did not presume to usurp a public place in worship assemblies. She was the subject wife of Lapidoth and God spoke to her. And God-fearing men were not ashamed to seek her teaching. She sent and called Barak to lead in the battle against the enemy. Whether she WROTE to Barak, or sent him a word of mouth message, she had God's approval. Barak refused to lead the army of the Lord unless she went with him. She went, not usurping Barak's place as captain of the army; but as his chosen teacher and adviser. She lived under the law a God-approved life. Paul says sisters today are to be subject as also saith the law.

C. Anna; Luke 2: 36-38.

Anna lived under the law. She "served God" in subjection, as sisters in the church today are to serve. Paul said, "let her be under obedience as also saith the law". Anna spent her time in the temple, not as a reader or speaker in the synagogue worship services. Not as a priest. Not as a bossy, self-willed, usurping woman. Anna served God night and day with fasting and prayers. She also "spake of him (Christ) to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem". This Godly woman (Subject, under obedience, as also saith the law) served God by speaking to all the people who looked for redemption in Christ. This was certainly a subject of general edification. And to presume that she spake to women only is to presume that women, only, were looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

D. Priscilla; Acts, Chapter two.

Priscilla was a sister in the church. She and her husband, Aquilla taught preacher Apollos. She was not teaching in the worship assembly, and she was not usurping authority over any man: God gave her this right. Of cours, though, she had to be "subject". So, if Apollos balked at having a sister in the church teach him--Priscilla would have had to have kept silent. Or if Aquilla had dissaproved of her teaching another man, she must needs have been subject and quiet. But these two earnest Christian men did not find the fact of her teaching improper.

QUESTIONS:

Where, in all God's word, is the sister not permi-

LOOK TO PAGE SEVEN

tted to teach, except "in the church"? As long, of course, she is not usurping (taking over) a special task God has authorized for men only: and as long as she is modest, discreet, chaste, and subject.

2 What is more private than a written article, read in the privacy of the home?

3 We have examples of inspired men writing for edification. But where, in all God's word, do we have a command for brethren today (or sisters) to write articles for general edification to be published in a paper? Or where, in all God's word, do we have a condemnation of brethren today (or sisters) writing articles for general edification to be printed in a paper?

4 Then, this matter of a paper printing articles of general edification or limited must be a matter of personal liberty: a personal work. What else can it be?

5 In Rom 14, Paul gives rules for things that are neither commanded nor forbidden: things in which we have liberty. He says for the strong, who indulge in these liberties, not to "despise the weak", and he says to the weak, who object, "not to judge". But he also says that if these weak ones are grieved, offended, or made to stumble by the strong person exercising his liberty, then to exercise that liberty becomes a sin. This is the only bible reason I find to forbid these good sisters writing articles, whether for limited, or general edification.

But these "offended" ones should take a long hard look at themselves and 1 Cor., Chapt 13. This is the chapter describing what charity is, and how important it is. No matter how smart, how faithful, how eloquent, or how powerful a man is----if he has not charity, he is nothing more than "a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal". No other good work he may do profits him anything. And now notice particularly that one of the qualifications of charity is "not easily provoked". The christian who is easily provoked or offended is not perfect in charity.

Isaiah 8: 20, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Brethren, let us not be guilty of transgressing any word of God. Also, let us not be guilty of drawing lines of rules where the Lord has drawn none. Yours in love of the truth,

Curtis C McClusky

San Pablo, California

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Christ:

I wish to thank all of you for your many letters, cards, phone calls and visits I received during my illness, both in the hospital and home.

I am improving every day. Thank you for all the prayers.

The church at San Pablo is doing fine. Sister Forbis, her daughter, Judy and son in law, Lloyd Lindsey, Robert Lindsey, (Lloyd's brother) and Rhonda Maddux were restored back to the faith a few weeks ago. Janet Forbis was baptized. We are so thankful to the Lord for them.

Brother and Sister David McAuthor are the proud parents of a baby girl, born August 2nd.

Yours in Christ, Jack Cooper,
San Pablo Church of
Christ.

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JUST A REMINDER !

If your letters appear late in the Courier, or if they do not appear when you feel they should, please bear with us. Our Postal System is not the most prompt service in the world by a long shot.

Things take much too long to be delivered. I guess the worst I have ever seen was a first class letter from Burlingame, Calif. to Stockton, Calif., a distance of only about 75 miles-----took 6 days, believe it or not.

And some are worse. Some copies of the Courier took nearly two weeks to get from Modesto, Cal. to Hayfork, Cal., only around 300 miles. I don't know what consolation I can offer to you folks in Texas or Arkansas, but we'll keep trying.

If your letter arrives after the stencils are prepared, there is nothing we can do except hold it until next month. So, have patience and we'll do our best.

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AKIN, OKLAHOMA

Dear Bros and Sis in Christ:
I hope you will forgive me for taking so long to write.

I am sending you a small amount of money hoping it will help you in the wonderful work you are doing.

As you know, I have not written to you before. Brother Hayse Morris has been writing for us, but I thought it was about time for me to write.

The Church at Akin is doing very well. We are pleased with its growth. When Bro Don Dabbs was in Stillwell for the meeting, he did a wonderful job. I do not know the exact number that were baptized, but he baptized four from the Akin area who now attend meetings with us. This makes a total of 12 added to the Church at Akin since December, all of which are teen-agers. We are thankfull to God for his blessings and mercies upon us.

Let us all remember the Church in Humble, Texas in our prayers. They have a very young Brother there who has to carry on the services, Bro J W Beddingfield.

Also, I would like to add and also thank God for the change of heart Bro Ron Berry had, for he has given up going to college to go to Humble, Texas and help Bro. Beddingfield who needed help very badly.

We can all learn a lesson from this; giving up the things of this world for the things of God.

With Brotherly love,
Jim Bryant.

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ARANSAS PASS, TEXAS

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I'm writing in concern to see if you may help me! My husband and I are obeying the gospel, and we live in Aransas Pass, Texas, which is in the southern part of Texas. I was hoping you could help me by knowing if a Church of Christ was anywere by us.

I would appreciate any information you could give me.

My father has a congregation in Deval, Oklahoma, and will come down and baptize us. Since we will be young Christians, we were hoping there would be a Church of Christ close by.

Thank you, Mrs Jackie MacDonald.

What about it, brethren? Does anyone in the "Lone Star" State know of a faithful congregation meeting in the Aransas Pass area? My own memories of this area are many. Many of my relatives live in and around Corpus Christi and my late grand-parents are buried there. However, I do not know of a faithful congregation meeting in this area.

If any of our readers or correspondents know of a group meeting in the Aransas Pass--Corpus Christi area, let us know and we will pass the information on; or send the information directly to Mrs Jackie MacDonald, 1443 So McCampbell, Aransas Pass, Texas, 78336

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FONTANA, CALIFORNIA

There is a new congregation meeting in Fontana, Calif. The address is 8904 Locust St., Fontana, Calif. Sunday morning services are at 10:30.

Contact Hugh Nunally, 1730 S Monterrey, Fontana, V H Roberson, 7734 Del Rosa, San Bernardino, Cal. Tel. 985-7368, Walt Furguson, Tel 691-5719, La Habra, Cal., or Minnie Willingham, Hibiscus and Orchid, Fontana, Cal, Tel 822-0603.

We are very few in number and will appreciate visitors anytime. Minnie Willingham lives in Fontana: visitors are welcome in her home any time.

Church of Christ, Fontana, Calif.

(Note: We assume Bro Nunally's address is in Fontana, as it was not otherwise stated in the letter. Also: his tel number is 984-3842.)

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation here in Modesto is having its share of illness once again.

Several have been unable to attend services lately for various reasons. Sis Mae Johnson was in attendance last Lord's day after a long illness. Sis Tommie Henderson and her Mother, Sis Adele Stark have both been unable to attend. Sis Eleanor Guyer is doing well now after a recent illness.

Bro F H Logan recently suffered a light stroke and is at present unable to be at services, and Sis Doshia Arnett is recovering from recent surgery.

We hope our next report will be more cheery than this one.

We have had a few visitors since the last issue, for which we are thankful. We do always appreciate visitors and invite all who can to come again.

The Church of Christ at Modesto.

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ODESSA, TEXAS

I recently received a phone call from Bro N E Bergstrom of Stanton, Texas.

All are well at present. Bro Bergstrom informed me that they hope to complete as much of their new building in Odessa as possible in order to begin meeting in it in the near future.

We wish the brethren at this location all the best in their endeavor to further the cause of the Lord. They are few in number, but fervent in the spirit and desire to advance God's kingdom in every way. We urge all who can to attend whenever possible and assist these brethren in their work.

JDL

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---OF THOSE WHO ARE ILL---

Brother C C McCluskey, of West Sacramento, Calif. has been under the weather some time. He contributed an article in this issue which is worth consideration. His address is, 1829 Laurel Lane, West Sacramento, Cal. 95691.

We received word Sister Virgil Woods of Oklahoma City is recovering from major back surgery. Her address is 214 W Marshal, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

A card or letter would certainly help to cheer those who are ill and demonstrate our true Christian concern for one another in times of illness.

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

There will be a meeting Nov 5 through 12 with Bro Claude Perigen of Bellflower, speaking. The church at Yakima is doing very well. There has been some sickness, but all are recovered now.

We here at Yakima are planning a joint venture with the church at Port Orchard, Washington. The second week in

June, 1973, we are hoping to have a 2 week camp meeting. We hope to have Bro Harry Dye of Yuma, Arizona for the first week, then guest speakers the second week. We are planning for this to start the second week in June.

There will be plenty of room for trailers and campers. We hope all will start now to plan to come be with us. There will be further details in the Courier as things progress. If you have any questions, send them to Bill McCay, 719 E Viola, Yakima, Washington, or to the Courier, and they will forward it on to us.

We are happy to announce that two of our young people, Sister Polly Longmire and Brother Larry Roark, were married July 15 and Brother Roger Lamb and Sister Sharon Belair will be married December 2.

Bill and Cindy McCay are the proud parents of Christy Michelle, born August 28.

Mike McCay, for the Yakima congregation.

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Sometimes, there is much to be learned from other peoples' advise. We may read something that can cause us to think seriously of our eternal salvation more than many sermons we hear preached. Such were my thoughts while reading the following poem in the April 1954 issue of "It is Written".

WHEN I LOST MY TEMPER

When I lost my temper, I have lost my reasoning too,

I am never proud of anything which I angrily do,

When I have talked in anger, and my cheeks are flaming red,

I've always uttered something which I wish I had not said.

In anger I have never done a kindly deed or wise,

But for which many times I felt I should apoligize,

In looking back across my life and all I've lost or made,

I can't recall a single time when fury ever paid.

James 1: 19-20: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

MAKES SENSE !