The Christian
COURIER
Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353
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MARCH 1973

" I DIDN'T HAVE TIME"

I got up early one morning,
And rushed right into day!
I had so much to acomplish,
That I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me? "I wondered,
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I tried to come into God's presence,
I used all my keys at the lock.
God chided gently and lovingly,
"Why child you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, grey and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish,
That I had to take time to PRAY.

(Author unknown. Sent in by Sister Evelyn Lamb,Wash.)

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WARNING

More and more we have the tendency to drift from the Word of God. We would rather hear the minister preach on the first principles; how to come into Christ, rather than how to stay in Him. More on how to conduct the worship service and less on our daily service. Yet most of the doctrine of Christ deals with our daily life and those things which, steps on our toes, or offends us.

Sometime back while in a meeting I spoke of some-

things dealing with our daily lives. After services several told me they were glad I had the courage to say what I did. This has bothered me for a long time, as it was not courage, but fear which made me speak as I did. Fear least after preaching to others I should still be lost for failing to teach against all error. Ezek.3:17-19, tells us if we fail to warn people of error we will be puniahed. So we have a great responsibility to teach others that they may be helped and we can save ourselves.

For those who do not wish to be warned of error,have their toes stepped on, or who are offended by the Word, we have this word of admonition,(Read Heb.12:6-11),the 8th verse reads,"But if ye be without chastisement, wherof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." Yes we all sin, we all make mistakes. Therefore we need to be corrected and if I can sit through a protracted meeting of eight days and not be reproved, I believe the preacher is either not doing his job or I have so seared my conscience that I am almost beyond hope.

In planting beans the old practice was to put 3 in each hill: one for the worm, one for the crow, and one to live and produce. In teaching, we must give "line upon line, precept upon precept" repeating the truth we wish to impress, till it becomes impossible to forget it. We give the lesson once expecting frail memory to lose it, twice expecting the devil as an evil bird to steal it, three times hoping it will take root downward, and bring forth fruit upward to the Glory of God.

Brethern Consider! In Love,
Howard McCay, Yakima, Washington

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BE BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY

Were you baptized into the Church you read about in the Bible? or were you baptized into a denomination that you can't read about in the Bible. Some say if you were baptized into a denomination in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost they will accept you in the true church on that one baptism. This is not what the Bible teaches. When you are baptized into the true church you are added then to the Church and not tomorrow, next week, or next year if you are sincere. That is the only time you are added to the church by baptism.(Acts 2:41),says, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there wwre added unto them about three thousand souls." That scripture proves that you are added at the time you are baptized if you are sincere. Do the denominationalists gladly receive Gods word? No!! If they did, they would be baptized into the true church and ot an unscriptural faith.

Some say you are baptized for remission of sins only,

and not into the church. The scriptures say you are baptized into the church; also read 1Cor.12:13,which says,"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into that one body,whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." That scripture says one body, and that body is the Church of Christ, so how can you be baptized into one body and not be in one body, or the faith you read about in the Bible? The Sunday School Church of Christ is the same as any other denomination, because you can not read of this faith in the Bible. If you're not buried with Christ in baptism with true faith, how can you be in one body as it says in Col.2:12, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Are the denominations risen with Christ with faith that you read about? No!! Are the denominations risen with Christ with the operation of God? No!! because it's not the operation of God that the denominations are worshipping under. The Churches of Christ in my area preach that they will accept any one from any denomination if they were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This is wrongly applying these three names, the same as the Sunday School Church of Christ are wrongly applying the name of Christ on their building.

The scriptures says baptized into Christ and His body is the church and not any unscriptural faith. Gal. 3:27 says, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Can any one put on Christ if they're not baptized into the body, the Church instead of baptized into a denomination that is not in the Bible?

I want to ask where does a denominational preacher get his authority under an unscriptural faith to baptize scripturally? No where in the Bible can you find a baptizer that wasn't a chosen or appointed man of God. So this leaves all denominationalists out as not being men of God. The scriptures say in Gal.3:28,"...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." If the denominationalists are not in Christ Jesus, how can they be buried and risen in Christ Jesus?

If a denominationalist is baptized into one body, the church, he can be saved where he is without changing.

The only way you can be baptized into one body,the church, is to be baptized into the one faith you read about, and not into a denominational faith.
(Any questions or opposing scriptures to be sent to me
V.E.Staggs Rt.1Bx 861A Yuma, Ariz.85364)
With Love of the Truth, Brother V. E. Dutch Staggs.

ARMAGEDDON

Heb.10:1, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."

We know a shadow does not show a clear picture, but only an outline of the real thing. Here are some of the shadows of the Law or Old Testament. First let's notice the passover. Exo.the 12th chapter tells us the origin and meaning of the first passover. The means God used to save Israel.

Christ's crucifixion the means to save all mankind.

Next we have the salvation of Israel by water, the Red Sea. Our salvation also by water baptism. After salvation Israel kept the passover supper in memory of the first passover. Likewise we keep the Lord's supper or communion in memory of his crucifixon.

In the Old Testament we read of many wars in which the Isralites were involved. According to history, the site where many battles were fought in Armageddon, a place in Palestine, which vanished before the time of Christ. Rev.16:16, we read of the battle of Amageddon in the last days. These are the last days. How can this be the battle of Armageddon if it no longer exists? This is the battle Paul had in mind in 2 Tim.4:7, in which he fought a good fight. This battle is going on now and we are in it. In the New Testament we have been furnished equipment to defend ourselves in this battle:

Eph.6:11,"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."
14th-"...the breastplate of righteousness;"
16th-"...the shield of faith."
17th-"...the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit,..."

Revelation, Chapters 19 and 20 tells us the results of this war. Now these comparisons are material in the Old Testament and Spiritual in the New Testament. So why should we beleive this refers to a physical conflict in the last days? Rev.20:9 The battle is between the evil and the righteous.

L.E.Arnett
4449 So. Carpenter Rd.
Space D2
Modesto, California 95351

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Are you having a meeting this spring, summer or fall? If so where is the date and place? If not why not?

-----TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL-----

He.5:14

"BUT STRONG MEAT BELONGETH TO THEM THAT ARE OF FULL AGE, EVEN THOSE WHO BY REASON OF USE HAVE THEIR SENSES EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL."

The greater context of this verse clearly shows the intent of the above statement. Paul is here signifying the reason for his stress on understnading God's Word. Some were "dull of hearing"; some had been members for a long time and should have been teachers but needed teaching of the most fundamental type.

"BUT STRONG MEAT BELONGETH TO THEM THAT ARE OF FULL AGE,---" The ability to progress on from the most basic of Gospel teachings to the more deep, involved instructions is here aluded to. It is not proper to remain a milk-fed spiritual babe for longer than is necessary,but growing, not only in age and "size", but also in ability to digest(understand and assimilate) the stronger "meat" of God's Word. Thus we are able to please God. Anything less than this falls short of His glory!!

Note the essentials of this verse 14.

1. "Senses" must be "exercised"---
   - A. Eyes must be made to see.
   - B. Ears must be made to hear.
   - C. Understanding must be cultivated.
2. This exercise must come about by "use".
   - A. Without exercise, any physical capability will diminish.
   - B. Eventually, complete loss of one's faculti will result.
   - C. One will become a spiritual "cripple".

THE IMMEDIATE PARALLEL HEREIN STATED IS TO THE DIGESTIVE PROCESSES CAPABLE OF ASSIMILATING EITHER MILK(WEAK FOOD) OR STRONG MEAT(STRONGER FOOD).

The ultimate end of this process is to "discern"both good and evil. It is significant to note that one must be able to "discern" (see--recognise)both good and evil. It does not appear that God intends for us to adopt a heads-in-the-sand approach to sin(evil), but rather an intelligent understanding of the appearance and processes of evil. One certainly must understand his enemy, or he is doomed to lose the battle. Neither does this imply the witholding of essential knowledge. Truly, ignorance cannot be said to be bliss.

We see then the reason why this admonition is so desperately important to each and every one of us today:

Ears can be dull of hearing-------Heb.5:11

Eyes can be darkened----------Psa69:23; Rom.11:10
Understanding can be "darkened"---Eph.4:18
Minds can be "blinded"--------2Cor.3:14; 2Cor. 4:4
Hearts can be "darkened"------Rom. 1:21
Ears can fail to "hear"-------Mk.8:18
Hearts and ears can be "uncircumcised"(unconverted) Acts 7:51
Ears will "itch" and "heap to them teachers"2Tim.4:3
One can be "blinded"without knowing it---Rev.3:17

To be led by blinded religious "leaders" is to be condemned along with them. Matt.15:14.(shall they not "both fall in the ditch?") Of this class of individuals, Christ said "Blind Guides"--Matt.23:16--"Fools and blind" --Matt.23:17&19--Blind Pharisee--Matt23:26--Hypocrites! --Matt.23:25. HOW IMPERATIVE THAT WE ARE NOT TO BE LED BY THIS SORT OF PEOPLE!!

WHOLE NATIONS CAN BE BLINDED!! The Bible is replete with examples of national blindness. It seems that sometimes, for one reason or another, a nation, otherwise seemingly sane and serene, will suddenly become seized with paroxisms of blindness; some sort of mass hysteria, either contrived by those in power for their own ends, or spontaenous.

Eph. 4:8 tells us that whole nations(Gentiles)can and have been blinded. Also, the Jews, God's nation was blinded, en masse, Rom.11:25. TO BE LED BY THE BLIND IS TO COURT DISASTER, Matt.15:14.

By these and various other means, our senses become dulled and inoperative. Being dulled, without knowing it, we find ourselves directly opposed to God's principles, unaware that we are sinning against God!!

Perhaps a classic example of this"dulling of the senses" is to be found today in the Christian's attitude toward violence(killing). One could not deny that the Bible condemns this act. Exo.20:13 tells us "Thou shalt not kill", and Jesus expanded this to wider meaning than did Moses when he was preaching in Matt. 5:21-22..Without question, God is displeased with violence and condemns it.

However, we have been conditioned by our traditional national interpretation and "tailoring" of these Bible principles to suit the "national" and "personal ends."

In short we are told that "it is against the law (and thus evil) to kill for private reasons. But as public soldiers we are encouraged to kill for "civic" reasons which are often just as evil. I ask you, how does this fit in with the God-given scheme for man??

It is enigmatic that among society until recently the mere mention of one of man's God-given functions was so taboo that one public slip was sufficient for severe ostracism. (This is the reproductive function). It is noteworthy to recognise that one must actively corrupt this function in order to render it evil---its proper use is life-giving and honorable. Heb.13:4

YET AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE BECOME SO CALLOUSED AND CONDITIONED TO VIOLENCE AND WAR THAT WE ACCEPT IT AS GOD APPOINTED AND SANCTIONED (WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE)? AND READILY PARTICIPATE IN IT WITH NO APPARENT TROUBLE TO THE CONSCIENCE!!

Yes, killing, which goes against all divine, human and rational principles has always been rewarded with honors, rank, medals and supreme power by the state. The state has always needed its warriors. The ruling caste of every social order is unwilling to recognise the true biblical teaching on this subject for one fundamental reason; the fear of losing its ultimate authority of force.

"We" execute traitors; "we" execute enemies; "we" execute revolutionaries; "we" execute criminals; "we" sometimes even execute undesirables. Almost never are the masses of the people who are ruled allowed to determine who these "enemies", "traitors", "revolutionaries", "criminals", and "undesirables" are to be. This is done by the leaders of all countries who wish to preserve themselves in power by any and all means.

I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RECONCILE "OFFICIAL","SANCTIONED" MURDER BY THE STATE WITH THE PRINCIPLE LAID DOWN BY GOD. I PERSONALLY RESENT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE STATE DOES THIS IN MY NAME!!
AND I ALSO CANNOT COMPREHEND THE APPROVAL OF SUCH ACTS BY MY BRETHREN!!

Many, in Napoleon's Europe and, later, in Hitler's Reich asked their spiritual leaders if they should serve in the armies and wre advised that they "must", for Paul said, "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers" and to resist would be sin.

Unfortunately, this type of thinking is not restricted to these bygone times for there are some today who parrot the same words, as if God spoke one way to one man and contrariwise to another. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Jehovah; The Lord of Host, commanded his children to be "Wise as serpents, but gentle as doves" Mt 10:16 ,"Gentle toward all men", 2 Tim 2: 24, "-avenge not yourselves--",Ro 12:19 ,and many more times than we

could here recount, instructing his children inthe manner they live in this world. DOES THIS SAME GOD THEN ALSO COMMAND THE SAME CHILDREN TO TAKE WEAPONS OF WAR TOO HIDEOUS TO MENTION AND BECOME INVOLVED IN THE MOST HORRIBLE ACTS IMAGINABLE?? Is God doubleminded--two-faced--hypocritical?? Such as these would have us to believe so!!!

The most terrible sin, the most heinious crime is that so many have been silent too long. To recognise evil and say nothing is to condone it. To say nothing in warning about it places one's own soul in jeopardy. Ezek. 33:6.

Let us, brethren, point the way to true peace for all mankind; that peace which can only be realized in Christ, Jesus, Phil 4: 7. Let us shun the violence and sin of this present world.

LET US HAVE OUR SENSES "EXERCISED TO DISCERN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.

Brotherly Love,
J.D.Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, California 95204.

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CHURCH NEWS
DELTA, COLORADO

Dear Brethren:

We here at the Happy Hollow congregation, in Delta-Cedaredge, Colo. are all doing well this winter.

We would like to say we had a very good sucessful Gospel meeting August 1972, with Brother Tom Broadway, Grants Pass, Oregon as the speaker. Brother Tom is a good speaker and brought us some good lessons and spiritual food for thought each evening and Lord's Day morning.

We plan to have our annual Gospel meeting again this year, starting July 29 through Aug. 5th. The speaker will be announced at a later date. We invite EVERY ONE to start planning their vacations now to attend our annual meeting. We will write more as soon as we find out who the speaker will be.

Happy Hollow Church of Christ

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We have some good news and some bad news at this time. I'll start with the bad news first. Bro.& Sis. Earl Atchley have moved away. They sold their home here in Westville and bought another in Elk City. I'm sure the church there will [illegible]

For the good news, Brother Ken Baldwin has agreed to hold our meeting this year. We are fortunate enough to have our plans made early enough to announce in the Courier. We will begin June 3rd through June 10th. Plan to attend if you possibly can.

For the Baron Church of Christ,
Marion Warford
Box 238, Westville, Okla.74965

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ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Bretren:

Just a line to let you know that I sold my place at Westville and have moved to Elk City. Should have written sooner but have been so busy, I've neglected it.

The Church here is small in number and we will need all the help we can get.

On our move we stopped over in Oklahoma City for worship. They are striving to serve the Lord as it is written. Feb. 18th there were twelve of us present here at Elk City. Feb. 25th we were at the Coulter congregation, about 15 miles from Elk City, where there were thirteen present. We hope to visit and work with the congregations near here: Lugart, Reydon, Coulter and Elk City. Any one coming this way, please stop by and visit us and worship with us. Our address is 921 W.2nd Street Elk City, Okla. 73644 Phone 405-225-0782.

With Christian Love,
L.E.(Earl) Atchley

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

My Dear Brethren in Christ:

A letter letting you know that here in Klamath Falls the Lord has blessed us richly. Jan.12,1973 we baptized Eddie Chilcote here in Klamath Lake; Brother Chilcote is in the navy and is stationed at Long Beach, Calif. We have given him Brother Donald Dabbs address and hope he will remain in the faith.

We have been meeting with the Springfield congregation and at home. If any of the Brethren traveling through Klamath Falls, they are welcome to stop and visit with us. Our address is 1616 Derby, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601 We meet at 1030 A.M. & 6:00P.M.

Our love goes out to all who do the will of the Lord.
Jim Bryant

GARDENDALE, TEXAS

The Church of Christ at Gardendale are meeting in their new building and invite anyone visiting there or passing through to stop and be with them.

The directions to the new building is: Coming from the west on U.S. Hwy 20 turn off U.S. 385 go north thru Odessa on Hwy 158, turn right, go east to grocery store, about 2 miles to Zinnia and turn right 1 blk. to Lilly where the building is located.

Coming from the east on U.S. Hwy 20 to Midland, go thru town on State Hwy 158, follow it about 20 miles to Zinnia and turn left, go 1 blk. to Lilly.

For more information contact Brother N.E.Bergstrom Rt. 1 Box 36 Stanton, Tex.79782 Phone:1-915-458-3335 or Brother L.C.Barker Star Rt.A Box 217 Midland,Tex.79701

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

Once again from Modesto we have better news than the time before. Seems as though for a while all there was to report was sickness, death and bad weather, but even through all this we have been blessed for things being bad usually increase our faith.

Many have been prevented from attending services and some still are only able to attend occasionally due to illness, but most are improving.

Sister Mae Johnson is still under the care of the doctor, weak but able to be at worship the past few Sundays.

Bro.& Sis. Bert Weakley have been quite ill and missed many services in the past few months, but are greatly improving and able to attend some now, for this we are truly thankful.

We are pleased to announce that on March 17, Sister Shelia Guyer, daughter of Bro.& Sis. Dean Guyer was married to Mr. Grant Arnold. Shelia has attended the Church here in Modesto all of her life.

Well the following months are going to be very busy for us here, as we are making preparations for our forth coming meeting in June with Brother Sammy Boen of Muldrow Oklahoma. The date is June 17 through June 24 th. We invite all who can to plan to be with us. This is following the meeting in Yakima and just before Port Orchard. The time will be each evening at 7:30 P.M. Lord's Days at 10:30 A.M. & 6:30P.M. with probably Dinner and Singone or both Sunday afternoons at the Church building.

For more information contact Brother Al Burtis in Modesto, 1708 Waverly Dr. Phone: 1-209-523-6387 or Bro. John Logan, 3708 Mission Rd. Stockton,Calif.95204 Phone: 1-209-464-4961 (Stockton is about 35 mi. north of Modesto)

We are very pleased to have a good many visitors in our midst since our last writing and invite them back, and any others to come any time.

Our prayers are with all the Brethren everywhere & especially in their travels to and from meetings.

Yours, in Christ,
The Church of Christ
Corner of Glen & Dallas St.
Modesto, California

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MEETING DATES

(These are all the meeting dates that have been sent in to us at this time. Are you having a meeting this year? If so, why not send us the date & speaker now so many planing vacations can plan to be with you in your meeting. If not, why not ? Many benefit from a good week of fellowship and you will be surprised at how many will be interested. Hoping to fill a whole page of meeting announcements in our next issue!)

YUMA, ARIZONA-Bro.Roger Bixler-April 20-29
BARON,OKLAHOMA-Bro. Ken Baldwin-June3-10
YAKIMA,WASHINGTON-Bro.Harry Dye-June 10-17
MODESTO,CALIFORNIA-Bro.Sammy Boen-June 17-24
PORT ORCHARD,WASHINGTON-Bro. Earl Howe-June 24-Julylst
PORT ORCHARD,WASHINGTON-Camp Meeting-July 1-8
VARIOUS SPEAKERS-CAMPING AREA-BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY
Contact: Bro. Robert McCay, 22A Creekview Drive
Pho.1-206-TR64395 or Bro. Ellis Forsman, Rt.3Bx.325
Port Orchard, Was. 98366 Pho. 1-206-876-2950
CEDAREDGE,COLORADO-Speaker to be announced-July29-Aug.5

Make plans to be at one or more of these meetings. We know from past experience that a very warm welcome will be given to anyone, regardless of where you may decide to attend. Editors.

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HEART GIFTS

(The following poem may be the right words to improve or uplift someone.)

It's not the things that can be bought
that are life's richest treasure,
It's just the little "heart gifts"
that money cannot measure...

A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
a sympathetic nod

ELLIS P. FORSMAN
ROUTE 3
PORT ORCHARD, WASH. 98366

Are priceless little treasures
from the storehouse of our God...

They are the things that can't be bought
with silver or with gold,
For thoughtfulness and kindness
And love are never sold...

They are the priceless things in life
for which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich recompense
in giving them away.

(Sent in by Bro.& Sis. Dan Ross,Washington)

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FINANCIAL REPORT
Sept.1,1972 to Mar. 9,1973

date	Expenses	
9/28/72	SanJoaquin Business Machines (stencils & headers)	9.45
9/26/72	L.M. Morris Co. (paper & new printing pad of memograph)	36.56
10/16/72	Postage	46.00
1/22/73	New Roller for typewriter	16.25
2/21/73	Standard Office Equipment	3.89
2/17/73	Postage	24.00
3/1/73	L.M.MOrris & Co. (Printing ink, envelopes & paper)	50.96
	Total	187.11

Balance on Hand as of Sept.1,1972	129.08	
Contributions	187.04	
	316.12	
Less Expenses	187.11	
Balance on Hand as of March 9,1973	129.01	

Note:
Postage has increased as everyone is aware of, and due to this and also a person missing an issue, would you please send in any change of addresses soon as you know of it. Whenever a package of papers is returned we have to pay for the return of it besides the postage it takes to mail it in the beginning. Also if you would like the paper sent to someone, please send us their name, address & the amount you want sent.There aren't any subscription rates, our efforts are supported by voluntary contributions, both financial and articles. Editor.

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LATE NEWS: Just received this A.M. of another Gospel meeting at Broken Bow, Oklahoma, June 17-24 with Bro. Jack Morris. Hope to hear more on this later and other meetings too.