The Christian
COURIER

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APRIL 1973

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

TODAY IS THE DAY I CLAIM MY GOOD. TODAY I AM WILLING TO LET GOD GUIDE ME. TODAY I KNOW THAT I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

I used to say,
"Tomorrow I will be
The perfect child of God:
Tomorrow I will see
His good made manifest.
I'll know the way
My feet must walk."
And then I heard God say,
"Today, My child, today!
Do you not see?"
And then I knew
The truth of God in me.

Today is the day I am whole. Today is the day I am prosperous. Today is the day I am free. Today is the day I forgive. Today is the day I am forgiven. Today is the day I walk in new ways, with confidence and strength. Today is the day I know my oneness with God. Today is the day I know the truth of my being. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24.

(The above was taken from a local news paper, and thought to contain much food for thought. Hope it is a help to some of you.)

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Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly , nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:1-3

"MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS"

In Isaiah 55th chapter we have a beautiful prophecy of the Gospel to come. (verses 10-11), "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it."

And unto (man) the Lord God said in Isaiah 55:8 & 9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways, saith the Lord for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We read in 1Cor. 8:2 "And if any man think that he knoweth anything, and knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." Paul says in 1Cor. 2:10 that: The things of God knoweth no man ,but, the Spirit of God. That God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit, which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.

In 1Cor. 2:5,"That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God". For the "gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" Romans 1:16.(there is no salvation in the wisdom of men, man cannot be saved by his own wisdom). Jesus said,"...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," John 14:6. And we read in Col. 2:8, Beware of traditions of men. The scripture warns, "A little leaven leaveth the whole lump." Gal.5:9.

-FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS-

We read in Numbers 14th chapter, how the people rebelled against the Lord, when they were to go and posess the Land of Canaan, because of this, the Lord said in Numbers 32:11-13,"Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac and unto Jacob; because they have not Wholly followed me: Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the kenezite and the son of Nun: for they have Wholly followed the Lord."

Now we read the Word of the Lord saying in James 2: 12, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (thats how we are to follow the Lord). Jesus said,"My sheep hear my voice; and I know them and they follow me." John 10:27.

We also read that King Saul obeyed partly, and he was rejected.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, Eph. 1:22-23 And he said in John 4:23: For the Father seeketh true worshippers to worship him; God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth.Acts 20:7,"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,..." Amd again in 1Cor. 16:2,"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him,..." (So we notice that the early christians were not Seventh Day advetists). They came together upon the FIRST DAY of the WEK to BREAK BREAD, and and thats when they were commanded to give. "So do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Jas.2:12

-WE MUST WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING TO TRUTH-

Jesus said in Luke 21:8,"...Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ;(that this is his voice, we are preaching Christ), and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. (we will not find Jesus in their Church), when he said, "go ye not therefore after them." (he will not be there). Or do you suppose that after he has told us,"go ye not therefore after them," that he will be there? (he said to them in Matt. 7:23, "I never knew you.") Jesus said,where we will find him. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name,"(that is according to his word, according to truth),"there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20.

We read in Matt. the 4th chapter, that after Jesus was baptized he was led of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The devil is the Prince of this world. In verses 8-10, that the devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them,(that is the things of the world as 1John 2:15 says it),if he would fall down and worship him.(that gives us an idea of the power of the devil.)

2Kings 17th chapter, has much to say of idolators of Israel. Saying in verse 15,"And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers,and his testimonies which he testified against them;and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them." (they went after the heathen) Unto us the word of the Lord has said, "Love not the world, neither the things of of the world," 1John 2:15.(Its exactly the same thing, if we love the world, we are as idoltrous Israel) They went

after the heathen,(ungodly).

We read in 2Cor.6:14,"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers;..." and in verse 15,"...what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" verse 17, "Wherefore come out from among them,(unbelievers), and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unlean thing; and I will receive you." The Lord charged them, that they should not do like the heathen.(ungodly) The Lord delivered them into Assrian Captivity.

We read in Hebrews 2:1-4,"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward(punished, they went into captivity), how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation...."(so love not the world).

1John 5:19 says, "and the whole world lieth in wickedness." God sent forth his Son to deliver us from this present evil world, Galations 1:4.(and the Devil tried his best to prevent it). When Jesus was born the Devil tried his best to slay him,Matt.2:16-18. If Jesus would have worshipped the Devil, he would have been separated from God, but Jesus said,"Get thee hence satan; for it is written, thou shall worship the lord thy God, and him only shall thou serve." Verse 11 says, "then the Devil leaveth him." James 4:7 says,"resist the Devil, and he will flee from you."(this is what Jesus did). How did Jesus resist the Devil? (by the Word of God) he said,"it is written."

1Peter 5:8 tells us that the Devil is our adversary and we read in Eph.6:11-12,"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil." (and as we are resisting the Devil, verse17 says, to take the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God!). That is the only weapon against the Devil. We read in Heb.4:12, that the Word of God is quick and powerful. We also read how Jesus was casting out devils by the Word of God. In Luke 10:17, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Jesus said in Mark 8:36,"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul." James 4:4, that whosoever will be a friend of the world, is an enemy of God.(there will not be any of God's enemies in heaven, according to Revelations 21:27

The children of Israel were Gods' chosen people:but because they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,

he delivered them into captivity. 1Pet. 2:9 tells us that we are a chosen generation,(so we are God's chosen people also spoken of as God's Elect, Col 3:12). We must not be as idoltrous Israel. Jeus said in John 15:14, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." In verse 6, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered;..." We read in Mark 11th chapter, how that fig tree withered away, when Jesus cursed it.(if a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withered). Jesus said, "and if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out".

Jesus said unto Peter in Matt.16:19,"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Acts 5th chapter, how Ananias and his wife, sold property, and they had purposed in their heart, to bring the price unto the Lord, then changed their mind, and kept back part of it; and brought the remainder and laid it at the Apostles feet. We read in 1Cor.2:10,"... for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." The Holy Ghost had revealed unto Peter what Ananias and his wife had done. Peter said unto Anania, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why has thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou has not lied unto men, but unto God." (and when Ananias heard it, he fell dead.) God is not mocked,Gal.6:7.

And about three hours later his wife came in,(not knowing what had happened), Peter said unto her,"...Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? and she said, "Yea, for so much." Peter said, "How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out." and she fell dead.(So when Peter said unto her, "and shall carry thee out,"it was bound in heaven; she fell dead.) Peter said unto Ananias,"thou has not lied unto men, but unto God."

David says in Psa.50:14, "Pay thy vows unto the most High." 2Cor.9:7 teaches us how to give: "Every man according as he has purposeth in his heart, so let him give ...."(Ananias and his wife, had also purposed in their heart to give it all unto the Lord, then they changed their mind and kept back part of it.) What we have purposed in our heart to do unto the Lord, that we MUST DO.

The Lord has said,"...the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure

in him." Heb.10:38. (Ananias and his wife kept back part of the price of the land.)

In 1Tim. 6:17 & 18, Paul is teaching Timothy how to serve the Lord.(And as servants of the Lord, should we not do like-wise?) Paul is instructing Timothy,"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;(share). In Luke 16th chapter, the rich man did not share with Lazarus.

Jesus said unto the rich young man in Mark 10th chapter, verse 21, "...sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:..."And the young man went on his way grieved, for he great possesions. Jesus said in verse 25, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of an needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

In Luke 12th chapter we read of a rich grower, who trusted in uncertain riches, and said to himself,I have "much goods laid up for many years;" and I will just take it easy,"eat and drink, and be merry." "but God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of the: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Jesus adds in verse 21,"So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God."(so is he). So according to that, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of an needle, than for any one to enter into the kingdom of God, that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God.

The rich grower lost his SOUL. So, "for what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his SOUL," Mark 8:36 "Because it is written, be ye Holy, for I am Holy." "the love of money is the root of all evil." 1Tim. 6:10 (Now if the love of money, which is the root of all evil; if the root of all evil prevails in us, are we Holy??) Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none." (he did not trust in uncertain riches.)

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THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power
to tell just when the hands will stop,
at late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own;
Live, Love, Toil with a will

Place no faith in tomorrow
For the Clock may then be still----

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The following is a reprint from a local newspaper, Apr.'72

HOW DID CHOCOLATE BUNNIES BECOME SYMBOLIC OF EASTER?
By Robert Betts, Copley News Service...

Painted eggs, chocolate bunnies and dress parades are not everyone's idea of Easter. Some people frown on such fripperies.

The Bible makes no mention of Easter celebrations, they point out. They devote the time to prayer and repentance.

Easter customs were in fact not widely observed in the United States until the latter part of the 19th century. To the Puritans, Christ's resurrection was an event too solemn to be celebrated by feasting, dancing & merrymaking.

RomanCatholics for their part have always held that Easter is an occasion for resurrection meant triumph over death, thus freeing man from his direst dread-fear of extinction.

The promise of resurrection for all men is the basic tenet of Christian teaching, and Easter is therefore the most important Christian day. Its observance is believed to be the oldest next to the observance of Sunday, which from earliest Christian times was kept in commemoration of the same event.

The English name Easter is said to derive from that of the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess, Eostre. The French observe Paques, the Spanish Pascua and the Italians Pasqua-names which stem from thePassover or the Jewish Pesach, also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It commemorates the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, and was observed by Christ on the eve of His crucifixion.

Another form of the name appears in the Pasch, or Easter play portraying Christ's death and resurrection. In England, the custom of collecting eggs prior to the performance is called Pace-egging.

Fixing the date of Easter has involved church authorities in long controversy and complicated calendar calculations.

The Council of the Christian Churches at Nicaea, ruled in 325 A.D. that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the 14th day of the Paschal moon.

The problem, however, has yet to be finally settled, for the date varies from year to year. Easter is therefore a movable feast that can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 24. Some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate it later.

America, except for a few places where the Puritan spirit still lingers, has followed the rest of Christendom in combining the secular with the sacred at Easter time-from mass religious services at dawn to spectacular parades and pageants and egg-rolling on the White House lawn.

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"EASTER"
(see above)

The fact is that in all scripture there is no mention of Easter. The only occasion of its mention is in the King James text which mentions the word "Easter" once. This is a mis-translation from the original text which refers to the Passover of Israel.

There are references too many to mention documenting the pagan sources of Easter and all the ramifications of the celebration including all the silly "egg-hiding" and "easter-bunnies", etc.

One point worth mentioning is this. Some object to the observance of Dec. 25 as a Christian celebration. (I am one), They rightfully point out the pagan source of the celebration and all such. This is all good and fine. However, I find it incredible to observe that many of those same people enthusiastically celebrate Easter, have their Halloween parties, and even engage in April-Fools pranks, all of which seem to be innocent enough on the surface, but in reality ALL EXACTLY ARE THE SAME AS "CHRIST-MASS".

Note that all of these celebrations are of Catholic origin and have no foundation in the Scriptures. Christmas is the "Christ-Mass"; Easter is an adoption of the fertility worship of the ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess "Eostre"; Halloween is the "Hallowed-even" immediately preceeding "All Saints Day". Its origins are purely the ancient pagan Druids' and one would be surprised at the comparison between the modern and the ancient celebration; Even April-Fools'" is from All-Fools' Day, the Sunday and Monday preceeding Lent.

In short, these all are pagan observances with no orgin in the Bible, and should be avoided by Christians. oesn't it seem rather ridiculous that some will reject ne and happily observe the others?? Yours for Truth J.D.L.

TALKING HAS NO TIME LIMIT

Has the age come when giving a lesson with a certain time limit ?? Is there any where in the Bible,"God's Holy Word", that says you are only to preach fifteen, thirty, or forty-five minutes and then STOP ? NO!

In Matthew 15:32, Jesus said unto the disciples, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." This shows right here Jesus talked and they followed him not complaining even though they had nothing to eat for three days.

In Acts 20:7-11, Yo can read where Paul preached on the first day of the week and continued until midnight, then on to the break of day, and a certain young man fell from the third loft of the building and Paul went down and embraced him yet he still lived and Paul continued until that morning. No one told Paul his time was almost up.

What are we to do when the congregation starts setting a time limit on our brethren's sermons? God help us all, if we are in that big of a hurry to go to our houses to eat or to go to sleep. The Bible says, "Ye shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

I am really worried when you can't sit through a lesson on Sunday morning or Sunday night or any night, without having the preacher told his time is about up.

Read the 20th Chapter of Acts. No commented Paul and no should comment our brethren if they want to talk more than thirty minutes.

(Name withheld by request)

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I HEARD A VOICE

I heard a voice at evening softly say,
"Bear not they yesterday into tomorrow,
Nor load this week with last week's load of sorrow.

List all thy burdens as they come, nor try
To weight the present with the by-and-by;

One step and then another, make thy way.
Live day by day!

-Anon.

MEETING DATES

(Is the congregation with which you meet listed below? If not, we haven't received it, won't you plan to send it in soon. Vacation times are upon us and many like to attend a Gospel meetings for their vacation.)

BARON,OKLAHOMA-Bro.Ken Baldwin-June 3-10
YAKIMA,WASHINGTON-Bro.Harry Dye-June 10-17
BROKEN BOW,OKLAHOMA-Bro.Jack Morris-June 17-24
MODESTO,CALIFORNIA-Bro. Sammy Boen-June 17-24
PORT ORCHARD,WASHINGTON-Bro.Earl Howe-June 24-July 1st
PORT ORCHARD,WASHINGTON-Camp meeting-July 1-8
VARIOUS SPEAKERS-CAMPIN AREA-BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY
CONTACT: Bro. Robert McCay, 22A Creekview Drive
Pho.1-206-TR6-4395 or Bro. Ellis Forsman, Rt.3 Bx.325
Port Orchard,Wash.98366 Pho.1-206-876-2950
BELLFLOWER,CALIFORNIA-Bro.Howard McCay-July 8-15
EUGENE,OREGON-Bro.J.D.Logan-July 15-22
CEDAREDGE,(DELTA) COLORADO-Speaker to be announced
July 29th -August 5th

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Note:Sometimes we hear of Gospel meetings in preparation but have not confirmation of date, time or speaker. We cannot publish something such as that, for anything we cannot verify,cannot be published. As soon as a congregation is sure of a meeting date, please send it to us immediately. Now we are sure that some will say in the recent past the paper has been slow or not published. (see Jan-Feb. issue)

Our March issue was delayed due to circumstances beyond our control, when our memograph machine broke down. But our prayer is that this and future issues will be printed on time.

At the present time we are very much in need of any good, uplifting, scriptural articles and church news.

Hoping to see our mail box full once again soon.
The Courier Staff.

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OBITUARY

Brother William Edge was born December 6, 1898. He departed this life March 3, 1973 in Yakima, Washington, where he worshipped. Services were held in Shaw & Sons Chapel March 6, 1973-9:30 A.M. Brother Howard Mc Cay officiated.

Interment: Terrace Heights Memorial Park.

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A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Eccl.7:1

CHURCH NEWS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

To all the Brethern:

We here at Klamath Falls have been highly blessed of God, since coming here. We have baptized 4 into Christ. Their names are: Eddie Chilcote,Philip Bryant, Ray Bryant, and Steve Eldridge, who is our eldest son.

We have been meeting in our home at 1616 Derby St. Then sometimes we meet with the Brethren at Springfield.

We have heard that some are sick in the body of Christ and our prayers are for them.(Bro. Vess Brown's wife at Stilwell,Okla.; Brother Hayes Morris been in the hospital, but is home improving, He is at Stilwell, Okla.; Sister Dabbs at Aztec, New Mexico; Sister Landervendt at Springfield,Ore.)

Again I wish to extend the invitation to all the Brethren passing through or wishing to visit here,that you are welcome at my home, as Brother Lloyd Treat once said,"if any of my Brothers in Christ have two bites,I know I can get one of them."

We are all well and we hope that you will remember us in your prayers.

With Love to All;
Jim Bryant

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

NEWS BRIEF'S:

CONGRATULATIONS! Brother and Sister Mike Mc Cay, have a darling baby girl, Kimberly Kay born Feb.20,1973 She weighed 6 pounds 3 ounces. The proud grand-parents are Brother and Sister VernonRoark and Brother and Sister Bill Mc Cay; Great-grand parents are Bro.& Sis. Elza Loveland all of Yakima,Washington.

Sister Mack is visiting over at Port Orchard,Wash. with her Grand-daughter, Sis. Lynell Forsman & family.

Bro. & Sis. Oren Johnston have sold their home & bought on the coast, but will live in Yakima until this school term ends.

Remember our Meeting June 10-17 with Bro.Harry Dye

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The Church of Christ which meets at the corner of Glenn and Dallas Streets is busy preparing for our Gospel meeting in June with Brother Sammy Boen, we invite all who can to come and be with us all week or whenever you can. Dinner both Sundays with singing following on the 17th.

Illness is still in our midst. Bro.Bert Weakley underwent surgery, April 2nd and is doing well at this report. His wife Sis. Alice Weakley is improving after a very long serious seige of illness. Sis. Mae Johnson is improving some after a winter of much sickness, in and out of the hospital. Sis. Minnie Stephens isn't able to attend worship at this time, but is praying to be strong enough to make it soon. Sis. Elizabeth Stark had surgery around the middle of March which is healing nicely, but she has been ill with the flu the past two Lord's Days. Sis. Adell Stark is in the Yosemite Convalscent Hospital on Orangeburg Ave. in Modesto. She is nearly 90 years young.

We are happy and rejoice to have Brother & Sister Don Weakley back worshipping with us after a number of years out of duty. They are a fine young couple with 5 nice children.

We have been blessed also with a goodly number of visitors recently. One Lord's Day in March we enjoyed a nice sermon from Bro.Bill McCayJr. from Yakima. He and his family and Bro. Bill McCay Sr's family were here for a week-end. Space will not permit a list of all the visitors we have enjoyed having recently, just like to thank them for being with us & invite all to be back with us again soon.

On Apr.6 a surprise buffet dinner was given by the children of Bro.& Sis. Sam Henderson in Oakdale, in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary. She is the daughter of Sis. Adell Stark.

On Mar. 25th a family dinner and a gospel singing was held in the home of Sis.Martha Speck daughter of Sis. Clemmie Baxley in honor of her mother's 89th birthday. Sis. Baxley has been a member of the Church for 78 years, meeting with the congregation here for over 30 years.

Church of Christ,Glenn & Dallas St.

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NOTE: We were late on the March issue because our memograph machine broke down and had to be repaired. Pray we are finally on schedule. Thanks for being patient.