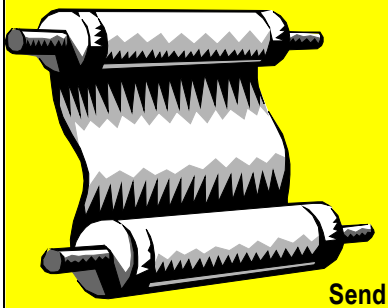


The Christian Courier



AUGUST, 1994

Send all correspondence to: 1034 S 140th St, Seattle, WA, 98168

HE CALLS US HIS FRIEND, IS HE OURS?

John 15:12-17. Here he calls us not servants, but friends, and he also said that greater love hath no man, than this that a man lay down his life for a friend. Is that not what he did for us?

Matt. 27:1-50. Now here is a man who was sent to this earth. In his life on this earth he cleansed lepers, Matt. 8:1-4. He restored life, Matt. 9:18-26, and he restored sight, Matt. 9:27-34. Yet, one day he was betrayed and taken to trial. He was mocked, they spit at him, they cast lots for his clothing and gave him vinegar mixed with gall to drink. He was hung on that cross between two thieves and he did it all for us.

He prepares us a home with him, John 14:1-4. He gave us his plan of salvation Acts 4:12.

FAITH- Heb. 11:1, John 5:24, Mark 16:16.
REPENTANCE-Matt. 21:22-30, Luke 5:32
CONFESSION-Luke 12:8, Romans 10:10
BAPTISM-John 3:3-5, Acts 8:27-40, Mark 16:16

All this he did for us. Why? Why did he call us his friend after all that he went through because of us? John 15:14.

So what did he command us to do, John 15:17? I John 4:7-21, we are told that love is God and God is love. Who are we to love? John 13:35, Leviticus 19:18, Amos 5:15, Matt. 5:44, Luke 6:27, Luke 7:40-50. Who are we to love? We are told to love our neighbors and our enemies. But who do we love the most? Jesus Christ. Why? Because he loved us enough to give his life for our sins on that cruel cross of Calvary, and he loved us enough to call us his friend? So, is he our friend? I think so.

In brotherly love,
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LET US EXAMINE OURSELVES

If someone points their finger at me and tells me I am doing something wrong according to the word of God, I should obey the word of God, and thank the one who pointed to my wrong. I Cor. 9:3 - *"Mine answer to them who examine me is this."* Paul was examined, even to the point of eating meat. I Cor. 8:13 - *"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."*

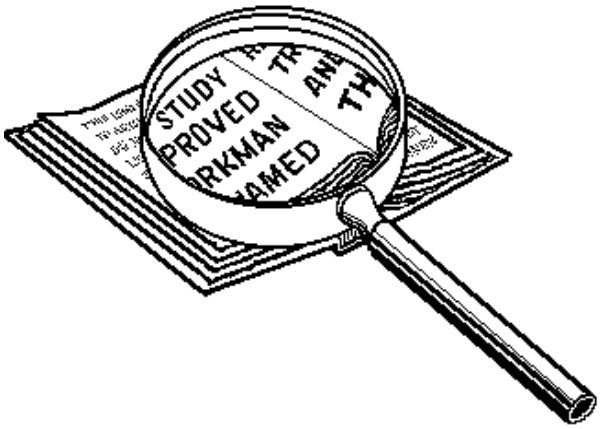


We are free and at liberty under grace from the old law. The greatest change is from the flesh to the spirit, instead of flesh to flesh. The original ten commandments were not changed, but a new standard of life style was put into effect, with Christ as our leader and hope of salvation.

Paul was under bondage, and Jesus Christ gave him his freedom and liberty to choose. We have this same liberty to choose which method to live our lives and who should control our spiritual life.

II Peter 2 tells us How we can and will be brought under bondage in verses 1 through 18. Verse 19 - *"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."*

Eph. 3:1-4 - Paul became a prisoner for us, and it was revealed unto him the mystery of Christ. This revelation was delivered unto us by the written word; by reading and studying we may understand this knowledge -- or have we found joy and pleasure in the flesh, placed ourselves in



bondage by being enslaved to sin, and ignoring the destruction that will come upon us?

Some will blow their horn about certain sins and ignore others. Why? Let us not become as politicians who are able to deceive by deceiving when they say to vote yes when they mean no, or vote no when it means yes. The Christian is deceived by Satan when they take not the time to read and study God's word. Then there are those who through lust and greed become under its bondage. God's word then becomes the formula to salvation.

As Einstein said: Give me five minutes to work a problem, and I will use 3 minutes to find a formula, and 2 minutes to work the problem. The problem we have is to overcome our weakness, which can be done by reading, studying, and obedience which is the formula. The problems we have last a life time and the problem of sin buffeting us doesn't stop. When a problem arises, go to God for the formula by prayer, reading and studying without fear or doubting. Show our faith to God through Christ, for he said I will never leave nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5 - To get the help we need above what our understanding is of God's word, we go to God. Let us first cleanse ourselves of any sin, so God can receive our request.

John 4:24 - *"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

I John 4:13 - *"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."*

I Cor. 14:15 - *" . . . I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also . . ."*

Rom. 8:26 - *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

Rom. 8:27 - *"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* We as the children of God should know the formula for salvation is within his word: then why does the working of our salvation become such a problem.

Prov. 14:12 - *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end there of are the ways of death."* Therefore I cannot prove the word of God to be right by my ways, but prove myself to be right by God's ways.

Prov. 14:15 - "*The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going."*

Prov. 14:16 - *"A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil, but the fool rageth, and is confident."* If the finger of life is pointing at me, I must be doing something wrong, or the finger of life will be pointing to life everlasting with Christ.

I Tim. 4:1 - *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."* If I through my ideas or personal feelings believe in something not found in the word of God, and try to persuade others, I have become a seducing spirit.

John 14:26 - *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."* This is proof positive we are headed in the right direction when we put our trust in the word delivered by the apostles.

Now; what things do we remember and what thing do we push aside, so we can satisfy the lust of the flesh, which become the works of the flesh? Gal. 5:19-27 - Breach by either sex of marriage vows of fidelity to the spouse. Break a vow to God (God's law is broken because of adultery - the home is broken - children's lives are broken). When the apostles asked Christ about his return, he answered as to a time similar to our time.

Matt. 24:38 - *" . . . eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noe entered the ark"* (What is the answer to this question. How many drunkards, divorced and remarried, homosexuals, etc. entered the ark? NONE, but true believers in God). Sexual intercourse between unmarried persons, or between a married and unmarried person. State or quality of being unclean in a moral desire, wish, voluptuous, fond of, addicted to, appealing to the bodily senses. The act of devoting ones love and devotion to anything or anyone other than God. A woman who is under the influence of evil spirits, and in possession of occult powers, cancer like feelings, extreme ill will, desire evil to come upon another - to differ from the truth or origin from which it came. Try to reach a height above our brethren, to make ourselves to be something we are not.

Deep intense anger. Feeling or expressing anger toward others - conflicting, controversy with the truth, hostile actions and quarreling - one who incites others to hostilities - doctrinal error, opinions differing from the prevalent teachings established through the apostles, delivered by the Holy Ghost. Grudging ill will to follow his word to the letter. The felonious killing of a human being by another with malice and afore thought. One who cannot resist or is habitually given to drunkenness, won't stay sober - seeking and enjoying riotous merry making. Paul finishes the 21st verse by saying those which do such things SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It should not take much spiritual understanding to know who is and who is not going to inherit the kingdom.

So with a clear understanding and heart, pray for the understanding and meaning of:

II Thess. 3:6 - *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."*

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

I Tim. 6:4 - *"He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,"*

I Tim. 6:5 - *"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."* Let us ask ourselves why the Holy Spirit directed the apostles to write II Thess. 3:6 - and I Tim. 6:3,4,5 and then go to: John 15:5 - *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

John 15:6 - *"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."* Christ is telling us when we take it upon ourselves to satisfy the lust of the flesh we are going to be burned.

I Pet. 4:17 - *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 - And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

Before Aaron could offer a sacrifice to God for the people, he had to cleanse himself or it was forbidden for him to go into the most holy part of the temple. The priest was not allowed to eat holy things while unclean, or sacrifice anything unclean; Leviticus and Hebrew 8 - There isn't a child of God who will not agree that Christ is the supreme sacrifice, and that no one or anything can forgive us our sins except it be through the body and blood of Christ. God through his son Jesus Christ, has given us a greater blessing than the children of Israel under the law. The priests were not allowed to eat of the sacrifice or drink the blood, only offer it. We are commanded to eat and drink of the supreme sacrifice. We also have to offer up a sacrifice to God. We give of our body a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God. Our sacrifice then is to kill the desire and lust of the flesh so that our spirit and body are clean.

Rom. 12:1 - We have to have a change of heart, repent and ask God to forgive us our sins.

I Cor. 11:27-29: *"*27 *Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.* 28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.* 29 *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*

II Cor. 6:16-18: "16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* 17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you.* 18 *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."* I pray our spirits be joined together with the Holy Spirit in one accord, not adding to or taking away from God's holy word.

With Christ in mind,
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FEAR

I John 4:18. *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* We are told here that we are not to fear, for if we do we are not made perfect in love. Yet we are commanded in Eccl. 12:13 to fear God and keep his commandments. For it is the whole duty of man. How can we love and fear at the same time? Heb. 12:28 We are told to have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. So how can we cast out fear and at the same time fear as commanded? Or how can we fear God and still be perfect in love? For it is the whole duty of man to fear God and keep His commands.

John 15:14. *"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."* Now we see from this scripture, Prov. 17:17, that a friend loveth at all times. Prov. 19:23. *"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."* But in I John 4:18 he said if we fear we are not made perfect in love. Then surely there must be a way by which we can have both fear and love: but how?

Prov. 16:6. *"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil."* Prov. 14:26. *"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.* Verse 27. *"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."* So we see that to fear God and keep his commandments is given for us to live by and depart from the fear of death.

" . . . Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."
Ecclesiastes 12:13

So as long as we fear God and live in his grace, Heb. 12:28, acceptably, we have no fear of death. For his grace is Jesus Christ, which is eternal life. For in John 14:6 Christ said. *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life..."* and there is no fear as long as we stay in Christ. Prov. 8:13. *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."* So in Heb. 12:28 we are to have grace, or Christ, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear. So if we hate the evil way and we live in Christ, I Cor. 9:27, we keep our body and bring it under subjection, lest when we teach others we are the castaway. Fearing God and keeping his commands, Eccl. 12:13-14, and there is no fear in perfect love. II Pet. 1:5-11. For when we add these to our faith, charity (love) is the bond of perfectness. And so we are made perfect in love and it casts out fear.

I John 5:2-3. *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* I John 5:12. *"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* Verse 11. *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."* And if we are in the Son we have been made free from the law of sin and death, and have no fear. But if we do not have the Son, Christ, then all we have to look forward to is Heb. 10:27. *"...A certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."*

For in Heb. 4:1 we are told. *"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."* Verse 2. *"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."* So we see here that these people could not please God for they did not believe him. Heb 3:12. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."* For without belief in God, Heb. 11:6, we are nothing. For Heb. 10:31. *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

David said in Psa. 56:4. *"In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."* So we see we are not to fear men, or flesh. Psa. 118:6. *"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"* Matt. 10:28. *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Luke 12:4-5. *"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."* So we see now how we can fear God and not fear man. For if we fear man we are not made perfect in love.

So we see how and who to fear, and who not to fear.

In hope of eternal life,
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BAPTISM COLUMN NO. 8: BORN AGAIN

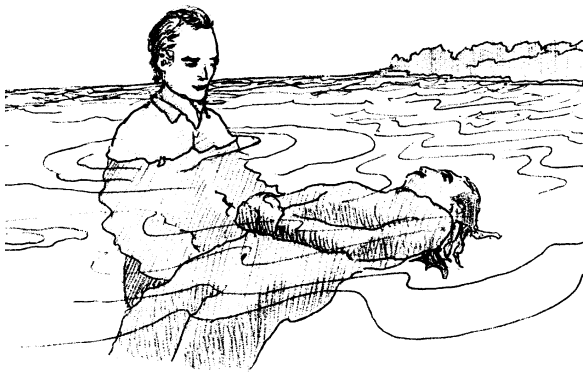
In John 3:3-6 we read. *"Jesus answered and said unto him,* (Nicodemus), *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

In this month's column we wish to explore the scriptures to show that it is by baptism that we are born again. (Realizing that baptism is preceded by God's grace, hearing God's word, faith, repentance and confession. See January's, February's and March's column for scriptures showing them).

The two critical elements that Jesus identified in this scripture to be born again are 1: Water and 2: the Spirit. He said. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Water is obviously a necessary requirement for baptism. And in Acts 2:38 Peter shows us that the Holy Spirit is a gift given in baptism. *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* Thus we are born of water and of the Spirit.

We can explore further and see that other scriptures also point to baptism as the means of being born again.

Let's look to I John 2:29. *"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness* (God's commands - Psalms 119:172) *is born of him."* Let's compare this scripture to Matt. 3:13-15. *"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him,*



saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

While there is of course difference between John's baptism and the baptism to become a Christian, the point to be made here is that we cannot fulfil all righteousness without baptism. And if we do righteousness we are born of him.

The final point we wish to explore is based on I Pet. 1:23. *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."* Notice: we are born again by the word of God. We read in John 1:14 and 17 that the word of God is Jesus. Verse 14. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."* Verse 17. *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* Gal. 3:26-27. *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For* ***as many*** *of you as have been* ***baptized into Christ have put on Christ****."* Thus we are born again by the word of God, which is Jesus Christ.

In Christian love,
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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there were more than 12 apostles, even though that is the number given throughout the New Testament? (Matt. 10:1-5; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:13). The atheist points to this as another proof that the Bible is not reliable, thus claiming that it cannot be the Word of God. The original 12 apostles listed are:

1. Simon Peter
2. Andrew, Peter's brother
3. James, the son of Zebedee
4. John, James' brother
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8. Matthew
9. James, the son of Alphaeus
10. Lebbaeus (also called Thaddaeus or Judas)
11. Simon Zelotes, the Canaanite
12. Judas Iscariot

Judas Iscariot had betrayed Jesus (John 13:20-30; Matt. 27:3), then killed himself. Lots were cast for his replacement for apostleship. The choice was between Joseph, who was called Barsabus, surnamed Justus, and Matthias (Acts 1:23-26). Matthias was the one chosen. If the number of apostles was unimportant, then why weren't both men chosen, since they were both qualified? The Lord wanted the number to be 12.

Paul and Barnabas were also apostles (Acts 14:14); Paul being appointed by Jesus, and Barnabas perhaps chosen later the same way Matthias was selected, although this account was never mentioned. Paul said that he was an apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), and that he was made an apostle as one born out of due time (Rom. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:1; 9:1; 15:8-9) after Jesus appeared to him in the way. Little is known about Barnabas before his travels with Paul, but his name was changed from Joses by the other apostles (Acts 4:36), perhaps in conjunction with his becoming an apostle in the manner of Matthias. It is my personal belief that other apostles had died making room for Paul and Barnabas, because the count of the apostles was always referred to as 12 (at any one time). This practice of adding apostles did not last long because one of the criteria for being an apostle was that he had to have seen Jesus (Acts 1:22; 4:33; 1 Pet. 5:1), thus limiting them to the first century. No man can be an apostle today because he has never seen Jesus..

Although not counted as one of the original 12, Jesus was called an Apostle and High Priest by Paul (Heb. 3:1). Just as the high priest of the Jews presided over the events concerning the 12 tribes of Israel, Jesus performed this function in presiding over the 12 apostles, who symbolized the 12 tribes. There were never more than 12 tribes, yet many people filled those tribes. There were never more than 12 apostles at any one time, yet we know that office totaled more than 12.

In Christian love,
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JUDGE

2919 KRINO "To distinguish, i.e. decide (mentally or judicially); by impl. to try, condemn, punish: -avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think." -Strong

1252 DIAKRINO "to separate thoroughly, i.e. (lit and reflex) to withdraw form, or (by impl) oppose; fig to discriminate (by impl) decide, or (reflex) hesitate: -contend, make (to) differ (-ence), discern, doubt, judge, be partial, stagger, waver." -Strong

380 ANAPTUSSO "To unroll (a scroll or volume) open." -Strong

2213 ZETEMA "a search (prop concr) i.e. (in words) a debate: question." -Strong

1381 DOKIMAZO "To test (lit or fig); by impli. to approve: -allow, discern, examine, like, (ap) prove, try. -Strong

We have in this word an example of multi-faceted meanings that are so commonly in use in the scriptures. As can be seen from the above definitions, it is translated form several words in the original Greek tongue and rendered "judge" in the English. (The only exception to this is the *1381* definition which is not rendered to but certainly meets all the criteria of the meaning.)

κρινο (krino)
διακρινο (diakrino)
αναπτυσσο (anaptusso)
ζετεμα (zetema)
δοκιμαζο (dokimazo)

It is therefore necessary to study these thoughts in a series of articles dealing with the various usages as found in the scriptures.

We read in various types of religious (and some non-religious) literature, from diverse points of view a virtual torrent of conflicting viewpoints on the meanings of various passages touching on the subject of judging. Indeed, from our own brotherhood, we receive conflicting messages on the subject ranging from "we cannot judge anything or anybody" to "we must judge everything and everybody."

This all tends to confuse the seeker of truth who is sincerely striving to come to an intelligent understanding of what is written.

It is not the purpose of this study to condemn or dispute any concept held by any brother or sister, but rather to offer thoughts gleaned by the author in his studies of the subject.

This subject is ponderous and many-faceted but, for the sake of brevity, I will limit it to three divisions, namely:

(1) Judgments that we, as Christians, are to make.

(2) Judgments from which we, as Christians, are to refrain.

(3) Judgments which God has reserved unto himself.

STUDY ONE-Judgments Assigned to Christians

(1) *2919* We are to judge righteous judgment. John 7:24, *"Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment."* A thorough study of John 7:24 (and the context) will show us that the "appearance" spoken of by Jesus was not how anyone looks or dresses but how we are to assess a situation or set of circumstances. We are to look beyond the superficial and determine the deep truth of the matter. Thus the expression, "righteous judgment".

(2) *2919* We are to judge wisely. Acts 4:19, *"--whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."*

I Cor. 11:13, *"judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?"* Vs. 15, *"-if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."*

(3) *2919* We are to judge correctly on matters religious. I Cor. 10:15, *"I speak as unto wise men; judge ye what I say."*

(4) *2919* We are to be judged by the consciences of others. I Cor. 10:28-33, *"-eat not - for conscience sake: - conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?"*

Note: Paul had already instructed, "eat not" for conscience sake, not thine own, but of the other." Then the question, "-why is my liberty judged of another's conscience?" The answer follows "Whether you eat or drink, or WHATSOEVER ye do, do all to the glory of God."

It should be further noted that the subject here was eating meat knowing it has been offered to idols; a narrow application of rule. Paul refers to a broader rule that he himself adhered to. "Give none offense - even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."

A comparative reading from several translations of these verses would be profitable.

(5) *2919* We should welcome to be judged by our brethren. Acts 16:15, (Lydia) *" - if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house."*

(6) *1252* We are to judge ourselves. I Cor. 11:31, *"-for if we would judge ourselves, we should not be condemned*."

(7) *380* We are to be judges of all things spiritual. I Cor. 2:15. *"But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."*

(8) *2213* We are to make proper judgments concerning God. Heb. 11:11, (Sarah) *"was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."*

(9) *2919* We are to judge those within the body of Christ. I Cor. 5:12, *"For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?"*

(10) *2919* We must judge between brethren in matters of this life. I Cor. 6:1-5 (emph vs. 5), *"I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?"*

(11) *380* We are to be righteous judges for outsiders. I Cor. 14:24, *"-if all prophesy, and there come in one that believe not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all."*

(12) *1381* We must try (judge) the spirits. I John 4:1, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God."* These "spirits" were teachers; thus we are to try, test, judge each one.

From the above, it is obvious that we, as Christians, are commanded to judge situations, people (even our

brethren), and teachers and preachers who profess to be faithful.

If we should judge a teaching to be in error, or an action to be wrong and then read in the scriptures not to judge a brother, or "judge not, that ye be not judged", does it mean that the scriptures contradict themselves? Or, could it possibly be that we merely have not read the entire context properly and missed the meaning originally intended?

In the following installment we will address those scriptures dealing with judgments from which we should abstain.

Your brother in Christ,
J.D. Logan,
3708 Mission Rod.
Stockton, CA 95204

COLONIAL LIFE IN NEW ENGLAND: A STUDY IN COVENANT CHRISTIANITY

"If the Lord shall please to hear us, and bring us into peace to the place we desire, then hath he ratified this Covenant and sealed our Commission, and will expect a strict performance of the Articles contained in it. But if we shall neglect the observance of these Articles...the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us. Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck and to provide for our posterity, is to follow the counsel of Micah, to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God. For this end, we must be knit together as one man..." -excerpt from



Johnathan Winthrop's A MODEL OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY, a covenant adopted by the Puritan pilgrims in 1630, at Salem, Massachusetts.

The covenant relationships the pilgrims lived by came from a deep commitment they had at first with their Lord. For a reminder, pilgrims were of two groups: Separatists, those who believed the Church of England was beyond redemption, and "separated" themselves, landing at Plymouth Rock, in 1621; and Puritans, those that stayed with the Church of England to try to purify it from within, sailing in 1628, settling in Salem, Massachusetts. The group of Separatist believers' church covenant was put into the order of rules they would abide by, and became known as the Mayflower Compact. This Compact became the groundwork for many following governing legal documents, including the US Constitution, stating that they were "*covenanting and combining as a body politic of equal members, gathered under God, to be governed by mutual consent."*

What does it mean to be in covenant together? First of all, the word "covenant " comes from the Hebrew word "beriyth", meaning a compact made by passing between pieces of flesh; (the body of offering or sacrifice.) In our Bibles, we read "*for we are members one of another...*" EPH 4:25 and, "*...that ye should be married to one another...*" ROM 7:4 Christ Jesus himself having been the body of sacrifice that has enabled us to have an everlasting covenant with God, *"that is, his flesh..."* (HEB 10:20), *"and blood"* (HEB 9:12) - the two things in the communion. The pilgrims saw this one body picture, and lived for each other in full accountability (unlike the "mind-your-own-business" ways of our century), laying their lives down for one another.

Without these covenants to knit them together, they would never had made it. When the Mayflower landed in 1621, it took 3 weeks to find a place to settle. They found 20 acres of cleared land, strangely deserted. For 4 hard winter months sickness claimed 47 of their original 102, mostly adults, leaving only 3 families intact. Previous abuses of Indians by English explorers had left mistrust with the white man. In the spring, however, a "godsend" came to them, a Patuxet Indian named Squanto. He had lived out a "Joseph in Egypt" experience for 19 years, being at first kidnapped to England for 9 years as an informer, then sold into slavery in Spain just as he was being returned! He returned to New England in 1620, only to find every man, woman and child of his people gone from a mysterious plague! The 20 acres of cleared land the pilgrims found had been theirs. God prepared Squanto and the pilgrims for each other- an Indian who spoke perfect English in need of something to live for and a settlement that needed to live! He took the training of the pilgrims for New England survival on with both hands and feet, literally, going out into the bay and collecting 100 eels by squeezing them out of the mud with his feet within the 1st hour! He showed them how to plant corn with the fish for fertilizer, guarding the crops from wolves. He also introduced them to their first commercial trade, beaver pelts, which were in high demand in Europe. Governor William Bradford declared a day of thanksgiving *to God* (not primarily the Indians, as we were told in school), Massasoit and 90 Indians invited *themselves,* brought food, and played games for 3 days! Shortly thereafter, another 35 pilgrims came on a ship, unexpectedly, with no extra food, clothing, or provisions, and they had to ration their corn during that winter of 1622 to 5 kernels per day, and yet no one died of starvation that winter.

There was a 12 week drought the next summer, and a day of meeting, fasting and prayer was called for in the meeting house, where they continued 8 or 9 hours confessing their sins and need of God. They were welcomed the next morning miraculously with a light, misty rain that continued for 14 days! A great harvest followed, and a 2nd thanksgiving was planned, this time

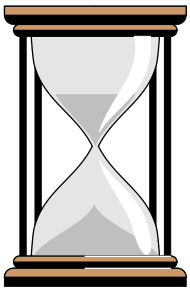
with 120 Indians! The 1st course of the meal was a plate of 5 kernels of corn - lest anyone should forget the need for God.

In 1628, the Puritans, still in England finally saw that the Church of England was not going to reform. King Charles I took the throne (1625-1649) tightening control, dissolving Parliament, and demanding a list of all Orthodox and Puritan clergy. A *week* before the dissolve and clampdown, God provided the approval of the Charter for The Massachusetts Bay Co. (a vehicle by which citizens could travel, settle and trade in lands that were not of the Commonwealth), which the Puritans could use as a passport to live under the laws of God in America. In 1628, 266 Puritans made the voyage to New England, settling at a site they named Salem. America now had 2 settlements, forty miles apart, of covenant peoples!

In the first 2 years, however, discouragement set in, the township turned impoverished, the population dwindled to about 85, with many ready to head back to England. God was readying a spiritual leader back in England for a work to begin among them that would be unparalleled in the history of the world. Enter Jonathan Winthrop. This "American Nehemiah" drew up a covenant for all to sign on to which made everyone an equal helper in raising up "a light set on a hill" for the world to see. Winthrop unearthed the laws of God as they pertained to the conscience, and went about to make every Puritan an "expert psychologist" on *himself*, dismantling the devices of the flesh with the Holy Word of God. Along with the hard work, they nourished the whole community with the preaching of the Word - they wanted to know how the scriptures applied to any and every aspect of life, and God blessed them tremendously for it; commercially, spiritually, governmentally, domestically, religiously. You will not find a finer *balance* of true prosperity in the history of mankind, including the reign of King Solomon! It is said that the average colonialist would have heard over 15,000 hours of preaching in his lifetime, and that most sermons in the meeting house lasted for at least "two turns of the hourglass". The pilgrims saw that being in true covenant with one another was the living fulfillment of the two great commandments.

Next month, PURITAN LIFE IN THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Wayne Orendorff
14628 181st SE
Renton, Wash 98059



THE DEVIL MADE ME

How often have we heard this or said it ourselves? Mostly it is in a joking way. But, Brethren, this is no joke. There are two powers on earth, God and Satan, and Satan uses all his cunning and power to snare God's people. Now, if we are doing that which we realize is of the Devil how can we do it, let alone joke about it?

Anything the Devil causes us to do cannot be of God. Therefore it is <u>sin</u>. In Luke 22:31 Jesus tells Peter that Satan wanted him, to sift him like wheat. In our language of today "That he might shred him like paper, tearing him completely from God." All down through time this has been Satan's work and he puts his whole effort into it. He separated Adam and Eve from God. He tried to separate Job from God, even tried to separate Christ from the Father. But Jesus said. "Get thee behind me Satan" and that is what we <u>must</u> do, not allowing Satan to make us <u>sin</u>.

Satan has managed to separate the church into many factions, thereby separating them from God. For there is only One Body or Church that belongs to God, Gal. 4:4. He separates husbands and wives and too often gets the children. He tries to separate brethren, causing disagreements and quarrels and people say "The Devil made me do it." But remember the Lord says. *"...As much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* (Matt. 25:40) Brethren, is the Devil making us fight against Christ who died for us? Every faction in the world, whether it be religious or moral, Satan is the instigator of it and if we <u>let</u> Satan make us do it, we are condemning ourselves in the day of Judgment. Brethren, let's not give in to Satan. But fight the good fight of faith (against sin) and lay hold on <u>eternal life</u>.

DO IT

With love for Christ and my brethren,

Howard McCay
1034 1/2 140th Street
Seattle, WA 98168
Phone: (206) 241-4745



Precious

The memory of the just is blessed...
-Prov. 10:7

It Is Written, August 1954 .• Report is

Memories

given of a good meeting in Broken Bow, OK with Brother W.H. Francis doing the preaching. • The meeting in Crosbyton, TX is announced with Bro. Francis

preaching through Thursday night, then 5 different brethren sharing those responsibilities as the weekend concludes with a fifth-Sunday meeting. • The Crosbyton congregation encourages all to attend the "Church of Christ's Choice" Matt. 16:18, Eph. 5:23-27; where God is worshipped "In Spirit and In Truth," John 4:24. • Bro. E.H. Cavin reminds us that confusion, strife and division in the church come from things being taught that cannot be read in the New Testament.

Gospel News Courier, August 1964 • Bro. Bill McCay writes of enjoying the meeting in Modesto, CA even with 11 in their wagon. • Bro. Claude Perigen writes that Sister Stringham of the La Habra congregation was honored on her 83rd birthday by taking her out to dinner. He writes of sympathizing with the Francis family in the loss of their dear loved one. He also encourages fellowship in this way. "We can never have too much Christian association, and all feel there should be more of it."

• Bro. J.H. Lackey reports that the congregation in Springfield, CO had a 14 day meeting with Bro. White. • Report came from Sis. Laura E. Willis of Sis Annie Basco's passing July 5, 1964 from a heart attack. • Report came also of the passing and funeral of Sis. Margaret Davis, with Bro. Elmer Hunt conducting the service. He also preached at Somerton Sunday night and Bro. Guy Rinick returned to the fold.

We didn't have a copy of the August 1974 issue.

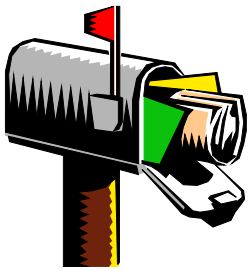
Christian Courier, August 1984 • Bro. Gerald Buckner reports that his grandson, Kennie, is doing better after surgery. • Bro. Paul Andrews of Goshen, AR also writes of surgeries on his dad, Bro. Buren Andrews, as well as Bro. Isaac Ferguson. He also writes that little Danielle Edwards had emergency appendicitis surgery. • Bro. and Sis. Lou and Phil Freeman wrote that their son, Jeff, also had an emergency appendectomy while at the Delta camp meeting. • Announcement is made of the baptism of Bro. Brian Ross July 15, 1984. • Many write of successful and enjoyable meetings.

If anyone has a copy of the September 1954 It Is Written, we would appreciate a copy so we can include it in next month's Precious Memories column. Thank You.

Take time to work -- It is the price of success.
Take time to think -- It is the source of power.
Take time to play -- It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read -- It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly -- It is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream -- It is hitching your wagon to a star.
Take time to love and to be loved -- It is the privilege of God.
Take time to look around -- It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to laugh -- It is the music of the soul.

-Author Unknown

(from *The Christian Courier*, April '74)



Cards and Letters

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from the Baron congregation:

We had a wonderful meeting at Baron, very good attendance. There were 12 different congregations represented here this year, at our meeting. I won't try to name them for fear of leaving one out. We truly appreciated all who came from far and near. The singing was just wonderful. We had 80 people in attendance the last Sunday of our services. There were probably that many or more there a time or two more, but we did not count them.

Brother John did a real good job of preaching the word of God and we fell in love with him and his family. They are such good Christian people to be around, and Sister Sage, is a very nice and beautiful Christian lady, we enjoyed her very much. The meeting gave us a real lift, spiritually, like a shot in the arm. Its so good to be around other Christians who are striving for the same cause, its very encouraging.

In closing thanks again to all who came and supported our meeting, and thanks to Brother John and his family who came all the way from Washington.

Love and prayers to all
From the Baron Congregation

P.S. I would like to set the record straight. We have never run anybody off from church. Some may have left because they didn't agree with us. Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us. They may not be asked to take a leading part, but will find a hearty welcome at Baron.

James F. Brown
Route 2, Box 101
Westville, OK 74965
Phone (918) 778-3240

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

I am still down in my back, and now can't hardly turn my head. We sure need the prayers of all to God for us. It seems as though I have some kind of trouble that has set in from my injured back. I don't know what it is as yet.

Bro. Lloyd Treat

CEDAREDGE COLORADO

Dear Ones in Christ:

We are so grateful to the folks who traveled from near and far to be with us during the Cedaredge Camp Meeting. There were visitors here for the first time and others who had not been here since 1964 and 1982. We were so glad to see them! We pray that all made it home safely and will return and bring others with them next year.

Congregations represented were: Carlsbad, NM; Sacramento, CA; Lorenzo, TX; Valley View, Duncan, OK; Lubbock, TX; Paonia, CO; Stilwell, OK; Yuma, AZ; Baron, OK; Flora Vista, NM; Avondale, CO; North San Juan, CA; Broken Bow, OK; Lewis, KS; Layton, UT; Cedaredge, CO; Dexter, NM; and Chesterton, IN.

The sermons were very uplifting, educational lessons from God's Holy Word, given by wonderful speakers who we love. We thank them for their efforts. The fruits of their labor included the baptism of five new souls. For this we praise God as He adds their names to the Lambs' Book of Life.

Matt Logan Fairchild, age 11, Cedaredge, CO.: Matthew Curtis McCoy, age 12, Cedaredge, CO.; Jason William Ross, age 11, Stilwell, OK: Dawn Sue Fairchild, age 23, Cedaredge, CO: Kamie Newman, age 14, Cedaredge, CO.: We also rejoice that Jared Newman, age 16, Cedaredge, CO., was baptized a few weeks before the meeting started.

At various times, everyone young and old joined in open Bible discussions or requested subjects, in the dining room. Outside of the church services we enjoyed beautiful singing, praises to the Lord, almost every evening in the dining room. The food was so good and there was a lot of it. Everyone both young and old, helped with the cooking and cleaning.

A few of the activities we enjoyed were game tournaments at the park, cherry picking puzzles, horseshoes, volley-ball, ping-pong, kick-ball, hiking on Grand Mesa, shopping, yard sale hopping, water balloon competition, horseback riding, other games, and lots of wonderful, beautiful fellowship.

Special mention goes to the teens who went for a hike and rebuilt the three crosses across the creek from the campgrounds. Also, Sister Susan Severson: thanks for bringing your horse and giving all the kids a ride. We appreciate the extra effort and patience. The charity was so evident we could feel it, and was strongly uplifting. It will carry us for a number of days. Many thanks to all that gave donations to help with the costs of the meeting.

Lost: Rainbow Bible, belongs to Matthew Curtis McCoy. If you know where it is, please let us know. May God bless you all and many thanks to all who came.

Happy Hollow Church of Christ, Cedaredge, CO 81413

P.S. 1995, (next year) Camp Meeting will be held July 1 through July 9. Make your plans NOW to join us!

RINGGOLD, TX

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to apologize to all who received and read my letter in the July issue. By mistake I misrepresented the breaking of the bread. The manner the communion must be observed is as follows (as we all know). (1) The bread is taken. (2) The bread is given thanks for. (3) The bread is broken. (4) The bread is given to all who are church members. (5) The cup is taken. (6) The cup is given thanks for. (7) The cup is given to those who are church members. Please accept my apology and forgive me for my error. I also pray God will forgive me for my shortcoming and I will make every effort to prevent any repeat of this mistake.

I have three daughters that would like to write letters to other children their own ages. They are Jennifer age 11, Cheryl age 10, and Valerie age 8. Our children are precious. I think it would be to their benefit to make friendships they will enjoy for many years.

We at the Ringgold congregation have our daily struggles as do all who suffer as Christians and ask to be remembered in your prayers.

In Christian love,
Larry Pollan
306 West Beech
Duncan, OK 73533

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The news from the Seattle congregation this month is mostly about births.

First of all, Suzie and I had our second child, another girl. She was born Friday, July 1, 1994. We named her Kaylena Dawn Warford, and are very excited about her. Teri Sue really loves her baby sister.

More exciting news is that Mark Staley was born again. He was baptized by his Dad, Bro. Greg Staley, Wednesday evening, June 22, 1994.

Then today, Sunday July 17, Scott Staley was born again, also baptized by his dad, Bro. Greg Staley. We now have two more brothers in Christ, two new friends forever.

In other news, Bro. Ellis and Sis. Lynell Forsman just got back from Bro. Ellis's (and Bro. Eric Harper's) meeting in Bellflower. They reported a very good time with the loved ones there. Satan tried to prevent them with car trouble, but as always, God was stronger and saw them through.

Let's remember the Broken Bow, OK congregation in their resolve to get a new building to worship God in. We need to support them with money and with our prayers.

We are anxiously awaiting and preparing for our meeting. We love you all.

Your servants,
The Sea-Tac, WA congregation

VALLEY VIEW, OKLAHOMA

On June 3, 1994, our congregation suffered a tremendous loss. We lost our oldest and dearest member, Brother Joe Taylor. He was loved and respected by every member of our congregation. We miss him so much.

We are looking forward to our upcoming gospel meeting with Brother Jerry Perigen of the Bellflower, CA. congregation doing the speaking. The meeting will be July 17th through July 24th. We plan to have services at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30p.m. both Sundays and at 7:30p.m. each night. I'm sure Brother Jerry will bring us some fine lessons. We would like to invite everyone that can possibly make it to come be with us for all or part of our meeting.

To find our church building take Highway 7 east out of Duncan. When you have gone about ten miles, you will come to a gas station-convenience store. Turn north for one mile then one and a half miles east. Our building is on the north side of the road. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Don Lewis
For the Valley View church of Christ
Ph. # 405-255-7278

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

July 31-Aug 7	Seattle, WA	JD Logan & Robert Davis
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest Speakers
August 7-14	Commache, OK	Al Way
July 1-9, 1995	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting

Baptisms

Dawn Sue Fairchild	Cedaredge, CO	July 2-10
Matt Logan Fairchild	Cedaredge, CO	July 2-10
Jared Newman	Cedaredge, CO	June 26-July 2
Kamie Newman	Cedaredge, CO	July 2-10
Matthew Curtis McCoy	Cedaredge, CO	July 2-10
Mark Frederick Staley	Seattle, WA	June 22
Scott Gregory Staley	Seattle, WA	July 17
Jason William Ross	Stilwell, OK	July 2-10

Births

Kaylena Dawn Warford	Terry & Suzie Warford	July 1
Audrey Elizabeth Harper	Kurt & Jeanine Harper	July 17

Prayer of faith shall save the sick (James 5:15)

Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	back problems
Brent Berry	Cedaredge, CO	surgery
Matt Fairchild	Cedaredge, CO	surgery
Larry Stevens	Lubbock, TX	open heart surgery
Kathy Hull	Sacramento, CA	diabetic, improving
Roger Lamb	Yakima, WA	foot broken
Earl Roby	Yakima, WA	stroke

Passings

Don Weakley Waterford, CA

Pen Pals

Jennifer Pollan (age 11)
306 West Beech
Duncan, OK 73533

Cheryl Pollan (age 10)
306 West Beech
Duncan, OK 73533

Valerie Pollan (age 8)
306 West Beech
Duncan, OK 73533

Kindra Brockman (age 6)
2729 Sunbright Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Pick a pen pal and write to
They would love to hear fro

Courier Scramble

Unscramble each of the words below from this month's articles, then unscramble the circled letters to solve the riddle.

NIRFED ☐◯☐☐☐☐

NIXEMAE ☐☐☐☐◯☐☐

NMOCAMD ◯☐☐☐☐☐☐

TIPSAMB ☐☐☐◯☐◯☐

SLESTOPA ☐☐☐◯☐☐☐◯

GUJDE ◯☐☐☐☐

WAFYOLREM ☐☐☐☐☐☐◯☐

HHRUCC ☐☐◯☐☐◯

Riddle: complete the following clause from 1 Peter:
"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by ◯◯◯◯◯◯ ◯◯◯◯◯ *. . ."*