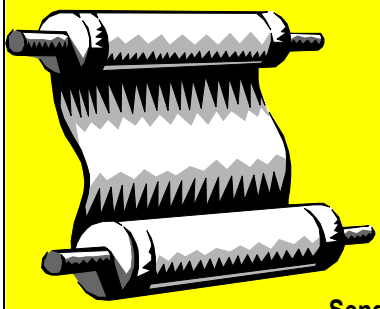


The Christian Courier



OCTOBER, 1994

Send all correspondence to: 1034 S 140th St, Seattle, WA, 98168
Writers are responsible for their own articles.

Are We Asleep?
Eph. 5:1-17

Verse 14. *"...Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."* I Thes. 5:6-7. *"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."*

(How do we sleep?) I Thes. 5:22, by not abstaining (staying away) from all appearance of evil. Mk. 13:37, by not watching. Verse 35. *"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."* (Having a good time with the world.)

> *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*
> *1 Thes 5:6-7*

We should be like Moses. Heb. 11:25-27. *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."* Verse 27. *"...for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."* For James 4:4 said. *"...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."*

Lk. 22:46 *"...Why sleep ye? rise and pray..."*

(How do we sleep?) Eph. 4:25, by lying one to another. Verse 26, by being angry and sinning, or letting the sun go down while angry. Verse 28, by stealing. *"Let him that stole steal no more..."* Verse 29, by letting corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths. Verse 31, by being bitter toward one another. *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with <u>all</u> malice:"*. I Pet. 2:1. *"Wherefore laying aside <u>all</u> malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,"*.

We sleep, II Tim. 2:15, by not studying. Eph. 4:17, by not walking in the Lord. *"...walk not as other Gentiles walk..."* But we walk as other people do, and we should not. Eph. 2:12, when we do we are without Christ, and without hope, and without God in the world. For Gal. 5:1, we are to *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty* (free from sin) *wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* Eph. 2:2, where we once walked in the likeness of the world. Gal. 5:25. *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* John 6:63-68. Gal. 5:26. *"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."*

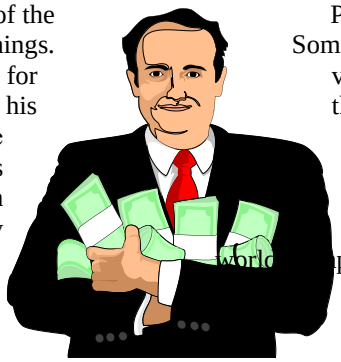
Eph. 4:1. *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"* Eph. 5:6-8. *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"*. Awake from sin. Be free in Christ.

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Did You Know You Can Be A Good Moral Person And Still Be Lost Eternally?

We think of murderers and thieves as worldly people, but did you know that a worldly person doesn't have to commit any such heinous crime to be so classified? Worldliness has to do with an attitude that puts the things of the world before the spiritual. When anyone puts the world before God, that person is worldly.

Take the rich farmer of Luke 12:16-20, for example. He was ethical and he didn't steal to get what he got. He wasn't condemned for immorality or lawlessness. But in the eyes of God he was a worldly man. What made him worldly? He spent his time with things -- the production of grain and where to store it, and with plans -- to provide for years he expected to see. He was good at getting material things; but his concern for the things of the world crowded out his interest in spiritual things. This left no time to read the scriptures, no time for prayer, no time for worship, no time to see to his neighbor's needs, and no time for God. He was guilty of spiritual unconcern. He lived as though he had no spiritual needs, and as though there was no life in the hereafter. He simply was interested in things.



Many are no better off today. They spend their time on projects they think will make their life better and easier. They leave no time for God or His claims on them. They are willing to do whatever is necessary if they think it will make them better off in this world. God is crowded out. Eternity is not considered. Just as the rich farmer, they fail to realize what is truly important. If the rich farmer had only included God and his neighbors in his plans, he would have been a fine example for us to follow. After all, nothing he did was what we would call immoral.

Worldliness is an attitude that says, "I will put the world first." It is made up of both moral and immoral people. This could be the hard working, highly principled family man who is just too busy to include God in his plans, as well as unprincipled murderers and thieves who have no place for God in their thoughts or their life styles. What they have in common is their attitude of putting the world first in their lives. It matters not that the principled person thinks he is better than the unprincipled one. The fact one may be guided by principles of honesty and integrity does not override the fact he is worldly, for he leaves God out of his life. The destiny of both is the same.

Paul told the Romans, "Be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2); and James tells us that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4).

People sometimes drift into worldliness. They may be completely unaware of the change in themselves at first. It may begin with a glance or a thought that fixes itself in the mind. When that happens it becomes a temptation, which may appear innocent and delightful. It may also appear to be legal and proper. It may well appear to offer an advantage toward success in this life. But unless held in check, it can demand more and more of their time, and that will make everything else seem unimportant. God may be crowded out altogether.

We all have necessary duties in this life; but we have to keep everything in perspective. There is a difference in the necessary pursuit of an income to support life and family needs and an all-consuming desire to become rich. "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare." (1 Tim. 6:9).

Popularity can also lead a soul away from God. Someone who has a particular talent can fall victim by the popularity attained because of that talent (i.e., famous singer, ballplayer, actor, etc.). He enjoys the attention he has received, and he strives to make himself "better" to gain even more notoriety and praise. He thus takes on the spirit of the world, compromises his convictions, and abandons God.

Someone else may have experienced hardship at some time or another, and thought to himself, "I'll never let that happen again!" So he begins to work, and save, and invest. He doesn't know when to quit. He doesn't know when enough is enough. So, long after he has "enough" he is still at it. Satan wants him to keep on. As long as he does, he won't be thinking of God. When death overtakes him, "Then whose shall these things be?" (Luke 12:20).

God must come first. We cannot put anyone or anything before Him. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3). We must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33). We are not to put any members of our families (however dear they are to us) before the divine Son of God (Matt. 10:37). We are not to set our affections on the things of this world, but on the things that are above (Col. 3:2). Paul told Timothy not to entangle himself with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:4).

Christians are spiritual beings in fleshly bodies in a physical world and must remember the difference between the eternal and the temporary, between the spiritual and the physical. God must come first. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15). "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Written in Christian love
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Baptism Column No. 10
Baptism And The Holy Spirit

When John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing in the River Jordan he made the following prophecy about Jesus as recorded in Mt. 3:11. *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"*.

Today we wish to consider 3 baptisms recorded in the New Testament. 1: The baptism of John. 2: The baptism he spoke here of; being baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. 3: The baptism in the name of the Lord. Are either of the first two this baptism whereby sinners are saved, and how does the Spirit fit in with that baptism?

Let's set up the other two by first considering the baptism of John. As we read above it was a baptism unto repentance. It was applied to Jews when they came to him confessing their sins, verse 6 of the 3rd chapter of Matthew. It was given while the Jews were still living under the old law. Jesus was baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness, Mt. 3:15-16. It has nothing to do with saving a sinner today, and making him an heir of the kingdom of heaven, for we read Christ's words in Mt. 11:11. *"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."*

> "... 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."
> Acts 2:38

We find also that it had nothing to do with the Holy Spirit. This fact is revealed in Acts 19:1-6, where some disciples who were baptized with John's baptism were re-baptized so they could receive the Holy Ghost. *"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

So, second, how was the baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire accomplished? To what kind of baptism did this refer?

We find that this baptism is not our baptism either. This baptism was applied only twice, on two very special occasions, to demonstrate two very special truths God wanted man to understand. First it was applied to the apostles on the day of Pentecost to confirm their word, that it was the word of God; and the miracles they did when they received the Holy Spirit bore witness of this fact. Second, it was applied to Cornelius (and his household), the first Gentile converts, to show that God had indeed accepted the Gentiles, and they could be saved.

Looking at the apostles first, we see in the first chapter of Acts Jesus being with them after his resurrection, *"... speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:"*, verse 3. In verse 5 Jesus taught them, *"For John truly baptized with water; but ye* (the apostles - see verse 2) *shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."* And in verse 8 he said. *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* Here he was explaining the purpose for their being baptized with the Holy Ghost. We see it accomplished in Acts 2:1-4. *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they* (the apostles - see the last verse of the first chapter) *were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of **fire**, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all **filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* Thus they were baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. And they fulfilled the purpose for it as Jesus said of being his witnesses. We read in Heb. 2:3-4. *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"*

We read of Cornelius being baptized with the Holy Ghost in the tenth chapter of Acts. In the first part of the chapter Cornelius received a vision instructing him to send for Peter. Peter had a vision of the unclean being cleansed by God. Peter then went with those sent by Cornelius to him. In verse 28 we read. *"And he* (Peter) *said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."* Cornelius then related his story, and we read in verses 34 and 35. *"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in **every nation** he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."* Peter then preached Jesus to them in verses 37-43. And notice verses 44-45. *"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."* You may ask, What of being

baptized with fire? They were. In Acts 11:15-18 Peter was relating the story of Cornelius' conversion to other Jewish Christians who had challenged him because of it. *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."* This passage verifies three things. First, that they were "baptized" with the Holy Ghost. Second, the purpose of showing God had accepted the Gentiles. Third, that they were baptized with fire also. Because remember that cloven tongues like as of fire came upon the apostles when they received the Holy Ghost. And Peter said *"... the Holy Ghost fell on them,* ***as on us at the beginning***." Many Jews had been converted, baptized, and then received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the apostles' hands. But these first Gentile converts did not receive the Spirit after baptism by laying on of hands. They received Him before being baptized they same way the apostles did at the beginning. In other words, accompanied by fire.

Last, since we see that neither the baptism of John nor the baptism with the Holy Ghost applies specifically to us, let's consider the baptism that does. There is only one baptism that applies to us, as we read in Eph. 4:5. *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism,".* It is the baptism in the name of the Lord. Peter preached this baptism on the day of Pentecost, and also to Cornelius. And it is this baptism that applies to us, because it is this baptism that removes our sins, writes our names in the book of life, by which we call on the name of the Lord, and which applies the many blessings we've studied about these past months. And it is this baptism that applies the Holy Spirit to us.

Let's look at Peter's preaching on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:38. *"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****."* Look next to Acts 10:48. *"And he commanded them* (Cornelius and his household) *to be baptized in the name of the Lord..."*

We've mentioned that they (except Cornelius) received the Holy Spirit after baptism by laying on of the apostles' hands in those early days. But what of us now since we don't have the apostles living today to lay their hands on us after we are baptized? We do not read of this power being passed on to anyone after the apostles. We read that God gives us the Holy Ghost after we are baptized because we are then children of God. Gal. 4:6. *"And* ***because*** *ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."* And when do we become sons? 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."*

Once we are baptized in the name of the Lord and receive His Holy Spirit, the Spirit blesses us in many ways, including but not limited to the following. 1: Abounding in hope, Rom. 15:13. 2: Mortifying the deeds of the body, Rom. 8:13. 3: Understanding and applying the word of God when we study it, so we can change to be like Christ, II Cor. 3:18; and 4: Making intercession for us in our prayers, Rom. 8:26-27.

Yours in the hope of profitable study,

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MY LITTLE BOY'S DAD

I may never be as clever as my neighbor down the street
I may never be as wealthy as some other people I'll meet.
I may never have the fame that other men may have
But I've just got to be successful as my little boy's dad.

There are certain dreams that I cherish that I'd like to see come true
There are things I'd like to accomplish before my working days are through
But the task my heart is set on is no mere passing fad
I've just got to be successful as my little boy's dad!

It's the one job I dream of, the task I think of most
For if I fail my little boy I've nothing else to boast
For all the wealth and fame I'd gather my fortune would be sad
If I fail to be successful as my little boy's dad.

I may never come to glory, I may never gather gold
And men may count me as a failure when my business life is told
But if my little boy can just grow up godly then I'll be glad
Then I'll know I've been successful as my little boy's dad.

REDIGGING OUR FATHER'S WELLS
restoring God's original vision for America

ONE NATION UNDER GOD - UNITING A PEOPLE FOR TRUE INDEPENDENCE.

"Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee." (JOB 40:10-14) This challenge God gave to Job to straighten out the wicked parts was the same one given to America in the years she was preparing to stand for her independence. A great pouring out of the Spirit of God came in the years 1733 through 1775- a period historians refer to as The Great Awakening. This revival is the subject of this month's article, ONE NATION UNDER GOD - UNITING A PEOPLE FOR TRUE INDEPENDENCE.

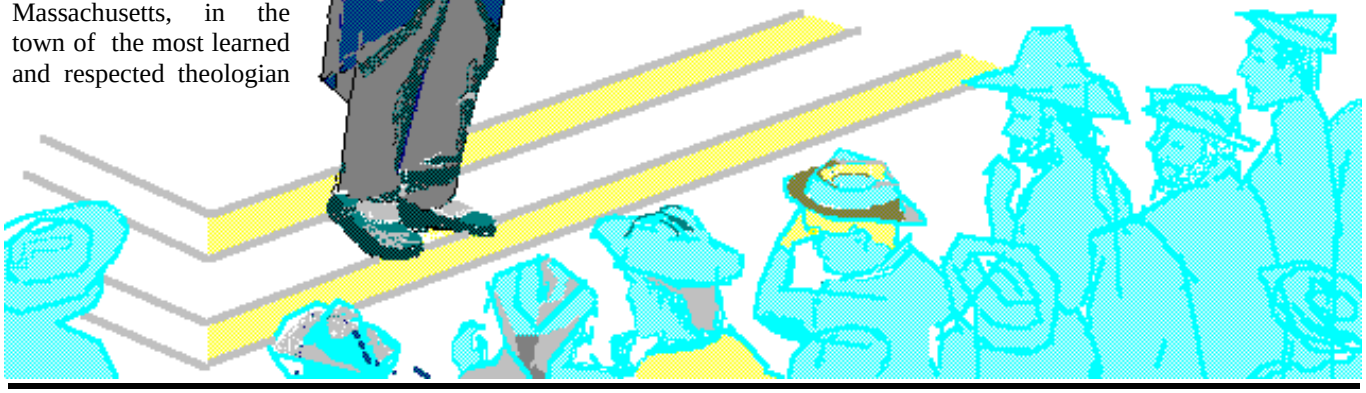
It is peculiar of God to have chosen the setting he did to revive these people: England was growing more and more oppressive to the colonies, increasing tariffs, taxes and trade sanctions, revoking their charter, all the while King George III was exempting himself from the law (thus violating the tenants of the Magna Charta) - circumstances which normally breed the worst revolt in people. The fact that America had not reacted violently showed she was under the hand of God to peaceably endure the hardship, devoting her state completely to Him.



The Great Awakening is said to have started in Northhampton, Massachusetts, in the town of the most learned and respected theologian America had produced, Jonathan Edwards. He had been preaching ever-bolder sermons against the popular opinions that man was able to accomplish the purposes of God by his own efforts (one can almost hear him speaking from the passage in Job). In his descriptive journal, *Narrative of Surprising Conversions,* he describes what began taking place in late 1733: *" South Hadley began to be seized with a deep concern about the things of religion, which very soon became universal...About the same time, it began to break forth in the west part of Suffield...and soon spread into all parts of the town. It next appeared at Sunderland...About the same time it began to appear in a part of Deerfield...Hatfield...West Springfield...Long Meadow...Enfield...Westfield... Northfield.. in every place, God brought His saving blessings with Him, and His Word, attended with His Spirit... returned not void."*

That revival in New England was just the start; in Gloucester, England, God was preparing a young lad of 19 years for an even greater work. Enter George Whitefield. Young George had entered Oxford, and met up with a group of devout believers there which included both John and Charles Wesley. This "club" of men emphasized a deep, disciplined spiritual life. Do to what their critics considered to be their methodical ways, they were dubbed Methodists. In Whitefield's hunger for a closer relationship with Christ, he pressed himself through rigorous disciplines, charity work and self-denials, driving himself until his health began to give away. In the end, when nothing he could do or pray seemed to make any difference, he threw himself onto his bed and cried out "I thirst!". He soon realized that, after so long, he was finally happy, because for the first time in his life he had thrown himself, blindfolded and without reserve, without struggle or claim, into God's almighty hands, in simple belief he was receiving what he really needed. The sheer simplicity, almost the absurdity, of being delivered by such a cry made George Whitefield laugh; and the flood-gates of joy unspeakable and full of glory opened up!

It was in that theme of grace that Whitefield would preach for the remaining 36 years of his life, at first joining the Wesley revival work in England, but eventually getting forced from the cathedrals out into the open air. Beginning at a coal mine in Bristol, Whitefield began preaching from the Sermon on the Mount as the men were leaving the mine. Before long, hundreds of these crude men were standing before him, hearing about a savior who came not for the righteous, but sinners -



loving them so much that he gave himself over to the persecution for *their* sins, hanging on his cross in unspeakable agony. As he looked around, he could see pale white streaks being formed on their soot-black faces from their tears. The chancellor of the diocese forbade him to speak in Bristol again, but he was back the next day, speaking to 2,000. The following Sunday, there were 10,000, with more townspeople than miners coming out, and on Sunday, March 25,1739, *Gentleman's Magazine* estimated the crowd at 23,000.

Whitefield had visited America (Georgia) in 1736, with the Wesleys, and the peoples minds and hearts had been captured then by the message coming from the deep, resonant tones of the "boy preacher" telling about the New Birth. His call was to return there, which he did in 1739, knowing that his preaching would help create "one nation under God", which is the same theme we speak of whenever we take the Pledge of Allegiance. When he arrived in Philadelphia, the reception of him made the Bristol masses seem relatively cool in comparison, but no one was prepared for the impact that he would have on America. As Whitefield traveled up and down the eastern seaboard, throngs of people came out to hear his booming voice. (Benjamin Franklin was for most of his life rather of an agnostic, but he was moved repeatedly at the preaching of Whitefield). He preached that all are equally and desperately lost when they gather at the foot of the cross, the king and the pauper, the doctor, the farmer, the governor and the governed. The false security of church denominational titles and names could not avail the salvation that those who had "overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of his Testimony" knew. A wave of revival followed everywhere he visited as people renewed the covenant of their fathers with God. America became *united* under God as a country for the first time in over 100 years. As people became more and more excited about the freedom from sin, the more courageous they became about defending the country God had given to their fathers. The scripture from Galatians "*be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"* began to get preached everywhere.

Whitefield pressed himself harder, traveling by horseback between towns year round. In one 6 week stretch he preached over 100 sermons (two hour were the most common) *and* traveled. In one 5 month period he covered 2,000 miles preaching, and it is said that in his lifetime he preached over 18,000 sermons. He once assessed his service during one year of intense travel saying that he was "ashamed of his sloth and lukewarmness". It was remarkable that God kept his health preserved under such a grueling schedule. In Sept, 1770, he went into New Hampshire. Barely able to breathe from asthma attacks, he asked God one more time to preach in His Name. An inner fire rekindled in him, and he spoke for over two hours, not having enough to say about the excellencies of Christ, as strength built up in him. He concluded with, "How willingly I would ever live to preach Christ! But I die to be with Him!"

The parson put him to bed that night, and he arose the next morning with a crushing pain in his chest. He went to the window just long enough to see the rays of the morning light before he died, but not before he had seen the Greater Light bring many Americans together as one nation under God.

Next month, NO KING BUT KING JESUS - THE REASON FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

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My Last Message To My Children, Grand-Children,And Great-Grand-Children

The editors of the Courier wrote this about this month's "Voices From The Past" when it was first published in March 1969.

WHICH CHURCH SHALL I JOIN?

All up and down this troubled land,
Confusion reigns today,
As honest folks on every hand,
In doubt are heard to say:
"I do not know which church to join,
There are so very many"
To whom we offer this advice---
You never should join any.

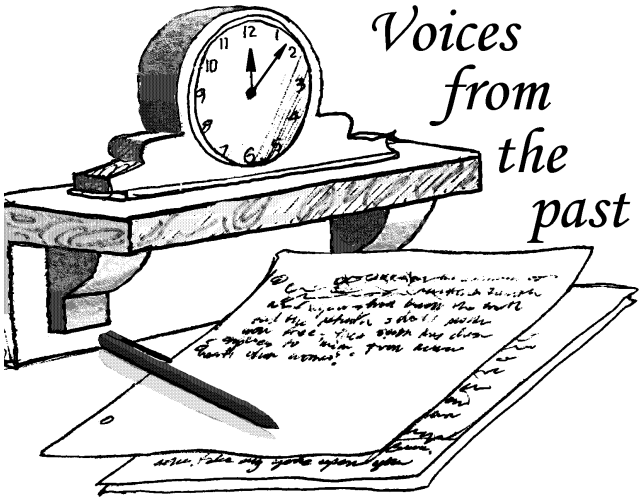
You cannot join the Church of Christ,
No man can vote you in;
The Lord, himself, will add you,
When he saves you from your sins.
Then take no chances neighbor;
This race but once you'll run.
A church you'd join must be of man,
And not the proper one.

Beware the church you cannot find
Within the sacred pages;
Be safe, dear sinner, rest your soul
Upon the Rock of Ages.
Be added to his blood-bought Church,
And drink salvation's cup;
For every plant God planteth not,
It shall be rooted up.

No mourner's bench on Pentecost
The inspired Peter fitted,
But said, "Repent and be baptized,
That your sin may be remitted."
The Lord, who saved and added those
Who did, that day, His will,
Will do the same for you dear friend,
For He is adding still.

Let not false teachers lead you wrong,
Nor close your eyes in slumber;
When Jesus said He'd build His Church,
'Twas not the plural number.
No choice of churches neighbor,
You'll find beneath the sun;
Though men may have ten thousand,
Our Saviour has but ONE.

(The following letter was sent to us recently by Brother Bill McCay of Yakima, Washington. It was written by the late Brother G. Earl McCay, one of the early pioneers in the Lord's work in the Pacific Northwest. We feel it to be of unusually high merit and worthy of consideration of all young (and old) Christians. It was written shortly before Brother McCay passed on to his eternal reward.)



Realizing that no one can do any good after he leaves this world and desiring to do what good I can for my closest friends, which good may be with them after I am gone, I want to leave this last message. While much of the advice that one gives to younger people may seem at the time that it is given to be too strict it may do more good later. As Heb 12:11 says, *"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."* If what I write may help you when you have time to carefully consider it I will feel that I have done some good.

One of the greatest dangers to persons may be the liability to drift with the crowd. That probably is the reason Heb. 2:1-2 was written. *"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.* (The R.V. says lest we drift away from them.) *For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his will?"* Association has a great influence on everybody. I Cor. 15:33. *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."* So a person needs to be a leader and not only a follower so as to Lead the other ones.

But Paul would apply the principle to the work and worship of the church. II Cor. 11:3 *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ,"* (subtlety: cunning) The forces of evil in the church are cunning, and because they are not really anxious to see people saved; but desire to make a showing by getting as large a crowd as possible. They will use all their cunning to change people from the simplicity in Christ to the errors of their religion. That probably was the reason for James 5:19-20. *"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."*

While it is better not to err from the truth and to take off with a form of worship that is not taught in the Book; If a person has so erred it is better to quit that form of worship and come back to the "Old paths", Jer. 6:16, where all are safe. We must be careful not to say as Jeremiah said some will say, "WE WILL NOT WALK THEREIN".

Popularity has a natural appeal to people. It is always pleasant to be with the large crowd; but when the Saviour was giving advice to his followers he told them that only a few would be saved while the great crowd would be lost. Never be ashamed to be with the small congregation if it is the one that is following God's word. Even if there are only two members in a community that are willing to worship as the scriptures teach, if they do so worship they have Christ's assurance that he will be there with them. You know that if we wish to be with him eternally we want to make sure that we are with him here. If we are careful to walk in the light of God's word in everything we do we have his assurance that we are having Christian fellowship, I John 1:7.

But those who claim to have fellowship with God and do not walk in the light John says they are liars, Verse 6, and it is certain that they will go to the wrong place, Rev. 21:8. If we want God with us in our life as well as our worship we must be careful not to go "Beyond the teachings of Christ", II John verse 9, and we must not encourage those who do go beyond His teachings or we are as bad as they, verse 10 of the same chapter. You know that if we wish to make sure of heaven we must be very careful of our life.

I can not realize how awful it would be to spend eternity in Hell. But it certainly would be folly for any one not to put forth every effort to escape it. The rich man did not any of his brothers to come where he was, Luke 16:27. He should have used his influence while living to help his brothers to go to the right place. So each of us must use our influence to help each other. It will be great if each one helping the other ones can help to bring ALL safely through the trials of this life and so enjoy the great reunion over there. I have confidence that you each will do that and win the Judge's approval. Will you try to meet me there? "Have faith in God." And never have a "Heart of unbelief in turning back into the world" as the children of Israel did.

God bless you All.

G. Earl McCay

Randy Earl Orendorff

The Christian family here in Washington sorrows in the recent loss of Randy Earl Orendorff. Randy was born Sept. 30, 1964 in Springfield, Ore. and departed from this life Aug. 27, 1994, in Tacoma, WA at the age of 29. He is survived by his parents, Jerry Orendorff and Jeanne Boroff, two sisters, Debbie Cowdrey and Julie Orendorff, grandparents Raymond and Ada Johnston of Washington, and Horace and Jean Orendorff of Yuma, AZ, as well as many other loved ones.

Randy was laid to rest at a graveside service in Port Orchard, WA, on Sept. 2, 1994. Brothers J.D. Logan and Terry Warford shared many happy memories of Randy and spoke words of comfort. Singing was provided by Brothers and Sisters from Washington and Oregon. A song, One by One, written by the late G. Earl McCay, (Randy's great-grandfather after whom he was named), touched the hearts of many.

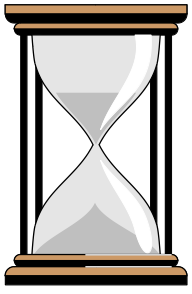
Amidst the tears were many smiles as we shared in thought Randy's passionate love of all kinds of sports, music, games, reading, kids and certainly pizza. We were reminded that he also dearly loved his country and his heavenly Father. Although severe arthritis of the spine prevented his being able to leave his apartment much, Randy longingly spoke of going to church, being with brothers and sisters in Christ and just being much closer to God; which he tried to do in scripture reading and prayer.

While we are thankful Randy's pain and suffering are ended, we mourn because we will greatly miss his always cheerful and happy outlook on life. James 4:14 says *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*

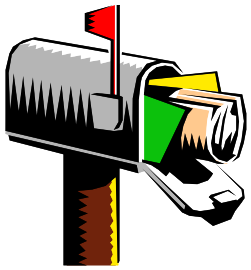
Precious Memories

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

Gospel News Courier, October 1964 • Bro. Ken Baldwin writes of a wonderful camp meeting. He listed all the speakers, 3 of whom are now passed on - Bro. Ken, Bro. Earl Atchley, and Bro. J.C. Spurlin. The rest are still alive and serving the Lord. He also listed everyone that attended. Many names of now departed ones very dear to us appear. There are also several instances of a child listed, then farther down in the list another child who is now their spouse. He also announced the birth of Jill Herbert, the youngest at the camp meeting at 3 weeks old. Bro. Ken wrote of many tears of joy, and also in departing the meeting, tears of sorrow. But we read in God's word about tears. Psalms 126:5, *"They that sow in tears reap in joy." ... So, when we shed tears, it is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather to rejoice."* • Bro. Howard Studer announced that Bro. Earl Howe baptized his son Willie. He also announced the birth of their great-grandson, Rocky Jay Wise. • Several others write of the joy of the Delta camp meeting, and other meetings as well.



The Christian Courier, October 1984 • The San Pablo congregation reports of finding their building damaged when they arrived. Someone had hit it with a car. • Report came from the Happy Hollow congregation in Delta of another successful camp meeting. Many thanks went to the Taylor family of the Lugart, OK congregation: Brothers Don and Mark who were in charge of the services, and Sisters Zelpha, Donna and Karen who were in charge of the kitchen, youth activities, etc. • Bro. Paul Andrews of the Goshen, Ark. congregation reports that Bro. Paul Auslam, Jr. had begun to take a regular turn giving lessons at their Sunday night chapter studies. • The Rogue River, OR congregation announces a new building to worship in. • The Baron, OK congregation announces the baptism of Bro. Michael Barrett August 5, 1984. • The Waterford, CA congregation reported that Bro. Terry and Sis. Vickie Lucas came back into the church. • The baptism of Sis. Lora Lindley August 26, 1984 was announced.



Cards and Letters

Carlsbad, NM

Dear friends in Christ,

Sorry this is so late.

I had cataract surgery. Still have to be careful with my eye.

So happy that my granddaughter, Tina Woodrum, was baptized.

In Christian love,
Eunice Bruce

Cedaredge, CO

My dear ones,

Just a quick note. I thought you would like to read this about Charles. I cut it out of the paper. Eddie read it at the services, plus other things. The songs were "Jesus Hold My Hand," Paradise Valley," and "High on the Mountain." Verda, Mary, Mary's son, Ken's sister and brother-in-law from Kansas, my brother's wife and granddaughter, and their son from California, and Ken's nephew from Denver were all here to comfort me. But, oh, how lonely since then!

Verlie Baldwin

CHARLES BALDWIN SR.

Charles Kenneth William Baldwin, Sr., of Grand Junction died August 24, 1994, at his residence. A self-employed contractor, he was 57.

He was born December 2, 1936, in Yuma, Arizona, the son of Kenneth Melvin and Verlie Elyda (Jones) Baldwin. He spent his childhood in Yuma, graduating from Yuma Union High School in 1955.

He was married to Phyllis Lee Phipps. They were divorced in 1974.

Mr. Baldwin had lived in Delta, Grand Junction, Aspen, and Snowmass after moving from Arizona.

Mr. Baldwin was a member of the Cedaredge Church of Christ.

He was a past member of the Jaycees and National Little Britches Rodeo Association and the Professional Rodeo Association.

He had been employed by the U. S. Forest Service years ago constructing campgrounds on Grand Mesa, in the Cimmaron area, and in Telluride. He had also worked with the Montrose County Sheriff's office as a deputy in the 1960's.

While he owned his own construction business, he built the post office in Paonia. He was accomplished in all types of construction, and passed these skills on to his children, some of whom now own their own construction businesses.

His hobbies included fishing, hunting, and camping. He loved his children, horses, and attending rodeos. Mr. Baldwin was an initiator for some of the Little Britches rodeos in the area, having devoted much time to teaching young children how to ride bucking stock, and rope. He made sure his children entered and were first rate contestants in Little Britches for many years, and they still excel in rodeo events.

While living in Snowmass, Mr. Baldwin operated the Snowmass Stables and an outfitting guide service. He also loved to spend time on Green Mountain near Cedaredge.

Survivors include his mother, Verlie Baldwin of Cedaredge; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Chuck and Starr Graham Baldwin of Delta, Greg and Susan Baldwin and Brian Baldwin, all of Eagle; a daughter, Denise Byers-Johnson and husband Ron of Grand Junction; a sister and her husband, Alyce and Ted Drysdale of Brawley, Calif.; and eight grandchildren, Zane and Justin Taner Baldwin of Delta, Brooke Baldwin of Fruita, Zachary and Derek Baldwin of Eagle, Brittany and Savannah Byers, and Taylor Johnson of Grand Junction.

He was preceded in death by his father and a sister, Janice Herbert.

Graveside services were at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 30, at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Delta.

Comanche, OK

The week of Aug. 7-14 ended with a lot of thankfulness and much uplifted spirits for the Countryside Church of Christ at Comanche, OK. It was a week of much fellowship and love. One night after services we ate watermelon. Saturday we had a big hamburger cookout and after services had homemade ice cream. Both Sundays, after services we had dinner.

Bro. Al Way from the Bellflower, CA congregation presented some very inspiring lessons and left us with much hope that we can reach that heavenly home. To each of us here, Bro. Al is a great speaker and preaches only the gospel as instructed by the Bible. I don't believe anyone could ever accuse him of speaking to please the crowd.

From the bottoms of our hearts, thank you Al and Okja.

We also want to thank all our loved ones who came to support us and Bro. Al. Our building really rang as we sang praises each night and Lord's Day. If we have counted correctly, there were ten congregations represented with about 62 visitors, counting two of our grandchildren, Hali and Coby. It was great!

I'll try to name everyone that came, by congregations. If I leave anyone out, please forgive me. It won't be intentional.

Goshen, Ark.: Pam, Subir, Cassie and Aaron Sen

Lugert, OK: Don and Zelpha Taylor; Mark and Vicky Taylor; Tommy, Karen, and Morgan McCullough.

Oklahoma City, OK: Donna Taylor

Bohannon Mt., Ark.: Melvin, Rachel, and Mark Daniels; James and Beulah Vanderpool.

Lorenzo, TX: Earlene, Kim, and Chris Forsman; Evart, Becky, Erica and Kami Forsman; Larry, Vandra, Javan, Cedra, and Bethany Wood.

Newcastle, TX: Ed and Francis Tate; Wade and Edwana Fikes.

Randlett, OK: Leroy, Darlene and Carla Mullins and Carla's boyfriend; Roy, Kim, and Jace Mullins; Preston and Anna Bell Barnes; Andy, Darla, Robyn, Heather and Kolton Barnes and Robyn's boyfriend.

Baron, OK: Bob, Shirley, Wendy and Jana Eldredge.

Duncanville, TX: Dan and Mary Teague; Willie, Mary and Shane Howe.

Ringgold, TX: Ollie Pollan.

Some were only able to be here for one night and others spent most of the week or came several nights. Some drove as many as six or seven hours to be here.

Our own dear Larrissa Smith only made it to both Sunday morning services. She was too weak to make the 45 minute drive each way every night. Her heart really acted up that week. We are thankful her son is very diligent in bringing her every time her health permits.

Bro. James and Sis. Beulah Vanderpool have been here several times in the last few months. Bro. Larry and Sis. Vandra Wood and kids are through here every so often on business and meet with us on the Lord's Day. James and Larry are both good about bringing us a sermon while here.

A week or two after the meeting Bro. Paul and Sis. Marge Andrews and Bro. Earl and Sis. Olene Howe came in for a few days visit. On Labor Day weekend, Bro. Errol and Sis. Earlene Forsman came and spent the long weekend with us and Errol brought us a good lesson on Sunday. We truly enjoyed having each of them. Thanks guys and come anytime.

We are striving daily to do our Father's will. As the Bible tells us, there are many wolves in sheep's clothing, even among us, trying to destroy our souls. With our diligence, the prayers of our faithful brethren, and God's mercy, we will make it to that eternal place of rest. Pray for us.

In Christian love,
Audley Barnes
Rt. 2 Box 143A
Marlow, OK 73055

Sacramento, CA

I am writing this little note to thank each and everyone for your prayers during and after my cancer operation. I have gone back to work on the 15th of June. I am doing just great. They removed the bladder, which the cancer was contained within the bladder. It did not get outside of the bladder. I have no more cancer in my body. Again, I want to thank each and everyone for your prayers. It sure did help me to pull through.

Everyone here at Sacramento is doing just fine.

Well I guess our loss, is Washington's gain. Fern and J.D. Logan have moved up there. We sure do miss them.

There is not much more to report, except Bro. Lloyd Usrey, Bro. Kevin Harper and myself are taking turns giving the lesson every Sunday.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, if you are ever in or around Sacramento, give us a call and let us know you are in town or would like to meet with us for Sunday services, or just to visit. Bro. Lloyd Usrey has Bible study in his home on every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Phone numbers:
Lloyd Usrey 916-922-5729
Kevin Harper 916-424-4845
John D. Usrey 916-729-0360

May God bless all of the brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours in Christ
John D. Usrey
Sacramento Congregation

San Pablo, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. No excuse for not writing sooner. We pray that all is well with all the brethren. We do have some good news. Brother Andrew Florin was baptized into the body of Christ, August 18, 1994. Andrew came to us homeless, and has been able to "get out from under the bridge." We are thankful for Brother Andrew. Let us all pray that he will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. We too often just forget about those who have obeyed the Gospel, and let them "go their way." We all know that it is not what God would have us do. Some more good news: Tony's wife, Shannon, went to the hospital with labour pains, even though the baby was not due until November, and gave birth to Nathaniel Bryant, at 12:55 a.m., September 19, 1994. Little Nathaniel was pretty small - 3 pounds and 4 ounces, 16 inches long - and is doing just fine. The Lord helped him enter into this world, and has kept him stable and healthy. We thank God for answered prayers, and give Him all the glory, honour, and praise.

We were blessed also in being able to attend 2 meetings this year. We went to Waterford to hear Brother Walkingstick, but he couldn't make it, but the young brethren and others took charge, and we heard some wonderful lessons. We also attended the meeting in Seattle, Wash. (Sea-Tac Church of Christ). We also were blessed with hearing the Word taught by Brother Robert Davis from Arizona, and Brother J. D. Logan, also. We believe that the Sea-Tac meeting was one of the best that we have been to in a long time. Brother Robert brought forth lessons straight "from the shoulder" and seemed to be for the young people. We all enjoyed and were edified by both brothers. Brother J. D. Logan's lesson on "What Do We Do With Jesus" was edifying to me and my family. Especially, when at the end of his sermon he asked, "What will Jesus do with you?" This kind of message makes you think, and makes you want to staighten out your life and recognize who Jesus really is, and that we had better watch how we treat Him.

On our way to Seattle, Satan put a stumbling block in our way. The carburetor on our truck failed, and we were stuck 86 miles from Seattle with no help around anywhere; but Satan was foiled by two of my brothers who would not give up until they found the part and drove the 86 miles (one way) to bring it to us. During the 5 hours-or-so waiting, we thanked God for Brother J. D. Logan and Brother Matt Shepherd. But they were not delayed in their task, and Satan was thwarted. Truly, God does take care of His own (with our brothers' help). But we know that Christians have all the help they need when they call upon their Father.

We experienced fellowship in the Word, and fellowship with our brothers and sisters, and dear friends. The weather was perfect; the jets taking off and landing overhead didn't bother us at all. We out-sang them and out-preached them. The brethren there went out of their way to make all welcome; with hospitality, food, side-trips, and just good old down-to-earth LOVE for the brethren. We thank God for you all there in Seattle, and for all who attended. Keep up the good work of labor of love.

We had to leave 3 days before we wanted to, but we were able to go to meet with the Selah, Wash., congregation on that Lord's Day. It was a pleasure to bring the lesson at Selah. We were welcomed there with homemade ice cream and cake, and singing in Brother and Sister Bob Farley's home. We were invited to stay at Brother Gene and Sister Pat McKinney's home. We thank them for their love and hospitality. Many came over to see us while we were there.

We, then, reluctantly started home; but, as you all know, it is good to get home and kick your shoes off. We send our love to all the brethren that so graciously accepted us and helped us on our way. We love you all.

We send our love to all the brethren.

Homer and Bonnie Bryant

Seattle, WA

Hello to all! We are all doing well. Howard & Nell were in an automobile accident September 11th. Their car was totaled but they are fine except some bumps and bruises.

Howard & Nell's patio cover is mostly finished. It just needs a little touch up. We are all thankful that they will be dry this winter. Matt & Christy Durall moved to Tacoma last weekend. We sure are glad they are closer to all. Barbara Bumgardner came over to help them move & visit with us. Becky Angel has moved back to Seattle. We are happy to have her back. Scott Staley's cast is now off (He fractured his thumb during our meeting on a bike ride outing).

Gerald's mother (Thelma Morris) is still in the nursing home after cancer surgery. Her recovery has taken longer than she wished, but at 87 healing takes longer.

Damien Staley, who was baptized 8 years ago, is becoming a more active member of the church. We are sure the angels in heaven are all rejoicing as much as we are.

Kim Foundation had a very health boy September 24th 1994. Jonathan Michael weighed in at 9 lb 4 oz . Mommy and baby went home that evening and seem to be doing fine. Kevin Austin Forsman was born August 25th, 1994 weighing 7 lb 5 oz. He is growing and doing fine. We are all thankful for these healthy babies....Matt 19:14 says for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

We received two calls, one from Robert Davis and one from Sonny Boling, regarding their meeting this November at Thanksgiving time. We are all excited and Lord Willing some of us will get to attend.

Roy McCay of Eugene Oregon is now home from the hospital. He is recovering from stomach surgery.

Our Love to All,

Your Brothers and Sisters in Seattle

Selah, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here is a check from the Selah congregation to help with the Courier.

I would also like for you to announce in the paper, that Troy Solomon was baptized July 12, 1994. Troy began his work in the Lord's vineyard Sunday morning by working in the service of our Lord. Truly we are blessed with our children.

The brothers and sisters form the Selah congregation send their love to you all.

In Christian love,
John and Betty McKinney
P.O. Box 9274
Yakima, WA 98909

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
Prov. 25:25

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov 23-27, 1994	Yuma, WA	Guest Speakers
July 1-9, 1995	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting

Baptisms

Troy Solomon	Selah, WA	July 12, 1994
Andrew Florin	San Pablo, CA	Aug 18, 1994

Births

Kevin Austin Forsman	8-25-94	6:23 PM	7 lb 5 oz
Nathaniel Bryant	9-19-94	12:55 AM	3 lb 4 oz
Jonathan Michael Foundation	9-24-94	4:51 AM	9 lb 4 oz

Prayer of faith shall save the sick

Carolyn Beddingfield	Avondale, CO	partially blind, diabetic
Verlie Baldwin	Cedaredge, CO	heart trouble
Larrissa Smith	Comanche, OK	poor health
James McKinney	Concord, CA	convalescent home
Thelma Morris	Seattle, WA	cancer, recovering from surgery

Deaths

Chuck Baldwin Sr	8-24-94
Randy Orendorff	8-27-94
Grandma Trippe	Sept 94

Animal, Plant, Or Mineral?

Listed below are 18 words from the Bible. Each is either a (P)lant, (A)nimal, or (M)ineral. Write the letter of each type (P, A, or M) after each word. If you don't know one, look up its scripture or find it in a dictionary.

1. Juniper (Psa. 120:4) ☐
2. Brier (Isa. 9:18) ☐
3. Almug (1 Ki 10:11-12) ☐
4. Ligure (Exo. 28:19) ☐
5. Fitch (Isa. 28:25-27) ☐
6. Bittern (Zeph. 2:14) ☐
7. Amethyst (Exo. 28:19) ☐
8. Mandrake (Gen. 30:14-16) ☐
9. Nitre (Prov. 25:20) ☐
10. Osprey (Lev. 11:13) ☐
11. Dromedary (1 Ki 4:28) ☐
12. Lign Aloes (Num. 24:6) ☐
13. Leviathan (Psa. 74:14) ☐
14. Ossifrage (Deut. 14:12) ☐
15. Rue (Luke 11:42) ☐
16. Sardius (Exo. 28:17) ☐
17. Cockatrice (Isa. 11:8) ☐
18. Coney (Lev. 11:5) ☐