The Christian Courier

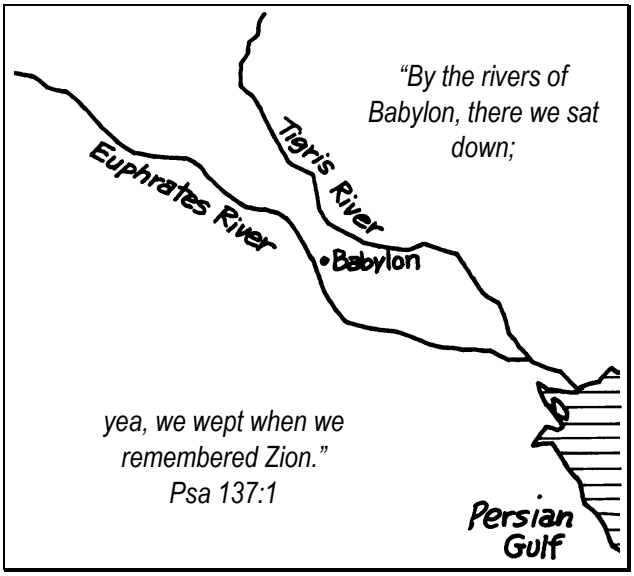
December 1994

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

By The Rivers Of Babylon

Never in all the history of man's relationship with God has there been such sadness portrayed in God's Word. The Psalm in question pours out grief without measure over the fate of the residue of God's people, Israel. Let us review it in all its sorrow!

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea, we wept when we remembered Zion. We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. For there those who carried us away captive demanded a song from us; and those who laid us in heaps demanded gladness, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill. If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth; if I do not prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy." (Psalms 137:1-6).



Israel was being punished for her sins. Jerusalem had been captured and destroyed, the Temple of Solomon on Mt. Moriah had been sacked and the great majority of her people had been led into captivity. Among them were included the King with all the royal family along with the flower of the sons and daughters of Israel.

Through all the sorrow and grief expressed there shines a silver lining of hope. The psalmist said, *"If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill. If I do not remember you, let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth;"* In all his tribulation, he was determined not to lose sight of the center of his devotion, Jerusalem. This was his uppermost thought in all he did, and he was determined that nothing would supplant this from its proper importance. The prayer on the lips of the dispersed Jew has always been **"Next year in Jerusalem!"**

Today there is a message in all this for the Church of Christ. For many years in the lifetime of many of us in the church we have been witness to many troubles brought about by men, sometimes sincere, sometimes not. Many innovations have been imposed upon the brotherhood and these have resulted in unwanted and hurtful divisions. The organ (instrumental music) was one of the first modern divisions to attack the church. This was quickly followed by the plurality of cups in the Lord's Supper as well as the practice of dividing the church into classes for teaching, and a few years later the practice of "individually breaking" the loaf in the communion. These are all "recent" additions which have caused much and seemingly irreparable harm to the Lord's body, the church. **They need not have occurred!**

Every one of these could have been avoided if all concerned (including all of the "latter-day" adherents) had heeded the words of Paul, the apostle in Rom. 14:15, *"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died."*

All sincere and honest Christians agree that the church could have prospered without these innovations, but many claim the right to do these things as a "liberty." Even if there is such a "liberty" expressed in the scriptures, (I do not believe there is) it is truly sinful to exercise it if our brethren are grieved with it. I can contend with all my might that I have the right to eat meat, but if my brother is grieved with this, my duty is clear: I must *"eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."* (1 Cor. 8:13). If the brethren who insisted on initiating these innovations had heeded the apostle's admonition, these divisions **would not have happened!**

Today we are troubled by worldly practices having entered into the church. It is not my intent to thrash these issues in these pages. Permit me to say, no one contends that one **must** do these things in order to go to heaven. Some, however, insist they have "liberty" to follow after worldly things if they do so in "moderation." If we should concede for the sake of argument that this is so (and I do not), all must concede the admonition of Paul is the proper path to follow. If these things make our brother to offend, we must not indulge in them while the world stands. To do otherwise would not be *"walking charitably."* (Rom. 14:15).

"Babylon" is defined as "confusion." Today we stand, as it were, by the *"rivers of Babylon."* It seems that the church today is characterized by each person following his or her own ideas, which, of course, do not always correspond with those of others. In a situation such as this, it must follow that some are wrong (possibly all). But it is an evident fact that all cannot be correct according to scripture.

This is bad enough, but to make matters worse, there is almost total reluctance to discuss the difference. Gone is any desire to heed the prophet's call to *"come, let us reason together."* (Isa. 1:18).

Never have I seen nor do I remember any time when there was such disregard for the spiritual welfare of our brothers. We bend an effort to go great distances to attend "meetings" and express our joy at the great spiritual benefits to be had. Yet, when we are called upon to come together to discuss problems that are among us, there is almost total apathy. It seems that some are willing to accept the fact that some of their brethren are going to Hell, and they just **don't care** enough to talk to them about it. Are they forgetful of the words of the Apostle James, *"...he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."* (James 5:20).

Each of us believes we are to keep the *"unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."* (Eph. 4:3). Yet are we willing to accept a situation where we will not speak to our brother who is trying to make peace? Will we refuse to even answer our brother's letters when he is trying to make peace? If this is what we are willing to accept and do, we are, by our silence, declaring to the church and the world that we are satisfied with things the way they are, and don't care to change them. Perhaps, we should all go once more to Ezek. 3:17-21 and read the solemn charge laid on the prophet by God.

If we are willing to accept the dreadful condition of much of the Church of Christ today, we truly stand *"by the rivers of Babylon."* **Why do not our ears hear the sound of weeping as we think of Zion?**

Brethren, think on these things.

Your brother in Christ,

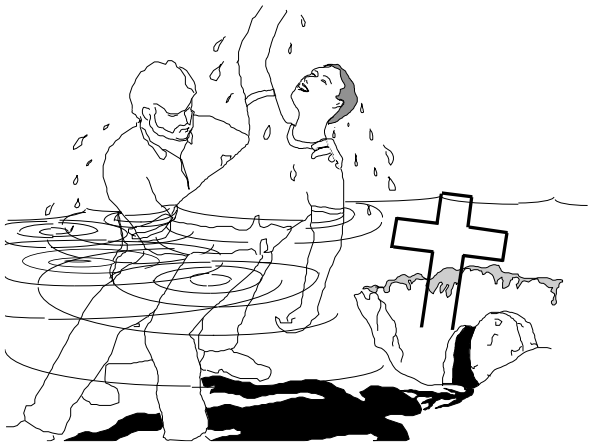
John D. Logan

Misplaced Affections -- Colossians 3

Love of money, 1 Tim 6:10, 2 Kings 5:20-27 (Gehazi)
Love of self, 2 Tim 3:2, Acts 8:9 (Simon), Phil 3:18-19
Love of pleasures, 2 Tim 3:4, Luke 16:11-13 (Prodigal)
Love of pre-eminence, 3 John 9 (Diotrophes), Mk 12:30-40 (Scribes)
Love of the world, 2 Tim 4:10 (Demas), 1 John 2:15, Jas 4:4
Love of darkness, John 3:19 (Judas), John 13:29-30
Love of praise, John 12:42-43 (Rulers), John 5:44, Rom 2:20
Love of wages of wrong doing, Num 31 (Balaam), 2 Pet 2:15
Love of places, Luke 11:43 (Pharisees)
Love of titles, Matt 23:1-10 (Scribes), Luke 20:46, Jas 3:1
From The Gospel News Courier, November 1962

Baptism Column No. 12
Conclusion

I started this column with the determination to provide it for approximately a year. It has worked out to exactly one year's worth of issues, as this is the final installment. We have covered many important issues in relation to baptism, mostly simple ones that are made more complicated than they should be by the worldly religious denominations. In conclusion of the column, I wish to emphasize the overall role of baptism, that of the means by which God applies His grace to people to save them from their sins.



We read in Rom. 6:3-4 that baptism applies Christ's death, (thereby his blood as his blood was shed in death), burial, and resurrection to people. *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

God applies his grace to a sinner by applying Christ's resurrection to him. We find this fact in Eph. 2:5. *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened* (risen) *us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)".* And we see emphatically that we are risen with Christ in baptism in Col. 2:12. *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*

Thus God's grace is applied by baptism to save us from our sins.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

The Burdens Of Life

Gal 6:5: *"For every man shall bear his own burden."* Gal 6:2*: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*

Psalms 55:22: *"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."*

It is the fate of all men everywhere to have burdens. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 5:4, *"For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."*

The deepest and heaviest burdens are not always seen. When people try to carry their burdens alone it can become a fierce and lonely battle. They worry over things, and most of the time that can cause more damage than the thing they were worrying about. It has been proven that worry breaks down resistance to disease, causes problems in the digestive organs and the heart as well as the mind and other body functions. Add to that the toll in unhappiness of sleepless nights and tormented days.

Some years ago Ripley listed Gal. 6:2 and Gal. 6:5 as contradictory scriptures. In Gal. 6:2 the word *"burden"* is from the Greek word *"baros,"* which means "load." This may be a "burden" or "load" of difficulty, sorrow, or pain. We are to bear one another's burden of this sort. In Gal. 6:5 the word *"burden"* is from the Greek word "phortion" which means *"pack."* This "pack" is the whole of one's duties before God, for which each one is personally responsible. Therefore, this "pack" is to be distinguished from the heavy "loads" of verse 2.

The Bible tells us to do three things with our burdens (See the 3 verses at the beginning): 1) Every man shall bear his own burden. 2) Every man shall bear one another's burdens. 3) Every man is to cast his burden upon the Lord.

Every man shall bear his own burden

Some of our burdens are non-transferable. The Lord has given to each man his own work. *"For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch."* (Mark 13:34). Also, *"But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another."* (Gal. 6:4).

Nobody can believe on the Lord for you, or repent for your sins, or confess your faith in Jesus Christ, or be baptized in your place. Nobody can perform your Christian duties for you. Nobody can answer at the judgment seat of God for you. *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."* (Rom 14:12). *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* (2 Cor. 5:10).

Every man shall bear one another's burdens



Some burdens are to be shared with others. *"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."* (Phil. 2:4). It is always proper to note words of scripture in their setting. The key to Gal. 6:2 is found in verse 1: *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."* When a person is overtaken in a fault, he is buried so deep in that fault it becomes so very hard for him to pull himself out of it, and he needs help. The command is to assist that person with the intent of rescuing him from his condition, for he is weak in doing so himself. But there is a caution that you consider yourself and your capabilities that you aren't lost yourselves. Many have been lost while trying to rescue a loved one from a burning building, or from icy waters after falling through the ice. There is a proper way and an improper way to do anything. A person could be so convinced that the sin he commits is not a sin that he may try to convince you that it is not, and thus even tempt you to try it and draw you into it.

"Restore" in the original text was used to mean "to set in joint again," as a dislocated bone is set in joint again by a physician. Hence, restore him by your sincere reproofs and fervent exhortations.

Every man is to cast his burden upon the Lord

Some burdens are beyond the reach of human effort and aid. These are to be cast upon the Lord, for in these He has promised to sustain us. He will take away the burden.

Jesus had a terrific burden to bear and prayed to His Father about it. *"Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."* (Matt. 26:36-39). Luke added in his account, "*Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him."* (Luke 22:42-43). Jesus still had the burden of bearing the cross and enduring its agony, but he was strengthened so he could bear it.

We can receive the same strengthening, but remember we have another promise: *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (1 Cor. 10:12-13). It is comforting to know that we will not be tempted beyond what we are able to bear. If we make the claim that we gave in to sin because it was too much for us to resist we call God a liar. With life's unbearable burdens, we should cast them upon the Lord. *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* (1 Peter 5:7).

Let us be willing to assume those burdens of responsibility that are ours; those burdens of duty that are non-transferable. Let us be conscious of the burdens of others; those loads that we can help others to lift, for truly we are our brother's keeper. Let us cast our burdens of disappointment, of fear and failure, and of sin, upon the Lord. "*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."* (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Written in brotherly love,
Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th St.
Seattle, WA 98168

Word Meanings: Galatians 5

In the August issue of the courier I gave the meaning of words without using the words for Gal. 5:19-21 - By using the words followed with the meaning should make the meaning clearer.

Adultery: Breach of either sex of marriage vows of fidelity to the spouse. Why would a man or woman cheat on each other? Anger, spite, lack of love, influence of another. Deprive them of sex to get their way. I. Cor. 7:2: *"To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."* I Cor. 7:3: *"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and like wise also the wife unto the husband ..."* I Cor. 7:4: *"The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."* I Cor. 7:5: *"Defraud* (to hold from another which is lawfully theirs*) ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."* Eph. 5:21: *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.* Eph. 5:22: *Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."* Eph. 5:23: *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body."* Eph. 5:24: "*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."* Eph. 5:25: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."*

For those young and unmarried, treat sex in the same manner as going to school. You know you won't receive your degree unless you pay attention, study hard, know your subjects, and understand them. Sacrifice pleasure for learning. God has a plan: I Cor. 7:8: *"I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I."* I Cor. 7:9: *"But if they cannot contain* (hold back sexual drive), *let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.* I Peter 2:11: *"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."* Therefore if we contain ourselves we develop trust in each other, and after marriage we don't have fear or doubts of our companion cheating, adultery is a destructive act which God hates.

Fornication: sexual intercourse between unmarried persons. The above explains what God wants from a man and woman as to remaining a virgin. When a person loses their virginity, it is to be in marriage. Just think what fornication can lead to. So you are going to sow your wild oats. Wild oats are not true oats for they bring forth disease, and some of these diseases have no cure. How terrible it is for a man or woman to have a fling, get a disease, and give it to another even your wife or husband, through adultery. A man in Cincinnati went on a one night stand, got a disease, gave it to his wife and she had to have all her sex organs removed. The devil will lead us into breaking God's law by showing us the pleasures of the flesh through lust.

Uncleanness: state or quality of being unclean in a moral desire. To turn good thoughts into evil thoughts. I Cor. 15:33: *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."* Speak untruths. To condemn when one is correct. Ridicule. Brethren, let not our thoughts drift from the truth. I Thess. 2:3: *"For our exhortation was not of deceit, not of uncleanness, nor in guile:"* I Thess. 2:4: *"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."* This trust also applies to us today.

Lasciviousness: unbridled expression of sexual urges. In other words, anything goes. Incest, homosexual, indecency, not chaste in conduct and expression.

Idolatry: physical or material image or form representing a reality or being considered divine and thus an object to worship. An act of devoting ones love and devotion to anyone or anything other than God. Exo. 20:3: *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*

Witchcraft: a woman who is under the influence of evil spirits, and in possession of occult powers, an attempt to contact supernatural powers to determine answers to questions hidden to humans and involving the future. Today they sucker the ignorant and unbelieving to call them from their ads on TV to get their money, when all they are doing is the work of the devil. God knoweth the future and we can go to him through his son Jesus Christ and he will tell us the future by being able to understand prophecy. Put our faith and trust in God, instead of a witch like Saul. I Sam. 28.

Hatred: cancer like feeling, for it has eaten all the love. Christ said, Luke 6:27: *"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you."* Luke 6:28: *"Bless them that curse you, and pry for them which despitefully use you."*

Variance: the act of being in disagreement with a person who holds onto the true word of God. Matt.

24:35: *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

Emulation: try to surpass, another's or prove our qualities better than our brethren. Rom. 11:20: "... *Be not high minded, but fear."*

Wrath, anger: human wrath that is intense which will cause us to willfully do wrong unto others. Paul tells us to get rid of anger, wrath, malice. Eph. 6:4.

Strife: always in conflict with our brethren which causes oppression and mental pain by exercising our unjust power and authority. Rom. 12:10: *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: in honour preferring one another."*

Sedition: going apart and to incite others to hostility, ill will toward the brethren and most of all against the leaders of the church. II Tim. 3:8: *"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."*

Heresies: those who choose to place their own desires above the fellowship of the church. II Pet. 2:1: *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you ..."* conflicting, controversy with the truth..

Envyings: one who incites others to hostilities, doctrinal error, opinions differing from the prevalent teachings established through the apostles, delivered by the Holy Ghost. James 4:5: The characteristic of the human spirit lusteth to envy. Grudging ill will to follow the word of God to the letter.

Murders: the felonious killing of a human being by another with malice and forethought. Man was created in the image of God. Gen. 1:27: Man is to the obey the creator. Murder is an unlawful act of taking another human life. Deut. 5:17 and Ex. 20:13. Jesus explains in Matt. 5:21-22: that murder starts in the heart when one loses respect for another's life. Therefore when one takes their own life, they have lost their respect to the Creator and in their heart ignore God's law, become a murderer.

Drunkenness: people who over indulge in alcohol. People who will not resist getting drunk. When people become drunk, they lose control of their senses and say they don't remember what went on. This is very serious due to the fact they have separated themselves from God because they nor God control their mind.

Reveling: seeking and enjoying riotous living. This then would constitute the works of the flesh which comes from lust.

What will the answer be? I would like to go to Heaven. I wish I could go to Heaven. There is a possible chance I will go to Heaven. I am following in the footsteps of Christ and I know I am going to Heaven.

Your brother in Christ
J.D. Jared
11550 Folkstone Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45240

Thank You Father

I thank my God, my Father, through his son Jesus Christ my Savior
I saw the sun rise to bring warmth to the earth which will bring forth the fullness thereof
that I may have food to eat and shelter from the cold and heat.
I saw the clouds form and the sky darken that it will
give the earth a drink of water and help purify the air.
I saw the sun go down and darkness come over the land,for thou hast given unto us a time of rest.
I saw the evilness of man and his dark bitter ways of hatred
because thou hast given unto me knowledge of thy ways.
I saw thy ways work and they brought happiness unto my soul.
I know thee by the Holy Spirit and the abundant blessings thou hast bestowed upon me.
My greatest desire is to meet thee face to face.
I thank thee, Father, that thou art sending thy son to receive me as thy own forever.
J.D. Jared

The Devil Is A Thief

Luke 8:11-12. The sower went forth to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell by the wayside. The devil came and took the word out of their heart. Some fell on stony ground, who fell away in time of temptation. Some fell among thorns, and the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choked them and they brought no fruit to perfection. Other things made them unfruitful.

The first thing we want to notice is Satan stole the word out of their heart. What does he use to steal away the word? No. 1, I John 2:15-16, he will offer you all the things of the world, Mt. 4:4, as he did Jesus. How does he get to you? Through the lust of the flesh.

He will use your children and wife. They want the things of the world to be like other children, and do what they do. So you yeild to them, for they say, "No harm in this or that." We fail to put on the whole armor of God so we have been caught by one of his wiles. We don't fight the good fight of faith as Jesus did. Because what harm is there in a few of the things of the world? Sometimes they will use the word of God like Satan did to show you God doesn't care. So unless you use the scriptures to cut him off he has got you caught. We failed to put on the whole armor of God, and cannot withstand his wiles, Eph. 6:11. Why stand when it is so easy to give in? What harm is this little thing anyway?

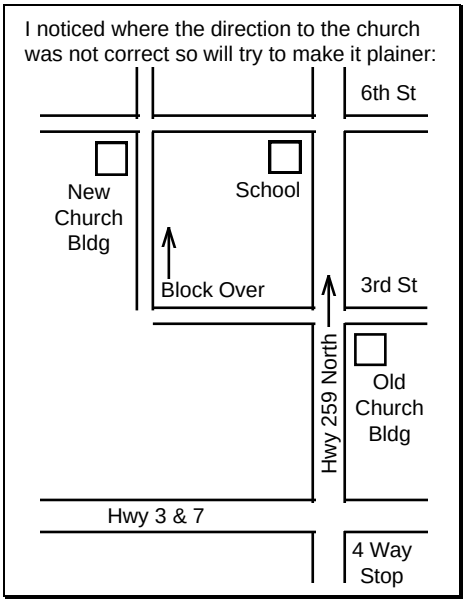
In I Pet. 5:8, Peter said. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:".* He will use all his wiles to accomplish his goals.

How many times have we heard the words "The Lord's Supper" used in preparing the communion. This is not the Lord's supper, but a communion of the body and blood of the Lord. I Cor. 11:20-27. Paul said, *"...this is not to eat the Lord's supper."* Why? Because it is not a supper. So we take it as truth and say nothing about it. but the Bible said, John 12:1-2, that they fixed him a supper. Here he ate his supper. So again we see how we can be fooled by fables, Satan's wiles, as it was in the beginning with Eve. He changed the meaning of the word by adding, Gen. 3, the word "not". I Pet. 5:8. How vigilant are we?

Deut. 18:19-20, God said if a prophet, or to us anyone, speaks a word in his name which he has not commanded he shall die.

In Rev. 12:9 we see where the devil, Satan, was cast out, Rom. 6:1-6, of our lives. How has he gotten back into our lives so easily? For Rev. 12:9 said he deceiveth the whole world although Gal. 6:7-8 says be not deceived. But we are deceiving ourselves when we fail to keep James 1:26.

Eph. 5:6 says. *"Let no deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."* Be not partakers with them. Col. 2:8. *"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* Rom. 16:17-18. *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such* serve *not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."* II Thes. 2:3-5. *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as god sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"* II Pet. 2:1-2. *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."*

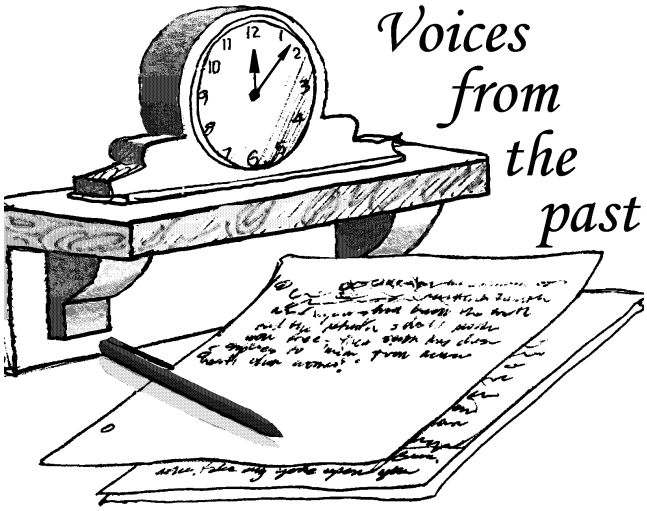


Read Mt. 7:13-14, John 5:39, Acts 17:11, John 20:31 and many more such as Gal. 5:19-21 and I Cor. 6:9-10. The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

In respect of the truth in love,

Bro. Lloyd Treat
13 North Bock
Broken Bow, OK 74728

Preach



The preaching of the Gospel that you and I are governed by, began very early in the life of Christ. His parents, while going home from Jerusalem, discovered he was not with them. Returning, they found him in the temple, talking with the doctors. Luke 2:41-47. Then in the 48th and 49th verses, his parents ask why he had stayed behind. He asks them why they had sought him; Didn't they know that he should be about his Father's business? Yes, this occurred when Jesus was only a boy twelve years old.

Acts 1:1-2, *"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen*:" Yes, Jesus continued his preaching until his death on the cross. No doubt he had you and I in mind when he instructed his twelve apostles *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Mark 16:15.

Since that time, preaching his word, or the gospel, has increased. Some may wonder who would preach the gospel today. Christ authorized the apostles to teach. The writers of the New Testament scriptures were inspired of God to write those things which govern you and I today.

Paul, in writing to Timothy, gave him some instructions to pass on to you and me. II Tim. 2:1-2, *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."* So all faithful men, who of course have a knowledge of God's Word, are qualified to teach, or preach. Should it be that we don't have the knowledge, then we should take the advice of Paul, when he said, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* II Tim. 2:15.

It seems to me that it should be the desire of all faithful brethren to have the knowledge and be able to teach God's Word, that there might be lost souls saved. Rom. 10:15, *"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*

Brethren, the time is ripe. Yes, there is a greater need today for true gospel preachers than ever before. There is so much strife, turmoil, and sin in this old world today, that we need to join ourselves together in a great revival, that our nation might be saved and accept Christ. We might say a good old "revival" for "survival". Surely it is going to take the combined help and cooperation, as well as a lot of sound preaching, for this to be accomplished.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the people today were as interested in their soul salvation, as they were on the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached to seventeen different nationalities? There were three-thousand souls who responded to Peter's preaching, and accepted Christ and were added to the Church?

What should the preachers of today preach? Since there will never be any changes in God's Holy Word, Matt. 5:18. Then surely we, as gospel preachers today, should preach the same as those preachers did that we read about in the Holy Word. What was good and would save those people back there, is still good and will save us today; that is, if we will only accept and obey it.

When Paul was preaching to the jailer, he was told to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts. 16:30-31. When Philip was sent to the assistance of the eunuch, the scriptures say, he preached unto him Jesus. Just what does that statement include? Surely it included Faith, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism, for that is exactly what took place, immediately after Philip's preaching. Acts 8:25-39. Let us study the 39th verse. *"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."* Yes, the eunuch had something to rejoice for, didn't he? Before the eunuch had been taught the word, and obeyed it he was a sinner, in a lost condition. When he had obeyed the commands and came forth from the water, his sins were forgiven; he was a changed man. He came out freed of all past sins and a child of God. He was ready to

start a new life; a life in Christ. This friends is the BEST LIFE a person can live.

For more of what those bible preachers taught please read: I Cor. 2:1-2, Acts 5:42; II Tim. 4:1-2:



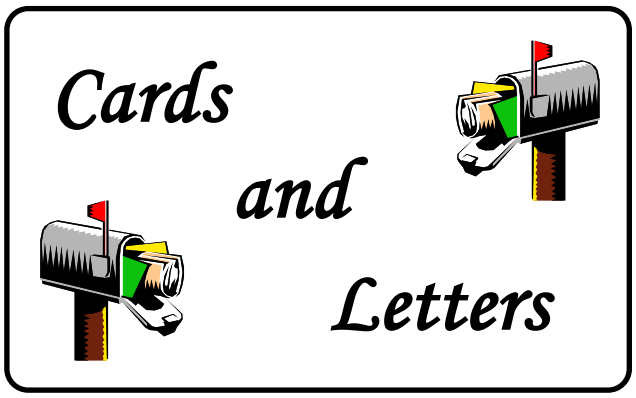
Why should we preach the gospel? Paul tells us in Rom. 1:15-16, *"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

There is a great admonition to each of us who preach the gospel recorded in I Cor. 9:14, *"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."* If we expect to gain the confidence of the world, then we must preach the gospel in it's purity, and then live it in our lives.

Written in the hope that more of our brethren will turn to preaching the gospel. It is a great field labor for all. I Cor. 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

L.E. (Earl) Atchley (Pal, to the Eastern OK kids)

Reprinted from *The Christian Courier*, February 1970



Seattle, WA

Dear Ones in Christ,

Greetings from the Sea-Tac congregation. Cold, wet weather is settling in with some early snow in the outlying areas. We have had some colds and flus but nothing serious.

Howard and Nell McCay have gone to winter in Yuma, AZ. JD and Fern Logan have left for Stockton, CA and will later meet up with Howard and Nell in Yuma. Eric and Lori Harper visited us at the end of October and Bro. Eric delivered a fine lesson. We also appreciated the visits from Richard and Monica Johnston of Yakima.

Bro. Garold Morris' mother has sufficiently recover from surgery and has returned to her home.

We watched some videotapes on building better husband and wife relationships -- it was an edifying experience for all who attended.

Our love and prayers go with you all,

The congregation at Sea-Tac

Comanche, OK

Hello to everyone,

The congregation at Comanche is planning a weekend meeting December 30 - January 1. Brother Errol Forsman is going to speak for us.

We want to invite everyone to come be with us and ring in 1995 with fellowship and joyful praises to our Heavenly Father. We will have plenty of room and sleeping places for anyone who can stay the whole weekend.

We plan to meet at 7:30 Friday and Saturday nights, and the usual 10:30 and 2:00 on Lord's day, with lunch in between services.

Plan to be with us,

Bro. Audley Barnes

Rt. 2 Box 143a

Marlow, OK 73055-9802

San Pablo, CA

Dear Christian Family,

I want you to know this is not a gift from me, but is money left from the church of Christ of Rosemead, CA.

We closed in 1988. Our members moved away or passed away and the building we rented sold. So the few of us left could not afford to rent.

We decided to give our money to the *Christian Courier*. We now attend the La Habra church.

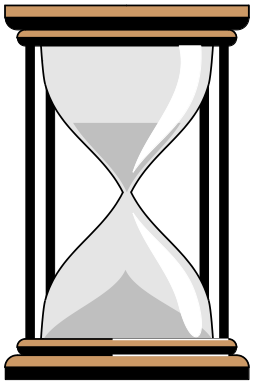
J. R. Kellems

Olive J. Kellems

Precious Memories

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

Gospel News Courier, December 1964 • Bro. R.H. Peel writes of the death of Sis. Garner, wife of E.M. Garner. "She was one of our long time members of the church here. Sister Garner had suffered many years with arthritis, yet she was always at church and a good example for the younger women." • Bro. Alvey Daniels of Wichita, KS asked for sermon outlines to be put into the paper to help young members in preparing lessons. This is still a good idea; and we would love to receive and print some. • The editors received a phone message as the Courier went to press that Bro. J.G. Conder had passed away at 10:00 AM Thursday, November 19, 1964. • Bro. Paul Auslam and family wrote of four baptized at their meeting at Bohannon Mountain, Arkansas. He also reported the death of a dear Sister in Christ, Aunt Vadie Parks. • Bro. Willie Doan of Broken Bow, OK reported 3 baptized there. • Bro. Roy Dabbs announced the birth of their great-granddaughter, Roberta Sue, to Bro. And Sister Duane Bixler September 15.



The Christian Courier, December 1984 • The congregation at Baron, OK announced the marriage of Bro. Dennis Wilson to Laura Briggs, the birth of Tasha Marie Warford, and a schedule of singings with the Baron, Pleasant View, OK, Goshen and Bohannon Mountain, AR congregations. • The Chico, CA congregation and the Furnish Canyon, OK congregation both reported the passing of Sis. Lola Lackey, wife of Bro. Horace Lackey. The Furnish Canyon congregation also reported the passings of Jimmie Wiggins, brother of Bro. Jack Wiggins; Bro. Forrest F. Francis, Jr; and Lee Dumlap, brother of Sis. Thelma Richardson.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 26:6-7 " 6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: 7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works."

Psalms 50:14-15 " 14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: 15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Psalms 69:29-30 " 29 But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. 30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalms 95:1-7 " 1 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. 5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. 6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. 7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,"

Psalms 100:1-5 " 1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people,

and the sheep of his pasture. [4] Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. [5] For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

Bulletin Board

PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK

Myra Dabbs	Cedaredge, CO	sickness
Carolyn Bedingfield	Colorado Springs, CO	kidney transplant
Mabel Cooper	San Pablo, CA	tests
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	horse accident
Earl Broadway	Yuma, AZ	2 crushed vertebrae
Frank Ridlon	Aztec, NM	blood illness
Doris Ridlon	Aztec, NM	migraine headaches
Stanley Berry	Aztec, NM	multiple sclerosis
Robert McCay	Port Orchard, WA	high blood pressure
Ellen McCay	Port Orchard, WA	knee
Roy McCay	Eugene, OR	recovering from stomach surgery
Mattie McCay	Eugene, OR	declining health
Gerald Warner	Eugene, OR	bronchitus, still suffering
Anna Lee Warner	Eugene, OR	bronchitus, still suffering
Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	injured back
Jo Williams	Comanche, OK	battling cancer
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	acute leukemia
John R. Brown	Stilwell, Ok	heart trouble, doing better
Robert Fuson, Jr	Stilwell, OK	going from walker to crutches
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	severe knee problems
Tommie Hammett	Selah, WA	irregular heart beat

BAPTISMS

Charlotte Crum Aloha, OR

BIRTHS

Jacob Lynn Fuson Stilwell, OK
10-3-94 8lb 2 oz 19" long

MEETINGS

Dec 30, 1994 to Jan 1, 1995
Comanche, OK Errol Forsman

July 1-9, 1995
Cedaredge, CO Camp Meeting

WANTED

Your letter, article, poem, or puzzle.

WE would like to hear from you!

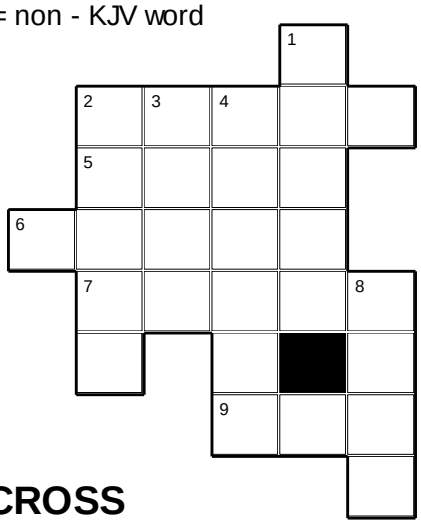
Word Search: December

P	B	I	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	A	A	B	U	R	D	E	N
K	H	D	R	N	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	E	G	H	H
O	H	O	E	E	W	M	V	W	S	E	M	U	O	V	S	E	F
U	F	L	C	R	S	P	I	K	Q	E	R	F	V	E	S	R	S
S	P	A	A	E	X	T	X	Z	C	D	E	V	Q	L	I	E	R
Y	W	T	E	S	H	A	O	N	E	I	U	F	A	I	L	S	B
O	H	R	P	C	C	T	A	R	H	D	P	N	P	N	U	I	C
Q	E	Y	R	G	D	I	S	T	E	V	H	U	S	G	T	E	G
U	J	A	Q	P	R	O	V	V	R	S	R	N	E	N	H	S	Q
Q	F	N	E	A	A	N	I	I	S	A	A	C	L	O	E	V	A
T	I	L	V	T	E	L	E	E	O	D	T	L	C	I	O	N	C
H	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	I	P	U	E	E	A	T	P	U	P
R	E	N	V	Y	I	N	G	R	A	L	S	A	N	I	H	J	G
G	E	T	H	S	E	M	A	N	E	T	S	N	R	D	I	F	Y
M	F	G	U	K	C	H	A	T	R	E	D	N	E	E	L	E	R
J	T	H	N	O	M	O	L	O	S	R	L	E	B	S	U	O	W
E	M	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	B	Y	N	S	A	O	S	X	H
G	R	P	Q	H	H	G	I	B	H	J	I	S	T	R	I	F	E
D	J	Y	T	I	W	H	R	S	P	J	T	T	M	F	T	A	C

Adultery	Anger
Babylon	Baptism
Burden	Devil
Drunkenness	Emulation
Envying	Euphrates
Gethsemane	Hatred
Heresies	Idolatry
Jerusalem	Lasciviousness
Murder	Peace
Restore	Reveling
Sedition	Servants
Solomon	Strife
Tabernacles	Temptation
Theophilus	Thief
Uncleanness	Variance
Wrath	

CROSSWORD by Greg

* = non - KJV word



ACROSS

2. The method of propulsion David used to defeat Goliath (1 Sam 17:49)
5. * Your better half (Eph 5:24-33)
6. How Zacchaeus obeyed our Lord's command to come down (Lk 19:5-6)

DOWN

1. Good practice for judgment day ... (Rom 14:11-13 & Ps 95:6)
2. * How do get “fruit of the vine” from a cluster of grapes?
3. How the Christians will be raised on the last day. (Matt 20:16)
4. Striving to _____ the resurrection to life eternal. (Phil 3:11)
8. Potentate (1 Tim 6:14-15)
7. The seven ears of corn came from one what? (Gen 41:14-36)
9. Riddle: Why was Joshua the only man in the bible who had no parent? (Josh 1:1)

*** DON'T DELETE OR PRINT THIS PAGE ***

MEETINGS

Dec 30, 1994 to Jan 1, 1995
Comanche, OK Errol Forsman

July 1-9, 1995
Cedaredge, CO Camp Meeting

BAPTISMS

Charlotte Crum Aloha, OR

BIRTHS

Jacob Lynn Fuson Stilwell, OK
10-3-94 8lb 2 oz 19"

PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK

Myra Dabbs	Cedaredge, CO	sickness
Carolyn Bedingfield	Colorado Springs, CO	kidney transplant
Mabel Cooper	San Pablo, CA	tests
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	horse accident
Earl Broadway	Yuma, AZ	2 crushed vertebrae
Frank Ridlon	Aztec, NM	blood illness
Doris Ridlon	Aztec, NM	migraine headaches
Stanley Berry	Aztec, NM	multiple sclerosis
Robert McCay	Port Orchard, WA	high blood pressure
Ellen McCay	Port Orchard, WA	knee
Roy McCay	Eugene, OR	recovering from stomach surgery
Mattie McCay	Eugene, OR	declining health
Gerald Warner	Eugene, OR	bronchitus, still suffering
Anna Lee Warner	Eugene, OR	bronchitus, still suffering
Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	injured back
Jo Williams	Comanche, OK	battling cancer
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	acute leukemia
John R. Brown	Stilwell, Ok	heart trouble, doing better
Robert Fuson, Jr	Stilwell, OK	going from walker to crutches
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	severe knee problems
Tommie Hammett	Selah, WA	irregular heart beat