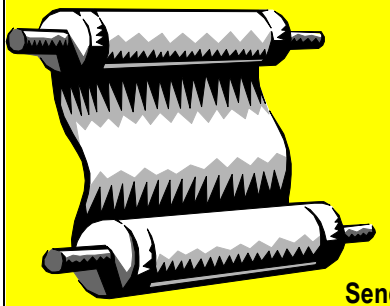


The Christian Courier



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

THE TRAVELS OF PAUL -- The Beginning

Little is known of the life of the Apostle Paul prior to his conversion when he was known as Saul of Tarsus, but he later became the most influential person in the history of the church (excepting God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit).

Paul tells us that he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but lived and studied the Word of God at the feet of Gamaliel in Jerusalem (Acts 22:3). As a young Jew Saul was very zealous in his studies and the work of God, especially fighting against what he thought were heresies. When Stephen was stoned by the Jews for teaching things they did not want to hear, his accusers laid their garments at the feet of Saul, who consented to their deeds (Acts 7:54-8:1). Later, Saul took an active part in the persecution of the church. Carrying with him letters of authority, he bound and delivered followers of Christ into prison where many died (Acts 9:1-2; 22:4-5).

While Saul was journeying to Damascus on one of these missions against the church, an event happened that forever changed his life. A bright light shone around him at noon (Acts 22:6), and a voice spoke, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:1-4). "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? and he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." (vs. 5). The deeds that Saul performed against the church were also performed against Christ. Paul asked him, "What shall I do, Lord?" (Acts 22:10). Paul was not converted here, but was told to go to Damascus where he would receive instruction (Acts 9:6; 22:10). Paul had to be helped on the way as he was blind because of the brightness of the light. (Acts 9:8-9).

At Damascus a disciple named Ananias received instruction concerning Saul in a vision. (Acts 9:10-12). Ananias, as well as all disciples of Christ in that region, knew full well the reputation of Saul as a persecutor against the church. His hesitation at the mention of this name was understandable. (vs. 13-14). "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel..." (vs. 15-16). Ananias went to Saul, explained why he was there, then told him, "...thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (vs. 17). There are those who believe Saul received the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid his hands on him and he regained his sight. Although his sight was restored straightway, he was not filled with the Holy Spirit until after his baptism, as promised in Acts 2:38, "...Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." After Saul received his sight Ananias said to him, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name." (Acts 22:16). After this Saul stayed a few days and worked with the disciples at Damascus. (Acts 9:20-22). He made a sojourn into Arabia for an unspecified period of time , then returned to Damascus where he worked for the Lord. (Gal. 1:17-18).

The defection of Saul to Christ distressed the Jews, and it was while he was at Damascus (three years after his conversion) that they plotted to kill him. (Gal. 1:18; Acts 9:23). Saul found out this plot, and with the aid of the disciples escaped at night by being lowered over the wall in a basket. (Acts 9:24-25).

Having escaped Damascus Saul went to Jerusalem to find the disciples there, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. (vs. 26). Word had gone abroad of his persecutions of the church, but the good news of his conversion either had not reached them, or they believed it was a ruse to trap them. But Barnabus believed him and took him to the apostles, whereupon Saul explained how he was converted. (vs. 27). This was just the

beginning of a close relationship between Paul and Barnabus.

Paul attempted to preach to the Jews at Jerusalem, but they did not accept him or his word, and plotted to kill him. (vs. 28-30). The Lord came to Saul while in a trance and told him to get quickly out of Jerusalem, for the Jews there would not receive him. The Lord told him to go to the Gentiles. (Acts 22:17-21). When the brethren found out about this, they took Saul to the seaport town of Caesarea, and sent him to Tarsus. (Acts 9:28-30).

Some of the brethren that were spread abroad found good seed at Antioch, where a great number had turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:19-21). When the church at Jerusalem heard of them they sent Barnabas to check them out. (vs. 22-24). Barnabas then went to Tarsus to find Saul; and having found him, they both returned to Antioch, where they worked for a year. (vs. 25-26). The church at Antioch grew even more. It was here the disciples were first called Christians.

Agabus, prophet of God, came to Antioch from Jerusalem, and said there would be a great famine all over the world, which would happen in the days of Claudius. (vs. 27-28). The church at Antioch decided to send relief to the brethren in Judea. (vs. 29-30). This relief was not intended for the world, but for the brethren. It was delivered by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. Having made their delivery, they returned to Antioch, taking with them John whose surname was Mark. (Acts 12:25).

(Next: Paul's first missionary journey.)

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

TROUBLES

Husbands - Pressure from your work and the boss is on your back. The wife never stops nagging. Screaming and yelling of the children. How can I make ends meet?

Wives - All I do is cook, wash dishes, clean house, and listen to my husband yell and complain. How can I get away from it all?

Vacation - Not enough money to go very far. Children fussing, fighting and each one wanting to go to a different place. Returning is like not being on a vacation.

Where do we go to find the answers to these problems? To those who have the same problems; To those who show us sympathy and can't solve their won problems; or to a beloved brother or sister in Christ Jesus who will direct us by the word of God?

Work. Why can't we get along with our boss, and do our work with pleasure? Col. 3:22-24. *"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

Screaming and yelling. Eph. 6:1-4. *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

Nagging and complaining. Col. 3:18-21. *"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."*

How can I make ends meet? Prov. 22:7. *"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."* Isa. 55:1-2. *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."* Let us give ourselves wholly over to the Lord, ask him to help us with our finances to receive the help we need. We may receive it directly through the Spirit or be directed to someone who can. Gal. 5:16-17. *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that would."* I John 2:15. *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

The three most important things in life: God, Christ, Holy Spirit. Family. Work.

When we have these three joined together, we have one happy person or family. This doesn't mean we won't have troubles come upon us. I Pet. 2:20. *"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do*

well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." From this we must assume we are to find joy in persecution. How can that be?

Did you experience a time in class; when the teacher asked a question and you were the only one who knew the answer. That made you feel good, didn't it? Then when some of the students ridiculed you, you felt hurt. But deep inside you felt joy, because you knew the answer.

When Satan confronts us through another person, who puts the pressure on us and we know not the answer, we are in big trouble. We have been defeated, heart broken, stupid, and should be disgusted with ourselves. When this happens to a person who (II Tim. 2:15 - studied to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth) is knowledgeable in the word of God, he doesn't back down or be quiet, but speaks the word of truth. Because we stand up for Christ in truth and honor does not mean we will not be ridiculed, humiliated, cursed, or be evil spoken of. The joy of this is knowing that greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world, I John 4:4.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7. Have we been put down for something we have done or said, and fight back whether right or wrong? How can we find pleasure admitting we are wrong? This depends upon how much we let the Holy Spirit work within us. If we will first admit to ourselves we are wrong, the Holy Spirit that is in us will be able to direct our thoughts, speech, and actions to perform that which is pleasing to God; by asking for forgiveness to those we have wronged, and asking God through his son to forgive us. Rom. 12:17-18. *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."*

What a dilemma we are in. The roof is falling in. I'm sinking. Everyone is against me. I don't understand how that could happen. No one loves me anymore. Life isn't worth living. I wish I were dead. I can't see the light. There is no way out.

When thoughts such as these are floating around in our brain, we are grieving the Holy Spirit what is within us, Eph. 4:30. And are giving place to the devil, Eph. 4:27. Bitter and sweet cannot come from the same mind, James 3:11. James 3:14-16. *"But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."* When we separate ourselves from God with these evil thoughts, God can't help us until we clear our mind, heart and soul of all evil; by going to God, truly repenting and asking for forgiveness. Unless we cleanse ourselves by the blood of Jesus Christ, we are destroying ourselves spiritually and physically, because we have opened ourselves to the power of the devil. Do we expect God to reach down and pull us out of the mire when we have a sinful doubting heart, and go against his word? Please remember this: We can't stop obeying God's word without destruction coming upon us.

A good example of this is what happened to Jonah, even though he was a prophet of God. Imagine finding yourself in the belly of a great fish with the smell, darkness, and thinking this is the end. Jonah 2:7-9. *"When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."* God accepted Jonah's word: God talked to the fish and the fish vomited Jonah out on dry land. After this terrible ordeal Jonah delivered God's word to the people of Ninevah; who repented of their evil ways and God saved them. Jonah became angry at God because God repented of the evil he was going to bring upon the people of Ninevah. God brought punishment upon Jonah because he thought the people of Ninevah should suffer for their evil ways. When we read about the life of Jonah, we have to wonder how stupid he could be, and how merciful God is. Through anger Jonah asked God to take his life. We must not go against God's word and give place to the devil, unless we find ourselves to be stupid.

Matt. 5:22. *"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."* Eph. 4:26-27. *"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."* Some people go at the word of God as if they had a sharp ax, and cut out the part they don't want, as if they were going to cut down a tree that was in their way. When they swing at the word of God, it swings back at them, hits them in the head, because they struck solid rock. Some recover, and some don't. I Pet. 5:6-8. *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be*

vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:".

With brotherly love, J.D. Jared, 11550 Folkstone Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240

WHAT HATH THE LORD ANSWERED? (Jer. 23:23-40)

"Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord. I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed." This statement is very vivid in the world today, as it was then. As is today, those prophets of that day were prophets of deceit, verse 26. They caused his people to forget his name by their dreams, as the fathers have forgotten his name for Baal.

Today, Acts 4:12, there is no other name given that has salvation in it. Yet there are a multitude of names given today. They claim you can be saved in any of them. They are all saying they are going to heaven. They say they are God's children. What has the Lord said?

I Tim. 3:14-15. *"These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* Eph. 3:14-15. *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."*

They are proclaiming and worshipping Christ. But how do they do it? Mt. 15:9. *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."*

The Lord says, Jer. 23:29, that his word is like a fire and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. Verse 31. *"Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith."* Where has the Lord said, "Join the church of your choice"? When he, the Lord, adds to the church daily, such as should be saved, Acts 2:47, which one does he add you to? There is no other that has salvation in it. These late model prophets prophesy lies in his name, Jer. 23:26. *"...they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;".* What did the Lord say to them?

Jer. 23:31. *"Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith."* Verse 32. *"Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord."* Or as Isaiah said in Isa. 30:10-11. *Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us."* Verse 12-13. *"Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant."*

So what hath the Lord said?

Mt. 7:21. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

Isa. 29:13-14. *"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:* (Mt. 15:8-9) *Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."*

Why? II Tim. 4:1-4. *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."* In Jer. 23:23-40, they did not listen to the Lord, and the Lord said in verse 26. *"How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;".*

Just as II Pet. 2:1-2 says. *"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."*

The same thing happened in Jer. 23:1-2. *"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord."*

What about the preachers of today? They sow discord among the brethren, Prov. 6:16-19, and separate churches over their thoughts. For Isa. 55:8 says. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."* The preachers of today cause division in the pasture, or churches, over the way they think, and will not sit down and study together, and reason together. II Pet. 2:3, they with feigned words make merchandise of you. Verse 12. *"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption:".*

Paul said unto us, I Cor. 1:10. *"...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you...".* Do we heed this command of the Lord? Or are we too prideful to humble under the mighty hand of God? Let us repent and be one as Christ prayed for.

Sincerely yours, for the truth of Christ, Bro. Lloyd Treat, 13 North Bock, Broken Bow, OK 74728

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

"...Remember me, O my God, for good." Nehemiah 13:31

Gospel News Courier, January 1965 • Bro. Tom Broadway asks: "Anybody for Sword Practice?", encouraging all to embark on a special study mission of the sword of the Spirit. He suggested a planned study of 3 to 4 chapters per day, every day, reading the Bible through from Genesis to Revelations in the upcoming year. • Obituary was made for the passing of Bro. Joseph Garrett Conder, who passed away November 19, 1964. Services were conducted by Bro. Roy Snoderly on November 21, 1964. • The passing of Sis. Effie May Splawn is also reported. Bro. Elmer Hunt writes. *"All will miss her very much but in Christ we have that faith she kept and all of us must keep."* • Bro. Howard McCay reported the passing of Bro. Adolph Young, October 18, 1964 after a long illness of cancer. Also rejoicing at 3 baptisms. • Bro. Lloyd Treat announces 3 baptisms and 3 returned to the fold, and reports a wonderful meeting over the 5th Sunday at Broken Bow. • The editor, Bro. Roy Snoderly, reports receipt of a letter of apology from J.S.L. Morris for things said and printed, acknowledgment of his digression, and a request for restoration to once more be counted faithful. Bro. Roy also announces the birth of Lori Renee Perigen to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Betty Perigen. In his fervent closing Bro. Roy beseeches the church. *"Make your plans to attend and also plan on holding a meeting at your church this year. You need one, I'm sure. ... This is a new year, 1965, and we should do much more work this year than we did last year. Preach more, pray more, give more of our time and money, visit the sick more. Get out and visit those who have fallen by the wayside and those who should be in church. You can make 1965* (1995 for us today) *a year of spreading the gospel and bringing lost souls to Christ. Converting lost souls to Christ should be our utmost aim, our goal, and should command our greatest effort this coming year. Get out and work for the Lord. Get up and fight! Let us build new congregations and strengthen those who are weak before it is too late to help."*

The Christian Courier, January 1975 • Announcement is made of the passing of beloved Bro. Curtis C. McCluskey November 23, 1974. • Baptism of Sharilyn Perigen is announced by Bro. Claud Perigen.

The Christian Courier, January 1985 • The congregation at Roll, AZ announced their first ever gospel meeting. • Bro. Jim Brown announced his retirement, and that he would then be available to preach at meetings. • Four baptisms were listed from the Selah, WA congregation, Rick and Barbara Perry, Kelly Davis, and Shawna McKinney. • Announcements of the passings of Bro. Kelsey Markham of Yakima, WA 11/19/84; Sis. Grace Daugherty of Penn Valley, CA 11/14/84; and Sis. Daugherty's granddaughter 11/21/84.

HYPOCRISY

A hypocrite is one who denies the truth and/or his personal convictions. Through deliberation, thoughtlessness, or low self-esteem, the hypocrite defrauds and deceives by one or a combination of thoughts, words or actions.

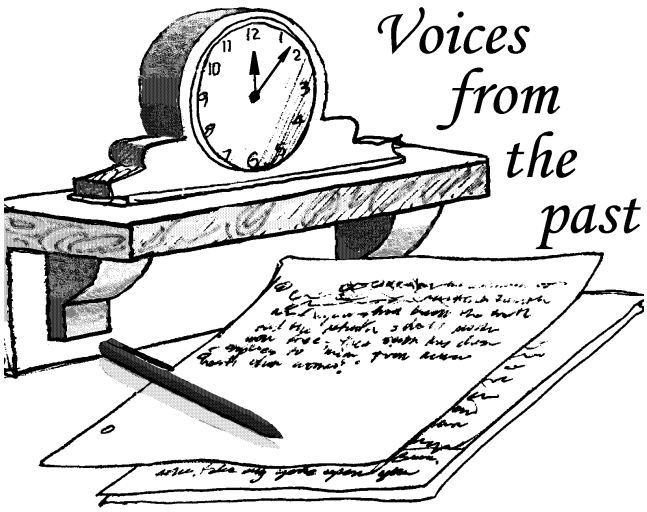
Betrayal/treachery	Ps 55:12-14, 20-23 Jer 9:4,8 Lam 1:2 Obad 7 Zech

	13:6 Matt 22:15-18 Luke 21:16

Backsliding	Luke 14:34-35 Mark 9:50
Bribery	Mic 3:11
Can't conceal his true nature	Isa 32:5-6 Isa 58:2-5
Cannot declare God's statutes	Ps 50:16-17
Deceitful hearts	Jer 17:9 Matt 15:7-9 John 6:70 2 Cor 5:12 James 1:22-24
Deceitful practices	Prov 20:14 Hos 7:14,16 Hos 11:12 Mic 7:6 Zech 7:5-6 Matt 7:15 Matt 15:7-9 Mark 8:15 Luke 12:1 Matt 16:6 Luke 6:46; 8:18; 11:39-52 Mark 12:38-40 Mark 7:7-8 Rom 2:1,3 Rom 2:17-29 1 Peter 2:16
Deceitful tongue	Ps 52:4 Ps 78:34-37 Prov 11:9 Mic 7:5 Matt 15:7-9 Mark 7:78 1 John 1:6,10 Rom 16:18 1 John 2:4,9,20 James 1:26 Rev 2:9; 3:9
Defraud	Luke 13:13-17
Despised	Job 36:13
Destroys neighbor	Prov 11:9
Doubleminded	Jer 7:4, 8-10 Matt 6:24 Luke 16:13,15 James 1:8; 4:8
Egotistical	Isa 65:5
Evil leadership	Matt 23:4 Matt 23:13-33 Luke 20:46 Mark 12:38-40 John 7:19
Faith without works	James 2:14-26
False reward	Job 15:31, 33, 34
False teachers	Phil 3:2 1 Tim 4:2 2 Tim 3:5,13 Titus 1:16 2 Peter 2:1,19
Fears discovery	Job 31:33-34
Gives begrudgingly	Prov 23:6-8
Gossips	Prov 26:18-19, 23-26
Heart betrays his lips	Isa 29:13 Isa 58:2-5 Jer 12 :2 Ezek 33: 30-32
Incompetent leader	Job 34:30 Isa 9:17
Insincere	Ps 5:9 Jer 3:10 Hos 6:4 Mal 2:13 Matt 21:28-32 Matt 23:2-3 1 Cor 3:1
Joy is fleeting	Job 20:4
Lack discernment	Matt 16:3 Luke 12:54-56 John 6:26
Loves personal glory	Matt 6:1,2,5,16 Matt 23:5-12 Luke 20:46 Mark 12:38-40
No hope	Job 8:13-15 Job 27:8-10
Not rewarded by God (positively)	Isa 61:8 Matt 6:1 Matt 24:46-50
Practices idolatry	Isa 48:1-2 Ezek 5:11; 14:7-8; 20:39
Pretence	Jer 42:20-22 Rom 2:17-29 2 Peter 2:3,17,19 Jude 12 Rev 3:1
Punished/humbled	Isa 10:6
Sacrifice rejected	Prov 15:8 Prov 21:27 Isa 1:13-15 Jer 6:20 Hos 8:13; 9:4 Amos 5:21-27 Mal 1:6-14
Self-righteous judgment	Matt 7:5; 9:13 Luke 18:9-12 Rom 2:1,3 Gal 6:3
Sidesteps the truth	Prov 14:8 Matt 3:7
Spurned by God	Job 13:16 Isa 9:17 Hos 8:2-3 Matt 7:21-23 Luke 13:26-27 Matt 22:12-13 John 15:2,6
Spurned by upright	Job 17:8 Ps 101:7
Swears falsely	Jer 5:2 Hos 10:1-4
Suppresses truth	Rom 1:18
Trembles	Isa 33:14
Unfaithful	Prov 7:10-21 Prov 25:19 Matt 24:46-50
Unprofitable servant	Matt 25:40-46 John 15:2,6
Vain service	Mal 3:14
Works discovered	Isa 29:15-16

Compiled by the Selah Church of Christ

WALKING WORTHY OF OUR VOCATION



Paul pleads with Christians in Eph. 4:1-3 to walk worthy of their calling. *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worth of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

I believe with all my heart the only thing we need to do in order to get a wonderful lesson from Paul's language here is to break it down word for word, and get the full meaning of each word.

Hence we will begin with the word, prisoner. So we look in our dictionary to find that one definition of prisoner means captive. Thus we go to Acts 9:4-6 to find the Lord arrested Paul while on his way to Damascus for the sole purpose of destroying the church of God. Whereupon he (the Lord) told Saul (who later was named Paul) to go into the city, and it would be told thee what thou MUST do. Every Christian, being a prisoner of the Lord, (having been arrested from our sinful state) MUST walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called, for Paul wasn't joking when he gave us this statement.

So let's take the word, worthy, which means deserving, or excellent; then if we are to deserve a righteous consideration of the Lord, we MUST walk with excellency in the sight of God. For Christ hath said, *"Let your light so shine that others may see your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven."*

Next, shall we look at the word, vocation, which means calling, or business. Or to use the words of the Saviour, *"Let us be up and about our Father's business"*, Luke 2:47. And why? Because we are a called out people, and that for a purpose. *"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."* Rom. 8:28. Then we MUST NOT fail that purpose. Then to magnify that purpose we go to I Pet. 2:9. *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* So our purpose in life is to shew forth the praises of God, and there is no better way to shew the praises of God than to forbear one another in love, Eph. 4:2. *"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* I John 5:2-3.

Thus we have laid down the facts as per Eph. 4:1-3. So if we get the lesson as contained in the text, we will not hesitate to adorn ourselves with lowliness, meekness and longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; until we are able to do just that, we are likely to be found back-biting, falsely accusing, all of which are the works of the flesh, and tend to cast a stumbling block before the weak, and soweth discord among the brethren. *"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."* Prov. 6:16-19.

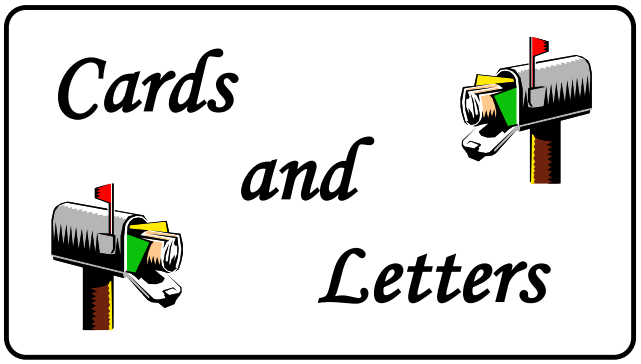
May God help each of us as true Christians, to clothe ourselves with the righteousness set forth in the text. Written in love of the truth, and for the purpose of keeping the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace.

Your humble brother, servant, and prisoner of the Lord,

J.C. Spurlin, Reprinted from the Gospel News Courier, March 1965

As we end 1994, and move on to '95
It's our ongoing duty to help
keep the Word of God alive.
So, thanks for the opportunity to serve
you throughout this past year.
And keep the letters and articles coming
so that all the world may hear.

The Courier Staff, Seattle, WA



Bellflower, CA

Dear Friends, Brothers, and Sisters in Christ,

For the next year it's my turn to write and send in the monthly news update from the Bellflower congregation.

At this writing we're ok except for some flu, colds, and coughs that seem to hang on. Over the past several weeks several have missed church due to sickness or injury. Sister Erelene Chessman continues to fight cancer, and Brother Vincent Johnson is bound to his wheel chair. They are people of courage, and really need our daily prayers. Please place them on your prayer list. Vickie, Erelene's daughter, has family problems and needs the strength the Lord will provide through our prayers.

If we have hope of this life only we will be most miserable. Thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ for a bright future, if we continue to trust in and live for him.

Seeing our bodies fail and continued problems of the flesh arise, let us hold fast to our profession, and know assuredly that if we love our Lord, and live that love, all things that happen to us are for our good. Let us keep focused on our future eternal life in heaven, and let no problems detour us from the strait path leading to that goal.

We continue small in number, but strong in determination to fight the fight of faith. You are welcome to visit us anytime. As we remember you in our prayers, please pray for us.

On a personal note, it's been a very busy year for Okja and I. The company I work for has cut back personnel three times during the last two years, which has left me with a lot of work. I'm very thankful to have a good job, but between the job and family, there's not much time left.

We were happy to see several of our Christian friends this year; many at the Gospel meeting in Comanche, OK, and some coming back from a trip to see my mother in Oregon. It's always a lift to see old friends and visit, if even for a short time.

For the past two years we have enjoyed having Brother Brian Ross worship with us. Brian has decided to return to Oklahoma to be near his family, and find work in the Tulsa area. He's a fine young man, and we will miss him. We are thankful he shared two years of his life with us. We love him and our prayers go with him.

As we start a new year our prayers are that the Lord will give each of us courage and strength to face each day as He provides it, and increase our faith to live it only for Him.

Al Way
17401 Marken Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714) 842-1633

Bulletin Board

Meetings

July 1-9	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
Aug 18-20	Yakima, WA	Eric Harper

Prayer of faith shall save the sick

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting Cancer
Vincent Johnson	Bellflower, CA	Bound to Wheelchair
Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Back Trouble
Jo Williams	Comanche, OK	Battling Cancer
Gerald Warner	Eugene, OR	Heart Trouble
Robert McCay	Port Orchard, WA	Fighting Bone Cancer
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	Leukemia

Passings

Earl Broadway	Yuma, AZ
John Brown	Stilwell, OK

