GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

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THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Is the CHURCH OF CHRIST the church spoken of in the New Testement? I would say yes, because of these reasons; You read of this church. (Rom. I6:I6). It has no creed but the Bible, binds no name on the members but Christ's. (I Pet. 4:I6; Acts II:26). It speaks where the Bible speaks, and is silent where the Bible is silent. (I Pet. 4:II). It exalts Christ as the only head of the church. (Col. I:I8). Its acts of worship are patterned strictly after the New Testament example. (John 4:24; Acts 20:7; Eph. 5:I9). It teaches that scriptural unity can be achieved on all disputed doctrinal questions. (I Cor. I:I0; John I7:2I). The Church of Christ pleads for unity of all believers in Christ. (I Cor. 3:I-5; Eph. 4:4-6). It is not a denomination, nor a group of denominations, but the body of Christ. (Col. I:I8) Its founder is Christ himself. (Matt. I6:I8) Its goal, to save souls by leading them to Christ by the Gospel; to teach godly living and to help all who are in need. (I Cor. I5:I-4; Gal. 6:9-I0). Its future; eternal glory with Christ in Heaven. (I Thes. 4:I7).

IS THIS THE CHUPCH YOU BELONG TO?

If not, come and meet with us next Lord's Day. Attend the services of the Church of Christ in your community and hear the word of God taught as Christ commanded it to be taught. THERE IS A WAY WHICH SEEMETH RIGHT UNTO MAN, BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH. (Prov. I4:I2)

Paul Ferguson,
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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE CHURCH

We find as we read our newspapers, that the authorities are quite concerned with the problem of juvenile delinquency in our country today. As we read and meditate we can draw a parallel with the problem of juvenile delinquency in the church. What is this juvenile delinquency in the church? Just as in the world about us, delinquency is a transgression of the law or shirking of our duty to human beings. So it is with the church also. A transgression of the law of God, or a shirking of our duty to the church or our fellow Christians.

WHY DO WE HAVE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY? Just as most educators agree that delinquency is caused by broken homes or parental neglect, I think that we will find that a great deal of our delinquency in the church comes from the same cause, especially parental neglect, both physical parents and spiritual, these latter being the leaders and older members of the church. Lack of supervision is cited as a major cause of juvenile delinquency.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY? Prov. 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." 2 Tim. 2:2, "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." We find here, not only Paul supervising what Timothy taught, but also telling Timothy to be careful as to the kind of men that he intrusted with the teaching of the Gospel.

I'm afraid that, just as too many parents turn their children loose to go their own way unhindered and unhelped. There are too many of us who think that as soon as a person is baptized our responsibility ends. But the Bible does not teach this.

WHAT DOES IT TEACH? I Jno. 3:14, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." I Jno. 3:16, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us and we aught to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Are we doing our Christian duty? Are we showing our love for the brethren when we don't EVEN SHOW them how to lead a Christian life? What can we expect if we do not lay a firm foundation before them to build on, this being the Doctrine of Christ and the teaching of the Apostles?

BILL McCAY,

719 East Viola, Yakima, Washington

IN ANSWER TO INQUIRIES CONCERNING OUR FAITH

we, the faithful of the Church of Christ meet each Lord's Day morning to worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24; Heb. 10:25)

WE PRAY to God the Father, giving thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us, asking for mercy and kindness and for forgiveness of all our sins through Christ OUR MEDIATOR. (Eph. 6:18)

WE SING our love and praise God's name in hymns and songs, making melody in our hearts; worshiping God with our mouths from our hearts and not with our hands. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

WE TEACH THE BIBLE, the word of God, according to his commands and endeavor to rightly understand and give the true interpretation of each passage of scripture; not trying to justify ourselves or another's sin or private belief; speaking where the Bible speaks, be silent where it is silent, and speaking one at a time. (2 Tim. 2:14-15; I Pet. 4:11; I Cor. 14:31).

WE COMMUNE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH CHRIST THROUGH THE LORD'S SUPPER. We prepare the Lord's Table in the manner in which Christ himself instructed and also gave an example. Taking the loaf, we bless it, brake it and give it to the faithful to eat thereof. Taking the cup in like manner, we bless it and give to the faithful to drink thereof. This is disputed by many, but none will deny that they would not be condemned in so doing. (Matt. 26:26-28)

WE GIVE OF OUR MEANS. In so doing, we believe and teach that the giving of our material means is a part of the worship, and being a command, this can have no lessor part in the worship of God than any other part. We are commanded to give as we have been prospered and as we purpose, giving cheerfully and willingly. (I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

DO YOU OBEY THESE COMMANDS OF YOUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, IN THE SERVICES WHERE YOU ATTEND CHURCH? WE, THE FAITHFUL BELIEVERS DO. (Rev. 22:14)

EDITOR.

N E W S

Received the paper. Hope you can get some good articles printed and the GOSPEL NEWS COURIER going. Yours in the faith. J. H. LACKEY, RT. I, BOX 6, SPRINGFIELD, COLORADO.

We are enclosing $10:00 to help with the expenses of the paper, as the right kind of paper will give strength and encouragement to the faithful. In Christian love,

F. F. FRANCIS, KENTON, OKLAHOMA.

I sure like the GOSPEL NEWS COURIER. I think it is a good paper. I teach two lessons each Lord's Day at the Morgan Rest Home of Broken Bow and one at the church of Broken Bow each Lord's Day morning. Yours in the faith,

WILLIE DOAN, RT. 2, BOX 129, BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA.

I am sending a report of our meeting at Ringgold, Texas, which closed June 2nd. We feel that we had a very good meeting with Bro. Paul Ferguson doing the preaching. Next to the last night a young couple from Ringling, Okla. were baptized. They are Elmer and Mattie Smith. They intend to worship at Ringgold, Texas, and at Loco, Oklahoma, with Bro. Joe Taylor and his folks. Bro. and Sister Ferguson visited in our home part of the time during the meeting and we enjoyed every minute of it. They are fine Christian people and we recommend them very highly. We of the church here appreciate the brothers and sisters who came long distances to help us in our meeting. The singing was wonderful. We received a letter from Sister W. E. Willis of Carlsbad, N. M. who meets with Bro. and Sister Paul Bruce, in their home at 305 S. Olive, Carlsbad, N. M. Bro. Snoderly, we are glad you brethren have started a paper. I am sure it will be of help to all of us. I am enclosing a small donation to help with the expenses. Your brother in Christ. CURTIS TEAGUE, RT. 2, NOCONA, TEXAS. (Sorry we didn't have room to print all of your letter Bro. Teague). EDITOR).

Received the GOSPEL NEWS COURIER and like it very much. Hope we can get a good clean gospel paper going again.. I would have written sooner but I have been sick and in the hospital for a week, but am very much improved at present. The church here can use 10 or 15 copies of the paper. I am gone quite a lot working with other churches. When I get back to normal health I'll try to write an article now and then for the paper. I gave out the papers and announced the publishing of the paper at the church and all seemed to be interested, so I think you will get some support from the

brethren here. I'll enclose a little support and close for this time. W. E. DANIELS, RT.2, STILLWELL, OKLAHOMA.

We received the papers and read them with interest. It certainly has our approval. We just hope that you can keep it going. It serves a good purpose in helping us keep in touch with one another. Here is a good example. Bro. L. N. Musgrave of New Castle, Texas saw a copy of the paper and seen Bro. W. A. Nelson's name mentioned in the news from Ariz. and also seen my name, so he came to see me and told me that he and Bro. Nelson were boyhood friends 45 years ago, and he wishes to send his greetings to the Nelsons via the "Courier". Bro. Musgrave is the nephew of the late Bro. Bob Musgrave of Elk City, Okla. who was the best known of all our gospel preachers a generation ago. Thanks again for the papers and a job well done. Give our kindest regards to Bro. England and all there. As ever, Your Bro. in Christ.

J. W. BEDINGFIELD, 602 W. MAIN, OLNEY, TEXAS.

P. S:- A letter from Bro. and Sister J. C. Williams of Socorro, N. M. tells us that they and Bro. and Sister Oliver of Socorro meet in their home there. Bro. Williams address is Box 372, Socorro, N. M. We know these people and feel that their meeting place should be listed with our faithful congregations. --J. W. B.--

We are enclosing a check to help with the paper. Very truly yours. PAUL BRUCE, 305 S. OLIVE, CARLSBAD, N. M.

Just received the GOSPEL NEWS COURIER. Thank you. Yours truly. S. E. STOUT, EOLA, TEXAS. (Bro. Stout, I hope my article in this issue on FAITH AND WORSHIP is the answer to your letter. If not, write and let me know--EDITOR).

We of the La Habra, and Bellflower, Calif. congregations were glad to have visitors with us from the Yakima, Washington church. Bro. and Sister William Wooten and daughter, and Bro. Bill and Sister Veda McCay and children, Billy, Terry, Kelly and Mike, and young Bro. Jerry McCay, son of Bro. Howard McCay, and Bro. J. L. and Sister Eunice Jared, and children, Audrey Jane, Perry, Janet, Carrol, and Dorris. We heard some good preaching from Bro. Bill McCay and Bro. J. L. Jared while they were here. Also some very fine singing by both families. We had a nice visit and invite them back soon.

We had a good turnout for our monthly singing and home made ice cream eating. Not much turnout on the cranking of the freezers though. Every one enjoyed themselves and Bro. Snoderly preached in the evening. Bellflower, Calif. church.

TOM BROADWAY, 5208 ADENMOOR AVE., LAKEWOOD, CALIF.

SICK LIST

We have a report that Bro. W. E. Daniels, Route 2, Stillwell, Okla. had entered the hospital for tests to determine his illness. Bro. Daniels is one of our most loyal and able gospel preachers. We hope and pray that he will regain his normal good health again.

Bro Harvey Bishop, New Castle, Texas has entered the hospital for a serious kidney operation. As we go to press we have received no further report on his condition, but we hope and pray for his safe recovery.

Sister Elmer Hunt, P. O. Box 311, Garden Grove, Calif. is slowly recovering and is able to attend most of the church services at La Habra, California where she worships. Sister Hunt is the wife of Bro. Elmer H. Hunt, one of our gospel preachers.

IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD

How often is this statement heard by members of the church in regard to some phase of church work? It is a favorite alibi for evasion of duty.

Well, it is true, if you lay down the yardstick and demand to see immediate and overwhelming results from every effort, you will be disappointed.

No phase of the work is revolutionary, isolated from the overall picture.

> Personal work and visitation, and even the protracted meeting may show small returns, or does not return the benefits it should.

But this does not justufy letting up or eliminating any of these efforts. When given time, and added together, the sum total is rewarding and gratifying.

It is better to act in faith and be steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord. We are responsible for labor, not results. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."

---Selected---

FAITH AND WORKS

Who can deny that faith is a very important ingredient in the recipe for Christianity? We are all familiar with the New Testament verse which proclaims, "But without faith it is impossible to please him". (Heb. II:6). There is also another verse with which we are familiar, but we seldom link the two together; "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (Jas. 2:17). When these two verses are linked together, it becomes evident that it is essentially important for us to have faith; but regardless how abundantly we abide in faith, it is worth nothing and is in vain unless it is accompanied by works. We all have faith in the fact that our auto is capable of taking us to downtown, but if we fail to drive it there our faith in its ability to carry us downtown is unfulfilled and is therefore dead and worthless, being alone. All the faith in the world will not make that car move by itself. Any faith, then, must be accompanied by action if it is to be of any benefit to anyone. God, then, has commanded us to have an active faith.

I'm afraid most of us fall short when it comes to living an active faith; at least to the extent that God would have us to. Outside interests easily interfere with our work for God and we are often easily discouraged from attending services, helping someone in need; turning the other cheek and being patient and longsuffering. Let us remember that Christ told us to take up our cross and follow Him and to love nothing or anyone more than God, or we are not worthy of him.

Our works must be the result of enthusiasm, not just because we are DUTY bound to perform them. Think of the good work we can do right now. The things that may seem unimportant are really little things that make up our entire lives and determines the courses of actions and thoughts others are to take. A good work at the right moment can save a soul or give someone a ray of hope where a moment before all to him, or her, were lost. As we live each day it is difficult to know when that time exists. We don't know, so for this reason we as Christians must be good, sincere, diligent, and loving in our work for the Lord.

These small things mean so much to others, a smile, a nod, a thank you, and arm around the shoulder, a handshake, a pat on the back for an effort given, and a tear in a time of sorrow.

BURLEIGH HUNT,
II092 Acacia Street, Garden Grove, California.

LAYING BY IN STORE

Are we to lay by in store every first day of the week? This is a question to be given a lot of study. As a Christian, it is my purpose to point out the New Testament conditions on which giving is acceptable to God.

It is a fact that we may give, and yet the gift may not be acceptable to the Lord. How important then to know how to give. Paul taught the Galatian brethren to lay by in store every first day of the week. (I Cor. 16:2). If some members refuse to give, this imposes a burden on the rest. (2 Cor. 8:13). It is a sin for a Christian to refuse to give. (2 Cor. 9:7).

Paul said he did wrong in not teaching the Corinthians to give. (2 Cor. 12:13). Why should we give? To help the poor saints obtain a place of worship. We know that we are to give as we are prospered, not a tenth, but as we feel like we should give, and we are to give cheerfully. (2 Cor. 9:7). We are to give willingly, (2 Cor. 8:12), and it must be with liberality. (Rom. 12:8). It must be from those who have first given their own selves to the Lord. (2 Cor. 8:5), because Christ was a gift to us. (John 3:16).

Paul Auslam
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I AM MONEY

Dug from the mountain side, and washed in the glen

Servant am I, or the Master of men.

Steal me, I curse you; earn me, I bless you.

Grasp me and horde me, a fiend shall possess you.

Lie for me; die for me; covet me; take me;

Angel or devil, I am what you make me.

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