GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 1963

JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY
(James 2:12-13)

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mersy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

The more we study this law, the more we see how perfectly God's word governs our liberty. There is very little it seems ever taught on this subject in the Church of Christ today; perhaps because of fear of self-condemnation. Yet James writes in Jas. I:25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Also the apostle Paul writes, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another". Gal. 5:13. Let us notice how carefully the Apostle Paul obeyed these scriptures on liberty. In I Cor. 6:12 Paul says, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." The Revised Version says, "I will not be enslaved by anything." Paul here was speaking of something which was neither commanded nor forbidden, because had it been either, it could not have been under liberty; for there is no right for anything to be left undone that is commanded, nor is there a right to do something that is forbidden. Let's notice I Cor. 8:13, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to

offend." We watch Paul make another example of this very thing in I Cor. 10:27-29 and show just how a true Christian's liberty is governed. For in verse 29 he says, "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" If then we are subject to another's conscience in all matters of things pertaining to liberty, how did Instrumental Music, the class system of teaching, and Individual Communion Cups, etc. get into practice in the Churches of Christ, when they offend thousands? The only answer there can be, is, by a violation of God's law of liberty.

In the judgment, all must answer for the deeds done in the body, 2 Cor. 5:10. "But when ye so sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ" I Cor. 8:12. Can a man sin against Christ and still be justified? If so, James 2:12 was written for nothing, as were the examples on this matter as set forth by the Apostle Paul. Today we should all endeavor to follow after Paul's instructions to the church at Corinthas folows, "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God....." I Cor. 10:32. Some may say unto us; "Well then you believe that ybu are the weak members, because you said that it offends your conscience for some to add unto the church instrumental music, Sunday Schools, individual cups, etc."? Our answer is no, we don't believe we are the weak, for our belief can be read in the New Testamnet scriptures and are thereby a command unto us, for which there is no liberty. Anything placed under liberty is subjected to being withdrawn whenever it violates another's conscience, or else a sin against Christ is involved, I Cor. 8:12. Whenever the leaders of these three main innovations in the church are asked by their own members by what authority do they worship God with instrumentsl music, Sunday Schools, or individual communion cups, their answer is, "Why we have liberty in these things." But let us listen to the Apostle Peter on this very subject. 2 Peter 2:19; "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage". Yes, how can one person promise another something which he himself does not have to give. For remember I Cor. 10:29 when Paul said, "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but

of the other." This example of course, goes out to us also, for it is God's law for us all in order to have the unity for which Christ prayed, "Father that they might all be one."

Many times within the congregations, situations arise that can be mastered and overcome, if each one realizes his or her position on liberty from God's point of view, and thereby being strong enough in the faith to give in for peace and unity. Let's remember Galations 5:13; "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." There are many arguments I would like to make here, and answer, that are made by them who will not allow themselves to be governed by God's law on this matter, but space will permit. Many times I think of the prophecy of Amos 8:11-12. I wonder if it is speaking of the present condition. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wonder from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." We see more people going to church today than ever before, yet true doctrine becomes harder and harder for people to find because of divisions and sub-divisions etc.

Yet through this all we can take heart from the word of Christ found in Matt. 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Written in love of the truth,

--Harry Wegley,

3675 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, Oregon.

NOTICE---We want to urge all loyal brethren everywhere to send us at once, before you forget it, the location of your place of worship, and the names and addresses of your leaders. We want to print this information in a church directory. Brethren have responded to our request for this kind of information very slow. Brethren, why not sit down soon as you read this, and mail this information to us soon enough so that we can print it before this summer. Brethren when traveling need a directory so they can find a true place to worship onn Lord's days. Mail to Gospel News Courier, P. O. Box 97, La Habra, California

WHO BREAKS THE LOAF?

By Paul Ferguson

There is much division among the Church of Christ as to who breaks the loaf in the communion, and for what purpose it is broken. There is to my knowledge at least three divisions. Not more than one can possibly be right.

So as to settle any Bible subject, we must go to the scriptures for proof, the standard rule, Phil. 3:16. So let us go to the records concerning the breaking of the bread (or loaf). Matt. 26:26; Mrk. 14:22; Luke 22:19; I Cor. 11:24.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me", Luke 22:19. "..... the same night in which Jesus was betrayed, took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me," I Cor. 11:23-24.

We can see from the above examples of Christ: I. He took bread, or a loaf of bread, not a plurality of loaves, neither a part of a loaf, but just simply <u>one loaf</u>. 2. He gave thanks for the bread. 3. He brake it. The scriptures do not say he broke off a piece and ate; neither does it say he broke it into twelve pieces, or enough for all the assembly. It did not say that he broke the loaf into <u>just</u> two pieces, or near the middle, nor in halves, or equal parts, but he just used the "<u>general term</u>", the word "brake." Webster's definition: Break, in general, which means to separate into parts of fragments by concussion or stress, seperate violenly. Then according to the general term, when we break the bread(or loaf) and it fall into two or more pieces, it is broken. If I say it <u>must</u> be broken into just only two pieces, I then specify where the Lord has not, or if I say the one that serves at the table must break off his piece and eat, and that each one in the assembly <u>must</u> break off his part to eat, or the one that serves at the table, must break for all that partakes, so that they may get their part, we change the term used, which is general, <u>the word</u> "<u>break</u>" to some specific term or way which the Lord has not specified, then we violate the command, "break." Then after Jesus took, gave thanks, and brake the loaf, then he gave the broken loaf

to his disciples, saying, it was his body. This shows beyond a doubt that the breaking of the loaf was for the purpose to qualify it to signify his physical body, which was to be broken, or given, or which shall be given up, on the cross.

Yes, but says one; "Jesus said 'this do ye'. Do what? Do what I have done," I must say that is exactly right. Now since "this do" means to do what Jesus did; what did Jesus do? Answer; I. Jesus took one loaf of bread, next, he gave thanks, then broke the loaf, and gave to them. Notice, Jesus did all the breaking mentioned in the example. I believe that to follow Jesus example, this is to be pefformed by the one that serves at the table.

Now let us try and see if this can be carried out as an individual act. Ist. Jesus took one whole loaf. Must each and every member in the audience take a loaf, not a part of a loaf? That would involve individual loaves. Also Jesus took one cup; so each one then must have each a cup, and that would involve individual cups. So, we can see clearly this can not be done as an individual act. But you will notice that "this do ye", or do what Christ did, can be followed as a congregational Act performed by the one that serves at the table.

Now let us try and see: Ist. Jesus took one whole loaf. "The servant at the table" takes one whole loaf. 2nd. Jesus gave thanks audibly for the bread. "The servant at the table" gives thanks audibly for the bread. 3rd. Jesus brake the loaf. "The servant at the table breaks the loaf." 4th. Jesus gave the broken loaf to the disciples. "The servant at the table " gives the broken loaf to the disciples. Now why can't we see that this is the only possible way we can obey this command "THIS DO YE?" It is by the one that serves at the table which shows that the giving of thanks, and the breaking of the loaf, is for the purpose to qualify the loaf to signify Christ's body, and not for the purpose to get our part to eat. But says one; "How does one get his part?" Answer; The command to "TAKE", eat. The word TAKE is also used in a general sense, or terms, not stating exactly how one must get their part, and whatever is necessary to get our part, is implied in the word

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(Continued from page 5)

"TAKE". It may be necessary for one to break a piece from the broken loaf, and most of the time it is.

Let's notice for example, how the words "take", "took" is used. God took a rib from Adam to make Eve, Gen. 2:2I. It was necessary for God to seperate the rib from the rest of the body of Adam. Then we can clearly see whatever was necessary to take the rib was implied in the word "TAKE".

Another example, Exodus I2:3. They were told to "take" a lamb for the Passover. We notice several things may be implied here. May be necessary to run the lamb into a pen to lay hold of it etc. Bur whatever was necessary to take that lamb was implied in the word "take." Notice in Gen. 3:22; lest Adam and Eve "take" also of the tree of life. Some times it is necessary to climb up a ladder in order to take the fruit etc.

The word "take" in Acts 27:33 means to eat food, so then we can not restrict definition of the word "take" to just grasp, or to take hold of; it depends on the context in which it is used. So then, we can see if we break off a piece from the parts of the broken loaf, or whether we pick up a piece that was already broken, the desired size to eat, we would be in the rim of the command to "take." But says one, "If break the bread in the middle, or near the middle, (into two large pieces) and give it to some one that saw you break it, and say to them, 'this do', see if he can do what you did. Can he? Ten thousands times no! You can only break anything that way once." Now then, I must say amen to that, for that is right; and also proves that the breaking of the loaf IS NOT, IS NOT an act to be performed by each one in the assembly. And you who contend that it is an individual act, as you practice, the one at the table, he, after he gives thanks, he breaks off a piece of bread from a whole loaf, then you tell some one else to do what

you have done, and they cannot, cannot. Why? Because you gave him a part of a loaf, see, not a whole loaf. Yes, says one, "But we break the bread", and I agree that you do! Yes some people baptize to, but for the wrong purpose. Some baptize because they are already saved, when the right purpose is for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38. Likewise, you break to get your part, but the right purpose to qualify the loaf to signify his body, is done only by the one that serves at the table.

6392 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, California.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: This is a report of the progress and growth of the cause of Christ in this area in 1962. The location of the churches in this area are; Yuma, at 1st. and 16th. Ave., Somerton, at 4th. Ave., and Spring Str., Tacna, on Highway 80, fifty miles east of Yuma. Through the untireing efforts of the preaching brethren and the co-operation of the membership, a church was established at Tacna, Arizona. There has been fifteen additions and two restored in this area. Bro. K. M. Baldwin preached at Somerton last Lord's day; Bro. Harry Dye preached at Lakeside, California; Bro. Jack Morris at Yuma, and Bro. Harry Davis at Tacna where there is a meeting in progress at this writing. Find enclosed, a check for the paper from the church at Somerton.

Yours in Christ,

W. A. Nelson, Rt. I, Box 14-BM, Somerton, Arizona.

YUMA, ARIZONA, 828 Oak dr.,-We hope this finds all the brotherhood at peace. Our news is all very good this month. Sister Myrtle Staggs was at church last Lord's day and seems to be doing good after undergoing surgery. Sister Maggie Reese was also with us after a long absence. We are looking forward to the gospel meeting at Tacna which starts Jan 6th. and running thru Jan 13th. Somerton and Yuma are both planning to assist them in whatever way they can. We all enjoyed the visit of Bro. and Sister Earl Broadway and his fine lessons. The church is sending a check, so is Bro. Byrd our youngest brother in the faith and one from my family. We enjoy the paper and we are thankful for your labors.

Yours in Christ, --Harry Dye.

ROUTE I, BOX I9, AZTEC, N. MEX., Jan. 8, I963--- Dear Bro. Snoderly:-- Will write you today. I slipped on the ice and fell yesterday. I had X-rays but there were no broken bones, although I did have a bruised lung. I hope the doctor will release me soon as I have lots of work. We have had some snow here and it looks like it may snow more any moment.

We had the pleasure of having Ernest Greenway of the U. S. Navy who is stationed at San Diego with us the I6th. through the I9th. of December. He talked here on the second death Lord's day evening. His lesson was very good. On the 20th. of December my wife and I took our granddaughter, Sue to San Diego, Calif. She and Duane Bixler were married on the 22nd. of December. Duane left for overseas on the 3rd. of January and Sue returned home to finish school. While in California we had the pleasure of meeting with Bro. and Sister J. D. Johnson and family of Lakeside, California during the Christmas holidays. We left Christmas evening for home, stopping in Somerton, Arizona and visited with Bro. and Sister Allen Nelson. Gene Noyes, one of our young men who took care of the services while we were gone said he had the pleasure of some help, as Bro. and Sister Rex Mickey from Cave Junction, Oregon visited here and Bro. Mickey helped him out. The following Lord's day the Mickeys' met with us again. I hope that some day we will be able to visit the true churches in different states.

Bro. Richard Thomason, stationed in Alameda, California with the Navy, and also Clarence Owens, stationed in Newfoundland are home on leave. Bro. Thaoason helped in the evening church services Sunday. Donald Hensley, a very steady attender was also at churchLord's day. We are very rpoud of our boys. Bro. and Sister K. M. Baldwin from Brawley, California, spent the night with us on the 2nd. of January. We sure enjoyed their visit, and Bro. Baldwin aure gave us a good lesson on the 4th. chapter of Hebrews Wednesday night. They had been visiting in Delta, Colorado, and told us they plan on returning to Delta some time in the spring. Bro. and Sister Marvin Noyes from Cortez, Colo. met with us on the 30 of December. Sister Loraine Chadwick has moved back from Norwood, Colo. She is in very poor health, but is glad to be able to go to church again. We had a letter from Sister Willis wanting us to visit them at Carlsbad, N. Mex. Am sending a support from the church here to the Courier, ---Your Brother in Christ, -- C. Roy Dabbs.

CARLSBAD, N. MEX.,--I received the Gospel News Courier and read it with the usual interest. I enjoyed hearing from the members who sent news items. The church here is carrying on the same as always, trying to hold fast "that which ye already have" as Jesus told the church at Thyatira in Revelation 2:25. My brother, W. E. Daniels, and wife Mary, came by last week on their way to Phoenix Arizona where they expect to spend some two or three months with their son Evan Daniels. I surely enjoyed their visit. Enclosed is a small contribution to the Courier. --- Sister Laura Willis.

BROKEN BOW, OKLA.---I received the Gospel News Courier, and also the tracts and enjoyed reading them. Bro. and Sister Studer of Lorenzo, Texas, and Sister Pansie Keele, of Plainview, Texas came Dec. 6. Bro. Studer preached for us Lord's day morning and night. We were sure glad to have them with us. The church here is about the same. Enclsoed is $5.00 to help with the paper. -- A sister in Christ, Mrs. R. C. Clements.

ROLL, ARIZONA. Dear Bro. Snoderly: Just a few lines to let you know we are just fine here in Tacna. We have one new member since we wrote the last time. Wilce Marvin Boling was baptized by Bro. Harry Dye of Yuma. Bro. Jack Morris and Bro. Harry Dye are coming out to hold a meeting, beginning January 6 through the 13. Last week we had a visit from Bro and Sister Earl Broadway of Lakewood, California. We enjoyed their visit very much. We are enclosing a check for the paper from the church here at Tacna. We just received the paper and enjoyed it very much. Yours in Christ, Melvin Lytle.

LAKESIDE, CALIF. -- Sorry I haven't written sooner. Please send only four copies of the Gospel News Courier, because there are only a small group of us. We are sending a few dollors to help out with the Courier from the church here at Lakeside. We had the pleasure of meeting Bro. and Sister Roy Dabbs from Aztec, N. Mex. and they are wonderful people. They brought their grandaughter Sue Kilgore to the coast with them. Sue and Duane Bixler

were married on December 22nd. Sue and Duane are both members of the church. We meet here in our home and if anyone is in this vicinity or San Diego and can't find our address, please 443-6730 and we will direct them to our home. We meet every first day of the week at 10:30 A. M. Any one passing this way are welcome. Yours in Christ,

J. D. Johnson.

LORENZO, TEXAS. Jan. 1, 1963.--Dear Bro. Snoderly:and all the faithful: It's a new year today and I guess I had better resolve to do some writing. We hope everyone is well and will have a good year this year. Our brethren and sisters are all well here in Abilene, in Munday and Seymour except our son-inlaw in Seymour. He had a bad accident in first part of December. He was crushed between two cars. He was out of the hospital for a while, but complications have set in and he is back in the hospital again. We do do not know how long he will be there. If anyone cares to write him, his address is Toodler Goodwin, Box 130, Seymour, Texas. We made a trip to Broken Bow, Okla. and spent the night with Bro. and Sister Curtis Teague Dec. 5. They said they could not sponsor a fifth Sunday meeting this coming June. We sure would be glad if someone would, but if we can't find anyone who will, we will try it again. California Creek were undecided the last time we heard from them, they were doubting if they could. There are so few of them. Our children, the Jimmie Loftis' have moved to Floydada, about 30 miles from here, but they come here for church every Sunday, and it does not seem so far. We met with the Broken Bow, Okla. church Sunday Dec. 9. Howard gave the lesson both morning and night. They all wanted us to come down after January 1st. and stay awhile. We don't know whether we can go or not as our doctor and drug bill is so much and our health is not so good, we just don't know what we are going to be able to do. The church there needs help as most little churches do, but they are going along as best they can. I have just called Sister Scott and she said she had not written you. She seems to be doing fine.

With much Christian love, The Howard Studer's, P. O. Box 718, Lorenzo, Texas.

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sermon

Some people think a thirty minute/too long, so they substitute a six hundred column newspaper.

ATTENTION -- ALL WHO MAY BE CONCERNED:- I have been asked by several leading brethren to help make arrangements for a meeting place this summer similar to the fifth Sunday meeting held at Lorenzo, Texas last year. So far, the only church that has consented to such a meeting, is the church at Delta, Colorado. They have shown great interest for [illegible] such a gathering in a letter published herein below. --Editor.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - We enjoyed the paper very much. It's wonderful to read the news of other churches and about the brethren in other places. We are happy to have Bro. and Sister Ron Herbert and baby daughter back with us after their short stay at Tucson, Arizona. They have opened a music store in Delta, and will be with us to s stay. Ron and Janice were recently baptized into Christ, and Bro. Ron is helping in the services which we appreciate very much as we are so few in number. Bro. and Sister Kenneth Baldwin were with us during the holidays. We were glad to have them back with us for two Lord's days. Bro. Kenneth gave us a good lesson each Lord's day they were here which we enjoyed very much. The last Lord's day afternoon they were here we went to Grand Junction to call on some members there that had been going to church in Grand Junction, but the church went cups and Sunday School. Bro. and Sister Hill refused to go and meet with them after they made the change, so they were happy we called on them. Maybe they will be able to meet with us if the weather permits. Grand Junction is 40 miles from Delta. While Bro. Kenneth was here we got an estimate on material for a church building here, as we don't have one and need one so badly. We have all been here five years and own our property, and have decided to build. I will donate the land to build on, and we will do the building ourselves. With what money we have in the treasury, we will need $1000.00 for to construct the building. This amount we can borrow. We plan to start building in the spring so we can have it ready for August. We would like to have a meeting here in Colorado like the fifth Sunday meeting held in Lorenzo, Texas last year, but to run for at least one week and possibly of two weeks duration. By holding such a meeting here it would be centrally located and more could attend. We have good fishing, sight-seeing, or just relaxing. We have plenty camping facilities for anyone wanting to camp, or cabins can be arranged for those wanting cabins. The members here can accommodate quite a few. Around the first week in August would be a real good time here, and everyone could plan their vacation for that time, and we could all be together. We would enjoy this very much. Brethren everywhere, let us know what you think of this plan.

Yours in Christ, James E. Wilkerson, Rt. I, Cedaredge, Colorado.

Brethren, if you are interested in such a meeting let Bro. Wilkerson know soon. We will inform you of further arrangements and dates when we learn them, or write to me Roy L. Snoderly, P. O. Box 97, La Habra, Calif. - Editor.

SPRINGFIELD, COLO., Rt. I, Box 6.--Dear Bro. Snoderly: Iv'e just received copies of the EVANGELIST and of the

PEACEMAKER, published by J. S. L. Morse, and I found two of my articles in the Peacemaker. I sent him these articles when he was publishing the paper, "Thus Saith The Lord", when I thought we were in fellowship with each other. But in the last few months he seems to be fellowshipping some very unscriptural practices and brethren. Therefore I don't want the brotherhood to get the idea that I am in agreement with him in his position. I have asked him to refrian from publishing any of my articles in the future. Yours in the Strait and narrow Way,

J. H. Lackey.

Thank you Bro. Lackey, and may I say that I and all here on the West Coast that I have talked to are with you all the way on this matter.. We were unable tp print all letters received this month for lack of space. Look for them next month. --Editor.

BELLFLOWER, CALIF. - Bro. Roy, the church here is doing very well. We are trying to get a preacher for our meeting this summer. We have asked Bro. J. D. Logan of Modesto, Calif., but haven't heard from him yet. We have had visitors with us this past month whom we were glad to have with us. We enjoyed their company and fellowship. Sister Davis, grandmother to us, whom we had not seen for some time, and Bro. Buddy Davis and family of Somerton, Ariz., Bruce Dearmore and family of Bakersfield, Calif., and Bro. Charles Davis of Somerton, Bro. and Sister Bert Weakley, Sister Jewell Cadwell of Modesto, Calif., Also Sister Long of Somerton, Who is still with us. Bro. Tibbs from Bryte, Calif. congregation has moved here and we are glad to have him with us. Many from the La Habra church have been with us at times. December 16 we had preaching and singing which was made a success by good attendance.

--Claude Perigen.

LA HABRA, CALIF. NEWS: - Bro. Paul Ferguson underwent corrective eye surgery January 15 and is now back home from the hospital and doing fine. His eyes are very much improved. Bro. and Sister Dayton Clouse spent Christmas with her aged and ailing father, Bro. Conder of Modesto. Bro. Clause returned home shortly, but she remained to help take care of her father for a while. Sister Juanita Nelson in a letter to Sister Hunt of Garden Grove, said that Sister Ethel Bedingfield is now confined to a convalesent hospital, but can be up in a wheel chair. Also she said it would help brighten Sister Bedingfield's days in the hospital if members and friends would write her. Her address is, Ethel Bedingfield, Sacramento Convalesent Hospital, Room 7, 3700 H. Str., Sacramento, Calif. She is the wife of the late J. S. Bedingfield, who was one of our able and well known gospel preachers. Bro. and Sister Lee Roy Brown, of Ceres, Calif. on their return trip back home from Texas, worshipped with us on Jan. 6, and Bro. F. H. Logan of Modesto met with us on Jan. 13, and preached for us at the morning service, on Lord's day Jan. 20. We were glad to have them with us and welcome them back any time.