GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, MAY 1963

THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Brethren, we hope you keep in mind the two fifth Sunday meetings as announced in the last two issues of the Gospel News Courier, and make your plans to attend. You will enjoy the fine fellowship and the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and form new ones.

Bro. W. H. Francis, evengelist of Mangum, Oklahoma, will do the preaching in the meeting at La Habra, He will do the preaching June 21 though 27. Then on Friday night June 28 we will begin week-end services with a guest speaker for that service and a different guest speaker for each of the services following. There will be three services on Saturday, 10.30, 2.30 and 7.30, and Lord's day 10.30, 2.30 and 7.30. Lunch will be served Saturday and Sunday both at noon and evening.

You preachers please write us in time so we can put your name on the published program. Come and bring your friends and be sure to write us of your plans.

As announced in the last issue, the date for the camp meeting at Delta, Colorado is August 4 through 18, which allows for three week-end services. No certain preacher has been chosen for this meeting, but the preaching will be done by many capable preachers of the brotherhood who will be in attendance.

The Delta brethren are trying to build a house of worship and are planning to have it ready for the meeting. We suggest that all who can, send them a donation to help finance the building.

Make your plans to attend these two meetings, and let's make these efforts of co-operation a success and edifying and building us up in the "most holy faith, stimulating and encouraging us to greater efforts in our work of spreading the truth as it is in Christ for the salvation of the lost. Write Bro. James E. Wilkerson, Rt. I, Cedaredge, Colorado of your plans to attend the Delta meeting.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - Hope this finds all well there at La Habra. We heard Bro. Paul Ferguson at Bellflower one Lord's day while we were in California. Also got to see Bro. and Sister Clouse again. Sorry we didn't get to come on over to La Habra. We enjoyed worshipping with Bro. Lowery and the brethren at Bryte, California. We were there three months. We met in Bro. Lowery's home but he plans to rent a place in the spring. We had a nice visit with the brethren at Somerton and Yuma, Arizona. We had gone to church at Yuma during the winter of I960-6I. The church here is about the same. Sister Denny is going to Fairbanks, Alaska for an extended visit with her son. She will be gone for 6 or 7 months. Bro. Claude Perigen will do the preaching for us in a meeting to be announced later. I hope and pray that the brethren will get togethre on the divorce question before it causes division in the body of Christ. They can't all be right. Inclosed is $I5.00. I enclose a list of names to whom please send the Courier. We enjoy the paper very much. I get my copy at church here.

In Christian love, - CLYDE L. COUCHMAN. 556 East 8th, Springfield, Colorado. March 3, I963.

Thanks Bro. Couchman for the list of names. Glad to get Them. We have put them on the mailing list. Thanks also for the donation.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - Since last report we have both good news and sad news. We lost Bro. O. A. Lanningham. But we feel that the life he lived while here with us, is our loss and the Lord's gain. We have had several visiting brethren. Bro. Tom Bfoadway and family from California. Bro. W. E. Daniels filled his rehular appointment the fourth LOrd's Day. Bro. Brown and family from Stillwell, Oklahoma was with us today, April 7th. He brought us a real good lesson. The church here moves along nicely here except whooping cough. Inclosed you will find $I0.00. Please renew our subscription of ten copies of the paper. Glad to see it growing like it is We enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work. -Yours in Christ Rt. I, Huntsville, Ark. From the Bohannan Church of Christ

By GEORGE VENDERPOOL.

Dear Bro. in Christ: - Received the Gospel News Courier yesterday and read it every word before I laid it down, and as always, enjoyed it, especially the writings of Bro. Dye and Bro. Jernigan and others. Thanks for printing my letter. I pray everyone are well out that way. May the Lord bless the

(Turn to bottom of page 6)

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The above question is a very important question, and should be seriously considered by everyone. This question is being asked by many. It was asked by many in apostolic times. But if we ask people today what they must do to be saved, we get many different and conflicting answers, such as "praying through", and come to the "mourners bench and we will pray for you", and numbers of other answers. But none of these can be found in God's holy word. Some would tell us to "believe on Jesus and you are saved". Others would tell us "why you are saved by grace alone and there is nothing you can do about it". Then since man is disagreed on the question and points out different ways, it would be wise for us to search God's word.

Since the apostles were asked the same quesrion, surely they gave the correct answer. Man has many ways. How many ways does God have? For that answer, we turn to Jer: 32:39, ".....and I will give them one heart and one way; that they may fear me forever, for the good of them and their children after them." We then read in Eph. 4:4-5 that there is "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism." But among men we find many faiths. Since God has only one way, one faith, and the apostles were inspired of God, they therefore were guided into all truth by the spirit of truth. (John I6"I3). Their answer then, to our question; "What must I do to be saved?", would be sound and acceptable with God. In Acts 2"37 the question was asked the apostles, "what shall we do"? Verse 38, "Then said Peter unto them 'Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Remember Peter was guided into all truth by the spirit of truth, (John I6:I3). And Peter didn't stutter when he told them that baptism was for the remission of sins. It might be wise if we remember that Peter had the authority ti bind on earth. (Matt. I6:I9). When Peter told the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38, he bound it on earth, and every person is responsible to obey that command in order to receive remission of sins. We find Peter again preaching to the household of Cornelious Acts I0, but in verse 48 he commanded the to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

We have now found two instances where baptism was commanded by a man that was guided into all truth by the Spirit of truth John I6:I3. Do you think you could be saved without obeying a command? (Continued on page 4)

In John 3:5 Jesus told Nicodemus; "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, EXCEPT a man be born of WATER and of the SPIRIT, he CANNOT enter into the kingdom of God." (Emphasis mine) I am sure all would agree with me that we must be in a saved condition to enter the kingdom of God. And since we must be born of water and of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God, it stands thus: in being born of water and of the Spirit, we come into a saved condition; "Seeing ye have PURIFIED your souls in OBEYING the truth." (Emphasis mine). If we have pure souls, we are in a saved condition, and if in a saved condition, we can enter the kingdom of God; but we had to be born of water and of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God.

It stands thus: that in being born of water and of the Spirit, we are OBEYING the truth. Again, in Mark I6:I5-I6, Jesus gave the commission saying; "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shallbe damned." Lt's notice: The promise of salvation is to the believer that is baptized. Salvation is AFTER baptism, not before. Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, Matt. 3:I5. God's commandments is righteousness, Psalms II9: I72. It stands thus: Jesus was baptized to fulfill all God's commandments.

Question. DO you think God will let us off for less than he did his Son? Remember, Acts 2:38 is a command. Acts I0:48 is a command and Peter bound them on us, Matt. I6:I9. Matt. 28:i9-20; "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Emphasis mine). That commission stands until the end of the world. Who were to be baptized? Those who had been taught, Matt. 28:I9; the believer, Mark I6:I5-I6. What for? The remission of sins, Acts 2:38. John 8:24 Jesus says; "If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. Believing is faith. But faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom. I0:I7; and without faith it is impossible to please God, Heb. II:6. Then we MUST BELIEVE God to PLEASE God. If we believe God we will believe Acts 2:38 and we will believe Mark I6:I6.

Jesus says in Matt. I0:32; "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven; Luke I3:3". "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."

Now from what we have learned; what must I do to be saved? Answer: I must believe; I must repent; I must confess Christ before men, then be baptized for the remission of sins. Now

folks, isn't that simple? If you haven't already done so, then I beg you to do so at your next opportunity.

Now for a few more thoughts. Matt. 7:21; "Not every one that saitg unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Now we have learned that we must do the will of the Father to enter heaven, the kingdom of God. But Jesus said in John 3:5, EXCEPT a man is born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God. It stands thus: It is the will of the Father that we be born of the Spirit. In doing the will of the Father we are born of WATER and of the SPIRIT.

Then to believe, repent, confess Christ before men and be baptized for the remission of sins, we are born of water and of the Spirit. One other thought. Acts 4:12, Peter declares salvation to be in Christ; but Gal. 3:27 says , "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." Question: Would you expect to be saved if you were not where salvation is? Salvation is in Christ, Acts 4:12, and baptism puts us in Christ where salvation is.

Now folks, if the above doesn't answer the question; "What MUST I do to be saved?", please give me book chapter and verse that does. ----Written in love of the truth.

W. E. DANIELS

Route 2, Stillwell, Oklahoma.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: I'm writting you in regards to the Courier. I like it fine. I don't know how my name got out your way, but my guess is that one J. H. Lackey did this to me. Well I havn't been in Colorado for about 2 years. I'm well acquainted with the Lackeys and also thw Couchmans and Noyes. They are all fine people. I'm sure they are devout Christians. I only wish I could meet with them regular. I don't have any place to meet. The nearest is Little Rock and they have individual cups. The Scriptures teach the use of one cup for an assembly, therefore I cannot conscientiously worship with them. The Lord Jesus says as oft as we do this, we do show the Lord's death, and the scripture also teaches that whatsoever we do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. We are also taught in the scriptures that if we love our neighbor as our self, we do well. James syas he that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, it is sin. Some people prefer otherwise; it's much cheaper in dollars and cents. Well, preaching the gospel and living it is two different things. Like when one sees some one in need then

G O S P E L N E W S C O U R I E R
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pass them up saying, "I'm so sorry, I do hope that you get better." After all is said, nothing is done. The one who is in need is no better off. My way of offering to help, is "May I help you? Maybe I can't do very much but at least I could offer to help. That old stuff, "I'm sorry, I hope that you get better" just don't relieve suffering and pain an need. My motto is "do unto others as you would like for them to do." Love worjeth no ill. My only income is $48.30 per month Social Security and that don't go very far.

I live alone and my health is bad. I suffer a lot with sugar Diabetes and kidney stones. Have had some surgey for the kidney stones. I manage to do a little work about my home even though I do not at all feel like working any. I get very little sleep and rest. Weather here is bad with a lot of rain.

Some one spoke of the breaking of the bread. I say that the one who waits on the table should brake the loaf into before passing it around. I quit meeting at a place when I saw the one who waited on the table, pinch off a portion and partook before passing it around and the others pinched off a portion from the side and partook. I didn't think that is the scriptural way, so I quit meeting with them. So far as I know there isn't any place near here where there is a true congregation to meet with. I think it is nice that others have a place to meet for worship with a true church. Well I will hush, so bye for now. -Your brother in Christ.

JAMES A. STARK.

Route 7, Higginson, Arkansas.

(Continued from page 2)
true Christians everywhere. If it is our Lord's will, I plan to leave Hamilton the first of April for a six weeks trip to Arizona. I also hope to visit the brethren in California and surely I hope to visit you at La Habra. Of course if I can, I want to help in singing or preaching, or anything for our Lord. I hope to be like Abraham and work for the Lord or whereever my limiited ability will permit. Of course on a trip of 2100 miles anything can happen, therefore if you can, send me the addresses of some of the brethren along the way just in case. I will be indebted to you and will appreciate

it very much. We are starting with limited finances. My daughter and her husband are coming with me. I have young brethren to take care of the church here while I am gone. Of course, I will be visiting my son Jack in Yuma, and will be working with him and Bro. Dye, and I hope, Bro. Nelson. So if you have this information about the true churches along the way, please forward it to me before April Ist. We will be coming through Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico and of course Indiana. Please pray for us that if it be the Lord's will, we may have a safe journey.--Yours in Christian love and prayers,

HAYSE MORRIS.

3250 Buell Road, Hamilton, Ohio. March I4, I963.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - It has been some time since I have written to you and the paper. I will ask you and all to forgive me for my neglect in writing, but I work hard from early to late to try to make a living and am tired out when I get home. My health has not been too good for the past five years and that also helps to hinder me. The churches here are as usual. We still keep house for ghe Master, and try to work out our own salvation as commanded, Phil. 2"II-I2. If any one wants me this year to hold some meetings, let me know, I will do my best. As for the fifth Sunday meeting out there, I would like to be there and may come out anyway. I can not say for sure as yet, for the finance is hard to get. But if I can't be there, I want you all to have a good meeting and do lots of good, then I can rejoice with you all over your good work. ---Your bro. in Christ,

LOYD TREAT

Gen. Del., Broken Bow, Oklahoma. April 9, I963.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - Just a short note to say the church at Cave Junction is moving along about as usual. Bro. Buckner and family is still able to meet with us. Bro. Estle Buckner is on the sick list and is in the Hospital at Cahes writing. Bro. Goddard is meeting with us again and brought a visitor last Lord's day. We enjoy reading all the news and articles in the Courier. Am glad to see the listings of the fifth Sunday meetings. We bope to attend our first one this summer, Lord willing.

From the Church of Christ, Cave Junction, Oregon.

By HARRY WEGLEY, 3675 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, Ore.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - I am sending some church information for the church directory. Our building, the

Pleasant View Church of Christ is located one mile Southeast of Stillwell, Oklahoma on Highway 51. Our Lord's day services are at 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. We are well blessed with leaders. We have our names written on the board and we each take our turn. Some of our members have been sick, Bro. Bill Bowles and Bro. Ira Brown are unable to attend services most of the time. The Bill Campbell family of our congregation lost a 3 months old grandchild last week with Pneumonia. Bro. Jim Brown preached the funeral sermon. We had the outside of the church house painted this week and plan to paint the inside soon.

I am enclosing a contribution from the church to help on the paper. I have heard no complaining about the paper. Everyone seems to think you are doing a wonderful job.

--A brother in Christ, SAMMY BOEN
3315 North 49th., Fort Smith, Arkansas. March 19, 1963.

Dear Bro. Roy: - Received the Courier and enjoyed it very much. Please send only 4 copies as there are only a few of us meeting in our home at 3637 W. Ruth. Our phone number is 939-2901 and we want all who possibly can to meet here with us. Bro. and Sister Allen Nelson from Somerton, and Bro. and Sister Kenneth Baldwin from Brawley, California meet with us March 17. Bro. Nelson gave us a good lesson. Sister Davis and Sister Edwards from Yuma met with us the 24 of March while visiting their children and grandchildren here in Phoenix.

My mother and Dad and niece Sue Bixler from Aztec, New Mexico were with us Lord's day March 31, also Bro. Harry Dye from Yuma and Bro. Marion Boling from Tacna, Arizona. Bro. Dye preached a fine sermon. Was our first time to meet Bro. Dye and Bro. Boling. My grandmother, Mrs. Armesa Smith was with us about 6 weeks this spring. We sure enjoyed her stay with us. She returned to Aztec with my Dad and niece. Roy Thompson, my sister's step son who had been with us a while, went home with Dad also. We received word about my nephew Duane Bixler and Sonny Greenway who are over seas. While they were in the Philippines, they tried to find the Jareds. After they gave up finding them, Sister Jared and the children came to the ship. They were so happy to see them. Said it made them feel like they were home. They did not get to see Bro. Jared as he was on a mission.

I am sending a donation to help the Courier.
In the name of our Lord, BRO. & SISTER DONALD DABBS.
3637 West Ruth, Phoenix, Arizona.

Please nitify the Courier when you change your mailing address. It would save us time and money if you do so.

LA HABRA, CALIF. NEWS - Attendance has been about as usual during the past month except for some illness among some of the members, but all are now able to attend the church services again. Bro. F. H. Logan of the Modesto congregation has been visiting his sister in La Habra the past month and also meeting with us. He preached two fine and edifying sermons for us two Lord's days at the morning worship services which we appreciated very much.

We have received word that Bro. Kenneth E. Brown of the Modesto church is now in the Air Force. His mailing address is, A/3C Kenneth E. Brown, A. F. I9732430, Box B-4888 C. M. R. #2, Sheppard A. F. B., Wichita Falls, Texas. Bro. Roy Snoderly filled a preaching appointment at Bellflower, Lord's day morning April I4. Bro. and Sister Paul Ferguson since selling their home in Buena Park, have bought a home in La Habra. Correspondents please make note of their new mailing address which is as follows, 522 East 2nd. Ave., La Habra, California. Their phone number is 69 - I6892. We are looking forward with great anticipation to our 5th. Sunday meeting in June, which is announced elsewhere in this issue. Our young brethren, and who are also young in the faith, are taking an active part in public services of the church, which is encouraging to us all, and is much appreciated. Sister Roxie Adams and her daughter and family recently visited relatives in the central part of the state.

Dear Bro. Snoderly: - I received the Gospel News Courier and enjoyed reading it as I always do. I wonder why none of the brethren write more against innovations. I think they are enemies of the cause of Christ. Paul said "fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." I don't think we should lay our armour down and give them the victory. They need to be shown up, in order that our young members may see that their teaching is false.

We were made happy yesterday by having Bro. and Sister Berkstresser, and their daughter, Sister Birth and children, all of Midland, Texas with us for worship. They come over every once in a while, and we are always glad to have them. Enclosed is my little mite to help with the paper. --Sincerely a Sister in Christ,

MRS. LAURA E. WILLIS.

205½ S. Olive, Carlsbad, N. Mexico. April I5, I963.

NO USE talking to the Lord if you ARE NOT SPEAKING TO YOUR NEIGHBOR.

MARRIED TO THE LORD.

We find written in Jer. 3:14, "Turm, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you." When we become children of God by obeying his commands, we become married to him. Then, the only thing that can seperate us from God, is failing to live faithful until death, Rev. 2:10. Sin causes us to become unfaithful, I John 3:4. If we become unfaithful we are to stop sinning and repent of our sins, Luke 13:3; then we are to ask God to forgive us, I Jno. 2:1-2. We are still married to God if we keep his commandments, I John 5:3. Jesus tells us in John 8:51, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my sayings he shall never see death!" Our faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom. 10:17. To do anything that is unlawful as condemned in the word of God is a sin; and sin seperates us from God, I John 3:4. There are things some have in their worship, if God's sayings don't say to do, we had better leave off, Rev. 22:18-19. We better not add to the sayings of the Lord, for we are married to him, and we must be faithful unto death.

The churches in Broken Bow at Idabel and 3rd. street, and at the Morgan Rest Home are doing as well as could be expected. ---Yours in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ,

WILLIE DOAN.

Rt. 2, Box 129, Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

"THE MORE EARNEST HEED."

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed, (to what?), to the things we have heard, (Why?), lest we let them slip", (Or forget). "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." (Heb. 2:1-3).

This is a serious matter and is worthy of serious consideration, because Paul said to keep in memory the things preached "lest we have believed in vain". I (I Cor. 15:1-4). Jesus said; "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9). Also in verse 10 he admonished them to "Hear and understand",. A hearer of the word is not pleasing to the Lord unless he is a doer. (James 1:22-23). He can't do the word by saying Lord, Lord, only. Jesus said; "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." "Many will

say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" (Matt. 7:2I-23). But he will say, "depart, I never knew you." Why? Because they were not doers of the word, just hearers only. (Jas. I:22). They had forgotten what manner of persons they were. (Verses 23-24). So let us not forget that we are Christians, Acts II:26. That we are children of God, Gal. 3:27. That we have something to do, Rom. I2:I-2; and that we are to lay aside the weight of sins that so easily besets us, Hebrews I2:I-3, and look to Jesus the author (beginner) and finisher of our faith; for we walk by faith, not by sight, 2 Cor. 5:7; and faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rom. I0:I7. But our faith is vain unless we keep in memory what has been preached unto us, I Cor. I5:4; and be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, I Cor. I5:58, "for ye know our labor is not in vain in the Lord."

In love of the truth and the brethren. Your brother in Christ,

LOYD TREAT.

Gen. Del., Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

THE SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

John 3:5.

By J. C. Spurlin

In considering this thought we must take into account various scriptures, dealing with the subject. Then too; we must use some down to earth common sense, in order that we may come to a full understanding of this all important subject. Scripture wise we must go to 2nd. Peter I:20, quote "Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation". Unquote. That passage of scripture could mean but one thing, that is; one passage of scripture will interpret anorher, and thereby help us to understand another passage. Therefore; there is no one passage that stands allone. Then the evidence from two or more passages is necessary for us to arrive at the full meaning of the scripture.

That is no doubdt what is meant in Matthew I8:I6. In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established. Also 2nd. Corinthians I3:I.

True enough God always means just what he says, but it is not every time we hear God Speak that we are able to get the full meaning of what is said. Therefore Peter's language as above should serve somewhat as a key, to unlock, or unfold the scriptures; to illustrate, in John 3:5 Jesus said, "Except a man be born of water, and of

the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God". No man can take this scripture alone (separate and apart from other scriptures) and ptove that water here means baptism, neither can one take this scripture, alone, and prove that water here does not mean baptism, but, here is what we can do. We can take it in collaboration with other scriptures, (as Peter has advised), and learn just what it does mean. Thus we find the Christ in John 3:3-5 laying the foundation, or the ground work for the Spiritual Birth. But Nicodemus though great perplexity could think of nothing but the natural birth. Whereas the Lord in comparison (parable) and with figurative speech introduces the Spiritual Birth. So, by taking Peter's advice, and making use of some common sense, we are ready to learn the composition of the Spiritual Birth.

In considering the natural birth, every man, and woman knows there must be a begetting, before there can be a birth. In other words, under the natural law of propagation the begetting act is the first step for a natural birth. Likewise under the Spiritual law of propagation there must of necessity be a begetting before there can be a Spiritual birth. Then too we know that the natural law provides for a deliverance, as the last, and consumating act of the natural birth. So; also does the Spiritual law provide there shall be a deliverance. Shall we illustrate? Wife and I are the parents of several children, never did we recognize one of them as being a member of our family until the child was delivered from the embyro state into the natural state. Then, and not until then did they become a member of our family. So also is the child of God, when it is delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of (family) God is it recognized as a child of God.

(To be continued next issue)