# GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 1963

## WATCH AND PRAY

I Pet. 4:7.

J. C. SPURLIN

We do not understand the text to mean we are to watch someone else, but rather ourselves.. That is, watch our steps, watch our words, watch our deeds, watch our behaviour. The same writer in I Pet. 5:8 admonishes us to be sober, (well balanced), be vigilant, because the devil our adversary walketh about "seeking whom he may devour." And remember, we are to practice the above with a prayerful heart lest we be led into temptation Matt. 26:41.

In considering the above, many do not appreciate the above scriptures; notwithstanding we are classed as the salt of the earth Matt. 5:13. "But if salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men Verse 14. We are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid Verse 15. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all in the house. Verse 16, Let your light (influence) so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven."

You will notice I have emphasized light by defining it as influence. Now if that is right, (and I believe it is), I question the ability of any brother or sister as having sufficient light to shine through a package of cigarettes. I once heard a very able preacher say "he considered the use of tobacco stiffled the influence of a Christian." Therefore if light in the scripture means influence, we can readily see when one uses tobacco they are hiding their light, as the one who lights a candle and puts it under a bushel. Wife and I are blessed with 18 grand-children. I would not for my right arm have one of those young people see me use tobacco, lest I hurt my influence with them.

But says one; "I am ready to quit tobacco, if and when you show me where the Bible condemns it." In that, they get the cart before the horse, by asking the offended one to affirm a negative. Bear in mind brethren, the party practicing an ungodly act must affirm their

practice, therefore, the burden of proof is upon them. We do not hesitate to ask other folks that practice error to give book, chapter, and verse for their practice; then why is it unreasonable to ask our own brethren to give proof of their ungodly deeds.

Paul in Rom. I4:2I says, "It is good not to eat flesh or drink wine NOR ANYTHING whereby thy brother stumbleth or is offended, or is made weak." Then my dear brother and sister, why practice something that will hinder the CAUSE OF CHRIST? Don't you think brother, sister, that if we would concern ourselves with things that speak for unity, the church would be far more compatible for all members, and thereby glorify God? In our contention we do not ask anyone to sacrifice anytging that is good for the body, which is the temple of God I Cor. 3:I6; 2 Cor. 6:I6. But we do feel we are justified in asking THE PEOPLE OF GOD TO LEAVE OFF ALL THINGS THAT OFFEND. May I remind you dear brother, that a brother offended is harder to be won that a strong city; and their contentions are like strong bars of a castle Prov. I8:I9. Isn't it a fact that a sister with bobbed hair, a bathing suit, and a cigarette is leading to lasciviousness? which is classed with fornication, both being the works of the flesh, Gal. 5:2I.

Are we yet so confused that we do not understand that we are a called out people? 2 Cor. 6:I7. Do you not know that practicing the lust of the flesh is a violation of God s law? O but says one, "the use of tobacco is no more a lust than the desire to make money?" Yes, but do you not know that two evils do not make one right? Furthermore, we are commanded to provide for our household (family) I Tim. 5:8. Then with no place in the Bible where we are commanded to use tobacco, there is no comparison of the two.

Listen to the prophet Amos, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Don t you know brother, sister, that two Christians cannot accomplish the most for God if they are not in harmony?

I have recently been invited to preach at a place where 80% of the congregation is bogged down in tobacco. I have repeatedly called their attention to their ungodly practice, but they would not hear. Why should I go to a people who are stiff--necked and rebellious? Isn't it a fact that a child of God catering to the things of the world, such as moving pictures and going to ball games, the use of tobacco, or that detracts our minds from spiritual things is a hindrance to Christianity? Do you think that one absorbed in the above practices will have any time to meditate upon the law of the Lord, either day, or night? Psa. I:2.

Don't you know brother, sister, that one cannot fill their assignment as recorded in 2 Pet. I:5, while at the same time

catering to worldly pleasure? How many of us can quote the seven Christian graces contained in the above assignment? Even so Peter says "these are to be in us and abound."

May I remind all, that we as God s people are to posess such qualities as will cause us to be looked upon as an outstanding people. a purified people, Titus 2:II. A people to show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darlness into his marvelous light, I Pet. 2:9. Isn't a shame to go into a community, only to find a part of the congregation given to corruption? Can't the brethren realize that for us to work in unity, our hearts must be knit together in love? I Sam. I8"i-2. Have we forgotten that we must all speak the same thing; that there be no division among us, but that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment? I Cor. I:I0. Did you know my dearly beloved, that I refuse to drink coffee, tea, or soda pop, or go to ball games, or moving picture shows, because such things are an offense to some of my brethren? Above all, they defile the body which is the temple of the living God, I Cor. 3:I6. Don't you know brethren that to refrain from all worldliness is to sustain our position as a peculiar people? Titus 2"II-I4; 2 Pet. 2:9. Is it a fact that we are so worldly mindedthat we need to wear a badge on the lapel of our coat to identify us as Christians. Or is it a plain fact that we are not converted, as yet?

Submitted in love of the truth, and my brethren.--

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REMEMBER THESE DATES FOR OCTOBER MEETINGS

67th and Olive, Phoenix, Arizona. This meeting is to be conducted on the order of our summer meeting at La Habra in June this year, and at Delta, Colorado this August just passed, with different speakers for each service. They plan on having able speakers from all parts of the country Everyone is invited and accomodations are available for those who wish to attend. This is our newest congregation here in this area, being established only a few months, but it is growing. Let us get behind this effort with everything we have and help them make it a success.

The date, October 6th through I3th.

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STILLWELL, OKLAHOMA CHURCH OF CHRIST Oct. 20 through the 27 with Evangelist Paul Ferguson of La Habra, California. Those of you in the area of Stillwell, and vicinity should make every effort to prepare for this meeting, and every effort to bring friends and family to hear one of our great preachers from the West Coast. You will not be disappointed when you hear him preach the truths of God's word. He spares no one, preaching the word of God both in season

G O S P E L  N E W S  C O U R I E R
P. O. Box 97 La Habra, California 90631
Published monthly Roy L. Snoderly, Editor.
Each writer is responsible for his own article only.

reproving, rebukeing,exhorting with all longsuffering and doctrine and as Apostle Paul charged Timothy in 2 Tim. 4:2. Remember this date and attend and meet and hear this great man of God.

DELTA, COLORADO Happy Hollow Church of Cgrist, August 8th through I6th I964. Circle this date and make your vacation arrangements to correspond. I know everyone who attended this meeting in I963 have a great experience to remember. I am so sorry that I was unable to attend, but it was not that I didn t care to, but because of circumstances beyond my control, time and money. I know that these two items also hindered many from attending. We will try again next year. How about you?

## NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

Question and answers, by J. D. Logan. -- Please remember if you have any unanswered questions on Bible subjects, please send them to Bro. Logan or to the Gospel News Courier and we will see that he gets them. If some of you desire answers and do not want them to be published in the paper, indicate so and he will answer your question privately.

For those of you who have asked, our ZIP Code number is 90631. There has been some complaints about the manner in which we select our material and articles for publishing in the Courier. Please remember you are responsible for this also, when you don t write news and articles. This causes us to dig the bottom of the barrel, and the bottom goes back to I900. In our files we have many good articles by preachers of old who are now dead which we can draw from. But remember, those who wrote the Bible are also dead. So WRITE. Brethren, write plain logical articles,articles which we can publish and be proud to present to our readers. --- Roy L. Snoderly.

If the good Lord is willing, we will have an eight-day meeting here in Phoenix from the 6th through I3th of October I963. As for as I can tell we will have some real good speakers from different parts of the country. There is a hearty welcome to anyone and all that wish to come, or to take part in the meeting. We live at 3637 West Ruth Avenue. Our pnone number is 939-290I. Any of you from out of town, come and stay with us, or we will find a place for you. We have a little building. It is located at the corner of 67th and Olive. There

are five families of us meeting there. I am writing this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Your Bro. and Sister in Christ, ------ DON AND RUTH DABBS.

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KENNETH M. BALDWIN, P. O. Box I88, Delta, Colorado. Phone 874-458I -- Our wonderful meeting has come to a close, and the sad part about it was we had to say good-bye until we meet again to all the brethren and sisters and children who came many miles to help make our meeting the great success it was. We had such a wonderful meeting, and singing and preaching you have never heard. It is really hard to know where to start to tell you and everyone about it.

We had ten different congregations represented here during the meeting, II with us. Here is the list: La Habra, Calif.; Bellflower, Calif; Yuma, Arizona; Somerton, Arizona; Aztec, N. Mex; Springfield, Colo; Reydon, Okla; Lorenzo, Texas; Grand Prairie, Texas; and Ringgold, Texas. And we heard Bro. Howard McCay's wonderful sermon on tape that he preached at La Habra, Calif. during their meeting in June. So we feel that their thoughts and hearts was with us during our meeting from Yakima, Washington. And we pray that next year they can be with us during our meeting in August I964. It was suggested that we keep it in August by those who were here this year. So August 8th through I6th has been decided upon for our camp meeting.

From La Habra, Calif. we had: Bro. & Sister Elmer H. Hunt; Bellflower, Calif.Bro. & Sister Claude Perigen; Bro. & Sister Jerry Perigen and children; Bro. & Sister Earl Broadway; Bro. Bill Taylor;Bro. Ron Tibbs; Yuma, Arizona, Bro. & Sister Horace Orendorff and daughter Nell; Somerton, Arizona, Bro. & Sister W. A. (Allen) Nelson; Bro. & Sister Ted Drysdale, and children Teddy and Kervin. Aztec. N. Mex. Bro. & Sister Roy Dabbs and grand-children, Susan & Robert Kilgore; Sister Armena Smith; Bro. & Sister Eugene Noyes; Sister R. T. Chadwick & Linda and Dolores; & Virgil Roberts grand-children of Bro. & Sister Vernie Hill of Grand Junction, Colorado, who meet at Delta. Reydon, Oklahoma; Bro. & Sister J. C. Spurlin. Springfield, Colorado, Bro. and Sister Clyde Couchman. Lorenzo, Texas: Bro. & Sister Howard Studer and grand-daughters Miss Kathy Howe & Earlene Howe. From Dallas, Texas, but go to church at the West Side Church of Christ in Grand Prairie, Texas; Bro. and Sister Dan Teague and children, Curtis 8, Merrill 6; and Lala 4, also Miss Elene Teague, Dan's sister. From Nocona, Texas, and go to East Side Church of Christ, Ringgold, Texas, Bro. & Sister Curtis Teague. We are so proud of all the young folks that came and helped to make the meeting a success, and we thank them very much. Bro. Ron Tibbs

gave us a wonderful lesson, also helped with the singing each time. Bro. Bill Taylor helped lead singing each night and Sundays. Bro Jerry Perigen gave a wonderful lesson and helped with the singing.

The young folks that were here would like to hear from other young folks their own ages. They are; Bill Taylor, age 17, 9451 Melita, Pico-Rivera, Calif; Ron Tibbs, age 22, 3921 Livingston, Long Beach, Calif; Miss Nell Orendorff, age 17, 1850- 14 Str., Yuma, Arizona; Miss Linda Roberts, Age 14, Rt. I, Box 35, Aztec, N. Mex; Miss Kathy Howe, Age 13, Box 155, Ralls, Texas; Miss Earlene Howe, age 15, Box 155, Ralls, Tex; Miss Elene Teague, age 24, 4722 Alcott #102, Dallas, Texas, 75204 Miss Susan Kilgore, age 14, Aztec, N. Mex; Robert Kilgore, age 15, Aztec, N. Mex; Virgil Roberts, age 15, Rt. I, Box 35, Aztec, N. Mex; Delorese Roberts, age 13, Rt. I, Box 35, Aztec, N. Mex; Terry Wilkerson, age 14, Rt. I, Cedaredge, Colorado; Bobbie Wilkerson, Age 20, Rt. I, Cedaredge, Colo; Eddie Wilkerson, age 22, Rt. Cedaredge, Colo, This is a good way for all you young folks and young brothers and sisters in Christ to get acquainted with each other, and more of you can plan to come to our meeting again next August 1964 so you can meet each other again. Thanks to all of you young folks for coming. We had wonderful preaching each night and Lord's Day. Some of the best I believe we have ever heard. Those bringing us the messages were: Bro. Elmer Hunt, P. O. Box 28, Corona, Calif; J. C. Spurlin, Reydon, Okla; W. A. (Allen) Nelson, Somerton, Ariz; Horace Orendorff, Yuma, Ariz; Roy Dabbs, Aztec, N. Mex; Clyde Couchman, Springfield, Colo; Claude Perigen, Bellflower, Calffornia; Ron Tibbs, Bellflower, Calif; Dan Teague, Grand Prairie, Texas; Howard Studer, Lorenzo, Texas; Kenneth Baldwin, Delta, Colo; Again we say, thanks for the wonderful preaching and fellowship, and helping us make this, our first meeting the great success it was, and we pray that all will plan to come again next year.

We also want to thank all the congregations for their loyal support and donations to help us to build our building. They are, La Habra, Calif; Bellflower, Calif; Modesto, Calif; Lakeside, Calif; Yuma, Ariz; Somerton, Ariz; Aztec, N. Mex; Yakima, Wash; Mangum, Okla; Reydon, Olla; Kenton, Okla; Springfield, Colo; with a combined total of $1771,50; which we appreciate very much, and we hope that we will be able to help some congregation in the same way. We also want to thank Bro. Snoderly and Bro. England for the support they gave us through the Gospel News Courier. Remember August 8 through 16, 1964 has been decidec upon for our camp meeting next year. So everybody start planning your vacation now to be with us next year. We missed you this year. We would like to mention that we have wonderful deer hunting and Elk huntingabout 30 miles any

direction you may want to go. We will be glad to have anyone that can come during the hunting season. Our season opens October I8. Again, thanks to each and everyone that came for our meeting and helped us so much.

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N. E. BERGSTROM, Rt. I, Box 3I-A, Stanton, Texas. Sept. 8, I963---- We had intended to write before now, but don't seem to take time. We enjoy the paper but only need one copy as wife and I are the only ones that meet here. We have our services each Lord's Day morning at I0:30. We don't go to Midland any more. We hope you had a nice meeting at La Habra, and I suppose Delta, Colorado had a good meeting also. We still have our little boy one year today. He will be I4 months old September I2, so we have our hands full. Come and see us when you can. Good-bye for now, and the Lord bless all of you. Yours in Christ.

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CLAUDE & EUNICE PERIGEN, 8748 E. Artesia Blvd., Bellflower, California---- News is rather slim here, however several are back home from the Delta, Colorado meeting and vacation to other parts of the country. Bro. Geo. Meadows is back home from back east, and Bro. and Sister Earl Broadway have returned from Felta and Arkansas. Bro. Vern Broadway is home from two weeks army training. Others attending the Delta meeting from Bellflower; Bro. Bill Taylor, Bro. Ron Tibbs, Bro. and Sister Jerry Perigen and 2 children. We also attended and the meeting was very upbuilding and we wish everyone could have attended. We had visitors at our services this past month from Yuma, Arizona and other places. Bro. Paul Ferguson was our speaker one Sunday night, and Bro. Roy Snoderly spoke for us once. We're glad to have Bro. Gary Ferguson and wife with us regularly as well as Bro. J. C. Spurlin's grand-daughter and her little daughter.

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GENE & PAT McKINNEY, U, S. C. Co,.L. B. Station, Neah Bay, Washington, Aug. 28, I963---- We receive the Gospel News Courier from the church in Yakima, Washington. Sister McKinney sends it to us when they receive it. Since there is just two of us worshipping here at Neah Bay, Washington we were wondering if you could send us a copy. We enjoy reading the Courier. It keeps us in contact with other members and what is happening. --- Yours in Christ.

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J. C. SPURLIN, Reydon, Oklahoma, Sept. I, I963--- The enclosed article is being offered for yours and Bro. England's consideration. If you think it worthy of publication, you may publish it at your convenience. This article only speaks my hearts contents. It does not look good

to help promote and effort when so many of the brethren are bogged down in corruption, and at the same time resent our exhortation to clean house. I trust that some day we may be able to open the eyes of at least some, and that God may be glorified in the effort. If indeed we could get sin out of the church, we might be able to do more with the alien sinner. But alas, I realize it is not to be a little task. The trouble of it is, when we come out on such matters, the entire brotherhood avoids us; or in other words, our services is not wanted. I know by experience, but I trust that I may at least save myself from this untoward generation. A small contribution for the paper. Give my regards to Bro. England. ----- Yours in Christ.

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LA HABRA, CALIF. NEWS---Bro. and Sister Elmer Hunt have moved from Garden Grove to their new home in Corona. Bro. H. had been employed as a teacher for a number of years in the public schools at Garden Grove. We've had a number of visitors the past month in our church services including Bro. and Sister Lee Roy Brown of the Modesto church, and their daughter June, and husband Bro. Lee Digby, recently married. Bro. and Sister Wooten and family of Yakima, Wash. met with us two Lord's days while visiting in this area. We are always happy to have visitors and welcome them any time. Bellflower members have been helping us in our Friday night services which we appreciate very much. Bro. and Sister Clouse spent their vacationat Modesto, Sister C. remaining longer than Bro. Clouse in order to help take care of her ailing father. Bro. Kenneth Brown of Modesto was injured in a car wreck while enroute to his air force station in Washington. We have no further details of the accident as we go to press. Bro. Elmer Hunt has recently been on Lord's days at East Highland, Calif. and San Diego, preaching and assisting the churches at those places.

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