GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

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MORE ABOUT THE FOUR GOSPELS

F. H. LOGAN

In a recent issue of the Courier, I contended in an article that the four Gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were part of the New Testament. However, a Brother in Virginia stated I had failed to prove my point. In the light of this, let me offer as further proof, the following.

Paul said, "For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." Heb. 9:17.

Now let us see. First, a man makes his will; then dies and the will becomes effective; then the executors enforce the terms of the will. So it is with Christ. He came into the world for this very purpose. At the age of thirty years (Luke 5:23) Jesus declared that it was his purpose to "Preach the gospel..." Luke 4:18. He began to make his will and testament. Next, He died so that it might become effective, (Luke 23:46), and His executors (Apostles) began to enforce the terms of the will. Would our Brother in Virginia have us to believe that Christ died, and then made his will? Heb. 9:17 would have us to believe otherwise.

We are told it "would take a wizard to find our law in them." (Gospels). Now, I have never met a wizard, but I HAVE met many people who OBEYED a LAW that is contained nowhere else in the entire Bible; Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, (Matt. 28:19-20). Can this command be found ANYWHERE else in the New Testament?? Did it ever occur to you, dear reader, that without the four "Gospels" we WOULD NOT KNOW THE COMPLETE MEANS OF ACHIEVING SALVATION. I don't think that takes much of a wizard.

I write this not out of ill will, but because I believe the brotherhood should be fully posted on this theory as it is being taught. There is much more I could write, but because of space I will stop for now.

Yours in Christ.

3II S. Sunset, Modesto, California.

A man who keeps his feet on the ground can't get hopping mad.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By J. D. Logan 300 Glenn Ave., Modesto, Calif.

Notice to all readers: It is possible that we may receive more questions per month than it is possible to publish. Also, some questions are such that they cannot be answered without some lengthy definitions. If your question does not appear immediately, it will be printed as soon as possible. Also, please note, I do not use names of questioners. This is a confidence, and I will keep it. ----J. D. L.

A question from Oklahoma:

Is it a fact that a Christian is forbidden to marry an unbeliever? If so, please who is an unbeleever.

Answer: - Paul commanded us to be not "unequally yoked together with unbelievers." (2 Cor. 6:I4). Now, I don't contend Paul was talking about marriage here . He was talking about ANY yoke: AND what yoke is tighter and more binding than Christian marriage?? Surely, anyone can see this would forbid Christians marrying unbelievers.

But to the second part of the question; who is an unbeliever? I feel very strongly about this subject. Note 2 Cor. 6:I6-I8, ".....as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Surely we can all see how Jehovah is showing us the natural division between believer and unbelievers; Christian and aliens, etc. Read it readers!!! It's good for the soul!!

A reader of Yakima, Washington asks:

"Is it scriptural for a woman to set the Lord's table" and also requests for the scripture on this subject.

ANSWER; - To the best of my knowledge the term to "set" the Lord's table is not used in the New Testament. Of course, we realize the table must be set, but the scriptures specify nothing on the matter. I see no reson why a sister should not do this work if it is convenient and if she has been given it to do. Paul had women who "laboured" with him in the gospel, Phil. 4:3. Nothing is said of what they did. They are forbidden to teach in the public assemblies (I Cor. I4:34-35) and to usurp authority over the man(I Tim. 2:I2). This work, in no way violates these scriptures.

A reader of Reydon, OKlahoma asks:

"How may one know when they are a child of God?"

ANSWER: - Romans 8:I4, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." How are we led by the Spirit of God? Romans 8:I, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (See also Jno. 6:63). Jno. 7:2I, "But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven).

"The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.", Rom. 8:I6. The Spirit teaches us we must believe; (Heb. II:6) That we must repent; (Acts I7:30) that we must confess; (Rom. I0:I0) that we must be baptized; (Rom. 6:3). If we comply with these commands, we are doing "the will" of God, and the Spirit beareth "witness with our" spirit that we are the children of God".

Another question from Oklahoma:

"Why is a Christian (child of God) forbidden to participate in politics?'

ANSWER: - This is a many sided question and much disputed. However, I shall attempt to shed some light on it from scripture.

Prov. 29:2, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Solomon did not seem to think it was contrary to godly living to engage in "politics." What is "politics", "the body politic", that relationship between the citizen and the state. (Webster). Very well: Jesus commanded us to pay taxes; Matt. 22:2I. Paul commanded us to pay tribute; (taxes), Rom. I3:7. Titus 3:I, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."

I suggest to everyone interested in this subject, read I Peter 2:I3-2I. Is this not pertaining to the relationship between the citizens and the state? I believe however, if you will forgive my assumption, the question which is foremost is, "should a Christian vote?" I fail to find any reason why a Christian is commanded these former commands, and forbidden by God to vote. Are not Christians the "salt of the earth"?? Matt. 5:I3. What is salt for? To season a mass. Can a Christian not, by casting a righteous, honest vote, truly "season" his community, state, or nation? Truly, Christians should be "standing up, being counted" for honesty, and integrity in all of our nation's affairs. A Christian should, of course be guided in these affairs by all the principles of righteousness, honesty, etc. as in all other affairs of life.

It is not enough to say a prayer; we have to live one too.

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Each writer is responsible for his own article only.

W. R. FARRAR, Carter, Oklahoma. Nov. 20, I963 - Received your letter and requestt for names and addresses of our members, which I am sending; also a check for the support of the paper. I can see that by mailing each family's paper separately, they will not be missing copies occasionally, and we can also send papers to some who do not meet with us, but might enjoy reading the paper. The church at Elk City is still striving to please the Lord with its services,"looking unto Him as the author and finisher of our faith" and as a "rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." That from any other source holds no hope.

S. J. WALLACE, I40I Westmoreland, Abilene, Texas, Dec. I, I963. - We received your request for the names and addresses of our members. We are few in number, but have just paid off our small building and are getting started on some needed repairs and painting. We visited loved ones at Lorenzo, Texas on thanksgiving. We found my wife's father, Bro. Howard Studer in the hospital with blood poising from a wound on his hand. We are praying for his speedy recovery. The brethren at Seymour, Texas have started a new and badly needed building. They have only a few members and are strugling to keep up their work for the Lord. We enjoy the Courier very much and hope to be able to help financially support it soon. We have not been able to have a meeting here. That is our goal as soon as we can get our building cost out of the way. Keep up the good work. Our prayers are with you.

(The Courier would like to suggest that anyone who can and are willing, to send a donation to these brethren at Seymour, a donation to help them in their very worthy efforts to build a house of worship. We feel sure that it will be gratefully received and appreciated. Send your donation to Bro. Jimmie Loftus, Gen. Del. Seymour, Texas. Even a small donation will help.)

BRO. & SISTER EARL & NORA ATCHLEY, Rt. 2, Westville, Oklahoma, in a letter to the church at La Habra, Calif. wrote in part as follows: - "Received your letter containing your check to help on our church house. We want to thank all concerned for the generous donation. We only hope that we can do much good for the cause of Christ when we get started to meeting there.

O U R D E P A R T E D

ETHEL MIRANDA BEDINGFIELD passed over the river to her eternal home October 29, 1963. She was the daughter of Zeph & Julia Mickey and was born in Eulogy, Bosque County, Texas June 12, 1886. She came with her parents to Lockney, in Floyd County, Texas at the age of six. Her parents and grand-parents on both sides were Christians; so from the cradle up she was taught to love and read the Bible. She obeyed the gospel April 26, 1900 and was a faithful child of God for over 63 years. She attended Lockney Christian College, then later taught there to help pay tuition for younger brothers and sister. She married the late John S. Bedingfield, July 13, 1907 To this union were born six children. One died in infancy. Surviving are: Lurana McCluskey, Dorathy Sage, Reva Luster, Sylvia Tibbs and J. S. Bedingfield Jr.

Three sisters: Ruth Dees, Viola Potter, Naomi Wood, and a brother, S. W. Mickey. Twenty grand-children: Howard, David and Ray McCluskey; Laverne McCluskey Harper; Norman, Betty Fay and Lee Sage; Treasa Fern, Huberta, Hulan and John Luster; Ethel Luster Dodson and Neva Lee Luster Levingston; Ervin, Ronald and John Tibbs. Nineteen great-grand-children: Laura, Jeffery, Janet, Michael and Jill McCluskey; Kevin, Eric and Bret Harper; William Dale, Kathleen, Richard, Patricia, and James Sage; Douglas, Sidney, Karen, Mitchel and Treasa Leviingston; Charles Dodson.

Throughout their married life they moved about a lot, Teaching the word, where it wasn't known principally, then going on leaving behind a worshipping congregation. They worked to support themselves and their children as they moved about through Texas, N. Mexico, Arizona, California and Oregon. They especially loved teaching and working with young people. When father died in 1959 she continued on alone serving the Master she had loved so long. When she had to go to the hospital Nov. 6, 1962, she decided "Maybe I can put in more words for the Lord where there are more peole." One of the last things she did was to help save the marriage of one of her young nurses by teaching her her Christian duty and giving her a list of scriptures to study with her husband. She was confined to her bed for eleven pain filled months and with a very weak heart. But her sweet smile and her patient Christian manner, made many friends for her there.

"They are gone---but their memory will linger
Twined "round our hearts like bright golden threads;
And in life's tangled network which death cannot sever,
Will over the future a radiance shed"

LURANA McCLUSKEY AND REVA LUSTER.

KENNETH BALDWIN, P. O. Box I88, Delta, Colorado. Nov. 29, I963 - Weather here is beautiful and everyone is well, Our deer and Elk hunters got their deer or Elk. Some of us are still hunting every chance we get. We had Bro. and Sister Ira Brown, Modesto, California with us for two Lord's days. They were here deer hunting, and helped us out in church services while they were here. Bro. Brown gave us a fine sermon which was enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to having them back next hunting season, and we hope they can bring some one with them. Also we are expecting some from Modesto to be at our meeting next August. Plan your vacation now to be at the meeting. Would like to have some one from each congregation during the meeting. We are making plans to accomodate as many as possible. Each and everyone of you start making your plans to be with us. A lot of you that were here this year will remember Bro. Vernie Hill. We're proud to say Bro. Hill returned to the fold and is doing his part in helping out in the services.

We also have gained a new family. Bro. and Sister Fred Shirley and two daughters, Sandra and Glenda have moved here from Elmirage, Arizona. They worshipped with the church at Phoenix, before moving to Delta. Bro. Shirley obtained employment in a dairy here. We are most happy to have them with us. We're a small congregation and rejoice each time we gain new members. If anyone would like to come spend some time with us helping us out, we have room for you and would appreciate it very much. Or if anyone of you are thinking of making a move, and would like to know what it's like here in Colorado, write to us and we will try to help you all we can; we need you. Bro. Bud Wilkerson is in Yuma, Arizona for a while, and is helping the church at Yuma while there. We miss Bro. Bud and are looking forward to having him back with us soon.

J. D. JOHNSON, II032 Fillbrook Dr., Lakeside, California. Everyone here are just fine. We are sending the names and addresses of the members that meet here. There are three families of us; Bro. and Sister Bixler, Bro. and Sister Greenway and my family. If any of you come to San diego, we meet at I0,30 A. M. Lord's days. Our phone number is 443-6730.

JEAN ORENDORFF, HORACE & NELL, I850 I4th. St., Yuma, Arizona.- Just a note to tell you we went to Phoenix, Arizona over the Veterans Day week end. We had a good visit with the wonderful brethren and sisters there. They showed us real Christian hospitality. We still meet regularly at I6th Ave., and Ist. Str., in Yuma.

J. H. LACKEY, Rt. I, Box 6, Springfield, Colorado. Nov. 26, I963. - I felt honored to see my article, "Lprd Are There Few That be Saved?" in the last issue of the News Courier. Bro. and Sister Couchman took their trailer house and moved to Carlsbad, N. Mexico a few weeks ago, which leaves us fewer members, but our loss will undoubtedly be their gain; be an encouragement to the church there and give Bro. Couchman a chance to grow in grace and knowledge.

I was in the hospital seven days last week, and week before with a Hernia operation. Am at home now recovering. Bro. Noyse of Sedan, N. Mexico had chard of the services while I was in the hospital. They drive I20 miles every other Lord's day to meet with us, rather than meet with the cups, Sunday School and class churches closer to home. He is 82 years old, and she just a few years younger. He farms, milks several cows, skims and sells the cream and a few eggs for a living, and is self-supporting. They get up early enough on Lord's day morning to get the cows milked, and other chores done in time to drive the I20 miles to church, and get there by I0:30, in time for services in all kinds of weather, except the blizzards we have here on the plains through the winter, and that is very seldom on Lord's day. I think that is quite an accomplishment for people their age, and on top of that, they bring their dinner along, and we take something to eat, and eat at the church building with them, then he gives us a lesson after lunch, leaving for home in time to get there by dark, then the evening chores before bedtime. Now isn't that a record? How many of us will be able at the age of 80 to drive I20 miles to church in order to meet with brethren who conduct the services as God directs. We will do well if we can get a license to to drive a car at that age, much less have the courage and ability to drive that distance, after farming all week, and milking several cows. And to cap it all off, we have those who object to him taking part at the Lord's table, or offering prayer. I do not have the XXXXXXX nerve to bar sthhta kind of a person from taking part in the services, do you? They object to him taking part in the services because he does not come every Lord's day; forsaking the assembly every other week. We had a long nice fall, very little moisture which we are very badly in need of.

Hope this finds all well, steadfast in the faith, growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

SAMMY BOEN, 33I5 No. 49th., Fort Smith, Arkansas, Nov. I4, I963.- I am enclosing a check for the support of the paper from the Pleasant View Church of Christ, Stilwell,

Oklahoma. I will try to send it in more regularly. Bro. Daniels and Bro. Atchley from our congregation write you often and do a good job of writing the news, so I don't and, want always write when I send in the support. And I want to take this opportunity to say thanks for a great paper. It's like getting a letter from home.

SISTER HOWARD STUDER, Box 718, Lorenzo, Texas 79343.- We haven't written sooner on account of illness. Howard has been in the hospital two weeks, and will be a few more days. Some of the children of Earl Howe were not able to come to church service last Lord's day, but everyone seems to be improving. The little group of faithful at Semour, Texas are building a new house of worship and could use some help. The leaders there are Bro. Jimmie Loftus, 605 N. Stratton, and Bro. Toodler Goodwin, Box 130. Our Son-law, Jimmie Loftus baptized a young man a week ago last Lord's day at Semour. We are proud of him. Of course we want our paper to keep coming. I am enclosing a small contribution.

N O T I C E

A few have not yet answered our letter in which we requested the names and addresses of reader member in each congregation. May we kindly urge you to please send in your list of names as soon as possible, or convenient, so we can put them on our mailing list early in 1964. By mailing each reader his individual copy of the Courier, it will go through the mail faster than when mailed in bundles, thereby insuring more prompt delivery of each reader's copy. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter. ---------- EDITOR

(Space below this line is for mailing address)

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