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Gospel News Courier

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA MARCH 1965

WALKING WORTHY OF OUR VOCATION

J. C. Spurlin

Paul pleads with Christians in Eph. 4:1-3 to walk worthy of their calling, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love: Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

I believe with all my heart the only thing we need to do in order to get a wonderful lesson from Paul's language here is to break it down word for word, and get the full meaning of each word. Hence we will begin with the word, prisoner. So we look in our dictionary to find that one definition of prisoner means captive. Thus we go to Acts 9: 4-6 to find the Lord arrested Paul while on his way to Damascus for the sole purpose of destroying the church of God. Whereupon he (the Lord) told Saul (who later was named Paul) to go into the city, and it would be told thee what thou MUST do. Every Christian, being a prisoner of the Lord, (having been arrested from our sinful state) MUST walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we have been called, for Paul wasn't joking when he gave us this statement.

So let's take the word, worthy, which means deserving, or excellent; then if we are to deserve a righteous consideration of the Lord, we MUST walk with excellency in the sight of God. For Christ hath said, "Let your light so shine that others may see your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven."

Next, shall we look at the word, vocation, which means calling, or business. Or to use the words of the Saviour, "Let us be up and about our Father's business". Luke 2:47. And why? Because we are a called out people, and that for a

purpose, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28. Then we MUST NOT fail that purpose. Then to magnify that purpose we go to I Pet. 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. So our purpose in life is to shew forth the praises of God, and there is no better way to shew the praises of God than to forebear one another in love. Eph. 4:2, "By this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep his commandments." "For this is the love of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:2-3.

Thus we have laid down the facts as per Eph. 4:1-3. So if we get the lesson as contained in the text, we will not hesitate to adorn ourselves with lowliness, meekness and long suffering, forebearing one another in love; until we are able to do just that, we are likely to be found back-biting, falsely accusing, all of which are the works of the flesh, and tend to cast a stumbling block before the weak, and soweth discord among the brethren. These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Prov. 6:16-19.

May God help each of us as true Christians, to clothe ourselves with the righteousness set forth in the text. Written in love of the truth, and for the purpose of keeping the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace. Your humble brother, servant, and prisoner of the Lord.....

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NEWSLETTERS

SAMMY BOEN Stillwell, Oklahoma

I am enclosing a check to help with the Courier from the Pleasant View Church of Christ.

Bro. Snoderly, please mention in the Courier that we are having singing the 2nd Sunday of every month at 2 P.M. One month it will be at the Stillwell church and the next month at the Baron Church. The second Sunday of March at Baron and the second Sunday of April at Stillwell.

I want you to put Ira Brown on the Courier mailing list. Bro. Ira is sick and seldom goes to Stillwell, but I always pass my Courier on to him.

The church here is about as usual, but we plan on working a little harder to get people to come to church. We would like to buy a used panel truck to pick up people who have no way, but until we can afford that, my car is available and the cars of other church members I am sure. A Bro. in Christ.....

MRS. R. C. CLEMENTS — Broken Bow, Oklahoma

The church here is growing some for which we are thankful. Bro. Paul Cuslam still preaches for us on the first Sunday of the month. Bro. Treat and Bro. Willie Doan on the other Sundays. We enjoyed the 5th Sunday meeting here very much.

Yours in Christ.....

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MRS. LOUISA C. PARKS — Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Just received the Courier and enjoyed it as always. I am enclosing a small donation to renew my subscription to the paper. You can use the rest of the money anyway you see fit.

Our church here is doing very well now; some are not able to come some times. Yours in Christ.....

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J. D. JOHNSON — Lakeside, California

The church here at Lakeside is about the same, the members are few, but we have a lot of good brethren that come to visit us. Sister Gladace Stewart was with us in February--she is from Yuma, Arizona. Bro. and Sister Duane Bixler have moved to San Francisco. Bro. and Sister Dan Greenway have moved up to that part of California also. They will probably go to church at San Pablo. We are sure going to miss those young couples, they are wonderful people. So there is no one coming to church but my wife, daughter and myself.

If there is anyone coming to visit us, we would like for them to drop us a card or call us at this number, 443-6730 because we want to visit some of the brothers and sisters at different places, if it is the Lord's will. But if you are coming to see us, we will sure be at home.

Yours in Christ.....

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MRS. LAURA E. WILLIS — Carlsbad, N. Mexico

I hope you and your family and all the members of the church there are well. We are all well here as far as I know. The church is coming along as usual. It really is hard to build up anymore; it is not only here, but I hear others say they can not get any outside interest. Even where there are several members and they have a house to meet in. Let's all pray that what members there are may hold out faithful to the end.

Written in love for the cause of Christ.....

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ELMER HUNT — Corona, California

The church at Springfield, Colorado has scheduled a two week meeting at Springfield, April 18 through May 2.

Bro. J. H. Lackey has written me to come, do needed personal work, and the preaching. He writes that they are having a light blizzard at present. By April we all hope and pray for better weather; and that we have extra good results in our efforts.

Any vacationers at that time? Join us and assist in the work. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are

Each writer is responsible for his own article only.

few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send labourers into his harvest. Matt. 9:37-38. Now read I Pet. 4:11 and 5:10-11.

Remember, April 18 through May 2!

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J. C. & MYRTLE WHITLEY Kenton, Oklahoma

We enjoy the paper so much. Please use this little donation from the church at Furnish Canyon as you see best.

We hope to have a meeting some time in June. Bro. and Sister Perigen said they would come. Everyone here is doing fine. We always enjoy having visitors come by. Sincerely.....

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LLOYD TREAT Broken Bow, Oklahoma

I though I would report again from here--the news is scarce, not much to write. There has been a lot of sick folks here, mostly with the flu, some have been in the hospital.

We are still paying on our repair on the building. There have been two who helped out on the church at Reydon, Oklahoma--a sister in Texas has also helped out. We are thankful for their help and wish others would help also.

Bro. Auslam didn't make it down for his appointment the first of February and we sure did miss him. Well, if the Lord wills, I expect to travel a little during the summer months and help out the small congregations, at least where I can reach them.

Yours in Christ.....

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CHRISTIAN WOMEN (OLDER WOMEN)

Lurana McCluskey

I will address this first article to the older women among us. I have heard so many of them remark, "No one seems to need me any more; there is nothing I can do." Of course this would be primarily the woman whose children have grown up and gone: The "retired" woman (but a Christian woman never retires from the service of the Lord.) But it applies also to the mother of any daughter, whether she is tiny, teen-ager or married. It applies, too, to any adult woman in Christ; it is a well a lesson for the teen-age Christian girl, who is growing into a mature Christian woman. As a young man obeying the gospel is obligated to immediately start growing and developing into "elder material", so the girl or woman who obeys the gospel is obligated to immediately start growing and developing into a consecrated Christian woman who will be able to teach and lead others by word and example. There is a very important scripture we should learn and make a rule in our lives: II Tim. 2:15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a

workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Titus 2:1-5, "But speak thou the things that become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise" (in exactly the same manner), "That they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Notice here that behavious that becometh holiness, (which is our duty) is behaviour that is sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things. In Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, we get the meaning of each Greek word from which these qualifications were translated, given in English.

Sober--of sound mind; self controlled.

Grave--the word points to seriousness of purpose and to self respect in conduct.

Temperate--exercising self-control; vigilant.

Faith--firm persuasion and conviction based on God's word; fidelity.

Sound--wholesome or healthy.

Charity--Christian love has God for its primary object, and expresses itself first of all in obedience to his commandments; John 14:15, 21, 23. Self will that is self pleasing, is the negation of love to God. Christian love, whether expressed toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclination, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. Love seeks the welfare of all, Romans 15:2; and works no ill to any, Romans 13:8-10; love seeks opportunity to do good to "all men, especially to them that are of the household of faith," Galatians 6:10.

Patience--cheerful or hopeful endurance; constancy; patient waiting.

Behaviour--deportment.

False Accusers--slanderers; oppressors; (margin says makebates.)

Holiness--reverent; suitable; proper, comely.

When we re-read this scripture with these definitions in mind, how do you measure up? We are a people who claim to take the Bible as authority for our every act of work and worship. Then this is the kind of life that is mandatory for older women; and the direction in which it is mandatory for

young women to be developing, if we ever expect to see the inside of the new Jerusalem.

Another scripture dealing with older women is found in the 5th chapter of I Timothy: These verses specifically mention widows. But it deals with the works she is to have accomplished before she became a widow. Let us consider these works as listed by the apostle Paul:

I Timothy 5: (3), "Honor widows that are widows indeed. (4) But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents: For that is good and acceptable before God. (5) Now she that is a widow indeed, is desolate, and trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day." Notice the specific duty to continue in prayers and supplications night and day. In the 2nd chapter of I Timothy, he names some of the things that it is the duty of men to pray for: "Lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting" (verse 8). Then he says, "In like manner also, women---." Very well; let us see some of the things in which the older women may serve God in prayer: I Timothy 2:1-4, "I exhort therefore that, first of all, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

How often during the day or the week or even the month do you earnestly make prayers, supplications, intercessions and giving of thanks for the church? Much less for all men that the may be saved? Or for heads of governments, that we might lead quiet, peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty? Do you know that there are places in the world today (not only in Russia) where the saints are forbidden by law to assemble to worship? Remember we are commanded to continue in prayers and supplications. How often? "Night and day". What a difference there would be in the success of our preachers in spreading the gospel and establishing the cause if all the older women (younger women, also) followed after this good work. What a difference in the success of our preachers in resisting temptation to be led from the truth into error, if all the Christian women strove together in their prayers for them. And these are commands; just as important as the command to be baptized. Remember Anna: "And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day." Anna did not consider retiring. Even at the age of 84. She must have become tired and wanted to take it easy, even as you and I; but no, she continued to serve God night and day, with fastings and prayers. We are told in James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous man availeth much." As women we are told "likewise" to pray: In order that our prayers will be effectual we must [illegible] righteous (obedient to the word of God); and our prayers must

be fervent. And it isn't *something* we may choose to do, if we are to stand approved before God. We are also told that our prayers must be of faith, James 1:6. Not to ask for something we may consume upon our lusts, James 4:3. But ask according to the will of God, I John 5:14. This kind of prayer we are told the Lord will answer. There is one more condition for a woman's prayer to be acceptable: I Cor. 11:5, "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head: For that is even all one as if she were shaven." I Cor. 11:13-15, "Judge in yourselves: is it comely for a woman to pray unto God uncovered? Doeth not even nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: For her hair is given her for a covering." Much more could be given on the sacred duty and privilege of prayer; but let us go back to I Timothy 5: (6) "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." This word "pleasure" is used as the gratification of the natural or sinful desires. (10), "Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."

Cruden's Concordance says, under the heading of"widows": There were widows in the Christian church, who because of their poverty, were maintained at the charge of the faithful, and who were to attend upon the poor and the sick.

There is always work for every Christian woman to do, as long as her mind is functioning; whether she is able to work physically or not.

I will close with a couple of timely quotations from the Old Testament. Ezekiel 16:49-50, "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. They were haughty, and committed abomination before me: Wherefore I took them away as I saw good."

Isaiah 32:9-11, "Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear to my speech. Many days and many years shall ye be troubled, ye careless women: For the vintage shall fail, and the gathering shall not come. Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled ye careless ones; strip you, make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins."

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C A L E N D A R 1 9 6 5

SINGING the 2nd Sunday of each month. Alternating between the Church of Christ of Baron and the Church of Christ of Stillwell, Oklahoma. Time: 2:00 P.M. April 11th at the Stillwell church--Pleasant View Church of Christ, located 1½ miles south of Stillwell on Hiway 51. Everyone is invited to come to sing. May 9th at Baron, Oklahoma.

MEETINGS

Church of Christ, Carlsbad, New Mexico — April 11 - 25
Paul Auslam, Fayetteville, Arkansas, Evangelist

Church of Christ, Springfield, Colorado — April 18-May 2
Bro. Elmer Hunt, Box 28, Corona, California, Evangelist

Church of Christ, Furnish Canyon, Colorado — June 20 - 27
Bro. Claude Peregin, Bellflower, California, Evangelist

Church of Christ, Yakima, Washington — June 20 - 27
The plans for this meeting have been changed somewhat in arrangements. Instead of Bro. Broadway as evangelist, Bro. McCay plans to have a guest speaker for each service.
He would like to have the name and address of each speaker two weeks in advance for publication in the local paper because of outsiders who might wish to attend from night to night. Write Bro. Howard McCay, 1615 S. 27th Ave., Yakima, Washington, if you plan to attend.

Church of Christ, Delta, Colorado — August 8 - 15
Camp meeting with a guest speaker each service. Everyone is invited to stay at the dorm or to camp out on the grounds. This is some five miles above the church out of Cedaredge toward Grand Mesa. There we have rented a dorm with kitchen, mess hall, playgrounds and camp sites. Also fishing, hiking, sightseeing and just plain loafing during the day. Everyone is welcome--come and get acquainted.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS THIS YEAR!

Roy

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ROY L. SNODERLY — La Habra, California

I heard from Bro. and Sister Toodler Goodwin, Seymour, Texas the last of February. They sent in a new name for the mailing list with a note from the church. Things are well with those at Seymour except for colds and sore throats. The church is fine. Also heard from Sister May Good of Olney, Texas with a personal note and her donation for the paper. I talked with Bro. Howard McCay February 28th about their meeting and other things. He had several items of good news for all but will write next month. I talked to Sister Harry Wegley, Grants Pass, Oregon March 3rd. Missed talking to Harry as he works Swing Shift. We will be hearing from him next month. I preached for the Bellflower congregation twice this past month. I enjoyed visiting with those from Bellflower after church and in Bro. Claude Peregin's home. We have had several visitors at La Habra this past month. Bro. & Sister Ira Brown of Modesto and others too numerous to mention this late in the Courier. Myra Cavin was baptized Sunday, February 28th! May God bless and keep everyone of you my friends.