

The Christian Courier

November, 2016

Send correspondence to:
6718 Santa Fe Dr, Lubbock, TX 79407
Ph: 206-948-3597
E-mail: editor.christiancourier@gmail.com
Web: http://chuchofchristonecup.org

Are You Salty?

Matthew 5:13 (KJV), "*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*"

I remember this passage as young child. How confusing it was; it just didn't make any sense to me. The years pass, as they always do, and I didn't think too much about this confusing passage.

A few years ago I started thinking about what it meant to be the "Salt of the Earth". I started to reason within myself what Jesus was trying to tell his disciples. I wish to take a few moments of our time to explain what I believe this passage means.

What is your favorite vegetable? Mine is green beans!! I just love them; I mean they are sooo tasty and have so many varieties. There is something about them that I just crave. I especially like them when you put bacon in them, that makes them so awesome. It makes my mouth water just thinking about them. But if you leave the SALT out of them, well you can keep them. I don't want them; they don't have the key seasoning that makes them mouth-watering.

You see, SALT is a seasoning that takes what can be plain and makes it wonderful, it creates a thirst or desire for something that must be satisfied.

In my reasoning I asked myself "What does this have to do with me?"

1 Corinthians 1:23 (KJV), "*But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*"

When we tell people about Jesus and his death burial and resurrection, what He paid for on the cross, the beatings He took, the nails that pierced His hands and feet, do we use SALT?

Do we capture their attention, do we make their mouth water, do we make them want more, do we prick their hearts, do we have them asking questions like "What must I do to be saved"

Acts 2:37 (KJV), "*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*"

You see, at the first gospel sermon ever preached Peter used SALT! He touched the peoples heart with his words "*...and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*" While the Gospel of Christ is very heart touching by itself, sometimes the way we teach it can lead someone to repentance and bring a soul to Christ. If we don't make it sound like the most important thing in the world why would the people were telling it to think it's important. If we don't take the time to teach them why would they think they are important.

2 Timothy 4:2 (KJV), "*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*"

The scriptures teach us here that the way we are using seasoning is important also. Nobody that I know of likes a bowl of green beans with a cup of salt. We should always look at each person that we are talking to and see how much and of what flavor of seasoning they need to bring them to Christ.

So I leave with the Title a question mark.

Are You Salty?

Food for thought, food for the soul, seasoned with salt.

Your Brother in Christ,

Paul Warford

Church Leaders Must Manage Finances

There are several fundamental facts relative to money that leaders must be familiar with.

Following Review:

God is the owner of everything. This is true because He created all things and sustains all things (Genesis 1, 2, 3). The man who thinks "this is my money and I will do what I please with it" is rejecting God's ownership. The Psalmist said, "*...the earth is the Lord's* ." (Psalms 24:1). A host of passages in the Bible remind us of God's ownership of all things:

- The land and the sea belong to God (Psalm 95:4-5).
- All the precious metals belong to God (Haggai 2:8).
- All the animals belong to God (Psalm 50:10-11).
- Everything under heaven belongs to God (Job 41:11).
- God is in charge of everything (Isaiah 66:1).

Thus in a real sense we don't give something. Job said "*Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return*" (Job 1:21).

Christians are stewards over that which belongs to God. As a manager of what belongs to God we must be very careful in handling it. Paul wrote "M*oreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). This man's ownership on earth is temporary and always requires proper management (Gen. 1:26-30; Lev 25:23).

As stewards, we are in control of the distribution of God's property and money. Naboth recognized this principle when Ahab tried to buy his property. Naboth replied, "*The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers*" (1 Kings 21:3). One of the first sins in the church involved stewardship of money. Peter said to Ananias after Ananias had lied about a money matter, "*Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived*

this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." (Acts 5: 4).

As stewards, the guiding principle for proper management is the placement of the kingdom first in our lives (Matt. 6:33). This insures the cause of God against secondary emphasis.

Steward realization ownership in this life is designed to help them prepared for the future life. Jesus said; "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupt; and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.*" (Matt. 6:19-21).

Every steward will be called to give an account of how he has used the goods of his Master (Luke 16:1-11). According to Jesus, faithfulness will be the standard of judgment: "*And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?*" (Luke 16:12).

Stewards must remember that it is God who gives us power to get wealth (2 Thess. 3: 8-10). Thus we must never think that we are making it on our own.

Stewards of God are permitted by God to use money for reasons other than church work:

- We must take care of our families (1 Tim 5:8).
- We must pay taxes in support of the government (Romans 13:6).
- We must pay our debts (Proverbs 3:27-28).

All of these things come after placing the kingdom first in our budget.

As good stewards we must have thorough proper management and honor God with our money. The wise man said, "*But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.*" (Deut. 8:18) and "*Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty...*" (Prov. 3:9-10).

From knowledge of these fundamental facts about stewardship leaders are on solid ground as they work with others in the matters of finances.

God bless all His servants to continue to learn and be faithful in the matters concerning management of finances.

Bro. John Kombo



Cards and Letters

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings from Lorenzo, TX:

Sis. Earlene Jared is still in a fight with cancer and has been unable to attend church services; she is under the care of hospice. Her cancer is still getting worse and she taking a lot of pain medication. Sis. Reba White is still having trouble with pneumonia and has taken a fall recently. Sis. Nell McCay is on hospice care at the care facility where she is staying. She is having a lot of trouble with her mobility and her appetite is waning. Please keep these in your

prayers. For the most part everyone at Lorenzo is doing fine

Several members of the Lorenzo, TX, congregation attended the funeral of Larry Jack Stevens II (61) this November 12th. Larry, the son-in-law of Sis. Reba White, passed away on November 8th.

Recent visitors to Lorenzo were Bro. Larry & Sis. Maxine Pollan and Bro. Willie & Sis. Mary Howe, Bro. Russell & Sis. Reba Morris; Sis. Kelly Shepherd; Sis. Lori Harper; Sis. Leah Mollahan & baby M.J.

In Christian Love,

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Yakima, WA

Dear Brethren,

We were pleasantly surprised last month when Bro. Gene & Sis. Angela Boling came to visit. Last March, at the Yuma meeting, Bro. Rodger & Sis. Sharon Lamb invited them to come and visit and they accepted. They stayed at the Lamb's but many of us were able to visit with them as well. It is really great when Christians from different areas of the country can come together and visit each other. It helps to strengthen the bonds that we all enjoy.

In more recent news, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Ashley Roark are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Parker James was born October 14th and weighed 6 lbs. 6-1/2 oz. He's a beautiful baby. His lungs were a bit underdeveloped so he stayed in the NICU for a while but is home now getting lots of love from his two big brothers.

Our travelers have returned home safely from their vacation to the East Coast. Their cruise started in Boston and ended in Montreal, Canada. Bill, Jr. started a blog of their trip so we were able to follow their daily progress. They reported many beautiful sites they saw, both man-made and especially the wonders that God created. Travelers from Yakima included Bill, Jr. & Cinde McCay, Mike & Kay McCay and Richard & Monica Johnston. They were joined by Bro. Bill & Sis. Debra Taylor from Denver, CO. and Bro. Roger & Sis. Jan Walkingstick of Oklahoma City which made the trip much more enjoyable.

While on their trip Mike and Kay were able to visit their daughter Kim Wintersteller, her husband Jason and their children, Emma & Drew. Shortly after they returned from the East Coast they traveled down to California to visit family & friends. As I said, they all are back safely. The Lord is good to us!

Health-wise most of us are doing quite well. Cinde's Parkinson's is getting worse and my macular degeneration is limiting my sight, however, I can't complain. I'm getting older (Christy informed me that in 2 months I will be twice her age) and I have a great support system with both family by blood and family of Christian brothers & sisters.

My son-in-law Rick Walsh is doing well after his stent procedure. I'm sure I have left something out that should be reported but my short term memory is terrible. Pray for us as we do you. Come and visit if you can. Our doors are always open to our brethren.

Yours in Christian love,

Bill McCay, Sr.

Yuma, AZ

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We enjoy *The Christian Courier* so much. But we don't get it where we live, and we are hoping you would send us one each issue. Small check is enclosed.

We thnk God for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ for the work they do, and we pray that their burdens will be lighter.

We are so few, but we are not alone because God is with us.

Our love to all,
Bill & Betty Walling
Yuma, AZ

ANIMAL, PLANT, OR MINERAL

Listed below are 18 words from the Bible. Each one is either a plant, animal, or mineral. Write each word in the proper column below. If you don't know one, you may look up its scripture or find it in a dictionary.

Juniper (Psa. 120:4)	Amethyst (Exo. 28:19)	Leviathan (Psa. 74:14
Brier (Isa. 9:18)	Mandrake (Gen. 30:14-16)	Ossifrage (Deut. 14:12)
Almug (1 Kings 10:11-12)	Nitre (Prov. 25:20)	Rue (Luke 11:42)
Ligure (Exo. 28:19)	Osprey (Lev. 11:13)	Sardius (Rxo. 28:17)
Fitch (Isa. 28:25-27)	Dromedary (1 Kings 4:28)	Cockatrice (Isa. 11:8)
Bittern (Zeph. 2:14)	Lign aloes (Num. 24:6)	Coney (Lev. 11:5)

Animal	***Plant***	**Mineral**

News From Abroad

Harlingen, TX (October, 2016)

Dear brethren in Christ

Receive we most sincere greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus.

I comment that during September we had several studies with the churches on the area north of Mexico and the new church in San Fernando. The brothers each day continue growing and learning the scriptures..

In the area of Central San Luis Potosi we had studies with different people and as a result 4 persons were baptized.

The churches in the Southern Mexico inform that the brothers persevere in the truth and the work of evangelization.

The brothers in Guatemala inform that the churches to continue firm.

The brothers in Colombia inform that a new congregation was established in the community of Salento.

In the area of Matamoros and Brownsville, TX, the churches continue firm and making work of evangelization.

I send a photo of the new brothers in the area of San Luis Potosi.

Your brother in Christ, Evangelists in Spanish

For information please write to

Otto Alvarez

P.O. Box 532514

Harlingen, TX 78550

Report From Kenya

Brethren,

We appreciate and acknowledge your effort to send us funds to support us to accomplish the Lord's work. We held an annual meeting on the 8th of November at Naivasha to discuss the church business of which the outcome we are sending to update you on whatever was achieved. The meeting was good and peaceful. We wrote the minutes which was required for the renewal of the church certificate [The Kenyan government required massive changes to all church registrations in that country. – Ellis]

After the meeting, four of us (Bro. Laban, Bro. Situma, Bro. Mbithi, and John Kombo) traveled to Nairobi at the Attorney General Office. We succeeded, and now there is no problem with the government of Kenya with our church registration.

Attached to this letter are the minutes we prepare and the receipt to produce when we go back to collect the certificate.

May God our Father give you good health and strength to further continue to serve Him.

God bless the church!

Your Brethren In Christ

Laban, Situma, Mbithi, and John.

Property Available in Kenya for Purchase

Glad to write to you this morning; hoping you are fine in the Lord. For the last two years or so, we have had the the problem of acquiring a place or a building where we would use for worshiping God our Father. [The congregation at Nakuru, Kenya, had been meeting in the school library every Sunday, but the new school leaders told them they cannot worship there any longer. - Ellis.] You can recall when you visited Nakuru with Brother Sadat, there is a place we had used for Bible Study and you also spent the night there. There are plots for sale there, in fact it is the building we used which is being sold. The building and the plots on which it stands is to be sold for about ksh. 450,000 ($ 4,500; four thousand and five hundred American dollars). The size of the plot is 50 feet by 100 feet.

We are writing to you in advance so that you can discuss this in America and see if someone could assist or contribute towards this important project. You see we have been given notice by the school management committee where we used for worship.

Attached to this letter are pictures of the plots and the structure build thereon John Kombo and Benjamin Ronoh.

Bro. John Kombo

[Brethren, the buildings at this site were constructed by Americans for the purpose of housing those going on African safaris. As I understand it, the property at this site has been divided into individual plots for sale. The section of property that the congregation at Nakuru is interested in purchasing is the large meeting area that is similar in construction in the meeting area at the Delta Family Camp with a short wall around the perimeter with open sides. This building is located a few blocks from where Bro. John Kombo lives. See the photo supplied and the ones I took when we had our evangelism meeting there. Can we come together and come up with the money needed for them to purchase this property? Can we generate enough by each person donating $20 - $50, or possibly more from individual congregations? Please consider this as it is a very good work.— Ellis Forsman]

Report From Tanzania

Brethren,

I need your prayers on behalf of my wife. Personally, I don't know what is happening, but the symptoms are that sometimes my wife, Agrippina, fails to have strength (weaker) and she finds herself falling down, and sometimes she yells and shouting no matter the situation can be; this happens in the middle of night. She feels a lot of pain and when it occurs; she is not eating. I don't know what the problem is because we have not visited the doctor. I don't know what the cost will be. I need to have time and see what the doctors will say and the cost, I will tell you after knowing the cost.

A 9 year old boy, the son of my younger sister, has been staying with me; this boy disappeared on Sunday. When I came home, my wife told me that she didn't know where he went. He disappeared once before, but after one week he was seen and I got the information of where he was, I went and took him home. Now I need you prayers so that he may be found and that I may take him to his father and mother.

Concerning the money that was donated for church members affected by the earthquake; we bought five tents. See the attached Pictures.

The black one was being measured and I hope you will show those who donated so that they may know what their money did.

Bro. Sadat

Report From Uganda

We need your help toward the orphans in Uganda; it is a government policy that every religious group has to help the community in some physical way (i.e. orphanage, school, medical facility, etc.)

I got in a motor accident last week; I got some injuries but I am soon recovering. Everyone here is doing well except few who are sick including me; my leg is getting better but my rib got damaged. I am having too much pain with my rib; I need to go to see the doctor.

Bro. Julius Wandera







Sadat purchased 5 tents for the church earthquake victims in Tanzania.
Upper left: measuring the tent material.
Left: packaged for the buyer.
Right: finished product for use.









Property in Nakuru, Kenya for sale: Upper left:John Kombo & Benjamin Ronoh in front of meeting hall for sale. Upper right: Safari housing (A few buildings with this design (houses about 12 people with two bathroom/shower areas. Left and right: We used the Meeting hall building for an evangelical meeting when I was there in 2013 - Ellis



Baptism in San Luis Potosi, Mexico



Baptism in Liberia:
Bendu Johnson & Princess Doe



Baptism in Liberia:
Verous Johnson

Bulletin Board

Meetings

July 9-14, 2017	Glenwood, WA	TBA
July 16-23, 2017	Delta, CO	Family Camp Meeting
Sept. 1-3, 2017	Pleasant View, OK	TBA

Births

Parker James to Aaron & Ashley Roark	Yakima, WA	October 14, 2016

Baptisms

Bendu Johnson	Liberia	November 13, 2016
Princess Doe	Liberia	November 13, 2016
Verous Johnson	Liberia	November 13, 2016

Passings

Larry Jack Stevens II	Lubbock, TX	November 8, 2016

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Laban Ambogo's family	Matundu, Kenya	Malaria
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes & high blood pressure
Newton Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Many injuries; hit by motorcycle
Benjamin Rono	Nakuru, Kenya	Automobile accident injuries
Caleb Timothy's mother	Arusha, Tanzania	Hemorrhoid treatment
Agrippina Sadat	Geita, Tanzania	Problems during recovery of stomach surgery
Several church members	Uganda	Truck accident injuries
Julius Wandera's son	Uganda	In hospital; on oxygen
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Brent Berry	Canton, GA	Heart problems
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Needs liver transplant
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe back pain recovering from surgery
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Broken bones from fall; many severe injuries
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, blood clots, & falls
Otto & Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel
Eunice Jared	Hillsboro, OR	Heart problems
Mary Peyton	Hillsboro, OR	Alzheimer's
Earlene Jared	Lorenzo, TX	Lung & cancer issues & treatments
Jerry McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Macular Degeneration
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Falls & pneumonia (96 years old)
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Falls & Pneumonia
Retha Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Fighting Parkinson's disease
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Severe kidney complications & Lupus
Matt Shepherd	Vancouver, WA	Recovering from heart attack & triple bypass surgery
Al Burtis	Waterford, CA	Radiation treatment for cancer
Bill McCay, Sr	Yakima, WA	Macular Degeneration & age
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lower back pain & advanced age
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's
Iris Stewart	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems

And all those who are aging or in nursing homes.

The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79407