March,1959.

WHY NOT PREPARE FOR THE JUDGMENT?
WHAT ARE WE WAITING ON?

Dear brethren and sisters;-

We may feel that we are well prepared for the judgment; but really are we?

Paul says;"It is appointed unto man once to die, but after that the judgment; Rom.9:27. Here we see the judgment is as sure as death; and is after death.

Christ will judge;---"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may recieve the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"; 2 Cor.5:10. "I charge thee therefore,before God,and the Lord Jesus Christ,who shall judge the quick and dead at his appearing and Kingdom;" 2 Tim.4:1. "Because he hath appointed a day,in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained;whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"; Acts 17:31.

We will be judged according to the word;-------"He that rejecteth me,and recieveth not my words,hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day; Jno.12:48. "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel"; Rom.2:16.

We will be judged according to our works:------"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works"; Rev.2):13."For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;that every one may recieve the things done in his body,according to that he hath done,whether it be good or bad",2 Cor. 5:10.

Of course it is understood,we all being christians,have obeyed the first principles; and assemble(Acts 20:7; Heb.10:25); to break bread (Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42). And contribute of our means(1 Cor.16:1,2); and attend the big meeting when the Evangelist comes; and object to all inovations. This is good as far as it goes; but what have we contributed to "--keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" Eph. 4:3? And do we manifest the spirit mentioned in verses 1,2 of the same chapter?"I therefore the prisinor of the Lord,beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye were called.(2) With all lowliness and meekness,with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love".

We should never forget Jesus shows us "UNITY" is a necessity in Jno.17:20,21,by saying we should be one as he and the Father were one. Then he adds a reason from which we can never escape our responsibility; "---That the world may believe that thou hast sent me".

So, we can say without fear od successful contradiction that one of the causes of so much unbelief in the world is the DIVIDED condition of professed believers. Even the Church of Christ is shamefully divided. With all our boast of "READING our faith and practices", there is division; and division is "CARNAL" (1 Cor.3:3); and carnality brings death,Rom.8:6,7. But says one,we are not to blame for the division as the fellow with the false doctrine causes the division; hence he is the "CARNAL" minded one.

Yes, that is true ""IF"" we demonstrate the Spirit mentioned in Eph.4:1-3; 1 Jno.3:16,and many others. To wilfully violate these scriptures is as much an inovation among God's people as any of the other inovations. I know in the past I,and others have violated some of the principles taught in those passages; and such practice must be given up or we are not wholly innocent of the divisions among us. Are we prepared to meet the judgment when we violate these scriptures? "What are we waiting on"? Lets get ready.

As additional evidence we MUST be of one mind see the following; I Cor.1:10;"Now I beseech you brethren,by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing, and there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined togather in the same mind and the same judgment". 2 Cor.13:11;"Finely,brethren,farewell, be perfect, be of good comefort,be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you". 1 Pet.3:8;"Finely, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous". Rom.12:16;"Be of the same mind one towards another. Mind not high things but condecend to men of low estate,be not wise in your own conceits". Phil.2:2;"Fulfill ye my joy that ye be likeminded, having the same love,being of one accord and one mind". Phil.2:3; "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves".

In the above scriptures we are told to be of "ONE MIND", of "ONE ACCORD",,LIKEMINDED, "HAVING THE SAME LOVE",ESTEEM OTHER BETTER THAN THEMSELVES". For fear I forget it,I will ask,what is it to esteem other better than themselves? And do we do it? What MIND are we to have in having the SAME MIND? The answer is- "---But we have the mind of Christ",1 Cor.2:16. "Forasmuch as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind; for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; (2) That he should not live the rest of the time in the flesh to the lust of men,but to the will of God",1 Pet.4:1,2.

In 1 Cor.2:16,we are emphatically told,We have the mind of Christ; while in 1 Pet.4:1,we are COMMANDED to arm ourselves with the same mind of Christ In Phil.2:5," we are told,"Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus-----". Then he shows us in the following verses , how Christ left the Courts of Glory,to come to this earth steeped in sin to give his life for lost and fallen man. Yes,he took on him a body of flesh like you and me, and suffered death,but God highly exhalted him. Yes, he says this is the type of mind you and I must have.

If you will notice,it was NOT the mind of partiann ship,nor of division,nor of envy and strife; But a mind of Love that would die for each other(1 Jno.3:16), a mind of longsuffering, forebearance, meekness,kindness and unity.

Sure,we MUST stand firm for every principle taught by the bible, and against every false doctrine that raises its ugly head amongst us. But,dear brother,dont you see the wrong attirude we might have one for another causes DIVISION?

This mind of love and sacrifice Jesus demonstrated while on earth was not in vain; for, as shown above,WE MUST HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.. And that MIND is a mind that will strive for UNITY,-by longsuffering, forebearing one another in love; and not DIVISION.

Too many times when we use a "liberty" in obeying a command, we try to put that "LIBERTY" in as a part of the command; and attempt to make it binding on others by claiming it under the law as well as the command. This is wrong,brethren. when we do this we disobey every law governing our "liberties".See Rom.14:13; Rom.14: 21; 1 Cor.8:9; 1 Cor.8:12; 1 Cor.10:31,32.

We can waste away our time and energy,and also our crown by fighting among ourselves over matters about which there is nothing directly stated. Although we realize anything based on circumstantial evidence is a persumption. And further,when we speak a thing in the name(claiming God's authority),which God has not commanded us to speak is a presumption. See Deut.18:20.

Let us take a closer look at the fourteenth chapter of Romans. Verse 1,he tells us,"Him that is weak in faith recieve ye, not to doubtful disputations".Bu he tells us in verse 2 the man here is the man that eats herbs,while the strong maan eats meat.

Verses 3,4,shows us we must not judge him. Verse 5 says,"One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike.Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind". Here we see our "Liberty as to esteeming days. each is to be fully persuaded IN HIS OWN MIND.

Verse 6,shows God recieves either class..Verses 7-9 shows whether we live or die we are the Lord's. Verse 10 says,"But why doest thou judge thy brother? Or why doest thou set at naught thy brother?For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ".My dear brother cant you see we should not judge one another in regard to those things in which we have liberty? Again,vesre 13,"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or occasion to to fall in his brothers way". There it is brethren,we MUST NOT let those liberties become a stumbling block to a brother.

Again,verse 21,"It is good neither to eat flesh,nor to drink wine,nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth,or is offended, or is made weak". If we persuade a brother to do something he "DOUBTS" in which we have liberty,we cause his condemnation, see Rom.14:23.

Again,in Rom.15:1,"We then that are strong ought to bear the infermities of the weak and not to please ourselves". Will we do it? or will we disobey,"AND PLEASE OURSELVES"? Verse 2,"Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good for edification". Will we do it? Or will we DISOBEY? Verses 3,4, shows Christ did not please himself. Will we follow his example?Note verse 5,we are to be likeminded one towards one another,ACCORDING TO CHRIST JESUS. Will we do it? If we do the result in verse 6 will obtain among us."That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God even the Father of our Lord Jeus Christ",Verse 6. Do we really want that UNITY?

Verse 7,"Wherefore recieve ye one another, as Christ also recieved us to the glory of God".Were you perfect when Jesus recieved you? I was not; and I know you were not. Neither are either of us yet perfect. Then what is the conclusion? If we expect mercy,we had better be merciful to one another. Mat.5:7.

Brethren,let us from here out; on these liberties, obey this command,"Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good for edification",. In fact,let obey these as well as all others for God will not hold us guiltless. May God bless us all to do it is my prayer. As ever,Your's in Christ,

J.S.Bedingfield

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OUR MAIL BOX.

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A recent letter from brother and sister J.I.Brown of route 2,box 235, Escalon Calif. Writes brother and sister Condor have improved in health sufficient to again attend church,for which all of us thank the Lord. Also they state the church at Modesto is moving alon nicely.

Brother and sister Earl Arnett,writes Feb.15,1959; tells us also of brother and sister Condors improvement sufficient to be at church and that one was to be baptized that evening, and one had made confession of faults. Brethren of Modesto,we rejoice with you

Brother J.V.Wood of 214 West Marshall,Midwest City-10,Oklahoma,writes all is well with the church there.In this good news we all can rejoice;for all of us are always happy to hear God's children in any place are doing well.

Brother Harry Wegley of Box 47-A,Murphy stage Road,Grants Pass,Oregon writes,everything is going nicely for the Church of Cave Junction Oregon.This letter was written back in the first days of February. Brother Harry is one of the leaders at Cave Junction.

Brother Lloyd Treat of Route 1,#348, Broken Bow Oklahoma,writes;the church out of Broken Bow where he worships is doing as well as usual.

I was very sorry to hear brother Treat had a heart ailment which makes it imposible for him to work. I can indeed sympathize with Bro. Treat for I andd wife have been fighting the same battle for several years. My hopes and prayer is that brother Treat may have a rapid recovery.Brother Treat is a faithful gospel preacher of no mean ability.

A letter to day,from brother L.C.England of 358 North Gretna Avenue, Whittier California,writes sister England has been very sick.I regret very much to hear this,and hope and pray that she will soon recover back to normal health .Brother England is not too well. He writes sister Ella Cavin is better,for which we rejoice.Brother Elmer Hunt is just home from the hospital where he underwent surgery. He states he is doing very well . We sympathize for all these good brethren and sisters,and hope for theis early recovery.

Brother R.C.Clements of Box 731 Broken Bow Oklahoma, tells us his health is not improved;neither is the health of his brother at Austin Texas. Our hopes and prayers are that these brethren will soon be back to normal health. He states the church at Broken Bow Oklahoma is doing all O.K.

Brother Foye Garrison of Box 102 Nocona Texas,writes, the church at Nocona Texas is doing well,and that brother Coy Garrison preached for them each second Sunday of each month. They were thinking perhaps they might have another preacher from Oklahoma City to be with them in the future.However, they were not sure of it yet.

He reports brother Curtis Teague has been at his sick father's bed side. Ours prayers and hopes are for his early recivery. I always regret to hear of sickness among God's children.

Brother W.E.Daniels of Broken Bow writes; they are in normal health and sister Daniels will soon have her final checkup(which was the 12).

He writes sickness has caused a drop in attendance last month,but their own. We are very glad to note sister Daniels is out on top again in health.

A nice letter from brother and sister James M. Casey,of 3124 University,Wichita-13,Kansas. We knew sister Casey when she was a little girl in New Mexico. She was the daughter of brother and sister W.E. Daniels of Broken Bow Oklahoma. We appreciated the letter from these good folks; and will say,write again as we are always glad to hear from you.

Our little church here is moving along all O.K. Wife is not able to be out very much,due to Neuritis in her back,and her heart ailment she has had for years. I am about the same besides a little nearer home. May God bless and keep you is my prayer. As ever, your's in Christ,

J.S.Bedingfield