The Christian
COURIER

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WHICH WAS THE WISER?

"Two years ago," said a preacher, "I conducted a funeral service for one of my parish. He had been a farmer. Forty years ago he commenced his work with one hundred acres of land, and he ended with the same hundred acres . He was a skillful, industrious workman, but he had laid by no money in the bank. I understood the reason as I listened to the comments of his neighbors."

"It was always a hospitable house", said one. "The poor man never turned away. His sons and daughters received the best education which his means could command, and all are leading useful and happy lives."

Said another: "These children sitting there weeping are the orphans of a friend. He gave them a home. That crippled girl is his wife's niece. She lived with them for years. The young fellow who is weeping so bitterly was a waif that he rescued from the slums of the city."

"And so the story went on-not a miser who had heaped riches together, but a servant of God who had helped many lives, and lifted many of them out of misery and to God."

"And then on my way home from the funeral I stopped at the home of another farmer, who said to me in a shrill, rasping tone: "So poor Gould is dead! He left a poor account--not a penny more than he got from his father; now I started with nothing; and look here; pointing to his broad fields, I own down to the stream."

"And on the thin, hard lips was a wretched attempt to laugh. The house was bare and comfortless; his wife, worn out with work, had died long ago. Of his children, one daughter was drudging in the kitchen; one son had taken to drink and died in prison. The other, a harder miser than his father, remained at home to fight with him over every penny wrung out of their fertile fields."

"And yesterday I buried this man,"continued the preacher. Neither neighbor, nor friend,son nor daughter, shed a tear over him. His children were eager to begin the quarrel for the ground he had sacrificed his life

to earn. Of it all he had now only enough to cover his decaying body."

"Economy for a noble purpose is a virtue, but miserliness devours intelligence, religion, friends, hope and life itself."

Submitted by Bro.Dan Ross

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THE OLD PATHS

Jeremiah 6:16 tells us, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."

God has always had one right way.Or one right way for each time in history. God had a right way for Adam and Eve in the Garden; Adam and Eve went against God's way and he cast them out of the Garden. God also had His way; which was the right way, for the old patriarchs, most of the time they followed God's way and God blessed them for it.

Then the Old Testament showed the right way for the Jews. At times they followed God's way for them and God blessed them for it: at other times they went against God's way and God caused them to have trouble, till they came back to the path He had given them. In Jer. 6:17 and on, Jeremiah tells of the evil God would bring on the people, because they wouldn't go back to the old paths.

When Jesus came to the earth, the Jews were walking in many ways. The two main ways were Pharisees and the Sadducees. They taught and practiced two different laws (or ways) and both claimed, they were the paths of God, to the Jews. To get back to the right way, Jews had to read and do the will of God in the Old Testament.Isaiah in the 35th chapter,8th verse told the Jews, that there was to come a new way, which would be the way of holiness.

Coming down to the New Testament, we find Christ revealing the new way:John 14:6 Jesus tells Thomas that, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." "Jesus" said there was one way: "man" today says, there are several hundred ways. Jesus revealed the new way and it was confirmed by the apostles. The apostles tell us there is only one way.

Christ showed sinners what their duty was and what they should do to enter the way of holiness. They had to first, believe in that way or have faith that it was the way to God; then they had to decide that was the

way they wanted to go, or they had to repent of the fact they were going to the wrong place. Then he told them that if they would confess them before his Father which was in heaven. In Romans 10:10, we are told that, "with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Then the sinner had one more duty:In Acts the 2nd chapter, when the people realized they were sinners, they asked what they should do. In the 38th verse,Peter told them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," Isaiah had said it would be the way of holiness,there could be no sin there,the act of baptism remitted their sins so they could enter the way.

God, through the apostles shows what the Christians' duty is, or how he can stay in that way. We can go to the letters of the apostles and they warn us of the dangers of getting out of the way and tell us how to stay in it and grow in it. It is not enough to just have faith in it; but we must also work to move along this way. There is something at the end of the way we wish to get to and we cannot reach it unless we move forward.

Today men are walking in many ways. We cannot walk in two ways at the same time:either we have to walk in one of man's ways or in God's one way. God's way is only found in the New Testament. 'That is the Good Way'. We travel that way, as we walk by faith. The New Testament tells us that,'Whatsoever is not of faith is sin: Sin again, cannot walk in that way.

Many souls are shipwrecked on the rocks of mens opinions. They may even start on the right way; but the trials and troubles of the life are too much for them and they are shipwrecked. They cannot reach the goal.

Today, are most people asking for the OLD PATHS,the one that was layed out close to two thousand years ago? I'm afraid there are very few that are really looking for it. They are more interested in the crowd or this world's goods or power or at least something of this world. Yet the only place we can find rest for our souls, is at the end of the ONE and ONLY PATH that Jesus has given us; and it is the oldest path given to Christians. Can we afford to leave it even for an hour, when we don't know if we will be alive 30 minutes from now.

God will bless us if we don't leave it. God will condemn us if we die in our sins.

In Brotherly Love,
Robert E. McCay
22A Creekview Dr.
Port Orchard, Washington 98366

2Tim.2:7
CONSIDER AND UNDERSTAND

First we notice we are to consider what is taught and second the Lord gives understanding.

Now it has been brought to our attention some things, about the activities of the church gathering together, to do different things. First, we notice Church Dinners: Where we have lunch together after our service. Some say there is no scripture for it. Others believe it is wrong for one reason or another. But let us consider 2Tim.2:7 and let the Lord give understanding.

In Matt. 14:13-21 Jesus fed "about five thousand." Were they gathered together in one place? Also in Matt. 15:29-37 Jesus again fed "four-thousand men,beside women and children." This is also at one of his gatherings, since the word church refers to a gathering of people, we cannot deny that this is just that,'a gathering of people', here in those two places. The people wanted the service of Jesus and part of this service was more than they expected, he fed them.

In Rom. 16:5, we also have a church in the house of Priscilla and Aquila. I am sure that when the church came together in their house, that they did not do anything not commanded, but after the church or assembly was dismissed, I am sure they had their common meals in their house and fed those that were hungry. Matt.25:31-46, those that feed one of the least of his brethern,is one that feeds him. Again 1Cor.16:19 Paul makes mention of "the church that is in their house." So we can be sure of one thing, we can't have a common meal going on in the church building at the time of the assembly, but before and or after it can be permitted.

In Col.4:15, again we have a church in the house of Nymphas. We also know that the teachings of Paul were carried on there, for he said,"when this epistle is read among you,"(the church in his house)"cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans;" Here again we see the man didnot live at one place and eat at another, just because the church met there. Also Philemon had the church in his house. Philemon verse 2.

So we see that Jesus said if one of those little ones hunger,feed him. Matt. 25:31-46-Sick or in prison, visit him, in so doing you do it unto him(Christ).

The law governing worship must be followed: but it does not forbid you to do the thing commanded, which is feed the least of these my brethren.(before or after) worship in the same house.

Consider and the Lord give thee understanding!

In search of and for the truth,
Brother Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728

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TALENTS??

In Matthew, chapters 24 & 25, Jesus was speaking to his servants, saying in Matt. 24:42, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And in verse 44,"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." And we notice from the 25th chapter, that the servant that hid the talent, was not ready, and he was cast into outer darkness.

Jesus said in Matt. 25:14 on, "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." (He gave them authority, and to every man his work. Mark 13:34). "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability. and straightway took his journey." "Then he that received the five talents,went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money." (Jesus brings out in this parable what will happen, if we hide the Lord's money.)

In Matt. 5:15, "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel,..."(but this wicked and slothful servant hid the talent). "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Eph.4:7,(that is to them that are Justified by Faith. Rom.5:1). And the scripture warns in 2Cor. 6:1, that, "...ye receive not the grace of God in vain." Rom. 12:3-8 speaks of gifts differing according to the grace that is given unto us.

So the Lord took his far journey, and we notice from verse 19, that the Lord will come back,(as he promised), and that he will reckon with his servants. (This day is ahead for every servant of the Lord. Jesus said so.)He will judge whether we have been faithful, slothful or wicked. And our talents will be weighed in the balance, when we restore them unto the Lord, and what if we were found wanting? The servant that hid the talent, he was found wanting. So should we not reckon with ourselves each evening, "Have I been serving the Lord to-day, or have I hid the Lord's money?

The Lord said unto Paul in 2Cor. 12:9,"My grace is

sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." The Lord had given sufficient grace to this servant also, that hid the talent according to his measure, but he had received the grace of God in vain. We notice in verse 27, that he made no gain with the talent that he received. In verses 19-23 and 27 the Lord will require these talents back with interest, when he reckons with us. The servants that had made gain with the talents, he said unto them, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life." Rev. 2:10. How had these servants been faithful? (they had gained other talents besides.)

We read in 2Tim. 4:7 & 8, that Paul had been faithful. Heb. 10:5 speaks of Christ, saying, "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:" and in verse 9, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." And we read that after he suffered on the Cross, he said, "It is finished." and gave up the Ghost.

In Heb. 13:11-12, "For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."(without the camp). He was forsaken, we read that even all his disciples forsook him and fled, Matt. 26:56.

Heb. 11:13, "Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach." (this verse tells us that, we are to bear his reproach without the camp, to go and preach unto the world.) This is what we must do, if we seek for that Eternal City."For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." And again in Eph.6:15, "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"

We read in Heb. 3:10, that Jesus Christ is the Captain of our salvation. He said in Matt. 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." So we are to keep on preaching the gospel unto the world till cometh the end. In Mark 16:15-16,"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." "Go ye into all the world," (thats why God sent forth his Son, that the world through him might be saved. Jno.3:17).

Again we read in 2 Tim. 1:10, that Jesus Christ has "brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"

He said in Lu. 9:60, "...Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God." (Its so urgent), for it is not God's will "that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2Pet.3:9. And this preaching is up to his servants to do. So as good soldiers of Christ we must go without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Jesus comforts us when he said, "The servant is not above his master, if the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

We read in Ezek. 2:1-8, how the Lord sustained Ezekiel and said unto him in verse 7,"And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; for they are most rebellious" and the Lord warned Ezekiel, "Be not thou rebellious."

Then we read what happened to Jonah,when he rebelled against the Lord, and refused to go and preach unto Nineveh. In 1Sam. 15:23, Samuel said unto Saul, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft." And in James 4:17 says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (so rebellion is sin.)

We know that its not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. We know that this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations.We know this is the Lord's will,Jesus said in Lu. 12:47, "And that servant which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." Study! to show thyself approved unto God. 2Tim. 2:15.

We are told to go without the camp, and preach to every creature. The servant that hid the talent was cast into the outer darkness. How did he hide the talent? For one thing he was slothful,(lazylike), he made no gain with the talent that he received.The Lord said unto him in Matt. 25:26,"thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not," He knew that we shall all stand before the Judgement seat of Christ. He knew that this gospel was to be preached in all the world, for a witness. He knew that the Lord is a hard man to please in the Last Judgement. Jesus said "...he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." Lu. 16:10, and Jesus said unto him, "Thou wicked and slothful servant."

We notice from Rev. 3:16, that the Lord is not pleased with the Lukewarm. We read in Col. 3:23,"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord,and not unto men;" Thats how we are to serve the Lord. In

Jude verse 3, that we must earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints. When Paul came to Corinth, we read in Acts 18:9-11, "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee; for I have much people in this city." (much people)We read in 1Jno. 5:19, "...the whole world lieth in wickedness."(and its not Gods will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.) 2Pet. 3:9 Then Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

The Lord said unto Ezekiel, "Whether they will hear or whether they will forbear." and the Lord warned Ezekiel, "Be not thou rebellious."

Jesus said in Matt.9:37-38, "...The harvest truly is plentious, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." (Its so urgent!)We read in the parable of the vineyard in Matt. 20th chapter, how the man went out even in the eleventh hour seeking for labourers, and found others standing idle, and said unto them, "Why stand ye idle all the day?" They said unto him, "because no man had hired us."(they had not heard that the vineyard needeth labourers) so preach to every creature,(it could be that some of them are willing.) They said, "Because no man had hired us."(and as we sing in a certain song,)"You met me day by day, and knew I was astray, you never mentioned him to me." (Just imagine!!), standing before Christ Jesus the Last Day, and someone behind us accusing us, "You NEVER MENTIONED JESUS to me!"

1Thess. 5:20 says, "Despise not prophesyings." (We must prophesy unto the world.) Paul was teaching Timothy how to serve the Lord,(and its written for our examples) he said in 2Tim. 2:15,"Study! to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed." So we must study, so we know how to be instant in season out of season.(Anytime). We must study, so that we have our loins girded with TRUTH, that we may be able to give a good answer to others concerning this hope we have.

We read in Eph. 6:10 on, how a Christian soldier is to prepare for spiritual warfare, that he must put on the whole armor of God; that he may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 1Pet.5:8 tells us that the devil is our adversary. In 2 Cor. 11:14,"For Satan himself is transforned into an Angel of light." His ministers are busy PREACHING ANOTHER GOSPEL, perverting the GOSPEL OF CHRIST. Back to Eph.6th chapter;"that he must have his loins girded with Truth, and having on the breast-

plate of righteousness.(righteousness is part of the christian armour). Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

And he must have his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace.(For we are told to go without the camp, and preach unto the world.) And he must have the hope of salvation for a helmet." 1Thess.5:8. He must speak of salvation to all man-kind, that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, (whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.) All unrighteousness is sin. 1Jno.5:17.

Paul foretells in 2Tim. 4:3-4,"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

In Ezek.3:17-19, the Lord said unto him,"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning, from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and they givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity;but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

Paul speaking to the elders of Ephesus, says inActs 20:26-27,"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." By so doing Paul had delivered his own soul also.(the servant that hid the talent, he had not delivered his soul, and he was cast into the outer darkness! SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.... Paul says in 1Cor.9:16,"...woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"(so we must have this in mind, we must have salvation for a helment and we must preach of salvation unto the wicked world.)

In Exodus 4:17, when Moses departed for Egypt, the Lord said unto him, "...take this rod(of God) in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs."And now we read the Word of the Lord saying," and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." That is the only weapon in a spiritual warfare,for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual wickedness in high places, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.(that is the only weapon),Paul says in 2Cor.10:3-5,"...we do not war after the flesh:For the weapons of

our warfare are not carnal,"etc.

Paul says, "I have kept the Faith."2Tim.4:7-8. A soldier of Christ must have Faith. "For by Faith we stand." 2Cor.1:24. We read in Matt.14:22-33, when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus, he walked by Faith. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he began to walk by Sight, and Sink.. This is what happens if we walk by sight, and not by faith, WE SINK... And a soldier of Christ must pray. We read in Acts 4:29, how the disciples prayed,saying, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings:and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,"etc..(they were profitable servants: they did not think about hiding the talent. ARE YOU HIDING THE TALENT?

Bro. H. Stolnake
1208 So. 9th St.
Yakima, Washington 98901

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MEETING DATES

YUMA,ARIZONA	March 31-April 14	1st week various speakers-2nd week Bro. Sammy Boen
MODESTO,CALIFORNIA	April 7-14	Bro. Al Way
BARON, OKLAHOMA	June 16-23	Bro. Jack Morris

WHEN IS YOUR MEETING? WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD FROM YOU? Plan now and send us your meeting dates in advance....

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SOMERTON, YUMA, ARIZONA

Brethren:

The Somerton and Yuma congregations joined forces, purchased five acres of land and built a fine building. The location of the building is at City 29th St. and County Avenue "B". To those that are familiar with the Yuma Valley, it's about one block south of the "old" Yuma County Hospital. We are taking this opportunity to thank all that made free will offerings to this cause, these offerings included money and/or labor.

Both congregations are now meeting in the new building and our gospel meeting starts March 31st. The first week, visiting brothers are to speak and the second week Brother Sammy Boen concludes the meeting, the Lord willing.

Yours in Christ,
Harry B. Dye
Box 695
Parker, Arizona 85344

HUNTSVILLE,ARKANSAS

Brethren:

Its been too long, but here I come to let you know the Church here on Bohannon Mt. is still meeting regular. Hate to report we lost two young men who were bringing some splendid lessons and one was my son. Maybe some day he will understand why.

We have four new members: one young man is now waiting on the table and making some splendid talks at the table. We are looking forward to a new preacher soon.

Our bad new, is the passing of Brother J.C. Falkner who was 93 years of age. He had not been able to see how to read for about eight years, but he could quote the Scripture, verse after verse, to the very last.

My health has been very bad also.Brother Steve Laney and wife, Brother Paul Aslum and family was with us last Sunday, and he sure brought a good lesson. Brother Ray Shay from Goshen preaches for us every 2, and Brother Paul Andues the 4. Sure does help out.

I will close by saying, if any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God. 1Peter 4:11

Brother George Vanderpool
Rt.1 Huntsville,Arkansas 72740

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SACRAMENTO AND INDIAN SPRINGS,CALIFORNIA

BRIEFS

Sister Lynette Streethas a new baby girl. She and and her husband Jerry already have a fine young son.

Brother Lloyd Usrey son of Brother & Sister John D. Usery of Sacramento has recently got married. We are very sorry we do not have the date or the brides name.

Congratualtions to the above mentioned.

Bro. & Sis. Curtis McCluskey aren't too well, but able to worship some place nearly every Lord's Day. They go to San Pablo,,Grass Valley(Indian Springs) and their home town of Sacramento.

Grass Valley, meets sundays 10:30 A.M. for directions contact Ken Harper 1-916-273-6356.

Sacramento, meets sundays 10:30 A.M. contact John Usery for directions: 1-916-927-1261.

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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Brethren:

About a year and one half or two years ago I wrote a letter to the Courier looking for a Church of Christ

in Montana that believes as we do. Well I never did find one. Since then I've gotten married to a girl in Bakersfield,California and she is of the Church of Christ,also after we got married we converted Clifford Kirkwood and baptized him, a fellow from the base. He was baptized Jan. 13th of 1974.

We now hold services in our home here. We hold services on Sundays and anybody is welcome to come and be with us. Our address is: 405 46th St. So. Great Falls, Montana 59401. We have just started and we would appreciate scripture or lessons, so we can study them.

I came from the Stilwell,Oklahoma congregation and I'm in the service here in Great Falls. So will close for now and when we get on our feet here, we will start sending the Courier some money to help it be published. I wish to thank the Courier for sending me these pamphlets.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rick Walkingstick

(Ed. Note: Brother Walkingstick is the nephew of Sister Barbara Boen and Grandson of Sister Brown and son of Sister Nettie Walkingstick all of Stillwell congregation)

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SHARPENING YOUR BIBLE VOCABULARY

By Brother Dan Ross,1007W. Walnut, Yakima,Wash.98902

ADDER ----------a poisonous snake (prov.23:32)

AGAPE----------a Greek word meaning love;it denotes a "love feast" practiced by early christians (Jude 12)

BATH----------liquid measure of approx. 6 gals.(Ezek45:11

BY AND BY ------immediately(Matt.13:21, Lu. 21:9)

CUBIT----------18 inches(Matt. 6:27, Lu. 12:25)

EARING----------plowing (Gen. 45:6, Ex. 34:21)

FAST----------go without food;close or near(Lu.18:12 Ruth 2:8)

FURNITURE-------equipment of any kind(Gen.31:34, Ex.31:7)

GRAVEN----------carved (Ex. 20:4, 32:16)

MEAT----------food in general(Psa.145:15,Matt.6:25)

OUCHES----------settings(set in settings of gold)(Ex.28:11)

POST----------runner,courier,(Esther 3:13,Job9:25)