The Christian COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353
Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ

APRIL-MAY, 1974

WHAT CONSTITUTES A HOME?

The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor. 4:18

The great mistake of our age is that we place too much faith in material things. We ought to have realized long ago the truth of Paul's statement in 2Cor.This is particularly true of the things that go to make a home. Back of the apparent failure of the home, we find this over-emphasis of material things.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HOUSE AND A HOME.....

A home cannot be constructed of material things alone. A house is composed of tangible elements, but not a home. There is a vast difference between a house and a home. A house is built by human hands, but a home is built by human hearts. The foundation of a house is built of stone and lime but the foundations of a home is built of faith and hope and love, which never perish.

You may live in a house magnificently furnished, set in beautiful grounds,with every convenience that money can buy, and a bank account sufficient for your every need as long as you live, with surplus over,and yet never have neither home or home happiness.On the other hand, you may live with loved ones in a one-room shack without material comforts, and yet be rich beyond measure in those elements that make a true home.Faith, hope,and love.

Another difference between a house and a home is that a house may be destroyed, but no power on earth can destroy a true home. Not even death itself can sever the happy relations of hearts joined together in this sacred fellowship.

There is only onecalamity that can ruin a home--the death of love. When love dies, a home is in ruins, and all the material riches successes, and pleasures of

life cannot supply what has been lost.

The night has a thousand eyes,
And the day but one;
Yet the light of the bright world dies
With the dying sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes
And the heart but one;
Yet the light of a whole life dies
When love is done.

THE REAL HOME BUILDERS

Faith and hope and love are the real home builders; they are the ministering angels that keep alight the sacred fires on the hearth of a true home. When faith and hope and love are dead, the fires go out, and only cold ashes of former dreams remain to torture the lonely heart with memories of what "might have been." Faith in God and in each other, hope shining over us like a star in deep dark valleys, and love binding our hearts together in joyful self-sacrifice-these are the things that make real homes. Yet multitudes are sacrificing these priceless elements and are seeking to build a home and life's happiness on merely material things.

It is good to have money and the things money can buy, but in our eagerness to accumulate wealth, we want to make sure we are not forsaking or neglecting the things that no amount of money can buy.

The mistake many young people make in starting out together to make a home is the belief that a fine house, fine furnishings, fine friends and a big bank account insure a happy home. To many after having won their fine house find they have no home to put in the house.

What then constitutes a home? A home is faith,hope and love, binding husband, wife, parents and children, in a sacred bond of mutual trust, understanding love and self-sacrificing fellowship. These priceless home-makers are born of God. They live where God dwells. Let him into your homes. he stands at the door and knocks. Be guided by His spirit, and your home will never fail. You will not need to wait until you die to taste of Heaven's happiness, for heaven is where God is, and a home where God dwells is a heaven upon earth.

I turned an ancient poet's book
And found upon the page,
Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage.

Yes, that is true, and something more
You'll find where'er you roam,
That marble floors and gilded walls
Can never make a home.

But every home where love abides
And friendship is a guest,
Is surely home, and home sweet home,
For there the soul can rest.

Van Dyke

Article submitted by Brother Dan Ross, 414 So. 7th St.
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CHRISTIAN UNION John 17

God requires all christians to be united.There is a ground of union on which we can unite without sacrifice of truth or conscience. If we listen to Christ's prayer in John 17:20-21,"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one;as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me." If we believe and follow the teaching of the apostles, who were to bring us "ALL TRUTH" we couldn't help but be united. The Father and the Son are one. John 10:16 tells us, "...and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd,"anRomans 12:5,"So we, being many, are one body in Christ,..."

We can stay in unity. 1Cor. 1:10-13,"Now I beseech you, brethern, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" Also read 1Cor. 3:3-7.

Some grounds on which we cannot unite: All teaching which has came into being since the apostles time. They were taught ALL TRUTH, so any teaching that has came into the world since the last of the apostles,can not be the truth and if you believe it you will,"believe a lie and be damned."

We have to be the same in speech, mind and judgement. How can we know we are the same in these? Let us listen to the Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy. 2 Tim. 3:16-17,"All scripture is given by inspiration

of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

All agree that this is true. Yet one man says,Our creed is just like the Bible, another says, our creed makes the Bible plain, you can understand it easier if you listen to us. Why can't the different churches unite if they all believe the Bible is true. Yet their creed doesn't follow the teaching of the apostles or doesn't let the Lord add you to his body or church. Some creeds will add you to a church that wasn't started till nineteen hundred years after Christ started his church. How can you have unity when the Bible tells us there is one body and one church, which is one and the same.

But some one says,'We are getting along alright if you would let us alone'. Can we afford to leave them alone, when we are not united? Can we afford to take the blame for failure to try to unite or convert the world?

Written in Christian Love,
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LOOKING INTO THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY
James 1:25

Where did it begin, while Christ was here on earth, (before his death)? Some will say yes. If so, it had no remission of sins. Heb. 9:22. It could not cleanse man from sin. Jno. 1:7. Let us turn to John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. When does the Bible say that will become binding?

Heb. 9:14-17, tells us that the will is not in force while the testator liveth. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

Now let us turn to Matt. 5:17, "Think not that I am

come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." How could he have made laws different from Moses law without destroying it?

Again lets turn to John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." After a while; future tense.

Now turn to Luke 24:49, "And,behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Again, future tense.

In Matt. 16:18-19, here Christ promises to build his church and to give his disciples the keys of the kingdom, Again, future tense.

Where does the perfect law of liberty, bind on man the things that cause so much division's in the body of Christ? Remember it says, its perfect law of liberty. Neither can we add to. Neither can we take from. Rev. 22:18-19.

In search of the Truth,
George Vanderpool
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"SALVATION"
CAME THROUGH THE GOSPELS: MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN.

The seriousness, of harboring thoughts and of teaching that the four Gospels are not of the New Testament, may not be fully realized by some, or the motives suspected for this idea, for this cause is this article devoted. Always examine the foundation upon which a belief is based, in order to be able to determine wether something is true or false.

"A Great Blessing Promised"

Paul writes in Gal. 3:17,"...that the covenant,that was confirmed before of God in Christ,the law,(Old Law), which was four hundred and thirty years after,cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect." Gal. 3:8,"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen(us Gentiles)through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed." Did God make known all the details unto Abraham, of the Gospel? No, he never, but verified a covenant, by promising a blessing, to all nations. When Christ was born, the Old Law was still in effect, and all Jews were subject from birth, subject to

the Old Law. Jesus was not disobedient to his Heavenly Father, for he obeyed and kept the Old Law, perfect, while establishing the New Testament. "Since the Law was given by Moses(St.John 1:17) "...but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Christ, and the Apostles were not establishing a law that Moses had already given. John the baptist was sent to "Prepare (ye) the way of the Lord,(to) make his paths straight." Mark 1:3.Was John the baptist establishing the Old Law or preparing the wasy for the New Testament? There are some who still need to "make his paths straight."

WHY CHRIST WAS BORN UNDER THE LAW

It seems we are not the only ones who were ever troubled by some not understanding, how Jesus fulfilled the Old Law, and brought to the world the great blessing through his Gospel. For Paul writes in Heb. 5:12, 'For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God;" If the way Christ carried out his mission seemed faulty to some, it was very pleasing to God. For he says in Matt. 3:17:-12:8:-Mark 1:11:-Luke 3:17,"This is my Son in whom I am well pleased," and in Matt. 17:5 a command, "Hear ye him."

Let us do just that and listen to our Lord speak to us in the Gospel. Brother Luke says in 1:3,"...Having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first,..." One with perfect understanding, is going to tell us why it was necessary for Jesus to be born under the law. There are mainly two reasons for this and in Luke 24:44 we find:(#1) "...these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." verse 45,"Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,"In Matt. 23:11 Jesus said, " he that is greatest among you shall be your servant."

We see how much of the New Testament was written by the hand of the Apostle Paul, so the greatest of the Apostles is going to give us the second reason why Jesus was born under the law.(#2) Gal. 4:4,"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son,made of a woman, made under the law,"(why Paul?) "To redeem them that receive the adoption of sons." No wonder God was well pleased with Christ. If he had not obeyed as he did, we would be without the promised blessing, to all nations. Christians all too often take our Lord's sacrifice for granted without realizing it. Its a very sobering thought to find out Christ instead of suffering the cross, could have called for more than 12 legions

of angels to escape the agonly of the cross.Matt.26:53. His answer was,"But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Before the church was established on the day of Pentecost, or any of Acts (from Acts forward) was written, Jesus declared:"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." and this is recorded in the Gospels. Matt. 28:18. I don't see how much more powerful or meaningful the Gospel can get.

ABOUT THE PARABLES

Those that would try and do away with all or part of the four Gospels, usually will point to the parables, Jesus used to teach them in the beginning, making something easier to understand, and say they are of little or no value. One of the country's well known religious leaders(now deceased) even went so far as to say that the parables were just a myth.(fairy tales without meaning or false). Jesus taught a fact in every one of his parables. Since it is impossible for a false parable to teach a true fact, or a true parable to teach a false fact, I have no reason to doubt that every one of my Lord's parables taught,(to them that will hear him) a true fact. In the day of judgement, the liar will be the unbeliever. "...let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." Rom. 3:4.

WHEN IS A TESTAMENT IN FORCE?

The answer is very plain to us, when we read in Heb. 9:17,"For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." When Jesus died on the cross, what became effective? From Acts forward had not been written yet.It was still in the near future. Jesus wrote the New Testament Will, just the same way man writes one today.Man today writes a last will and testament and it is not in force until after he dies. Then are all the details made known, that the will contains.

Listen to what Jesus told his disciples on this very thought found in St.John 14:26,"But the Comforter,which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remenbrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Yes, when Jesus died on the cross, the Old Law was don away with,(he fulfilled it) and the complete Gospel was in force.

God did not have two laws binding on mankind at the same time. The writings and teaching found in the New Testament from Acts forward are teaching us by examples

taught. Letters and books written are the details contained in the New Testament, that our Lord brought to us. It became in force when he died to make it so. Yes the whole Gospel came to us with his death on the cross, and all that it meant and contained in that covenant was explained to us by the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, as was taught by the Apostles.

MOTIVES QUESTIONED.

Man has always found fault with the word of God and today is no different than in the past. He tries to disannul much of our Lord's doctrine, by simply trying to do away with the four Gospels. Seldom are the real reasons over a contraversary really admitted. People try to change the word of God, such as wanting individual cups, trying to prove they are alright, when the real reason is, they are afraid of contacting physical germs, yet, their fear of a possible slight damage to the body, ignores what may be a permanent one to the soul. Such,as counting Christ's blood an unclean thing,etc.

Many times man will make a strong stand, to be sure the fruit of the vine is blessed in the one volume, showing that deep down they believe Jesus used one cup. But fear of the germs take over, so then pour it into separate containers,etc.

Some are afraid they may have to humble themselves, to the point of washing somebody's feet, and it may be because they don't fully understand the matter, so its a lot easier for man(he thinks)for various reasons, to just try and do away with the four Gospels. I do hope if any of my brethren, that may have been taken in by this folly, will give it up. Six things the Lord hates and the seventh is an abomination unto him, "he that soweth discord among the brethren." Prov.6:19. Whenever I see I'm wrong, I just quit it and go on, and never expect any different from my brethren, for I learned sometime back, that the soul is far more worth saving for up there, than the face is down here.

With Christian Charity,
Harry Wegley
234 Woodside Dr.
Grants Pass, Oregon 97533

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CONGRATULATIONS

Brother & Sister Bill McCay wish to announce the engagement of their daughter Teri McCay & Bobby Lamb,Jan. 18, 1974. Wedding date will be August 31,1974. Bobby is the son of Brother & Sister Bob Lamb of Yakima,also.

Brother & Sister Al Burtis wish to announce the engagement of their daughter Connie Burtis & Ken Williams Dec.24,1973. Wedding date will be June 21,1974.

MEETING DATES

Yuma, [illegible]		[illegible]kers
Broken Bow,Okla	June 2-[illegible]	Brother Lloyd Allgood
Chico,Calif.	July 14-21st	Brother Alfred Perigen
Gardendale Church Odessa, Texas	June 10- 17	Brother Charlie Burt
Baron, Okla.	June 16- 23	Brother Jack Morris
Bellflower,Calif.	June 30-July 7th.	Brother Bill McCay
Port Orchard,Wash.	Aug.11-18	Brother Ken Baldwin

(WHEN IS YOUR MEETING? DO WE HAVE THE DATE LISTED?)

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Take time to work-It is the price of success.
Take time to think-It is the source of power.
Take time to play-It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read-It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly-It is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream-It is hitching your wagon to a star.
Take time to love and to be loved-It is the privilege of God.
Take time to look around-It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to laugh-It is the music of the soul.

Author Unknown.....

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GOSPEL MINISTER??

Need to know if there is a gospel Minister in or around Oklahoma City, Oklahoma? Contact: Brother N.E.Bergstrom Rt.1 Box 36, Stanton,Texas 79782

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CHURCH NEWS

LORENZO,TEXAS

We here are all about well after a bad winter of the flu. Now young Leesa Howe just broke out with the chicken pox,March 11.

Brother L.C. Barker's family was up for Sunday Mar. 10th from Gardendale Church of Christ, Odessa,Texas.They now have their building almost completely finished except the baptistery and are meeting in their new building. Their meeting will begin June 10-17the with out son-in-law, Brother Charlie Burt.

Our one and only son Brother Willie Howe got home from the navy Nov.5,1973, discharged and hopes out to stay forever. He married Sister Mary Pollen Jan.19,1974.

Mary is the daughter of Brother & Sister E.N.Pollen of Ringold,Texas. They are now living in Wichita Falls, Texas. Willie is employed by a wholesale plumbing supply house, driving a delivery truck in Wichita Falls, and surrounding area. Mary is with an accounting firm there. We are very happy for them both.

We had a new addition to the church here Jan. 26, 1974. Keith Hotter of Saton, Texas. Bro.Keith Hotter and Sister Carolyn Loftis were united in marriage Feb. 15,1974 in the church here. Keith is employed at a foundry in Slaton and Carolyn at a bank in Lubbock. They live in Slaton. (Congratulations to them.)

Brother James Cavin Clements was baptized Mar.10, 1974 here. His wife Sister Sherie Clements was baptized about 3 years ago. James is the Grandson of Sister Covena Johnson of Lubbock. We here have prayed for a long while for this to happen. So of course there was great rejoicing in Lorenzo, as well as in heaven.

Brother R.H. Peel had a bout with the flu about 3 weeks ago and missed church one Sunday, but has been able to come the rest of the time. He lives in Crosbyton by himself after his wife's severe illness caused her to b cared for in a rest home in Dimmit,Texas. He can't drive anymote, so some of us pick him up for worship services. His greatest desire is to be in church every Sunday and hopes to as long as he can walk or ride or by any possible means, as long as the Lord wills.

Sister Maude Scoot of Lorenzo gave up being able to care for herself and is now living with her daughter Anna Maude Happer at Petersburg. Sister Sharon Loftis picks her up for worship whenever Sis. Scott is able to go.

Of course the saddest thing that has happened in our congregation and family was the passing of Brother Howard Studer, December 3,1973. He is certainly missed by all here.

For other good news,Bro.& Sis. Evart Forsman have moved back from Lubbock to Lorenzo. Evart is employed at the John Deere house in Lorenzo.

Bro.& Sis. Jimmie Loftis have a 4½ year old foster child now.

Well we have not at this time any set date or speaker for our spring or summer meeting.

We do enjoy the paper very much and would hate to see it discontinued for lack of funds, enclosed is a long overdue donation to the expense fund for the Courier.

I don't think of anything else at this time. Hope

this finds all well. Knowing of course that age, and infirmities of the flesh will always be working on someone, and is something we all have to live and die with.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Earl Howe & family on behalf
of the church that meets in
Lorenzo, Texas, 4th & Monroe St.

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KENTON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

The little group at Furnish Canyon are about as usual. Please accept this contribution to use as you see best. We always look forward to receiving the paper.

Our Meeting will be Aug. 11 throu 18 th with Bro. Tom Broadway of Grants Pass, Oregon bringing the lessons. Anyone passing throu at anytime be sure and stop by.

In Christian Love,
J.C. & Myrtle Whitley

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Brethren:

I hope this letter finds you all well and prospering in the Lord. The congregation here in San Pablo sends our love to all.

We have had the pleasure of receiving visitors on several occasions here of late, And are thankful to God for them.

Brother Elmer Hunt visited us from Ocean Side, Cal. His wonderful sermon was enjoyed by all. On the same day Bro. Cliff Brockman was among us too. Some of the younger Brockman family was here from Chico, Cal. too. We thank the Good Lord for these visitors, and our prayers are with them.

A few weeks earlier Bro.& Sis. Curtis McCluskey was with us. On every occasion that we have them with us, I know it is a chore for them to drive from Sacramento to be in the worship here, because of his health, but he says, we all must do all we can to further the work of our Lord, no matter what we have to endure. I hope and pray every one of us feel this way, and go on and do that little "extra" for the Lord.

Bro. Starnes from Grass Valley, Cal. was here with Bro. McCluskey and he also helped in the worship. Let us pray for all the brethren, where ever they may be. Pray for the few that meets here in San Pablo. May God bless and keep you unto the day when we all will be with Him in heaven to live forever.

In love of the truth,
Homer Bryant
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PLEASE SEND US YOUR MEETING DATES. IF NOT, WHY NOT?

BIRTHS

On March 20,1974, Stockton,California Stacy Ann Logan was born unto Lloyd & JoAnn Logan. Stacy weighed 3lbs. 2oz. She is the 3rd Grand-daughter of Bro.& Sis.J.D.Logan.

On April 15,1974,Stockton,California Eric Sean Foundation was born unto Don & Patricia Foundation. Eric weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. He is the 1st Grand-son of Bro.&Sis. Logan. Congratulations!

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OBITUARY

Laura E. Willis was born April 16,1885 in Henrietta,Texas. She departed this life February 24,1974. Sister Willis had been a faithful member of the Church of Christ for over 60 yrs.

Burial was February 26,1974 in the South Lawn Memorial Park in Tucson, Arizona.

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BELLFLOWER,CALIFORNIA

Dear Christian Friends:

We here at Bellflower congregation are doing very well except for the usual colds going around. Sis. Kate Lewis wasn't at church Sunday, as she wasn't well. Also Sis, Nell Fulkerson misses some from illness.

The Children here brought some of their neighborhood friends to church last Sunday,about 7 or 8 in all. We had a weiner roast and a trip to play miniature golf later, then sang some.

We are glad ot have all visitors. Bro.Calvin Roy Dabbs spoke for us in the evening service. He did a very good job and hope he continues doing so. Sis. Lula Way is visiting her son, Bro. Al Way and meeting with us.Its good to heve her here.

We want to announce our meeting here at Bellflower starting June 30 thru July 7th with Bro. Bill McCay Sr. as our speaker. Everyone is cordially welcome to come and be with us. Brother McCay is a very able speaker.We are looking forward to having them with us.

In Christian Love,
Claud Perigen for the Church
of Christ, 9914 Arkansas Ave.
Bellflower,California

Phone Numbers:
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Olin Taylor: 1-213-699-8375
Al Way: 1-714-842-1633
Jerry Perigen: 1-714-842-1251

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We here at Modesto just concluded a wonderful meeting with Bro. Al Way speaking nightly and doing a very fine job,the attendance was just great. We were very pleased to have had him and his family with us, if only for a short while. We want to thank all the visitors and invite them back at any time. They give us great encouragement.