The Christian COURIER

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JUNE 1974

WISDOM

Nobody wants to be considered foolish or stupid,do we? We all want to be the one who is right, regardless of age, from childhood to the grave. There is one source of wisdom for all members of the human family. There are different kinds of wisdom: there are foolish people,who take pride in being wise in how to steal; wise in how to cheat; wise in how to put something over on the other person; wise in how to get away with breaking rules;without being caught. This is Satan's kind of wisdom. This is the kind he tempted Eve with in the garden of Eden. The end of this kind of wisdom is death.(Eternal Death) Ezek. 18:4, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." And also 1Cor. 1:20,"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" So that kind of wisdom is not wisdom at all, in the real sense, foolish wisdom is not true wisdom.What is real wisdom? where can we find it?

Psa. 19:7,"...the testimony of the Lord is sure,making wise the simple." Where do we find the testimony of the Lord? By doing like Jesus did, and saying,"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."(Matt.4:4). Job28:28, "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."And Prov. 1:7,"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

But, so many people today, say, "I don't want to fear the Lord. I just want to love him." But that is more foolish wisdom of the world, because it is not Bible doctrine. Truly we must love the Lord to serve him acceptably. Matt. 22:37-40,"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great com-

mandment and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." How can we prove that we do love God? 1Jno.5:3,"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments." This is also how you prove that you love and honour your parents: isn't it? By obeying them, and fearing their displeasure helps you remember to obey.

1Pet. 2:17,"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.:" Eph. 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." 1Pet. 3:8-12,"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile. Let him eschew evil, and do good; Let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Rom. 12:16-21,"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

To fear God is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. But this is only the beginning. You could be the wisest person in the world, but if you don't act wise, what good does it do you to be wise?

Job 28:28,"To depart from evil is understanding." To do evil on the sly, to cover up an evil deed, to "get by" without getting caught is neither wise nor understanding. Rather it is foolish sinful thinking. Wisdom of the world.

Rom. 12:9,"Abhor that which is evil." As christians we must train ourselves to hate, to be disgusted with what is evil. To "Abhor it", Not to laugh at it, and to tolerate it.

1Thess 5:22,"Abstain from all appearance of evil." If you choose to keep company with an evil behaving group, you are not"abstaining from all appearance of evil".Rather by your seeming acceptance, you are strengthening the hands of the wicked. 1Tim. 5:22,"...neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure". We know it is easier to avoid temptation by staying entirely away from people and places that you are pretty sure are not just right. Easier than to place your self in temptation's way and then try to be strong.

1Cor. 15:33,"Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners."

Prov.4:14-15,"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, and pass away." It isn't wise even to go to these places just to see what they are doing. "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

Yours in Christ,
Curtis C. McCluskey
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WORLDLY

1Jno. 2:15 says, "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." We read in Matt.4th chapter how Jesus was tempted of the devil. In verses 8-10, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;"(the things that are in the world, as 1 Jno. 2:15 says it), "And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Verse 10, "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Verse 11 says."Then the devil leaveth him,"

We also read in 1Jno. 2:15,"If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

(To love Christ, and be a friend of the world, is to be a spiritual adulterer.) James 4:4 says,"Ye adulterers, and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James keeps on saying, "my brethren," in his Epistle, but to these in James 4:4 he said,"Ye adulterers, and adulteresses." James did not call these his brethren. Saying unto them in verse 6 on,"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble, Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

The devil our adversary tries his best to have us Carnally,(worldly), minded, which is enmity to God.Rom. 8:7. James 4:4.

We read in Col. 3:1 on, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." etc.....

Brother H. Stolnake
1208 So. 9th. St.
Yakima, Wash. 98901

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CAN A MAN AND WIFE SCRIPTURALLY COMMUNE TOGETHER ALONE?

I would like to give you some scripture to consider on this: First in Matt. 18:20,"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Now the emphatic diaglott in the original greek translation says: "Where for are two or three having come together in the my name there I am in the midst of them."

In Luke 4:4 it says,"That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." We know God did not use superfluous words so we must consider every word written. To come together means, to congregate. So if we are already together, we are not gathered together.

We know what it is to gather eggs or apples,so is the gathering of people, the assembling together. In Matt. 19:5,"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and they twain shall be one flesh?" Eph.5:31,"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." 32nd verse,"This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Christ is the head of the church: man is the head of the wife.

Now if we join a club or faternity we know we become a part of it. A man and wife joined together become a part of each other.

1Cor. 10:17,"For we being many are one bread, and one body:" We are the body of which Christ is the head. The head governs the body. Thus man is the head of the wife.

Brother L.E. Arnett 4449S.Carpenter Rd.Sp.23
Modesto,Calif. 95351

BE SUCH A MAN

Be such a man, and live such a life,
That if every man were such as you,
And every life a life like yours,
This earth would be God's Paradise.

THE HOUSEWIFE

Jesus, teach me how to be prud of my simplicity,
Sweep the floors, wash the clothes,
Gather for each vase a rose.
Iron and tend a tiny flock,
Keeping one eye on the clock.
Always having time kept free
For childish questions asked of me.
Grant me wisdom Mary had
When she taught her little lad.

(Each of the above pieces were sent to us and author is unknown, hope some good will come from them.)

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MEETING DATES

(please get yours in early some of these were late.)

June 2-9	Cedaredge,Colorado	Bro.Earl Atchley
June 2-9	Broken Bow,Oklahoma	Bro.Lloyd Allgood
June 9-16	Gardendale Congregation Odessa,Texas	Bro.Charlie Burt
June 9-16	Springfield,Oregon	Bro.Bill & Mike McCay
June 16-23	Baron, Oklahoma	Bro.Jack Morris
June 30-July 7	Bellflower,California	Bro.Bill McCay Sr.
July 14-21	Chico,California	Bro.Claud Perigen
July 7-14	Yakima,Washington	Bro.Harry Dye
Aug. 11-18	Kenton,Oklahoma	Bro.Tom Broadway
Aug 11-18	Port Orchard,Washinton	Bro. Ken Baldwin
Sept 3-8	Pleasantview Congregation Stilwell,Oklahoma	Bro. Robert Morris

(WHERE IS YOUR MEETING DATE ? HAS IT ALREADY BEEN PRINTE

The Bible needs less defense and more practice.....

The Bible does not need to be rewritten but reread.....

CHURCH NEWS
CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Please put our meeting date in the paper. Happy Hollow Church of Christ, Cedaredge, Colorado June 2 to 9th. Brother Earl Atchley doing the preaching. From Elk City, Oklahoma. Every body come that can.

Thanks- Ken Baldwin
P.O.Box 138
Delta,Colo. 81416

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YAKIMA,WASHINGTON

Brethren:

Just a few lines to bring you up to date on the status of the congregation here in Yakima. Aside from the usual amount of minor aches and pains, and flu which seems to afflict everyone from time to time, and the infirmities of the elderly, we here are in pretty good health. Brother Harry Jacobson had surgery last week but is now home. Our son Kelly had knee surgery again in Jan. but it seems to be healing properly this time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brethren who were so hospitable to us while we were on vacation. We really enjoyed ourselves immensely. Bro. & Sis. Robert McCay, Bro. & Sis. Vernon Roark and Veda & I had the privilege of meeting with the brethren at Bellflower, Calif. and attending part of the Gospel meetings at Yuma, Arizona and Modesto,California.

Our Brother Howard McCay also went with us as far as Stockton, California and he & Bro. J.D.Logan went on down for the 1st Sunday of the meeting at Yuma.

We would heartily recommend this type of vacation for all who enjoy gospel singing, preaching and the wonderful fellowship with Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Once again, thank you to all who made our visit in Bellflower, Encinctos, Yuma, and Modesto so pleasant.

We have finally set a date for our summer meeting here. It will be (Lord Willing), July 7th to July 14th with Brother Harry Dye of the Yuma congregation. We invite any and all who would come this way to come and be with us at this time and any time.

Happy to announce one more new Christian, John Bauer. John and Carol Lamb, daughter of Bro.& Sis. Bob Lamb will be married July 13th Congratulations you two.

We took my mother Sister Phebe McCay down to Eugene, Oregon to see her new great,great granddaughter last week-

end. April 23th. This is the grandaughter of Sister Barbara Paseman and great grandaughter of Bro.& Sister Roy McCay. There was a nice crowd at Sunday morning services and we had a basket lunch after services before leaving for home.

Love to all the Brethren,
Brother Bill McCay Sr.
719 E. Viola
Yakima, Washington.

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HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

Brethren:

Again a word to let you hear from the church here on Bohannan Mountain. We still meet each Lord's Day. We would like to have a meeting this summer, but don't know of any one just yet.

My health has not been too good neither has Brother Steve Laney and wife.

Will try and write more next time. By saying Please turn to Eph. 4:14-15 I remain,

Brother George Vanderpool

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SACRAMENTO,CALIFORNIA

Brethren:

Corrections and additions to Sister McCluskey's letter in February's issue of the Christian Courier.

Our son Brother Lloyd Usrey was married on the 22nd of Dec. 1973. His wife's name is Debbie.

My correct phone number is 1-916-929-6938. If you want to meet with us, just give us a call. We have a new starting time, as of April 7th,1974 it is 10:00A.M. every Sunday.

We here at Sacramento enjoy Brother McCluskeys' preaching every other Lord's Day. The Sundays Bro.& Sis. McCluskey aren't with us they are either at San Pablo or Indian Springs,(Grass Valley), Preaching the Gospel.Keep up the good work and may the good Lord keep and watch over them on their travels.

Yours in Christ,
Bro.& Sis. Usrey
840 Bell Ave.
Sacramento,California 95838

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STILWELL,OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We here at the Still church are increasing, Brother Freddie Brown and family are meeting with us, and Sister Workman, her daughter and family. We are very pleased

to have both families meeting with us as we are small in number.

We now have Wednesday evening services here at the Stilwell congregation every week now. We meet at 7:30 each Wednesday evening, if anyone is able to worship with us we would be pleased to have them. Sunday morning we still meet at 10:30 and Sunday evening we are alternating with Baron Church.

Our meeting will be September 3 thru September 8th with Brother Robert Morris of Yuma, Arizona preaching.

We are glad to have Sister Ollie Cantrell back with us again after having some minor surgery. Brother Vess Brown is in the Stilwell hospital, but hopes to go home soon.

Brother Gerald Buckner
Route 2
Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960

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SPRINGFIELD,OREGON

Dear Brethren:

Am sending you a small amount from the church at Springfield.

We had a good crowd at church last Lord's Day.Many came from Yakima, Washington. Bro. Bill McCay Sr. preached: Bro.Mike McCay led the singing. A basket dinner was enjoyed after services.

We are glad to have the Bryant family here now. Bro. Jim Bryant & family moved from Oklahoma to Klamath Falls, Oregon, now recently moved to Lowal, Oregon. Bro. Jim Bryant was using a power saw, when his daughter stumbled and fell into the saw which went between two ribs just missed entering the lung. She is to have surgery, as a piece of rib chipped off.

There has been much sickness this year. Spring is late coming, we are hoping for more sunshine soon.

(Ed.Note: this is a combination of two letters we recieved from the Springfield congregation. Thank you both.)

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BROKEN BOW,OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will write the news for the church here and announce our meeting, starting the first Sunday in June with Brother Lloyd Allgood. All who can,come and be with us and help out in our meeting. We extend a warm welcome to

all passing by to stop for a visit any time.

The church here is about as usual. Some have had the flu, but most are able to attend the services: Thanks to God for his great love in Christ. We would like to have a good meeting this year as we have had for the last several times. Looking forward to seeing a lot of the Brethren. So remember the first Sunday in June at Broken Bow,Oklahoma. Ya All Come.

Yours for the Church here at
Broken Bow, Oklahoma
Lloyd Treat & wife.

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(Ed. Note: the above letter was mis-placed after writing down the meeting date in our meeting date book, so it is late in getting in the paper. For this we apologize. Due to lack of material we combined the April-May issue. If any congregation is planning a meeting try to get it to us a few months before the meeting date, for sometimes we do run short and have to combine months. But the above letter was an error on our part and we certainly regret it happened.The next one is late for the editors did not recieve it from the mailbox to our desk in time.Again we are sorry.)

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BELLFLOWER,CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethern:

We left Bellflower,on the 2nd of Feb. and went north to McFarland where I preformed a wedding for Brother Carl Jordan Jr. and Cynthia Bryant on the 16th. From there we went on to Waterford where I gave the lesson Sunday morning. We had a very nice visit with the brothers and sisters there. Sunday evening I was honored to speak at the Modesto congregation. We returned home Monday morning.

There is a church at McFarland,California. They have 4 or 5 members meeting with Bro.& Sis. Jordan at this adress: 123 3rd Street. Turn off Hwy.#99 on Sherwood Road in McFarland. Then 3 blks. off of the freeway turn north on 3rd. St. The house number is 123.Please stop and help them out they are young adults and just new Christians. They need all the support they can get.

With Love,
Yours in Christ,
Bro. Donald Dabbs & family.

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MODESTO,CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We here at Modesto congregation are doing faily well with some illness. But all now at the present seem to be improving some. For which we are very thankful.

Brother Kenneth Perry is up and doing well after surgery a few weeks ago. Also Sister Mae Morse is up following her surgery and was able to return last Lord's Day to worship.

Sisters Adell Stark, Clemmie Baxley, and Mae Johnson are doing well in a convalscent hospital. Sister Minnie Stephens and Mae Watson haven't been able to be with us for some time due to illness and infirmities of the flesh. Hope and pray all the Sisters will improve and be able to return to worship. We miss them all very much. They are all in their late 80's and 90's.

Brother Al Burtis is recovering from an automobile accident May 15th. His car rolled side-ways 7 or 8 times down a very steep mountain near Groveland, California. He is now home. He is a very fortunate man and very thankful to the Heavenly Father to be alive and no worse.

We have been blessed with a number of visitors recently, hope they can all or some return soon. We were priviliged to have Brother Elmo Brown and Brother Homer Bryant speak for us at our morning worship recently.

All are invited to be with us in our morning worship 10:30 A.M. and again Sunday evening at 6:30 P.M. Also come and be with us in our homes any time. Call Brother Al Burtis, 523-6387 Modesto, or Brother Dean Guyer, 883-4195 Hughson, or Brother John Logan, 464-4961 Stockton.

Christian Love,
The Modesto Congregation
John D. Logan

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CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Last Lord's Day, My wife, daughter, Patricia, and three grandchildren, along with myself were privilidged to be with the brethren meeting at Chico. We had been visiting with my Brother and family at Hayfork, Calif. and returned home by way of Chico. The congregation there will begin a Gospel meeting July 14, continuing through 21 with Bro Glaud Perigen doing the speaking.

We would like to recommend everyone who can to attend each service possible, as we are. The brethren will appreciate your help. JDL

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THE NEW TESTAMENT
CHURCH

The church is the bride of Christ. Eph.5:23, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." Rom. 7:4, "Wherefore, my brethern, ye also are become dead

to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised form the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

The Church is the body of Christ. Eph.1:22-23,"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." The church is built by Christ. Matt.16:18,"And I say also unto thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."1Cor. 3:11,"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

The church needs preaching to build it up. Acts8:4-5, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad, went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." 1Cor. 2:2,"For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Some belittle the church and say it has failed its mission, but they are wrong. Men have failed the church. but the church will stand up in the judgement. It is a blood bought institution. Acts 20:28,"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

There is one church. 1Cor.12:12,"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." Eph. 4:4,"There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" We need to be baptized into the church,kingdom, vineyard or body.It is all the same blood bought institution. Gal.3:27,"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." 1Cor.12:13,"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jew or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

For those who have never obeyed the gospel or been added to the church,kingdom,vineyard or body, they would need to be taught.Matt.28:19,"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Mk. 16:15,"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

They would need to have faith or believe. Heb.11:16, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."Rom. 10:17,"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

They would need to repent. Lu. 13:3,"I tell you, Nay but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.Acts

2:38,"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

They would need to confess him before men, if they expect to be confessed before God the Father. Rom.10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Acts 8:37,"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart,thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." That is the confession we are to make, that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

They would need to be baptized for remission of sins, in order to get into his body, church, kingdom or vineyard. Acts 8:38,"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Rom.6:4,"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

After being baptized they should let the Lord add them to the right church, kingdom, vineyard or body.Acts 2:47,"Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Clyde L. Couchman
211 W. Cherry Ave. Sp.22
Amarillo,Texas 79108

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THE WHOLE BIBLE CONTAINS:

The mind of God
The state of man
The doom of sinners
The happiness of believers

Its doctrines are holy,

Its precepts are binding,

Its histories are true,

Its decisions are immutable.

HOW TO USE THE BIBLE

Read it through
Pray it in
Work it out
Note it down
Pass it on.

What you bring away from the Bible depends to some extent on what you carry to it.