The Christian COURIER

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GLORIFY GOD IN BODY AND SPIRIT.

We read in Joshua 24:2, that Terah, Abrahams father served other gods. And in Genesis 12:1-2,"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee; And I will make of thee a great nation,..." We read in Heb.11:8,"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went."

Likewise,(By Faith), we who are called by the gospel, we must obey, and forsake the beliefs of our parents and in-laws who abide not in the doctrine of Christ.A follower of Christ is to forsake every doctrine, that is contrary to the doctrine of Christ, he must serve the Lord faithfully; he muct love Christ more than any other person, more than anything else.

In Luke 14:16-18,"...A certain man made a great supper, And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, come; for all things are now ready.And they all with one consent began to make excuse...." In verse 20,"And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." We read in verse 26, that Jesus says,"If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

The word hate here, as we know, means to love-less. Jesus said in Mark 8:35,"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it."So we must love Christ more than our own lives even, and more than our wives even. We read in Eph.5:25,"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it;" Verse 28,"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth him-

self." (the verse tells husbands to love their wives as their own bodies, yet a man must love Christ more than his own life.)

We read in Romans 2:11,"For there is no respect of persons with God." (for instance), in Jas. 1:26,"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this mans religion is vain."(so any man here includes her also), "For there is no respect of persons with God".

Then we read in 1Thess.2:2-4,Paul saying,"For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in santification and honour." (that is his body, whether his or hers).

"...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."1Cor. 6:16. And in 1Cor.3:16-17,"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

We did read in 1Thess.4:4,"That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel,(own body), in sanctification and honour." Here it says in 1Cor.3:17,"If any man,(he or she), defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy...".

Paul says in Rom. 12:1-2,"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

1Jno.2:15 reads,"Love not the world, neither the things, that are in the world."(Verse16),"that the lust of the flesh is not of the Father, but is of the world." (Some of the world is dressed for temptation, they are showing their naked shape...surely this is not what the Bible means, when it says that,"in like manner also,that women adorn themselves in modest apparel."1Tim.2:9.

Gal.5:24 says,"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (That's what they have done), they love Christ more than they

love to show their fleshly shape..

We read in 1 Thess. 4:4, "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel,(their own body), in sanctification and honour." In 1 Cor.6:20,"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's".

When Adam and Eve sinned, we read in Genesis 3:21, that the Lord God made them clothes out of shins.(it was a sign that the sinful flesh needeth a covering) and he drove them out of the paradise.

Submitted by,
Brother H.Stolnake
L Box 193
Gackle, N. Dakota 58442

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CAN A MAN ROB GOD?.....

Can a man rob God today? If so, how can we? Malachi1, the last prophet to the Jews, asks this question: "Will a man rob God?" Malachi 3:3. It must have been possible because he goes on to say,"Yet ye have robbed me." How was it possible for a man to rob God seeing he dwells in heaven and we dwell here on the earth?

The children of Israel robbed God in their tithes. They did not give to God all that he commanded of them. Also in their offerings and sacrifices. They were to offer to God the best of the animals. God wanted the pure, and the fat of the flocks and herds. They robbed God by sub tituting the blind, lame and the sick. Therefore they robbed God.

Moses robbed God when he brought forth water from the rock at Meribah. He did not give God all the credit, but reserved some credit of himself when he said,"Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" Numbers 20:10. He included himself in fetching the water and did not give God all the credit. For this Moses failed to enter into the promised land.

Gods' laws are perfect and complete, and when we try to change them in any way, we also rob God.

In Hebrews 10:25, we are commanded to forsake not the"assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of aome is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." When we go fishing or watch a football game rather than attend the service of the Lord, we are indeed robbing God of the time he has set aside for us to worship him.

We are instructed in many places throughout the scriptures to pray. We are to pray to God thanking Him for what he has done for us. And when we neglect, we are robbing God.

I feel our singing is another way we can rob God. Our songs come up before God as a sweet incense in the same way the sacrafice that the Jews offered. If we sing with other things on our mind(half heartedly and without the right frame of mind. God accepts this as he did the blind ram in sacrifice. We should sing with joy in our hearts to the Lord.

We can rob God in our daily conversation. We are to let our light shine before men so others may see our good works and glorify God. If we profess to be Christians and others cannot see our good works, How can they glorify God? We should not be ashamed to be Christians and be an example to the rest of the world. They will see the difference between themselves, and the way God has asked Christians to live.

If we confess him here on earth he will confess us before the Father in heaven and brethren, we want Him to confess us before God. If he does not confess us he will deny us.

There are other ways we canerob God. As Christians, we do not want to be put in a class as robbers, because robbers is in the same class as a murderer and a liar. And all liars shall have their place in the Lake of Fire.

The Children of Israel robbed God and we know that they suffered the consequences. Their crops failed, sickness and they were opressed. God made them servants to the nation around them and finally drove them out of the promised land into Babelyn.

We have the Children of Israel for our examples. If we rob God, what hope do we have? I believe Hebrews 10: 28 & 29 paints a clear picture of what is in store for us. "He that dispised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy who hath trodden under food the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done dispite unto the Spirit of Grace?"

We see we can rob God easily so Brethern, we should be very careful to walk in the way God has instructed.If we do, we will inherit the promise.

In Christian Love, Mike Brockman

230 Oak Street,Chico,California.

THE OLD TESTAMENT- FACT OR FICTION?

Most of the Old Testament is a record of history of past civilizations. In it, are recorded the creation of man, man's bout with the Devil, man's expulsion form Eden, and then his struggle with the outside world. Stuggle with the environment included hunger, shelter, clothing, danger wars with other men and nations, and the endeavor to remain righteous in God's sight.

This, however is not the sole content of those ancient scriptures. They also included prophecy. Prophecy was a way God could speak through man, thus communicating with man. Prophecy was not always understood by man, mainly because man was short sighted and ignorant of God's intentions. Many of the prophecies dealt with promises that were to come many generations following the first creation. This may have seemed to ancient man a sound reason not to be concerned with the many promises given, if he were to receive no immediate benefit. Therefore, the prophecies of ancient times were forgotten by all but a few of the inhabitants of the earth; and it wasn't until perhaps 1000 years after that man realized the error in reasoning made by their decendants.

The unbelief and dismalling of prophecy was at it's lowest depth when ancient man had not realized that many of the more ancient scriptures were finally being fulfilled. Let us refer to those scriptures that prophesied a better hope that was to come in the future; a hope that was extremely significant to man's final destiny, but was cast aside through ignorance.

Explaniation and discussion of these prophetic scriptures would take an exhorbant amount of paper, so I will list only the scriptures and their common focal point:

A. Christ the prophet is coming to offer salvation. Deut. 18:15 22.

B. Christ, the coming light. Isa. 9:2; Isa. 42:6; Isa. 60:1 19.

C. Christ would be a foundation stone; but even better, a corner stone. Psa. 18:22-23; Isa. 28: 16-17; Isa. 8:14.

D. Christ will bring hope to the waiting Gentiles. Isa. 25:8-9; Isa. 42:1-4.

E. Lineage of David. Gen. 12:3; Isa. 11:10; Jer. 23:5

F. The names of the coming promise. Isa. :14; 9:6.

G. Christ will come forth, and rom a certain place, namely Bethlehem(City of David).Micah 5:2.

H. The way must be prepared. Isa.40:3-5; Mal. 3:1-3; Mal.4:5-6.
(Elijah the prophet prepared the way of Elisha the prophet(a miraculous man) in much the same way that John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ. The process was so identical, that a case of mistaken identity occured in Matt.1 :10-13. Read & see!).

I. The new King will rule over the Kingdom.Isa.9:7; Isa.16:5;Dan.7:14,27.

J. Christ's entrance into Jerusalem i foretold. Zech.9:9.

K. Christ sold for 30 pieces of silver. Zech.11:12-13.

L. Christ will suffer many afflictions.Isa.53;Psa. 22:16-18;Zech.12:9-10;Psa.69:18-21.

M. Christ's Victory. Psa. 110:1.

N. A new covenant offered and used.Jer.31:31-34.

O. A great happening in Jerusalem/Mt.Zion.Joel2:28-32.

P. God's ageless plea. Psa. 95:7-11.

These prophesies were given to man in order to help him understand what the future held. Contrarily,however, it confused him. He was never to know whether or not they would come true. He could decide whether they were fact or fiction.

We, however are in a completely **different** set of circumstances. We know that every scripture was fulfilled. We can prove it because the fulfillment is recoreded in the New Testament. We cannot take the position of undecision as to it's authenticity. We know that it WAS FACT.

Why, then, do so many people prefer to be as their ancient ancestors and not realize the significance of God's prophesies and their fulfillment? They still insist on casting aside the Chief corner stone, as did their ancient forebearers.

I wish their ignorance and hardheartedness were fiction instead of fact! Submitted in Christian Love, Brother Don Ross, 424 So. 47th Ave. Yakima, Washington 98902.

-EPITAPHS-

ABLE-Heb.11:4; Dead but speaketh.

ENOCH-Gen.5:24;He walked with God.

JOB-Job.1:1; Perfect and upright.

ABRAHAM-James.2:23; The friend of God.

JOSEPH-Gen.41:39; Descreet and wise.

MOSES-Num.12:3; Meek above all men.

GIDEON-Judges6:12; Mighty man of valor.

DAVID-Acts 13:22; A man after God's heart.

DANIEL-Dan.1:8; He would not defile himself.

JOHN-Jno.21:20; The disciple whom Jesus loved.

NATHANIEL-Jno.1:47; In whom there is no guile.

STEPHEN-Acts 6:8; Full of grace and power.

BARNABAS-Acts 11:24; He was a good man.

PAUL-2 Tim.4:7; He kept the faith.

MARY-Mark 14:8; She hath done what she could.

DORCAS-Acts 9:36; Was full of good works and almsdeeds.

PHOEBE-Rom.16:2; A helper of many.

TIMOTHY-Phil.2:20; He truly cared.

I don't believe we would need to say anymore on these.

Robert McCay
22 A Creekview Drive
Port Orchard,Washington 98366.

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EDITORS NOTE: You may notice there are certain letters which are blurred from too much ink. We are truly sorry that this is occuring, but it isn't our fault, just as they are skimping and everything these days the same is true with our stencils. We have the typewriter set as lightly as we can set it plus touching the keys very light lightly and it still cuts the stencils. We do hope that future stencils will be back to the heavier quality like in the past.

MEETING DATES

MODESTO,CALIF. Mar.23-30	Richard Johnston,Yakima,Wash.
BROKEN BOW,OKLA.June 1-8	Charlie Burt,Lorenzo,Texas
YAKIMA,WASH.June 22-29	Jerry Perigen,Belflower,Cal.
PORT ORCHARD,WASH.June29 July6-Al Way,Belflower,Calif.	
BELFLOWER,CALIF.July 13-20	Cliff Brockman,Chico,Calif.
STILWELL,OKLA.July 20-27	Howard McCoy,Yakima,Wash.
DELTA,COLO. Delta Camp Meeting	August 3-10.

Are you having a meeting this year? If so, where is your date and speaker? Is it already in the list above. If not WHY NOT?? Speakers are available and waiting for a call. Pen now, then send it in early so many will help you in your endeavor to spread the Word of God.

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CHURCH NEWS

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern:

Our summer meeting will be July 20th through 26. Brother Howard McCoy from Washington, will be the speaker. Would like to invite anyone that could to meet with us. Not only during the meeting but any other time they are over this way.

There sure has been a lot of flu going around. Just about everyone has it or is taking it.

Christian Love,
Geral Buckener
Pleasant View Church of Christ.
Stilwell,Oklahoma

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BELLFLOWER,CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethern:

A sm 11 note to express our love to the Brotherhood.

We have had the flu bug down this way and many of our members have been sick these past several weeks.

We've had several visitors and thank each and every one for being with us. We invite all to be with us anytime.

Our meeting date will be July 13th through the 20th. Brother Clifton Brockman from Chico,California will be speaking.

Please come and be with us if you can. We love each and every one. May your Christian efforts be successful whereever you are.

In Christian Love,
Alfred Way
11401 Marken Lane
Huntington Beach,Calif. 92647

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SAN PABLO,CALIFORNIA

Dear Bretern:

Best I try to write a few lines to let you know how the congregation in San Pablo is doing. We are still very small in number, but we praise God for each and every one throughout the country that is still labouring for the truth.

We have had some illness, but all is progressing well. Sister Mabel Cooper went into Richmond Hospital Feb:11th for an operation for gall stones. I went to see her the following Lords Day and she was doing real well and then on the 23rd she was able to be at worship once again.

My Mother, Sister Marietta Bryant also had an operation on the 7th for a tumor,which was malignant,but she is home now and is doing better than expected. We want to thank each and everyone for your prayers, We Thank the Lord for them.

Let me say this, if anyone doubts whether or not God answers prayer , believe me He does. We have seen the result. Sister Cooper had a real bad gall bladder, which had to come out, and the doctor said it was the worst one he had ever seen. But God has healed her, so she is doing well. This is because of the prayers of many. The same is true about my mother,Sister Bryant, her operation went very well and the doctor said he could very well believe that God had a hand in it.

So let us never stop praying for one another, and never stop praying for those who know not God. Especially for those who are close to us, or for someone of our family who is living in sin. Sin, to us, is a cancer and if God can heal the cancer in our body, through prayer,why will he not heal the cancer of sin,through prayer? And while we are at it, let us not forget our young people, for these will have to take over for us one of these days.

Again we thank you, and the Lord God for your prayers, and for Him answering them.

Let us continue in the faith and please don't forget to pray for those who are preaching the Word in the meetings coming up. And don't forget to be at those meetings whenever and whereever you can.

The Harvest is Ripe. Today is the DAY of SALVATION.

Written in Love of the truth,
Homer Bryant
1273 Plumleigh
Concord, California

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We here at Glenn & Dallas are doing well, especially since many are feeling much better. Sorry though some are still ill with the flu and colds.

The ones in the convalescent hospital are improved somewhat at this time. Sister Lula Way is able to be back in the worship services, but still not feeling up to par after her seige of illness. Sister Corene Perry, was operated on January 29th. She is feeling much better and is back worhsipping with us again.

Although Brother Ira Brown, meets at Waterford congregtion, we wish to report he is doing very well after having surgery on both eyes, January 28th and 30th.

We were made to rejoice along with Brother & Sister Elmo Brown in the baptism of their daughter Edith on the 23 rd of February. Brother Brown did the baptizing, he has been ill and missed a couple of Sundays but brought a very good lesson the 23rd.

Remember our meeting March 23rd through the 30th with Brother Richard Johnston of Yakima, Washington speaking. Come be with us for any or all of it. Dinner and singing is planned for both Lords Days, we always have plenty of food for all the visitor that come a long way, or for the ones who do not feel like preparing. For any further information, on how to find the building, or a place to stay during the meeting contact: Brother Gene McKinney Brentwood, California 1-415 634-2194; Brother John D. Logan-Stockton, California-1-209-464-4961; Brother Al Burtis-1-209-523-6387.

Our weather here is simply beautiful. Days high 60's and low 70's with nights around 40 and the weather man says a little rain first part of March followed by more beautiful spring days the last of the month.

Before closing we again wish to express our appreciation for the numerous visitors we have had and and invite them back at any time.

The Church of Christ,
Corner of Glenn & Dallas St.
Modesto, California.

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From the Economics Press, Inc. The following article is reprinted, in hopes it will inspire some one to try just a little harder.

Some people think they can do more than they really can. Others underate themselves. Whenever there's a new problem or challenge of any kind, they're sure they can't possibly handle it.

Which is better off? One thing is sure: Given an equal opportunity, equal ability, the fellow who thinks he can do something is more apt to accomplish it than the the fellow who thinks he can't.

According to the laws of aerodynamics, the bumblebee cannot fly. Scientific tests in a wind tunnel show conclusively that the size, weight and shape of a bumblebee's body, in relation to its wingspread, make it impossible for him to even get off the ground.

But the bumblebee, not knowing all this, flies anyway....and manages to carry home a little honey every day.

Isn't it a pity that more of us aren't as blissfully ignorant as the lowly bumblebee about what we can't do? So many people convince themselves that they can't handle a job, that something can't work, or that they can't succeed, that they lick themselves before they even start.

Success in any undertaking is first and foremost a state of mind. The people who accomplish things are usually those who think they can -those who possess the will grit and determination to overcome the obstacles they run into on the way.

When a man has decided ahead of time he can't do something, he has two strikes against him before he starts. This human tendency to let doubts and fears--imagined or otherwise -discourage us too quickly may be the chief cause of the self made failures in this world.

The next time you're up against something new and strange -a new job, new procedure, new piece of equipment -try forcing yourself to think positive rather than negative. Concentrate on how the job might be done. Resist the natural temptation to bring forth the reasons and

arguments why it can't be done.

Give it a try. If you fail, try again-nobody deserves to succeed at anything the first time they try it. No matter how many times you fail, you'll still make a better impression than the fellow who hangs back bleating "I can't" without even trying.

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BEAUTIFUL DAY

It's funny how some folks look at things.
In some hearts hope eternal springs
While others travel along each day
With never a light in their house of clay.

They very seldom lift their eyes
To view the golden, sunlit skies,
Theirs is a world of care and strife,
And they miss the good things of this life.

A man I know who since his birth
Has enjoyed the good things on this earth
And though the skies be dark and gray,
To him its still a beautiful day.

He never frets or cries or whines
For behind the clouds the sun still shines.
Though you many not even see a ray,
My friends, it's still a beautiful day.

Each day is a present we receive;
With it life's destinies we weave.
We work and play and dream and plan
To strive for the betterment of man.

So, friends, when you awake each morn,
And view the new day that's been born,
Just lift your eyes to Him and say,
"Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful day."

Author Unknown.....

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PSALM XXVI

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.