FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL,

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...

MARCH 1976

NOW I AM NO MORE IN THE WORLD

"And now I am no more in the world, and I come to thee, Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be as one, as we are."-John 17:11. Jesus prayed for the apostles that they may be one. He wanted them to be united in their work, and for all to preach the same doctrine. The apostles were all under the same commission. (Matt. 28:18-20) Everywhere they went they preached the same gospel. "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 hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them as thou hast loved me."- John 17:20-23. Jesus prayed earnestly that all believers be one, not one person, but one in name, faith, and doctrine.

Men often argue that it is impossible for all to be one, hence, they accuse Jesus of praying an impossible prayer. But prayer must be in faith. If it is impossible for all to see alike and be one religiously, then Jesus could not have prayed in faith. And without faith it is impossible to please God. But Jesus always pleased God. One reason Jesus gives for wanting all believers to be united is so 'the world may believe that thou hast sent me.' If all professed believers would throw aside their own likes and dislikes, human names, man-made creeds, and stand united on the Bible, then our influence could convince the unbelievers. Jesus said, "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." Mark 3:24. God's kingdom does not consist of all religions. If so it could not stand.

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But Daniel said it shall stand forever. "Now I beseech you, brethren, 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 Appolos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is the Church divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (I Cor. 1:10-13)

If it is wrong to wear Paul's name, and it is certainly condemned here, then it is wrong to belong to a religious party that puts over its place of worship the name of man or any name not found in the New Testament. Christ is not divided, and we should wear the name of him who was crucified for us. When one preacher is preaching one doctrine and another is preaching a different doctrine, they certainly are not speaking the same thing. Perhaps you are wondering how it is possible for all believers to be united. Study carefully the divinely-given plan. "There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:4-6) Let us study prayerfully and carefully each item as here listed, and a few other passages. There is one body. What is the one body of which Paul speaks? Let him answer: "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 fulness of him, that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:22, 23) Since there is one body, and but one, and that body is Christ, therefore, there is but one Church. Jesus said, "I will build my church..." (Matt. 16:18) He built only one. All others have been built by men. In speaking of religious bodies that God did not establish, Jesus said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up." (Matt.15:13) Christ is the head, and all that believe the gospel, repent, confess, and are baptized for the remission of sins, (Acts 2:38) are added to his body, which is the Church (Acts 2:47) 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 show you things to come." (John 16:13) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the thingsthat are freely given to us of God." (ICor. 2:12) As it says in Matt. 23:8-10; "But be not ye called Rabbi, for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth, for one is your Father, which is in

heaven. Neither be ye called master, for one is your Master, even Christ." "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1. However, some see exceptions to the one true hope of heaven. Some have the false hope of reigning with Christ here on earth instead of going to heaven in glory. The early Christians looked forward to a heavenly home.(Heb. 11:16) The apostles and their co-workers all taught the same doctrine. No one had a right to his own belief. All had to preach the same gospel. (Gal. 1:8) Hence, the early Christians all heard the same gospel preached, all believed the same gospel, and all obeyed the same commands in becoming a Christian.

Baptism is a necessity. Most religious bodies practice what <u>they</u> call baptism. This is one of the things the religious world is divided over. When Paul declares that there is "one baptism," it does not sound as if every person has the right to be baptized according to his choice, and to submit to what he <u>thinks</u> is baptism. The Lord has not left us in the dark on this question. The Bible plainly says how baptism was and should be performed. Both the one doing the baptizing and the one being baptized should go to the water and both should go down into the water. (Acts 8:36-38) The candidate is buried with Christ by baptism (a complete burial of the body in water) And is raised to walk in newness of life. As to the design of baptism, it was designed to offer salvation. (Mark 16:15-16) Therefore, all had to be baptized to be saved. Peter says baptism is for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

God is the one to be worshipped. The angel commanded John to worship God. (Rev. 22:9) We worship God in and through Christ.(Heb. 7:25) "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father, in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."-John 4:23. God has revealed in His word how we are to worship. Worship must be in spirit and in truth according to truth which is the word of God. The apostles met on the first day of the week to break bread. (Acts 20:7) They were commanded to use vocal music and to <u>sing</u> hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in their hearts to the Lord. (Eph. 5:19) If all would follow these simple commands and plain examples, this would be quite a world. "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." I Pet. 4:11. If all would speak as the oracles of God, the following expressions would never again be uttered: "join the church of your choice; once saved always saved; baptism is just an outward sign of an inward grace; etc." Let us all stick with the Bible in our preaching. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Eph. 5:17. Only those

who do God's will can enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 7:21) It is said of Christ, "He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Heb. 10:9-10) "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (I Peter 4:16)

The Christian life is a growth and we should all try to follow Christ as our perfect example. Our religious platform, we believe, is scriptural, safe, and sound.

Richard Bryant
San Pablo, Calif. Congregation

Dear Brethren,

I received a Courier today, and I felt as if I were sitting and talking to the brothers in Christ. It is good to hear from you from time to time.

The Courier is good for the Church. I have a few things to say, but the Bible has a lot.

GOD'S PLAN

I. No creed but the Bible: The Bible is the only ground for unity. Christ prayed for unity, "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 may also be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20-21)

II. Speak the same thing and be of the same mind. "Now I beseech you brethren, 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." (I Cor. 1:10)

III. The Holy Spirit condemned divisions, strifes, and so on as works of the flesh. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleaness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

(Gal. 5:16-21)

IV. Christ is not divided. (I Cor. 1:12-13)

V. Christ was crucified for us. (I Peter 2:24) "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

VI. We can pray in no other name. (John 14:13-14) "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son, If ye shall ask any thing in my name I will do it."

VII. Human names promote divisions.

We are still meeting every Lord"s Day in our home at: 310 N.W. 3rd Place, Antlers, Oklahoma. We welcome anyone who wishes to come by and meet with us.----We continue to need your prayers daily.

In Christian Love,
Farrell Wilson and family

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"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
Prov. 25:25

Brethren,

Last month's Courier contained a note from Brother Lloyd Treat concerning a new congregation at Randlett, Oklahoma. I am happy to say that I have been meeting with them at every opportunity and glad that they are good, strong Christians and they are growing in the Spirit very rapidly.

Brother Leroy Mullins leads the congregation at this time, and would welcome any visitors from any Christian congregations. He has not been a Christian for long, but is growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. He would welcome any help that anyone could give him.

Brother Leroy lives in Burkburnett, Texas, and can be found easily. Their congregation meets at 10:30 at Randlett, which is 9 mi. N.E. of Burkburnett. If you are in their area anytime soon, please drop in; they would welcome visitors.

The congregation at Seymour, Texas is doing fine. Brother Ben Dixon was in the hospital last week for an operation, but is up and around and is doing very well.

Please pray for this congregation at Randlett, brethren. Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons in our arsenal. Let's use it according to our directing 'Spirit'.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Charlie Burt
Rt. 7, Box 4-J, Knox City, Texas

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My wife and I will be on vacation the last two weeks of April. We would like to visit some of the other congregations and perhaps hold a meeting. If someone needs a speaker for a meeting at this time, please feel free to write me.

Yours in Christ,
Carl E. Johnson
Rt. 5, City View Estates
Springdale, Ark. 72764

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Brethren,

We here at Yakima have had quite a bit of sickness this past month. The flu has hit most everyone and all have had colds at one time or another. Most are recovering well at this time.

We have been blessed with numerous visitors this past month. Bro. Carl Hopper and family met with us Sunday, February 8. Brother Hopper is from the Glenwood congregation. Terry Delaney also visited us at the same time.

Sunday, February 15, Brother Robert McCay and family met with us. There have been other visitors and we welcome any who can come and meet with us.

We are eagerly looking forward to our upcoming meeting. Brother Sammy Boen will be the speaker with the meeting starting April 4 and continuing through April 11. Please plan to be with us if at all possible.

May the Good Lord bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Mike McCay
For the Yakima congregation

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We have received a letter from Sister Syrennia Roberson requesting the address of Sister Alice Buckner of Medford, Oregon. She would also like to know if anyone knows of a Church of Christ in the Fresno, California area as she is considering moving there with her son. Sister Roberson is the wife of the late Brother Howard Roberson. Would anyone who has any of this information please write her at the following address:

Mrs. Syrennia Roberson
7734 Del Rosa Ave.
San Bernadino, Calif.
93410

-the Editor

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST CAMP MEETING
July 11-18, 1976

Dear Brethren,

Make your plans now to attend the Happy Hollow Church of Christ family camp meeting in Cedaredge, Colorado.

We have rented the Assembly of God camp again this year, north of Cedaredge. There are plenty of dormitories, bring your own covers and pillows. The nights may be cool, so bring warm sweaters or coats.

Dorms will be ready by Saturday, July 10. Campers, camp trailers, and tents are also welcome.

There will be a fee of $1.50 per person per day staying at or on the camp grounds. Meals will be extra unless you are camping and doing your own cooking. Children up to school age will be free.

Last year each family paid what they felt they wanted to pay for their meals as they left--what ever they felt they would pay for groceries at home or could afford. We felt that this would not be a hardship for anyone.

There is a brand new kitchen and dining room. The old kitchen and dining room are now dorms. The tabernacle is also finished. It should be very convenient and exciting. A place of warm fellowship and spiritual food. Many of you have asked to have a camp meeting again this year and we need your support to continue each year.

Sorry we are late getting this in but we really didn't know where to send it. We had a real good turnout last year and six were baptized. Hope 1976 will be as well. Plan your vacations now to attend! For more information contact:

Bud Wilkerson Rt. 1 Cedaredge, Colo. 81413 Ph. 303-856-3703	Ken Baldwin P.O. Box 188 Cedaredge, Colo. 814131 Ph. 303-874-4581	Lloyd Allgood Cedaredge, Colo. 81413 Ph. 303-856-6278

The following camp rules will be observed this year:

1. Keep grounds clean.
2. No smoking.
3. All children must be in services except when with an adult.
4. Speed limit 10 miles per hour without exception.
5. Please give due consideration to others on the grounds. We are doing our best to make your stay pleasant.

6. No loud talking after 12:00 p.m. each evening.
7. No loitering on the grounds or in cars during services or after 12:00 p.m.
8. Cooperate with those authorized to direct traffic and police the grounds.
9. Distribution of literature on the camp grounds is prohibited except by permission of the camp meeting committee.
10. No Shorts allowed.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm home after five weeks in the hospital and I want to thank each and everyone for the prayers, letters, cards, plants and flowers sent to me. They were all a comfort and I ask God to bless each and everyone of you as He has blessed me. With worlds of love-

Yours in Christ,
Alice Weakley

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-MEETINGS-

Yakima, Washington- April 4-11 with Bro. Sammy Boen

Broken Bow, Oklahoma- June 6-13 with Bro. Earl Atchley

Bellflower, California- June 27-July 4 with Bro. Richard Johnston

Port Orchard, Washington; July 4-11 with Bro. Harry Dye

Cedaredge, Colorado Camp Meeting- July 11-18 with various guest speakers

Plan to attend any of these meetings that you can and get any additional meeting dates in the Courier as soon as possible.

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"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."

Romans 12:10