FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL,
AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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THE RAVENING WOLVES WEAR SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Christianity has survived in the world for nearly two thousand years. It has survived in the United States for the past two hundred years---or has it?

The early settlers of the United States swarmed to the shores of the new land with one major thought in mind--religious freedom. They had been dominated in the past years by the self-ordained authority of the Anglican church, which was an offshoot of the Catholic church created by the king of England to satisfy his thirst for freedom of divorce. Then was their opportunity to worship as they saw fit. The opportunity was actually an excuse to start many new branches of an already evil and corrupt religion.

The constitution of the United States guaranteed all of its citizens the freedom to assemble and to worship. It also gave them the right not to assemble and not to worship. A stranger to the world could look down upon the United States and probably say that it is a Christian nation. There is proof everywhere: Our flag salute states that we are "one nation under God". Our currency claims, "In God we trust". 'America the Beautiful' says that "God sheds his grace on us". And what other country has as many churches as the United States (full or empty)? The United States does indeed appear to be a godly nation. Are we? Or is this just sheep's clothing?

Underneath all the window dressing, the United States is just as ungodly as any Sodom or Gomorrah that ever existed or exists now. Consider some examples: A man's word is no longer his bond. Neighbors will not help each other (most do not even know each other). Greed and crime is everywhere. People of power and authority are corrupt; one scandal breeds another. Laziness is popularized by all ages. The popular civil rights of the majority are slowly edging the once sacred and religious rights of the minority out of existence. Churches of major denominations are losing their following at a high rate. Christ's true church is increas-

ing at a slow rate and losing many young people. The core of all civilizations, the family, is almost extinct. Perhaps God does not consider us "one nation under God".

But wait a minute! The children of God do not have a name such as United States, or Russia, or England. The children of God are a special nation. Acts 2:1-6 tells that God's people were of every nation under heaven. In Acts 10:34,35 Peter says that God is no respector of persons. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him. So regardless of where we live, if we have been buried with Christ in baptism and live righteously, we are of his special nation. Christians in all nations have unjustices with which they must wrestle. We are told in Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

While it remains true that we can be thankful for being able to worship without molestation, we should not take for granted that it will always remain so. Many temptations are allowed to flourish now that were thought twenty years ago to be a disgrace to mankind. Who knows what the next twenty years will bring? The next two hundred? The outcome depends upon us! What can we do? Continue reading Ephesians 6:13-20 and put it to work.

In Christian Love,
Brother Dan Ross
Yakima Congregation

IS THE BIBLE DIVINE?

In a debate that was written between Jesse Love of Georgia and M. U. Johnson of Indiana, Johnson claimed that the account in Josh. 10:12-13 was contrary to science. Love produced a book on astronomy written by a professor of astronomy at Harvard which stated that by the laws of astronomy he could trace back and tell the exact year, month, week and day of the week when the sun shone for 23 hours upon the earth at one place. And the time corresponded to the time that Joshua was fighting the battle with the Amorites. The Hebrew expression that is translated, Sun stand still in the literal translation is "Sun cease your labor." It is claimed that the work of the sun causes the earth to rotate and if the sun ceases to labor the earth would quit rotation that long and the sun would seem to stand still.

As long as those who reject the claim of the Bible that the earth was created and that man was created with intelligence,can not account for the fact that there are laws governing the planets, they are bound to admit a Creator exists. The fact that of all young of the animal creation the human baby is the most helpless argues for the claim that God created Adam and Eve full grown and intelligent beings capable of caring for their offspring. If man had evolved from a lower set of animals, the baby would have the same instinct and ability to protect itself that the young of the animal from which we evolved has to protect itself.

If the Bible was only a humanly conceived book it is strange that

some one does not suggest that some more chapters be added to it. They write new religions but never attempt to add more to the Bible. When people write a letter and put the year on it they are acknowledging someones birthday, that is universally accepted. The world never has recognized any one human being as being so imporant that the whole world would keep the year of his birth.

Man can make use of the laws of nature but can not change those laws. He harnesses the water fall to produce electricity but can not change the law of gravitation that produces the waterfall. He can use a spark of electricity to change a drop of water into its elements; hydrogen and oxygen, but can not create either oxygen or hydrogen. Christ because he had the attributes of his Father the Creator of all law was able to overcome the law of gravitation and hence could walk on the water. Any being to make any law must be as great as the law that he makes. Any person who is great enough to make a law would be great enough to set that law aside for any length of time he wished. So to show that he was the Son of God, God permitted Christ to set aside some of the laws of nature and thereby he performed what are termed miracles.

From the files of G. Earl McCay

ASLEEP IN JESUS

A number of old soldiers for the Lord have gone on to their reward this past year. We sorrow the passing of these loved ones. But we can not be sorry for them as they have gone to a much better place as we read. Rev. 13:14 "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord Yea saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Many times at the passing of a beloved Brother or Sister we sing the song "Asleep In Jesus" but as I was thinking on this the thought came to mind, how about we who are alive? Are we Asleep in Jesus? Those who are members of His church, His body, Are we asleep? Are we, while waiting the coming of our Lord, liken unto the virgins who while the Lord tarried slumbered and slept? And when the cry comes (or death) "go forth to meet him", we won't be ready because we have been asleep.

Eph. 5:14 "Wherefor he saith Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ will give thee light." I Thess. 5:5 "Ye are all children of light and the children of the day we are not of the night, nor of darkness, therefore let us not sleep as do others;" No, certainly we must wake up and perform the work of the Lord, there is no time for sleep and rest while here on this earth. But as the scriptures say "there remaineth therefore a rest for the children of God." Paul tells us to awake to righteousness and sin not.

Brethren there is so much to do for the Lord. Let us not be "Asleep in Jesus" till after we are dead. There is work for every Christian in the Vineyard of the Lord as the old song tells us and if we are Christians and not just church members we will be doing it.

Written in love of the brethren, Howard McCay, Yakima

IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS

"Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to continue always a child. If no use is made of the labors of past ages, the world must remain always in the infancy of knowledge."

The quotation above was made by Cicero, a Roman statesman, who lived shortly before the time of Christ. Although the quotation was made with knowledge in general in mind, it does have some implications as to the knowledge of the word of God.

The point that Cicero was trying to make was that mankind must use facts and knowledge gained by our forefathers, in order for us to progress at an even rate. It is not necessary for us to invent again the wheel every time we wish to move some merchendise from one place to another. It is not necessary for us to try to find two pieces of flint in order for us to start a fire. It is not necessary for us to eat a certain kind of poisonous mushroom to see if it will kill us, when someone died from eating that same kind of mushroom several weeks ago. We can look to the accomplishments and failures of those who lived before us as a guide for us now.

Sir Isaac Newton had a similar thought in mind. He said, "If I appear to see farther than others, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants." This again emphasizes the wisdom in learning from the acts of others.

We can find evidence in the scriptures that indicate the reason for men to be inspired by God, write this inspiration as a record, and preach it to the children of the living God. By reading the scriptures we can learn that certain acts are rewarding, while others are met with punishment. We can learn of the characteristics of man that God considers virtuous, and those that are condemning. We can turn to the New Testament and read how God wants us to live by faith and good works, without first being Jewish and later converted to a Christian.

Recorded in II Cor. 10:1-6,11 is a passage that deals with the very idea of learning from the mistakes of others. The two key verses are: "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." and "Now all these things happen pened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." Admonition takes on quite a broad meaning. Admonition indicates obligations, gives warning against fault or oversight, and gives advice or encouragement. Using this general meaning of the word admonition, it is apparent that the Scriptures were written for a variety of reasons, all hinging on the idea that knowledge of the past will save us in the future.

Recorded inspiration (scripture) is one thing; knowledge of it is quite another.....To be continued in the August issue.

Bro. Dan Ross
Yakima Congregation

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.

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

Bellflower News

We, here at Bellflower, are all doing fairly well. Sister Charlene Broadway has had some problems with her back but is improving. Okja Way and her daughters were involved in a car accident on her way to Church several weeks ago, but the Lord was with them and none were seriously hurt.

The Dayton Clous's have just returned from a fast trip to Texas. Upon returning they learned of the death of Sister Clouse's Brother-In-Law, Ed Cavin, from the La Habra Congregation. Our sympathy and prayers are with the members of his family.

Brother Gene McKinney and family were down here the last weekend in May and Brother Gene brought two very good lessons, Sunday morning and Sunday night.

Sister Lula Way, from Modesto, was here for a few weeks and we all enjoyed her visit.

In closing, the Bellflower Congregation would like to extend the invitation to all who can attend our meeting this year, starting June 27 through July 4th. The preacher for this series of meetings will be Richard Johnston from the Yakima Congregation, who is very capable of making this a successful meeting, well worth any 'special efforts' necessary to come and hear him. These meetings are vital, not only for the furtherence of the Gospel, but also for the renewing of our Christian zeal and fellowship with one another, reminding us that our goals in life should not be of a temporal nature, but ever striving for that eternal home in Heaven. We strongly urge all the Brethren to attend any or all of these Gospel meetings possible.

The Congregation here at Bellflower meets at 10:30 Sunday morning, 6:00 Sunday evening, and for our week's meeting, the time on weeknights is 7:30. We are looking forward to seeing all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ who can come and be with us. The Church is located at 9914 Arkansas Ave. , Bellflower, Calif.

Telephone Numbers to call are:

(714) 842-1251 - The Jerry Perigen family
(714) 842-1633 - The Al Way family
(213) 866-0656 - The Claud Perigen family

In Christian Love,
Jerry Perigen
17392 Marken Lane
Hunting Beach, Calif. 92647

Greetings to all that are in Christ Jesus from the Church in Chico,

Do we realize the position one holds who is in Christ Jesus? Eph. 1:3 Tells us we are blessed with every spiritual blessing. John 1:4 Declares there is life in Christ.

In II Tim. 2:10 & Acts 4:12 We find there is salvation in none other than Christ.
Romans 8:1 Paul says there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:24 Teaches we have redemption and justification in Christ Jesus.
Col. 2:3 All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ.
Col. 2:9,10 Tells us we are complete in Christ.
What more could one want?
How do we get into Christ?
Romans 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27 gives this information-How do we remain in Christ?
John 15:2-6 "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."
So then brethren, let us strive to bear more fruit.

In Christian Love from Chico,
C.M. Brockman

Brethren,

Everything is going well here as of this time. Brother Nelson has come home from the Tucson Hospital for which we are thankful. Brother Horace Orendorff will be away for the Port Orchard, Washington, meeting and several of the other Brethren will be gone to different meetings this summer. So at times the congregation will be somewhat smaller. We are glad to see the brethren take an interest in visiting other congregations as we believe it strengthens all who are involved. We urge anyone who can to come and be with us, at any opportunity. Brother Atchley held a wonderful meeting for us. All his sermons were beneficial and upbuilding to all who attended. He is a strong soldier for the Lord.

Love to all the brethren. Pray for us.

The Church of Christ
Yuma, Arizona

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To all congregations:

We are planning to print a directory containing maps and directions to all the churches. Will someone in each congregation take the responsibility of either drawing an accurate map or obtaining an area map and circling the area of the church building. Also include written directions which would tell a stranger how to get to the building. Please use street names, landmarks, and directions such as south, west, etc. (instead of right, left, up, down). Be as close as possible with distance. We will put holes on

the left hand side so you can put them in a standard notebook or bind them with yarn. This will be of great help to summer travelers, so please don't delay.

-The Editors-

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What Is A Christian?

Oh what is a Christian?
Oh what should he be?
So happy and cheerful
And full of Christ' glee.

One who's tongue is never out of it's place.
Who looks on the bright side, knowing God's saving grace.
One who's willing to help whenever he can.
Knowing he'll receive it back, in that promised land.

Oh what is a Christian?
A rare breed it's true
Whose faith stays strong
No matter what others do.

Oh how should I know one, if we chance to meet?
He'll be humble and holy, pleasant and sweet.
Just ask him, he'll tell you--
He's not ashamed, if his faith is true.
For he's proud to be called a Christian--
Are you?

By Bob Farley

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MEETINGS

Port Orchard, Wash.- July 4-11 with Brother Horace Orendorff

Cedaredge, Colo.-July 11-18 camp meeting with various speakers

Lorenzo, Texas-July 18-24 with Brother Claud Perigen

Furnish Canyon, Okla.-July 18-24 with Brother Jerry Perigen

Waterford, Calif.-Aug. 29-Sept. 4 camp meeting with guest speakers

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Be kind,one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

A woman apoligized for her husband's never being in church. "The yard work keeps him pretty busy." Yet if a man misses four consecutive meetings of his Rotary Club in a year, he's out. If a man doesn't show up for work, he's fired. This kind of no-nonsense approach makes sense in any organization. It ought to make sense in the church. Certainly Christ is as important as crabgrass.

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How many of the following can you answer? Circle the answer and then check the scripture.

1. When the disciples asked Jesus, "who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He responded indirectly by placing in their midst
   a. an ark
   b. an old man
   c. a stone tablet
   d. a child (Matt. 18:1-4)
2. Jesus said that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for (Matt. 19:24)
   a. a sinner to exit from hell
   b. any man to observe all Ten Commandments
   c. a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God
   d. the disciples to judge all men rightly
3. "So the last shall be first, and the first last," said Jesus, illustrating this by (Matt. 20:1-16)
   a. the difficulty encountered by rich men in entering heaven
   b. the thrones to be given to the disciples in the new world
   c. children: "of such is the kingdom of heaven"
   d. the householder who paid those who worked eleven hours just what he paid those who worked one hour
4. Jesus' words, "For many are called, but few are chosen," were uttered after reciting the parable of the (Matt. 22:1-14)
   a. vineyard tenants
   b. vineyard laborers
   c. marriage feast
   d. two sons

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The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other one higher.

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If you are planning a meeting for this fall or next year be sure to send the information to us as soon as possible so it can be announced in the Courier.

-the Editor