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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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PRAYER

In I Thessalonians 5:17 & 18 we are told to pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given to us. To be able to ask God for anything through his son Jesus Christ and to know that our prayers will be heard. (John 14:6 & John 14:13)

Are we praying properly?

In Mathew 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

When we pray do we really believe that our prayers will be answered? Or are we like those spoken of in James 4:3, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

We are to be humble in the sight of God. In James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

Are we high-minded? Christ gave to us a parable on this subject. In Luke 18:10-14, "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other:

for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Are we as the Pharisee? Are we too proud? In James 4:6, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth unto the humble."

If we will humble ourselves in prayer, God will be with us.

In Christian Love,
Robert Farley
Yakima Congregation

KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURE

The printing press has been in existance for only 500 years. The Bible was one of the first books ever produced by the printing press method of communication. Today, the Bible remains the most popular book in the world, being printed in almost every language on the earth. There still remains a problem. Few people read the words contained within the covers.

Before the time of the printing press, the Scriptures were communicated to others by word of mouth. Since most people could not read during those times, it would have done them little good to find a hand written copy of the Scriptures. So it was through a great deal of memorization and understanding that men of those times were able to spread the Gospel accurately.

Today, with the conveniences of the printed word, and the Scriptures recorded on tapes and records, do we know any more of the Word of God than did our ancestors? II Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Do we study the Scriptures as a student studies for an examination? Would we rather read the Gospel than a 'bestselling novel'? Can we tell others of the hope that lies within us without first looking it up in the Bible?

If we find ourselves answering 'no' to these questions, is it possible that we are not taking full advantage of our printed Bible? If our Bible just lies around the house for decoration or is under a stack of other books or magazines, was it worth the price of its purchase? Hosea said in the fourth chapter, verse six, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"... I am sure it will be very difficult to defend before the Lord our reasons for lacking the knowledge of the Word of God, when we had it sitting in our bookcase all the time.

In Christian Love,
Brother Dan Ross
Yakima Congregation

In olden times a story was told,
of a man sent down from God,
To give his life that all may live,
through the shedding of His blood.

Born of a virgin, in a stable,
a manger for a rest,
Many a Wise Man came unto Him,
and brought of their wealth, the best.

Many a miracle the young man performed,
and many a lesson He taught,
And for 1900 and 76 years,
His lessons have not been forgot.

He and His disciples traveled about,
telling to all God's Word,
And people gathered from miles around,
that His lessons might be heard.

He knew of the end, and the terrible death,
that He eventually would face,
But He also knew that only His death,
could save the Human Race.

The end did come, He died a death,
crucified on the Cross,
And throughout all coming time, all mankind,
shall not suffer a greater loss.

But because He died, and was buried,
and rose up from the grave,
He gave us all an example,
by which we might be saved.

He's coming again, the story goes,
to receive his own, they say,
And to all who believe in the story just told,
this will be a glorious day.

By Mike McCay

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We at the Stilwell congregation are doing well and are glad to announce that two more have been baptized. Brother Bill Ross and his wife Barbara were our new additions. Bill is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Kennie Ross.

Brother Vess Brown has been in the hospital but is out and doing better now.

We are looking forward to receiving maps of Church of Christ churches, as we travel in California & adjoining states and don't know the location of them. This was a great idea.

Anyone passing our way is welcome to visit us. Our door is always open.

Your Brother in Christ,
Robert Eldridge
Stilwell Congregation

Brethren,

We hope this finds all well and in good health. We have been very lucky to have had no serious illnesses in our congregation.

We have been blessed with several visitors this past month. Brother Gene McKinney and family were here for several days this past week and Brother Gene brought us two very fine lessons. Also Brother Robert McCay and his wife, Sister Ellen have met with us this past week. We are very thankful for visitors and invite any who are in this area to come and be with us.

My grandmother, Sister Phebe McCay, is now residing in the Crescent Convelesent Center and I'm sure she would appreciate hearing from other Brothers and Sisters. The address is 505 No. 40th Ave., Yakima, Wash. for any who might want to write.

Once again we would like to remind the brethren of our meeting next summer. It will be all guest speakers and we hope that with such advance notice, all who can will make plans to come and be with us. We have all facilities available and everyone will be accomadated.

May the good Lord bless each of you until we all are gathered together with him in heaven.

In Christian Love,
Mike McCay
for the Yakima Congregation

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BAPTISMS

Bill Ross--Stilwell, Oklahoma
Barbara Ross--Stilwell, Oklahoma

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By Mike McCay

HE BURIED THE GOOSE

This is an ancient story,
  Brought down from olden time,
But not before related
  In modern verse or rhyme.

A celebrated preacher,
  Of fair Columbia's land,
Assayed to mend Christ's gospel,
  And change the Lord's command.

He was a Presbyterian,
  Of stiff and stately mien,
A doctor of divinity,
  Also a college dean.

The text that caused his trouble,
  And vexed him deep and sore,
Was that which says, "We're buried."
  Vizualize...Romans 6:4.

He figured and he triggered,
  And he wrestled day and night,
And then he preached a sermon,
  To set the passage right.

"It is a high-wrought figure,
  As you can plainly see,
The sinner's heart is sprinkled,
  His soul from sin is free."

"Dead to the world and buried,
  Not in the earthly sod,
Nor in a pond of water,
  But 'hid with Christ in God."

"I sprinkle holy water
  Upon this person's face,
An outward sign or symbol,
  Of inward saving grace."

True, Barnes and Schaff and Chalmers,
  (Great Presbyterians all),
And Dr. Clark and Wesley,
  And the great Dr. Wall.

Said 'Bury' here means 'Bury',
  And in the water, too,
And so said all the Scholars
  The Christian ages through.

But this great reverand doctor,
  As stated in my rhyme,
Said bury meant to sprinkle
  In that old ancient time.

He closed his wondrous sermon,
  And drove off to his home,
Great thoughts still corruscating
  Within his mental dome.

He thought,"What great sensation
  My sermon will produce!"
When at the gate his carriage
  Crushed dead a gentle goose!

He told his little Johnny
  (Fair bud of high-born race)
To take the goose and bury it
  In some secluded place.

John took the defunct goosey
  And, by the orchard fence,
A Presbyterian funeral
  Did there at once commence.

"Now, this poor, luckless goosey
  To this old world is dead,
And I'll procede to bury
  As father's sermon said."

He took up dust, a spoonful,
  Within his little hand,
And on the goose's caput,
  He sprinkled down the sand.

"Now, goosey you are buried,
  In figurative speech,
You're planted and you're hidden,
  As Presbyterians teach!"

The preacher soon discovered
The goose above the ground,
And then his indignation
Knew neither let nor bound.

He called up little Johnny,
He seized an oaken lath,
And gave an exhibition
Of Presbyterian wrath!

"You are the meanest urchin
In this religious land,
To disregard my orders
And break my plain command!"

"Why, dad, the goose is buried,
'Tis now beneath the sod,
I kept your word as strickly
As you obey your God!"

"To bury means to sprinkle,
And that was your command,
And on the head of goosey
I poured a little sand!"

From the files of
G. Earl McCay

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MEETINGS

Chico, Calif. --Nov.25-28 camp meeting with guest speakers

Aztec, New Mexico --Sept. 12-19 with Bros. Lloyd Algood and Abe Labato

1977 MEETINGS

Yakima, Wa. --June 25-July 6 camp meeting with guest speakers

Delta, Colo. --July 25 camp meeting with guest speakers

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"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

Romans 12:9-13

"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.

I Peter 3:8&9

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

1. As a speaker Paul evidently thought himself to be (2 Corinthians 10:10; 11:6)

   a. superlative
   b. effective
   c. average
   d. weak

2. Five times, wrote Paul, he had received (2 Corinthians 11:24)

   a. ten stripes save one
   b. twenty stripes save one
   c. thirty stripes save one
   d. forty stripes save one

3. Paul makes a good deal of the fact that when he was with the Corinthians he (2 Corinthians 11:7-11)

   a. accepted generous material support from them
   b. received from them only a modest level of material support
   c. burdened them not at all
   d. brought them supplies from Macedonia

4. "Let not the sun go down," wrote Paul, "upon your (Ephesians 4:26)

   a. idleness"
   b. wrath"
   c. idolatry"
   d. faith"

5. "...for whatsoever a man soweth, (Galations 6:7)

   a. that shall others also reap"
   b. that shall he also reap"
   c. that shall he also sow again"
   d. readiness is all"

6. Faith, wrote James, (James 2:17-26)

   a. is enough to save a man, without works
   b. is not needed, if there are works
   c. if it has no works, is dead
   d. even with works is not necessarily enough.