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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

Published by Brethren of the Church of Christ
Send all correspondence to: 719 E. Viola, Yakima, Wa. 98901

NOVEMBER 1976

IT IS WRITTEN

When Christ was led into the wilderness (Matt. 4th chapter) and was tempted of the devil, he quoted the scriptures three times saying: "It is written." In the first he said in Matt. 4:4, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Every word which we have of God, then, is important to us. Can we accept part of it and reject some? That's what the denominational world reach in their practices. There are those of the world that contend the word of God is to be taken with a grain of salt; that parts of it are not true. How can anyone have any faith in God when they cannot accept His entire word? If we are allowed to reject any part of His word, what, then, can we accept?, It is no great matter for one as mighty as God to control His word when He has power to create the universe and all that is in it. What hope can we have of being raised from the dead ourselves if we cannot put our complete trust in the word that God gave us? We have to accept it all.

In II Tim 3:16-17 it says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

Although the word we have was written by men, those words came to them from God I Thess 2:13 says, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is

in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

This is supported by Prov. 30:5-6, "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." God's plan is pure and simple. Don't dilute it with man's ideas. God has given us warning in the last chapter of Revelations what will happen to us if we add to or take from His word."

"But that's old fashioned!", you say. "We have to keep up with the times! This is the modern age! It was all right then, but we are different now!" What does God say in this? In Heb 13:8-9, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines."

We are to take the word of God as it was given to us. Jude 3 says "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

We have everything we need. Acts 20:27 says, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

In the counsel of God which is His written word we find it can be broken down into four major catagories: 1. Direct commandments (thou shalt do, thou shalt not do, etc.). 2. Examples. 3. History. and 4. Prophecy fulfilled or to be fulfilled. Remember, Christ said we are to live by every word. To take only the direct commandments of God and to say that we are not bound in anything else would be in error.

We have to realize that things done for our examples are a law of attitude or sometimes a law of doing besides the direct commandments given us. Paul mentioned in several of his letters that he and others were examples to the believers. In II Thess. 3:8-9 it says, "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought, but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us." Christ told us to do likewise when he told the story of the good Samaritan and how he went beyond what was normally expected when he aided the wounded man from Jerico. Luke 10:37, "Go and do thou likewise."

Some contend that Heb. 10:25 is not a commandment where it says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." If not a commandment, which it certainly appears to be, we should still obey it as an example given. The early disciples were an ensample in Acts 2:42, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." This is besides the fact that Paul indicates that it is a sin if we neglect to assemble together in the verse following the above in Heb. 10:26, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice

for sins." In the same chapter Paul states that during Moses' time those that despised the law then died without mercy. Do we despise Christ when we do not assemble to partake of His body and blood? We are told that Christ is with us when we gather together in Matt. 19:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." When the church is called together that is where Christ is. Don't we want to be where Christ is? Not only should we want to be there, but it's a commandment to be there in John 12:26, "...and where I am, there shall also my servant be." If Jesus is with the gathered assembly, that is where we are to be also.

By obeying all of God's word we will be safe. I Tim. 4:16 says, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

Bro. Ellis Forsman

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Greetings from the congregation in San Pablo. Just a few lines to let you know that we are all still doing well and that we need the prayers of all the children of God We offer our prayers to each and every one that names the name of Christ. Sister Freman was in the hospital for a short stay but is now back with us for which we are truly thankful.

Our Son Anthony Bryant was baptized last Sept. 12, into the Body of Christ. Tony is just 9 years old but he knows the will of God regarding being born again For this we thank God.

We are also thankful for our oldest son Mike Bryant and our lovely daughter-in-law Lisa, who have moved from Modesto to Concord and will now be worshipping with us Bro and Sis. Mike Brockman are back with us, and he brought us a wonderful lesson on the Book of James.

I was able to attend one day of the meeting at Waterford. I was intending to hear a sermon from one of the visiting brothren, but was called upon to bring the lesson.

I hope all the congregations have more meetings, so the word of God can be taught more so that others can have the opportunity to be born again.

Pray for us and all the brethren everywhere.

Love to all the brethren,
Homer Bryant
San Pablo congregation

Brethren,

The Church at Waterford is happy to report our meeting was better than we had hoped for considering the short time it was announced. Attendance was not very high at first but the last three days were very good. We wish to thank all who attended our meeting, especially those who traveled a long

distance. We did not baptise any but had a sister come back into the church for which we are thankful It makes us certain the meeting was a success We were all enlightened and strengthened by the good sermons we heard Our speakers included Brothers Howard McCay, Homer Bryant, J.D. Logan, Dean Guyer, Al Way, Horace Orendorff, Tom Broadway and Greg Staley. We are especially thankful for those speakers who made our meeting possible. We plan a camp meeting next year beginning June 12-19, Lord willing.

May God bless you all

In love of the brethren,
L.E. Arnett

Dear Brethren,

It has been God's will that all here are in fair health Summer is over, the kids are in school, and we are looking forward to Chico in November We were able to be at the Waterford meeting and had a wonderful time It was so good to see our loved ones

Be with us any time you can, we would love to have you The congregation in Bellflower meets on Sunday at 10:30 a m and 6:00 p m The church building is located at 9914 Arkansas Ave in Bellflower, Calif Pray for us'

With Christian love,
Al Way, for the Church at
Bellflower

Dear Brethren,

It has been some time since I have written At present, all at Elk City and Colter are doing O.K. Both churches are small in number, but are faithful in the Lord's work.

I am enclosing a map for the Colter and Elk City buildings Hope this will be of help for anyone passing through who would like to have a place to worship Our services are 10:30 a m at both congregations.

With Christian love,
Earl Atchley

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MEETINGS

Chico, California — Nov. 25, at 7:30 an 26-29, three times daily Guest speakers

Yakima, Wash. — June 25- July 6 Camp Meeting with Guest speakers

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Engagement: Bro. Dennis Bentz and Sis. Kay Burtis to be married in Modesto, Dec. 18, 1976.