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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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THE PERFECT GUIDE

Thank you all for coming to the temple of the Lord to worship him with his children, as we are commanded to do on the first day of each and every week. We all know the subject of sin is constantly on the minds of all true Christians We have all sinned and will sin as long as we stay on this earth. There was only one who walked on this earth without sin. We are told to try and follow his example. Christ was guided from above, along His perfect life. The only was we can come close to living a perfect life is to be guided from above, too. Jeremiah 10:23 tells *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."* This should show all of us that without some sort of guide, we, the people of God, are totally without hope. What should we use for a guide? Should we just hope our conscience will tell us the right road to follow? Of course not! If we can't guide our own footsteps, then how can we decide on which is the road that will lead us to everlasting life. Our mind might take us down the broad way that leadeth to destruction. Well than, that eliminates total self reliance. How about the preacher? Is he, or, in this case, am I giving all of you enough information to live a Christian life, pure enough to enable your calling and election sure (2 pet. 1:10). What if the preacher makes an error, will we all be eternally damned because this preacher caused us to fall from the straight and narrow way of righteousness? We all know that no man is perfect. Do you want your guide to heaven to be subject to imperfection? It would seem that we have narrowed it down to one. The only perfect guide we have is God.

We have God's words as a guide written in a book. This book is our Bible. I would say that this guide, that has been furnished us, is not used nearly as much as it should be. Think about this in comparison of the number of hours used. How much time do we spend looking at television compared to hours spent reading this guide that holds our future in its contents. If we don't know what is contained in the guide, how can we help but fall short of what the Lord has planned for us? How well do you think it will sound to be told that you failed to comply with the commands of the Lord, because you didn't know what they erer? You have the whole complete total word of God written in a book and it leaves no questions on which roads to take. Follow all the signs on the road and you will eventually arrive at your eternal destination with all the other saints, who also followed the guide. A home on the fight hand of God is as sure as can be if we follow our guide. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 reads *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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."* In the 14th verse it says, *"Knowing of whom thou hast learned them."* Paul is speaking of the holy scriptures when he says obey them. If we read our Bible and learn from it"s contents, we will be learning from our perfect source, God. "The Bible", this holy guide of ours contains the holy scripture for instruction in righteousness to let us know what is required of a person to be a good Christian. Through following these scriptures the man of God may be perfect, if we do just as the scriptures command. We will be just like Christ was, "Perfect!" Reading these scriptures we are throughly furnished unto all good works, in other words, we do not need any more philosophies or religious doctrines. If we use any extra, added on doctrines, we will no longer be perfect and will be removed from the Book of Life.

In using a doctrine not contained in the holy scriptures it would be saying to the other Christians of the world and most important, to the Heavenly Father, that the laws, that He has so carefully written up for us, are inadequate and that by adding man made laws they can be fixed up. Well Brothers and Sisters in Christ, you can not improve on anything that is perfect. To add to or take away from the perfect will only destroy it's perfection, thereby destroying your chance for eternal bliss. While working on this lesson I came across a few verses I thought appropriate for this lesson. Psalms, Chapter 1 *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his*

delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." So please know the way of righteousness. Be among the congregation planted by the river of life. The ungodly shall perish, but the true children of God shall have everlasting life.

Submitted in Christian Love,
Bro. Lloyd Usrey
Sacramento, Cal. Cong.

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

Dear Brethren,

I will srite the news again from Broken Bow. All is very well here except for one of my sons. He had surgery and seems like he is not recovering as he should. Bro. Watson is still getting checkups at Texerkana, but is doing very well. My wife's mother passed this life last month at the age of almost 90 years. We are still very sad and lonesome. We need the prayers of all the brethren. We heard Sunday that Bro. Jack White, of Munday, Tex., is in the hospital. He's not doing very well so let us all pray for him. We went to Stilwell, Okla., the last Sunday of March. All there were doing very well and looking forward to their meeting with Bro. Atchley , which started the 3rd of this month. The Baron church is remodeling their building and doing very well on it , although they could use more financial aid. They have to be ready for their meeting in July with Bro. Orendorff of Yuma. We hope to be able to travel a little more soon. Though my health is not much better, thanks be to God I am able to still be of service to him in his vineyard. Bro. Wilson is about the same and is doing a good job in the church, also. He and his family come regularly here to church and we are thankful. I wish we had a lot more like them in the church. Our prayer is that all is well in all the churches.

Lloyd Treat
Broken Bow

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few lines from Colorado. All of us here at Happy Hollow Church are looking forward to our Camp meeting coming up July 17-24, 1977. Hope each and every one of you grothers and sisters are making plans to come be with us.

As most of you know, we have dormatories available, also, campers and tents and travel trailers are all welcome. We have camp facilities available for all. For any information you need, please write to any of us. Bro. Bud Wilkerson, Route 2 Box 216, Cedaredge, Colo, 81413. Bro. Lloyd Algood, Cedaredge, Colo. Bro. E. Rogers, Austin, Colo.

Bro. Ken Baldwin has been very sick and is now in the hospital in Mexicalli, Old Mexico, undergoing treatment and possible surgery. Cards can be sent to 470 - W. C St. , Browley , Calif., 9227 c/o Ted Drysdale.

If you can't come be with us at the camp meeting, you are welcome to come visit us and stay with us in our homes. We will show you around beautiful Colorado. If you like to fish and camp, we have the place for that, also. Come any time you have a vacation.

If you are planning on moving, give Colorado a thought. We welcome any of you, we are a small congregation and would appreciate anyone wishing to make a move our way. Write to us for any information.

In Christian Love,
Happy Hollow Church of Christ

Dear Brethren,

It has been so long since the Courier has had a report from the church at Indian Springs, and so much has happened. This report will be a little lengthy. I hope you have room for it, to sort of put us on the map so far as the other congregations are concerned.

We started meeting in the Old Indian Springs school house about 11 years ago. It was a wreck. The brethren worked under the floor to level it; on the ceiling which was falling down; the windows sagged, letting in all the cold air. We had a very few uncomfortable benches. Today it has a new ceiling, panneling on the walls, carpet on the floor, plastic over the windows, and comfortable seats. We meet there at 10:30 every Lord's day morning. Our evening services are held in the San Juan area, up in the hills. Our young brethren, in their early teens , conduct every phaze of it (under the guidance of Bro. Ken Harper). And we are developing some good preachers. They are : Kevin, Eric, and Brett Harper, and James Ford. A couple of new families have been attending our evening services lately. We are happy to report that James Anderson, 12 years old, was recently

baptized. At the same time 4 other young people stated they were Christians who had obeyed the gospel in another state, and didn't know there was a church at San Juan. Sandy Anderson 15, Treasa Anderson 14, Tonya Anderson 10 and Stacey Thrap 13. These people are young, but exceptionally well aquainted with their Bibles and eagerly taking the yoke of Christ on themselves.

I wonder how many other Christians are isolated, but eager to worship in the assembly each Lord's day, some of them at our back doors. It is something to think and pray about in our evangelish work.

With sincere Christian love
The Church of Christ
at Indian Springs

Anyone passing our way, please stop, worship and visit with us.
You can call Kenneth Harper at 273-6356.

To the Church,

Peace.

This is to thank all who's prayers and thoughts were with us when I had my surgery and during my recovery. I am doing fine, the doctors are surprised at my quick recovery. Also, we have learned something from this experiance that we would like to share with the brethren.

Most of us, I am sure, though we know the scriptures saying we are to make friends in the church and that it is our true family, find it very hard to obey when the loved ones of our earthly family are outside of the household of faith.

In our earthly family, one side is completely outside of the household, and the other side are all members of cups and non bread-breaking congregations. (We have been in the faithful church for 3 years) And we have always been very closely united families.

So it has been very hard for us to put our family in Christ above our earthly one. But when we really needed help we found the strength. We turned to the church first in all things. And because of the loving care given our children while we were away and the many acts of kindness the brethren here performed toward us, the love of one Christian for another made such an impression,on the part of our family who had always wanted nothing to do with religion, that they will now discuss it with us. And we are able to entertain hope that someday they will be saved.

So brethren, never be afraid to <u>show</u> your preferance for the church over your earthly family. Though there may be a few hurt feelings, the

good will far out weigh the bad.

Larry and Bonnie Fulkerson
Yakima Congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May God's blessings be upon you as you walk in the light of this truth.

The congregation here is doing quite well lately. Sister Maggie Forsman is in Texas and Oklahoma at the moment visiting with friends and relatives. Jon Powless and Kathy Staley were in California for about a week visiting. They both spent a Sunday with the Lakeside congregation, and were glad to have them back.

Vandra and Amy Howe visited us for two weeks in March and we all venifited from their presence with us and were sorry they had to leave for Texas. Several members from the Yakima congregation were here the week-end of March 19-20. Sister Phoebe McCay had her 89th birthday and many of the family and friends were at Mt. Vernon to share it with her. Many of the people who were there came down Sunday and we had a full house for worship. The service was magnificent.

March 22, two more members were added to Christ's body. They were Becky Feeley and Shannon Campbell, and we're all full of praise to God for these souls.

The weather here now is quite remarkable-clear and sunny and warm. As many of you may already know, we are having a bit of a drought in this part of the country. The situation with energy and agriculture may get serious for several people, so remember this as you pray.

Things are beginning to shape up already for our meeting starting June 12. We are fortunate to have our brother Sammy Boen to bring us portions of God's word. We expect to be strengthened in Christ thr-ough his efforts. Everyone should know that they are all envited to be here with us anytime they can.

We have changed our bible study night from Friday to Thursday, starting at 7 o'clock at Jim and Rene Dawsons home in Tacoma. At this point we are studying the book of Acts, chapter by chapter.

Many of the members here at Glenwood are young people who are full of zeal, but have plenty of experience to look forward to. The church here is growing in number, and in faith, too; and the older members in the faith have helped remarkably in providing stability and in feeding the younger members. The Lord deserves glory for this great work He is doing. We understand that it has been a while since many of you within

the voice of the Courier have been able to visit us all here. There are many new faces, and we would have you all to know a little about how we are doing now so that you all may have a preview of what has been happening before you see us again.

Will close and let you get on to the next letter, for they'll have some words of encouragement, too. May God bless you abundantly with the things you need; we'll pray and rejoice with you - its fortunate to have a God that is wonderful.

in the love of Christ to all-
the church at Glenwood

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope this finds everyone well and able to be about our Lord's business. There has been some here with bad colds but seem to be improving. Also I had surgery March 17, and am recovering and will return to work April 11. I would like to thank everyone who called, sent cards, or came to see me while I was in the hospital.

We have set our meeting fpr July 24-31, with Brother Claude Perigen speaking. We invite everyone to come and be with us during our meeting, or anytime.

Your Brother in Christ
Howard Taylor
Loco, Oklahoma Congregation

Dear Brethren,

I thought it about time, and past, for news from this area. Please forgive me for being so slothful in letter writing and corrospondence in general.

We here at the Lorenzo, Texas, Cong. are doing fine. There has been and still is a small amount of virus going around, such as upset stomach and sore throat, etc.-mostly among the younger children. Brother R.H. Peel and Sister Maude Scott both now living in Ralls Convalescent Home. Both are now 92 years old and still making it to church each week for Sunday morning services. We are so thankful their health is holding up so well.

We also thought it about time to send another contribution to help with the Courier expense.

We have been having weekend meetings on each first Dunday of the month in this area. We feel that much good and encouragement to all is being brought about. We have had good crowds each time, in spite of pretty bad weather at times. We also enjoyed a middle of the month meeting in Seymour in March, with a good turnout there, with Bro. Farrell Wilson of Antlers,

Okla., speaking for each service. The first Sunday meeting in April, was hosted at Newcastle, Texas, had a very good meeting there. The 15, 16, 17 of April we are having a meeting here at Lorenzo with Bro. Farrell qilson as speaker. The next first Sunday meeting (May) probably will be at Loco, Okla. The first Sunday meeting in June will not be held in this area, due to the meeting in Broken Bow, Okla, as some from our area may wish to attend there.

Our son, Willie Howe, and his family moved south of Lorenzo and are now meeting with us regularly. Bro. Steve Spaulin of Reydon, Okla, has moved to Lorenzo and is now meeting with us regularly. Bro. Bill Jared of Indiana has also moved here and is meeting with us regularly.

Bro. Charlie Morrison of Lorenzo Cong. has been in the hospital but has now returned home, but has not been able to attend church yet, hopefully he will soon. Bro. Jack White of Munday, Texas, had a recent spell in the hospital at Seymour. He is now at home and working some.

Well I guess this is all the news for now.

In Christian love
from the Church of Christ at Lorenzo, Texas

Dear Brethren,

We here at the Bellflower Congregation are all doing fine. No sickness other than a few colds.

We are looking forward to our meeting this summer, which will be July 10-17. Bro. J.D. Logan will be the speaker.

We would welcome and invite any who can to come meet with us. We still meet at 10:30 Sunday morning and 6:00 in the evening. Any one who is down our way be sure to come by and visit us.

For the church at Bellflower, Calif.
Dayton Clouse

Broken Bow, Okla.--June 5-12--Jack White
Gardendale, Texas--June 5-12--Earl Atchley
Waterford, Calif--June 12-19--Guest speakers
Port Orchard, Wa.--June 12-19--Sammy Boen
Yakima, Wa--June 25-July 6--Guest speakers
Bellflower, Calif--July 10-17--J.D. Logan
Baron, Okla--July 3-10--Horace Orendorff
Delta, Colo--July 18-25--Guest speakers
Loco, Okla--July 24-31--Claude Perigen
Furnish Canyon, Okla--July 24-31--Tom Broadway
Lorenzo, Texas--Aug. 21-28--Kelly McCay and Greg Staley