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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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VICTORY AND VOCATION

Jesus Christ is the final exegesis (interpreter) of all truth. He is all that we need to know about God, and He is all that we need to know about man, and if "to live in the land" is to enjoy that quality of life which is made possible only by virtue of allowing Him to live His life in us, we could not do better than to pattern our lives after Him and His teachings. *"Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God,; he riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."* John 13:2,5.

The Lord Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands---that as a man, all the illimitable (measureless) resources of deity had been vested in His person. That is the first thing I would like you to know, for although He was in the beginning with God, and was God,and is God---and although as the Creative Word, all things were made by Him, when He came to this earth, in the very fullest sense of the term, He became man; but he became man as God intended man to be, and behaved as God intended man to behave, walking day by day in that relationship to the Father which God had always intended should exist between man and Himself. *"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the*

gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:6-9.

In all of Christ's activities, in all His reactions, in every step He took and in every word He said, in every decision He made, He did so as a man, even though he was God. He knew that in His perfection as a man, the Father had vested in Him all that God intended to vest in man--ALL THINGS. In other words, man in perfection has an unlimited call upon the inexhaustible supplies of God himself, and His power.

To put another way, all the inexhaustible supplies of God are available to the man who is available to all the inexhaustible supplies of God; and Jesus Christ was that Man. He was man in perfection--totally, unrelentingly, unquestionably available--and that is why there was available to Him all that to which he was available--all things. A second thing is this: He knew that he was come from God, that is to say, His divine origin, and He knew that He went to God, that is to say, His divine destination. He came from God and He was going to God. This is stated in John 16:27: *"The Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I come out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."*

From the Father to the Father; and in between 33 years on the earth in the world, a short period of time, as it were, and eternity on the one side and an eternity on the other. He was in the beginning with God, and He was to be eternally with God in the future--to the Father. But in 33 years He must suffer like man, and endure the things like man, yet he was without sin. He lowered Himself to wash his disciples' feet. God on his knees, because He loved us. Can we do any less?

In Christian Love,
Homer Bryant
San Pablo Congregation

OUR MOST SACRED ACT

The Communion Service is not a ritual to be taken lightly. It is the most sacred act in the Church. It is symbolic of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. He was crucified in the flesh and arose from the grave in the Spirit (John 20:17 and Mark 16:12).

The bread and the fruit of the vine are likewise physical until they are blessed and the bread has been broken. We show His death when we do this (I Cor. 11:26). To show is to present to view. To see His death is to picture in our minds His body being broken or given on the cross (I Cor. 11:24). His body broken for us (Luke 22:19), His body given for us. Broken on the cross and given on the cross. As His physical body was broken to becomes spiritual, so must the bread to become His spiritual body.

If we partake of this bread without breaking it for this purpose then we are just eating bread.

To us this might seem a barbarous thing to do but without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22) and unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood there is no life in us (John 6:53).

Let us not observe this by just going through the motions, but in all sincerity showing our Lord's death till He comes again.

With Christian Love
L. E. Arnett
Waterford, Calif. Cong.

Dear Brethren,

I enjoy the Christian Courier very much, and feel I must write from time to time.

We find in Luke 12:31-"*But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" While our Lord Jesus Christ walked on the earth He had a large following. Some gathered around Him because they truly loved Him. Their hungering, thirsting souls were filled with the bread of life and the living waters.

Still others flocked around Him with the one thought of how great it would be to have a leader to overthrow the Roman rulers, one who could feed thousands from just a small portion of food, one who could calm the angry seas, heal the sick, and even bring the dead back to life. Their souls felt no need.

Even today there are those who look to Christ only when they find themselves in need of food, only when they are afraid of a storm, only when they are sick. But when they are filled, when the storm abates, when their sickness leaves, they are self dependent once more.

The sincere followers of Christ, those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness, shall be filled. This type of person appreciates every blessing. He realizes that by God's help he is doing the best he knows how, and he can safely leave his life in God's hands. When he has a burden, his prayers are not complaining one, but prayers that the burden may be lifted if it is God's will. If not, he knows God will give him the strength to endure. His cup overflowes with blessings and he shares with those about him.

Let us seek the kingdom of God for true happiness. The best way to judge a man is not by what others say about him, but what he says about other men. Let me say, none of us are responsible for <u>all</u> the things that happen to us, but we are responsible for the way we act <u>when</u> they do happen. As Christians we should know too, the highest reward for mans' toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.

Some think they are witty, but to be witty is not enough. You must

possess sufficient wit to avoid having too much of it. Too, it is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

With love to all,
Farrell Wilson
Antlers, Oklahoma

Dear Brethren,

Just a note from the church at Newcastle, Texas. We had the first week-end in February meeting here. We surely enjoyed every minute of it. We had 30 visitors from 6 different congregations. They were from Gardendale, Lorenzo and Seymour, Texas. From Lugert, Loco and Randlett, Okla. On Saturday evening Bro. Mark Taylor was the speaker. Sunday morning Bro. Howard Taylor and Sunday afternoon Bro. Howard Loftis. All enjoyed the speakers and the singing was great.

We look forward to the Courier each time. Anyone coming our way, please stop and worship with us and also visit in our homes.

In Christian Love,
Ed Tate
Newcastle, Texas Congregation

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters the states over, from the church that meets at Lorenzo.

Just thought that we'd drop you a line to let you know how we are all doing. Except for a few colds and lots of flu, we are all doing pretty well.

This past weekend, Feb. 4-5, we went to a meeting at Newcastle, Tx. About 15 from the congregation here attended the meeting. We all received abundant hospitality from the church there. All were uplifted and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were three good sermons preached by brothers Mark Taylor, Howard Taylor, and Howard Loftis.

Sheila Forsman has been down with hepatitus for over a month now. She has been kept isolated from the rest of us. I'm sure this is a trying time for her and all the Forsman family.

Brother Robert Peel had his 93 birthday on January 22. He seems to be doing pretty well except for his left arm swelling, which gives him a lot of pain and discomfort.

Brother Doug Dixon and his mother, Sister Dixon, were doing well when we stopped by and saw them Saturday. They are few in number at Seymour and need the prayers for strength from all.

Brother Jimmy Loftis lost his brother, George Loftis, the first of January. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Stacey Burt had her tonsils out the last of December and seems to be

doing very well.

Steve and Oletta Spurlin are expecting the first of April.

We would ask also at this thime for prayers for our continued health and spiritual growth in the Lord.

In Christian Love,
The Lorenzo Cong.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The congregation here in San Pablo, California is still small in number but we thank the Lord God in heaven that we are able to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

We still pray for those who do go about teaching the word of God and request the prayers of them, also. We request the prayers of all the children of God for our dear Sister and my dear mother, Marietta Bryant, who just returned from the hospital with cancer. Please pray for a speedy recovery for her. And I have a request for prayers for Sister Weakley and her children. They are from the Modesto congregation.

It seems that we all need the prayers of the faithful from time to time, and we know that these prayers always are answered. God promises that.

So keep up the good work, for in doing so, we will attain that reward that is laid up in heaven for us.

In Christian Love,
Homer Bryant
San Pablo Cong.

Dear Brethren,

We here at the Goshen congregation are all doing very well. There have been some out about every Sunday with colds and flu.

We are small in number but still trying. Our meeting this summer will be June 11-18. Brother Stanley Goodwin from Graham, Texas will be doing the speaking.

Anyone and everyone is invited to attend the meeting and visit with us in our homes.

With Christian Love,
Bro. Paul Andrews
Hindswille, Ark.

Brethren,

We at the Waterford congregation have decided on a meeting date: June 11-18. I would like to mention to the brethren that there is free space for campers for anyone who would want to use it. Brother Ken Harper of Smartville, California will be our speaker, our Lord willing.

For other information call Ira Brown 209-838-2831 or Lawrence Arnett 209-537-9720. All are cordially invited.

L.E. Arnett

Dear Brethren,

We received the news and enjoy it. We hope some day we will be able to visit in Washington state.

We at Gardendale are fine. January found some ill. My wife missed two Lords' day worships and I one. It has been a real cold January and February, but the sun is out today with a cold wind blowing.

Will close for now in Christian love.

W.E. and Alice Bergstrom
Stanton, Texas

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ:

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our greetings to you from all of us at Bellflower.

Most here are well at this writing. Our dear Brother Dayton Clouse is still in the City of Hope Hospital, he has been through much pain and suffering. As of last Sunday (2/26/78) he was doing some better and able to get out of bed. Please pray for him, as only God can help.

Sister Eunice Perigen seems to be doing quite well. Please pray with us for her, that her illness will be a thing of the past.

Jerry Brockman is still with us and we thank God for him and his help.

Our thanks to the visitors that have come by and shared their love with us, please come again and again. Please remember our meeting July 2 thru the 9 with Brother Howard McCay as speaker. Set aside time to be with us if you can, we love you, and need your support.

May we all walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

With love to all,
the church at Bellflower,
Bro. Al Way

Note: Sister Lula Way has moved from Modesto, and is now living with us at Huntington Beach.

Dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a long time again but the congregation at Broken Bow has had many blessings in the last few months.

Some have been sick. The Lord blessed each of them with good health. Bro. Wayne Treat, Bro. Jay Durham and son Kenneth were all in the hospital in the months of November and December. We ask you to continue praying

for us and them for their health to continue. Bro. Claude Watson has been bed ridden for several months and your prayers for him and his wife are needed very much.

Now for better blessings: we've had three marriages in two months. Bro Rick Wilson and Sister Ann Rounsoville were married Dec. 2, 1977. Bro. Randy Spence from Alaska married Sister Penny Hinton Jan. 3, 1978. Penny was baptized a month before the wedding. Bro. Edwin Crowell and Sister Deana Spinks were married Jan 20, 1978. God bless them all. Prayers to them from all of us to hold to the Lord forever.

We have been discussing a gospel meeting for the summer. We've decided the first week of June to have the meeting, Lord willing, June 4 to June 11. Brother Charlie Burt from Ralls, Texas, has agreed to hold the meeting. Services will be at 10 am Sunday mornings, 6pm Sunday nights, and 7pm Monday through Saturday. We invite all who can come. If we can't give you a place to sleep in we'll find one. If there are any changes we will try to contact ahead of time if the Lord wills.

Even without a meeting we invite all who can to come visit us here at Broken Bow. We are few but we are striving to do the Lords' will. If you are ever in this vacinity just look in the phone book and give us a call!

We love you all in Jesus Christ and always pray for you. May God bless you forever.

For the Broken Bow congregation
In Christian love for all,
Brother and Sister Dan Treat

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MEETINGS

Yakima, Wash. - Mar. 12-19 - Speakers from the Yakima and Port Orchard Cong.

Broken Bow, Oklahoma - June 4-11 - Charlie Burt

Chesterton Indiana - June 11-18 - Claud Perigen

Goshen, Arkansas - June 11-18 - Stanley Goodwin

Waterford, California - June 11-18 - Ken Harper

Bellflower, California - July 2-9 - Howard McCay

Lugert, Oklahoma - July 8-16 - Camp Meeting with guest speakers

Port Orchard, Washington - Aug. 20-27 - J.D. Logan

Yakima, Washington - Nov. 19-26 - Al Way

OBITUARY

Brother Harry Jacobson, Yakima Congregation, passed from this life February 17, 1978, at the age of 77. He is survived by his daughter, Sis. Alyce Ross, Yakima, wife Virginia, and another daughter living in Idaho. Bro. Harry was a faithful member of Christ's Body since his baptism five years ago.

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NO TIME

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
Must hurry off to get to work,
for bills would soon be due.
So I said a hurried prayer,
jumped up from off my knees,
My Christian duty now was done,
My soul could be at ease.

All through the day I had no time
to speak a word of cheer;
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me, I feared.
No time, no time, too much to do,
that was my constant cry.
No time to give to those in need,
at last was time to die.
And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes.
Within his hands held a book,
it was the "Book of Life";
God looked into his book and said,
"Your name I cannot find --
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time".

Anon