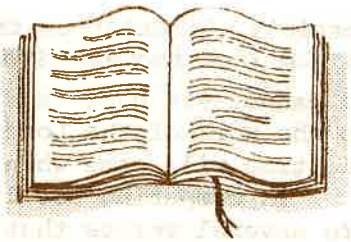
# The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to: 9914 Arkansas, Bellflower, California 90706

OCTOBER 1981

## THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT

In Matt. 25:14-30 we find a parable which we should study carefully as we all fall into one of the catagories mentioned. We are either profitable servants or we are unprofitable. We would like to look at and compare ourselves to the unprofitable servant in this article.

Why was he so unprofitable? There was no indication he was wasteful. Luke 15:13 tells of one who was wasteful, *"And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living."*

Romans 12:17 says, *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."* If he were wasteful or dishonest it does not seem logical that his master would have bestowed even the one talent on him.

I. Cor. 10:6 tells us, *"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."* Also Gal 5:10-21 tells us, *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these,Adultery, fornication, uncleaness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

If the servant had been lustful, a drunkard, immoral or any of these other conditions he would have used the talent to gratify his own way of life. Why then did he hide the talent?

Matt. 25:25 tells us it was because of fear of failure.

If we did not use the "talents" that God has given each of us, for fear of failure or fear of making mistakes, we would be in deep and

possibly, disasterous trouble. James 4:17 explains it best., *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* We cannot sit back and let others do our work for us. We each must do the work of the Lord while we have opportunity. For we are told that the time will come when no man can work.

In comparing our lives to that of the unprofitable servant, there are several verses that can help us to assure ourselves we will not suffer the same fate as this servant.

James 1:25 tells us *"But who so looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a DOER of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

We must be an active worker. II Tim. 2:15 tells us how we can be an active worker in the knowledge of God. *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* It is only through study of God's word that we can gain that knowledge. With this knowledge of the word, we can feel strengthened to spread God's word to a lost and dying world. Acts 8:1 tells us, *"And Saul was consenting unto his death, and at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judia and Samaria, except the Apostles."* and in verse 4, *"Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."*

We also must preach and spread this word everywhere and at all times. We can not hide the word of God or keep it solely to ourselves, as this servant did his talent, or we too may hear our master say to us. *"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

In a Spirit of Christian Love,
Mike McCay, Yakima, Washington

## CHRIST IS OUR HOPE

Through his death, cross, and love and through our faith, obedience, and love. I Cor. 1:18 - The preaching of the cross is foolishness to them that perish, but to us it is the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Rom. 16:19 - I am glad on your part for your obedience is come abroad unto all men. When we obey Heb. 5:8-9. I Cor. 1:27 God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. It seems foolish to a lot of people that we won't have the modern things of the world in our

worship, but that is according to the scriptures. II Cor. 4:3-4 But if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

No one wants to sacrifice for any thing anymore, but if we aim to follow Jesus we must sacrifice.

Matt. 16:24 If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. We see here that it is a daily thing we must do.

Matt. 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? But we don't see many willing to sacrifice for others, or even to do much for the Church. Most have become like the Jew were in Rom. 10:1-3 they had gone about to establish their own righteousness and had not submitted to God's commands. That is what a lot of people are doing, but we are admonished in Rom. 12:1-2 to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, but we can't do that unless we sacrifice. Christ sacrificed his life and all he had to become our sacrifice as we see in Heb. 2:9. He was made lower than the angels of Heaven and tasted death for every man.

I Cor. 15:1-5 If we believe this the gospel then we had better do the gospel, for we were once the servants of sin, but we obeyed the form of doctrine Rom. 6:17-18, and made free from sin. So then why go and sin again by not doing what Christ commands, for Jesus only loves his own, John 13:1. He said if ye love me keep my commandments John 14:15, and this is my commandments John 15:12 - that ye love one another.

So he is only our hope if we fulfill the royal law James 2:8 according to the scriptures.

For we are not to love with the tongue, but in deed and truth I John 3:18, or by the things we do for all men and especially the brethren, for if Christ be preached that He arose from the dead; thy don't we believe it by doing the same. Rom. 6:3-4 Lay aside self and leave him in the grave and be a new creature in deed and truth.

Heb. 12:12 seeing we are compossed about with so great a cloud of witnesses we are to lay aside every weight and sin that leads us off, and run with patience the race set before us, and look to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. John 3:16 God so loved the world that he gave his Son. How much do we love or give so as to fulfill the law of Christ?

Yours for the hope of life,
Lloyd Treat

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

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## WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The Waterford congregation are all back home now from travels and meetings across the country. It is great to visit around, but always good to get back home to our own congregation.

Several familes from here were able to attend the Labor Day week-end meeting in San Pablo. Many thanks to the small congregation there for a great meeting. There was much good food for both the spirit and the body.

Bro. Lloyd Coleman is in the hospital and has been since Aug. 30. He is not doing very well, the doctors don't think he will be able to ever go back to his home. Remember him in your prayers. Sister Picard was in the hospital, but went home and was able to attend the San Pablo meeting. Sister Cadwell has not been able to attend Church regularly.

Waterford is planning to have a meeting June 20 - 27, 1982. We will have guest speakers. All plan to attend as we are giving you plenty of time for planning. We send our love to all everywhere and invite anyone coming our way to meet with us at 10:30 Sunday mornings at 11844 Yosemite Boulevard, Waterford, California, and visit in our homes.

In Christian Love,
Waterford Congregation

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## HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here in the Humble Church are all okay. Brother Steve Eldridge was sick but he is okay now. The Church here is doing good, Brother Denis Bedingfield has been giving us some very good lessons. We are all very proud of him. He and his wife Reyiko are expecting their first child soon. (Maybe another good preacher).

We still have a little work to do on our building, should be through with it soon.

Sister Ruth, Donald Jr. and myself went and held a three day meeting in Duncanville, Tx. The 25, 26, and 27 of September, everything turned out very well. They had very good attendance. Everyone had a good time and we met some more Christians for the first time.

Brother and Sister Chadwick and family came over from the Gardendale Church, but Brother Chadwick became ill and they had to return home. We

all hope and pray he is better now.

Sister Ruth and myself want to thank the Brothers and Sisters in Duncanville for their love and hospitality.

If anyone is coming to, or around the Houston area please call and come to see us. The Church is about 20 miles from Houston and if any of you know anyone we should go see or call please let us know. Our prayers are with you all, pray for us.

Yours In Christ,
Donald Dabbs
401 Bender #4601, Humble, Tx. 77338
Phone # (713) 446-0565

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## YUMA, ARIZONA

The congregation at Yuma, Arizona sends greetings and love to all. We here at Yuma are doing very well. Sister Mary Davis has been in the hospital, she is able to attend Church now. Sister Gladys Rutledge has been ill for some time and not able to attend Church. All our prayers are with her. Most of our congregation is back from vacations. Bro. James Lucker was baptized September 13th. Sister Florence Hunter at the age of 95, passed away June 17th in Texas. She lived in Somerton, Az. for several years and she attended Church in Yuma. She is survived by three sons and two daughters.

We would love to have visitors come and visit the Yuma congregation anytime!!

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## YUMA, ARIZONA

The Church in Yuma is about as usual, no major illnesses, everyone attending regularly. The Broadway's are back from their summer vacation, the Bill Nelsons' have gone to their summer cabin close to Payson, Az., Nora and Cliff Scott are back for the winter. Betty Edwards is meeting in Yuma with her Granddaughters. James Tucker was baptized in September. Several members has asked for the prayers of the Church so we are stronger. Sister Virgie Childress is in a rest home in Yuma. Sister Arzella Renick still attends regularly from Somerton. Sister Vestal Lytle is staying in Yuma for a few days. We have just heard Sister Florence Hunter died in Texas the 9th of June. She was born in Arkansas 96 years ago. She attended Church in Somerton and Yuma many years. She is survived by her daughter Faye Sackett of Las Vegas, Nev. and a son Clifton

Bogie of Somerton, Arizona and several others. The weather in Yuma is cooling off. The Church yard is large and has hook-ups for R. V.'s and Trailers. We meet at 10:30 Sunday mornings, at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evenings and at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights. The Church is located at Ave B, on State 95 south of Yuma. The Brothers here all give very good lessons. We have a few visitors and have room for lots more, you all come.

In Christian Love,
The Church in Yuma

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## DELTA, COLORADO

Dear Brethren:

First we would like to say a big "Thank You" to all of you that came so far, and the ones that are close for one of the best camp meetings ever. Each year seems to get better and better where old friends meet and new ones come to get aquainted. The fellowship will never be forgotten, it brings Christian's closer together, us older ones and our young people are much more edified at the end of the camp meeting, hearing all of the great sermons preached by our young preachers as well as our older preachers. The beautiful singing was enjoyed by all.

We are planning a 20 year camp meeting reunion, it was brought up and you will be hearing more about it. The Colo. camp meeting started in 1963 in August, lots of you will remember the good ole times 20 years ago. We would like to have some volunteers to help organize the 20 year reunion please. Wouldn't it be a great pleasure for everyone that has been at the camp meeting over the past 20 years and their families all attend plus new Christians. We need your help to do this.

The Big Spruce camp meeting dates for 1982 will be June 27th to July 5th. Camp will be open Saturday, June 26th for every one coming in and close on Monday. Please plan your vacation for that time, so we can all be together in 1982.

May God Bless and Keep you in His
Loving Care Until We Meet Again,
Happy Hollow Church of Christ.

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## BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Loved Ones in Christ:

Another month has passed us by, and is gone forever. We are for the most part doing well here at Bellflower. Bro. Claud Perigen is back from a trip he took as far north as Salem, Oregon. He had a wonderful time visiting with many of the Brethren along the way. We missed him and it's

good to have him home.

Bro. and Sis. Earl Ashley from Elk City, Oklahoma stopped by and had services with us one Sunday morning. It has been many years since they've been here. Bro. Ashley preached a fine lesson for us from God's word.

Sister Lewis has been ill the last few weeks. It seems almost every few weeks we lose one of our dear friends, and loved ones in the Lord. We should be very aware of the fact that this life is very temporary, as all things in this world are. We must strive to do more for our Lord to be closer, bound in love, with him and each other.

If you are in our area please come and meet with us each Lord's day morning at 10:30 and in the evening at 6:00 at 9914 Arkansas. Also if you are here during the week please call us, you're welcome in our homes.

Al Way - 714/842-1633
Jerry Perigen - 714/842-1251
Claud Perigen - 213/866-0656

Written in the Love of Christ,
Bro. Al Way
Bellflower congregation

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Just a thought:

Those that sleep in church may spend eternity wondering what the preacher said.

-Donald Dabbs

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## CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Of the many gifts that God has given us, our memory is probably the one that is most often used. With it we can roll back time as easily as opening a curtain and looking out at the view. We remember the good days of our youth, but very little of the bad. In our mind's eye we can still see our husband or wife-to-be coming down the isle. We can still recall our confession that Jesus Christ is the son of God as plainly as if it were yesterday. We can look back through the years one by one and recall brothers and sisters in Christ that we have known, and although they have passed on, we are certain we shall see again. We enjoy remembering the times we made others happy by helping, comforting, and befriending.

But there is another side to our memory. As adults, we can remember many of the things we have said and wish we hadn't. We recall people we have hurt because of our actings and wish we could forget. We remember mistakes we have made as if we made them yesterday...So we try to warn others but they will not listen.



cont. on pg. 8

Our memory will constantly remind us of our past until the moment we depart this earthly life. It is then to our advantage to make certain that everything we think, say and do will be reviewed by us later as a happy memory.

-Bro. Dan Ross

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## 1982 MEETINGS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yakima, Washington | June 6-13 | Sammy Boen |
| Waterford, California | June 20-27 | Camp |
| Delta, Colorado | June 27 - July 4 | Camp |
| Bellflower, California | July 4-11 | Howard McCay |
| Grass Valley, California | July 11-25 | J. D. Logan |
| San Pablo, California | September 4,5, & 6 | Camp |

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## OBITUARIES

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|---|---|---|
| Roxie Adams | La Habra, California | October 24 |
| Lloyd Coleman | Waterford, California | October |

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We would likt to take this small space to thank you for your support. We apologize for this issue and last's months being late. The press broke down last month. This month we waited too long hoping to receive more news letters. Let us remind you that anything we receive after the 15th will not be printed until the following month.

In Christian Love,
The Courier Staff