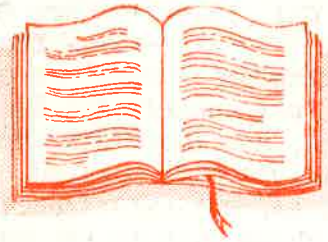
The Christian Courier



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

DECEMBER 1981 AND JANUARY 1982

HOPE OR WISHFUL THINKING?

We that profess to be Christians have a fervent HOPE of something after we depart this life on the earth. We hope to all stand before the Lord and hear that call "*Come ye blessed of my father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*" It is the teachings of our Saviour and the apostles that inspire the Hope within us.

We are told in II Thes. 2:16 that Jesus and God "*hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.*" Paul says in Titus 3:7 that "*we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*" Without this HOPE we might as well do like the writer says, "*Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die.*" It is that HOPE that keeps us going forward and keeps us on the straight and narrow path.

There is a difference between hope and wishful thinking. They may appear to be the same; but by definition, they differ considerably. Hope is - "A feeling that what is wanted will happen. To want and expect to receive." When we hope for something we expect to receive it. It's not just a fantasy. We really expect to receive it. Do we Really Expect to Receive a Home in Heaven?? Or is it just wishful thinking??

The following are only a few of the things that can deprive us of attaining that HOPE:

Ephesians 5:5 & 6 "*For this ye know that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance ir the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Gal. 5:19-21 *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these ---------- that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* I Cor. 6:9 & 16 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, not adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor theives, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*

These writers stress very plainly that if we meet our maker in one of these conditions, we shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If we are in one of these conditions, it is only wishful thinking to expect to enter heaven. There is no Hope. It is only wishful thinking. By definition Hope is - A feeling that what is wanted will happen. They may want to go to heaven, but their only Hope is to repent of their sins and return to serving the Lord.

Matt. 7:22 & 23 Tells of those who thought they were going to heaven. They really had it in their mind that they would, but Jesus said, *"Depart from me ye workers of iniquity: I never knew you."*

Many things in this life we really hope for never materialize. The same holds true in our Christian life. Many will Hope with Real Hope to Go to Heaven, but will not be allowed to enter. Many will hope, but only as wishful thinking, that they, too, will enter through the Pearly Gates, only to be CAST down to Hell.

Peter tells in I Peter 4:17-18 *"For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

There <u>is</u> Hope of going to Heaven, but that Hope is only to those who diligently follow <u>all</u> the teachings of our Saviour, not adding to or taking from.

Hebrews 6:18 & 19 *"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"*

Brethern, we should all examine ourselves to see if our Hope of Heaven is real and that we are earnestly and diligently working daily to attain that Hope and not just relying on wishful thinking.

Bro. Gerald Brockman

We truly enjoyed having Bro. Richard Johnston and family of Yakima, Washington hold a meeting for us last July. We thank Bro. Richard, Sis. Monica, Jessica and Sis. Veda McCay. They are very special people.

In Christian Love,

The Tiner Church of Christ
Rt. 1 Box 270
Broken Bow, OK 74728

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"FLOATING"

Lord your entering our lives
is the most precious.

Feeling your Spirit in us is
like being up with the clouds.

Floating above all that can
bring us down on this earth.

The stronger we get in your
Spirit the higher we float!

Hopefully right up to you.

Doris Jared

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Proverbs
THUS SAITH THE LORD

Prov. 1:5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning, and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise cousels:

Prov. 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

(Cont.)

Prov. 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bing them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

-Gerald Brockman

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A Changing Gospel for a Changing World?
THUS SAITH THE LORD

Matt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away."

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

John 12:48 my word shall judge you in the last day.

Rev. 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

-Gerald Brockman

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THE NEW YEAR

I am the New Year, and I come to you pure and unstained. Fresh from the hand of God. Each day, a precious pearl to you is given that you must string upon the silver thread of life. Once strung can never be unthreaded but stays an undying record of your faith and skill. Each golden minute link you then must weld into the chain of hous that is no stronger than its weakest link. Into your hands is given all the wealth and power to make your life just what you will. I give to you free and unstained, twelve glorious months of soothing rain and sunshine golden; the days for work and rest, the nights for peaceful slumber. All that I have I give with love unspoken. All that I ask--you keep the faith unbroken.

These are the things that make us right in the sight of God.

I John 4:12 says - *"no man hath seen God at any time, if we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."* But, God cannot dwell in us if there is no love for one another, for God is love, as it was by the good Samaritin.

Which one loved the man that fell among thieves? Are we the Priest, or Levite, or are we doing what God said: go and do thou likewise, helping the ones in need. (John 3:18) Verse 24 says - *"and he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him and hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."*

James 2:14 says - *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?"* No it cannot! It is dead by itself.

I Tim. 5:22 - *"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*

It is us that will give account to God for ourselves. Let us examine ourselves and get better, life is short.

Yours for the love of Christ and God,

Brother Lloyd Treat

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

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brethern and Sisters in Christ:

We are all doing fairly well here in Delta, Colorado all are well at this time.

We have had nice fall weather up until Christmas. Day and eve had a white Christmas. Have had some snow and rain since.

Bro. Bud Wilkerson had a blood clot in his leg but is improving and able to be up and around. Bro. Ken Baldwin hurt his back and was in the hospital 7 days here in Delta, was sent to St. Lukes Hospital in Denver and was there almost 3 weeks, with a seperated nerve, but is home now and doing fine. Like all small congregations, when one of the leaders is sick,

it makes it rough. Of course we always manage. Any one wishing to move to Colo. we will help you in any way we can to get settled here. Just write or call us. (303) 847-4581 - Box 188 Delta, Colo. 81416. Bro. Jim Chadwick was here over a week end and spoke for us, he is going to make a good preacher, we enjoyed Jim very much, thanks Jim. Bro. Jim is from the Gardendale, Texas congregation.

Don't forget the Big Spruce Camp meeting in Colo. in 1982 - June 27-July 5. We can move into the camp June 26 and out July 5. Start planning now to be here. Guest speakers each day. It will be free again this year. So plan to bring car loads and enjoy the fellowship with old friends and new ones. We will need your support to make it an other successful Gospel meeting.

We would like to say that we enjoy the Christian Courier, and say thanks a million to the editors for doing a fantastic job.

In Christian Love,

Happy Hallow Church of Christ
Box 188 Delta, Colo. 81416
(303) 874-4581

P.S. There are several requests for a Christian pen pal list, for young people and older people. What do others think?

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

I'm very happy to report an addition to the church. Sister Donelle Brooks was baptized on November 30th.

The church here at Waterford is doing very well. We are fortunate in having several good speakers and also good singing.

Sister Baumgartner, her daughter and son-in-law were visitors here November 29th. We wish to extend a warm welcome to anyone passing this way. Don't wait to pass this way, come see us any time.

Attending Church regulary won't save us, but we won't be saved if we don't.

With Sincere Love,

L. E. Arnett

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a few lines to say that all are doing relatively well in the congregations at Pleasantview and Baron. Sister Bonnie Rhodes is still fighting a terrible battle against bone cancer; but with the prayers of all the faithful, who can say what the end might bring? Nonetheless, all of us pray constantly for her and her family.

Those who know and remember Brother Nick Buckner will be happy to know that at the present time he is in the Stilwell Nursing Home and doing quite well for a man his age. Anyway, though he is getting a little feeble, he is at worship regulary when he has a ride; and, thankfully, he usually has one.

We would also like to notify the brethren that the Baron Church of Christ has a meeting planned for May 30 to June 6, 1982. Brother Ken Baldwin of Delta, Colorado will be the principle speaker. All of us are looking forward to seeing Brother Ken and Sister Verlie again and hearing some of those good messages that Ken brings from the scriptures. Also, we invite any and all who are in the neighborhood at that time to drop by for this meeting and some Christian fellowship.

Finally, we here in Adair County, Oklahoma had reason to rejoice recently when two new members were added by the Lord to the Church. Sister Teresa Fatheree was baptized October 4; and Brother Matthew Padgett was added November 15.

Well, we must close for now. May God bless all of those who are in the Faith; and we pray that we will continue to fight the fight.

Yours in Christ,

Lloyd A. Allgood of the Baron
Church of Christ Baron, Oklahoma

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LUGERT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The Church of Christ at Lugert, Oklahoma is sending a donation to the

paper with our best wishes and prayers.

We are few in number but are striving to worship as the Bible directs. Harold Don Taylor has been bringing some good lessons and also his son Mark. We really appreciate their help.

Written for the Church at Lugert,

Bro. Bill Goldtron

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope all are doing well around the country. All of us have so much to be thankful for, don't we? The congregation here seems to be holding its own. We have had a few visitors here the past month from Chico, CA, Portland and Grants Pass, Oregon. Enjoyed everyone's attendance. Brother Tom Broadway brought us a very good lesson one Sunday morning. Anyone passing through this area please don't hesitate staying over for Sunday services. All of us would enjoy having you stay with us in our homes.

In Christian Love,

Jerry Perigen
Bellflower Congregation

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TINER, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern,

We are sending a donation to help with the paper, we enjoy getting it very much.

The Tiner Church meets every Sunday morning at 10:30. We are located 4 miles east and a ½ mile north of Broken Bow, OK. We have about 15 families attending with 25 to 30 members. We want to invite everyone to drop by if they are passing thru our part of the state.

"UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE WE ALLOWED TO FORSAKE THE ASSEMBLYING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER?"

Because we had company who wouldn't come with us.
We were visiting relatives where there was no church.
We were staying home with our sick mother.
We were on vacation and sometimes there was no churches handy.
We had to work. Our job requires us to work on Sunday sometimes.
We just didn't feel like it.

Can you find any of these excuses in the Bible? Col. 1:18 *"That in all things he might have the preeminence."* If our Saviour must be first in all things then there is no way we can be obedient to God without assemblying ourselves together.

One might say when we are away from church we have services ourselves as long as there are two or more of us.

Does this mean we can all meet anywhere we want to as long as there are two or more? If this is true we could all meet at home and wouldn't need a church house.

Heb. 10:25 *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together."* Assembly means a collection or company of persons brought together in one place, according to Webster.

If we willfully miss the assembly on the first day of the week we are in trouble. Suppose I only miss once or twice a year. Suppose I commit adultry once or twice a year? We may serve God 99% of the time and give 1% of our time to the devil. That would not seem like much to give the devil, but let's remember that's all the devil needs.

I Cor. 11:20 *"When ye come together into one place"* they came together to observe the communion but brought their food with them.

I Cor. 14:23 *"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place"* we must have a designated place of worship even though there are only two or more members.

We are commanded to assemble on the first day of the week if we can. If we can not we are not expected to.

With Sincere Love,
L. E. Arnett

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I Cor. 14:20 - "Brethern, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

Dear Brethern:

I will try to write another article of which is Christ in you the hope of glory. (Col. 1:27-28) to which it is written, *"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."* We might ask; how can we know that Christ is in us? Which is our hope of glory?

In 2 Cor. 13:5 we are commanded: *"Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* How do we prove that Christ is in us? It says examine your own selves: What does it mean to examine our self? Well; look at what we are doing for Christ and the Church.

Christ said in Matt. 25th Chapter when he sits and judges us he will say to some of us, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire. Why? Because we did visit the sick, feed the poor, cloth the naked, and administer to them? It is not hard to see if we are doing this.

Are we laboring with our hands and helping others, or are we using it for our selves? Do we help someone pay for a doctor when they are sick? Do we, when a preacher comes by and preaches for us, do we pay his expenses? Do we lodge strangers? (Heb. 13:1-2) Do we ask him to spend the night with us and study the word of God? Do we ask when someone is sick if we can help?

What are we doing to prove ourselves? Rom. 8:9 says: *"Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."* Is this Spirit of Christ in you? Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, and visited those that had lost a loved one. He traveled a long way by foot to comfort Martha and Mary. Do we do those things? The 10th verse says: *"and if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."*

Are we keeping James 1:27 or are we looking into the glass, "the Scriptures", and then go on our way and forget to do the things commanded. Rom. 13:14 says: *"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."*

Do we buy the things we want, and not consider others that are in need? Do we consider others first? Gal. 2:17 - *"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid."*

How can we seek to be justified by Christ and not do these things?

 (Cont.)

WORDS NEVER DIE

We should keep a close watch on our words,
For they are such wonderful things;
They are sweet, like the honey of bees;
And like bees, have awful stings.
They can bless, like the sunshine so warm,
And brighten someone's lonely life;
They can cut, when in anger they strike--
Cut like a sharp two-edged knife.
Keep them back, if they're cruel or cross,
Well under love's bar, lock and seal;
For the wounds that such words always make
Seem never completely to heal.
Since our words do live, lingering on,
How careful we always should be
That nobody hears other than kind
Words spoken by you or by me.
May the Lord guard our lips always,
From the time of our early youth;
May the words that we daily speak
Be Beautiful words of Truth!!!

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St. Matthew 12:34-37

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

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EDITORS NOTE

We didn't have enough material last month for a eight page issue. This is a twelve page issue and we have done a lot of fillins to complete it.

Two months and we didn't have enough news and articles from all the Churches of Christ to fill twelve small pages. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves. Where is the news from your congregation?

1982 MEETINGS

Humble, Texas	April 4-11	Sammy Boen
Baron, Oklahoma	May 30-June 6	Ken Baldwin
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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BAPTISMS

Sister Donelle Brooks	Waterford, California	November 30
Sister Teresa Fatheree	Stilwell, Oklahoma	October 4
Brother Matthew Padgett	Stilwell, Oklahoma	November 15

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ILLNESS

The congregation in Humble, Texas reports that John Bedingfield was in the hospital on October 15 for an eye operation.

We're praying for a speedy recovery!!

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Don't forget to make your plans to attend one or more of the camp meetings this year. Go out and support other congregations gospel meetings, you will meet new friends and establish lasting relationships. Share your love with others and you'll see the love of Christ manafested. You won't be sorry if you go, make your plans now!