The Christian Courier



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

APRIL-MAY 1982

THE UNRIGHTEOUS JEWS

From Abraham to Christ's shed blood, the Jewish nation was the chosen people of God. They had received many blessings and were entrusted with the oracles of God. Exodus 34:1 God said, *"I make a covenant: before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord."* God further told them to *"keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways and to fear him."* But Israel with all of the instructions and a chosen nation of people would not listen nor remain loyal or righteous to his word. He told them in Deut. 8 to beware and forget not the Lord thy God after he had blessed them with houses, food, herds, flocks, silver and gold. Moses was very disturbed with their rebellious attitudes. Shortly before his death he said, Deut. 31:29 *"I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you."* Jesus refers to his one race of people as hypocrites. They appeared righteous outwardly unto men but they were full of hypocrisy. Matt. 15:8, *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips: but their hearts is far from me."* They had high regard for their customs and traditions but left the most important things undone. They were failures in setting themselves as examples and representatives of God's word. We aren't to do as they did, but we are to do more. Christ said, Matt. 5:20 *"That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kindom of heaven."* Peter further warns, *"if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"* We should always remember Peters words

and remain loyal or our commitment to Christ. We must be firm in our stand and as Christ says to, *"search the scriptures."* As we search His word, we realize our short comings and weakness. His word will lift us up and bring us into the realms of righeousness. Don't become so involved with this world and its disappointments that we become spiritually discouraged. Gal. 6:9, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."* 2 Tim. 3:14, *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them."*

In Christian love,

Charles Jared

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POINTS TO PONDER BY "WOULD BE" DISCIPLES
Luke 9:57-62

Verse 57-58, As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, *"I will always follow you no matter where you go."* But Jesus replied, *"Remember, I don't even own a place to lay my head. Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but I, the Messiah, have no earthly home at all."*
Verse 59, Another time when he invited another man to come with him and to be his disciple, the man agreed - but wanted to first go and bury his father. Jesus replied, *"Let those without eternal life bury the dead."* Your duty is to come and preach the coming of the Kingdom of God to all the world.
Verse 61, Another said, *"Yes, Lord, I will come, but first let me ask permission of those at home."* But Jesus told him, *"Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God."*

In verse 57-58 we observe the IMPULSIVE "would be" disciple of Christ with his enthusiasm aflame. Seeing Christ's works he became so enthusiastic for him, he proposed to follow him before he understood what all this alegiance to Jesus could encompass. He did not at that point realize that one who chooses to follow Christ, must follow to the end.

Jesus did not mean to discourage or repress his enthusiasm, because Christ came to save and plead with all men to follow him.

These words were spoken because the man in his enthusiasm had overlooked something vitally important in such a step. He failed to consider the cost, which was that he must sacrifice and serve to follow Christ. Jesus wanted him to be aware of that. Why? That failure might be avoided. Many fail because they never count the cost. They see the CROWN but fail to see the CROSS. These are represented in Mark 4:16-17 as the grain sown on stony ground, *"and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time"*, and afterward fail when confronted with affliction or persecution.

Another reason to count the cost is that criticism might be avoided. Luke 14:27-33 teaches us we cannot be his disciple unless we bear his CROSS and follow him, and must be willing to give all that we have, if necessary to FOLLOW HIM. We should not bring criticism upon Christ or the Church by beginning our life as a Christian and then turn back into worldly things that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. He is pleading with all to accept his invitation but, COUNT THE COST.

The procrastinating cadidate we read of in Luke 9:59-60 was urged by Christ to, "FOLLOW ME" but he considered his domestic duty paramount to his following Jesus immediately. He had in mind to follow later and was making only a temporary refusal as may be the case of many in the world today. Christ replied, *"Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead."* The point is we must seek the Kingdom of Christ first, while it can be found and nothing should take precedence over this. Others will take care of domestic duties but they connot save your soul. Jesus may have known that if he returned home, he might never become his follower.

In Luke 9:61-62 we read of the WAVERING "would be" diciple. He, like the first, volunteered and like the second had the difficulty of his attention being divided.

Christ's answer was that he must look forward to the work of a Christian and not back to the things of the world. In Luke 14:26 we find that we are not to let the love of the world or even of our parents come before our service to Jesus. Are these POINTS for all of us to PONDER? Most certainly they are.

These verses in Luke 9 illustrate some vital conditions of following Christ. Self-denial must be a part of it as well as making our duty to Christ paramount, and serve him with an undivided heart.

Christ wants followers with undivided attentions, who have counted the cost, and are ready to follow without delay. Those who come without these may never be strong, stable, or worth very much to the Church.

Will you be a tried and true follower of Christ today? Or.....

will you procrastinate by saying, "I will. BUT first let me.....?"

Submitted in love of
true Christianity,

Tom Broadway

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THE FORGOTTEN ETHIC

Over 200 years ago a group of unhappy families moved to a new country to seek freedom from religious and political oppression. They established a community on the basis of their trust in God. Although their religious philosophy may have been in error according to our understanding of the scriptures, they did hold in common an idea that is firmly rooted in scripture. The passage is found in 2 Thes. 3:6-12. The key verse here is verse 10: *"For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."* It was then an unwritten law among colonists that if you did not work (and work well) you did not eat. Some came near to starvation before finally coming to their senses. The work ethic became instilled in this group of people and the tradition was continued from generation to generation. Americans, as they were soon called, developed a reputation for being hard workers and good craftsmen; "Made in U.S.A." was a mark of quality.

Then something changed. It is difficult to say exactly why, but the work ethic became ill and is now almost dead. We look around us today and see that a "good day's work" is no longer esteemed nor respected. The quality of workmanship in goods and services has declined. Many people of working age would rather sit at home and collect money from the government so they won't starve. Working and eating have little to do with each other for these people. But it doesn't end here. The shorter work weak has given us more opportunity for recreation. Many people think only of weekends when they can go out and play and think little of the tasks they are given to do during the week. Millions of people idolize the sports world and the movie world whose "stars" make millions of dollars and yet contribute nothing to the common good of man, neither through goods nor services. Common criminals are idolized by many because they have "beaten the

system" or made a fortune at the expense of their victims. In short, our younger generations are being subtly taught that it is no longer noble to work for their needs, but rather to expect to be given everything while living a life of leisure.

The church of our Lord is not immuned to this moral infection. Have we unwittingly allowed it to creep into our homes and our congregation? It is human nature to want for our children and the next generation opportunities and conviences we have never had. But sometimes we lose sight of the fact that opportunities must also be accompanied by responsibilities. Even young children can be given responsibilities. Older children can handle many. Do our children receive everything they wish with no strings attached, or do they have to "earn" the right? Solomon said in Prov. 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* If we bend to the wishes of our children when they are young, how will they be prepared when they must earn their own way? Will they be looking for the handout of society or will they be industrious?

As fellow workers in the vineyard of the Lord, are there any among us who wish to be *"partakers of the inheritance of the saints"* (Col. 1:12) but not wish to labor? 2 Thes. 3:11 says, *"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."* These are not difficult to spot: they show up for the fun, but when there is work to be done, you can't find them. Verse six of this passage says, *"...withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly..."* The solution to the problem is in verse 12: *"Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work and eat their own bread."* We turn to 1 Cor. 3:8 *"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor."*

Work is noble and necessary. Rest and recreation is also necessary. God rested after his labor. The saints will rest from their labors (Rev. 14:13). The key is that rest comes after labor, not the other way around. If we can teach that to our children and remember it ourselves, we will not be disappointed.

In love of the truth,

Bro. Dan Ross

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE RIGHT

2 Tim. 2:15 *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* Study to what? To prove our own ideas? Sometimes our own ideas seem right to us but Pro. 14:12 says, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* If our ideas don't harmonize with the Bible then our religion is vain. We must make sure we are approved of God by rightly dividing the word of truth. How do we rightly divide the word of truth? 2 Pet. 1:20 *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."* Private means alone. We can't divide one scripture. In division one must have at least 2 units to divide to get a complete unit. Let's see some numbers for example. We will use 10, 15 and 20. Since we cannot divide by 1 we will start with 2.

5÷ - 2 - 3 - 4
4÷ - 0 - 0 - 0
3÷ - 0 - 5 - 0
2÷ - 5 - 0 - 10

10 - 15 - 20

Using each number as a scripture, they must all be divisible by one number to be correct. Number 2 does not divide into 15 which equals one scripture disagreeing. When one scripture doesn't agree we don't have the right answer. 3 and 4 doesn't divide, so 5 would be our correct answer. We might say 2 out of 3 is good enough but Jas. 2:10, *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."* 1 Thes. 5:21 *"Prove all things."* If God had not provided this, then it would be a command we could not keep. Two out of three is not good enough. However, there are some who use only one scripture, for instance, there are many who use John 3:16 in beleiving they are saved by faith alone. We can find scripture that suits almost anyone that is satisfied with one verse. John 8:32 *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* We must <u>know</u> the truth but knowing the truth only will not save us. We can prove this when we divide it with other scriptures pertaining to salvation. Isaiah 28:10 *"Fore precept must be upon precept, and line upon line; here a little and there a little."* This is how we know we are right when we add all

scriptures together pertaining to one subject and one agrees with all.

With love for all,

L. E. Arnett
4449 S. Carpenter Rd.
Modesto, CA 95351

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NEITHER BE PARTAKERS OF OTHER MEN'S SINS

In 1 Tim. 5:22 we are commanded by Paul *"neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."* In this commandment we see that regardless of what others may do we are to keep ourselves pure. In James 1:27 we are told to keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

When we neglect to study (2 Tim. 2:15) we partake of others sins, for this is a direct commandment of God also.

Since 1 John 3:4 commands that sin is a transgression (or disobeying) of what God said to do we partake with others in this sin when we do not study.

We also are commanded in 2 Tim. 2:4 not to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life so we can please him that has chosen us to be a soldier. So when we entangle ourselves in politics and other forms of things that shape worldly people, we are not pleasing God, for we can't fight for God and righteousness, and at the same time walk with the world.

In Colossians 3:9 we are commanded, *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."* (Which is the world and its ways). Jesus said we cannot serve two masters. In 1 Cor. 9:27 Paul says *"but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."* And in Ephesians 5:3 we are told *"but fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints."* These things are sin, and we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven if we partake in them. So we can't be a christian and fornicate with the world, (which is to follow the world, and its ways). We can't keep ourselves pure and be a fornicator.

In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul said, *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

1 Peter 4:16 says *"yet if any man suffer as a christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."* But we can't glorify God and mix with others sins.

In Ephesians 4:17 we are commanded, and testified to, that we are not to walk as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being aliens (foreigners) from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Also, Ephesians 5:7-8 says *"Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."*

Romans 6:1-2 asks us *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* And in Romans 6:16 *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righeousness?"*

Being told these things, how then can we sit in church and say amen to the things written, and still partake with others in anger, malice, strife, sedition, heresay, murder, drunkeness, revelling, lasciviousness, lust, idolators, tale bearers, proud, bosters, invent evil things (to say about others), shed innocent blood (by talking too much), sow discard among brethern, turn our ears away from hearing the truth, or get angry when someone preaches on what we do that is wrong.

Think brethren, we are going to stand before God, and be judged. What will you say then?

In love of the truth,

Lloyd Treat

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Doing an injury puts you below your enemy; revenging one makes you but even with him; forgiving it sets you above him.

-Dan Ross

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

Prov. 25:25

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AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

Brethren:

Just a short note from the congregation at Aztec. Bro. Emmett Noyes has been in the hospital but is at home now. Brother and Sister Duane Bixler are the proud grandparents of their first grandbaby. Kenny Duane was born Feb. 5th to Ken and Rarrie McFarland. Brother Earl Noyes gave a fine lesson on the 6th of March and then celebrated his 100th birthday on the 8th of March. Sister Myra Dabbs, Brother and Sister J. D. Johnson, and Brother and Sister Frank Ridlon attended Brother Harry Dye's meeting at Humble, Texas. Everyone enjoyed the lessons and fellowship during the week.

For the Aztec Congregation

Frank and Doris Ridlon

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It isn't the ship in the water that sinks it; it is the water in the ship that sinks it.

-Dan Ross

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ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear faithful Brethren and Sisters of the Church:

We are just a faithful few that meet each Lord's day at 818 N. Washington St. in Elk City, Okla. Only nine members and maybe an occasional visitor. We enjoy receiving The Christian Courier to read and learn of other faithful bodies of Christ.

I just read Bro. J. D. Logan's article on "Without Spot and Blameless" and endorse it fully. Only if more would consider and practice these

warnings, contained in the scriptures.

I am sending my check to help with the publishing of the paper.

Brother W. R. Farrar for the
Aztec, New Mexico congregation

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Character is what a man is when he is alone.

-Dan Ross

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GARDENDALE, TEXAS

Dear Brethren:

We are writing for the Gardendale congregation. We are all well at this present time.

The church in Olney, Texas has lost a dear sister in Christ from cancer, Sis. Jane Tate. Our deepest sympathy and love goes to the family of Sis. Tate and Brother Ed Tate. We had the pleasure of know- and loving Sis. Tate for many years. We will all miss her so much.

The Gardendale congregation is holding its summer week meeting June 13th thru June 20th. Bro. Donald Dabbs from Humble, Texas will be holding the meeting for us. We invite each and every one to come and attend a week of gospel, spiritual uplifting and Christian fellowship. Services during the week will be at 7:30 P.M. and each Sunday at 10:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Lunch both Sundays will be served at the Gardendale Community Bldg.

We are enclosing a donation for the Courier, we appreciate the paper so much, and the news from all our other brethren from the other congregations.

In Christian love,

The Gardendale Congregation

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He that's content hath much. He that complains has too much.

-Dan Ross

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

Just a short word of news about the Bellflower congregation. Many of us have been able to travel around various congregations up and down the coast. Seemed like when one family would leave, others would be coming back. We all realize this is a healthy activity for all to participate in.

Our visitors have been many the last several weeks. Those in attendance have been from San Diego, Yuma, Indiana, Waterford, Chico, Colorado, and La Habra. We wish to give special thanks for many in our presence from the La Habra congregation.

Those with sickness have been Sister Lewis with generally poor health from age. Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse has been suffering from hip problems. Sister Lori Perigen has broken her wrist in a ski accident at Big Bear, Ca. She will be in a cast for another month.

A special invitation for all to please make that effort to be with us at our meeting which will start July 4th for one week. Brother Howard McCay has consented to talk for us at that time.

In Christian love,

Bro. Jerry Perigen
for the Bellflower congregation

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IS GOD ALL LOVE?
THUS SAITH THE LORD

Matt. 25:31-33: When the Son of man shall come in his glory-And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them - the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34: Then shall the King asy unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you-

41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

-Gerald Brockman

1982 MEETINGS

Gardendale, Texas	June 13-20	Donald Dabbs
Loco, Oklahoma	June 13-20	J. L. Jared
Waterford, California	June 20-27	Camp
Delta, Colorado	June 27-July 4	Camp
Bellflower, California	July 4-11	Howard McCay
Grass Valley, California	July 11-17	Singing School
Grass Valley, California	July 18-25	J. D. Logan
Furnish Canyon, Oklahoma	July 18-25	Tom Broadway
Lorenzo, Texas	July 25-August 1	Tony Brister
Port Orchard, Washington	August 1-8	Dan Ross
San Pablo, California	September 4, 5, and 6	Camp

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We are extremely sorry this issue of the Courier is so late. Our mimeograph machine broke down and has been under repair for several weeks. We apologize for the delay and pray future issues will be on time. Editors.

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BIRTHS

Brother and Sister Powless of the Port Orchard, Washington congregation are the proud parents of their new son, Joshua Brian, born April 5, 1982. Congratulations!!!

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BAPTISMS

Jeannie Emis	Ontario, California
Julie Shea	La Habra, California

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Congratulations to Claud and Burdette Perigen who were married in Jan.