The Christian Courier

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

JUNE-JULY 1982

"THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST"
2nd John-9

I am rewriting this article so as to be in keeping within the guide lines agreed upon by my brethern who are putting out the Christian Courier. I want to say I believe they are doing a good job, and if it sometimes seems like a thankless one, always remember that *"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which ye have shewed toward his name in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister."* Heb. 6-10. The editor of a certain religious paper out of California has reached my mailbox with one article after another against all who worship in an undivided assembly, and use only one cup in the communion service. This has been going on for several years now. Since the truth needs to be taught about some of the more serious charges levied at us and get within the guidelines preferred by my brethern, I will omit that certain editors name, the name of his paper, address, and zip code. From here on out I will refer to this erring Bro. as Bro. Blank.

Bro. Blank keeps saying how we should be like him, more humble, yet in his every paper he carries an editorial many times directed at us, and every editorial has his picture of himself up in the right hand corner so we can see what a humble person looks like. Since he worshiped this same way for about 30 years and keeps trying to convince us he's right, I wonder how much of this is a guilty conscience, from leaving that which he could read, to that which he now practices and can not read. Why have those educated in christian colleges failed to teach the truth, as can be read in the New Testament scriptures? Paul tells us the answer in 1 Cor. 1:26:

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:" Verse 27 - "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;" Verse 29 - "That no flesh should glory in his presence." There is only one ransom for mankind, and comes only in obedience to the word of God. Bro. Blank never hesitates to use psychology, when there is no scripture to prove his point, as the next paragraph will point out.

"DISOBEDIENCE TO A DIRECT COMMAND"
II Corinthians 6:14

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Now Bro. Blank tells us how he and some others were attending a camp meeting with other dennominations, and was asked if he would take care of the communion service; I quote his own writing, (You should have heard this editor stammer and stutter). Now II Cor. 6:14 proves he was in disobedience for being there in the first place, yet the reason for his statement was to use psychology to give the impression, one should be ashamed of our Lords doctrine and simplicity of worship like he was. If that's stammering and stuttering before man, think what it will be like trying to give an explation to the Lord why he changed from the written word of God. "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Rom. 10:11). If the use of one cup causes division between us, then Jesus must surely have driven the first wedge of division between us when he instituted it with one. When will these people ever learn themselves, and teach others that mankind has but one thing that stands between our soul and hell, and that is obedience to the word of God. For more proof, I refer the reader to turn to Malachi 3:16-18.

"WHAT IS CHARITY?"
I Corinthians 13

Paul states in this chapter that charity will never die, after that faith and hope have come to an end. Bro. Blank writes that we should practice more charity. Lets see what I Cor. 13th chapter show's what charity is. When read where one could give all their goods to feed the poor and then give their body to be burned, and still be without charity it would not profit him anything. Why? Because God wants to be obeyed first, and no one can do this without obeying his will. Charity is a love for God first and you prove it by your obedience

unto his word. When a Christian gets to heaven will he (or she) still search the scriptures to see if they are in the faith? No, and neither will they be hoping for heaven after they have reached it, yet the love they showed to God while on earth won't stop in heaven but will continue on forever, because it never dies. In writing to the seven churches in Rev. 2:1-5, the Church of Ephesus was named first and was credited with many good works, yet was told she had left her first love (charity - a love for God). This church was told on no uncertain terms to "*Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and to repent, and do the first works; or else*". Many today have heart trouble in the fleshly body, but those who have no charity in their heart are aflicted with the worst kind of heart trouble there is.

"HOW DOES ONE BECOME SPIRITUAL?"

Bro. Blank always is trying to tell us how we should be more spiritual. Jesus says in St. John 6:63 "*The words that I speak unto you. they are spirit, and they are life.*" Those that don't obey God's word, that can't read their practice are the ones who are not spiritual. Notice that Jesus says his words are spirit and they are life. James 4:8 teaches us, "*Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you.*" In Romans 8:14: "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God.*" Bro. Blank and some others despise the expression by some of us, when we say (loyal brethren) Jesus for good reason makes it even stronger in St. John 4:23 "*The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.*" Besides Bro. Blank, there is a well-known religious leader (healer) who has a big Bible college in Oaklahoma City, and during an oral and written discussion with a graduate, all three accuse us of being so cold and regulated. We always know just what we are going to say in our services, what songs we are going to sing, and what prayers we are going to give, etc. God tells us how to worship him, in spirit and in truth. Remember Jesus said, his words were spirit and life. I wonder if these others honestly think they are going to sneak up on the Lord and surprise him, like he wouldn't know what they are going to say next Lord's day, or what songs they are going to sing, or what prayer they are going to make?! These that claim so much power in their prayers and healings and then fail, they will always say they didn't believe, yet think of what a field day they would have if you could just get one of them to go to a shriners hospital for crippled children. Most of them there are young enough and innocent enough to believe anything they are told. Remember the Church at Ephesus? Rev. 2:2 "*thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*"

The church that Christ built and is the head of, has always had two kind of pillars, those that support its doctrine and hold it up in spirit and in truth and those that are like catapillars that just crawl in and out of it with their hit and miss doctrine. "*Ever learning yet never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" II Tim. 3:7. My hope and prayer is that Bro. Blank or any of my loved ones **are** not past the point of no return that we read of in Heb. 6:4-6. The sin against the Holy Ghost is only committed by those who have been thoroughly enlightened, and is delibertly teaching against Gods word, and not a sin through weakness or ignorance.

"There was only one Alexander Campbell"

Bro. Blank resorts again to the use of psychology since he knows a lot of people's faith came through the restoration movement of which Alexander Campbell was considered to be the main leader to restore the church to its true worship once again. He makes this statement knowing full well there were two others that also set out to restore the church at about the same time. When one declares there were three Alexander Campbells, and Funk and Wagnalls encyclopedia Vol. 4 pg. 1,329 lists only one. That kind of reasoning could make Bro. Blank see more than one cup on the Lord's table also. If the Lord wills, and I see there is a need for it I will put out an article on Alexander Campbell and how he got started in the restoration movement. And how its beginning here is in harmony withBiblical year dates along with mans recorded history for further proof.

Submitted with Gospel charity,

Bro. Harry Wegley
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THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power
to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own; Live, Love, Toil with a Will,
Place no faith in tomorrow, for the clock may then be still.

HOLY GHOST OR SPIRIT

What is a spirit? Webster defines it: Power of mind, moral and intellectual; essence; that in which the real character of a thing exists. Acts 15:28, "*For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us,*" It pleased the spirit of God. 1 John 5:7 says "*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*" So if it pleased the Holy Ghost it would be agreeable to the Word and God. Acts 16:6 "*and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.*" Paul was inspired by God and had direct instructions from Him through the Holy Ghost. Those who were baptized with the Holy Ghost did nothing to bring it about. They did not ask for it nor was it necessary to word salvation. Neither are we required to do any of the miracles it enabled them to do. Mark 16:9-20 - Signs and miracles were used to confirm the word. This was in A.D. 33: Heb. 2:2-4 A.D. 64; the word was confirmed. In 1 Cor. 12:27-31 we have spiritual gifts of that time which was A.D. 59. These gifts included miracles, healings, and speaking in tongues. In the 31 verse Paul says he will shew a more excellent way. Romans 12:6-9 was written A.D. 60 and tells us what the more excellent way is. "*Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teachin; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation; he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*" James's letter was also written in 60 A.D. and one might ask about raising the sick mentioned in the 5th ch. beginning with the 13th verse. Let's consider exactly what is written. "*Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.*" 14th verse "*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*" Here we have two different ailments, one you pray for individually, the other you call for the elders of the Church. There are only two kinds of illness, one physical and the other spiritual. In the 13th verse it doesn't say you will be healed, so it would be like it was God's will. Saving our soul being much more important than saving the flesh would indicate that it was more likely you would call for the elders when you were spiritually ill. What was that oil we are supposed to anoint with? 1 John 2:27 says "*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie,*

and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." James 5:15 *"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."* Can we pray for health and get our sins forgiven? Fell by sin and raised by prayer. The 16th verse tells us what they were praying for. *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed."* When one has been overtaken in sin and wants to be reinstated in the church, this is exactly the way we do it. When one falls from grace and has been restored to the church, he has been raised up. This healing is unconditional. If this is physical we could live forever. We have no example of having to call for elders to heal physical ills. The 16th verse is an example for sin. All did not have the gift of healing. It was always done by one person.

In Christian Love,

L. E. Arnett

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GODS WILL - NOT OURS

All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine for reproof for correction. For instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect; thoroughly furnished unto all good works. He has given us everything that pertaineth to life and godliness. In light of these scriptures consider:

I. Cor. 3 16-17:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God him shall God destroy. For the temple of God is holy which temple ye are."

Prov. 20:1:

"Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Prov. 23:31:

"Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright." (fermented)

I Tim. 5:23:

"*Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*"

Was Paul refering to the fresh wine (grape juice) or fermented wine? I know of no Dr. who would prescribe any for of alcohol for stomach problems but they do prescribe grape juice (new wine). "*Come now and let us reason together saith the Lord.*" Brethern let's be reasonable and not try to justify our own desires.

Isaiah 27:2:

Speaks of a vineyard of wine.

Jeremiah 48:33:

Speaks of wine coming from the wine press (fresh juice just squeezed).

Isaiah 65:8:

Speaks of new wine found in the cluster and a blessing is in it.

Lev. 10:8-9 and also Numbers 6:3:

Refers to wine and strong drink as to seperte things. Anyone who uses I Tim. 5:23 to prove it is alright to drink alcoholic beverages is not wise.

Is drinking alcohol a good work? Is it going to lead any to Christ? Does it pertain to life and Godliness? Is it letting our light shine? Is it setting a good example?

In all my study of the gospel of Christ, I have never found one scripture to show it is beneficial or uplifting to the cause of Christianity. Please consider Gods will, not our own.

Written in Love,

Howard McCay
81? So. 15th Ave.
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Have you sent in your news letter this month? This year? Many meetings have been held, but very few reports of those meetings have reached us.

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our meeting at Waterford a success, especially those who came long distance. We had one baptism, Bro. George Brown, Bro. Elmo Brown's son; and one who was restored to the church, Sis. Leesa Howe from Lorenzo, Texas. We had very good attendance and I'm sure the meeting was enjoyed by all. Let's all try to do a little better tomorrow.

With Love,

L. E. Arnett

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Our meeting now is history for 1982 and a very good meeting it was too. Brother Howard McCay sure gave us some things to ponder over. The congregation here felt very happy about the attendance and cooperation shown by everyone. Those congregations that were represented at the meeting were: Chico, LaHabra, Waterford, Yuma, Grants Pass, Oregon, Escondido, Gardendale, Texas, Lorenzo, Texas, and Yakima, Washington. We also enjoyed a visit earlier in the month from the Mike Brockman family of San Pablo, California as well as members of the Clif Brockman family. All of us here hope that we can return your help when the occasion arises. Let's all keep our chin up and work for that home that was promised to the faithful.

In Christian Love for all,

Jerry Perigen for the
Bellflower congregation

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

The Big Spruce Camp Meeting at Cedaredge, Colorado, was a great success as usual; where Christians that had been coming each year met again and new Christians and friends came for the first time, all to share their love and fellowship with each other. All through the Gospel week of fellowship, gospel preaching and singing and just being together to strengthen each other is a wonderful feeling that is not forgotten from one camp meeting to the next. This being a family camp meeting gives the young folks an opportunity to meet each other also. It was expressed how wonderful it would be if someone from each congregation could attend the annual camp meetings - every year. Since this is a more central location more people should be able to attend the Big Spruce camp meeting, but some people can not travel so far to a camp meeting and they would like to meet more Christians all in one place once a year from all congregations. This was done 20 years ago. Can we do it again? Can we count on you? We can only get the Big Spruce camp on the dates they set aside for us each year. We have no choice of dates so it has been suggested that each congregation should keep this in mind when planning your individual meetings each year. 1983 Big Spruce camp meeting dates are June 25-July 7 to accommodate more people whose vacations are scheduled by their employers for the first week of July. 1983 will be our 20 year reunion. You will be hearing more about it each month. We would welcome everyone's ideas and/or suggestions and help as to how we can make it the biggest and greatest ever. Please let us hear from each congregation on the reunion for 1983. We here at Happy Hollow Church of Christ want to thank each and everyone for coming to the camp meeting this year and making it the great success it was. Thank you all for all your help all week long. Thanks goes to all of the congregations who helped to support the camp meeting with donations to help make it free.

In Christian Love,

Happy Hollow Church of Christ

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Brethern:

The church at Yakima has concluded a meeting with Sammy Boen of Fort Smith, Ark. It was an excellent meeting with much good fellowship and many good Gospel lessons. Our hearts rejoice over Diane Fowler who through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism was added to God's family. Brethren from far and near came to be with us. A number of us plan to attend the Waterford camp meeting, then some will go on to be at the Bellflower meeting then stop in on the Grass Valley meeting on our way home. Any who are able, time and money to go to a gospel meeting and do not avail themselves of the opportunity are short changing themselves and others. We all need each other and we should surely provide for our own spiritualy as well as with the material things of life or we may find ourselves cut off in the day of judgement.

Written in the love of all brethern,

Howard McCay

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GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Dear Brethern:

I am writing for the little bunch from Grants Pass, Oregon. All seem to be well at present, for which we thank the Lord. Sis. Mabel Bumgardner was 92 years old this week, she is a remarkable woman, still in good health, works out in her garden almost every day. She has been a strong supporter of the church for over 70 years. Such a meek and humble person, for which we dearly love. We were happy to have the Mickey family visit with us last month, Dallas and Gloria, and their two children Raymond and Jo Ana also Sis. Tina Mickey spent a week with us, for which we were thankful, wish it could have been longer. Dallas brought us a good lesson on Lords day morning. More recently we were blessed in having Bro. and Sis. Perigen meet with

us, Bro. Clause brought us a fine lesson. (We are all so happy for them both). Being small in number is not our choosing, yet we enjoy our close Christian relationship with the Henny's, Dick and Marie and Tom and Charlene Broadway, for which my good wife Betty and I are thankful for. Bro. Henry Lee Thompson has been living in Portland for some time now and is under doctors care. Pray for his recovery. We are still meeting in the community building located at 234 S. W. L St. It's very easy to find as the town isn't all that big. Anyone passing through of the brethren, we would be happy to have you worship with us.

For the church at Grants Pass, Oregon,

Bro. Harry Wegley

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Today is the day I claim my God, today I am willing to let God guide me. Today I know that I am a child of God,

I used to say,
"Tomorrow I will be
The perfect child of God:
Tomorrow I will see
His good made manifest.
I'll know the way
My feet must walk."
And then I heard God say,
"Today my child, today!
Do you not see?"
And then I knew
The truth of God in me.

Today is the day I am whole. Today is the day I am prosperous. Today is the day I am free. Today is the day I forgive. Today is the day I am forgiven. Today is the day I walk in new ways, with confidence and strength. Today is the day I know my oneness with God. Today is the day I know the truth of my being. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24

1982 MEETINGS

San Pablo, California	September 4, 5 and 6	Camp

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1983 MEETINGS

Delta, Colorado	June 25 - July 7	Camp

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BAPTISMS

George Brown	Waterford, CA	June
Diana Fowler	Yakima, WA	June

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EDITORS NOTE

In June we had only two news letters for the Courier, and one article. Needless to say not enough for an issue, even a very short one. Why are the churches so lax in doing the Lords work? When we don't receive enough material for a short issue, and cannot go to press, its very disappointing to those few faithful who have sent in something, and then sit at home wondering why the Courier never comes. To those of you who are doing their part, let us say this - if the Courier isn't out each month, it's because we have a mechanical break down or we just don't get enough material for an issue. If the press breaks down in the future at any time, we will not wait for it to be fixed, but will pay the expense by having a printer do the work for us. Keep doing your part and don't give up just because the rest don't care.

-The Editors