The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to: 1273 Plumleigh Ln. Concord, Ca. 94521

December, 1984

HOW IS YOUR HEALTH?

Often, to this question, we hear answers such as: "I'm just fine:" "As well as can be expected:" or "I'm not feeling very well".

If a person experiences illness, there may be many reasons why a person's condition does not improve, such as:

1. Thinking we are OK, when we are not.
2. May go to the wrong doctor for our condition.
3. A wrong diagnosis may be made.
4. The wrong prescription may be given.
5. Medication may not be taken, or not taken as prescribed, or long enough. (ie - all our life.)

These ideas may be applied to our spiritual health and well being.

The Word of God is THE Great Spiritual Health book. If from the heart we listen to and obey that which is prescribed by the Great Physician, Jesus Chrit, it will diagnos and cure all spiritual illness. The soul that adheres to it is well, healthy and will never die.

Jesus is asympathetic Physician. (Matt 23: 37-38.)

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killeth the prophets,and stoneth them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

He is a perfect diagn ostician. (John 2:24-25)

"But Jesus did not commit himself unto them because he knew all men, And indeed not tht any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."

The correct usage and application of the prescription, The Word of God, will cure all spiritual "diseases", as we read in 11 Tim. 3.16.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for dictrine, for reproof, for correction, or instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." For all scripture insprired by God is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the man who serves God may be fully QUALIFIED and EQUIPPED to do every kind of good work.

Enjoy good Spiritual Health in the Lord.

In Christian Love
Tom Broadway.

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The following article is from the file of "It is written", and is from an issue dated Nov. 1956. It was written by the late Brother J. S. Bedingfield of Bryte, Ca.

I recommend it as profitable reading to all. At that time the editor of "It is Written" was J. W. Bedingfield, of Humble, Texas.

Christian Liberties

There have been volumes written on the above subject, chiefly by those who are holding to something they could not read in God's Holy Word. I believe when our brethren realize that our liberties are controlled by law laid down in the New Testament, the sooner a death blow can be dealt to the forces of error. Paul says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15.

There are several ways the word of truth can be divided, but the division below is the one I am interested in, in this article.

First: There are "THINGS" commanded. Example: Matt. 28: 19-20.

Second: There are "THINGS" forbidden. Example: 1 Jno 2: 15-16.

Third: There are "THINGS" neither commanded nor forbidden; in these things we have liberty; PROVIDED they meet certain Scriptural requisites; and PROVIDED they cause no one to stumble, or to offend, or is made weak; and if they do we must leave them off.

The first and second divisions no one denies they exist and they must be obeyed. The third, all agree that it exists, but many refuse to recognize that only those "things" which meet the Scriptural requisites are allowable; and refuse to leave them off even if they do cause someone to stumble, or is offended, or is made weak. The Scriptural requisites are:

First: "All things are lawful." 1 Cor 6:12 - 1 Cor 10: 23.

Second: "All things are not expedient." 1Cor 6:12 - 1Cor 10: 23.

Third: "All things edify not." 1Cor 10:23.

Fourth: Our attitude MUST BE "I will not be brought under (the) power of any." 1 Cor. 6:12.

All will agree that these "All things wherein we have liberty" must be "lawful". Yet many try to dodge this responsibility. The big fight comes on the next two requisites, viz: "not expedient", and "edify not": also our attitude, "I will not be brought under the power of any." You cannot "expediate" the Word of God, for it is perfect. Psa 19: 7 - Jas 1:25 - Rom 12:2. There is now other edifying element but the Word of God because it is perfect. (See above scriptures) Hence, we see at a glance the wisdom of expressions, "not expedient", and "edify not".

Neither can we use any other institution than the church. Eph. 3:21, and the individual, Eph 4:16. Many will argue against the requisite "not expedient" because they want to style some things "expedients" but they shy away when you ask them, do they compare their so-called expedients with the Bible "expedients" listed in Jno 16: 7th verse. Jno 18:14 - Jno 11:50. They do not like the req uisite, "edify not", for they have institutions by which they edify. We all realize we can "expediate" ourselves by having a more comfortable seat of method or travel; but to expediate the Word of God: NEVER! But suppose we can leave off these two; "not expedient" and "edify not". Then if we use any other edifying element than the Word of God, we are obligated to showit conforms to number one requisite "lawful". That is, it does not contradict a command or something forbidden. We must also show we are not trying to glorify God through any other institution other than the church. Eph 3:21.

Lastly our attitude, number four, "I will not be brought under the power of any," must be respected. "It is good to neither eat flesh nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, is offended or is made weak. Rom 14:21. See also verses 22 & 23. °Give none offence to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the chruch of God." 1 Cor 10;23. (Read entire chapter of Rom 14; 1Cor 8; 1 Cor. 10.

It cannot be successfully denied from the above scriptures that "we must not be brought under the power of any." 1Cor 6;12. but must leave off any or all of these liberties if they cause anyone to stumble, or is offended, or is made weak. Rom 14;21. If we fail to abey the above injunction, we will come under the condemnation of 1 Cor 8:12. "But when ye sin so against the brethren and wound their weak conscience ye sin against Christ". The advocates of error, will when met

by the above, claim a law. "That the command to do a thing carries with it the incidentals, methods, and arrangements necessary to do the thing." But when called on to give scripture to back this claim, they fail miserably. The truth is, our liberty to use incidentals, methods, or arragnements comes under the law, "Of all things" wherein we h ave liberty as taught in Rom. 24; 1 Cor 10. Seven times in two small verses it is called, "ALL THINGS" (1 Cor 6:12; & 10:23) and I believe it includes "All things" of liberty.

God sacrificed (gave up) His Son for us. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. Our whole life is a sacrifice. We must give up those things in the world dear to us. We must sacrifice one another in going and preaching, in helping the poor, in supporting the Gospel, and many other things too numerous to mention. Then why, O why, will our brethren refuse to sacrifice their liberties, where they have liberties, for the brethren? Paul gave up the right to eat and drink the things of others, which the Scriptures clearly taught he had the right to do. (1 Cor 9:17) He did this that he abuse not his power in the Gospel. (Verse 18); that by all means he might save some. (verse 22) He did it for the Gospel's sake; (verse 23) Hence we can see that all incidentals, methods and arragnements not given in the Bible as an example or command, comes under this law of "All things" wherein we have liberty as taught in 1 Cor 6:12; & 10:23; 1 Cor 8; Rom 14. The rest must be read in God's good Book.

May God bless us all to be satisfied with, and conform our lives to His Holy Word is my prayer.

Yours in Christ.

J. S. Bedingfield
Box 767 - Bryte, Calif.

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A TALE OF THREE FABLES

We read in 11 Tim 4:2-4; "Preach the word; be instant in season out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables."

Herein is enjoined upon preachers to preach "the Word" along with a warning. "Fable" is defined by Thayer as "a fiction, a fable; (universally) and invention, falsehood."

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It has ever been the tactic of the disobedient chrisian, when he discovers that he is void of anything to sustain his practices, to turn to unfounded theories concerning the scripture. That these are almost always false goes without saying.

Let us consider three popular "fables" that have gained somewhat following among the professed followers of Christ.

FABLE NUMBER ONE
"THE OLD TESTAMENT IS OF NO USE TO CHRISTIANS TODAY, AND THEREFORE CANNOT BE APPLIED TO OUR LIVES FOR ANY REASON"

Strange to say, many in the Church of Christ believe this today. Ponder the following:

Beginning in the Acts of the Apostles and continuing through the Revelation, the New Testament is overflowing with direct quotations from the Old Testament. Were the Apostles thus doing wrong and miss-"applying" these scriptures to Chirstians? I hardly think so.

Concider 1 Cor 10:1-11. I urge you all to turn and read it. Paul refers his readers to the Old Testament for their admonition by saying, "I would not have you ignorant." Ignorant of what? Paul elaborates:

"...these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."

"Neither be ye idolators, as some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." (dance)

"Neither let us commit fornication."

"Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted,..."

"Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured."

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and THEY ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION."

Paul concludes this part of his narrative by saying, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standth take heed lest he fall". I suggest that the Apostle is here urging all Christians to "take heed" of the scriptures he had already referred to. That these are from the Old Testament cannot be denied.

Was the Apostle in error by referring us to these scriptures and applying them to us now? I hardly think so! I rather think those in error are they who advance such a theory today and expects others to follow them.

I do not suggest that we are bound by the Mosaic Covenant today. Far from it! But that is another subject to be studied later.

If a truth is expressed prior to the earthly advent of Christ, it does not make it less of a truth today. I strongly believe that some today reject any truth revealed prior to Christ, because there is much in these scriptures to criticize their conduct. Not wishing to be criticized, they simply disallow the validity of these scriptures, hoping to escape the force of these truths.

"FABLE NUMBER TWO"

"ANYTHING WRITTEN PRIOR TO THE CRUCIFICITON OF CHRIST IS NOT APPLICABLE TODAY"!

Indeed, this is a similar to another fable that suggests that the four "Gospels", Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are not part of the New Testament, but are, in reality, the last four books of the Old Testament.

Why would anyone wish to advance this sort of theory, you ask? Consider this: If Christ taught anything prior to his crucifiction that one wishes to avoid; if it seem to contradict what is taught by them, it is simpler to ignor it by suggesting that it does not pertain to us today, and thus should be ignored.

I refer you to one scripture only (althoough there are many mor that touch on the subject) to refute this contention.

1 Tim. 6;3-5; "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to whoslesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing."

I ask you all, brethren, where do the words of Christ appear? Except for one passage in 1 Corinthians, we find them all in the four books aforementioned. According to Paul, if we reject these words, we are rejecting "Wholesome words" and the doctrine which is "according to godliness". Furthermore, he asserts that to do so constitutes "doting about questions and strifes of words", and insists that nothing can come of this practice except "envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, perverse disputings of men and corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth", and commands us, "from such witdraw thyself".

"FABLE NUMBER THREE"

"IF ANY SUBJECT IS MENTIONED ONLY ONCE IN THE SCRIPTURES, IT IS NOT BINDING ON CHRISTIANS"

And now brethren, we come to the strangest fable of the three!

Matt. 18:16 ".in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established".
2 Cor. 13:1 ".in the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established."
1 Tim. 5:19 ".receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."
Heb 10:28 "He that despised Moses' law died without mercey under two or three witnesses."

In all the New Testament I can find no other references to "two or three witnesses" required to establish the authenticity of any fact. There is not however, the slightest reference in these passages that would lead anyone to the conclusion that the author meant this to be

a test for the application of scripture.

On the contrary, these references have to do with bearing witness against a brother. Note the following:

Matt 18:16 "..if thy brother shall trespass against thee...if the will not hear thee..take with thee one or two more.."
2 Cor 13:1 "..I write to them which heretofore have sinned..."(Vs 2 - also 12:21) In these two scriptures reference is made to establishing the truth when there is an issue between or to establish the Apostle's right to upbraid the Corinthian Church for their sinfulness.

1 Tim 5:19 refers to recieving accusations against an elder.

Heb 10: 28 refers to a fact of Mosiac Law, (ie) the establishing of guilt tanta--to execution for sin.

Where, oh where, is it said that if a fact is mentioned ;only once in the New Testament we are not required to obey it?

If this is true, consider the following:

Matt 28:19 "Baptiszing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 20:17 "..upon the first day of the week, when the deciples came together to break bread..."

1 Cor 16:2 "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store.."

1 Tim 4:3 "..use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities."

1 Cor 11:15 "..if a woman have long hair it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering."

I use these five scriptures randomly; there are many more that I could have used. I use these, however, to show a pattern of the distructiveness to the unity of the scriptures IF this last "fable" is true. In all of these references the fact is mentioned only ONCE. Does this mean we are at liberity to pick and choose from among them. obeying only those we wish to obey, and ignore the rest? Surely, no brother should advocate this. We are commanded to "be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." 1 Cor 11:1. Also in Phil 3:17, "be followers together of me and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample The "us" referred to in this instance refers to the Apostles as a whole.

Peter, one of the Apostles, made it plain (2 Peter 1:16) "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made know unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...."

There you have it. We are not to follow such, and we should be very careful what we accept as truth when someone attempts to convince us that these "fables" are true. We are urged to "..believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Thus ends the "Tale of Three Fables".

Written in love of the truth.

J.D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, Ca. 95204
(209) 464-4961

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"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We have quite a bit of exciting news to report in this letter.

We've got a date set for our meeting in 1985. The first week in June: 2 - 9 will be the date. Brother J.W. Bedingfield will be our speaker. We are really looking forward to it. All are invited to come enjoy it and learn with us.

Bro. Dennis Wilson has gotten married to the former Laura Briggs. We are having a shower for them this coming Wednesday night and wish them many happy yeas of Christian love.

Mom, and my brother Paul and I got to go to Georgia last week. My brother and sister-in-law, Bro. Jesse & Sis. Teresa, had their baby while we were there. They had a beautiful baby girl and named her Tasha Marie.

Attatched is a schedule of singings (see under special notices) that the Baron, Stilwell, Goshen and Bohannan Mtn. congregations are participating in. We had the first one at Baron in September and we're having the second one at Goshen, the last Sunday afternoon in October. If you're planning a vacation near here any of these months, come enjoy fellowship and singing with us.

In christian love;
Terry Warford
For the congregation at Baron.

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"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body".
Matt 26:26

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

Greetings and love from the brethren in Yakima. I hope this finds all of you at peace with God.

This past summer was a full one for our family. In June we went on a 7000 mile trip to Florida. I don't understand how anyone could see the beauty of this country and doubt there is a supreme being who created it. The world couldn't have just happened.

We spent the first week of our trip in Baron, Oklahoma. The people there spoiled us with their hospitality. There were several children there the same ages as our children. They enjoyed getting to know each other better. Our lives were really enriched by our time spent with them. We spent the next weekend with the people of Tinor. We enjoyed seeing our loved ones there eveh though it was for such a short time.

We went up to Goshen for one night of their meeting with Bro. Al Way. It was nice to see Al and his family. I really enjoy listening to Bro. Al speak. I wish to express my thanks to the people of Goshen for the way they supported my meeting in Baron. In fact I wish to thank everyone who was able to be there.

To all of the brethren we were able to be with on our trip; thank you for the love and incouragement you gave unto me and my family.

On the way home, we were able to spend a couple of days in Jackson Wyoming, Yellowstone area, enjoying more of God's handiwork.

The Lord has blessed us richly. I would like to join the others in thanking Bro. Bedingfield for coming to Yakima and bringing us God's Word. He truly enriched our lives. Lord willing, my family and I are planning on attending the meeting at Yuma, Az. We hope to see many of you there. It really helps to know that there are others striving to do the Lord's work.

I have been asked to announce the arrival of Brady Andrew Lee Lamb. His parents are Bobby and Terri Lamb.

As all of us contiue to battle Satan, let us remember that we can overcome every temptation. As long as we have the Lord on our side we will succeed. If we are not succeeding, then we must study the Word of God and change our lives.

We send our love to all of you. Remember if "God be for us, who can be against us?" The answeer? Nobody.

Yours in Christ
Richard Johnston

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CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We were saddened to hear that Sister Lola P. Lackey passed from this life, Sept. 25, 1984. She was born May 27, 1898. Interment was in Springfield, Colorado, where she and Bro. Lackey had lived and were

faithful pillars of the church. We here at Chico were priviledged to know Sister Lackey for a short time. She was a cheerful and faithful inspiration to all of us.

She moved here after the death of her husband, Horace, so that she could be near churhc and her daughter, Waneta Hooker. After the death of Waneta, she returned to Colorado to be near her remaining daughter, Inez Vaughn and was greatly missed here.

She is survived by Inez, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

In Christian Love,
Chico Congregation.

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

We are still having our problems with sickness here, but none major that I know of. Sister Kathy Campbell missed church yesterday. She scratched her eye and it is causing quite a bit of pain. Also Bro. Roger Smith came forward asking for the prayers of the church. We are always happy to see someone do this.

We have really been blessed with visitors lately. One Sunday, Bro. Gary Ferguson and Bro. Gary Gr. from La Habra, Ca. were with us. Also Bro. Terry Warford from the Baron, Ok. congregation visited with us two Sunday nights, and gave us a lesson the last time. We sure enjoyed the visitors and the lesson. All visitors are welcome anytime. We especially enjoy having a different speaker. We have enjoyed two very good singings in this area lately. The first one was at Baron, Oklahoma. Bro. Ernest Buchannan, Sis. Kathy Campbell, Sis. June Auslam, Bro. James and Sister Beulah Vanderpool, Bro. Melvin & Sis. Rachele Daniels & Mark and myself from Goshen, were all able to attend the singing. We all enjoyed the singing & the visiting very much. Bro. and Sis. Daniels & Mark also attended Church at Baron two Sunday mornings. Yesterday afternoon we had a singing at Gohsen, with several from Baron and Stilwell attending. We didn't have a house full but everyone enjoyed it. We plan to have these singings on a regular basis. I believe the Baron congregation is sending in the schedule so we won't bother with that here.

Anyone that is in this area are welcome to visit us at church or in our homes.

In Christian Love
Paul Andrews

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FURNISH CANYON, OKLAHOMA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Just a short note. Everyone here is fine, healthwise. We have been saddened by the dath of loved ones, Brothers and Sisters in Christ and dear friends.

Sept 10, 1984: Jimmie Wiggins, Bro. Jack Wiggins brother, died: Burial at Kenton, Oklahoma.
Sept. 29, 1984: Sis. Lola Lackey was buried at Springfield, Co. by the side of her husband, Bro. Horace P. Lackey. Bro. and Sis. Lackey worshiped at Springfield, Co. before he passed away. Sis. Lola Lackey had been residing in Arvada, Co. near her daughter, Inez Vaughn.
Oct. 13, 1984: Bro. Forrest F. Francis Jr. died and was buried at Dallas, Texas. This was Sis. Millye Francis' oldest son whom she stayed with when she went to Dallas in winter. And Sis. Betty Wiggins' brogher.

Nov. 10, 1984: Lee Dumlap died, and was buried at Springfield, Co. Lee was brother of Sis. Thelma Richardson.

All these folks died of heart conditions.

Sister Millye Francis has moved to Boise City, Oklahoma with a companion, Ellen Wallace who is able to drive her out each Lord's Day, weather permitting.

In Christian Love.
Billy L. Richardson
For the Church of Christ
Furnish Canyon - at Kenton.

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AUSTIN, TEXAS

Dear ones in Christ:

The Chruch of Christ here in Austin, Tx. is growing and we are trying to rent a building large enough for our growing congregation.

Bro. Steve Martin brought his first lesson last Lord's Day and did a great job presenting it. We have a young group here and they are doing such a good job. We are planning on getting together once a week for singing and fellowship.

The Chruch meets at 10915 Thicket Trail, Austin, Texas. 78750: at 10:30 each Lord's Day, until we find a larger building.

You are invited to come worship with us any time.

In Christian Love
Bro. Ron Herbert
for the Austin congregation

Gospel Meetings

Baron, Ok	June 2 - 9 1985	J.W.Bedingfield
Bellfrower, Ca.	June 30-July 7-1985	Cliff Brockman
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 28-Aug 4, 1985	Sammy Boen

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MARRIAGES

Baron, Ok. Bro. Dennis Wilson & Laura Briggs

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BIRTHS

Baron, Ok. TASHA MARIE WARFORD

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DEATHS

Furnish Canyon, Ok.

Sept 10; Jimmie Wiggins; Sept 29; Sister Lola Lackey: Oct 13: Bro. Forrest F. Francis Jr.; Nov. 10; Lee Dunlap;

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GOSPEL SINGINGS

April: Pleasant view Church of Christ, last Sunday each month.
June: Goshen Church of Christ, last Sunday each month.
August: Baron Church of Christ, last Sunday each month.
October: Bohanon Mt. Chruch of Christ, last Sunday each month.
(if not at Bohanan Mt, singing will be at Goshen)

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The above notice will remain in effect each year hearafter until further notice is given. Additional sirgings can and will be held by each of these congregations as planned by local leaders of each Church.

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From the Editor

There are more articles and letters, that I had planned to get into this months issue, but I ran out of space.

So if you were looking for your letter or article in this issue, please look for it in the next issue. It was not held out by any other design, other than I print articles and letters as they come in, so yours will probably be up first in the next issue.

I wish to thank each and every one for their articles and letters. I have quite a few already for next month.

I'm sure each and every Christian everywhere would want their prayer to be with the loved ones of those who have passed on. The Baron congregation seems to have had their share of tragedies. We all know that death is just as real as life, and this is all the more reason that we should look to our own lives, lest we fall.

Editor