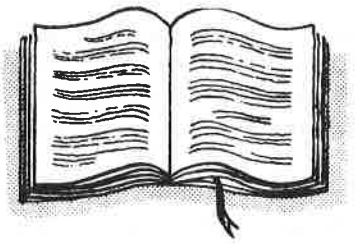
The Christian Courier



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May 1985

What is a Christian? (continued from last issue)

"Things we may do if....."

There is a lot said in the New Testament about liberty. Some people try to use this as proof that they may do some things that are commanded in man's way rather than the way that we can hear, learn recieve and see in Paul. So it necessary to find out just where this liberty applies in order that we may properly use it. In the Old Law there was no liberty. For only one instance read the 11th chapter of Leviticus, and see how many things were unclean to the people. In the vision God gave to Peter on the house-top in Joppa, of a sheet let down from heaven containing all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and the wild beasts, and creeping things, and the fowls of the air. And a voice from heaven telling him to rise, kill and eat. Peter protested that he had never eaten anything common or unclean. "This was done three times." Then Peter was told that there were three Gentile men waiting for him; And he was to go with them doubting nothing, for God had sent them. So this was the first time that Jews were approved in going into a Gentile's house and eating with him. Acts 10; also Acts 11. Here was a new law given through the Gospel. By it they learned the Gentiles were accepted of God. But it evidently had another meaning also.

Romans 14:14, "I know, and am persuated by Jesus Christ, that there is nothing unclean of itself: But to him that esteemeth a thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. (15) But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, how walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat for whom Christ died. (20) For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man that eateth with offence. (21) It is good neither to eat flesh, not to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. (22) Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God.

or is made weak. (22) Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God. Happy is the man that condemneth not himself in the thing which he alloweth. (23) and he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Here we are plainly taught that the old Livitical Law of unclean meats was done away; and another new liberty given. God made all meats clean for us to eat, when we give thanks for it. 1 Tim 4: 4-5; "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be recieved with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer."

In the days of the early Christians, they were surrounded by heathen offering sacrifices to idols. In the 8th and 10th chapters of 1 Cor., Paul explained to them, that since they knew that the idol was nothing in the world, anbd that there is but one God, the Father, and that all things in the world belong to God; they may eat anything that is sold in shambles (meat market) asking no questions as to whether it is offered to idols. They might even go to feast and eat whatever is set before them, asking no questions, for conscience sake. But if someone sitting near by says, "This is offered in sacrifice to idols". You are not to ear for His sake. Because even though you have liberty to do these things; if in doing them you would wound a weak brother; or by your example encourage him to ear what is to him is sin; The Scriptures says in doing this you sin against Christ. So in speaking of these things Paul says, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient (profitable); all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. (13) Meats for the belly.....etc." So even though he had liberty, he would not be brought under the power of these things. As he said in 1 Cor 8:13, "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, let I make my brother to offend." In 1 Cor 10, speaking of this liberty of eating meat, Paul said in the 23rd verse, "All things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." So Paul makes it quite plain that the things wherein we have this liberty, are not the things God has given in His Word whereby we may edify oneanother. They are not the things spoken of in 2 Tim 3:16-17; That are inspired Scriptures that are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. No, this liberty is in things neither commanded nor forbidden in any scripture in the New Testament. Such as whether we eat meat or are vegetarians; whether we walk or ride; whether we attend a feast an unbelieving friend invites us to, or whether we refuse; whether we use song-books for the song service, or flash words on a screen; whether we sit in confortable chairs or sit on the ground; whether we have linens on the Lord's table or not. We are not at liberty to change any instruchtions the Lord has given us. We h;ave seen that to add to, take from, or pervert the Word of God carries a curse. Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9.

Those things were primarialy given in regards to the new liberty of eating meat, but these rules hold in anything wherein we claim liberty. James 1;25, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his his deed." This scripture call our law the perfect law of liberty, but makes plain that where we have instructions we are to continue in them if we are to be blessed, This agrees with what we have also learned from Paul. James 2:12, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law fo liberty." We learned that the law of liberty was: liberty only on those things not commanded or forbidden; then, liberty only if we can use this liberty without being brought under the power of these things because this liberty is lawful only, provided it does not offend a brother, or cause him to stumble or fall. Romans 8:21, "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." This glorious liberty is the one we will attain when we are no longer plagued with fleshly, carnal nature. 1 Cor 8:9, "Take heed lest this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak." If our liberty causes anyone to stumble, we no longer have that liberty. Because the 12th verse of this chapter tells us that to do so is to sin against our brother; and to sin against Christ. 1 Cor 10:29-33, "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but to the other; for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience? (30) for if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?" This is a question many people ask; but hear Paul's answer: (31) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." "Whatsoever ye do" covers our every act of work or worship! Does it not? Hear Paul further, (32) "Give noe offence, neither to the Jews, not to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God: (33) even as I please all men in all things not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many that they may be saved." There it is explained in detail; we know Paul preached the inspired scripture where ever he was, regardless of whether it pleased any man. But in things where he had liberty (things neither commanded nor forbidden) in these things he was guided by the conscience of others that he might save the more. Here he states that it is not only in eating meat and drinking wine that we must limit our liberty; "But in whatsoever ye do."

In Gal 2;4, he speaks of false brethren who came in unawares to spy out our liberty by trying to bind circumcision on the gentile Christians and said, "To whom we gave no place by subjection, no not for an hour." In gal 5:1-2, he tells them to "stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free, and not to accept circumcism. The Jews were trying to add this to the New Testament doctrine. But nowhere are we ever instructed to stand by while a per-

verted gospel is being preached.

Gal 5:13, "For brethren, ye have been called to liberty; only use not that liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but with love serve one another." 1 Peter 2:19, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is over come, of the same is he brought in bondage." People who promise liberty while following the doctrines and commandments of men; decieve thos who listen to them and bring them into the bondage of corruption.

Duet 4;2, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, nether shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Duet 12;32, "What thing soever I command you, observe and do it; thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it." Rev 22;18-19, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophesy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God will 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 prophesy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things that are written in this book."

Gal 1;8-9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I know again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that which ye have recieved, let him be accursed."

Isa 8;20, "To the law and to the testamony; if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them."

Psalm 133;1, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to walk together in unity."

Ken Harper
Indian Springs, Ca.

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Stoicism is the name given to a shcool of philosophy which was established at Athens about 300 B.C.. It was the most influential philosophy in the Roman Empire at the time of the beginning of the Christian movement. One of the basic tenents of this faith was that which concerned the "logos" of God. The "logos" was the reasoning of the mind of God in the universe which made creation orderly rather than chaaotic. It was the plan and purpose in the mind of the Creator for His world and everyone in it. The Stoic went so far as to say that nothing could happen to a person which was not part of the plan of God for that particualar man. The Stoic therefore taught that the proper attiude of man should be that of acceptance. According to the King James version of Romans 8:28, Paul wrote, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." This sounds like Stoic teaching, except Paul limits it to those who LOVE God. (selected)

Our Precious Faith

Faith comes by hearing and understanding the Word of God. (Rom 10:17) There is no other source or means by which we can develope or nurture a true faith or by which we can become a true follower of our Lord Jesus. It is this faith, generated by an obedient acceptance of the Word of God, that stands under and supports our hope.

Heb 11:1, "Now faith is the confidence of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen." We do not accidentally graduate from school, but we have to diligently pursue the various courses of study that satisfy the necessary requirements to graduate.

Neither do we become a Christian accidentally but through a strong effort to find a "way of life" in the Word of God by which we can be pleasing to our creator. Rom 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." It is through the teaching of our Lord Jesus we develope a LIVE FAITH.

John 20: 30-31, "Many other signs did Jesus in the presence of his deciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have LIFE through his name."

In 2 Peter 1:3-4, we find that through a knowledge of his Word he gives all things that pertain to LIFE and GODLINESS." By a knowledge of his Word and then obeying it, a person can be a "partaker of the divine nature," (to be born into the family of God through FAITH, REPENTANCE, CONFESSION AND IMMERSION) and by this a person can ESCAPE the "corruption that is in the world through lust."

Why is our FAITH so PRECIOUS? By it we are able to escape the dreadful dilema of a living hell and torment and "graduate" to a healthy home in heaven. Who says? Jesus does. John 14:1-4, "In my Father's house ...many mansions....I'll get one ready for you....and I'll come and get you so you can be there with me.....you know the way to get there."

That is why OUR FAITH is PRECIOUS!

In Christian love
Tom Broadway

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Our Saviour, as a man and mediator between God and man, has a deligated royalty. As man, all his authority must be deligated. As Mediator, a middle person between God and man, partaking of both nature he was to reconcile both parties, God and man. Upon his ascension, he was made head over all things, to the church, and had power given him to govern and protect it against all enemies, and in the end destroy them and complete the salvation of all that believe in him.

From 1 Cor, 15 th chapter

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

Olney, Texas

Dear Christian friends:

We want to express our love and best wishes to one and all. We enjoy the Christian Courier very much. Thanks to the ones who take the time to prepare it.

All are well at this time. We look forward each third Sunday of every month having the Howard Taylor family with us. Bro. Howard brings us some good lessons.

Anyone comeing this way, please worship with us and visit in our homes.

In love of the turth.
California Creek Church of Christ
Ed Tate

Kenton, Oklahoma

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Just a note to announce the meeting through the week of May 12-19. Bro. Claud Perigen preaching.

We invite those who can, to come. 7:30 M.S.T. each evening and Worship service at 11:00 A.M. (M.S.T.) each Sunday.

We are all as well as can be expected. We are looking forward to meeting Sister Burdette Perigen too.

Billy L. Richardson
for the Chruch at Furnish Canyon
Kenton, Ok. 73946

Phone (303) 787-2330

Payson, Arizona

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The little Church in Payson is holding its own, still meeting in Sister Claudya Shepherd's home. But she has moved since 1984.

So do call if any of you are going through. We are mostly family until Bill and Verta Nelson come up for the summer. Enjoy you paper, how else could we keep up with everyone. Call for directions. John Shepherd 474-4603; Lidom Shepherd 474-5492: Claudya Shepherd 474-3802.

Love
John Shepherd

Baron, Oklahoma

Greetings to all, from the Church at Baron.

Its been awhile since I have written, but we enjoy getting all the news form other places of worship.

We all are doing very well here at Baron. We have several young brethren who are stepping out and taking part in the service. Bro. Brian Ross, Michael Barrett & Terry Warford. Terry gives some good lessons. Brother David Martin also helps assist the communion service. We are very pleased with the young brethren, that they are going forward with their Christian duties.

Since I last wrote, my Mother-in-law passed away. She was a member of the Church but due to her health she hadn't been able to attend Church for a few years. Bro. Lloyd Treat talked at her funeral. The singers were from Baron & Pleasantview congregation. Also Brother Edwin Crowels from Broken Bow assisted with the singing.

She was 85 years old the 13th of January. She passed away the 15th of January.

Bro. Paul Andrews from Goshen came to visit us and gave a good lesson. Also Bro. and Sis. Melvin Daniels from Goshen and son were down a few weeks ago and Bro. Melvin gave us a good lesson. Also Bro. Gerold Buckner and wife from Pleasant View came one Sunday to visit and we also heard a very inspiring lesson from Bro. Gerold. Bro. and Sis. John R. Brown from Pleasant View came and visited the church one Sunday night. We enjoyed all of them and invite all back anytime. We are always glad to have visitors anytime. My Brother and his wife Z.T. and Allie from Bakersfield, California have been down visiting us. We are very glad to see them again. We are looking forward to our meeting with Bro. Bedingfield in June. All who can please come and be with us. We can take care of a lot here among the brethern.

With love from the Baron Church
James F. Brown

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Its That Time Again

One more issue and I will have had the Christian Courier for a year. It has been a learning experience for me, and in some ways a good experience. I have learned quite a lot about people, and about myself. Never-the-less, it is time for someone else to take the responsibility and hopefully they may be able to do a good work for the Lord. I was going to postpone this notice but decided to do it this month. Anyone interested? Please write me. Editor

Gospel Meetings

Yakima, Wa.	May 12 - 19	R. Walkingstick
Kenton, Ok	May 12 - 19	Claud Perigen
Furnish Canyon	May 19 - 26	(un-known)
Baron, Ok	June 2 - 9	J.W.Bedingfield
Waterford, Ca.	June 16 - 23	J.W.Bedingfield
Bellflower, Ca.	June 30 - July 7	Cliff Brockman
Goshen, Ark.	June 30 - July 7	Richard Johnston
Delta, Co.	July 7 - 15	Camp
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 28 - Aug 4	Sammy Boen
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 4 - 11	J.W.Bedingfield
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 31 - Sept 2	Tom Broadway
Stilwell, Ok.	July 27 - Aug 4	Tony Brister

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DEATHS

Mother-in-law of Bro. James F. Brown. She was a member of the Body of Christ at Baron, Ok. and due to long illness could not attend. She was 85 years old the 13th of January, 1985, and passed away on 15th of January, 1985.

The prayers of the Church is with her loved ones left behind.

(Sorry, no name was given in the letter. Hope to have her name in next issue.)

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GO AND SIN NO MORE!

The fairer the escape was, the fairer the warning was to go and sin no more. Those who help to save the life of a sinner should, as Christ did here, help to save the soul with this caution. Her discharge from eternal punishment? Christ himself forgave her. For Christ to say, I do not condemn thee is, in effect, to say, I do for give thee; and the Son of man has the power of forgive sins. He knew the tenderness and sincere repentance of the sinner, and therefore said that which would comfort her the most. Those whom Christ does not condemn are the happiest. Christ will not condemn those who, though they have sinned, will go and sin no more. Christ's favour to us in the remission of the sins that we have committed, should forever settle any arguments we may have. He settled the mind of the woman caught in the very act of adultry, by stateing she had forgiveness of her sins, IF she would "GO AND SIN NO MORE!" (should we not do the same?)

A concerned brother