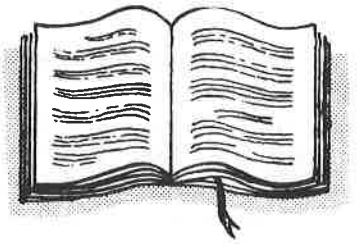
The Christian Courier



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July 1985

DO WE STAY IN SIN?

1 Cor. 15:33, "Be not decieved, evil communications corrupts good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not;....." Gal 5;9, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." These Scriptures tell us to stay away from sin and sinful people or we are liable to be lost. The church is spoken of as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27) and is to be kept pure and if any offend, they are to be cut off that all not be lost. (Matt 5: 29-30) Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. He drifted into it gradually, but when he finally arrived, he saw it was not good; but eventhough his soul was vexed and he didn't approve, he still stayed Perhaps he thought he could influence the people to do good but he failed. He still stayed on, hoping, and lost almost all. He probably didn't realize how bad the situation was until it was too late. Sin corrupted his whole family except him, his wife, and two unmarried daughters, and they had to flee for their lives or be lost also. Sometimes we grow so accustomed to sin that it seems as if it isn't so bad after all. We get used to it and we become like it. (Luke 11:34)

The light of the body is the eye, therefore, when the eye is single, thy whole body is full of light, but when thy eye is evil, thy body is full of darkness. Take heed that the light which is in thee be not darkness. Sometimes we can live with sin as Lot did. More often than not the world has more effect on church members than church members have on the world, for the simple truth that some church members are not Christians. True christians will not become as the worldly people around them, but will fight against sin not stand apssively by and be overcome as Lot's family was. It is a fact that the more we are around sin, the less sinful it seems. But the Lord does not change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). The worldly things He hated while he lived on earth, he still hates and it will do us no good on the day of Judgement to say "everyone was doing it;" "Times change, and we change with it".

Brethren, lets stand for the truth and oppose sin, and if necessary to cut off the limb to save the body. It must be done.

Written in love of the truth.
Howard McCay
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Absalom the Usurper
° 2 Samuel 15: 1-6 °

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgement, the Absalom called unto him, and said, "Of what city art thou?" And he said, "Thy servant is one of the tribes of Israel." And Absalom said unto him, "See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee." Absalom saif moreover, "Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!" And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obiedence, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Isreel that came to the king for judgement: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel."

Selected

Yakima, Wa.

Satan's Merry Band

Solomon said it best when he uttered, "There is no new thing under the sun." Eccl. 1:9. Times change but man does not change. Mankind remains a creature controlled by the lust of the flesh, eye, and pride of life. Man can rule his body only if he gives himself over entirely to God thourgh His Son, Jesus Christ. But when we allow the Prince of Darkness to tempt su with the suductive fruits of lust, then we return to the "weak and beggerly elements, whereunto ye desire agin to be in bondage." Gal 4:9. Solomon's statement was of no more weight then than now. There is no new lust that plagues mankind now that did not exixt then.

We tend to redicule the ancients for their dependence upon pagon gods, rituals, tribal dances, belief in voodoo, their orgiastic ceremonies, and unrestrained emotion. We read in the New Testament how the Apostles and diciples fought against it and certainly condemned its practice in the Body of Christ. "But we, being much more civilized, do not submit ourselves to such lowly practices," we convince ourselves. Solomon's words, however, should ring in our ears, "There is now new thing under the sun." History repeats itself and is currently repeating itself. "Where?" you may ask? STOP reading here, put down the Courier, and turn your radio dial to a popular, teen-age oriented station, and you will experience it personally. If you are over forty years old, you may trun it off quickly. But as your age decreases, the volume may increase and you might be prone to say, "Hey, this is better than reading the Courier." I certainly hope you don't feel that way because we have some serious thinking to do about rock music.

Some may view rock music as simply an innocent fad that began a few years ago; make that 30 years ago. Thgt means two generations have matured under its influence. For 11,000 days rock music has reached the ears of millions of people. The number songs played over those years defies statistics. Yet it continues; it is not a fad, but a way of life.

How does rock music effect its audience? Listeners are affected by the beat of the music and by the words of the song. Rock music has a customary rhythm, a beat, that is accuentuated by a drum. The beat seems harmless, but experiments by researchers have proven that this certain beat weakens the person's muscle response so that your arm and leg movements are not as strong a when there is no music. Rock music makes you weaker physically. Besides weakening the muscles, rock music transforms the face and the movement of the body. How many times have you witnessed a teenager trning in to his or her favorite rock

station, and watched the sudden change in character? The face contorts into a hedonistic glaze. Fingers begin snapping. Shoulders keep time to the beat. The walk changes to a cross between a swing and a shuffle. The listener's mind has temporarily forgotten reality and entered into the song. What is even more terrifying is the speed with which this occurs. It only took a matter of seconds for the transfroming to be complete. From a seemingly normal person to a gyrating spectacle in far less time that it took uncivilized man to reach his frenzy by drinking blood and eating bone marrow.

The music just sets the mood; it fulfills the lust of the flesh. The damage is about to begin. Somewhere in the loud nose of rock music are words. A casual listener to rock music can't understand most of the words, but they are very plain to the willing audience. This is one reason many parents think such music to be innocent---they don't know what is being said. Are you ready to find our what is being said?

A good deal of rock music is written under the influence of durgs (marihuanna, alcohol, hallucinogens, amphetimines, and barbiturates). Lets look at Rev. 9:21, "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their soceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." Rev. 18:23, "..for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations decieved," Strong's concordance shows us that the Greek for socrery is PHARMAKEIA----witchcraft, medication. Our english word pharmacy is the result of this root word. The particular sorcery mentioned in Rev. is related to drugs. Who are the great men of the earth? What men are great in the eyes of teenagers? Whose pictures and posters hang on their bedroom walls? Not only is a great deal of music written under the influence of drugs, but the song's message is one of drug use and abuse: that drugs clear the mind, put one in touch with reality, give one a good feeling, etc...But drug use is not the only theem. Also included as full partners are fornication, rebellion, false religion, and Satan worship. The majority of the "greatest" rock bands are preaching unrighteousness every day, to countless thousands of young people and adults, OVER AND OVER. Experts say if you read a book 7 times, it becomes part of you. How many times have our teenagers and adults heard unrighteous lyrics set to music that weakens ones defenses? Hundreds?

Think for a moment of the record albums, the advertisements, the concerts, the symbols some of these satanic groups use. What is thier influence? How powerful are they in a world that pressures young people to be "popular", "in", or "liberated"? It is truly a grim picture.

What can we do about rock music? Nothing. It will exist regardless of our efforts. But we can work on the attitude of our children and make substitutes everywhere possible. Radios can be replaced by tape recorders and cassettes that pass our inspection. Perhaps a collection of worship songs, tapes on morals and good behaviour, all available

to us. Perhaps instramental rock without words may be a compromise for some who are so addicted to the music that they cannot withdraw all at once. Bible readings with the family may keep the radio off for a short time. More outside activities with the family will also keep rock music our of our ears. Attend more camp meetings where the influence is more wholesome. If we can provide fun, wholesom pastimes for our young ones, then they may make the choice to put rock music our of their minds. If they make the decision, it will be a lasting one.

We can't sit idly by. We must be aware of the danger and take the appropriate action. Satin will not give up. Rock music is the best gimmic Satan has had in centuries. It is worldwide and longlasting, powerful and convincing. What more could he ask? He has a host of rock stars (idolized by millions of young, impressionable minds) who preach anarchy, lust, and rebellion to anyone who will listen.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In search of the truth,
Dan Ross, Selah Cong.
6811 W. Chestnut
Yakima, Wa. 98908

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

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Stilwell, Ok.

Dear Brethren:

Since last writeing to the Courier we have had a few visitors, which we're always glad to have. Bro J.D.Johnson and wife visited a few days with Bro George Morris & family, also visited church while here, also Bro Lloyd Treat & Edwin Crowell, Sis Cathy & Danny Treat all from Broken Bow. Our singing was in April. We had a large crowd. For the singing Goshen, Ar. & Bohannan Mt., Ark. and Baron Church of Christ attended the singing. I will not try to name everyone that came. There was good turn out from the three churches. I could not begin to mention them all. Sis. Debbie & James Buckner would like to announce the birth of their second boy. JOSHUA KINCADE BUCKNER was born June 7, 1985 at Siloam Springs, Ark. He weighed 6 pounds & 11 ounces. His grandparents are Bro & Sis Gerald Buckner and Bro & Sis George Morris, all of Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Gerald L. Buckner
Rt. 5 Box 145
Stilwell, Ok. 74960

Goshen, Ark.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Everyone at Goshen are as well as usual, but very busy. This seems to be the busy season in this part of the country.

We have had another discussion on the bread question. This time it was held at the Goshen building on May 25th. One of our speakers couldn't be there due to sickness in the family, and our time keeper couldn't be there, due to having to work, but we made do the best we could. Everyone on both sides conducted themselves as Christians. We had good attandance, some quite a distance. The arkansas congregation reperesented were Goshen and Bohanan's Mountian, Baron, Stillwell, and Broken Bow, Okla., and Yuma, Ariz. I hope I didn't miss anyone, if I did it wasn't intended. We want to thank everyone that attended, and also everyone that participated in any way.

We are still having visitors. The R.J. Robinsons from the Tiner, Ok. congregation were here on Sunday. Earl and Zelma Broadway from Yuma, were visiting relatives in eastern Arkansas, and attended services here three Sundays, due to this being the closest place. We twisted Bro. Earl's arm and he gave us two very good lessons. We enjoyed the lessons and visiting with them very much.

The singing was held in Stillwell, Ok. the last of April. Several from Goshen and Bohanan Mountian attended. I believe everyone enjoyed the good singing. Brother Walter Ferguson and I went down in time for the morning service. We enjoyed the services and the day very much, though I'm sure they didn't enjoy the lesson since I was the speaker.

All visitors are welcome in our homes and in our services. We meet at 10:30 & 6:00 P.M. each Lord's Day.

In Christian Love
Paul Andrews

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Baron, Ok.

Dear Brethren:

We need to ask for all your prayers for Bro. David Brown. He had a lung collapse due to internal problems. Those problems are now corrected but his lung still will not function without a machine. He is recovering, but slowly, and he is still very weak, of course. So he needs your prayers.

Our meeting is just around the corner. In fact, it will be over by the time the next Courier is printed. So we are very excited agout it. We are having a question-and-answer service so that we can gain even more knowledge and wisdom from Bro. Bedingfield. The only limits we are putting on the questions is that they be asked to edification. We don't want any to settle disputes between brethren, or condemn brethren or anything like that.

There was a great singing at Stilwell in April. I'll let them give the details. The next one is scheduled for Goshen in June.

We at Baron send our love to all brethren.

In christian love
Terry Warford
For the chruch at Baron

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An excerp from a letter I recieved from Sister McCluskey, from Indian Springs, Ca.

'I am a great believer in passing along a complement, when I can, especially when it may encourage. I have two for you (editor), that I think you should hear. First, my sister, Dorothy Sage of Selah, Wa. as you know, is confined to her husband's bedroom, where he is helpless and needs her constant care. She can't go to church, and hear edifying teachers and commune with the church. She told me to tell you, when I saw you, that she appreciates, very much, the Gospel articles. The strengthening and edification they lend her is great. For her; "Thanks for publishing such a Courier."

The other I want to especially tell you about is Sister Wyoma Cavin, Daughter of the late Bro. Condor. She has spent the last years in Texas, as you know, helping her son-in-law care for his four motherless children. Her health is bad, and has broken to the point that the doctor put her in a rest home. There is no church that is near, and she has written me several times in the past, telling me how happy she is that you have changed the Courier to printing articles as well as letters. She calls it a Gospel Courier. It especially meant so much to her as a stranded Christian, who cannot attend public worship services. However, as long as she was at home, she and her son-in-law had services at home with the children. Now that she isn't at home with them, her son-in-law needs to continue to recieve the paper.

Even though her hands are shaking, she still wants to recieve the Courier. If you think about it, there is no telling how many more christians who get much needed edification only from the Courier, encourage-

ing them to read their Bibles and live closer to the Lord because of it. Believe me, I know what it means to be a "stranded Chirstian".

For them alone, this is a worthy work.

The chruch at Penn Vally (Indian Springs) still stands firm for "what hath the Lord spoken and what hath the Lord said."

Come to see us when you can.
Yours in Christ

Lurana McCluskey

I printed this letter, not to take any praise for myself, but to show how much the articles mean to many of those who read it. Many many of them have written and have disapproved of some of the things said, but they also do not fail to add that they always have studied it out, using the Word of God as a guide and have been edified so very much by the very same article that they first could not understand.

Thank you for that letter Sister McCluskey. You deserve a compliment also for your steadfastness.

the editor

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BIRTHS

JOSHUA KINCADE BUCKNER	June 7, 1985	Siloam Springs, Ark.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

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
Broken Bow, Ok.	July 19 - 26	Tony Brister
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 27 - Aug 4	Sammy Boen
Stilwell, Ok.	July 27 - Aug 4	Tony Brister
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 4 - 11	J.W. Bedingfield
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 31 - Sept 2	Tom Broadway

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"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

II Peter 3:9