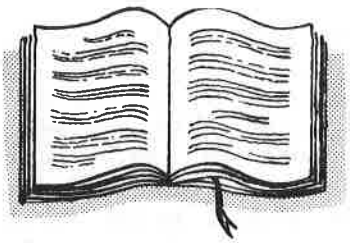
The Christian Courier



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December 1985

"The Undivided Assembly"

Let us read in 1 Cor 14:22-23; "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?" We see here that the whole church came together into one place & that there were both believers and unbelievers in the one place, so they didn't hope to divide them into seperate groups to teach them. Lets read verse 27: "If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most three, and that by course; and let one interpret." Speaking by course is one at a time, so if we were divided into groups, and had a speaker for each group, they wouldn't be speaking by course, would they?

Next, lets read verses 30 & 31: "If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted." The only way we can all learn from all the speakers is to all be in one place, and the speakers speak at one at a time. This is just one of many reasons that I believe the "Sunday School" is condemned by the scriptures.

Paul Andrews
Route 2
Hindsville, Ark. 92738

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"Vinyard of the Lord"
Matt 20: 1-16

In this vinyard we find that the Lord had planted one vinyard before in Isa. 5:2-14, and he fenced it in and planted it with the choicest vine and built a tower, made a wine press, and looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. What were the wild grapes? Look at verse 8; "Woe to them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." Then in verse 14; "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it." Then in verse 18; "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were a cart rope:" Verse 20; "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" Then goes on and tells what they have done and cast away the law of the Lord. This is the fruit or wild grapes that they brought forth. Then in Chapter 7, verse 13-25. That he would bring forth a Saviour and and what the last days would bring. So in Matt. the Lord hired labours to labor in his vinyard, the Church. Matt 16: 18-19; Acts 20:28; and said he would give them what was right. He planted us a right vine and looks for the fruit of it. What will it be? Good or wild? In Heb. 9: 27-28, he has appointed a judgement for us as he did to them. What will it be? Destruction, or peace with God? In Eph 4:1-4, we are told to walk worthy of the vocation wherein we were called and then tells us how. Verse 17 says to walk not as other Gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds having their understanding darkened, being aliens from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart, then gave up themselves over to laciviousness. (Doesn't this sound like the other vinyard and their graper?) In Romans 12: 1-2, we are told to not be like this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Eph 4:22; "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according ;to the deceitful lusts; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Then on through verse 32, telling us how to put on the new man, then Chapter 5: 1-7, he tells us the followers of God as dear children to walk in love, then explains some wicked things and tells us in verse 7 to be not partakers with them. Verse 11, to have no fellowship (association) with them but rather reprove them.

Also Gal 5:18-26 tells us the difference between the good and the bad. It tells us that if we walk in the Spirit how to live. We are in the world but not of the world. God said in 11 Cor 6: 17-18, to come out from among them (the world) and be seperate. To touch not the unclean thing. (Which is what this world does) and he will recieve you.

WHAT KIND OF GRAPES DO YOU BEAR?

In christian love to all.

Lloyd Treat

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"DEATHBED CONFESSIONS"

Throughout the world today there are many teachings that are contrary to the Word of God. We each come in contact with these as we asscoiate with the people of the world and those that profess God. If we are to give reasonable and logical answers to refute these false teachers we must be prepared ahead of time.

This month I would like to study with you a common fallacy that is believed by the world and many denominations. The subject is DEATHBED CONFESSIONS. It is commonly taught that a person can come to the Lord on their deathbed and be saved. This would be nice and I wish I could believe it were so, but it makes little difference what I believe. What does the Bible teach? I find that there are three major points that show why I believe that God will not accept these people.

First, let us turn to Acts 10:34-35; "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I percieve that God is no respector of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." God is not a respector of persons, therefore if we reason together, would God not be showing respect to some and not to others if he gave some the last chance to come to Him as they were dying and not others?

Second; In Acts 10-35 which we just read, we find there are two things needed to be accepted by God. First, a person must fear God, this a person on their deathbed can accomplish. But the second part "and worketh righteousness", how can a person who is on their deathbed accomplish this? They can't!

Turn with me to James 2:14-26. Verse 14 presents exactly the same question we are studying here, can faith without works save a person? Verse 25 sums it all up; "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Our works are what proves our faith to God. And without works, where is the proof of our faith?

Also read Revelation 20: 12-13. Ask yourself what is going to be judged when the Lamb's Book of Life is opened?

The third point I would like to make is this: Read John 3:4; "Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." A flat statement, unless a person is baptized they cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! Has the person on their deathbed been baptized for the remissions of sins? If not, how can anyone say they are saved? This is contrary to the teachings of God. I pray that this will help each of you to be able to give a better answer if this subject ever arises.

Yours in Christian love;
Robert Farley
Selah, Washington

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

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Seattle, Washington

Dear brethren:

Those of us who live and worship here in Seattle have been very blessed in that we are all reasonably healthy except for the usual colds, etc. We very much miss Kevin Forsman who lives with Larry and Yandra Wood in Ralls, Texas, and Kelly Forsman who is going to college in Yakima, Washington.

We're thankful Wayne and Amy Orendorff have returned safely from Calif. We do appreciate and thank all the brothers and sisters who helped them with expressions of love and prayers following the tragic deaths of Wayne's parents, Wes and Robbye Orendorff of Encinitas, Calif.

We are always thankful for visitors who come our way for we are few in number. We especially appreciate the following who were here when Wayne and Amy had to be gone from us: Greg and Peggy Stacy, Port Orchard; Richard and Monica Johnston, Yakima; Jerry McCay who spoke for us, Yakima; and Linda Wilson, New Mexico.

If any come to the Seattle area, please come worship with us and visit in our homes. We would love to have you.

In Christian Love,
Ellis Forsman
Sea-Tac Church of Christ

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Ps. 92:1 "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night....."

Stilwell, Oklahoma

Dear Brethren:

A few lines to say thanks for printing the Courier. Keep up the good work.

Jim Buckner, son of Gerald & Wilma Buckner at Pleasantview Church was baptized 10-13-85. He is also our son-in-law. Everyone of us are so thankful. He started leading songs that evening of his new life.

Bro. Hayse Morris is still in the hospital, he is in his 8th week but thanks be to the Lord and all the prayers, he may be home in a couple of weeks. Brother Treat visited us at Pleasant View Sunday the 20th, and gave us a very good lesson. We always enjoy hearing him speak.

Keep us in your prayers as we hold you all in ours.

Thanks; Yours in Christ.

George B. Morris; Rt.3 Box 464, Stilwell, Ok. 74940 - (916) 696-5335

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Baron, Oklahoma

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

It has been a while since we at the Baron congregation has written, so we will try to inform you of any news.

Bro. Al Way of Bellflower, Ca. will be holding our 1986 meeting on June the 22nd through the 29th. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who can make plans to come and share a time of learning with us. The weather here is most usually very pleasant at that time of the year. I would also like to recommend Bro. Terry Warford to anyone in search of a young, but excellent speaker. The time of availability would have to be discussed with him.

On Sunday, the afternoon of the 27th, we had an enjoyable singing at Goshen, Ark.. We also attended a meeting with Bro. Richard Johnston at Goshen in June. He is an interesting speaker, and has a kind, and sincere family. Also we attended a meeting with Bro. Tony Brister in July at Stilwell, Ok. I held a weekend meeting at Colter, Ok. on June 21st through the 23rd. We enjoyed the hospitality of many, including Alvin and Hazel Rennels, Glenn and Mattie Peterson, Earl and Nora Atchley, Cletus and Oneda Johnson, and their son and wife and many more who supported our meeting and played a vital role in makeing us feel at home. We didn't have a chance to visit everyone due to our short stay, but we want them all to know that we enjoyed every minute fo our time spent with them and would like them all to know how much we love them. Also Bro. Paul Andrews held us a weekend meeting around the last of Sept. and was enjoyed very much.

We are proud of our young brethren who are taking such an active

role in church. These Brethren enclude: Brian Ross, David Brown, Terry Warford, and Bret Brown. Also Michael Barrett.

In closing, we would like to express our love to one and all the brethren in Christ. We would like to invite anyone that is down our way, to come and meet with us.

From the Baron Church.
James F. Brown

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Goshen, Arkansas

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I will try to catch up on the news from Goshen. Everyone seems to be well at present, but it is getting the season for colds and flu.

I would like to make one correction to my letter in the Oct. issue. It states Sister Patty Campbell has contact lenses. She had eye surgery instead. The mistake is probably due to my poor handwriting.

I just finished a weekend meeting at the Baron congregation. I enjoyed the weekend very much and appreciate everyone that came and supported the meeting. We had our singing Oct. 27th with several attending from Bohannan Mountian, Baron & Stilwell. We had good attendance and good singing. We thank everyone that attended for their effort. This is the last singing for this season, but will start again the last Sunday in April at Stilwell, then the last Sunday in August at Baron, and the last Sunday in Oct. again at Goshen. Anyone that can attend any or all of these singings are welcome.

We are still having lots of visitors. Bro. and Sis Bill Nelson from Yuma, Az. were visiting relatives in Easton, Ark. and met with us one Sunday. We enjoyed meeting them. Bro. Terry Warford from Baron has come and spake for us about twice recently. We always enjoy having him and hearing his lessons. Bro. Jim Brown from Baron, came on Oct.20 and gave us a good lesson. WE enjoyed helping Bro Jim and Sister Ruby with us. On Oct. 27th, Bro. Jack and Sis. Darlene Warford also from Baron came up in time for the morning services and stayed for the singing. Bro. Jack gave us a very good lesson. Although I have known Bro. Jack quite a while that was the first time I had heard him speak. He is a very good speaker and we enjoyed it. If I have left any visitor our, I'm sorry. Any and all visitors are welcome anytime.

Our services are at 10:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.

With Christian Love
Paul Andrews
Route 2
Hindsville, Ark. 72738

Fontana, California

Dear Brethren:

I noticed in the November issue in the Courier, that you are running low on funds for the paper. We, from the La Habra church are sending $200.00 in hope it will ease your burden a little. We appreciate all the work and effort that goes into publishing the newspaper and I hope you will continue the good work.

Most of us at La Habra church are in fair health. There are some who aren't doing to good, and we ask that you pray for them. We are a small group now, as some have moved away and some members don't always come to Church when they should. Seems like there is always something that hinders the Church from being strong and growing like it should.

Love to all of you from La Habra Church of Christ.

Sincerely
Marion D. Serrano

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Waterford, California

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Just a note to let you know how we at the Waterford Congregation are doing. There has not been a letter from the Church at Waterford for some time, and for this I appologize, and hope we can do better in the future.

We have had some members who have had to miss Church due to illness Bro. Ira Brown has not been able to attend Church for quite some time now and our prayers are with him and we miss him very much. Sis. Dosia Arnett has had an operation on her leg a few months back, and is doing well and able to attend Church now. Sister Lollie Shaw fell a few weeks back and has had to miss Church. We hope to have her back with us soon. A few who have missed Church from time to time due to illness are Sis. Verna Harmon; Sis. Velma Hiller: Sis. Melba Sogon and Sis. Shiela Baker. Our prayers are with all of those who are ill, and that they regain their health soon, and are able to continue in the Lord's work. Sister Rosa Brown has passed away at the age of 84. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family, that the Lord will comfort them in this hard time of sorrow and loss.

To all of you, from all of us here at Waterford, we love you and our prayers are with you.

In Chritian Love
Bro. Troy Morse
For the Chruch at Waterford, Ca.

MEETING CALANDER

Yuma, Az.	Nov 24 - Dec 1	Camp
Baron, Ok.	1986 June 22 - 29	Al Way
Delta, Co.	1986 July 5 - 14	Camp

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BAPTISMS

Brother Jim Buckner, October 13, 1985 at Pleasant View Church of Christ
Sister Janice Sanford at Goshen, Ark. Church of Christ

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DEATHS

Siter Ima Rosa Brown, Passed from this life November 15, 1985 at her home in Waterford, Ca.

May God comfort all of her loved ones is our prayer.

We are also saddened by the passing of Wes & Robbye Orendorff of Enciatas, California. They were the parents of Wayne Orendorff of Port Orchard, Wa. Let us remember all the loved ones left behind, day and night when we pray. Theirs is a heavy burden to bear.

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Notice of correction!

In the October issue of the Courier, it was reported that Sister Kathy Campbell of Goshen, Ark. had contact lenses, but in reality she had CATARAC SURGERY, and is doing well now.

Also there was some news from Bro. Paul Andrews that I didn't get in the paper. So here is the last part of a letter containing that news. (re sept 85 letter) "We have had many visitors at the meeting. I hope I don't leave out anyone due to the length of time. Sister Tracy Brown from Baron was here sveral Sundays. Sister Julie Shea from La Habra, Ca. spent most of the summer here visiting her sister and grandmother. Sis Jown Shea from La Habra was here; Bro Gabe & Sis Dot Auslam, Bro Marion Serrano & his family, also from La Habra was here. We all enjoy visitors. Bro Serrano gave us four very good lessons while he was here. I am saving the best news until last. Bro Serrano baptized Janice Sanford into the body of Christ while he was here. We are very happy to see her never miss a service."

In Christian Love
Paul Andrews

My appologies to Brother Paul, and to Sister Campbell.

Editor.

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I would like to add a special note of thanks to those who have sent in money to keep the Christian Courier in print. Those who have not helped in this way, if we all just gave a very small amount each month, that is all it would take. As it is most of the burden is supported by a very few.

Please send in your letters and articles. Without them we would not have a paper.

Editor