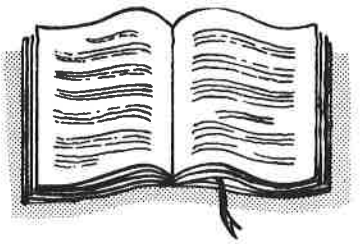
The Christian Courier



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March 1986

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Col. 1:13 It is the Kingdom Of Christ:
Gal 6:10 The household of faith:
Col 1:18 It is the Body of Christ:
Eph 2:21 The Holy Temple of the Lord:

Acts 2:47 : It is the SAVED PEOPLE. The Church is not a tent, a home or a building of any kind. The Church is People who are doing GOD'S WILL. Matt 18:15; "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou has gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And ifhe shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the Church:" WHO? The Church! I have read and heard preachers say; 'Not the church but the leaders and elders.' Question! When The Church comes together to worship God, is this only the leaders and elders? If The Church has a revival meeting, is this only leaders and elders? If The Church meets for any reason, is this only leaders and elders? Brethren The Church is the saved people. Are not the Sisters and young members saved? Are not they a part of The Church? If a matter is told to The Church, (Matt 18:17) is it not told to men, women and young members? While it is true there are some capacities in which women can not perform in the worship service, they are still part of The Church. Too often our sisters and young members are shoved aside in important matters which concerns The Church.

A number of years ago, I resigned as elder of a congregation because, needing to bring a matter before the Church, sisters and young members were excluded. I could not tolerate believing them not to be part of the Body, The Saved, The Church. The women and the young members are precious in the sight of the Lord, and brethren should not be so high minded as to exclude them. THINK!

Written in love of The Church, ALL of it.

Howard McCay
Rt. 3, Box 657 - A19, Yakima, Wa. 98901

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ESCHEWING EVIL

Brethren, we know that each of us will be tempted while living a Christian life. 11 Tim 3:12: "Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." However there are times when we can and should avoid temptations. If we know something will tempt us to sin, why be around it? Prov 6:28 asks the simple question; "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not burned." In Job 1:8, one of the things God commended Job for was that he "eshceweth evil." Webster's dictionary defines eschew, "to shun, to avoid, to abstain from." Job is a good example to follow. Paul writes in 1 Thes 5:22; "Abstain from all appearance of evil." And in the same line of thought, Prov 4:14-15; "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn away; from it, and pass away."

Probably the best way to eschew or avoid evil is to replace it with good. So here is a short list of things we can add to our life, so that there is no time left to "enter into the path of the wicked."

1. STUDY: 11 Tim 2:15; "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." Prov 4:13; "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for whe is thy life."
2. ASSOCIATION WITH CHRISTIANS: Prob 13;20; "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."
3. GOOD THOUGHTS: Lets follow the advice of the Apostle Paul in Phil 4:8; "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
4. GOOD WORKS: In Gal 6;10, Paul writes; "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

If we spent more time on these things, wouldn't we have less time to spend on evil things? Wouldn't we be eschewing evil?

In christian love

Terry Warford
409 S. First St.
Stilwell, Ok. 74960

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An Article Response
(from Bro. Dan Ross)

I would like to respond to the recent intrest in Bro. J.D. Logan's Nov. 1985, article on modest apprael. I have read subsequent viewpoints by Bro. Ken Harper and Bro. J.W. Bedingfield; also an article written by the late Bro. G.E. McCay, dealing with a completely different topic, but possesing a small section which some might consider pertinent.

I am happy that Bro. Logan's article generated interest but am shocked by the opportnisitic manner in which Bro. Bedingfield disagrees. (for those who do not know how the disagreement is stated, Bro. Bedingfield has offered to send a copy to Church members on request.) I do not mind that people disagree on application of Scripture or matters of principle because it offers an opportunity for several to study together and possibly come to agreement. What does bother me, however, is to see one brother take a few words of another brother, apply his own meaning, and then proceed with a character assassination so as so to <u>appear</u> to disprove the others' position. Debates are often run this way. I am not impressed by this type of debate, but I am impressed with sound reasoning. (Refer to Isa. 1:18 & Isa. 28:10-13)

The primary pivotal word used to gender confusion by several brethren, is the word 'commonplace'. Bro. Bedingfield admits that he cares not for Webster or Strong, but prefers context for defining a word. Fine; let us use context. The word commonplace can mean anything from two instances all the way to wide-spread. (Not isolated through general or rampant). In paragraph two, the word 'creeping' is used. "Creeping" is used first, followed by "commonplace" in paragraph four. To understand the meaning of commonplace, we simply decide which of all the possible meanings agree with "creeping". The defination 'not isolated' agrees much much better with 'creeping' than does 'general or rampant'. The meaning of 'commonplace' is quite clear. The point is that immodest apperal has entered the realm of Christians, not just in one remote place, but in more than one place.

The second pivotol point is: Bro. Logan has seen several instances of immodest apparel, therefore it exists. Two other brethren say they have not seen it commonplace and one says he has "never seen anything like Bro. Logan describes". It appears to be a difference of observation

or possibly a lack of observation on the part of some.

Five pages are devoted to these two points by Bro. Bedingfield. Emotional words such as accuse, viscious, unprovoked, and slanderous attack are used against Bro. Logan in exchange for his efforts of being a watchman. (Refer to Ez. 18:19-32) Are we to believe that because Bro. Bedingfield has not seen one instance of immodest apparel, that it does not exist? Are we to believe that one visit to a congregation reveals all? Do we picture Any man giving a congregation a clean bill-of-health after one short visit? I give more credit than that to the intelligence of my brothers and sisters.

Let us turn to the 1953 article by G.E. McCay. Whenever we read something written many years ago, we must take one precaution which is a rule used by researchers: Read the article with full knowledge of the period of time during the time which it was written. (We do this often with Bible research) 1953 was a time of conservative dress. Women's clothes covered much of their bodies. Bro. McCay's example of his Mennonite friend was a contrast of women's clothing of that time; a comparison of dress length from mid-calf to shoe-tops. Bro McCay never saw the days of the mini-skirts, bikinis, topless swimsuits, hotpants, etc. Please consider this when you read it the second time and let us take care in drawing inferences from his few words.

I have read how Bro. Logan stands on immodest apparel and how Bro. Harper stands on immodest apparel. I would like very much to read in the pages of the Courier how Bro. Bedingfield stands on immodest apparel. I am not interested in a popularity contest, flattery, or back patting. I am interested, rather in him position. Then we may study all three positions and come to our own conlcusion. (refer to 2 Tim 2:15)

In search of the truth,
Bro. Dan Ross
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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Bellflower, Ca.

Dear Brothes and Sisters in Christ:

It seems my turn at writing to the courier has rolled around. Everyone here is doing fairly well and sends their love to all. We are happy to report that Myrtle Clouse is doing much better and is able to be at church. Now that the holidays are behind us and we are into the new year, we hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. As the new year starts we should all set our sights on making 1986 a more productive year for the Lord. When opportunities for doing good come up, we should not turn our backs and walk away. Jesus mentions it in Matt 25, that it was those who helped their brethren that recieved life eternal.

My Mother, Wanda Brockman from Chico, California, underwent surgery and is now recuperating at home. We want to thank everyone who sent cards and flowers, but especially thank everyone for their prayers. With the Lord's help and a lot of rest she should be back at it in no time.

We want to thank all the visitors who have stopped by and worshipped with us. It certainly is uplifting to fellowship with other Christians. We invite those who can to come and be with us.

In Christian Love
Gerald Brockman
Bellflower, Ca.

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PORT ORCHARD, WA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

It has been a long time since I have written any news. I don't have much now, but I should get what I have in the paper.

Ellen and Bobby and I went to the Yuma Camp meeting and had a wonderful time. We took Maggie, Ellen's Mother and Maggie's Sister, Eulalia Wallis with us. A week before we left home, Kimberley, Pat Herbert's daughter, was baptized. While we were gone, they had the worst weather here that they ever had in November.

If everything goes as planned, we expect to have a meeting this year, beginning the 27th of July through the 3rd of August. We hope to have Rex Mickey hold our meeting for us. I had the privelege of hearing him speak in Yuma, Az. this year. Bill Taylor has been in touch with Rex and he said; "if we are alive and well, I'll hold it for you."

Love to the brothers and sisters in Christ.

Robert McCay
for the Glenwood Church of Christ.

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ELK CITY, OKLAHOMA
Washington Street Church of Christ

I will try to bring you up to date here at Elk City. Not much to write. We are still just a few meeting here. We are happy to have some help with the preaching. Bro Glen Jones, a young Christian man has been with us for over a year and is bringing a lesson every-other Lord's Day, even if he does own and operate his dairy, near Leedy. Even if he does start the Lord's day at four o'clock, or earlier, he manages to make room in his Sunday schedule for a fifty mile drive to Elk City to attend the Lord's Worship.

We also have another young Christian man who is takeing his turn at teaching and I would like to say he is doing a good job. Both of these young brethren have the makings of good preachers.

Now to us older brethren. Bro Willie Farrar and myself are not in good health, and we are thankful that we have these two brothers who can carry on the Lord's work. I will try and not be so long about writing in the future.

We all enjoy reading the Christian Courier. It helps to know that there are yet a few who are faithful. Keep up the good work. Pray for us as we pray for you.

Written for the Church in Elk City.
Earl Atchley
921 W. 2nd St. Elk City, Ok. 73644

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MEDFORD, OREGON
(formerly Grants Pass, Or.)

Dear ones in Christ:

It has been quite a while since I have written to the paper with some news from the Grants Pass area. We have moved our meeting place to Medford, Oregon, as we have found a better place to meet in, and it is a lot closer for the older members who live over there, who attend the church. Because we have changed our meeting place in the past several years, anyone passing through this way and wanting to meet with us, can either call Tom Broadway in Rogue River, Or., or Harry Wegley in Grants Pass, Or. Tom's phone is 582-3141 and Harry's phone is 862-2421.

All in the congregation here seems to be fine at the present, except my wife Betty, as she is recovering from a fall on Dec.26th and dislocated her left shoulder, and broke her top shoulder bone. She seems to be mending quite well, for which we thank the Lord. It could have been much worse. The Kellems, Faye and Myrtle, are down in Arizona on business, and we wish them a safe journey, and hope they will be back soon. We miss them very much. Starting with the most recent visitor and going back several months, we have had Bro. and Sister Earl Broadway from Arazona, and Bro. Earl brought us a fine lesson one Lord's Day. Before that we had Bro. J.D. and Sister Fern Logan and two of their grandchildren. Bro. J.D. preached us a fine lesson. Before that we had Bro and Sis. Rex and Tina Mickey visiting with us, and Bro. Rex also brought us a fine lesson on that Sunday Morning. We also had with us Bro. and Sis. Claude and Berdett Perigen from Bellflower, Ca. and Bro. Clause brought us a fine lesson on the Lord's Day. We also had Bro. and Sis. Dallas and Gloria Mickey and their two children, Raymond and Joan, from Farmington, New Mexico. Bro. Dallas flew them our in their airplane. They also attended his 20 year High School reunion.

We enjoyed the time they could be with us. Bro. Dallas preached a fine lesson for us, which was enjoyed by all. We enjoyed the company of Sister Randal (Odie) and Ana Patterson, and her daughter Tina, all from Farmington, New Mexico. I hope I didn't overlook anyone. If I did I'm sorry, because it was not intentional.

I think you brethren are doing a good job with the paper, and am encloseing a check to help a little with the expences. We would like to remind each and everyone to pray for all that are in the household of Faith, especially for those who are sick, or injured, and that we may enjoy peace in the brotherhood once again.

Sincerely
Bro. Harry Wegley
Medford, Or. congregation.

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DELTA, COLORADO

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Now that the new year is here I am sure many of you will be planning your summer vacations. So we here in Colorado, at the Happy Hollow Church of Christ, would like to remind you that the Big Spruce Camp Meeting will be July 5th to July 14th, and hope and pray that many of you will plan to be with us again this year. It takes the cooperation of all of us to make this and all other meetings, a great place to gather together, and for God's children to spread the Gospel to all that will hear. It is always good to fellowship with those who come often and with new people too. It is good to come together with other Christians, especially if it is your first time.

We, being a small congregation would appreciate help from each and every one from all congregations that wished to send donations to help support the Camp Meeting.

Here is a report of last year's finances.

Donations:	$2056.35
Bal from 1984	104.41
1985 Meeting costs	1961.18
Balance(for 86)	199.58

We also need the presence of each and everyone. So please plan to come and be with us.

God bless you all, and remember us in your prayers.
Happy Hollow Church of Christ, P.O. Box 188, Delta, Co. 81416

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SELAH, WASHINGTON

Greetings to the brotherhood:

We at Selah are doing OK. We are blesed with some fine speakers here. Bro. Don Hammet, who is still young in the church is giving good lessons more frequently, and is doing a fine job. We also have had some good lessons from Bro. Ron Tibbs since his move here from Alaska.

He and his family have been an enjoyable and helpful addition to us here. Their sons James and Steven have been taking and active part in the services too. We are blessed with many young people, both boys and girls. Our son Johnny has been takeing on a more active roll also and so has young Paul Helums. These are four young men that are eager to learn their responsibilites in the church. We are indeed blessed, for the growth of the church lies with these young men and many like them. We have a new member to report. Michael Geho, who was baptized into the body of Christ Dec. 28th, 1985. He is growing spiritually and taking an active part in the work of the church.

As most of you know, Bro Clarence Sage was ill for a long time, with a lung disease. His struggle was ended Jan. 27, 1986 when he closed his eyes in death. He will be greatly missed by all of us who knew him and loved him.

We would also like to announce the engagement of our daughter, Felica McKinney, to Michael Geho. They plan to be married June 21, 1986. We pray for their happiness always.

We have frequent visitors who drop in from time to time. Troy Morris from Waterford, Ca. worshipped with us last Sunday. We are always happy to have visitors who may be traveling through.

Remember us in your prayers, as we remember you in ours.

Christian love from the congregation in Selah, Washington.

John McKinney

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Greetings from the church here at Baron. We are doing very well except for colds and flu that seems to be every where. We are having some winter weather right now at this writing.

My mother, Emma Brown, is in the rest home and not doing very well. She is 89 years old. Sister Viola Brown has been very ill, but at last report was some better. At the stilwell congregation, we are looking forward to our meeting June 22 to 29th, with Bro. Al Way. We invite all who can, to come and be with us for this meeting. I have been asked to hold a week-end meeting at Coulter, Oklahoma, about 10 miles from Elk City, Ok. This will be June 12-15th. We invite any and all who can come, to meet with us there. We are in the process of gettin our building her at Baron, bricked. We hope to have the church building finished in the near future. We invite all who comes this way, to stop and visit and worship with us. We have Sunday services at 10:30 A.M. and Sunday evening services at 6:30, P.M.

God bless all, with christian love,

James F. Brown for Baron congregation.

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Yakima, Wa.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are very pleased to write and tell you that Justin Lamb was baptized Sunday, Feb 2, 1986. Please print this in the next issue of the Courier.

Roger and Sharon Lamb

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San Pablo, Ca.

Dear Brethren:

It has been a while since we have written regarding San Pablo congregation, so we would like to report that all are well and that there has been no serious sickness for quite a while. We are thankful for that. Bro. Jack Cooper has been plauged with the shingles, but is recovering now. We have been blessed with a few visitors lately. Brother And Sister Howard and Nell McCay came by and were able to worship with us, on their way home. Brother Howard brought us a very timely message about attitude. We also had Amos Beaver visiting with us too. It was good to have these with us, and pray that they will return very soon.

We have been blessed by our Heavenly Father, with new pews. They are not NEW, new, but are new to us. We found them in a near-by town, and were able to pick them up at a real savings. We plan to refinish and reupholster them when we can.

We are saddened by the passing of our dear Brother Claude Perigen, of Bellflower, Ca. Bro. Claude passed from this life last friday, and the funeral will be this Wednesday. I understand that Brother Tom Broadway will be speaking at the funeral. Our fervent prayers go out to Bro. Claud's loved ones. We pray for your comfort in this time of great sorrow. We sorrow with you, and we also rejoice, that Bro. Claude was a member of Christ's Body, and we know that our Lord has a place prepared for those who, like Bro. Claude, who have given their life to the service of the Lord.

We also offer up our prayers for the loved ones of Bro. Bill Nelson of Yuma, Az, who also have lost a loved one. Bro Bill Nelson passed from this life Feb. 1, 1986 at San Diego, Ca. He was placed to rest Wednesday;, February 5th, at the Desert Lawn Memorial Park, with Bro. Howard McCay officiating. I had never met Bro. Bill Nelson in this life, but I understand that he was a faithful christian for 36 years, and he too, being a member of the Body of Christ, will have a home prepared for him, as we all will, if we follow after the Word of God until the end. I said that I had never met Bro. Bill Nelson, but I expect to meet all the children of God when it is time for our Lord's return. Let us all strive to meet our loved ones in heaven by following our Lord, and his teachings.

We have been having Bible study of late, and we hope and pray that those who have been attending, will strive to attain the knowledge and wisdom of the Word of God. We all need to study more, and when we all come together to study, we all benefit from it. We would like to encourage all the congregations to offer this type of study. It is especially good for us who want to know more about the Word of God.

I'll close by asking your prayers for these that are ill or have had injuries; Sister Lottie Shaw of Waterford congregation. She is recoperating from a slight heart attack. Sister Mary McKinzie of Waterford congregation who is recovering from an auto accident. She will have her knee in a cast for quite a while. Brother Earl Broadway, who is recovering from an illness, and is still under treatment. Brother Frank Morse (The father of Troy Morse of Waterford) who went in for surgury and a San Franscico Hospital. Brother Ira Brown, who is very weak still, and his wife, sister Annis Brown who is having problems with her back. Sister Emma Brown of Baron, Oklahoma, who is in the rest home and is not doing very well. Sister Viola Brown, also of Baron Ok. who has been ill, but is doing better. And a special prayer for those who are and who will be traveling across the country preaching the Gospel of Christ in various meetings. May God speed them in their duties as they bring the word to all who will hear.

Remember also prayers for the loved ones of Bro. Clarence Sage of the Yakima, Wa. area who passed from this life Jan.27, 1986. I hope I have not overlooked anyone who needs the prayers of the church. If I have, I'm sure that the Holy Ghost will give us utterance wherein we have failed.

In Christian Love
Editor (Homer Bryant) for San Pablo

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BAPTISMS

Kimberely Herbert - Port Orchard, Wa.
Michael Geho - December 28,1985 - Selah, Washington.
Justin Lamb - February 2, 1986 - Yakima, Washington.

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WEDDING PLANS

Felicia Mckinney and Michael Geho of Selah, Washington plan a wedding date of June 21, i986. May God's blessings be yours as you start your life together in Christ.

Your Brothers and sisters in Christ:

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DEATHS

Brother Bill Nelson of Yuma Arizona, February 1, 1986.
Brother Claud Perigen of Bellflower, California: February 22, 1986.

Now the laborer's task is o're;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in thy gracious keeping,
Leave me now thy servant sleeping

"Earth to earth and dust to dust."
Calmly now the words we say,
Left behind we wait in trust
For the resurection day.
Father, in thy gracious keeping,
Leave me now thy servant sleeping.
John Ellerton

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Ecclesiastes 12

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the cloudes return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the steets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low: Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourist, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the - streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken or the ppitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further by these, my son, be admonished: of makeing many books there is now end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man.
For God shall bring every work into judgment,
with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

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Gospel Meetings

Goshen, Ark.	June 1 - 8	J.W. Bedingfield
Coulter, Ok.	June 12 - 15	James F. Brown
Baron, Ok.	June 22 - 29	Al Way
Delta, Co.	July 5 - 14	Camp
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 27 - Aug 3	Rex Mickey
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 3 - 10	R. Walkingstick
Yakima, Wa.	to-be-anounced	Lloyd Allgood
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 30 - Sept 1	To-be-anounced

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