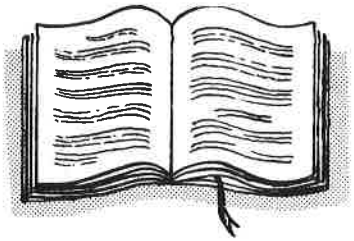
The Christian Courier



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April 1986

"DRUNKARDS AND RAILERS"

1 Cor 5:11 tells us; "If any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a RAILER, or a DRUNKARD, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." The railer and the drunkard have much in common. Both are recognized by their offensive and senseless speech. A 'railer' is a person who used scornful, insolent or abusive language. Drunkards often use the same kind of language. However, when the drunk sobers up, he usually stops speaking in this manner, while the RAILER continues to offend both God and man with his insolent and abusive language. It is especially offensive if his railings also consist of false accusations. Think about the sins of fornication, drunkeness, and railing. There are many who would not dare to commit fornication or drunkeness in public, who seem to take pleasure in RAILING against others in public, even to publish their railings in print. Public drunkeness is no worse (nor better) than public railing. The fornicator is no worse than the RAILER. Britannica World Language Dictionary says that a "Railer" directs scornful, insolent, or abusive language AT or AGAINST another person. What does the Bible say about those who 'RAIL' against our Sisters, our preachers, and our elders? First of all, it tells us not to eat with them. 1 Cor 5:11. Now turn with me to Jude, verses 8 through 19. Please read it ALL. I will quote in part; "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst (dared) not bring against him a RAILING ACCUSATION, but said, The Lord rebuke thee." "But these (railers) speak evil of those things which they know not." In verse 16; "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouths speaking great swelling words." Verse 19; "These be they who seperate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit".

Brethren, let us beware of fornication in the Church, both physical and spiritual. Let us beware of drunkeness in the church, both of alcohol, and of malace and envy. Let us beware of RAILINGS in the church, especially when they contain a FALSE ACCUSTION about a member of Christ' Body. Let each local congregation take care of it's problems within the congregation. Let us not noise it abroad into other congregations, and the world of unbelievers.

Yours for the BIBLE way.

J.W Bedingfield - Humble Congregation

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UNITY

Paul tells us in Eph. 4:1-3; "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with songsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Verse 13; "Till we come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Jesus prayed in John 17;21; "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling...." so all who are truly in Christ MUST be united. 1 Cor 1:10; "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement. As I travel throughout the brotherhood, I find very little unity of mind and judgement. Everyone has his own thoughts and ideas on the scriptures and very little effort is put forth to be of one mind and one judgement. Of course that one judgement has to be according to righteousness. John 7:24; "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement." Now if we judge righteous judgement it is by the Gospel of Christ because this is when the righteousnes of God is revealed. Rom 1:16-17; "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

In the last 22 years, I have spent approximately (200) two hundred days at Church Camp Meeting and I can probably count on one hand the number of times the brethren have sat down in a round-table discussion of the Scriptures to try to attain the same mind and the same judgement that our Lord was speaking about. Are we afraid of losing our individuality so we can be different, and not just CHRISTIANS? Paul tells us

to be followers of him as he was of Christ. 1 Cor 11:1; "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." If we all follow Paul as he did Christ, we will be of the same mind and judgement; but since we aren't it means that some are not following Paul and Christ.

About a year-and-a-half ago, it was suggested that the bretheren come together and sit down and have a round-table discussion on religious matters so we could strive for the unity the Word of God teaches us, and so that we may achieve that one mind and judgement. This suggestion was not well recieved by many of the brethren. In fact some vehemently opposed it. WHY? I certainly don't know. Only they and the Lord know. Some who opposed that meeting have never been to a camp meeting and availed themselves of the opportunity of sitting down and striving for unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Brethren, what can we do to bring harmony in the Body of Christ? This is the responsibility of ALL who would be followers of Christ.

Written in Love of the Truth. Howard McCay
Rt. 3 #657, A-19 - Yakima, Wa. 98901

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CAIN'S SIN

The fourth chapter of Gensis gives us the account of Cain murdering Abel. To refresh your memory, read from Gen 4:1-15. Represented here are two brothers, each having a similar pastime or occupation. Each was a farmer; one of soil and the other of livestock. This is where the similarity ends. God approved of one, but not the other. Why? Was one offering better than the other? Verse three may give us the idea that Cain's offering may not have been as good as Abel's offering was in verse four. But verse 12 indicates that the ground would not in the future yield it's strength (like it had in the past), so we cannot conclude that the offering was defective. There must have been another reason. Genesis says; "The Lord had respect unto Abel and his offering. But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." If the offering, of itself, was satisfactory, then the difference must have been between the men. Was there an attitude difference that offended God? If the offerings were of equal status, as we have no reason to doubt, then the acceptability must have been based on an attitude, and intention, a motivation of the man.

What followed? Cain became angry. His composure or mood became depressed. Verse seven says; "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." It would seem that Cain had not "done well". He was confronted with it; he did not like it.

Let us stop here and ask. "With whom was Cain's displeasure? Or, to whom was Cain accountable for his unacceptable labor?" It certainly

was not with Abel because Abel was his fellow. It may have been with himself, IF he was the conscientious type. There is little doubt that his true obligation and accountability was to God. The offering was given to God and God pronounced his displeasure.

The events that followed, then, should not have happened. Cain either persuaded or came upon his brother in the field and killed him. Why would he do such a thing? Abel was guilty of nothing. In fact, he was prefered by God. It was not Abel who rejected Cain and his offering. It was not Abel who said if Cain would do well, he would be accepted. Yet Abel was the object of Cain's anger and frustration. Did Cain strike out at God? No, he struck out at his brother. Cain was accountable to God, but acted as though he was accountable to man.

His punishment? A fugitive and a vagabond. Destined to be a wanderer never staying in one place long. Cain was to lead an unsettled, irresponsible and dispreputable life.

Cain killed Abel. What could have been the root of this action? Envy seems to fit the circumstances perfectly. Envy is a type of hate that comes from the heart. It is hate in the form of displeasure toward a person who is what the invious one is not, or who owns what the envious one cannot (either because he cannot attain it or because he does not choose the correct path to attain it). An individual filled with envy cannot bear to see or hear of the advantage or prosperity of certain others. It is a seed planted by Satan which is nourished by man's natural lust to have 'more'. Speaking of the 'old man', Paul tells Titus, "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another." (Titus 3;3) Wasn't this Cain's trouble? Indeed, Cain was angry with the advantage Abel seemed to have. Cain could not immediately be what Abel was; he could not attain the same status (a change in attitude takes time). So, rather than trying harder, Cain elimated the competition, leaving himself as the only possible first-place.

The same method of thought continues today. I have witnessed it in and out of the Church, and no doubt, you have too. Let us take, for example, a brother or sister working diligently in the vinyard of our Lord. That person gains respect and admiration from his fellows and seems to be blessed an extra measure by God. Others, who are content with much less work and are annoyed by the increasing advantage of the worker, become envious. Of course, these people do not understand the concept of accountability to God. They are looking at accountability towards mankind which include conspiracy, pecking orders, quotas, and intimidation to maintain control of self-imposed standards. They do not realize that Satan has blinded their eyes because of envy. They have lost sight of their relationship with God. What remains for them to do? They either must work harder, or eliminate the competition.

Let us quickly explore another front of this accountability problem God realizes fully that not all his children have the same capacities. Some have different abilities; others have various working styles; and yet others, different endurance. God knows our personal potential and limitation, and so do we (if we want to know). We each have personal accountability to God. It is not my business to look to others and compare my abilities with theirs, although I may encourage and try to stimulate my brother or sister to reach their potential.

Christ, speaking of the Lord and his servant, emphasized the obligation of servant to Lord. "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." (refer Luke 12:42-48) Each of us has his own problem; a personal accountability to God. Why should I envy another person's accountability? I have my own to worry about. So it would seem that the wise servant would keep his eyes on his own duty to God and work as hard as possible to fulfill it.

Satan, however, clouds the mind of an envious person. He cannot reason clearly. For him, elimination of the 'one who makes him look bad' is the only answer because Satan doesn't want him working any harder than he is now. There are many ways to elimate, lying, discrediting accusations, exclude by contriance and conspiracy, etc., but the end result is the same. Envy is hate. John said, "Whomsoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life in him." (1 John 3:15)

Cain became a fugitive, a vagabond, a wanderer. No one would have anything to do with him. An envious Christian is no better off.

Brothers and sisters, let us look at the good works of others in admiration and thankfulness. Let us learn from each other how we can better serve God, rather than sneering in resentment because our deeds do not appear as acceptable as the deeds of others. Remember Cain!

In search of the truth;
Bro. Dan Ross
611 W. Chestnut
Yakima, Wa. 98908

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Sanctified In Christ Jesus

Heb. 10:10-14: "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."..... By the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all we are cleansed forever from the guilt of our past sins, and are perfected forever, before God, if we hold fast that which we have learned from the Will of God. The sacrifice does not nor cannot be repeated as the Jewish sacrifices.. The work is done once and for all, sin is put away (Heb9:26) and we

are set apart forever as God's peculiar and eternal possession. Ther is another sense in which every believer may be already sanctified. Rom 12:1; "I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." It is the duty of every child of God to present all his body as a living sacrifice, not just part of it, not just a half-hearted service, but the whole service, the whole body, every member, every faculty. Such an offering is "well pleasing to God". As God in the Old Testament times showed His pleasure in an offering by sending down fire to take it to Himself, so when the whole body of reasonable service is offered to God, He still sends down fire, the fire of the Holy Ghost, and He takes it to Himself what is thus presented. This is then reasonable service to God. The child of God, then, so far as the will, the governing purpose of his life, the centre of his being, is concerned, is wholly God's and is sanctified in the doing of it.

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

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Goshen, Arkansas

Dear Brethren:

Everyone here seems to be fairly well at this time. Almost everyone has had the flu, but seems to be improveing. Bro. Walter Fergeson and family visited the Stilwell congregation one Sunday and reported having a good time. The 2nd of March I visited the Baron congregation and had a good time as usual. Bro. Terry Warford and I visited the Loco, Ok. congregation one weekend and had a very good visit. The visit was just too short. W have had several visitors lately which we appreciate very much. One Sunday night Bro. Darrell Christian and family from Stilwell was there. Feb 23, Bro. Terry Warford from Baron, Ok. was here and gave us 2 very good lessons. We always look forward to him coming. March 2nd, Bro. George and Sister Retta Morris from Stilwell were here and Bro. George gave the lesson. I missed it due to visiting myself, but everyone enjoyed it. I hope ;that the next time they come I will be there. All visitors are welcome anytime.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Bro. Preigen. He was thought of very highly at Goshen and we extend our sympathy to the family. Everyone remember our (2) two meetings this summer and come if you can. The dates wern't too clear in the last letter about the last meeting. It will end with the morning service, July 6th, not begin on that date. Bro. Way has to start back home.

With Christian love.

Paul Andrews
Rt. 2 Hindsville, Ark 72738

WATERFORD, CA.

Dear Brethren:

We at the Waterford Church are recuperating from a somewhat sick winter. There was alot of flu amoung our members but all are well now. Bro. Frank Morse had to have some tests made but he had good report for which we are very thankfull. Sister Mary McKenzie is still unable to attend services due to her car accident and knee operation. Sister Shaw is improving slowly but still able to attend church. Sister Charlotte Burtis had knee surgery but is back on her feet again now.

We are planning our meeting for June 15 to June 22, this year with Bro. Bill McCay Jr. from Yakima, Wa. We are looking forward to having Bill & Cindi and their family with us. We invite you to come and attend our meeting. We have R V hookups at the church and there is an R V Park in Waterford, about 2 miles from the church. We also have rooms in our homes.

Bro. Ira Brown is still very sick and weak. He is in bed all the time now. Sister Brown is taking care of him with help from the visiting nurses 3 times a week.

Al Burtis, for the Waterford Church.

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LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ:

It has been some time since we have written to the paper, We have been very lax to say the least. No excuses, we must do better.

To bring you up on the news here, our meeting last summer with Bro. Howard McCay went very well. Bro. Charlie Burt and family came back into the Church, and his oldest daughter, Stacy was baptized. Also later in the year David McCay was baptized. But alas, all has not been happiness here. Bro. Jimmy and Sister Joetta Loftis moved to Graham, Texas awhile back. Last month he had to have gall blatter surgery. He was very sick for a while, but is better now. We lost one of his brothers about the same time. Also Bro. Earl Howe was in the hospital in Plainview at the same time, having had a miner heart attack. Both Jimmy and Earl have caused us some anxious moments around here. Earl is better but will be off work for a while yet. Let us remember them and their families in our prayers.

We are in the process of planning our meeting and will announce when and who at a later date. As I said, we have been lax, but we will try to do better in the future. Our love and prayers are with all the brotherhood always. We here were greatly saddened at the news of the deaths of Bro. Bill Nelson and Bro. Claude Perigen. The will be sorely missed. In Christian love from the Lorenzo congregation.

Earl Foresman

MEETING CALANDER

Goshen, Ark.	June 1 - 8	J.W. Bedingfield
Coulter, Ok.	June 12 - 15	James F. Brown
Waterford, Ca.	June 15 - 22	Bill McCay Jr.
Baron, Ok.	June 22 - 29	Al Way
Delta, Co.	July 5 - 14	Camp
Goshen, Ark.	July 6 - 13	Al Way
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 27 - Aug 3	Rex Mickey
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 3 - 10	R. Walkingstick
Yakima, Wa.	to-be-anounced	Lloyd Algood
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 30 - Sept 1	To-be-anounced

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BAPTISMS

Lorenzo, Texas;	Stacy Burt	David McCay

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Returned to the Church
Lorenzo, Texas; Brother Charlie Burt and family.

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DEATHS

Brother Ira Brown, of the Waterford congregation, passed from this life after a long illness, on March 24, 1986. Brother and Sister Brown made their home in Escalon, Calif. approxamatly 15 miles from the Church at Waterford. The funeral will be at Escalon, Ca. on Friday the 28th of March at 10:00 A.M. We pray that the Good Lord above will comfort Bro. Ira's loved ones left behind.

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Late news:

I have just recieved the notice that Sister Clements of Lorenzo, Texas, has been in the hospital with a ligh. stroke. This is certainly bad news, however the good news is that she is showing improvement, and is home now and doing well. Our prayer is that she will continue to be on the mend, as it is with others who have been and are ill. We pray for all those who are ill or who have been injured, that God will heal them and bring them back to normal health.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have sent in the mailing up-date form from the last month's courier. However, there are still many that have not come back. Please mail as soon as you can, because it can save some of the cost of mailing. Please note that the last issue was sent "first class". I hope this will speed up the mail so you can get the Courier sooner and will have more time to respond with letters and articles.

Editor