The Christian Courier



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MODERNISM - THE TROJAN HORSE

Are you familiar with the story of the Trojan horse? Legend has it the city of Troy was so well fortified they could not be conqured by an assault from without. Her enemies built a huge wooden horse and place it outside the gates of the city. The curiosity of the Trojans got the best of them and they moved the horse within the city. During the night, an enemy who was hidden inside the horse got out and opened the gates from within. The city of Troy was overthrown. Just as the destruction of Troy started from within, so can the church be destroyed by modernism.

"Liberty!" is the cry of the modernists. They try to justify their actions by claiming the "liberty of Christ." "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." [Gal 5:1]

Liberty does not mean license to do anything we want to do. Some people find conflict between liberty and law, but if we study the subject there is no conflict. Notice that the last phrase of "America the beautiful" has "thy liberty in law." Liberty is found in authority. They are not two separate entities at war with one another. Authority guarantees freedom to live without fear of violence. Without certain restrictions and limitations there could be no freedom. Imagine driving on our national highways without laws to govern our driving habits; yet we have freedom to drive near and far.

The writer found no conflict between liberty and law in Psalm 119:44-45; "So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." James called the Word of God "the perfect law of liberty." [James 1:25]

Liberty does mean freedom, but from what? Romans 8:2-3, sheds some light on this. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Christ made us free from the Old Law where one recieved retribution for his sins in this life. Under Christ we are given an opportunity to repent of our sins, and if we don't then retribution awaits us at the judgement seat of God. Sin is still condemned. We still live under a law.

By accepting God's plan of salvation and by living Christ's law of the Spirit, we are made free from sin. If we continue in sin are we made free? Look at Jesus' answer in John 8:34; "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Christ has provided a manner of living that makes us free. Free to do as we please? NO! We have freedom from our sins and eventual death when we reject sin in our lives. If we continue in sin then we are not free from sin, but are servants of Satan, and not of Christ. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ...Being then made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness." [Rom 6:16-18] The apostles saw no conflict in liberty and obedience. What was the liberty and bondage Paul spoke of in Gal. 5:1 (mentioned above)? Are Christians free to do as they please and not be bound by rules and regulations? Of what was Paul speaking? Verse 2 says; "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing." Paul was speaking of Old Law ordinances. Christ freed us from OLD LAW ORDINANCES, not from all ordinances. There was no profit in the Romans keeping the Old Law; but much to profit in keeping the law of Christ.

Today people claim many things of the world as their liberty given by Christ. Christ never gave the type of liberty of which they speak. What does God say about "worldliness" being a liberty? "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them that the beginning." [2 Pet 2:20] This type of liberty is under the bondage of sin.

This cry of "liberty" to justify worldliness in the church has not always been met with opposition. Modernism has not been easily detected in its early stages. Just as in the story of the Trojan horse, modernism has not been recognized until its stronghold has been hard to break. "In the beginning error is meek and asks only to be tolerated.

It pleads for broadmindness. However, once it is entrenched, it becomes inflated, and accusingly asks truth: "What are you doing here?" (R.C. Lenski). Truth of the Bible concerning modernism is rejected, thus leaving any argument against it as being man's opinion. The modernist says we cannot use the Old Testament for law because it was done away on the cross. When a law is given in the New Testament, though, we usually can find supporting Scriptures in the Old Testament. Christ and the apostles many times went to the Old Testament for examples to support what they taught. Most preachers do today, too.

Why is the Old Testament rejected for confirmation concerning worldliness? Perhaps because it involves something we really don't want to give up. The New Testament tells us to dress modestly. Are we left to our own opinions as to what this is? Man's oponion will always differ. Why won't we accept God's definition given in the Old Testament When the modernist rejects God's Old Testament definitions of modesty and nakedness, then he rejects the New Testament usage as bing usable saying they are too vague for man to follow, and thus not binding. Not so.

One problem when confronting modernists is there is a sentimental weakness where people find it difficult to oppose "nice, amiable" people who propagate false teaching. There are hordes of likable , good teachers of false doctrine in the world today.

"Doctrinal deterioration in a group rarely starts with rejection of basic doctrine but rather with indifference as to the importance or significance of that doctrine. Compromise usually begins at the point of silence." (J. Robertson McQuilkin). We often think of the phrase "silence is golden", but is the color really yellow?"

"Therefore brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or by our epistle." [2 Thes 2:15]

IN Christian Love

Ellis P. Forsman - Sea-Tac Church of Christ - Seattle, Washington -

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STILWELL, OK.

THE BIBLE ON ABORTION:

As the title says, this article will deal with what the Bible has to say about abortion. I have a lesson dealing with the subject, which goes into a lot more. It proves it wrong, not only scripturally, but also scientifically, governmentally, and historically, since most people who support abortion are not Christians. It also deals with the pro-choice arguments and examines the methods of abortion. I am currently typing this into an article form. I won't send it to the Courier, because it will be around 20 typed pages. I will provide

it to people on request. It may be a while after you request it that its sent, however, due to the fact that I'm a slow typist.

The word 'abortion' is not in the Bible. Some in the world say, because of this, that the Bible doesn't deal with this subject. If we search the scruptures, however, we find that it does.

We begin with Exod. 20:13; "Thou shalt not kill," I realize this is the old Ten Commandment Law, but this command is brought over to the New Testament with most of the others. Lets look at Rom 13:9. "For this, thou shalt not commit adultry, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehanded in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

So now we come to the question: Is abortion killing? To answer that, we have to find out if that which is within the womb is a human life or not. Is it alive in the womb? Or, does life begin only at birth? To answer that we can go to the scriptures.

Psalms 139:13-16; "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members are witten, which in continunce were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them."

Next lets go to Gen. 25:21-24; "And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be seperated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb." Notice this passage said; "the children struggled together within her." Children, not dead protoplasm or whatever, CHILDREN. Children are alive! If you disagree with that, you must agree that children don't struggle unless they are alive. And where did they struggle? WITHIN HER. So that within the womb IS human life.

Furthur proof? Turn to Jer. 1:4-5; "Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Can we narrow it down furthur? Can we say when in the womb life begins? Certainly. At conception. Lets look at Heb 7:9-10; "And as I may say, Levi also, who received tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him." Think about it.

It said; "In the loins of his father.", not in the womb of his mother. If the scriptures had said Levi was in the womb of his mother, his life could have begun any time from conception to birth. But since it said he was in the loins of his father, there is only one time that his life could have begun. At conception. From this we reach the conclusion that it is human life within the womb, and in fact, life began at conception. Thus abortion is the taking of a human life. It is killing; it is murder. Rev. 21:8 says; "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and ekolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Lets look at some other scriptures regarding this subject. Notice Psalms 127:3; "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Do you think God would want His heritage destroyed? Second, go to Prov. 6:16-19; "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An hear that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethern." Surely, no blood is more innocent than that shed in the womb.

Next, lets go to Ex. 21: 22-23; "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life." While this is no longer law, it does show how much the unborn mean to God.

Why did I send in this article on abortion? Is it because I think any sisters of the church would have one? No, of course not. I don't think any sister would have one. IF there were any who had, it could be forgiven. I had three reasons for sending this article in.

First of all, because abortion is sin, and should be denounced as such by the church. Second, so that you could know what the Bible does say about the subject, to use as ammunition in fighting against it. Third, because I believe that the church should fight agianst abortion, and stand up (break our pitchers as Bro. Logan said) for the unborn children being massacred. Remembering from Rev. 1:6 that we are kings and priests, lets examine Prov 31: 8-9. This is, as we can see from verse 1, instruction from a mother to her son, who is a king. "Open thy mouth for the dumb (those who are unable to speak for themselves) in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy." Surely, none are more poor and needy than the million each year appointed to destruction through abortion. Let us fight for them. If we, the Church of Christ don't, who will? In Christian love. Terry Warford, 409 S first st. Stilwell, Ok. 74960

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

A Card of Thanks

I take this means of expressing my sincerest gratitude to all who were so kind and helpful during the illness and passing of our beloved Claud Perigen.

The flowers at the final service, the cards and expression of sympathy, otherwise, were such a great help to the family in our darkest hour. My heartfelt thanks to Bro. Tom Broadway for the kind words of comfort spoken. I will ever be greatful to Bro. Howard McCay and Sister Nell McCay for the long hours they spent at the hospital to visit Claud.

Burdette Perigen, Gerald & Betty, and Grandchildren.

Baron, Oklahoma

Dear Brethren:

Here is the recent news from the Baron congregation. In the last few weeks, Bro. Paul Andrews and Bro. Walter Ferguson have each come visiting. Both gave excellent lessons, Bro. Paul on "What the Church Needs", and Bro. Walter on "Hell". Bro. Paul sayed for evening services, too, and spoke on the second Chapter of John.

March was Bro. Jim Brown's turn to go to Oklahoma City. He asked me to go to help with the singing. He spoke on the four exceedingly wise things in Prov 30:24-28. It's one of my favorite lessons of his. April is Dad's turn, and May is mine.

Bro. Brian Ross is developing into a good speaker. He gave a lesson recently on "Forgiving" that we all can learn from. Well, thanks to all the recent visitors. We invite everyone, anytime. If you can, you're welcome at our meeting in June 22-29 with Bro. Al Way. Lets work harder at spreading the Gospel and teaching to observe the commandments of Christ, Matt 28:21. Lets also be willing to suffer more persecutions, 11 Tim 3:12 & Acts 5:40-42. Finally, let us strive against sin, Heb. 12:4, not each other; 11 Tim 2:23-26. Let us do more of these things, Brothes and Sisters, because it is worth it, 1 Cor. 15:58, 11 Cor 4:17-18. We sometimes feel uncomfortable about being a peculiar people, Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:9, but remember; We'll be peculiar come judgement day too, Matt 25.

In Christian Love
Terry Warford for the Church
of Christ at Baron, Oklahoma

Burkburnett, Texas

Hello Brethren:

Just a note from the Church at Randlett, Oklahoma. This leaves all well here at the present. We are a very small congregation, ao therefore we do appreciate the Christian Courier. It is very uplifting and strengthening.

We would like to extend an invitation to any of you Brothers and Sisters to come and be with us, anytime. Our meeting time is 10:30 A.M. each Lord's Day Morning. Our home address is:

Leroy & Darlene Mullens, 626 East 3rd St.
Burkburnett, Texas 76454
Phone (817) 569-1956 Or Bro. Otto & Nora Elliott at (817) 569-1423

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Penn Valley, California

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

We are all doing well, although we are very small in number. We always look forward to the 3rd Sunday, when Bro & Sis Logan and grandchildren come up, and most of the congregation from Marysville. We have a full day of wonderful Christian fellowship.

We thought the Courier was extra good this time, with the good articles from Bro. Howard McCay and Bro. Dan Ross. And what a pleasant supprise to find that Bro. Bedingfield has started to contribute his talant to articles of exhortation to the paper. We sincerely hope he continues to send in sermons for us to read and study.

I agree with Bro. Bedingfield that congregations should take care of problems that arise, but we are all the congregation of our Lord and we all hope when we stand before God on that final Day, that He will say "Well done." So I sincerely hope that if I am doing wrong, he (Bro Bedingfield) will help me get on the right pathway, whether or not I am of his congregation or not. Lev. 19:17; "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and suffer not sin upon him."

Please find us worthy of correction!

In Christian Love of the Truth
Bro. & Sis. Ken Harper.

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BAPTISMS

Erica Ferguson	March 30,1986	Goshen, Arkansas
Scott Edwards	March 30,1986	Goshen, Arkansas
Quenton Smith	March 30,1986	Goshen, Arkansas

We welcome you, brothers and sisters to a joyous life. Always remember to put God first in everything. Your Brethren in Christ

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.	June 30 - July 6	Al Way
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 27 - Aug 3	Rex Mickey
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 3 - 10	R. Walkingstick
Yakima, Wa.	to-be-announced	Lloyd Algood
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 30 - Sept 1	To-be-announced

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LORENZO, TEXAS

To our brothers at the Courier:

We realize this is kind of short notice, but please try to get this in the next issue of the Courier. We at the Lorenzo, Texas congregation are planning a week-end meeting June 5 - 8. Brother Jerry McCay will be speaking for us, Lord willing.

We appreciate the effort you all put out each month. Keep up the good work.

May God Bless and Keep you all.
The Lorenzo congregation.

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

I will try to catch up on the news here. We are having lots of visitors & we appreciate everyone of them. One Sunday night the Lawson family, who were staying over in Eastern Ark., came by for services On March 9th we had several visitors from the Stilwell congregation. Bro. Bob Eldridge & family, Bro. Bill Ross & family, & Sis. Ross. Bro Bob gave the lesson. We enjoyed the lesson & having all of them here. On April 6th, Bro Jim & Sis Ruby Brown & Bro Brett from Baron were here. Bro Brown gave us a good lesson as usual. On Sun. night, April 13th, Bro Terry Warford, from Baron, was here and gave us another good lesson. The best news, is on Sunday, March 30th, there were three young people baptized into Christ. They were Erica Ferguson, Scott Edwards & Quenton Smith. I know we never get to old to obey the gospel, but its especially joyfull when young people decide to spend the rest of their lives in the Lord's vinyard. The boys are both leading songs and doing a good job. Also on April 13th, Sister Geanean Smith asked for the prayers of the church. We are beginning to look forward to all the meetings in this part. All visitors keep coming. You are all welcome. Paul Andrews; Rt. 2: Hindsville, Ark. 72738; (501) 789-5878