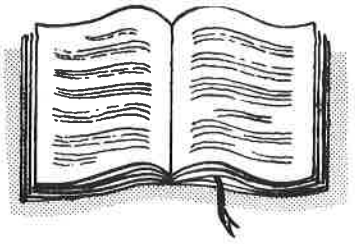
The Christian Courier



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June 1986

THE PRODIGAL SON

We find this parable recorded in Luke 15:11-32.

According to the modern society which we live in, the prodigal son wouldn't be called a sinner. Let me borrow a quote from a paper. "He would not be called a sinner, perhaps a juvenile delinquent, but his parents would be the blame for that. There are no bad boys. His wild oats are just youthful exuberance, a normal re bellion against an unjust society. He must be free to adjust positively." Let us compare this with the Bible and see if it matches. Luke 15:13; "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with ritous living." What does ritous living mean? It comes form the Greek word 'ASTOS'. Vine says it means wastefully. He continues though the word does not necessarily signify 'dissolutely,' the parable narrative makes clear that this is the meaning here. Other translations makes this very clear. The NKJV says prodigal living. Webster defines this as recklessly extravagant living. The NIV says wild living. The New Life Translation says wild and fooling living. The left colmn in the Diaglott says 'dissolutely. Webster defines this as loose in morals. The right colmn in the Diaglott says 'profligate'. Webster defines this as disolate; living in vice; estravagant.

Luke 15:15; "And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine." I know that a pig pen is dirty and doesn't smell very good, but he wouldn't think it to terrible to have to feed the hogs. It was unlawful for a Jew to keep hogs or to eat them and when he had to feed them for

his living, he had sunk just about as low as he could.

Lets now read Luke 15:30; "But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou has killed for him the fatted calf." In the original Greek the word 'harlot' means just about the same as we understand it to mean today. It comes from the word 'porne'. Thayer says it means any woman indulging in unlawful sexual intercourse, whether for gain, or for lust. The main thing we should get from this parable, is ever though he had gotten into sin just as far as he could, he hadn't gotten to far to come back to his father. Today we can't sin to much to come back to God. LIVE as the prodigal son has chosen to do, and there will be much rejoicing.

Written with Christian Love.

Paul Andrews
Rt. 2 Hindsville Ark.72738

Phone [501] 789-5878

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HONORING GOD

Matt 12: 36 - 37

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned"

There are many idle words that men use that are not wholesome words or given to sound doctrine. We have a tendency to open our mouths and start talking when we should stop and consider first. How many times have we or heard someone say 'I (or they) sure was lucky or fortunate'? Brethren there are only two great forces in the world, God and Satan. James 1:16; "Do not err my beloved brethren. (17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father fo lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." There is not a third power in the world called 'lady luck'. Any good we recieve comes from God and we are to give the glory and honor and praise to Him from whom all blessings flow. Evil is not bad luck for ALL evil comes from Satan. If you search your Bible, you will discover that the words 'lucky' or 'fortunate' are not found anywhere therein. So would they be classed as 'idle words'? Certainly the use of them is not showing praise and honor and glory to God. In all that we do or say, let it be to the glory of God, and not just vain noise to speak because we don't have anything better to say.

Moses, just once, failed to give God the honor and it cost him a home in Cannan. (Mal 3:8) "Will a man rob God?" Anytime we fail to use words that show we do honor Him for all he has done for us and has promised to do for us, then we have failed Him. We are robbing Him of His just due and may cost us our home as it did Moses and as you know the list could go on and on of those who robbed God of the

Glory, and the results. 1 Peter 3:15; "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness, and fear. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." Let us suffer for good and Give God the praise, honor and glory.

Brethren, He is something special.

Written with love.

Howard McCay
Rt. 3 Box 657 - #19
Yakima, Wa. 98901

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INIQUITY

Matt. 7:15-23:

We hear our Saviour teaching to beware of false prophets which come to you in 'sheeps clothing'. (or as Christians). We are made to wonder why are we to beware of them. He explains what to look for on a tree whether it be good or bad and said we would know them by their fruits. Then states that the tree that brings not forth good fruit it is hewen down and cast into the fire. Then said "not every one that saith Lord, Lord or that saith he is a Christian shall enter into the kingdom of heaven but he that doeth the will of the Father." He said many will say unto me in that day, have we not prophisied in thy name and cast out devils and done many wonderful works. I will profess unto them, depart, I never knew you, ye that work iniquity.

This is a brief summary of His teachings here on who it is that works iniquity and to be aware of them. I am made to wonder why that in all the years that I have heard men preach, I have not heard one that has used this subject in its intirety. We will be judged in that day as though we were those that work iniquity or according to how we have taught and lived, good or bad. So why is iniquity so important to each one? Hear what God says through the prophet Isiah, chapter 59, verse 2; "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins, have hid His face from you that He will not hear. Verse 12; "for our transgressions are multiplied before thee and our sins testify against us. For transgressions are with us and there are a lot more of which I don't have room to mention. If we shall be judged in that day according to what we have done in word and deed. (Cor 3:17) And yet we hear no one warning of those iniquities that separate between us and God and what few we do mention somepone is always ready to condemn us for warning against those things, as in Duet. 22:5; 1 Cor 11:1-18; 1 Tim 2:9-10; And try to tell us we should not come out on those things. (Titus 1;3; 2:7) Where we are taught to show ourselves approved of good works. Titus 2:14; Christ gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and pureify

unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. 1 Tim 2:10; The apparel that becomes people professing godliness. We see Christians on Sunday looking nice and respectable, but through the week wearing shorts, one piece swim suits, sun suits and other things. If they were godly when they were, properly dressed in Church, then what were they when they are out among the world. Isiah 5:11-14; 5:20-21&23; So let us think on these things and realize that we will be judged by those words of God according to the way we live them.
In Chrisitan love to all.

Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock, Broken Bow. Ok.
74728

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

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BARON, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have some wonderful news to report from Baron. Angie Ross was baptized April 20th after services. New Christians are the best news to report and we are thrilled about Sister Angie. Converting souls to Christ is one of our most important works, and we nee to invest more time and energy into that work. We were also thrilled to hear of three of our friends at Goshen being baptized.

We are all looking forward to our meeting this summer. Bro. Al Way is the speaker we wanted since we heard him two years ago at Goshen. We are very greatful to him for coming out.

April was Dad's turn to go to Oklahoma City. Bro Walter and Sister Vickie Ferguson and their daughter Sister Erica went with him and mom. On their way back they met with us Sunday night. Bro. Walter gave us an excelent lesson on Spiritual growth. Yesterday (April 27), Bro Melvin Daniels was here with his wife Sister Rachael and son Mark. I was visiting the Stilwell congregation at the time so I don't know what he spoke on. After singing at Stilwell that afternoon, they came to the house for coffee and visit which we enjoyed very much. I hope I didn't miss any visitors. I appologise if I did.

Let's remember to keep the Church in our prayers always. Resisiting the Devil is a constant, and daily battle but that home in heaven and thelove of the brethren is worth fighting for.
In Christian love. Terry Warford for the Church of Christ at Baron, Ok.
My address is 409 S. first St. Stilwell, Ok. 94960

FURNISH CANYON-KENTON, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a short note to announce the meeting here. Bro. Tom Broadway has agreed to hold a week of meetings July 6th through July 13th. We welcome all who can, to come. It will be good to see Tom and Charlene again.

All is well here. Not many visitors. Just the regular members who come each Lord's Day. Sister Millye Francis has been able to come to worship each Lord's Day all winter. Perhaps she missed one Sunday because of bad weather. Thanks go to Ellen Wallace who stays with Sister Francis at Boise City, and drives her out each Sunday. Will we be able to set that kind of example when we reach our 90 YEARS plus?

Sorry we were so long writing this time. We enjoy the Courier.

In Christian Love. Billy L. Richardson for the Church at Furnish Canyon, Kenton, Oklahoma. 73946

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BELLFLOWER, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here sen s their love to all the brotherhood. We hope everyone is doing well and being blessed by the Lord. We have all beer. saddened by the death of Bro. Claud Perigen. He was a faithful leader who worked very hard for the Church here at Bellflower. His interests were not only for the Church here but for the whole brotherhood. He willingly gave his time and energy to hold many gospel meetings and to talk about the Bible. Brother Claud will be truly missed but we take comfort in the fact that he has gone on to a better place.

Bill Taylor and his family were here visiting during the Easter vacation. We certainly enjoyed visiting with them and appareciate Brother Bill bring us a lesson from the Word of God.

With Christian love. For the Belflower congregation,

Gerald Brockman

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OLIVEHURST, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

There is a small group of brethren meeting in their home in Olivehurst, Ca. each Lord's Day at 10:30. Olivehurst is a small community just south of Yuba City, Ca. on Highway 70. Please make every effort to go and meet with them when ever you can. They would love to have

visitors from the Church any time. Brother and Sister J.D. and Fern Logan, and Brother and Sister Eric and Lillian Smith and their families were there visiting with them reciently and were encouraged by their enthusiasm and their desire to serve the Lord. They enjoyed their hospitality and would recommend that you visit as soon as you can. You can reach them by phone or by letter. Contact Lee McDonald at (916) 742-4421 or Loyal Hurley at (916) 743-8755; or write to Loyal Hurley at 1813 - 7th Avenew, Olivehurst, Ca. 95961.

In Christian love; J.D. Logan for the Church at Olivehurst.

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SELAH, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are happy to announce the baptism of Gerald Warner of Springfield Oregon at Selah, April 28th. Then on April 30th, he was married to Sister Anna Lee Roberts of Florence, Oregon at the Dalles, Oregon. They will make their home at Springfield, Oregon.

Nell and I are glad to be home following the meeting at Roll Arizona. All the Christians here are well for which we are very thankful to the Lord. I was glad to note that some who opposed articles in the Courier are now writing articles for it. Keep up the good work brethren. With Christian love,

Howard McCay
Rt. 3, Box 657, A 19 - Yakima, Wa. 98901

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PLEASANTVIEW, OK.

Dear Brothes and Sisters in Christ:

It has been quite a while since I wrote, so will try to do so now. During the winter we had quite a bout with the flu, but everyone seems to be doing okay now. Sister Viola Brown missed quite a few services because of sickness but is able to attend services again for which we are thankful. Sister Emma Brown is in the Stilwell Nursing Home now, and anyone passing thru can visit her there. Bro. John Brown was in the hospital for surgery last week but is home now. We have had quite a few visitors since I wrote last, and will not try to name them all for fear I will miss some. As vacvation time is here again, if you are traveling this way, we would be glad to have more of you to plan on coming to Northeastern Oklahoma for a visit. We here at Pleasantview always enjoy visitors.

In Christian love, Gerald L. Buckner, Rt. 5 Box 145 - Stilwell, Ok.74960
Phone (918) 696-3249

FLORA VISTA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Brethren:

Just a note to let you know we enjoy getting the paper. Also we want to share our happiness with all, and report that on Sunday, May 11, 1986 we had four come forward and confess the name of Jesus Christ before men, and were baptized into the Body of Christ.

They were:

TIM MICKEY
KEN PATTERSON
JEFF BAKER
TONYA BAKER

THERE IS MUCH REJOYCING HERE.

Love to all from
Rex Mickey
Rd. 3463 - #25 Aztec, New Mex.
97410

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HAPPY HALLOW CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We had a call from Bro & Sis Eddie Wilkerson from Cedaredge, Co. (Happy Hallow Congregation) and everyone is well at home. We are looking forward to the Delta Camp Meeting July 5 to 14th. Again we would like to say the Camp Meeting is held every year with the help of other congregations, buy donations and physical help too. Any individual or individuals that wish to help by donating funds just send it to the address below. We have many things to pay for because we rent the building and so on. Last year all of the expenses came to $1961.18 and the donations were $2056.35. Again thanks to each and everyone that donated and that helped out in any way, whether in the kitchen or from the pulput. Lord willing, you will come again this year and help us.

Bro. Ken Baldwin is in Phoenix, Az. recovering from a major surgery called an 'aneurysm'. The doctors say he is doing as well as can be expexted. He is not well yet by any means, but each day shows improvement. Lord willing we hope to be well enough to go home last of May. We thank all of you for your cards, letters, phone calls and prayers, and for caring and sharing comeing to be with us, we love you all. Lord willing Bro. Ken will be well soon, and back in the Lord's vinyard preaching again.

Your donations are needed now, so send them right away as time is running short. As of this date, we have not recieved any donations, but we trust the Lord to provide so His Word can go out.

Send your help to Ken Baldwin - 541 Howard - Box 188 - Delta, Co. 81416. Phone (303) 874-4581.

We pray that we won't have to cancel the meeting from lack of funds, and we will do everything we can to see that it will go on.

May God bless you and keep you in His loving care.

In Christian Love and Prayers;

Bro. & Sis. Ken Baldwin

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GOSPEL MEETING CALANDER

GOSHEN, AR	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
GOSHEN, AR.	June 30 - July 6	Al Way
DELTA, CO.	July 5 - 14	CAMP
BELLFLOWER, Ca.	July 20 - 27	Tom Broadway
PORT ORCHARD, WA.	July 27 - Aug 3	Rex Mickey
YAKIMA, WA.	Aug 3 - 10	R. Walkingstick
Yakima, Wa.	to be announced	Lloyd Algood
LOCO, OKLAHOMA	Aug 3 - 10	Gerald Perigen
SAN PABLO, CA.	Aug 30 - Sept 1	To be announced
FURNISH CANYON, Ok.	July 6 - 13	Tom Broadway

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BAPTISMS

Sister Angie Ross	April 20, 1986	Baron, Oklahoma
Brother Gerald Warner	April 28, 1986	Selah, Wa.
Brother Tim Mickey	May 11, 1986	Aztec, New Mexico
Brother Ken Patterson	May 11, 1986	Aztec, New Mexico
Brother Jeff Baker	May 11, 1986	Aztec, New Mexico
Sister Tonya Baker	May 11, 1986	Aztec, New Mexico

"REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAY: AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

We welcome you, dear Brothers and Sister in Christ. All the saints in Christ salute you and rejoice with you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

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MARRIAGES

Brother Gerald Warner and Sister Anna Lee Roberts were married at the Dalles in Oregon on April 30. They will make their home in Springfield, Oregon.

A special congratulations to the Newlyweds. May your Christian life be to the glory, praise and honor to God.