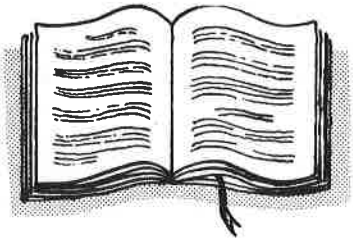
The Christian Courier



Published monthly by the Church of Christ

Send all correspondence to 1273 Plumleigh Ln. Concord, Ca. 94521

December 1986

"...Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver."

Proverbs 25:11

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (Jesus speaking) [Matt 12:37]

How often do we, as Christians, take the time to recall these powerful words of Jesus, or Lord, BEFORE we open our mouths to speak? How many times, had we taken the time, would these words have made the difference in what we had to say to someone or about someone? How many times has each of us looked back on something we've said to someone else and wished so badly we could take it back, or at least have said it in a different way? None of us needs to be reminded of the hurt or anger wrong words have caused us to feel at times in our lives. How small a thing is a word, but how big is the effect it can have on us! [James 3:5] "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." [Prov. 18:21] "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Before considering our own words, let's consider the Lord's Words for a moment. God's Words are truth. [John 17:17] "Sanctify them thy truth: Thy Word is truth." God's Words can give us life. [John 6:63] "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." We glorify God when we speak as the Bible speaks. [1 Pet 4:11]

Few other subjects in God's Word are covered thoroughly and extensilely as the one showing us how we are (and how we are not) to speak. Let's take a close look at some on these scriptures.

We are not to lie. [Col 3;9] "Lie not to one another...." [Prov 12:22] "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal

truly are his delight." We are not to swear or use off-colored language [Eph 4:29] "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying that it may administer grace unto the hearers." Vain and flattering (empty) words are also condemned. [Eph 5:6] "Let no man deceive you with vain words...." [Prov 26:28] "...and a flattering mouth worketh ruin." [11 Tim 2:16] "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." Complaining and murmuring (instead of identifying a problem and going on to solve it) is not the way for a Christian to speak., according to 1 Cor 10"10. "Neither murmur ye..." [Phil 2:14] "Do all things without murmurings and disputings."

Answering to quickly (or in anger) without pondering our words first is not wise, either, as we see in [Prov 29:20] "Seeist thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him." Some of the most harmful words of all are those negative ones spoken about another who is not present to defend himself: in cluded in these are 'name-calling' and trying to make someone else look foolish to those around us. [Prov 11:12] "He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace." [Prov 25:9] "Debate thy cause with thy brother himself; and discover not a secret to another."

Passing along a rumor or repeating something told to us in confidence cannot be any better, as we read in [Prov 17:9] "He that repeateth a matter separateth very friends." [Prov 11;13] "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a fatithful spirit concealeth the matter." Surely gossip falls under the same catagory as "variance" (discord among brethren), and "strife" (bitter, sometimes violent, discord among bretheren): both of which are called "the works of the flesh" [Gal 5:19-21]. Consider [Prov 26:20] "Where no wood is, the fire goeth out; so where there is no talebearer, the stife ceaseth." Question: What if we are careful not to repeat gossip but love to listen to it? Is there any difference between a "gossiping tongue" and "gossiping ears?"

As for the positive side of this subject, there is much good we all can do with our words. Jus as in every other aspect of our Christian life, our speech must always be done in love (charity). [1 Cor 13:1] Instead of hurting others, Christians are to try their hardest to use their words to comfort and stengthen one another. [1 Thes 5:11] "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another...." We are told to teach one another--which helps to edify (build us up) [Titus chapter 2] We strengthen and comfort one another (as well as praise God) when we sing together. [Col 3:16]. As we see in [Heb 3:13] we are to exhort (give warnings or advise to) one other daily". And, when necessary reprove (scold, critisize, or correct gently, or with kindly intent), or rebuke (to critisize sharply; reprimand). [11 Tim 4:2]

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering (patience) and doctrine (as God's Word speaks)". Of course, when this is the case, we are to do this in the spirit of meekness and kindness. [Gal 6:1] "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restor such an one in the spirit of meekness; concidering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." [Eph 4:31-32] "Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (See also Col 3:12-15).

Where then, does the attitude of "being right", "winning the argument", or "having the last word" fit into a Christian's speach? "Being right" in our understanding of God's Word does no good if we don't use it for the good of others. We can "win the argument" and loose a soul in the process, if we aren't careful. "Having the last word" can make us feel important, but how does it make the listner feel? What is our purpose in speaking, if it is not to the benifit of the listener? [1 Cor 14:26] "Let all things be done unto edifying." Even so, we listeners have our responsibilities, too.

"Who does she think she is.....telling me what I'm doing may not be right?" "Why does he think I need his advise?" Is this how we react if we find ourselves being exhorted or advised by our brother or sister? Are we insulted or angry that they do not say exactly what we would like to hear? We need to LISTEN, first of all-- our brother or sister could be right. [Prov 15:32] "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding." Even though it is not always pleasant, we will profit very much from it. [ie Heb 12:11]. Even if our brother or sister is not right in what they say, by listening to them first, we have the opportunity to give them an intelligent answer, thereby helping them. [Prov 15;28] "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer..." And, as we have already seen, this should always be done in love. [Eph 4:15] "But speaking in the truth in love.."

God has given us all, in some measure, the power to bring death or life about simply by the way we speak. How important, then, is "each little word we say"? Important enough to justify or condemn us someday? Remember Jesus' words in Matt. 12:37!

Let us all strive harder to make all our words "sound speech" that cannot be condemned, which becomes "sound doctrine", by allowing the Word of God to be our guide always. Consider the effect our words will have on others before we say them---make all our words "apples of gold in pictures of silver."

In Christian Love

Lou Herbert 14105 118th Ave. N.W.- Gig Harbor, Wa. 98335

BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS

[1 Kings 18:21] "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him." Where two opposing opinions are presented, it is ALWAYS safe to accept GOD'S opinion. It is NEVER safe to accept MAN'S opinion. I submit the following, stating ONLY GOD'S opinion nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

[Isa 59:7-8] "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of PEACE they know not; and there is no judgement in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: Whosoever goeth therein shall not know PEACE." [Rom 3:13-18] "Their throat is an open sepulchre; ;with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of PEACE have they not known: There is no fear of GOD before their eyes." [Rom 2:9-10] "Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, houour, and PEACE, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."

[Rom 10:15] "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, and bring glad tidings of GOOD things." [Rom 14:19] "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for PEACE, and things wherewith one may edify another." [1 Cor 14:23] "For God is not the author of confusion, but of PEACE, as in all Churches of the saints." [Eph 2:13-17] "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our PEACE, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us having abolished in his flesh the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making PEACE. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached PEACE to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

[Phil 4:7] "And the PEACE OF GOD, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." [Col 3:15] "Let the PEACE OF GOD rule in your heart, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." [1 Thes 5:13] "And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And BE AT PEACE AMONG YOURSELVES." [11 Tim 2:22-24] "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, PEACE with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned question avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord MUST NOT STRIVE but be gentle to all men, apt to teach, patient."

[Heb 12:14] "Follow PEACE with ALL MEN, and holiness, without which NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD." [James 3:18] "And the fruit of RIGHTOUSNESS is sown in PEACE of them that make PEACE."

[11 Cor 13:11] "Finaly, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, LIVE IN PEACE; and the God of LOVE and PEACE shall be with you." [11 Peter 3:14] "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found on him in PEACE, without spot, blameless." [Matt 5:8-9] "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS: for they shall be called the children of God."

Written with the prayer that all brethren would seek PEACE and find it.

J.W. Bedingfield
2202 Pickerton
Deer Park, Texas 77536

==========

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

==========

Randlett, Oklahoma

Dear Brethren:

It has been some time since I have written, so I thought I would write a short note for the congregation here. We are all well at present We have had a few visitors by from the Loco, Ok. church and Bro. Eldridge from Stilwell, Ok. came by and visitied us in our home. We love visitors, so anyone coming through this area, stop by and visit and worship with us. We had the opportunity to visit Broken Bow meeting and also the Tiner, Ok. congregation. We want to thank those of you who have sent help in getting our church building up. We have gone ahead and borrowed $4000.00 to complete our building. So if there be some who can help in our effort in the Lord's work, we would greatly appreciate it.

The last Courier read as if a mistake had been made but near $7000.00 is the cost of the building and errection. We had part of the money. And we had paid for our lot. It was not a gift. Misunderstanding only. So we are still short of our goal $4000.00. I want to apoligize to Bro. and Sister Barnes and also to Bro. Lloyd Treat, because I didn.t make myself clear. So if there is any questions, please feel free to call me at (817) 569-1956 - LEROY MULLENS.

Enclosed is a small gift to help keep the Courier coming. We love it and look forward to receiving it for the good lessons. May God bless each one for their works of Truth and the publishers of the Courier.

Remember us in your prayers, is our desire, and we pray for you.

Leroy Mullins, for the Church of Christ at P.O. Box 7, Randlett, Ok. 73562, in care of O.M. Elliot. Leroy Mullins-P.O. Box 572-Burkburnett Texas, 76354

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Loved Ones:

Our love to the faithful everywhere. Well the rush of summer is over, and we are looking forward to the quieter months. Most here are doing well. We have had our share of flu this fall, but are now on the mend. Myrtle Lee hasn't been feeling well for some time, but is almost always at church. She puts some of the young people to shame.

Tammy and Mark have moved into their home. Tayna and Marty and Gerry and Natalie have bought homes and have moved now. Lori is attending school in Bakersfield and drives home on the weekend for church.

Jerry Perigen was back east for several weeks and is now back home. He enjoyed meeting with the brethren at Chesterton, Indiana. Although few in number, we continue meeting Sunday morning and Sunday night and enjoy getting together thursday night for fellowship.

We thank God daily for all His many blessings, most of all for the love of our brethren.

Bro. Al Way for the church at Bellflower.

==========

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Ones In Christ:

I want to thank each and every one from the Loco congregation for being so wonderful and thoughtful while my leg was fractured. Especially Brother and Sister Joe Taylor who came after me every Sunday for church. Their kindness will never be forgotten.

God bless everyone
Larrissa Smith

==========

GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Dear ones in Christ:

I am writing for our small congregation that meets in Medford, Or. about 30 miles south of Grants Pass. We are all doing fine at present. We moved the church from Grants Pass because the older members lived at Medford and it was eaiser for us to drive over there.

For those not familiar with the area, the directions are as follows; Medford has two one-way streets that paralel with the over-head freeway, going north and south. Both cross Jackson St. so if coming form the north, you make a left turn on Jackson. If from the south, turn right. Go until you pass under the over-head freeway. The Sears shopping center is on the left. Go one block past it to Howard St. Turn left, one block to Bennett. The church building is a green building on the right, and faces Bennett St. (808 Bennett ST.) Call Harry Wigley at 862-2421 or Marie Henney at 779-8913 in Medford.

We are few in number but still carry on. I am the only leader left so we do welcome all Brothers and Sisters passing our way. We had several visitors this summer and fall. Bro. Rex Mickey and Sister Tina Mickey came twice. He brought some fine lessons.

We enjoy the paper with the news of where the churches are and how they are doing.

With christian love and prayers, Medford Chruch of Christ.

==========

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Here is a list of the recent news from Baron. First of all, we really enjoyed our weekend meeting with Bro. Lloyd Treat. He did an excellent job of preaching the truth. One brother taking notes, counted over 60 scriptures in one lesson. Thats what I like about Church of Christ preachers. We sincerely thank Bro. Treat for his time and effort, especially when he had to leave his wife home sick. That shows a lot of love for the brethren. We hope and pray that Susie Treat continues to improve. Also a special thank you to Bro. Edwin Crowell for driving Bro. Treat here and home, especially seeing that he had to take off work to do it. We also want to thank the Stilwell congregation for their support every night. I also want to thank all the brothers and sisters at Broken Bow for their love and hospitality. Also thanks to all the visitors we had there.

One Sunday in October we had Bro. Melvin Daniels here to speak. I'm sure he did a good job as usual, but I can't report what he spoke on because I was at Goshen with Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Buckner that week. Last week, Nov.9th, Bro. George Morris was here from Stilwell with his wife Retha. He spoke on "The truth shall make you free." It was an excellent lesson. Thanks to all our visitors. We look forward to having you again. We can't announce our meeting time yet for 1987, but hopefully in our next letter we can.

In christian love, for the congregation at Baron, Oklahoma.

Brother Terry Warford

==========

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We in the Oklahoma City congregation are doing fine. We hope this letter finds you all in the good spirit of christian love. We all try to remain in this good Spirit, but it is a difficult task at times. In Matt. 6:21 the scripture reads..."For where your treasure is, there

will your heart be also." If our heart is not concerned with the spiritual, then we are not spiritual. I know that we all are human and that we all make mistakes, but this can not be our justification for continuing in sin. We are to rise above the things in this world. We don't stop trying because we know the world will be destroyed. Instead, we try harder. I exhort all my brothers and sisters to strive even harder to do the good works of the spirit. In Gal. 5:16, the scripture reads; "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Being a good christian will keep us from being a sinner. We must then, be a good christian.

For those who may be in our area in the future, I will again forward the address of the church here in OKC. It is 645 SE 11th St. Mail is not delivered to this address. My address is the following.

Roger Walkingstick-700 SE 38th St.-Moore, Oklahoma-73160

My phone # is 793-9489. All that are in the area please come and worship with us.

In Christian Love
The OKC congregation

==========

A PENITENT SINNER [Acts 16: 26-30]

There are many ways by which an unsaved person may come to the point of surrender to Christ. The situation of the Philippian jailer was most unusual. An earthquake opened the doors of the prison and loosed the bonds of the prisoners. The jailer's first impulse was to commit suicide, because he was answerable for the prisoners with his life and he supposed the prisoners had escaped. Paul intervened with the assurance that no prisoner had fled. God used these events to bring the jailer to a deep sense of his sin and guilt. Perhaps he had heard Paul and Silas during the previous days. God used some means to awaken the jailer's conscience, to reveal to him his spiritual need, to bring him to contrition, to lead him to cry out; "What must I do to be saved?" His question is the most important question a lost person can ever ask. It reveals the first response which is indispensable in the experience of redemption---a sense of being lost. Redemption calls for repentance---a penitent spirit springing from an awareness of having sinned against God and being in need of his forgiveness. Thus, redemption calls for a lost person believing in God and His Word, then repenting, changing his mind about his own way of living, then confessing that Jesus is the Son of God and that God did raise him from the dead, and the final act is being baptized into the Body of Christ, thus, this act means that you are BORN into the family of God.

If you are in this condition, please contact any of the congregations found in this publication, and they will assist you in a Biblical manner.

Selected

DID JESUS DRINK WINE?

[This derives from a study by the assistant professor of pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Oklahoma, Loyd V. Allen Jr.]

I am quoting his words, letter for letter.

"Did Jesus drink wine? This question has plagued Christians for years. The Bible refers to wine as poisonous and distructive [Proverbs 23:31-32, Duet. 32:33] yet a blessing, comfort, and necessity of life [Gen 27:28, Deut 11:14, Joel 3:18 Pl. 104:14-15],; as the cause of intoxication, violence [Prov 4:17], woe [Prov 23:29-30], self security and irreligion [Hab 2:5], yet as being presented at the altar as an offering to God [Num 18:12, Neh 10:37]; condemning to those who are devoted to drink [Isa 5:22, 1 Cor 6:10], yet as the emblem of spiritual blessing [Isa 55:1]; as the emblem of punishment or eternal ruin [Rev 14:10, 16:19], yet as an emblem of the blood of atonement [Matt 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24].

Do these blessings and curses refer to the same substance? If Jesus drank wine, and we are to pattern ourselves after his life, should we not also drink wine? What does the Bible say about wines? To shed some light on this question, let's look at some of the terminology used in the early manuscripts.

YAYIN___a general term which means the juice of the grape [fermented or unfermented]. The context in which is used often indicates whether the juice has undergone the process of fermentation. IT is mentioned 141 times in the Bible; [e.g. Ps 104:14-15, Isa 55:1, Prov. 9:2].

SHAKAR___a term referring to the juice obtained from dates and other fruits (grapes usually excluded) either in a fermented or unfermented state [Lev. 10:9, Num 6:3, 28:27, Deut 14:26, Judges 13:4, 7,14, 1 1 Sam 1:15, Prov. 20:1, Isa 5:11, Micah 2:11.]

GLEUKOS___refers to the sweet, unfermented juice of the grape.

MUST___refers to the newly expressed grape juice before it has begun to ferment. This term is still used today.

TROSH___refers to the natural condition of the fruits of the vines [Neh 10:39, 13:5,12, Prov 3:10, Isa 24:7, 62:8, 65:8, Hos 9:2, Joel 1:10, Micah 6:15, Hag 1:11.]

KHEMER___refers to the foamy appearance of newly expressed grape juice and fermenting grape juice. [Ps 75:8]

AHSIS___is used to denote the jucie of newly-trodden grapes or other fruit [Isa 49:26, Joel 1:5, 3:18, Amos 9:13.]

SOVEH___possibly denotes a boiled wine (e.g. sapa, defrutum.)

MESEK___a mixture. It refers to a liquid compounded of various ingredients. [Ps 75:8, 102:9, Prov 9:2, Prov 23:30, Isa 65:11]

Most of the aforementioned terms were translated simply as "wine". However, after studying these Scriptures, it is readily apparent that "wine" refers to various types of beverages; sweet as well as strong, fermented as well as unfermented, intoxicating as well as nonintoxicating.

Let's turn our attention now to the question "Did the people of the Bible days possess the knowledge and ability to preserve fresh juice expressed from fruits (grapes)?

Fermentation will normally occur if the following conditions are met: (1) There must be a source of sugar in the proper concentration. (2) There must be a type of yeast present. (3) The temperature must be suitable. (4) There must not be any material(s) present to hinder fermentation. Fermentation of the fruit juices will not take place if: (1) A sufficient amount of water is removed such that the juice becomes a thick syrup. (2) The (grape) juice is filtered and yeast cells are removed. (3) The temperature is less than about 45 degrees or greater than about 75 degrees. (4) Sulfur, oil of mustard, or certain other materials are present.

The anceints did possess the knowledge and ability to preserve expressed grape juice; fresh sweet and unfermented, throughout the entire year. There were at least four methods used to preserve "wine" in an unfermented state.

1. BOILING___by boiling the fresh juice, water was lost through evaporation resulting in a thick, syrupy liquid (Sapa, Defrutum). In this thickened state, it would not ferment. To restore it to its norman consistency, water was simply added. There is an abundance of evidence that the ancients mixed their wines with water to prepare them for drinking. The quanity of water varied depending upon the time of year.

2.FILTRATION____by filtering the grape juice, any yeast present would be removed and fermentation woud not occur. Simple filtration, through sand or various other materials, is a technique still in use today to purify liquids.

3. SUBSIDENCE____yeast cells will settle if fermentation is prevented for a limited period of time. The fresh juice was kept cold by placing it in tight containers in cool caves, rivers, creeks, or holes, for a few weeks. The juice was then carefully poured off into new containers leaving the yeast at the bottom of the old container.

4. FUMIGATION___fermentation can be stopped or prevented by sulfur-contaning materials. This was accomplished by using fumes of sulfur or mixing the yokes of eggs or other materials containing sulfur with the fresh juice.

There are scores of historical references (e.g. Plato, Columelia, Virgil, Pliny, Aristotle, Horace, Homer, Plutarch, and Josephus) which

could be cited for the above and many of them are refered to in the informative book by William Patton, 'Bible Wines' or 'Laws of Fermentation' and 'Wines of the Ancients'.

The Last Supper [Matt 26;26-30] provides furthur support to the use of nonintoxicating, unfermented "wine". The Passover bread and wine were used at this occasion. All leaven (yeast) was forbidden at this feast and for seven days thereafter. In order for the bread and wine to be in harmony and to qualify, they must both be unleavened or unfermented, i.e., prepared without yeast. Therefore the "wine" was sweet wine or unfermented fruit of the vine.

Drinking alcoholic beverages, especially wine, is very fashionable today. It is very difficult to go to a resturant or supermarket where alcohol is not served or sold. What are we, as Christians, to do? We are to live lives patterned after Christ. Jesus did not drink intoxicating wine as a beverage, therefore, neither should we. In 1 Thess 5:21,-22, Paul writes, "Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil."

Drinking alcoholic beverages can ruin a christian 'witness'. We have a responsibility and a command, not to be a stumbling block to any person [Matt 18:7-9]. Every Christian has some effect on other people by the kind of life he leads. "The higher the position of the man, the wider will be the influence of his word or deed", said William Patton. A christian ought to be at great pains never to approve or to appear to approve of drinking alcoholic beverages nor lend his influence to it in any way, shape or form." ----end----

Editors Note: I found this to be invaluable in determining the difference between the fermented and nonfermented wines used in the Bible. I have copies that I can send to anyone who wants them.

==========

GOSPEL MEETINGS FOR 1987

CEDAREDGE, CO. July 4th - 13 CAMP

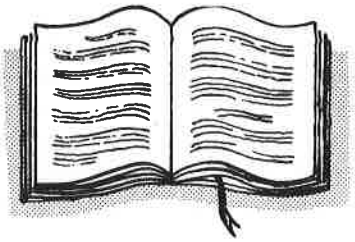
[please see back page for their meeting news]

==========

SICKNESS

There have been quite a few in different congregations that have been ill, and this is just a reminder that we should remember them in our prayers. Bro. Jack Cooper of San Pablo, Ca. has had some lung congestion and is better now. Also Sister Cooper had a very bad cold and sore throat. She is also better. I recieved a phone call on the 22nd from Sister Baldwin in Delta, Co. Bro. Ken Baldwin had a colapsed lung and is in the Delta Hospital. She said that the lung has been inflated and he is feeling better. He asked for his Bible, so she knows he is better, and prays that he will be able to come home soon. We all offer our prayers for these and all who have been and are ill.

The Christian Courier



Published monthly by the Church of Christ

Send all correspondence to 1273 Plumleigh Ln. Concord, Ca. 94521

December 1986

"...Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver."

Proverbs 25:11

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." (Jesus speaking) [Matt 12:37]

How often do we, as Christians, take the time to recall these powerful words of Jesus, or Lord, BEFORE we open our mouths to speak? How many times, had we taken the time, would these words have made the difference in what we had to say to someone or about someone? How many times has each of us looked back on something we've said to someone else and wished so badly we could take it back, or at least have said it in a different way? None of us needs to be reminded of the hurt or anger wrong words have caused us to feel at times in our lives. How small a thing is a word, but how big is the effect it can have on us! [James 3:5] "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth." [Prov. 18:21] "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

Before considering our own words, let's consider the Lord's Words for a moment. God's Words are truth. [John 17:17] "Sanctify them thy truth: Thy Word is truth." God's Words can give us life. [John 6:63] "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." We glorify God when we speak as the Bible speaks. [1 Pet 4:11]

Few other subjects in God's Word are covered thoroughly and extensilely as the one showing us how we are (and how we are not) to speak. Let's take a close look at some on these scriptures.

We are not to lie. [Col 3;9] "Lie not to one another...." [Prov 12:22] "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal