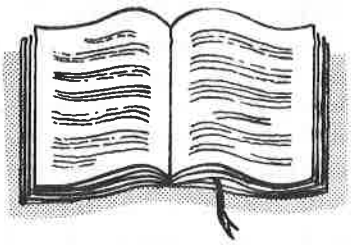
The Christian Courier



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January 1987

WASTER, HOW DO YOU THINK?

[Proverbs 18:9]

"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." What is your thoughts about waste? We are always hearing about obedience to God: Well, what does it take to be obedient to God? [James 2:10] "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." [1 John 3:4] "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." [Isaiah 59:4-7] "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. They hatch cockatrice's eggs, and weave spider's web; he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall nt become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works, their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. 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 crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." So we have here a waster described in what they do. [Matt 12:33] "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is know by his fruit." (Or by what he does, read verse 34) Our thoughts are not His thoughts. [Isaiah 55:8-9] "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are highter

than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." That is unless we bring into captivity our thought to the obedience of Christ. We, here in this land are makeing a lot of money, and what do we do with it? [1 Tim 6:8] We are told: "And having food and raiment let us therewith be content." But what do we do? We spend more for pleasures of this life than we do for food and clothing. Look at the campers, boats, new cars or pickups, boat motors and fishing equipment. Hunting equipment, gas to go hunting. Camping supplies, skis, trailers and what else? You be the judge. How much do we give to the church, for the cause of Christ? How much do we give for Gospel Meetings, or how many of the sick do we help? How many hungry and needy, even in our own congregation, do we help? [1 John 3:18] "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Not just by mouth only. [James 2:15-16] "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled: notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doeth it proft?" If this situation comes to us, we, not the contribution, are to take care of this destitute one. Yes WE are to provide the things they need. I have seen this happen where the brother said that he would help if he had the money, 'but I don't have it'... I wonder what we are going to say to Jesus our Lord and Saviour, when we stand before him in judgement? [Matt 25:31-46] (please read) You know that we will be judged by what we have done in this matter. [1 Cor 5:10] "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." We will have to give account to Him for how we have used what He has given for us to use. [Rom 14:10-12 & Rev 20:11-15] We find also in [Duet 18:17-20] where God promised to raise up Christ and put His Word in his mouth and if we would not harken to His Words which he shall speak, he would require it of us. [Romans 13:8] "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Why? Well, in [Proverbs 22:7] the borrower is servant to the lender. And [1 Cor 7;23] we are told that we are bought with a price, be not the servants of men. (or do not get in debt to man) Why? [Phil 3:4-9] Paul counts the things that he gains, nothing but refuge, waste, good for nothing. (v 8) "Yea doubtless, and I count all things (fleshly indebtedness) but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." [Phil 4-19] "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Yes, says some, but that is not talking about earthly things, like money and other goods) Well, read again brother: (v 15-18) and see if this is not what he is saying, they had sent to his need once again :

It cost to travel and to lodge as he was forced to do many times, like he did in Rome. [Acts 28:30] "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came unto him."

This is just a brief lesson on this subject of waste. I hope that all will take it and increase in the love and obedience of God and His divine Will. I hope also that the love between brethren will increase,and that we will strive to do what God wants us to do. [James 1:22] And not just hear only; for remember [Isaiah 59:4-7] which says they speak lies and bring forth iniquity. Let us not neglect this great salvation. [Hebrews 2:14]

Written in the love of the truth.
and for a better undrestanding of God's Word.

Lloyd Treat
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FORNICATION

Let us begin the study of this subject by realizing that it takes frank and direct language to teach it, whether privately, in the pulpit, or in writing. I hope this offends no one, but this is a subject so important that we must teach it in spirt of the frank words it requires.

It, (and all Bible subjects-see Matt 28:20), is so important to teach because; [Hosea 4:6] "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge....." [Proverbs 5:23] "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray." [Proverbs 24:4] "A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength." This is the desire for this study; that we man increaseour knowledge, and thus our strength, on this subject."

While we realize, as noted in Bro. Bedingfield's article "Drunkards and Railers" that there is a spiritual fornication too. This study will deal with only the physical one. Perhaps an older, more knowledgeable Brother will be persuaded to write an article on spiritual fornication. [1 Cor 6:18] "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Paul continues the thought in verses 19 & 20. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." [Gal 5:19] We learn that fornication is one of the works of the flesh which verse 21 tells us, can keep us from inheriting the kingdom of God. [Col 3:5-6] "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For

which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." Brothers and sisters, let's understand that fornication is sin, and has dire consequences if we don't repent, (change, see Matt 21:28-32) and get it forgiven. [1 John 1:9] But why? Have you ever wondered that? I have. Why does God forbid fornication? Does He forbid it because He thinks sex is dirty? No, of course not. God created sex; created it for all animals, [Gen 1:20-22] mankind included, [Gen 1:27-28] Verse 31 reads; "And God saw everything that He had made, (that would include sex), and behold, it was very good." According to the Bible, then, sex is not wrong for married people; premarital sex and extra-marital sex is. This brings us back to the question: Why? Why does God permit animals more than one mate, but not people? We tend to thing God is depriving us of something when he forbids fornication, but that is not true. He is making it more special for human beings. By forbiding fornication, He makes marriage more special, and makes sex more special by placing it in marriage where there is not just lust, but love. There is not just pleasure, there is joy. And there is commitment, life-long companionship, trust, respect, and so forth. We know God's desire is to make marriage and sex more special because we read in [Heb 13:4] "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." [Proverbs 18:22] "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord." [Gen 4:1] "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord." Notice God's desire for us expressed through Solomon in [Proverbs 5:18-19] "Let thy fountian be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy the at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love." This makes God's desire for the specialness of sex in marriage pretty plain, doesn't it? But, like many things, mankind destroys this specialness by going beyond the Word of God. In the world, we chrisitans are faced with the temptation, but the world lowers itself below the animals by its fornication. Animals are at least fulfilling God's purpose for them when they have more than one mate. And the animals fulfill their birth obligation. The world really lowers itself when it adds abortion to its fornication. At least one-third of the 1,500,000 abortions committed each year are the results of fornication.

There are many more problems caused by fornication. AIDS and other diseases and body problems, jealousy which can lead to murder, just to name a few. Plus, fornication can cause (or be caused by) the other works of the flesh. [Gal 5:19-21] It boils down to this. Do we want the temporary fulfillment of our lust? [Heb 11:25] "...the pleasures of sin for a season."? Or do we want the permanent joy of heaven? [Rev 22:14] And the life-long joy of marriage? Bro. Howard McCay at Loco, Ok. meeting last year and Bro. Al Way at Baron's meeting this year, both made the point that God can find us a spouse; He can find

us a Christian spouse. All we need to do is ask and dilligently look for one. [Matt 7:7] Because God blesses. [James 1;25] Then there is no need for fornication. Let us make sure there is more than just this one desire behind that prayer though, or it may go unfulfilled. [James 4:3] "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

This study is not to belittle or condemn anyone who may have fallen victim to Satan's temptation in this area of fornication. It is to fervently urge you to repent. The main purpose, as stated before, is to give myself and other young christians and increase our strength thereby. Then with God's help, we can hopefully avoid this sin.

Thus, our conclusion is very simply this. There is no place, [1 Cor 6:18], or need, [Provebs 5:18-19], for fornication in a Christian's life. May God bless your efforts to resist the devil.

In Chrisitan Love
Terry Warford
8229-A Yorktown Ave.
Tulsa, Ok. 74137

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

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We read in Ephesians 5:15-20 (New English Bible), "Be most careful then how you conduct yourselves: like sensible men, not like simpletons. Use the present opportunity to the full, for these are evil days. So do not be fools, but try to understand what the Will of the Lord is. Do not give way to drunkeness and dissipation that goes with it but let the Holy Spirit fill you: speak to one another in psalms, hymns and songs; sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord; and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ give thanks everyday for everything to our God and Father." Looking on this text, we see this describes what the brethern at several congregations have been doing. Getting together very often, not just on the first day of the week or month only, in singing songs, fellowship, study of God's Word, a giving of time and love generously to one another. Trying in a small way to grow and help each other, using any small gift that we have been given by the Lord, to help each other and those <u>not</u> of the Lord;s Body around us.

There are several big dinners per month followed by Bible study, singing, and fellowship. Many good sermons from God's Word. We are truly blessed with hearing about a dozen good speakers, young and old from this area and some visitors from time to time, for which we are

very thankful for.

A word of encouragement to small congregations. Just because you are small, you are not alone. For Christ is with you, and with some traveling on your part, you can work with others. Not just on Sundays, but any other day or time you can spend with others that may be small or large. Yes, evenings, etc...Thereby growing in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How, you say? Just by helping others to understand the Word of God through fellowship.

Please remember all of us, of all the congregations that do get together, in your prayers. For we all have you in our prayers, and pray that you <u>are</u> striving to do His Will, as His Word directs. We pray for stronger unity, and love, and more fellowship in the Church, and last but not least, a prayer for God's blessings on <u>ALL</u> that are sick and injured, and elderly, and those who cannot attend the gathering of the Body of Christ, and that someone will come and lend a helping hand in your time of need, giving God the praise, honor, and glory.

In conclusion, please remember Brother Troy Morse, who was injured in an auto accident this month. He is in Doctors Hospital, Modesto, Ca. at this time, but will be going home soon. A card or letter to cheer him up would be appreciated, I'm sure. You can reach him at this address.

Bro. Troy Morse
% Frank Morse
P.O. Box 44
Copperopolis, Ca. 95228

With Christian Love from the congregations throughout the centeral valley in California.

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STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

'TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN' a poem

My name is gossip, I have no respect for justice.
I aim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted the more I am believed.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves
against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try the more
elusive I become. I am nobody's friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation it is never quite the same.
I topple governments and wreck marriages.

I ruin careers, cause sleepless nights,
heartaches and indigestion.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my name hisses. I am gossip, office gossip, shop gossip,
party gossip. I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself, 'IS IT TRUE?
IS IT FAIR? IS IT NECESSARY?
IF NOT SHUT UP!
foot note; [before you gossip, look in your own closet]

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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at the Sacramento congregation are meeting Sunday at 10;30 A.M. except the third Sunday of the month. Services that day starts at 10:00 A.M. so we can have fellowship with the Penn Valley congregation. We have pot-luck lunch and singing afterwards. Every monday, weather permitting, we have Bible study in our home. Brother and Sister J.D. Logan come up from Stockton and he holds the studying of the Bible. Anyone wishing to attend contact Brother J.D. Logan or Brother J.D.Usrey in Sacramento, Ca. You can phone (916) 929-6938 for instructions on how to get to our home. Hope to see you soon.

Everyone is well and doing fine.

Yours In Christ:
Bro. And Sis. J.D. Usrey

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LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear ones in Christ:

Errol and Earlene Forsman are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sheila, to David McCay, who is the son of Bro. Jerry McCay. The marriage was performed on Oct. 11th, 1986 by Brother Howard McCay, and Brother Jerry McCay. David is going to Lubbock Christian College. We pray they will be blessed with a long and happy life together. The Lorenzo congregation is happy to have Bro. Jerry McCay and sons Danny and Brent living here. They are a welcome addition, especially, as we had recently had a family, Willie, Mary, Brandon, and Shane, move to Dallas. We are thankful that Bro. Earl Howe has been continuing to do well since his heart attack last Feb. They are very thankful for all your prayers and for your financial support.

Our group here has recently started having a Wednesday night fellow ship. We get together and do different things, like singing, Bible study, eat, and etc.... This is to try and draw us closer and stronger together.

In Christian Love
The Lorenzo Congregation

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PENN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

We here of the Indian Springs congregation have surely been blessed with our third-Sunday pot-luck and fellowship. We have reported before, that every third Sunday Bro & Sis. Logan visited us, and now we are happy to inform you, we have more and more regular coming each month. They are Bro. & Sis. John Usery; Bro. & Sis. Lloyd Usery, and family, all from Sacramento congregation. Also Bro. & Sis. McDonald; Sister Kerry McDonald; Sister Johnson, all from Marysville, Ca. Last Sunday we had the pleasure of having Bro. & Sis Gene Mckinney and thier daughter, Becky.

There were services in the morning & evening, with singing after dinner there was singing and fellowship in the afternoon. I'm sure a wonderful time was had by all.

The highlight of the past year for me and my family had to be the Delta Meeting last July in Colorado. Anyone that is looking for wholesome intertainment, I recommend Disneyland in L.A. But if anyone is looking for Christian fellowship and Bible study, and Bible discussions, and good Gospel preaching, every night followed by more singing and fellowship, then I highly recommend the anual Delta, CO. meeting. More, good news, I have just recieved notice of the next years Big Spruce (Delta, CO.) camp meeting which is set for July 1987. This should put to rest the rumor of no meeting in Delta in 1987.

In Christian love;
Bro. & Sis. Ken Harper and family

[Hope to see you there next year]

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Gospel Meetings

Delta, Colorado — July 4 - 13 — Camp

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MARRIAGES

Sheila Forsman and David McCay; Oct. 11, 1986 at Lorenzo, Texas
May you have a long and loving marriage in the Lord.

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THANKS

I just want to say thank you to the many who has resopnded to the financial need of the Courier. The funds had reached pretty low, but now, thanks to many of you, we have enough to carry on getting the Courier out. This tells me that you still want the Gospel preached by this method, and that you still want to hear what is going on in the various congregations. I give God the praise and the honor and the glory for allowing us to continue. Editor