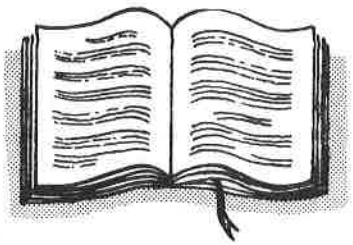
The Christian Courier



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MARCH 1987

STOP:

It is usually not a good idea to point fingers or label groups of people together. However, to avoid naming people and furthering the strife, I feel I must do so at this time. This letter is not an attack or a rebuttal. It is simply a plea for peace and unity (through the truth) in the Church.

Please turn and read 1 Sam. the 15th chapter. I would like to direct your attention to the 22-24 verses.

[23] "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (divination), and stubborness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the Word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

[24] And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feard the people and obeyed their voice." Parts of King Saul's case, unfortunately, would fairly accurately describe many of the "leaders" of God's people today. Rebellion, and most certainly stubborness (pride), have both been very prevalent in the "leadership" the last few years. (This scripture is an excellent defination of these traits). And, just as Saul did, these "leaders" have turned to their own words and the words of the other members of the Kingdom, instead of the Lord's.

The writings in Timothy and Titus show each and every one of us what kind of example we are to be to our brothers and sisters. James gives us practical guidelines on how to handle our day to day problems. The epistles of John show us how to use the love the way God intended it. Many of the letters, articles, tapes, and actions that have been put forth lately don't seem to fit these scriptures. If we would only

think before we speak or act, we might then turn back to God's Word to check our action, before we make them public.

We have been given a pattern by which we can check our actions. It is the Bible. This form (or pattern) is referred to in [11 Tim 1:13] "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." If we use a form to make concrete objects, each one will be the same. Our form is no different. It we will use the Bible to form our opinions, words, letters, tapes, etc, then the finished product will always be the one of true love and peace we all long for.

Going back to [1 Sam 15:24-26] "And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord. And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being King over Israel." Samuel's position is also the case. If things continue as they have in the recent past, we of the New Testament Kingdom must also turn away from the "leaders" today. We "little" people can read and think for ourselves. We can take our pattern (the Bible) and check all of your letters, articles, tapes, and comments against it. We do not take sides. We take the form of doctrine we have been given and apply it. After doing this, we find that you have not harmed your "opponent (s)", but instead you have nearly destroyed your own credability and influence.

Gentlemen (and ladies too) it is time to stop. This has gone on long enough. [Eph 4:26] "Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down on your wrath." The sun has already gone down, but this change will be better late than never. It is time for maturity to stand up and take the place of the childish displays of fhe past. Bury the hatchet and get on with Christ's will, before all of you destroy what is left of the good influence you once had. [Luke 2:49] It is time we all get back to our Father's business.

When you read this letter and think of the people it was written for; think of yourself. It was written for you, not them. [Luke 6:41] "And why beholdest thou the mote that is thy brother's eye, but percievest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Written for unity (through humility and truth)

Yours in Christ
David McCay
Rt. 1 Box 275
Lorenzo, Texas 79343

LOOKING BACKWARD AND FORWARD

[Heb 9:27-28] (Death)

[1 Cor 10:11]

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed let he fall." When we stand at the door of death, between now and hereafter, and we review our life, and what we have done and what we ought to have done, what will be our cry? Death is certain. [Heb 9:27-28] "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The hereafter is sure. Will it be like the rich man, [Luke 16] who cried for help or will it be a life of contentment like Lazarus? Do we fear God? [Eccl 12:13] "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Do we look for His comming with JOY? Or will we be like Israel? [Heb 3:19] "So we see that they could not enter because of unbelief." [Heb 12:28] "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." Looking back to [Gen 3:3] "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." God meant it when He told them not to touch it or eat of it, didin't He? [Col 2:21-22] We also are not to touch anything that is "any honour to the satifying of the flesh." [Rom 5:23] "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." [Rom 5:12] "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" [Rom 3:23] "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And we know that when we disobey God, we sin, for that is what sin is. [1 John 3:4] "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." The living know that they will die, but the dead know not anything. "neither have they any more a reward: for the memory of them is forgotten". [Eccl 9:5]. So we know we will die, and what will be our cry when we do? In [Gen 49:28-33] Here is an account of a man of God and what he did. He gave instruction about his burial and he talked to his children and gave them instructions and told them what would later happen to them. In [Acts 7:59-60] Stephen, when he was dying, looked and saw heaven opened and looked back and cried "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." [Luke 12:16-21] The rich farmer looked forward to the things of this life and

was called a fool by the Lord. What will we be called in that day? And will we be like the rich man in [Luke 16:19-31], cry for the Lord to send someone back to this world and save our brethren and children; of which we have been to busy or to concerned about this world, worldly minded, to do. [11 Tim 4:6-8] Paul looked back on his life and said: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Then looking forward, both for himself and for us also; "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." What can we say when we stand there as deaths' door? [Matt 16:26] We know this: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" What would we give for another chance? [Heb 5:8-9] We should fear Him, enough to obey Him in all things. [Heb 4:1] There remains a rest to the people of God. [Matt 7:21] "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." [1 Sam 15:22] "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to harken than the fat of rams." [Matt 22:37-38] Do we love the Lord with all our heart and our neighbor as ourself? If so, why are not the commandments of God kept? According to the golden rule: [Matt 17:12] [John 4:23-24] Do we worship God in Spirit and in truth? Or just PARTLY? [Matt 6:24] We can't serve two masters. [1 Cor 4:2] Have we been faithful stewards of God, or have we been luke warm? [Rev 3:15-16] And will we hear him say, depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you? [Matt 7:23]

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." [Heb. 3:12-13] Let us all take heed lest we fall.

Yours in Christ & for the truth.

Lloyd Treat - 13 N Bock - Broken Bow, Oklahoma - 74728

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GOD

In the shadow of the night, You can draw on the light
of GOD.
In the glow of the dawn, You can welcome the morn - with GOD.
Any time of the year, You can banish all fear - through GOD.
So let's sprinkle our days
With our thanks and our praise
to GOD.

Barbara Larriva

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

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

In this letter, we can announce our meeting for this coming summer. The Baron and Stillwell (Pleasant View) congregations will be sharing Bro. Richard Johnston as our speaker June 14th through June 21st. The meeting will begin in Baron the first Sunday, continuing through Wednesday and finish at Stillwell thursday through the following Sunday. We are really looking forward to seing Bro. Richard and his family again, as well as hearing him preach.

We are saddened by the passing away of Sister Lawson of the Goshen congregation. Though I only knew her a couple of years, we were truly good friends as well as brother and sister those few years. And I count her grandson, Bro. Paul Andrews as one of my best friends. A special thanks to Bro. Howard Taylor for the words of comfort at her funeral.

Thanks also to our recent visitors. Bro. Melvin Daniels was here from the Goshen Congregation Jan. 11th. He gave an excellent lesson. Last Sunday, the 18th, Bro. Gerald Buckner was here so I could go to Goshen with Dad. I hope I haven't missed anyone.

May the Grace of Jesus continue with you.

In Christian Love, The Church of Christ at Baron, Oklahoma.

LORENZO, TEXAS

Not much at Lorenzo this month. We have been blessed with mild weather and few illnesses so far this winter. Some of us were able to go to Seymour last month to meet with the brethren there. Evart and Becky Forsman and kids have gone this month. Lord willing, we will be sending a speaker down to them once a month to help them out.

The holiday season brought us many visitors for which we are always thankful. It is always uplifting to see a few new faces. Howard and Nell McCay, and Linda Carmichael were down from Washington. Jim and Jaetta Loftis, and Toodler and Jo Goodwin were up from the New Castle congregation. Audley Barnes and family, and Tony and Tracy Normile were down from Oklahoma. Steve and Oletta Spurlin, and Cliff and Leesa Boling came home to the Howe's for a few days. Last week the Scotts from the Duncanville (Dallas) area came to visit. ANd this weekend Cliff and JoAnn Boling worshipped with us.

We are all looking forward to the Delta Camp Meeting, and if the Lord wills, it looks as if many of our number will be there. Hope to see everyone there. If it is anything like last years, then you can't afford to miss it. For the Lorenzo congregation:

David McCay

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear ones in Christ:

Well, another year has come and gone forever. Did we grow or shrink? Are we more like Christ? Or more like the world?

All here send their love to the faithful in Christ. Most are doing well. Sister Burdett has had surgery, but is home now and able to attend church. All our prayers were answered. With out Lord's help she will fully recover.

In the past couple of months, we have had several visitors and guest speakers. We enjoyed seeing old friends and hearing many good lessons. Bro. And Sis. Roger Walkingstick, Bro. and Sis. Elmo Brown, their son and his wife, were here Sunday. Bro. Roger gave us a good sermon. Bro. Bill Taylor was here visiting and caring for his mother, and gave us a good sermon. Bro. Bill Jared visited with us one Sunday and brought us a good sermon. Bro. and Sis. J.L. Jared were here visiting for almost two weeks and he brought us two good sermons. My mother, Sister Lula Way, was here visiting us for almost two weeks. We enjoyed all your company, and welcome you back any time.

Please, anyone who is passing through, or coming for a visit, stop by and see us. You are welcome anytime. This last Lord's Day, 2-1-87, Joan and Julie Shay were at our evening services, and we enjoyed seeing them. We send our love to the faithful everywhere.

Written for the church at Bellflower.

Bro. Al Way

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings form the OKC congregation. All here are doing reasonably well. We have good news. We have a new member. Brother Greg Burgess was baptized on Feb. 8, 1987. We are happy to have him and his family with us.

We have returned from our quick trip to Southern California. We met with the church in Bellflower the Sunday after christmas. We did not get to spend much time with the congregation there, but greatly enjoyed the time we did spend. They are good hospitable Christians. We regret that we did not make it to Yuma, Arizona. We had intended to visit the congregation there, but went the I-40 route instead. We wish to apologize for missing them. We hope to visit them in the future, Lord willing. We also heard the good news from Yakima. Five new members were added to the church there. Congratulations to the new members there, here and everywhere. [John 4:35] "...lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already for harvest...." Let

us all continue to work for the harvest.

God bless each and everyone of you and continue in the work of the Lord.

Love:
Bro. Roger Walkingstick - from OKC congregation.

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STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Bro. & Sis. in Christ:

It has been quite a while since I last wrote. Only excuse is laziness. But will try to catch up on a little of the new news. Everyone at present are doing just fine. Just a few colds and flu.

Since last writing and quite some time ago, there were two baptised here at Pleasantview: Rodney Young and Olyene Caviness. Also five (5) marriages: Bro. Randy Joe Morris and Tammy Hart on Dec. 17, 1986; Bro. Rodney Young and Sister Becky Allgood, Dec 22, 1986; Bro. Zeb Allgood and Sharon Ames, Dec 31, 1986; Bro. Greg Allgood and Tammy Buckner, Jan 7, 1987; Also Sister Thessie Morris and Paul Guffie, (no date)

It won't be very long until it will be vacation time again, and anyone coming this way; we meet Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M. and Sunday evening at 6:00 P.M. We would enjoy all visitors that could come and visit with us. Sunday, Jan 4, 1987, where were 82 in the morning services here.

Gearld. L. Buckner
Pleasantview Church of Christ
Stilwell, Ok. 74960

Phone (918) 696-3249

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Gospel Meetings

LORENZO, TX.	April 17 -19	Henry Oliver
LORENZO, TX.	May 16 - 17	Roger Walkingstick
LORENZO, TX.	June 21 -28	Ken Baldwin
BARON-STILWELL	June 14 - 21	Richard Johnston
At Baron June 14-17 & At Stilwell June 18 - 21		
GOSHEN, ARKANSAS	May 31 - June 7	Howard Taylor
CEDAREDGE, COLORADO	July 4 - 13	CAMP
WATERFORD, CA.	April 12 - 19	Rex Mickey
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON	May 1 - 3	Greg Stacy
PORT ORCHARD, WA	June 28 - July 5	Harry Dye
YAKIMA, WA	July 12 - 19	Harry Dye

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BAPTISMS

RODNEY YOUNG STILWELL, OKLAHOMA
OLYENE CAVINESS STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

There were baptisms at Yakima, Washington, and I haven't received clear information yet, as to who it was. I believe those baptized were; Roger Lamb family had one of their children baptized and Bill and Cindy McCay, is gladdened as their son was baptized also. Bro. and Sister Richard Johnston's daughter, Jessica aslo was baptized. Roger Solvie family had their son baptized also. I hope this information is correct It it needs correcting, please send in the correct information and it will be in next months issue.

We all are rejoicing, and thanking God for these that have decided to give their life to our Lord. We pray for them and pray that they will always continue to be obedient until our Saviour comes again.

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MARRIAGES

RANDY JOE MORRIS & TAMMY HART - Dec 17, 1986 - Stilwell, Ok.
RODNEY YOUNG & BECKY ALLGOOD - Dec. 22, 1986 - Stilwell, Ok.
ZEB ALLGOOD & SHARON AMES - Dec. 31, 1986 - Stilwell, Ok.
GREG ALLGOOD & TAMMY BUCKNER - Jan. 4, 1987 - Stilwell, Ok.
THESSIE MORRIS & PAUL GUFFIE - (no date) - Stilwell, Ok.

May God bless these who are starting out on their lives together, and all our prayers go with you.

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THE ONE WHO PLANS

Often darkness fills the pathway of the pilgrim's onward track,
And we shrink from going forward--trembling, feel like going back:
But the Lord, who plans so wisely, leads us on both day and night,
Till at last, in silent wonder, we rejoice in Wisdom's light.

Though the tunnel may be tedious thro' the narrow, darkened way,
Yet it amply serves its purpose--soon it brings the light of day.

And the way so greatly dreaded, as we backward take a glance,
Shows the skill of careful planning: never the result of chance! Trust the Engineer Eternal, surely all His works are right. Though we cannot always trace them, faith will turn at last to sight: Then no more the deepening shadows of the dark and dismal way, There for ever in clear sunlight, we'll enjoy "the perfect day".

T.A. Bryant