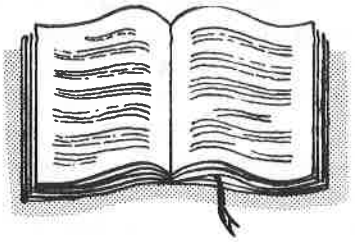
The Christian Courier



Published monthly by the Church of Christ
"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

"STUDY"

[2 Timothy 2:15]

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Paul attatched great importance to the "study" of the "word of truth" It therefore behooves us to consider the words (as well as those of the other inspired writers) as they touch on this subject.

PRPOSE OF "STUDY"

"A workman that needeth not to be ashamed----". We are a people of workers. Among us we represent many trades, professions, etc.. To be a workman of the above calibre it is necessary to apply ourselves vigorously to a "study" of our vocation. One dsoes not become a carpenter by owning a hammer. Neither does one become a physicist merely because he purchases a book on physics. By the same token, one cannot become one who "rightly divides (handles) the word of truth merely because he owns a Bible and reads some of it occasionally. It requires hard work, much study, and excercise (practice).

STUDY WHAT?

"Till I come, give attandance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine....Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." [1 Tim 4:13,15-16]

One can readily determine that, in order to be a "workman" that needeth not be ashamed," one must be engaged in reading and meditating upon the "word of truth." This cannot be a half-harted gesture, but rather one to which one must "give thyself wholly." Reading is good. It is also necessary, but of itself, not enough. Meditation (deep study) is necessary to determine the complete meaning of many subjects. (The meaning of 'meletao', to meditate, is to 'resolve in the mind'.) It is not to be wondered that David said, speaking of the righteous man, "....but his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." [Psa 1:2] We must compare "spiritual things with spiritual." [1 Cor 2:13] There are many scriptural references dealing with most subjects. Some may contain one part of the subject, others other parts. Together, they form a complete picture of the mind of God concerning the matter. "....line upon line....here a litle, there a little..." [Isa 28:10] Other subjects are dealt with less in the scriptures. These are no less important. Others are touched on only once, but we cannot disregard these either. "..Man shall not live by bread alone, but by <u>every</u> word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." [Matt 4;4]

'I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE WORDS'

Frequently, we hear the following complaint while discussing the scriptures with others, 'I can't understand some of the words in the Bible. I become confused.' This complaint is now wholly unjustified, but is poorly worded. What should be said is, ' I cannot understand some of the words and expressions in the translation I am using.' We earnestly desire to teach God's Word to 20th century people, but attempt to do it in the language of the 17th century. This is sometimes very difficult. What we need is to demonstrate in our present language the meaning of God's Word. However, we must deal with human emotion and tradition. By tradition we have come to believe that there is onlh one "inspired" translation of the Bible, (and reject the use of the other works equally good, or sometimes superior) the "Authorized," or "King James" text.

Permit me to digress a little at this point from the line of thought "Translations" are not inspired, per se. The Old Testament was written through inspriration of God by men who spoke Hebrew. The New Testament was written through inspiration of God by men who spoke and wrote Greek. For us to have God's inspired Word in our English tongue, it was necessary that it be translated from one language from another. Inspiration gave us God's Word. Translation gave us this Word in our own native language. Translation is the work of scholarship. The King James text was not the first English translation; there were eleven complete or partial before it. I have a list of 28 complete and pratial translations since "King James" was completed, and tnis list is not complete.

Unfortunately, we sometimes fail to see the merit in any other work and lose the help of an invaluable tool. I use the "King James" text simply because people are fimiliar with it and can follow through the reading without getting lost. However, I cannot fail to recognize that many passages are difficult to understand in light of modern language. (Many words have different meanings today than they did 300 years ago.) I am presently compiling a list of many words and expressions, some archaic, whose meaning have altered or changed completly in the past 300 years. It is a wise student of God's Word who will comapre various translations in his "study".

OTHER HELPS

A great help in the "study" of God's Word is the concordance. These books find passages which otherwise would be difficult to find. Many have been written but some are better than others. I recommend Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. It is truly complete. Crudens is called 'complete' but is not. Not only is Strong's complete, but it has two concise dictionaries with references on each passage. One for the Hebrew and one for the Greek. This is a good help for the non-scholar. If one wishes to avance further, Thayer's Greek English Lexicon is a good standard work. Also, Vine's Expository is a good help in dictionary form. It must be pointed out, however, that these are good helps to the student of the Bible, but the only use they fill is to shed light on the language of the Bible. They are not the Bible. Constant diligence must be maintained to keep our attention centered on God's Word. These other reference works are merely helps.

COMENTARIES

One would be wise to avoid the use of commentaries. These books reflect the OPINIONS of the writer and not necessarily the truth contained in the Scriptures. Often they reflect the pregudices and the biased viewpoints of the writer.

Some will say it is wrong to read anything except the "authorized " (King James) text. Others will say that they will not accept any standard lexicon such as Thayer's or Strong's. What is impossible to understand is that on the one hand they will reject the use of these works of scholarship and then on the other hand will accept and often cite Webster as authority. I need not point out the unacceptability of this source on some Bible subjects.

I urge all of my brethren to search out the truths of God's Word, no matter how deep we must dig to uncover them. I will close with the words of Solomon in [Prov. 4:5-13] "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep

thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exhalt her, and she will promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the year of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom: I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be streitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for she is thy life." Could anyone say it better?

Your brother in Christ: John D. Logan
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LOOSING OF SATAN

[REV 20:7] "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,...."

We see here that Satan will be loosed at the end of this reign; but many tell us that Satan is loosed now and they point to all the sin in the world and say; 'Don't you see, if he were not loose all this would not happen.' But what they fail to see is that Satan was cast out to the earth. [Rev 12:9] And his angels were cast out with him. [Rev 12:12] "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." He persecuted the woman that brought forth the man child. (The King of the Jews - Christ) He went to make war with her seed which kept the commandment of God. (or the ones that reign with Christ this 1000 years. [Rev 20:6] Now we see Satan bound, yet he was cast into the earth and went to make war with those that keep God's commands. So how can he be bound and still walk about seeking whom he may devour? [1 Peter 5:8] "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Verse 9; "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." So we see that we are in the world. How come us, the Church, to be in the world? [Matt 13:38] "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." Jesus said that he sowed us in the world, and we are the church. [Gal 1:18] So, if Satan was cast out into the earthand there roams about, then the only place that he can be bound out of is the church, the people of God. And here in this church (God's

kingdom) [Matt 16:18] is where Christ reigns over all nations and people [Acts 10:34-35] So we see that we are to crucify the old man (of sin) and burry him in baptism and riegn with Christ through the commands of God. Now we are dead to sin, through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Rom 6:1-2] If we are dead to sin then he (Satan) shall not have dominion over us. (or power) [Rom 6:14] So he is bound, just as long as we keep the commandments of God. (ie, just as long as we keep beyond the reach of Satan) As long as we do not keep the commandments of God, we sin, [John 3:4] and then we put ourselves withing the reach of the roaring lion. (Satan). In doing so, we have turned him loose, so to speak, in the church. [Rom 6:16] "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 righeousness?" When we disobey one of the least of His commands, we are guilty of all. [James 2:10] We have become the servants of sin, servants of Satan. We have turned him loose in our lives when we sin. If in one of us he lives, then [1 Cor 5:6] applies. A little leaven leveneth the whole lump. Then it won't be long until the whole church has been effected by the leven (sin). So when I say something is not wrong, and you may say another thing is not wrong, without getting it from God's Word, then it won't be to long until the whole church has been contaminated with leven (sin). May I refer you to [Duet 22:5]? "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." Here we see this is an abomination, but some don't think so. Also [1 Tim 2:9] Also [1 Cor 11:1-18], [2 Cor 6:16-17], [Gal 5:16-19-20] [2 John 9 & 11], [Heb 13:1] And a number of other things could be sited, but we don't have the room here to express or mention. (ie nakedness, many of the sports of the world, love of the world:

Please take heed to ourselves. We are the ones that turn Satan loose and he is now Rampant in the church. How long that little season is, I don't know.

Yours in love of your soul.

Lloyd Treat

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WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF SATAN?

We read in [Job 1:6] that Satan came to present himself before the Lord with the sons of God that were presenting themselves to the Lord. Then the next verse we read that the Lord asked Satan where he had come from. [Job 1:7] And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan aswered the Lord and said; From going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it." By reading [Job 2:1],

we can see that during this time that the sons of God were presenting themselves to the Lord every so often and also Satan came with them. The the Lord asked Satan again [Job 2:2] where had he been, and then again he tells the Lord that he had been here in the earth walking to and fro, up and down.

Let us understand that during this time that Satan could come in before the Lord at all times and accuse the servants of God of being disobedient to God and partaking of this worldly, sinful life, and lusting after things of the flesh, also according to [Heb 2:14] we know that Satan had the power over death at that time. Let us look to the prophesy of the old and the new testament to see what was going to happen to Satan concerning his presence before the Lord.
[Isa 14:12] How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning; how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations.? Jesus Christ also told of his fall while he was preaching to the people. [Luke 10:18] "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as a lightning fall from heaven." Now, look to the book of Revelation to see where he fell to and where his place of work would be until the time of the judgement of all the souls that have lived, including the angels, Satan, the beast, and the false prophets. [Rev 12:7] "And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angles fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angles." [Rev 12:18] "And prevailed not; neither was there place fouund any more in heaven; [Rev 12:9] "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceived the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angles were cast out with him. So we see that Satan was cast out into the earth where we live in the flesh. Now that he is here with us in our everyday life, he helps us to see all the things of the flesh, (to lust after, want and to desire) that we don't need, and this causes us to sin against God by lusting after those things. [James 1:14] "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and inticed." [James 1:15] "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished bringeth forth death." Now we don't know that there is no bottom to sin, because there is no stopping place for sin. It seems to go on continually as long as people live in the flesh. By this we can see that sin is a bottomless pit which is all around us every day and this is where Satan was cast into. Let us look at the scriptures and see what there is written ther for us to read and study. [Rev 20:1] "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. [Rev 20"2] "And he laid half on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." [Rev 20:3] "And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more,

till the thousand years should be fulfilled: And after that he must be loosed for a little season. Since we know that sin is all around us every day and that we are tempted all of the time, we can be very sure that Satan is very close to us in the flesh. We know that we are drawn away from serving God by our own lust, [James 1:14] and this si what and where Satan works his power, because even Jesus told Satan to get behind him, [Luke 4:8]. While living in the flesh, we can see the power of lust drawing so many people after it by the power of Satan.

Power was given to Satan. [Rev 13:2] And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion, and the dragon gave him his power and his seat, and great authority." [Rev 13:7] "And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them, and the power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Here we see that power was given him and he uses this power to tempt us in the form of lust to draw many of us away after the flesh; as we can read, that the fleshly mind (or those drawn away from God to lust after fleshly things,) is inmity against God. [Rom 8:5-8] In these verses in Romans here we see that those who turn to the fleshly ways can not please God and if they continue in this state of mind, they will die the second death. This power that Satan has was offered to Jesus, of which we can see when we read [Luke 4:5-7] "And the devil takeing him up into an high mountian, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him; All this power will I give thee and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me and to whomsoever I will, I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me all shall be thine." If Jesus can show us the way to live a life as to please God, then we should continue in that way so as to receive life eternally with God. To live this life we must believe Jesus and keep his commandments, because if we don't, we will go out into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Brothers and Sisters, we are warned by the following scriptures as to what we must do, so please go with me to these scriptures and read them now. [Heb 3:12] "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, indeparting from the living God." [1 John 2:15] "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. IF any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." We know that all of this world, and all that is in this world is to be destroyed by fire.

[1 John 2:17] "And the world passeth away and the lust thereof." [1 Cor 6:13] " Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats; but God shall destroy both it and them." Brothers and Sisters, we MUST live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God in order to live eternaly with God. [James 1:27] "Pure religion and undefiles before God and the Father is this; To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself UNSPOTTED from the world. [1 Thes 5:22] "ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARENCE OF EVIL....."

In Christian Love
The church at Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

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PLEASE NOTE: This month and last month, we have gone thirsty, because there has been NO GOOD NEWS from a far country. I wonder why this is????

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

LORENZO, TEXAS	May 16 - 17	Roger Walkingstick
LORENZO, TEXAS	June 21 - 28	Ken Harper
BARON-STILWELL	June 14 - 21	Richad Johnston
At Baron June 14-17 & as Stilwell June 18 - 21		
GOSHEN, ARKANSAS	May 31 - June 7	Howard Taylor
CEDAREDGE, COLORADO	July 4 - 13	CAMP

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dearly beloved in Christ:

We greet the faithful in Christ with love and with our prayers. We pray that all is well in the household of God, and that His Word still is being cast forth as seed at planting time. For we know who gives the increase. Our heavenly Father, at His good Will, we see the increase, and this is what we pray for each and every day.

We have had an in crease, in that two Christians came back into the fold, confessing their sin and repenting of it. We rejoice and give God the praise and honor and glory for Brother and Sister Louie and Melody Glynell, who now reside here in San Pablo, Ca., who have come back into the church. They are loved and honored for their courage to come and take up their cross again, especiall in this day and age where there is so much to draw us away.

We ask that you remember them, and all whom it is our duty to pray for, in your prayers, continually. All of us need the strength we get from answered prayers to keep us from falling away.

Many of us plan to be at the Cedaredge, Co. meeting this year, Lord willing, and we hope to see you all there. Be sure to come if you can. Homer Bryant for San Pablo Congregation.

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AN INVITATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

You are cordially invited to attend the "DELTA CAMP MEETING" which is planned for July 4th through July 13th. It is getting closer all the time, and we are making plans and getting everything in order. Are you making plans to attend? [Isa 1:18] [1 Cor 1:10] "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord." "Now I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." So heed these scriptures and come and join in the round-table discussions, on any Bible subject that is requested. There will be chairmen appointed to conduct the discussion and to keep the discussions decently and in order. Everyone is invited and is welcome and can take part in the discussions every day. Tapes of these discussions will be available to those unable to attend. We pray that ALL brethren who are interested in peace and harmony will make every effort to attend and participate if at all possible. [1 Tim 6:18] This scripture tells us that we should be willing to communicate. [Heb 13:16] "To do good and to communicate forget not for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Camp Meeting this year, if it be the will of God.

God bless you till we meet again.

Our love and our prayers.

Ken & Verlie Baldwin
541 Howard P.O. Box 188
Delta, Colorado 81416

Happy Hollow Church of Christ.

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