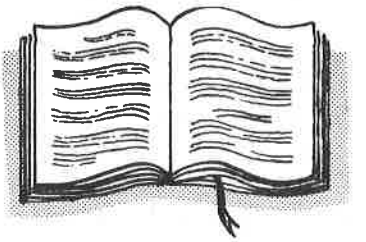
The Christian Courier



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

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AUGUST 1987

JOHN'S ANSWER:

In the seventh chapter of Luke, we find John the baptist calling two of his diciples. No doubt being under the stress and trials that prison had brought upon him, with it raised some doubt in John's mind. He now sends forth these two men to confront Jesus with a question. [Luke 7:20] "Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?" I, as a christian, find encouragement in this, because John, being strong as he was, needed an answer. In this troubling world of stress and trials, we, at times, too must summon for an answer. Never hesitate to ask Christ for an answer, for He was quick to answer John. Jesus knew John was really in need. Remember all John had to do was ask. [Luke 7:22] "Go your way and tell John what things ye have seen and heard, how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
Ken Williams

STUDY, FURTHER

In the May issue of the Courier, I wrote a few thoughts concerning "Study." The purpose was to encourage anyone who should read to a further study of God's Word. Truly, this is the highest calling for man to follow. I also urged all to dig deep, to quarry to the

utmost the total meaning of each passage of the Word, not merely to study superficially. I wrote this, not with any personal axe to grind, but with the firm conviction that the more we learn of God's Will, the closer we can come together. It is not through a search for self-justification that we can come to a unity of the Spirit, but through a sincere, searching of the Scriptures to determine the truth of its meaning. With this purpose in mind, I would like to submit the following thoughts, trusting in the good will of my brethren to correct me if they find I am mistaken in any place.

We all recognize that many words used in old translations of the scriptures have changed in meaning since their original use. Sometimes this has no adverse effect on the meaning. However sometimes it can create difficulties for the casual reader. Consider the following.

"ANSWER"

[1 Peter 3:21] "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,")....

The following argument is often advanced by those who insist that baptism has nothing to do with salvation. (ie) salvation by faith only. 'One must have a good conscience in order to be saved. But baptism is merely the 'answer' of that good conscience. Thus we must have the good conscience prior to baptism. It follows, the argument continues that we are saved 'before' baptism.'

I have no doubt that some who contend thus, are sincere and honestly believe this to be the truth. Also, if we were to use the present meaning of the word 'answer', there might be a point here. But a little further study will show the fallacy of this agrument.

The idea of the meaning of "answer" as "reply" or "respond" is not inherent in this scripture. Dr. Strong defines "answer" as follows: "eperotema--an inquiry. From eperotao to ask for, ie, inquire, seek: demand, desire, question." Dr. Thayer says, "earnest seeking, ie. a craving, intense desire--to long for something." The meaning is thus clear. The Revised Standard Version states, "Baptism", which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurection of Jesus Christ." Baptism is in reality a seeking for, intense desire to have a good conscience. It displays a craving, a longing for a good conscience. Thus it is seen to be necessary to salvation, and not merely an "answer" of a good conscience already attained.

This is only one instance of confusion concerning the scriptures brought about by misunderstanding the very meaning of the words involved I hope to bring more to your attention in the coming months if it be the Lord's Will. I submit these thoughts with this appeal.

if any of you, my brethren, find that I have missed the point, I would take it kindly if you would write me and shed light upon the subjects touched upon. Brethren, my prayer and desire is that we may have unity.

Submitted in love of the truth.

J.D.Logan - 3708 Mission Rd. - Stockton, Ca. 95204 - (209) 464-4961

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REFUSE NOT

[Heb 12:25] "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven."

Here we are warned to not refuse (or turn away from the teaching of the Word of God.) which is spoken from heaven, and is written for our learning. [1 Cor 10:11-12]. So if we think we stand let us take heed (pay close attention) lest we fall. Fall HOW? [Heb 3:19] After the same example of unbelief; "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." This is written so we won't fall. [Heb 4;11] "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." [Jer 25: 7] "Yet ye have not harkened unto me, saith the Lord; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt." So we see they had not listened to the Word of the Prophet, for God said (ch 23 -39) therefore behold I even I will utterly forget you and I will forsake you and the city that I gave you and your fathers and cast you out of my presence." Well, He did just that, as you read [Dan - chap 7 and 12] also [Matt 24 chap] And [Rev - 6th chap] Also chapter 19 left us a warning that we could also be destroyed. [Rev 20:11] Then in [Matt 25:31-46] He plainly states what he will do and why he will do it to us. All that will not harken to his voice but does that make any difference? If so, why so much sin? And why so much worldy participation by the people of the Church of Christ? As I wrote in an article sometime back, that there is nothing wrong in the world today; for if you take everyone in the church and the things they do and say, that it is not wrong, then by the time it goes around to all the church members, then we can't find anything that someone does not do. Yet we hear Jesus say; [Rev 18:4] "....Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." For as it was of old, also we hear some of the same. [Jer 23:24 -31] As we find in [11 Peter 2:1-3] Also [Jude 5th-19th] but some say 'oh no, we know out teacher won't do that, they are christians.' Well if people won't do that then why has God warned

us and told us they would? [Acts 20:29-30] "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." We are warned that they would. [Heb 2:1-2] tells us to give more and earnest heed to what we have learned, lest at any time we let them slip. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? "Which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." [Heb 3:12] "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." (that is, not doing what he has said) [1 Cor 5:6] Says your glorying is not good. "Know ye not that a little leven leveneth the whole lump;" Or as we say; [Jam 2:10] if ye keep all the law but offend in one point, we are guilty of all. Is it not sin to do so? [Rom 4:23] Several yearspast, I was talking to an older brother about the young girls cutting their hair and his words were; 'I think it is alright. I think they look better that way.' Well, I said Paul in 1 Cor 11:1-18] said for her not to cut her hair. But he would not listen to the Word of God, and he was a leader of the church. Today there are still some who have short hair, even though they are in their fifties. What about fornication? [Heb 12;16] Like Esau! Who sold his birthright for one morsel of meat. Then there are those who go and get jobs which require them to work on Sundays, in direct violation of God's Word. [Heb 10:23-25] And then use the feeble excuse that they have to feed their familys. They forget what caused them to be in that position in the first place. [Heb 13:5-6] The Lord said that he would not forsake thee nor leave thee. But we are not satisfied with what we have, we want more of this worlds' goods. We go in debt and then have a hard time making the payments without working on Sundays. The list could go on and on, like 'I don't want to be different from those around me, so they dress alike, act alike, go where they go, etc... Our children have to partake, in order to get their education. So I will go and cheer up my children and we forget. [Isa 5:18] Therefore let us fear God and keep his commandments. [Eccl 12:13] For this is the whole duty of man. [Isa 5:14] "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."

IN THE FEAR OF GOD!
Lloyd Treat

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WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

"I am very worried about the future of the Church. It is changing so fast toward the worldly side. If anyone will stop and look they can see for themselves. There is so much bickering among home congregations. There is so much hard and hurt feelings among the members. There is no association among us. There is so much division among the members. We are suppose to be of one mind. There is supposed to be love among the members. [1 John 4:20-21] The young parents are teaching their children to watch soap operas on T.V. Also to wear their bathing suits in swimming pools with both men and women, boys and girls together. Wearing their shorts everywhere. Boys and girls having to get married. More and more women cutting their hair. There are many other things that are not in the Bible.

Are we living a christian life? It it according to the Bible? Are we supposed to live for Christ or have the 'good times' of this world? I think we had better look ourselves over real good, and begin to live for Christ if we want the future of the Church of Christ to stand. We are supposed to set examples.

Lets ask ourselves!
"What kind of christian am I?"

A CONCERNED CHRISTIAN:

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A note from the editor: Please, let me try to answer some of the questions that the above letter has asked.

We have just returned from the Cedaredge, Colorado meeting, and let me tell you, there was no lack there. I have to praise the young people. Be rest assured that the Church is in good hands. They are striving for the truth in a most agressive way. And during the meeting, with about 100 in attendance, there were 22 came forward for prayers, and 1 came for baptism. She was 17 years old. So, cheer up and continue to pray for the churches everywhere. God is still in control and there are many, many brothers and sisters fervently striveing for the truth.

Please read about that meeting in, either this issue, or in the DELTA 87, special issue that I hope to put out. The meeting was the best I have ever been to.. Editor.

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BAPTISMS

CARYN FOUNDATION July 10, 1987 at Cedaredge, Co.

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DEATHS

The father of Brother Eric Smith has passed away. I don't have the date, but all our prayers are with his loved ons, especially with Brother and Sister Eric and Lillian Smith.

THE TOOLS OF OUR TRADE

[Eph 4:1]

Paul writes: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

The vocation of a christian like all others, requires the use of tools. Just as a mechanic needs various wrenches, screwdrivers, guages, and so forth to fix a car, a christian NEEDS SCRIPTURES to 'fix' his life. [II Tim 3:16-17] "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Notice the verse says we adjust ourselves by the scriptures, not twist the scriptures to fit what we THINK is right. When we examine ourselves and study God's Word and find conflict, it is us, not the scriptures, that we must change in order to be pleasing to God. However, many people in many ways, challenge the Bible as being the tool to take us to Heaven. How many doctrines are built on other books, more 'revelation from God'? How many preachers, especially on T.V., claim that their messages are direct from God? How many times are very small, hard to notice, changes made to God's Word? For example: I heard a T.V preacher say that we are saved by grace only through faith only. He said that's the truth according to the Bible. What the Bible actually says is: "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." That little word 'only' is not there. These are just a few ways of challenging the Bible.

So what we want to examine is: Is the Bible the ONLY tool we need, and are allowed to use? Or, is man's opinion, in the various forms, acceptable also?

Our objective, once we find the correct tool, is to go to heaven and avoid hell. [Rev 22:14] "Blessed are they who do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Where do we find God's commandments? IN THE BIBLE? Or man's opinions?

Many feel that man has the right to add to, or take away from God's commands. They feel that because Peter was given the right to "bind and loose" people in each generation have the right to bind and loose whatever commandments they think is right for them. As we are going to see, Jesus not only told Peter: "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." [Matt 16:19] He also told Peter what to bind and what to loose. And even Jesus was not the original source for these commands, but God gave them to Jesus.

Others doubt that the Bible gives all the commands a christian needs, and what more "revelation" does. Please study the next (6) six scriptures. They answer both of these arguments. Understand how these scriptures relate to each other. [John 12:48-50] We find that the New Testament commands came originally from God the Father to Jesus. Jesus speaking, says: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my Words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting; whatever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

Jesus then gave these commandments to the apostles. [Acts 1:1-3] "The former teatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shew himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

He then told the apostles to give these commandments unto the whole world. [Matt 28:18-20] "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Verse 16 says he told this to the eleven. [Acts 9:15] He gave the same commission to the apostle Paul. "But the Lord said unto him, (Ananias), Go thy way: for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." This commission was fulfilled in their day through their teaching. [Col 1:23] "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister."

The apostles also wrote down these commandments. Thus we in our day have God's commands collected in the Bible, and have <u>no</u> right to change them in any way. [1 Cor 14:37] "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."

To better study these verses and the point they make in relation to each other, here they are in chart form.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMANDS GIVEN

1. From God to Jesus Christ -- [John 12:48-50]
2. From Jesus to apostles -- [Acts 1: 1-3]
3. From apostles to the world -- [Matt 28:16-20-Acts 9:15]
4. Through their preaching -- [Col 1:23]
5. Through their writing -- [1 Cor 14:37]

Can we then add to or change in any way the writings of the apostles? [Gal 1:8-9] "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto to you than ye have received, let him be accursed." But still, some will say that,'that was the revelation for that time, that there is more revelation for out time, and still more revelation to come'. Let's answer that. [Jude 3] "Beloved, when I gave all dilligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Beloved, the scriptures are the only acceptable tools by which we can "walk worthy of our vocation wherewith we are called." Let's close with the words of Jesus. [Matt 15;13] "BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, EVERY PLANT, WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER HATH NOT PLANTED, SHALL BE ROOTED UP."

In christian love.

Terry Warford - 8229-A So. 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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FURNISH CANYON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We just finished a meeting with Bro. Audley Barnes of Comanche, Ok. bringing us a week of fine lessons. (June 14-21) Sorry we didn't have time to get the announcement in the Courier.

This was the first time most of us had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Audley and Sister Teresa, and their youngest daughter, Sister Krystal Barnes. Besides our regular visitors from the community, we had Bro. Howard and Sister Leola Taylor and Bro. Barnes' other daughter and her husband Bro. Tony and Sister Tracy Normile. Both Taylors and Normiles are from the Loco congregation.

Enclosed is a check to help with the Courier. We look forward to it each month.

In Christian Love.

Church of Christ - Furnish Canyon - Bro. Billy L. Richardson

LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It has been quite some time since we have written to the paper, so we have a lot to catch up on. Brother Henry Oliver held a weekend meeting for us this April. He brought us several good, thought provoking sermons. We all enjoyed getting to know them better. The time always to go so quickly when brothers and sisters in Christ get together to enjoy each others' company.

Before we knew it May was here. Brother Roger Walkinstick held a weekend meeting for us. He is a promising young speaker, and brought us some fine thoughts from God's Word. I know everyone enjoyed getting to know his family better. All who can will be uplifted and edified by listening to him speak at Baron, Ok. in October. Brother Ken Harper and family came to be with us in June. He brought us a weeks worth of strong lessons. It is so nice to hear lessons that talk out against "worldliness". Our meeting ended on a very happy note. There was much rejoicing in heaven as well as here, because we were blessed with four (4) new young Christians. ERIC FORSMAN, MARK IVINS, SKIPPER FORSMAN and CHRIS FORSMAN were baptized during our recent meeting.

Lord willing, most of us here at Lorenzo will be leaving for the Delta camp meeting during the coming week. We hope to see many of you there.

David McCay
for the Lorenzo congregation.

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am sorry I have been lazy and havent written in so long. I will try to catch up on the news.

Sis. Kathy Campbell is still not feeling well. Even though I know she doesn't feel like it part of the time, she hardly ever misses a service. We really appreciate her effort. Everyone else is okay.

Bro. Mick Bowen and Family have been transfered up here from Fort Smith, Ark. and will be meeting with us at least part of the time. I am sure they will go back to Stilwell some. We are glad to have them. We are having quite a few visitors. Bro. and Sis. Mariou Serreno from La Habra, Ca. congregation were here and Bro. Serreno gave us two very good lessons. We just finished our meeting the 7th of June, with Bro. Howard Taylor from Loco, Ok. doing the speaking. We had (10) ten very good lessons and enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Taylor and their grandaughter, Sister Krystal Barnes with us that week. We had good crowds. There were 3 states besides Arkansas represented. Besides Goshen, there were 7 congregations represented. There

were Bohannan Mt.; Baron, Ok.; Stilwell, Ok.; Loco, Ok.; Tiner, Ok; Duncanville, Tx.; Temple, Ga. We appreciate the effort everyone made to come.

Yesterday, June 28th, was time for our singing. We were pleasantly surprised at the morning service to have lots of visitors. They were Bro. and Sis. Roger Walkingstick and family from Oklahoma City. Bro. and Sis. Georld Buckner and Bro. and Sis. Tony Warford from Baron. I was glad to have so many guest speakers and be able to let them decide among themselves who would give the lesson. Bro. Terry 'won' or lost, depending on how you look at it. He gave a very fine lesson, as usual. We had a good singing in the afternoon with several from Baron and Stilwell. The next singing will be the last Sunday of August at Baron. I am sure they would welcome all visitors. If I have left out any visitors, I am sorry, it wasn't intended. It will teach me to write oftener and I can remember who was here. All visitors are welcome anytime.

In Christian Love.

Paul Andrews - Rt. 2 - Hindsville, Ark. 72738 - (501) 798-5878

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are all doing pretty well at this time. During the past month we have had Bro. Harry Dye and Bro. Kelly McCay with us for worship. They brought us two fine lessons from the Word of God. At this time we have a few of our members up at Yakima, Wa. for their meeting. My family and I hope to join them up there for the last weekend. I have been praying for all those in their travels for I know that many are going to and from meetings. I hope and pray that they have also been filled with the Spirit of God. Sister Velma Hillier has recently suffered a stroke but has come home and is doing better. Sister Jewell Cadwell is still in the resthome, and she has her good and bad days. Other than that we all have the usual aches and pains life seems to bring. I was extreemly sorry to hear that Bro. Eric Smith lost his father. Death is never easy, no matter how strong we are. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Bro. Eric.

I will write again soon.

In christian love
Ken Williams

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Hello to everyone from out little group here in Bellflower. We hope everyone is doing great.

Our most urgent news is that prayers are needed for out Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse. Unfortunately, she has suffered most of the year and longer from an ailment that has made her feel sick most of the time. She went into the hospotal for a few days and is now trying to recover at her sons' house. Please pray for her recovery. Kate Lewis, who has been in the Church of Christ for a long time and still speaks of her devotion to Christ and his church, is in a rest home and not very well. Please remember these sisters in your prayers.

Good news at last. We have seen the love Jesus spoke of Christians learning, sharing, caring and enjoying one another. We had so much encouragement brought to our congregation from our visitors and of course from our preachers; Audley Barnes and Howard Taylor. They came from Oklahoma to bring a message of love and admonishment to a very receptive aukience. We loved the visiting and discussions with everyone. We had a few outsiders that we hope will accept God's plan and promises. Our thanks to Brother and Sister Earl and Zelma Broadway from the Yuma, Arizona congregation; Brother and Sister Tom and Charlene Broadway from Rogue River, Oregon; Brother John McKinney from Selah, Wa. congregation; Brother Sonny Chadwick from Austin, Texas congregation; Brother Vernon Bentz from Chico, Ca. congregation; Brother Larry Brockman from the Chico, Ca. congregation; plus we had some visitors from La Habra, Ca. congregation came over. All in all, we had a pretty good crowd. We also want to include the preachers and their families. We sure miss the crowds we used to have at our meetings Please don't let Christian politics overshadow the good of Christian fellowship with one another.

May God bless and keep you all.

In Christian love, Mark Perigen for the Bellflower Church of Christ.

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have a lot of exciting news to report from Baron. Best of all, we have a new brother in Chrit. Brother Bobby Gardnehire, (the son of our brother who recently passed away), was baptized June 28th. Combined with our four repeorted in the July Courier, and the 3 baptized at Lorenzo's meeting, it sounds like the church is doing well. Praise be to God for that; [1 Cor 3:7] We are hoping for some mor soon here at Baron.

There ware a lot of great meetings this summer. We really enjoyed our meeting here at Baron and Stilwell. Bro. Richard Johnston, as he always does, did an excellent job. His lessons were clear, very

specific, and most important, scriptural. It was also good to see Sis. Monica and Sis. Jessica, and to meet Sis. Sharon Lamb. A special thanks to our many visitors.

The meeting at Goshen was my first opportunity to hear Bro. Howard Taylor preach. I thought so much of his lessons I used one of them the following Sunday at Baron. It was also good to visit with Sis. Leola nd their Grandaughter, Sis. Crystal Barnes. Thanks to the brothers and Sisters at Goshen for their hospitality. Bro. Brett Brown and I were able to attend 5 nights of the meeting in Lorenzo, Tx. It was a thrill to finally meet Bro. Ken Harper and his family. In his lessons, just like his articles, he took some very deep subjects, and made them understandable. Thanks to all the people there, especially Bro. Erroll and Sis. Earline Forsman who we stayed with, for their love and hospitality. Bro. Brett and I got to spend a few minutes with Bro. and Sis. Atchley on our way back. They needed everyone's prayers. Mon and Dad were there this past weekend, July 5th. Bro. Atchley will be 87 years old August 16th. Please pray for them.

Bro. Jim Brown had surgury on his thyroid gland recently. He asked me to express his thanks for all the prayers on his behalf throughout the brotherhood. He is doing well now.

The singing at Goshen was June 28th. We all enjoyed it, but as usual, our voices gave out before we wanted to quit.

We really enjoyed the visit of Bro. Paul Andrews and his parents yesterday. Bro. Paul gave an excelent lesson on the "Fruit of the Vine", explaining why it is necessary to use unfermented grape juice in the communion.

I hope I haven't overlooked anything. Come and visit us any time.

In Christian love
for the congregation at Baron
Bro. Terry Warford

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OLNEY, TEXAS

Dear Christians:

We, the church of Christ, (formerly, the California Creek Church) is now the "Newcastle" church of Christ. We have a new building that we are very proud of. It is located on highway 51 by the feed store north toward Olney.

We enjoyed a weekend meeting July 3rd - 5th. Guest speakers were; Sammy Boen from Van Buren, Ark; J. W. Bedingfield from Humble, Tx.; and Bro. Walter Spurlin from Reyden, Ok. One baptism; BROTHER MICHAEL FREEMAN, of Deer Park, Texas. Visitors attending were; Paulene Lowery;

J.W. and Pearl Bedingfield; Jeff Freeman: Sammy and Barbara Boen; Jack and Margaret Scott; Lou and Michael Freeman; Jodie and Louise Youngblood; Elnora Bishop; David and Raynelle Mitchell; Johnny Moody; Clifton and Nina Stopp; Hattie Mayer; Reba Huber; Doug and Phyllis Ferguson; Tammy, Julie and Crystal; Leroy, Darlene and Karla Mullens; Carol and Johnnie Bunch; Thelma, Walter, Oline, Colleen and Paul Spurlin; Atto and Nora Elliott.

We enjoyed watermelon after services Saturday night and lunch at the school cafeteria on Sunday. We enjoyed everyone very much and welcome anyone coming this way to visit in our homes and to worship with us on Sunday at 10:30. We look forward each month to getting the Christian Courier. Keep up the good work is our prayer.

Love and best wishes to all.
Ed adn Frances Tate

(donation enclosed)

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just returned home after attending the "Delta 87" camp meeting at Cedaredge, Co. We were blessed so much by being with old and new acquaintances. The meeting was held at the Big Spruce Camp grounds, which was a beautiful mountian setting.

There were (19) nineteen congregations represented there and the attendance was 98. (some says 103) Everyone that I talked with said that it was the best meeting that they had ever attended. Many also said that it was the best meeting that they had attended at Cedaredge.

Brother Ken and Sister Verlie Baldwin were in charge of all the proceedings. Bro. Ken attended every service except one. That is very commendable on his part, because of his being very weak. I found strength in him and his determination. The altitude here is about 7000 feet, and the air is very thin, but I became used to it fairly soon. So I know that it was very difficult for Bro. Ken just to get up and move around.

Let me take a moment and tell you just how much our family was blessed by being at the meeting. There was so much love and joy with just being there with the brethren, and there was the studying and the singing and the worship services, and the food and working together with brothers and sister in Christ. Then, best of all, there were (22) twenty two who came forward for the prayers of the church. They came repenting of something that they had done or not done in their life and most of them came, seeking strength in their lives. So they

could go on serving God with His help and strength. There was also (1) one baptized into the Body of Christ. She was Sis. GARYN FOUNDATION from Port Orchard.She was baptized by her Grandfather, Brother J.D. Logan. After the services, the young men went down to the creek, which ran near the house where services were held, and they built a rock wall to dam up the water so it would be deep enough. It was a most memorable occasion. Imagine, 98 people makeing their way down the path to the creek, which was overshadowed by a big tree, some of the people were on the little bridge crossing the creek, and the rest were on the other bank, holding flashlights and lanterns, with blankets ready for the new Babe in Christ to be born. Picture the scene. Beautiful voices singing "O happy day", and the music ringing through the forest, rejoicing with the angels in heaven, giving praises to God the Father for His love and for His Son whom He gave so we may have life everlasting. To me this is a picture of what heaven will be like. All the saints there together singing praises unto the Lord, voices echoing across heaven. There was campers, cars, trailers, vans, etc...all parked in among the beautiful woods of the Happy Hollow camp grounds, as voices sang praises to the Lord, as sermons were being given, as studying of God's Word was going on, as happy people being with one another. What a happy scene. But there was one sad note. Brother Howard McCay didn't show up to help with breakfast one morning. We thought for sure that he had had heart problems, but thanks be to our heavenly Father, it was only an attack of the flu or something other than his heart. He was much better when he returned from the doctor. With medication he was up and around enough to give us a wonderful sermon on saturday, about "marriage". His sermon was proceeded by a film that he had brought about the Mormon movement against the Church of Christ. Yes, the Mormons are after our young people and this film shows the activities of this cult. I would highly recommed it to all the congregations. Contact Bro. Howard and get this film to show to your young people, to let them know what to look out for. We all need to know about this very powerful and dangerous cult. The young ones that will be in contact with our young people are very 'clean cut' 'moraly sound' 'well mannered, and well educated' people. BUT VERY DANGEROUS.

What else can I tell you about the "Delta 87" camp meeting? I have just about covered it all, except I would like to thank the young people that was there, for their steadfastness in the Word of God. And for their enthusiasm for the work of the Lord. These young people were the ones who selected most of the topics for discussion, and they were the ones who brought out most of the scriptures covering the subjects. I would go as far to say that because of the young people the meeting was a great success, both for the Lord and for those who attended. I might add to that if these young people are the example

of all those in the Body of Christ, we don't have to worry about the future of the Church of Christ. They are very strong in the faith and they don't mind fighting for the truth either. So, please, stand behind them, help them in every way you can, and stand behind them in prayer, in getting yourself up, and out, to all the meetings that you can possibly attend. THAT is where we can help ourselves and these strong, faithful young ones who are going ahead with determination in teaching and fighting for the truth. (And especiall to the "concerned christian" whos letter is in this issue) DON"T BE CONCERNED. Just offer your help and understanding and prayers for those who are fighting for the faith. We all know that it is a battle. "Put on the whole armor of God...." They should have the support of every christian in the country. They are 'standing in the gap'. So come on, give all the meetings your total support, for this is where we can help each other become stronger and stronger as well as in our own congregations.

I am very proud of the young people that was at this meeting. Of those who came forward there were 10 year olds, 14 year olds, 20 year olds, 40 year olds, 70 year olds, some of every age, so you see the Word of God did work there, convicting us of our shortcomings and showing us that we need not be ashamed of standing up and getting rid of our shame and quilts. Stand up for our Lord, as these people did, and as those everywhere in the church are doing. Be proud and thankful that you are a christian. A true child of God. Then TELL THE WOLRD.

What else can I tell you about the most rewarding meeting that I have ever attended? Make your plans for next year. Yes, right now, plan you vacation for the "Delta 88" meeting. It will start July 2, 1988 and will continue for a full week. You need to attend these meetings that are going on. For your sake and for your childrens' sake. We found that through the studying of the Scriptures in this fashion, that we all can and do learn a lot about ourselves and about things like "peer pressure". Most of the people discovered that it is not just something that the young have to put up with, but men, women, boys, and girls everywhere have to contend with it. So put your thinking caps on and come up with Scriptural topics that your want discussed and show up next year. Your will be rewarded and I know that our Lord is well pleased with the results this year. Let us never shirk our duty toward our God. At home, or at church or at camp meetings. Lets be there when the congregation comes together. Angels in heaven will rejoice.

If you are interested in next years meeting, contact me or any of the brethen and I'm sure you will receive directions, addresses etc...

Your brother in Christ
Homer Bryant

Call (415) 682-2600
(collect if necessary)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

LOCO, OKLAHOMA	July 26 - Aug 2	TOM BROADWAY
CEDAREDGE, CO	July 2 - 9 (1988)	CAMP

NOTE: Please send in the dates of your meetings as soon as you get them

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Congregations who were represented at "Delta 87" meeting were;

LORENZO, TEXAS - AUSTIN, TEXAS - SEYMOUR, TEXAS - Reydon OK.
SAN PABLO, CA. - PENN VALLEY, CA. - SACRAMENTO, CA. - SELAH, WA.
PORT ORCHARD, WA. - SEATTLE, WA. - LOCO, OK. - BARON, OK. - -
STILWELL, OK. - FLORA VISTA, N.M. - CEDAREDGE, CO. - BELLFLOWER, CA
YUMA, AZ. - PAYSON, AZ. -TEMPLE, GA. .....

The congregation at Cedaredge, Co. wish to thank each and everyone who attended for their support and for working so hard to make the meeting a rewarding and pleasant occation for everyone. We love all of you very much.

Your brother and sister in Christ
KEN AND VERLIE BALDWIN

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THE MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self
and the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself, and see what the "man" has to say.
For it isn't you father or mother or wife
whose judgement upon you must pass.
The fellow whose verdict counts in your life, is the one staring at you from the glass.
You may be like Jack Horner and chisel a plum and think you are a wonderful guy.
But the "man" in the glass says you are only a bum
and you can't look him straight in the eye. He's the fellow to please,
never mind the rest, for he's with you clear to the end. And you have passed your most
dangerous test IF the "man" in the glass is your friend.
You may fool the world down the pathway of years
and get pats on the back as you pass
but your only reward will be heartaches and tears
IF YOU'VE CHEATED THE "MAN IN THE GLASS."

(author unknown)

Submitted by Sister Mary Mckinzie
Waterford, Ca. congregation