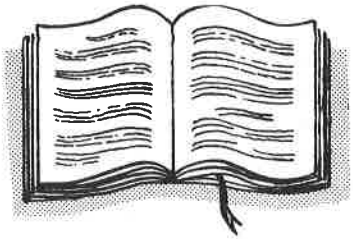
J LOGAN

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WATER INTO WINE

It is argued by many that the case of Jesus turning water into wine at the marriage in Cana of Galilee is an example of social drinking This is recorded in [John 1: 1-11]. It is conseded that Jesus made intoxicating wine for a social gathering so it must be okay for us to drink socially. This scripture must be mis-applied to come to this conclusion. The problem is, we think that every time we read the word 'wine', it means an alcoholic beverage. The word wine is a general term and its meaning must be determined by the context. The most common Greek word for wine is "oinas". It can mean unfermented grape juice. We must check the context to see whether it is fermented or unfermented. Authorities tell us that unfermented grape juice was the common drink in Jesus' day. The best grape juice was the freshest not the most intoxicating. If Jesus turned water into wine this is not an example of social drinking, but it was drunken brawl. After the guests had well drunk, Jesus provided another 120 to 150 gallons of wine. Jesus would have been tempting the people to drunkeness. The Bible says [Hab 2:15] "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also....."

The Bible has plenty to say about strong drink, all bad. Please read these few references. [Gal 5:21--Isa 28:7--Prov 23:29, 35:21, 17:23, 21:20].

So Jesus did not turn water into alcoholic wine, but simply grape juice. This is not an example to social drinking.

Paul Andrews
Rt. 2 - Hindsville, Ark. 72738 (501) 789-5878

The butterfly. An interesting creation of God. It begins in a clumsy stage, a caterpillar. It feeds constantly among the leaves. For months the caterpillar encases itself in a chrisalis which has a hard shell. Weeks later, it breaks out and appears in its adult form--a BUTTERFLY with beautiful wings. What a marvelous change it undergoes. But this miracle cannot compare with the change experienced by one who is baptized into Christ. ["For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye all all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."] [Gal 3: 27-29]

A BEAUTIFUL NEW CREATURE, IN CHRIST.

PRIORITIES

This subject came up several times at the Delta Camp Meeting, so I think it timely to write briefly on this subject. [Matt 6:33] Jesus tells us to "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (necessities of life) shall be added unto you." So we see the formost thing in our life, the 1st priority, is the church and God's righteousness. Paul tells us; [Rom 1:16-17] ..."For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation. To everyone that believeth to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed." So

So in searching the Gospel of Christ we find the righteousness of God which we are to seek, so again Paul, writting to Timothy and by extention, to us, says: [2 Tim 2:15] "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Our first priority is God's approval, not man's. But it seems that we sometimes work so hard for man's approval that we lose track of God. Brethren, no matter what people think of us, it matters not. If God approves of us, it is enough. So who are we trying to please God or man? Where is our priority? Jesus tells us: [Matt 5:11] "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you, falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Again, who are we trying to please? Where are our priorities? If God be for us who can be against us? Let us strive with all our might to be approved of God, for without His approval in the Day of Judgement, we will be forever lost.

Written in Christian Love
Howard McCay - 3904 Knobel Ave - Yakima, Wa. 987902

I HAD PLANTED THEE A NOBLE VINE
[Jeremiah 2: 21]

"Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed; how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?" Here we see where the Lord had planted Isreal, a right seed but they degenerated into a strange vine. (Why?) What did they do? First look at verse 5. They had gone far from God and walked after vanity and become vain. Well, how does this compare with many today? [Rom 15:4] "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning." Well, we have been planted together in the likeness of his death. [Rom 6:3-5] Planted as a seed, to rise in his likeness; a right seed. [Luke 8:11] [1 Peter 1:21-22] So what caused them to become a strange vine? [Jer 2:5-8] (1) They went far from God. (2) and walked after vanity and become vain. [James 1:26] "If any man

among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is in vain." Look around and see that this goes on today. How much gossip do you hear among the members today? Read 1 Timothy 5:13, and comply. Why will this go on? [Jer 2:8] "The priests said not, Where is the Lord? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit." So it is in the vinyard today. [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." So we see here that Paul said the same thing would happen to the church as happened in [Jer 2:7-8] Also [James 2:14] "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." [2 Tim 4:3] "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables." (or lies) This is what happened to Israel by their teachers and leaders. [Jer 2:13] "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewn them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." (re. verse 19) They had committed wickedness and forsaken the Lord and His fear is not in them. Well what has happened in the church? The men wear long hair and the women short hair. [1 Cor 11:1-16] Also what has happened when the men and women don't wear enough clothes to hide their bodies. (SHAME) What has happened when young women has committed fornication? What has happened when preachers uphold drinking, dancing and gambling; sun bathing on sun decks in public view. And we could go on and on. Like it is okay to get all the worlds' goods you can. [Rev 3:17] And become selfish and cold toward their duty to others. [1 John 3:18] What has happened to the pastors and the preachers who go into debt and also will borrow money and put the church in debt? [Rom 13:8] "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." [Prov 22:7] "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." [1 Cor 7:23] "Ye are bought with a price be not ye the servants of men." But we take no heed to the plain Word of God and do the very thing he said not to do because our preachers will not teach on these things for they do the same thing themselves. Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters; [Luke 16:13] So if we become the servants of men we can't serve God at the same time.

Think on these things! Written in love of the truth.

Lloyd Treat

Proverbs 25:25
"AS THIRSTY WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

The church has some good news. We baptized one of my Grandaughters-in-law. Sister Tresa Treat, and also have quite a few coming back to the church as well as several of the grandchildren and in-laws. WE rejoice very much, and ask that you pray for us that we may grow and be well and sound in the faith. The wife is still sick and now she has cataracs in her eyes and will need an operation before long. The rest is as usual. Brother Terry Warford and Brother Gerald Buckner came down a few Sundays past and Brother Terry gave us a good lesson. (the following is from another letter I have received, so I'll just add it on to this one) We have also baptized three more into the Body of Christ and have some more members coming to church now. The others we baptized were Brother and Sister Rickey Brown: Brother Randel Treat. We sure do enjoy having all those new ones in the church, and others coming too. We appreciate and thank God for these Brothers and Sisters.

The rest of the church is well and the wife (Sister Treat) has had eye surgery and is improving very well, but can't seem to get her health back for some reason none can find.

Brother Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, OK. 74728

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have already written about how much we enjoyed the Delta metting (which will appear in the Special Edition soon) But we not only enjoyed it, the Lord touched us all and we came home so fired up and enthousiastic that we are now planning a meeting of our own. Brother Paul Warford will hold our meeting September 23, 24, 25, 1988. We will have planned hay rides, vollyball, softball, etc... Join us in the fellowship and fun if you can.

In Christian love
The Aztec congregation.

P.S. We all have extra beds and most of the meals will be pot-luck. For information call any of the following. Roger Bixler 334-2421 - Frank Ridean 334-6791 - D;uane Bixler 334- 6723 - J.D.Johnson 334-2411-

FURNISH CANYON, KENTON, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

My last letter sometime back must have gotten lost in the mail.

In the letter I mentioned about Clyde L. Couchman's death. Since I hadn't read anything about his departure in the Courier, I thought some of the brothers and sisters would like to know.

CLYDE COUCHMAN - Born 12/31/1904
Departed from life 11/1/1987

Burial was at Kim, Colorado.

Brother Clyde and Sister Carmen Couchman worshiped in their home in Trinidad, Colo. Sister Carmen's last address in March of this year was; 1505 East Main #25, Trinidad, Colo. 81082. She has a son in Trinidad. If Clyde and Carmen were not on the Courier's mailing list she might appreciate a copy each month. Also a letter from the brethren in Christ would be welcomed also.

Sister Millye Francis has been unable to attend worship services for some time now. The 90 mile round trip was just to tiresome on her weakened condition. She is 96 and came each Lord's Day as long as she was able. She has had a stroke and is in the hospital. Some days better, some days worse.

% Cimerron Memorial Hospital
Boise City, Oklahoma 73933

I'm sure she would appreciate your cards and prayers.

We have a new young man who has not missed worship service since he was born. Born June 27th 1988 to Sister Tonnie and Brother Matt Wiggins.

NAMED: ZACHARY THOMAS WIGGINS

Big sister, Jessica Dawn, takes it in her stride. We had visitors Bro. J.L. Jared and Sister Eunice Jared. Also some of their family. Sorry, I can't remember all the names or when they were here this summer

That is about all the news at this time. Please find a check enclosed to help with the Courier.

In Christian Love
Billy L. Richardson, for the Chruch of Christ
Furnish Canyou, Kenton, Oklahoma 73946

Note: I regret that I did not recieve the first letter, Brother Billy. But I am real glad that I have received this one. You gave us a lot of very important news..... Editor

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NEWCASTLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters:

We are happy to announce that the church at Newcastle, Texas, will have a weekend meeting Sept. 16, 17, 18, 1988. Our speaker will be Brother Jim Brown of the Baron, Ok. congregation. We hope everyone who can, will come and share a wonderful fellowship with us. If there are enough teenagers and young adults interested, we will have a special activity planned on saturday, the 17th.

Services will be at 7:30 P.M. on Friday and Saturday and at 10:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. on Sunday. Lunch will be at the Newcastle school. All here are looking forward to sharing this fellowship with all who can attend. Below is a list of members who are looking forward to having you stay with them. They are also electrical and water hook-ups behind the church.

Stanley Goodwin family 715 Plum, Graham, Tx. 817 - 549-6079
Toodler & Frankie Joe Goodwin, Olney, Texas 817 - 564-2254
Steve & Darla Fikes 1102 W. Edwards,Olney, Tx 817 - 564-3267
Wade & Edwana Fikes, Box 767, Olney, Tx 817 - 564-5095
Horace & Lydia Pounds 1420 Fairway, Graham, Tx. 817 - 549-4341
Ed & Francis Tate 501 N. Ave. O, Olney, Tx 817 - 564-2598
Jimmy & Jaetta Loftis 1408 Thompson, Graham, Tx. 817 - 549-2608
Janell Moody, Box 5, Newcastle, Tx 76046 817 - 846-3340

We are happy to announce the birth of a lovely baby girl.
RACHAEL ELIZABETH ALTMILLER
A lovely daughter to Sister Sherri Altmiller. Rachael is the great-great grandaughter of Sister Lee Bishop of Olney.

In Christian love.
Stanley Goodwin
for the Newcastle Church of Christ

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Another summer is almost over and most of the annual meetings that we all look forward to have ended. The Loco congregation just ended a very uplifting and rewarding meeting with Brother Al Way from the Bellflower, Ca. congregation. Brother Al way very strongly put forth the Word of God. If any one person in the building got out without his or her toes being pretty well trampled, they are very lucky indeed. He pulled no punches, just stated the Word of God and what He expects of all of us to be able to receive our reward in heaven with Him.

As well as the benifits and results I believe we all reaped from the meeting, we had some very visable results too. Nine people came forward for the prayers of the church and we had two baptizisms. Our Nephew, GREG JONES, was baptized thursday night and CARLA MULLINS fro Randlett was baptized on Friday night. The whole week was a very joyous week for us all and surely the angels in Heaven rejoiced with us.

One night everyone was invited to mine and Teresa's house for singing. Another night we had a watermelon feast at Jo Williams. Then we had an ice cream social at Bro. Andy and Sis. Darla Barnes house. This was combined with a birthday celebration for Sis. Larrissa Smith, age 83. On Saturday we reserved the pavillion at Comanche Lake and

had a hamberger fry and played some vollyball. We want to let everyone who came to help support Brother Al Way and his family during the week, know how much we love and appreciate you all. It could have been a great week just hearing the fine lessons, but what seems to make it so special is the love and fellowship that we got to enjoy for a whole week. People came from (13) thirteen congregations. A few were close, but most had a pretty far ride. Besides Bro. and Sis. Way from Bellflower, flying in, we had Bro. Bill Jared from Chesterson, Indiana to fly his plane in. Other congregations represented were; Oklahoma City, OK.; Lugert, Ok.; Baron, Ok.; Stilwell, Ok.; Randlett, Ok.; Ringgold, Texas; Newcastle, Texas; Lorenzo, Texas; Duncanville, Texas; Bohannon Mt. Arkansas; and Goshen, Arkansas.

Thank you, everyone of you, for coming and especially thank you Brother Al and Sister Okja, and A.J. We love you all. I hope every meeting ended as specially as ours. Everyone come back any time. Our homes are open year round, not just at meeting time.

In Christian Love
Audley Barnes
For the Loco congregation.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

YUMA, Arizona	Oct. 23 - 30	TERRY WARFORD
LORENZO, TEXAS	Dec 25/88 - Jan 1/89	ELLIS FORSMAN

BAPTISMS

SISTER TRESA TREAT	BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA
BROTHER RICKY BROWN	BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA
SISTER RICKY BROWN	BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA
BROTHER RANDEL TREAT	BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA
BROTHER GREG JONES	LOCO, OKLAHOMA
SISTER CARLA MULLINS	RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Also (9) nine came forward at Loco, Ok. meeting.

BIRTHS

ZACHARY THOMAS WIGGINS, born to Brother and Sister Matt & Tommie Wiggins June 27, 1988, Kenton, Oklahoma.
RACHAEL ELIZABETH ALTMILLER, born to Sister Sherri Altmiller, Olney, Texas. Congratulations to the proud parents.

DEATHS

Brother Clyde Couchman, born 12/31/1904, died 11/1/87.
Sister MacDonald of the Olivehurst, Ca. congregation also passed away last Lord's Day, 8/21/88. She was the Beloved Mother of Lee MacDonald and family. Our love and sympathy goes out to our brethren who are sorrowing. We thank God for His love, in that He sent Jesus Christ our Lord to take our sins upon himself, thus, taking the sting of death away from us. "O grave, where is thy victory."