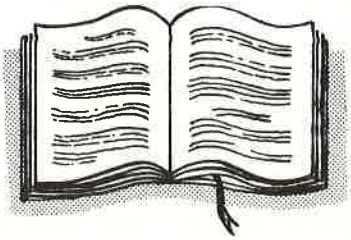
3 89

The Christian Courier



Published monthly by

The Church of Christ

PHONE (415) 682-2600

The Christian Courier is published monthly by the Church of Christ and all letters, articles and comments are the sole responsibility of the authors. Send all materials to be printed to 1273 Plumleigh Lane, Concord, Ca. 94521 (415) 682-2600

A PICULIAR PEOPLE OR NOT?

A short time back a public figure was accused of sexual immorality. In writing of this, it was quoted in the newspaper that his friends said; "He measured up well by the norms of life as lived in the last quarter of the 20th century." The writer went on to say; "If we are reduced to measuring moral behavier by what is normal in the times in which we live, we are in trouble."

As I look around in the church today, I believe we are in deep trouble, as more and more church members seem to be trying to live by the standards of society and not by the standards laid down by Christ our Lord. These are they that would probably have accepted slavery if they had lived in the South before the Civil War, or if living in the mountians of Tennessee, Kentucky, etc...they would have accepted boot-legging because everyone was doing it. By the same token they now do drugs, alcohol and pre-maritial sex. and other such things. Because it is common place in our society and they seem to see no wrong in it, although it is contrary to the Word of God. Some has even taught that these things are alright as long as they are done in moderation.

Brethren, I believe it is past time that we "know them that labor among us." We cannot follow the customs and practices of the times in which we live, which are contrary to the Gospel of Christ and still be pleasing to God. [Heb 13:8] Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. Christ has not changed with each new generation. Nor has his body, (the church). Therefore christians who make up the body, cannot change or they are no longer christians, the Body of Christ.

Do we no longer fear the wrath of God? Go back and read the Old Testament and see how God dealt with those (His children) who disobeyed Him, and went after the customs of the lands in which they lived. The things God loved 5,000 years ago, He still loves, and the things he hated then He still hates. [Rom 12:1-2] "I beseech ye therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world (society) but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind (studying God's Word) that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect Will of God." What was good and acceptable and perfect then, is the same now. [Titus 2:14] Jesus

Christ gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar (different or changed) people, zealous of good works. [1 Peter 2;9] Also tells us that we are a peculiar people. Brethren, if we look like the world, act like the world and talk like the world, we are not peculiar people, but a worldly people. IT is only those who dress according to the Bible, act according to the Bible and talk according to the Bible, who are christians. A peculiar people, the Body of Christ for whom he died. Brethren, are we influencing this world or is the world influencing us?

Think, pray and study on these things. Written in love of the Church, Christ's Body.

Howard McCay, 3904 Knoble Ave., Yakima, Wa. 98902

WHAT NAME SHOULD A CHILD WEAR?

You often hear it said, 'There is nothing in a name.' and 'if your heart is right with God, it doesn't matter what name you wear religiously. Such is false doctrine. All men, institutioins, & churches are known by and influenced by the name they wear. From the standpoint of personal names, the name Adam, Noah, and Abraham represent three quite different men and convey different ideas to us when we hear them called. From a viewpoint of official names, the words prophet, president govenor and king carry different ideas as well. Now considering the subject from a national point of view; The names German, Spainard, Englishman, and American each carry different ideas from all the rest of the world. Such is no less true in the realm of religion. Mormon, Baptist, Methodist, and Catholic, each carries some distinctive idea, associated with that name and no other. You do not think of a Mormon bowing down to the Pope. Neither does the name Baptist bring to your mind one who sprinkles babies. Each name is blended with its own particular doctirne; you do not have to attatch the doctrine of one church to another. Now, is there anything in a name? Does God want His people call by any special name? If true, then He has revealed His will on this matter. If God has revealed His Will, we can find it in His Word. The only question is, are we willing to abide by God's Will? Then consider this evidence.

1. In every age God has permitted man to name what belongs to man; but what belongs to God, God has named, and has condemned man for changing the name.

2. God met Jacob, and changed his name to "Israel", and ordained that such should be the name of this patriarch from henceforth. He declared that when other nations saw his people called "Israelites", or called by God's name, they would become afraid of them. [Duet 28:

10] [1 Chron 7:14] God made the promise that He would forgive the sins of His people who were called by His name. The name that God gave them, they continued to wear until after the division into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom went into copmlete apostacy, and was finally swollowed up. The two sothern tribes retaind the government God had given them, but became also apostate in many particulars. For one thing they forsook the name "Israel", and called themselves Judah, or JEW. So God sent Isaiah to prophesy agains them. He said: "You shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen, for the Lord will slay you, and will call His servants by another name." [Isaiah 65:15] This other name which the Lord was going to give is again referred to in [Isiah 62:1-2] "And the nations shall see thy rightousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." This same "Name" was in view in [Isa 56:5] "Unto them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name better than of sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off."

From this last statement it is clear that the name could not be given by an outsider or an enemy, for it was to be given "in my house", or in God's church. Not out of it. What God does is by an ardained agent, and is said to be done by God himself. For instance, God said that He destroyed the Amalekites, yet He did it by the agency of Saul. God said He brought Israel out of bondage in Egypt, yet we all know that He did it by the hand of His agent, Moses. Even so did God select a member of His church, and ordain that th is "new name" which He had chosen for His people should be given by this one. While Christ was on earth this new name was not given; for it could not be given until the Gentiles saw God's righteousness. Christ preached to the Jews, only; hence the new name could not be given during his ministry; for the same reason it could not be given on pentecost, for once again the preaching was to the Jews only. [Acts 8] We find the deciples scattered abroad; [Acts 9] We find the conversion of Saul of Tarsis, afterward known as Paul. In verse 15, we have this significant statement; "For he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the Children of Israel." In the very next chapter (10), we find the conversion of the first gentiles at the house of Cornelus. [Acts 11:22] We find the very first congregation of Jews and Gentiles. Let us remember that God had said through Isaiah, that when the Gentiles saw His righteousness and all the kings His glory, then His people should be given a "new name" which the mouth of the Lord shall name." [Isa 62:1-2] The church at Jerusalem had heard both Jews and Gentiles had received the Word at Antioch, and they sent Barnabas down to them. But remember that God had already selected Paul as the one to "bear His name"; And that this would be done when the Gentiles saw His right-

eousness. [Acts 11:25] We find Barnabas going from Antioch to Tarsus to seek for Saul, and when he found him he brought him to Antioch.

[Acts 11:26] The very next verse declares that the deciples " were called christians first in Antioch." This is the first time in the history of the world either sacred or profane history, that the word "christian" is ever found. We conclude that this was a fulfilment fo Divine Prophesy, and that all who were striving to follow Christ would be "christians" and christians only. It was some years later that Agrippa told Paul that he had almost pursuaded him "to become a christian. [Acts 26:28] And many years later Peter declared that no man should be ashamed to be persecuted as "a christian" [1 Peter 4:16] Among the religious people, there can never be any agreement for all to become Methodists or Baptists, nor Presbyterians. This is obvious. Because the Methodists do not accept the Baptist doctrine.... etc.....Each one thinks the others are wrong on the particular points wherein they differ from Him. But all of these groups say that if a man is a christian, and serves God faithfully as such, he will be saved. It is absolutely safe then to study the Word of God, and it alone, as your guide and standard in religious matters. From its sacred pages learn God's simple plan of salvation; From the heart obey the Gospel of Christ, and let God add you to His church. Wear only the name of Christ, being a christian, nothing more, nothing else. If you do this, you will indeed have that "old time religion", and heaven will be you home in eternity.

In Christian love, Ken Harper.

FOOLISH AND HURTFUL LUSTS

[1 Timothy 6:9]

They that will be rich fall into many foolish and hurtful lust which drown men in destruction and perdition. (Perdition, complete desertion of the soul.) Here we see there are many foolish lusts, which hurt and kill the soul of man. I believe when we are drowned in them we are dead. I never have seen a man that was drowned that was not dead. So if we are drowned in lust because of wanting to be rich, we are dead. (verse 10) For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after have erred from the faith and pierced themselve through with many sorrows" (verseel1) But thou, O man of God flee these things and follow after righteousness. (which is God's commandment) [Psm 119: 172] For all of His commands are righteousness. What are some of these lusts? [1 John 2:15-16] Lust of the flesh.(which are many) Lust of the eye. What we look upon and want, these are not of God and if we love them, the love of God is not in us. We

drown ourselves in them) Like [Tit 1:11] They teach things that they ought not, for filthy lucre sake. (money and what it will buy) and verse 16; they profess they know God but in works they deny Him being abominable and disobedient and unto every good work, a reprobate. Reprobate means; God has abandoned us while we continue in sin, and are content to stay there.) [Ps 81:11-12] My people would not harken to my voice and Israel would none of me." (Not obey me) "So I gave them up to their own hearts' lust; and they walked in their own council." [1 Cor 10:1-2] and he destroyed 23,000 in one day. [1 John 5:16-17] We are told not to pray for it. We see that there are many foolish lusts which will kill our souls. So we have to watch for them and avoid them. How many times have we heard church members say; "If I had the money, I would buy that." Do we ever stop to think that we are expressing our lusts? When we say those things we forget the commandment s of God. [1 Tim 6:5-7] supposing that gain is Godliness, from such withdraw thyself. But Godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we can carry nothing out. (v 8) having food and raiment, let us be content." (Are we content?) Let us ask ourselves a question: [James 2:14-16] We see this command. If a brother or sister be in need and destatute of daily food and naked, and we say: "be ye warmed and filled, and not given them anything, go in peace, what does it profit? Here it is directly commanded for us to give them what they need. (then why don't we?) Was it because you say that you don't have anything to give, yet you have plenty to eat, and yet we will still say, 'I don't have anything to give. I would if I could.' (why don't we have it?) Or as it as James says: [James 4:3] Ye ask and receive not because we want to consume it upon ourselves. (lust, pure and simple) [Phil 4:1-9] Did not God say by Paul, my God will supply all your needs according to His riches by Christ Jesus? (If we are commanded to give to those who are in need, then He will supply our needs, and He will supply the things we are to give to others.) And if we don't have it to give, have we spent it on a new car, a motor home, a cruse on a boat, or even on a house. (90 to 150,000) so we don't have enough to go around. Just barley scraping up the money for the payments? James says [James 2:26] The body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Is our faith in God dead, because of our foolish and hurtful lust? My brethren in [1 Cor 10:1-12] we see that they eat and drank of Christ (which is eternal life) they lusted after the things of the world, evil things, and they were not allowed to enter the promised land because of their lack of faith in God. [Heb 3:18-19] So in 4:1 let us fear lest we not enter in because of unbelief. [2 Cor 5:7] We walk by faith not by sight. Well they also was to walk by faith but they did not. All of us who fail today do so because of lack of faith.

And the excuses we use is following in the same pattern of unbelief. And many will say in that day; [Matt 7: 22-23] Lord, Lord, have we not taught in thy name and done many wonderful works, and He will say unto them I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity

WHY? Because we are to lustful and want our own easy life here, when Jesus our Lord had no where to lay his head.

Yours for a christian life.
Lloyd Treat - 13 N Bock - Broken Bow, Ok. 74728

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

BELLFLOWER, CA.

Dear Loved Ones In Christ:

May the grace of God reach out to each of you in our Lord's name. We have had several visitors in the past few weeks. Tom and charlene Broadway, J.L. and Eunice Jared, Theresa McKinney and her cousin, Ray. Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse's daughter, Ruby, from Texas.

Our small group is doing fairly well as we start into 1989. We have had our colds and flu, but praise be to God, nothing more serious.

We continue to look into the pure Word of God with open minds and hearts asking for wisdom and guidance from God. As we grow we see we must leave behind the world and its ways of darkness and conform to the mold Jesus Christ left for us.

We would like to announce our meeting date and speaker for this year. Brother Dan Teague has consented to speak July 2, through the 9th. The holiday will allow our members to enjoy one or two additional full days fellowship with the brethren. Brother Dan is from the Duncanville congregation. We welcome everyone to visit and enjoy a full week of God's dear Word, but please don't wait unbtil then, come anytime.

Please remember us in your prayers as we always remember you.

In Christian peace and bond of love.

Christ's church at Bellflower.

INDIAN SPRINGS, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We were saddened at the death of Sister Norma Frago and Sister Ines Usrey. We had met Sister Frago at a Waterford, Ca. meeting several

years ago and since then have keep in touch with her condition through Brother and Sister Logan. We had also known Sister Usrey for about 20 years and miss her very much. But comfort can be taken in the fact that a person is a christian when the time comes to depart this life.

Sister McCluskey, who was considered legally blind a year ago, went to her specialist ans shocked them all when she was able to read four more lines than the visit before. They said that was practically unheard of. Of course we know that it was an answer to our prayers and we thank God and thank all of the christians who prayed for her.

I don't know if I mentioned that Brother Ron Tibbs and family is meeting with us now. So we have reported good news and sad news. But that is life on this earth. We all look forward to eternity where is no bad or sad news.

In Christian Love
Ken & LaVerne Harper - Indian Springs Church of Christ

BOHANNAN MOUNTIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are happy to report that except for colds we are all doing very well at this time.

There were very few at the services last Sunday, because of the bad weather. We had quite a lot of ice on the roads. We are sending a contribution for the Courier. We could use a few more copies each month.

Remember us in your prayers.
In Christian love.
Bohannan Mountian Church of Christ.

WATERFORD, CA.

Greetings:

It has been a while since we reported to the courier. We here at Waterford have had our share of colds and flu. On January 30th, Sister Kay Guyer had heart by-pass surgery with 5 by-passes. She is doing well and is at home now. Brother Frank Morse had emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix Feb. 7th. He is improving bu t is still in the hospital. Brother Frank has had a lot of illness the last 6 months but was doing fine and back to feeling like himself when this hit him.

Charlotte and I would like to thank all those who called and wrote and most of all, your prayers for our daughter, Sister Kay Bentz, of Chico, Ca. She has been sick since Dec. 5, 1988, and as of now, the doctors stilldo not know what is wrong with her.

Our congregation, outside of illnesses are doing fine. We always

are thankful to any visitors who come by. Remember us in your prayers as we will remember all of you in our prayers.

Al Burtis for the Waterford congregation.

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear ones in Christ:

A note from the Yuma congregation. We've had more than our share of sickness this winter. Several have had the flu and it is so hard to get rid of it. Sister Debra Nelson had surgery in Dec. for L.M.J. The surgery was done in Phoenix and Debra and Steven returned home Christmas Eve. She is still on a liquid diet, as her jaws are wired shut for eight weeks. She has been in so much pain for such a long time. Aunt Mary Davis has had surgery for the removal of a growth. She developed pnumonia and was put in I.C.U. She was there for about a week and has been put up to a regular room. Aunt Mary had her 89th birthday while in the hospital. She is a special lady to lots of people.

Sister Ruth Duncan is scheduled to have surgery on her back again. This will be done in Phoenix in the near future. Please pray for these three sisters.

We had a number of winter visitors meet with us this winter. We've had to apologize for our weather. It hasn't been all that great this winter.

In Christian love and prayers for unity in Christ.

Verda Nelson

Editor's Note: Sister Neslon called me after I received this letter and her Aunt Mary has passed away. May our Lord receive her in His loving care, and may our prayers be of comfort for her loved ones.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

A note to the Courier

Pleae send me only one copy of the "Christian Courier" in the future. The other copy was for my mother, who has passed away.

Thank You

Verna Danfoth

Our love and sympathy goes out to you Sister Danforth. We pray that our Heavenly Father will receive your precious Mother into His loving care, and that her sins be forgiven so she will reach that eternal home. May God bless you too.

Written for all the Brethen in Christ.

Editor

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We at the Sacramento congregation want to thank each and every congregation for their prayers and support during our sorrow of the passing of Sister Usrey, my wife, and Mother of Brother Lloyd Usrey, Deana Usrey and Raymond Usrey, on January 8, of this year. We sure do miss her. We know she was a good and faithful christian. We know she is in no more pain or sorrow, and that she is in the good hand of the Lord. God rest her soul. (The church adds our Amen.)

On the brighter side of things and a time of rejoicing, Brother Toby Lauder came forward and returned to the church, and his wife, Lynn and his son, Jeremiah came forward last Lord's Day, Jan.29th and made their confession and were baptized into the Body of Christ.

Everyone here in Sacramento is well and are up and about, except for myself. I am just getting over a bout with the flu. I am doing fine now though.

If the Good Lord is willing, Sister Dorothy Johnson and Myself hope to see all of the Christians that can make it, at the Church camp meeting in Delta, Colorado this summer.

Yours in Christian love.
Brother J.D.Usery and the congregation in Sacramento, Ca.

FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO

Dear Brother Homer:

Thank you for sending the Christian Courier to us. We will be moving Feb. 15th, so please send the Courier now to; P.O. Box 204, Farmington, New Mexico, 87499.

Bro. Abe Labato and children
For the church at Farmington.

NOTICE!

It has been reported that Sister Amy Orendorph of Seattle, Wa. was in a serious car accident. She has a broken colar bone and pelvis. Her son David has a broken spleen and other injuries. The accident happened on Feb. 5th. Your expression of love and prayers would be greatly appreciated. Send cards and letters to them at the Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, Washington. 98168. She is in 6 North Room 6. We pray that the Lord will heal their bodies and comfort their loved ones during this trying time.

Editor

	End of World	Manifestation	Appearing	Trump	Revelation	Coming	Day
Saints Resurrected		I Peter 5:4; Col. 3:4.		I Cor. 15:51, 52; I Thess. 4:15, 16.	I Peter 1:13.	I Cor. 15:23; I Thess. 4:15.	John 6:39, 40, 44, 54.
General Judgment			II Tim. 4:1.			Matt. 16:27.	Acts 17:31; I John 4:17; II Peter 2:9; 3:7.
Saints Rewarded	Matt. 13:40, 43.	Col. 3:4; I John 2:28; 3:2.	II Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:28.	I Thess. 4:15-17.	I Peter 1:13; II Thess. 1:7-10.	II Thess. 1:10; 2:1; I John 2:25; I Thess. 3:13; 4:15-17.	I Cor. 3:13-15; II Thess. 1:10; II Thess. 4:8.
Wicked Punished	Matt. 13:49, 50.	II Thess. 2:8.			II Thess. 1:7-10	II Thess. 1:10; 2:8.	II Thess. 1:10; Rom. 2:5; Matt. 7:22,23; Jude 6.
Separation	Matt. 13:40-43;47-50.			Matt. 24:30, 31.	Luke 17:29 30, 34, 35.	Matt. 24:37, 40; 25:31-46; Mark 13:26, 27.	
General Resurrection							John 11:24.

A study of this chart will reveal that these events all are to be fulfilled at approximately the same time. Certainly no scriptural justification may be found for allowing long intervals of time between these events.

The chart shows, too, that the second coming of Christ is to be one event, though it is called by different names. This can be proved from the fact that many of the terms listed — such as "coming," "appearing," "manifestation," etc., are quoted from the same verses of Scripture.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

LORENZO, TEXAS	June 18 - 25, 1989	JOHN MCKINNEY
CEDAREDGE, CO.	July 2 - 9th 1989	CAMP
BELLFLOWER, CA.	July 2 - 9th 1989	DAN TEAGUE

[Are there any more to report?]

DEATHS

Sister Verda Nelson has lost a dear Aunt. Her Aunt Mary Davis passed away and I'm sure Sister Nelson and all her loved ones would appreciate all our prayers. May God bless you, Aunt Mary.

We send our love and prayers for you, Sister Nelson.

From everyone in the Chruch of Christ

BAPTISMS

TOBY LAUDER	Jan. 29, 1989	Sacramento, Ca.
LYNN LAUDER	Jan. 29, 1989	Sacramento, Ca.
JEREMIAH LAUDER	Jan. 29, 1989	Sacramento, Ca.

CAN WE RESTORE THAT CHURCH TODAY?

If the children of God, the body of Christ, today, "continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers"...., we would re-enact the lives of the early saints, and be well pleasing to God. If we observed the same items of work and worship as they, we would then have the same church. For if the very same gospel preached on the day of Pentecost were proclaimed today, it would have the same effect. For the Seed is the Word of God [Luke 8:11] and the seed will bring forth a constant result. That which saved men during the first efforts of the church, will save them now. (and does save when preached) All we need is to have the same obedience, wear the same name, hold to the same inspired truths, and render the same obedience to the same Lord, and the Lord will add "to the church daily such as should be saved."

And then, to what church would the Lord add those obedient souls? You can rest assured that He would add them to His own church, the church of Christ. Isn't it simple and plain when you forget the present-day sectarianism with its multitude of 'denominations', church doctrines and dogmas, and human creeds, and just go back to the BIBLE only? Friends, we are not divided over what God's Word says. Brethren, we are divided and torn apart by what MEN have declared. Let us approach the Word of God, prayerfully and forget what our own dictates teach us, and take the Bible and start anew in studying faithfully, and renew our pure minds by way of rememberance and let the Word of God dwell in us RICHLY, taking it by faith and practice.

Really, this is all God asks of us. selected