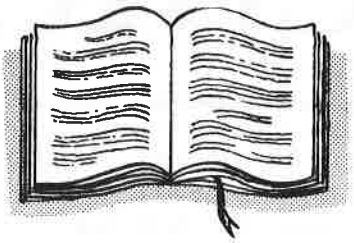
The Christian Courier



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LIFE IN CHRIST

The Bible teaches that upon conversion the new believer is to be baptized in water. In obedience to Christ's command, Peter told the anxious crowd on the day of Pentecost that they were to repent and be baptized. Throughout the book of Acts, this commandment was carefully followed by the early church.

The significance of water baptism cannot be overemphasized. This baptism is a burial of the old self with its slavery to sin, and a resurrection into newness of life in Christ. It is an outward sign of an inward change of motivation, loyalties and affections. It is also a visible and public declaration that the newborn Christian will no longer follow the world's ways, his or her old life of sin, nor the temptations of the devil.

GOD'S WORD: SWEETER THAN HONEY

Beloved brothers and sisters, let us each examine our attitude toward God's Word. All of God's Word. In this study, we will see how very important His commandments are. Yet we will also find that the rest of His Word is important too. It must all be followed and obeyed just as His commands must.

First of all, lets examine the importance of His commands. [Psa 119:172] "My tongue shall speak of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness." [1 John 5:3] "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievious."

Yet, there is more to God's Word than commandments. And we cannot disregard parts of His Word just because they aren't direct commands.

[Psa 19: 7-11] "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether: More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them (all of them) is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

You see, all of God's Word is sweeter than honey. And in keeping of all of it there is great reward. Do each of us desire His law, testamony, statutes, fear, and judgements as well as His commandment? We cannot disregard any of them. If we disregard His testimony because it isn't direct commandment, we stay simple instead of becoming wise. If we disregard His judgements, we are disregarding truth and righteousness.

Let us attain the attitude of David in [Psa 119:20] "My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times."

Lets quickly look at some examples that show following all of God's Word. We'll be following His commands, and following the rest too.

We are commanded to study; [2 Tim 2:15] but not how often. But how much treasure would we lay up in heaven if we followed the example of the noble Bereans in [Acts 17: 10-12], and searched the scriptures daily?

I have found no New Testament command that reads; "Thou shall not gossip" Yet we can find God's teatamony in [Prov 26:20] "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." Isn't His wise testamony enough to keep us from it?

The teaching on hair in [1 Cor 11:1-16] IS a command. Because we find in [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." Yet even if it wasn't a direct command, God has spelled out His judgement of what is pleasing to Him. Isn't that enough to convince us to follow it?

Where would we be if Christ had disregarded things that were not commanded? He didn't have to die for us. He could have called twelve legions of angels to rescue him: [Matt 26:53] But what was most important to Jesus? [Matt 26:42] "Thy wil be done."

To desregard any of God's Word, even if it is testimony, judgement, or example instead of command, puts us in the position of directing our own steps. [Jer 10:23] "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Instead, we must surrender ourselves completely to Christ. [Ja 4:10] "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up"

What happens if we keep His commands only, and disregard, or pick and choose among the rest? Remembering that the punishment for the unprofitable servant is ourter darkness, [Matt 25:30] lets read the words of Jesus; [Luke 17:10] "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which were commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants we have done that which was our duty to do."

Let us close this study with two final scriptures.
First, notice [1 John 3:22] "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

[Matt 4:4] "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Brethren, every Word. This includes, but is not limited to, every command.

Written for your study in the hope of edification.

In Christian Love:

Brother Terry Warford - 409 S. 1st - Stilwell, Ok. 74960

THE RICH YOUNG RULER

The story of the rich young ruler in Matt 19:16-22, is one of the most interesing, and yet, one of the most tragic to be found in the New Testament. He came to Jesus expectantly and left him sorrowfully. Such a promising dawn he had, and it is so sad to see this bright morning change into gloom and night. One moment we see him running courageously and humbly to meet Jesus (even kneeling); the next momet he has gone away carrying with him his great wealth and a broken heart.

Let us consider who this young man was, his hopeful question, Jesus' startling reply, and his sad departure.

From this world's point of view he was young - "the young man" [Matt 19: 20-22]. Youth is something that this old world values very highly. This young man possessed youth; he stood at the morning of life. This is the best time in life to start giving one's life to Christ "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." [Ecc 12:1]

He was a ruler - "a certain ruler" [Luke 18:18] Place, prestige, and power were all his; hence he was a man of influence. He had wealth. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions." [Matt 19:22] It goes without question that this old world considers wealth to be very worthwhile. Money is condensed energy; "money talks". However, he was "not righ toward God." [Luke 12:21] From heaven's standpoint he was an earnest man. He came "running" to Jesus. [Mark 10:17] He came to Jesus with great enthusiam and humility. He knelt before Jesus. [Mark 10:17] He came in the spirit of humility; he had no false pride. In kneeling, he recognized Jesus as being divine and entitled to worship. Others had come to Jesus that their bodies might be healed, but here is one pleading for his soul. He came in the spirit of a disciple to learn wisdom from the "Great Teacher" for he called him "Good Master." "Master" was a title which the Jews were in habit of applying to their religious teachers. He was an honorable man. "The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?" [Matt 19:20] Hence, he was a man with a good record.

If you judge him by this world, he had youth, influence and wealth. If you look at him from heavens's viewpoint, he had earnestness, humility, reverence and morality. He would stand high in the world and in heaven. Most people would say that he is good enough for heaven. But morality alone is not sufficient in God's sight.

The young man's hopeful question was really two questions. "And behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life." [Matt 19:16] He had doubtlessly been taught by Jewish teachers that men are to be saved by doing something. "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old. Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul." [Micha 6:6-7] "The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?" [Matt 19:20] But one thing may

mean everything; like a key to an automobile, or a rudder to a ship. He did not lack youth, influence, reverence, or morality. But he had missed eternal life; that life which comes only from knowing God through Jesus Christ. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." [John 17:3]

Look at Jesus' startling reply (which was a twofold demand). "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." [Matt 19:21] "If thou wilt be perfect" - if you will supply that which is lacking and make your obedience complete. "Go and sell that thou hast." - consecrate you all to God. Why? Jesus wanted him to dethrone tha idol in his heart. Jesus saw that he made riches his idol. "...and come and follow me." This was essential. What Jesus was after was not primarily the selling and giving. He was after the young man himself; he was after complete obedience.

The young man's sad departure. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." [Matt 19:22] How unlike the way he came to Jesus. He who came "running and kneeling" with such high expectations, now walks away slowly with a sad countenance. Thus he failled to become a disciple of Christ.

But why did he go away? Had Jesus been unkind to him? No, but because he "had great possessions." [Mark 10:22] He tried to hold on to the tresures of both worlds. He loved his wealth and position more than his own soul. "The deceitfulness of riches" choked out the word of Jesus from his heart, and so blinded his judgement that he could not obey.

Ellis Forsman - 1034 South 140th -Seattle, Wa. 98168

WHY DON'T WE OBEY?

[Hebrews 5:8-9]

"Whereforethen didst thou not obey the voice of the Lord, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the Lord." [1 Samuel 15:19]

Here we see the king of Israel disobeying God and God rejected him and took away from him the kingdom, and gave it to another. Saul also lied to Samuel; (v 20) and said he had done the thing he had told him to do. So he was told that the Lord had greater delight in obedience to him than he had in sacrifices. (V 22 -23) Verse 23 also teaches that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. So we see that we are to present our body as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service. [Rom 12:1-2] And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of our minds. So we may prove what is that

good and acceptable and perfect will of God. So why don't we obey? WE see people that have come into the church by obeying that form of doctrine; [Rom 6:17-18] and made free from their sins, go ahead and live and do just as they did before they were forgiven. They have not renewed their mind. Their way of thinking is still the same as it was. All they have done is add to their life going to church. Their manner of life is the same. If they wear shorts, swimsuits, sunsuits, pants and went with the crowd swimming, they still do the same thing. They talk about making money, ball games, jobs, vacations and in general the things of this world. [1 John 2:15-16] But ask them where you find "Jesus wept" and they can't tell you. But we are commanded to search the Scriptures "daily". [John 5:39] for in them we think we have eternal life. Also [2 Tim 2:15] We are commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God. (or to meet God's approval) How do we know that we meet God's approval? [Heb 2:1-2] "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." [Duet 22;5] is one thing we have heard. [1 Sam 15:23] is another. [Psa 1:13] is another. [Prov 6:10-11] is another. "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want is an armed man." But we see the members can't seem to get enough sleep. When they are off for a day or two, we can call them at 9:30 in the morning and they are still asleep. Solomon said [Pro 6:9] "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? [Prov 4:26] "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." [Prov 12-11] "He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding." Today, most people like to do just what others do. Go to the same places and do the same thing and say that there is nothing wrong with it. [1Cor 6:16-17] Paul said come out from among them and be ye seperate (different) sayeth the Lord and I will receive you and be a father unto you and you wil be my sons and daughters. Sayeth the Lord Almighty again; [Rev 18:4] John said that he heard another voice from heaven saying come out of my people that ye be not partakers of her sins; and ye receive not of her plagues for her sins have reached into heaven. (So why won't we ovey?) [John 14;15] Jesus said if ye love me ye will keep my commandments. (not just part of them) [John 15:10] If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [Eph 4:1-5] So let us do as we are told and endeaver to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Love to all
Lloyd Treat

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

SEATTLE WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Things are going quite well here in Seattle. Although we've had a pretty wet spring, the weather lately has been very nice. There has been some sickness, but no more that can be expected. Amy Orendorff and her son David are recovering nicely after their car accident last winter. Fortunately their injuries were not worse than they were, though painful. We are all thankful for the prayers that went out on their behalf.

After 2½ years the boundary dispute was finally settled out of court and we were able to sign papers in purchasing the property for the church. We are meeting in a small building on the property which we remodeled until we have a chance to build another on the front half. Currently ther are 27 meeting here on a regular basis, including children. We will be having a 3 day meeting here over the memorial day weekend, May 27 - 29. David McCay from Lorenzo, Texas, will be our speaker. Some members plan to be at the Delta, Co. meeting this year.

Always happy to see good Christian friends there.

In Christian love,

Ellis Forsman for the Sea-Tac church of Christ
1034 South 140th
Seattle, Wa. 98168 (206) 241-7493

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We send our love and greetings to all the brotherhood everywhere. Our prayers is that all are enjoying God's blessings in good health. We have been blessed with so many good things these past few weeks. We have had the pleasure of hearing a wonderful sermon from Brother Audley Barnes, and enjoying him and our dear Sister Teresa Barns. They were with us April 4th and we certainly are greatful to them for worshiping with us. We are rejoicing with Brother and Sister Louis and Melody Glynell, because of the arrival of their firstborn, JAMES LOUIS GLYNELL, on March 30, 1989. James and Sister Melody is doing fine, and James is "singing" right along with all of us. May God be praised for giving us this beautiful baby boy. We were all reminded by Brother Barnes to "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." And rest assured, James will be taught those priciples as he grows older.

Thank you Brother Audley for those comforting Words from the Bible. Hurry back and be with us again.

Lord willing we plan to be in Lorenzo, Texas on June 18, to attend the meeting held by Brother John McKinney. We have never been to Lorenzo and are looking forward to the meeting. Also, Lord willing we will try to be at some of the other meetings also, as time allows. Pray for those who need our prayers, like Brother Earl Howe, who fell and broke his hip. I understand he is doing fairly well now. Also remember to send funds to help him out. No matter what it is, send it. Every little bit helps. Also, if there is any brother or sister that needs the help of the church, please let us know so we can spread the word.

San Pablo Congregation

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Welcome, to Christ, to life, to love. We are so happy to have three (3) new Babes in Christ. March 12, 1989, ALICE DAVIS asked for the prayers of the church. It is so good having her meet with us again.

March 19th, Sister SUSIE DAVIS was baptized, and March 26,1989 VALORIE DAVIS was baptized. April 2nd DENNY DAVIS was baptized. What a blessing. We are so thankful for these three precious souls.

Please pray for Sister Zelma Broadway. She fell and injured her right leg severly. She is getting around with the help of a walker, and Brother Earl's help too.

Also Sister Ruth Duncan hasn't recovered from her back surgery as well as she should. She would appreciate getting cards and letters of encouragement from all of you. Her address is:

Sister Ruth Duncan
P.O. Box 366
Somerton, Arizona 85350

With love to all. The Ave B Church of Christ, Yuma, Az.

PAYSON, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are all alive and doing well. Enclosed is some money to help with the Courier. If anyone in Phoenix who needs a place to worship, we are about two hours away - North, in Payson. There are about eight that meet here. You are welcome anytime.

In Christian love.

John & Adam Shepherd

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church at Waterford is doing fine. We've had several colds and flu, but we have had very good attendance this past winter.

Sister Kay Geyer is recovering very nicely from by-pass heart surgery that took place at Doctor's Hospital in Modesto Jan. 30,1989. So it is time to thank you all for the many cards, telephone calls flowers and visits she received while in the hospital. Kay is doing her household chores and walking 1 to 2 miles nearly every day. We have much to be thankful for. Again thank you for your prayers and cards and flowers.

We had a number of visitors since the first of the year. Brothre and Sister Rex Mickey were here and Brother Rex preached for us a very fine lesson. Brother Harry Wegley from Grants Pass, Or. Sister Clouse, who was visiting Sister Annis Browns. Sister Clouse is from the Bell-flower congregation. Brother Dennis Bentz and his wife, Sister Kay and their two boys were here from Chico, Ca.

Everyone here at the Church at Waterford are saddened, and wish to express our sympathy to Sister Davis, at the loss of her dear son. Jerry Wayne Davis, born Sept 3, 1947, died March 23, 1989, Modesto, Ca. The Graveside services were held March 28, 1989 at the Denair, cemetary, Denair, Ca.

[Rom 12:15] Weep with them that weep."

Last Sunday Brother Roger Lamb, his wife Sister Sharon Lamb and their two chil.dren were here to worship with us. Young Brother Justin Lamb read a chapter for us And Brother Don Weakley gave us a very good lesson. Being the first Sunday of the month, we had dinner in the base-ment, as usual the Sisters served up an excellent meal. We enjoyed the fellowship of this christian gathering.

We are sorry to report that we will not have a meeting this year.

Christian Love to all.
Dean and Kay Geyer
P.O. Box 747
Hughson, Ca. 95326

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Blessings to all from our congregation. We here are fairing well, praise God. When we hear of some in the brotherhood taken ill or catast-rophy befalls them, we can really be thankful that our colds, aches and pains are the worst of it.

I am reminded of Job in his response to his financial, health

and family losses: "He fell to the ground and worshipped God." It makes our petty struggles to survive small in comparison.

We had some visitors this month. Audley and Teresa Barnes met with us on their way to the San Francisco area. He shared some insight with us on the good Word. We missed Krystal this time.

Our Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse went to see her friends and family in Modesto for one week. Al Okja and Alfred Way went to the Oregon area to visit Grandma Way. Along the way they were able to worship with and visit Tom and Charlene Broadway. They also were able to visit with J.D. and Eunice Jared. We were thankful for their safe return.

We still enjoy good fellowship aro und God's Word during the week. It's a real blessing for all involved. Please try to come to our meeting this year, July 2 - 9 with Brother and Sister Dan Teague. I can't wait to meet them as I have not had the pleasure as some in the congregation. We hope we'll see many visitors this year.

Our love to the brotherhood everywhere.

Mark Perigen for the Bellflower Church Of Christ

SECOND NOTICE!

Again, we ask! What about a complete church directory? I have only received from one congregation a good, complete listing of all the members and non-members and leaders of the church. And that is from The Pleasant View Chruch of Christ, Stilwell, Ok. Apparently they are the only ones interested in getting this directory out. Please, send in the information from your congregation. It will make traveling so much eaiser, especially if you are trying to find a certain family, and where they worship. We need this directory. We need to keep in close contact so Satan can't get a foot hold on the church. I am willing to get it put together, but I need the information before I can do it. If there is anyone who objects to this, we understand, and you don't have to participate. I will be waiting for your response.

Editor

The Church Is the Body of Christ

[1 John 4:7]

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."

BIRTHS

LAURIS ASHLIE ENRIQUES Newcastle, Texas To Richard & Mistle Enriques

JAMES LOUIS GLYNELL San Pablo, Ca. To Louis & Melody Glyneil

DEATHS

JERRY DAVIS Waterford, California

BAPTISMS

SISTER VALERIE DAVIS YUMA, ARIZONA
SISTER SUSAN DAVIS YUMA, ARIZONA
BOTHER DENNIS DAVIS YUMA, ARIZONA

RESTORED

SISTER ALICE DAVIS YUMA, ARIZONA

[Hebrews 4:12]

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints a marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart."

GOSPEL MEETINGS

LORENZO, TEXAS	June 18 - 25, 1989	JOHN MCKINNEY
CEDAREDGE, CO.	July 2 - 9, 1989	CAMP
BELLFLOWER, CA.	July 2 - 9, 1989	DAN TEAGUE
YAKIMA, WA.	July 23 - 30, 1989	GREG STACY & JOHN BEDINGFIELD
CITRUS CITY, ARIZONA	Nov. 19 - 26, 1898	REX MICKEY

++++++++ARE THERE ANY OTHERS?++++++++++

[Dueteronomy 11: 26 - 28]

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if they obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."