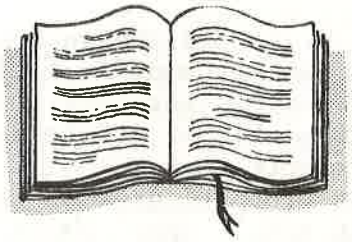
89

The Christian Courier



6-7-89

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 Lan , Concord, Ca. 94521. (415) 682-2600

From the Editor:

This issue will be for the months of June and July. We will be going to meetings and on vacation, and will not print a July paper. Lord, willing we will continue the printing in August.

Editor.

WEDDING GARMENTS

[Matt 22:11 - 12]

When the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man which had not on a wedding garment and he said to him; Friend, how comest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. How many people at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, will find that they are unprepared and not properly dressed?

Why the man was not properly dressed is not said. Maybe he was negligent. Maybe he just didn't care. Maybe he just didn't think it was important. But whatever the reason, he was cast out into outer darkness where there was pain and sorrow. [Rev 14:7].

Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white for the fine linen is the <u>righteousness</u> of <u>saints</u>. When we were baptized all the sins and filth of this world were washed away and our garments were pure and white. But, sad to say, all do not keep their garments in this condition. [James 4:4] "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God". [Jas] 1: 27] We are to keep ourselves <u>unspotted</u> from the world.

[Rev 3:4] Tells us that those who have not defiled their garments (with the affairs of this life; the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye and the pride of life) that they shall walk with Christ in white, for they are worthy. Brethren, let us take a <u>close</u> look at <u>ourselves</u>. Are our garment pure and white or are they soiled? Do we have on the proper wedding garment that is pure and white? If we don't, shouldn't we do something about it? We may fool relation, our friends and neighbors, but we can't fool Christ or God. If we dont have on a <u>proper</u>

wedding garment, we will be cast out.

In love of the Brethren

Howard McCay - 3904 Knobel Ave Apt.8 - Yakima, Wa. 98902

OBSERVATIONS ON CHURCH GOVERNMENT

It will be our intention in the next few issues, to study some questions concerning church leadership in the light of what the scriptures say about the subject. Brethren, we accept the example of the scriptures give in baptism, the Lord's supper, the contribution, etc.... Let us look at church government in the same light. If the example means nothing when it comes to the government of the church, then it also means nothing in all other things! Don't just say; "Well I just don't think that's necessary." If it's given in God's Word it's necessary! If our examination of God's Word reveals that Christ and his apostles have delegated certain responsibility to certain qualified men in the church, certainly we would want to use that plan. The fact that certain men on occasion have betrayed that trust and failed to live up to their responsibility would be no reason to abandon the Lord's plan. Rather it should make us more determined than ever to admisister His laws as He has directed. We also need to observe that Webster defines Anarchy as "absence of government." That word cannot be found in the Bible, but I do know of the Lord's people trying to carry out his work without government. Are we anarchists?

Pt.1 DO WE NEED IT?

Advice and commandments to individuals who were to have responsibility in ruling over the Kingdom are given in many places in the New Testament. [Rom 12:8] Paul gives the following advice; "He that ruleth with diligence." Speaking again of the ones who would rule Christ's Kingdom, Paul commands Timothy; "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity, for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?" [1 Tim 3:4-5] And in case there should be some questions as to Paul's meaning on the duties of Bishop, look at [1 Tim 5;17] "Let the elders that RULE WELL (caps mine) be counted worhy of double honor."

In these passages it is made plain that Chirst has made provision for there to be certain officers in his church to administer it's laws. As well as directions to the rulers, there are directions to the ruled. Notice [Heb 13:7] Remember them that have rule over you, (17) Obey them that have the rule over you, (24) Salute them that have rule over you." By these verses we see that in the Lord's church there are those

who are in positions of authority, or Government.

There are many in the church today who resist the Lord's plan for the government of His church. Many times we have heard the statement "I've got just as much say as anyone else around here." Or "I've got my rights too." especially when we're wrong. My question is "Who gave you those rights, or that "say"? It was not the Lord! His Kingdom is not a democracy, to be run by the majority, nor does it have to respect the rights of the individual who is wrong. It is a Monarchy, with Christ as head and King, and is run by those whom He has deligated authority to as governers in His absence. Let us not set ourselves up to resist the Lord in His instructions as to how His church is to be governed. Note the warning of the Apostle Peter to those who would oppose government. After speaking of the most wicked sinners the world has ever known, in vs. 1-8, he goes on to say in vs. 9, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly out of temptation and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and DISPISE GOVERNMENT." And in vs. 12, He reveals the end of those who despise government. "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption." W.E.Vine says that government means "Those who act as guides in the local church." The sense of this passage seems to be that God is more displeased with those in the church who resist establishemt of scriptural leadership than he was with the angels who sinned, or the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Search the New Testament. There is not one example of a faithful church that was without some form of government. There is not one case where any christian was acceptable to the Lord and at the same time living his life under some kind of lawless kind of freedom style outside the government of the church. There has grown up in the world a generation of people who find it degrading to their ego to have to submit themselves to law and order or to their own husbands, younger submit themselves to the older, [1 Peter 5:5] Paul exhorts the Corinthians to submit themselves to the house of Stephanas after they of that house had indicted themselves to the ministry, [1 Cor 16;16]. We in the church today, need to learn the valuable lesson of submission to God's form of Government. We do need it in the church today, because God has ordained that it should be there. (READ 11 Peter, chapter 2)

The alternative is very plain!

Randy P. Deems

==========

NOTHING

[John 15;5] Jesus said; "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." This was so proved in [Luke 12:1620] when the rich man had so much riches and Lazrus had one thing that the rich man did not have, and it was worth more than all the riches than the other had, he had Christ on his side. So we see when time came to leave here, Lazrus had the only one thing the other wanted but could not buy; for he had to leave all his riches behind, and was in torment. So, don't err, my brethren.
[James 1:17] "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." [Eccl 2:24] "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God." So we see here that all we get is from God. So we see, without Him we are nothing. [Eccl 5:15] Again we see; "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?" [Eccl 6:2-12] God gives wealth and man wanteth nothing for his soul, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof. Like the rich man; [Luke 12: 16-20] "...Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:" So he left it all behind and had nothing. [Eccl 7:13-14] "Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that a man should find nothing after him." For the whole duty of man; [Eccl 12-13] "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Jesus came to the fig tree; [Mark 11:13] and found nothing on it, he declared that no man eat thereof from hearafter. This is like his child when he returns; [Matt 25] and reasons with his servants. The one talant man had nothing, and was cast into outer darkness, for everyone that is after the flesh; [Rom 8:5-10] which are the pleasures of this life, and other things, will wind up with nothing. [John 6: 63] "the flesh profits nothing. We have an acount of people like this in Acts 17: 21] "(For all the athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing." Are we going to be like them, and others, and have NOTHING AT THE JUDGEMENT?

Yours in Christ
Lloyd Treat

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

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings to all the brethren. We are glad to report 2 more young ones were baptized into the Body of Christ. We hope they will live full faithful lives for the Lord. The young ones are leading singing and doing a great job. We sure do need the young ones in the church.

Anyone coming this way be sure to stop and worship with us.

In christian love
Lloyd Treat

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We all send our love to the brethren, and would like for everyone that can, come and be with us in our meeting this year. It will be held Dec. 24 through 31, 1989. We will invite all preachers to be guest speakers at the meeting. We have hookups for your trailers and R.V's. There will be plenty of room in our homes too. So come and be with us so we can get to know you better.

Please pray for our beloved of this congregation who are ill and need the Lord's healing hand. Our prayers are with you all, too.

Yours in Christ
Brother M. Boling

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Sorry we haven't written in so long. Our little congregation is growing. As of last June, we have had 8 baptisms. Bro. Rick and Sister Katy Brown; Bro. Randall and Sis. Teresa Treat; Bro. Tony and Sis. Alicia Treat, and our newest babes in Christ are Bro. Steven and Sis. Tammy Norris. God be with them all.

One marrage has happened. Tammy Ferguson, daughter of Bro. And Sis. Doug Ferguson, was united in marriage to Steven Norris in March. Our prayers for along union for this couple.

Bro. Lloyd is very busy taking care of Sis. Susie. She has been able to be with us at church services pretty regularly. Sis. Hazel Harville, have a happy birthday in May. You too, Sis. Ola McKinney.

We are all doing pretty good, health-wise right now. As of last count, we would like to request some extra papers. At least a dozen to begin with, would be appreciated.

I am sending a small contribution to the paper. Because I enjoy recieving them. Continue in God's love and truth.

In Christian love.
Sister Kathy Treat

==========

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We enjoy reading the Courier. It lets us know what is happening in other places. We would like to let everyone know we have a new grandson. Although he is almost 4 months old.

KOLTON JOE BARNES was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Darla Barnes on Jan. 20, 1989. He was born with a problem and had to be flown to Oklahoma City to the Neo Natal unit. He was critical for a few days. He stayed for 19 days. Thanks to God for answering our prayers and for the doctors. He is doing fine now.

Everyone is doing fine at this writing.

In Christian love.
Preston & Sis. Anna Belle Barnes
Loco, Oklahoma

==========

JENNIE (Granny) MACK

Jinnie (Granny) Mack went home to a better place April 17, 1989. She was 98 years old and had been a member of Christ's Body for 72 years. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Three generations of people treasure the quilts, lap robes, Teddy bears and pot holders she made and to them.

Her life was an example to us all. She was a member of the Selah, Washington, Church of Christ.

==========

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."
(John 14:15)

BIRTHS

KOLTON JOE BARNES — LOCO, OKLAHOMA: — To Brother & Sister
Jan. 20, 1989 — Andy, & Darla Barnes

==========

DEATHS

Sister Jennie Mack (Granny) — April 17, 1989 — Age: 98

Member of Selah, Washington congregation.

==========

BAPTISMS

Brother Rick & Sister Katy Brown
Brother Randall & Sister Teresa Treat
Brother Tony & Sister Alicia Treat
Brother Steven and Sister Tammy Norris

All of Broken Bow, Oklahoma

==========

GOSPEL MEETINGS

LORENZO, TEXAS	June 18 - 25, 1989	JOHN McKINNEY
CEDAREDGE, COLORADO	July 2 - 9, 1989	CAMP
BELLFLOWER, CA.	July 2 - 9, 1989	DAN TEAGUE
YAKIMA, WA.	July 23 - 30, 1989	GREG STACY & J.W.BEDINGFIELD
CITRUS CITY, AZ.	Nov. 19 -26, 1989	REX MICKEY
YUMA, ARIZONA	Dec. 24 - 31, 1989	GUEST SPEAKERS

++++++++++++++ANY MORE? ++++++++++++++

==========

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (1 Peter 3:15)