The Christian Courier



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"LORD, BY THIS TIME HE STINKETH"

In this article we want to teach a little about the dead, and the resurection of the dead. It would stand to reason that if a natural body was left alone 4 days after it died, it would stink, (because of the corruption, or decaying process), and this is what Martha was refering to. He had been dead 4 days, and the process of decay would have begun.

What about the old man of sin? [Rom 6:6] "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, (CHRIST) that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin." (verse 11) "Likewise rekon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed ;unto sin." (verse 4) "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:" So here we see that the natural man can't sin anymore, because he is dead. What about the spiritual man?

If the spiritual man is "dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." (verse 8) Thus the old man stinketh; Let us consider what the old man is. The old man that we have buried!
[1 Timothy 6:9-10] "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." [Mark 8:36] "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" [Rom 6: 21] "What fruit had ye then in those things wherof ye are not ashamed? for the end of those things is death." Why resurect the love of money? "it stinks". [Phil 4:19] "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus". [Matt 6: 31-32] "Therefore take no thought , saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek, (don't be like them) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." [Luke 8:14] "And they which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Their fruit is spoiled. (they stink).

What about the fashions of this world? [Rom 12:1-2] "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your-bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." HOW? By "..be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." [Matt 6:31-Luke 8:14] (The word, conformed, is being like, and following after the fashions, or customs, or patterns of the world. They stink.) [Col 3:3-9] "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Verse 5: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. In which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them," (But we buried them) and to resurect them and partake of other sins. [1 Tim 5:22] (To do so, it stinks) [Col 3:8] "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not to one an-other, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds." (he stinks) Why? Because he is dead, and your life is hid in Christ. [Col 3:3] Ask yourself the question: "What did I do before I came into the Church? [2 Cor 13:5] Examine yourselves. [Eph 2:2] "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conver-sation in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind: and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Verse 12; "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from th covenants of promise, have no hope, and without God in the world." And when we do these things, we are without God. This kind of life STINKS. We buried it in that watery grave of baptism. Why resurect it? It stinks by now. [Eph 5:8] "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." Verse 10: "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." But we can't please the Lord if we walk around with the stink of dead sins on us. We did this before we became dead to sin, having our lives hid in Christ! Have we changed from the ways of the world when be became a new creature? Have we buried the old man? (the things we used to do?) Verse 11; "And have NO fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

[This article will be continued in the next issue. Read and study.]

THE 23rd PSALM

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

This scripture brings God so close and personal to all who need Him. God has a plan for the life of every Christian. Isn't it a fact that we so many times want to run ahead of God's leading. We must ask ourselves each morning as we go forth into a new day of moral and spiritual test , who leadeth us? Is it the circumstances the day will bring? The mold society wishes you to be? Is it Christ who leads you? You must have an understanding like the Hebrews of David's time, knowing sheep and shepherds as they did. Just like sheep are almost incapable of survival without a shepherd, the Hebrew believed that his own life and the care of his nation were existant under the watchful eye of God. They believed everything came from God, the good times and the bad, illness and health, freedom and slavery. Without God life had no meaning and possibility of going on.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David were all shepherds. So it is that the people of the time of Jesus' day should of had a good understanding of the sheep-shepherd relationship. If you turn in your Bibles to [John 10:1-30] you will see Jesus identifying Himself as the good shepherd. So as sheep know the voice of their shepherd, so was Jesus' voice heard amongst His flock. People came to God because He calls them. Their proper response should have been to follow Jesus. But this spiritual lesson was missed by those who heard him. So it was that the people were scattered by many false prophets. These false prophets cared nothing for the spiritual good of the people, but only for themselves. Unlike Jesus who would provide not only for their daily needs, but offered safety and most important, salvation. Shepherds were sometimes known to willingly give their life while protecting their sheep from danger. Jesus gave his life to save all who heed His call. My brothers and sisters, this great shepherd still calls together and adds to his flock. The 23rd Psalm should be a reminedr to us that many in our day are being led astray by those who do not lead to the Kingdom of God. Nowhere does the Bible teach that, as Christians, we are exempt from tribulations and natural disasters that come upon our

lives. What the 23rd Psalm does teach us is that as a Christian we can face tribulation, crisis, calamity and personal suffering, knowing that Jesus is leading our lives and continue to heed to His calling voice.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Ken Williams, Waterford, Ca.

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

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

The church here at Goshen is doing very well. Ther has been some sickness. Brother Isaac Ferguson ha heart surgery June 1, 1989, and is doing real good. He got to come home yestereday. (May 8,1989)

With Christian Love
Earnest and Maysel

(note: 50.00 was sent also.)

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Most of the winter colds and flu have now left us here at the Loco congregation. And all seems to be doing pretty well at the time.

We continue to get together in each others' homes on Wednesday nights to study together, or sing, or just be together for good Christian influence. It is very important we spend as much time as possible with Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We want to announce the new additions to our families. COBY AUSTINE NORMILE was born to our daughter and son-in-law, Sister Traci and Bro. Tony Normile on May 19. He weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20½ inches long. Of course, he is a great delight to all of us, especially Teresa and me since he is our FIRST grandchild. He is another one, for us to nurture and bring up in our Lord and Saviour.

I don't think that it was ever announced that on Jan. 20, 1989 Brother and Sister Andy and Darla Barnes had a little boy. The named him KOLTON JOE. He had a rough start, (he was in the hospital almost three weeks) but is doing fine now. Hopefully we can show these two new ones how to live and to serve God as we are all commanded to do.

for the congregation at Loco, Ok.
Audley Barnes

GOSHEN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from the Goshen chruch of Christ. It has been a long time since we have written and we should be ashamed of ourselves. A lot has happened since we last wrote to you. We have had two baptisms here. My brother Phillip and his wife, Sara Auslam. He is taking part in the services, as well as our other younger brothers. And we are very proud of them all.

We have had our share of colds and flu. But it seems to be getting better as the weather warms up. Brother Issac Ferguson went to the hospital for by-pass heart surgery and by the grace of God, seems to have gone through it very well. We hope he can be back with us soon.

Our meeting will start on July 16, throught the 23rd, with Brother Jerry Perigen. We are all excited for it to start. We invite anyone and everyone to come. We also have been blessed with many visitors this year. Always glad to see visitors. As you can see, I am not much of a letter writer, but I wanted to write to let you know we are still here and are still striving for the truth.

Yours in Christian love
Paul N. Auslam Jr.

P.S I was thinking of taking a trip to Washington state this summer, and would like to know where the closest churches are on the way up there. Please let me know right away.

Thank you.

FURNISH CANYON, KENTON, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a note to let everyone know that Bro. Mark Perigen has agreed to hold our weekend meeting July 14-16.

The last Courier publication was for June and July, so this will appear in the August puplication.

Enclosed, please find a check to help out with the Courier.
We are looking forward to meeting Mark's new family.

In Christian love
Billy L. Richardson
For the church of Christ at Furnish Canyon, Kenton, Ok. 73946

Follow-up letter. FURNISH CANYON, KENTON, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We just finished our three day meeting with Bro. Mark Peirgen.

He gave us four fine lessons on God's Word. He especially remineded us not to become "LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS."

Some of us had not met Sister Tammy, Mark's wife, and of course everyone was charmed with Stephen Claud, their son. Also Brother Gerald and Sister Natalie Brockman and daughter, Monica came to be with us. IT is good to meet new christian friends. Brother Gerald helped lead in the singing and with prayers. Millye Francis was unable to attend the meeting. Brother Mark & Gerald and families visited her in the nursing home.

For the Furnish Canyon chruch of Christ.

In Christian Love
Billy L. Richardson

INDIAN SPRINGS INDIAN SPRINGS, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The congregation here in Indian Springs stays about the same. The same small group of faithful christians. Three of our children still meet with us every Sunday, and the other two for three-day weekends and special occations like birthdays, aniverseries, etc.

It is a 4 hour drive, one way, for Eric, who lives in San Jose. Last weekend (memorial day) was one of those occasions when we had all of our family here for the 3 days. They all got to worship with us on Sunday.

I overturned our riding lawn mower with yours truly on the bottom. I now have a fractured left hip. I am confined to a wheel chair because of my limited use of my left arm. I can't use crutches or a cane. I am doing as good as expected, but would appreciate your prayers, that I might be well enough to go to Delta for the camp meeting.

Brother Ron has gone to Alaska to help clean up the oil spill. We sure do miss him. His family is still here and meets with us each Lord's Day.

I hope to see a lot of you in Colorado, Lord willing.

Yours in Christ
Ken Harper

BROKEN BOW, OK.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are planing for a meeting on or about July 15 - 23rd. Everyone is welcome and invited to come. So make plans to be with us. Howard McCay is dong the preaching. My wife is not improving very much and the Doctors can't seem to help her much. So keep praying for her. The rest of us are doing well.

In Christin Love
Lloyd Treat

Births

COBY AUSTINE MORMILE May 19, 1989 Loco, Oklahoma
To Bro. & Sis. Tony and Traci Normile

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BAPTISMS

Brother Phillip Auslam — Goshen church of Christ
Sister Sara Auslam — Goshen church of Christ

Sister Dianna Bailey (age 8) — San Pablo, California
July 29, 1989 by Brother Louis Glynell

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DEATHS

Brother Ira Velmo Brown - Modesto, Ca. - July 26, 1989

Husband of Virgie Brown of Modesto, Father of Virginia Brown of Modesto; Son of Sydney Annis Brown of Escalon, Ca.; Brother of Dorothy Kienitz of Escalon. Laid to rest July 28th, 1989. Officiating, Bro. Homer Bryant, church of Christ, San Pablo, Ca.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

CITRUS CITY, ARIZONA	Nov. 19 - 26, 1989	REX MICKEY
YUMA, ARIZONA	Dec. 24 - 31, 1989	Guest Speakers

(Everyone come to Arizona to round out the year)

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From the Editor: There was one more baptism, and I lost my notes, so I can't include his name. I do believe that he was Bro. & Sister Jimmie Loftis' grandson. Please forgive my neglegance. May the Lord be with all those who are newborn babes in Christ, and strengthen you as you grow up in the Lord.

We wish to thank the Lord for all those who opened their hearts and homes to us on our trip to Lorenzo, and Bellflower congregations. Words cannot express how much we love all of you and thank you for your faithful service to the Lord. We especially thank Sister Loftis and Sister Forsman for that wonderful Texas gravy and buscits. Thank you Brother and Sister John Mckinney and Brother Dan Teaque for your labor of love that you showed in your sermons. We thank the Lord for your efforts and I am sure that He is well pleased.

Thank you for allowing us to miss the July issue of the Christian Courier. We traveled about 4000 miles and had a wonderful vacation. Lord willing we will be back again as soon as we can. May the Lord bless and keep you all in his loving care until our Blessed Saviour comes again.

In Christian love.
The Bryant and Gene Mckinney families.
(Homer Bryant, Editor)