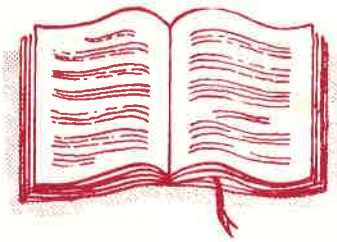
The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to 17103 Bixby Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706

APRIL 1990

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"O SEND OUT THY LIGHT AND THY TRUTH: LET THEM LEAD ME; LET THEM BRING ME UNTO THY HOLY HILL, AND TO THY TABERNACLES."

Psalm 43:3

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"THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPERLY OBSERVING THE LORD'S SUPPER"

Sometimes we don't think about how important it is to properly observe the supper. We think it is enough to just do it. It is very important to do it in the right way and for the right purpose.

I Cor. 11:27 reads, "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord." We read this sometimes and think this refers to how worthy we are to observe the supper. When we think about it, none of us are worthy to eat the supper. We read in Rom. 3:23 "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God". Since we are all sinners, none of us are worthy to eat the supper. This scripture does not refer to how worthy we are, but to the manner in which we eat the supper. When we read verse 27 from the NIV it makes it a little clearer. The NIV reads, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord." We then see it refers to eating and drinking in an unworthy manner.

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I Cor. 11:29 reads, "For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." The word damnation according to W.E. Vine means God's judgment upon men. Thayer says so to eat as to incur the judgment or punishment of God.

So Paul is saying if we eat the Lord's supper in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose, we incur the judgment of God. This is what the Church at Corinth were doing; they were literally making a meal out of it. That is why Paul wrote this to them.

Paul Andrews
Route 2
Hindsville, AR 72738

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"RETIREMENT"

Man makes all kinds of plans for retirement, in spite of what James 4:14 tells us - not to make plans for tomorrow. "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." The Lord tells us in Luke 12:20, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" So, we have no promise of an earthly retirement. If we are blessed with long life, what do we plan for our retirement? Some want to hunt or fish; some want to travel; some want to rest and take it easy; some want to take up golf or some other hobby - but what about Christians? From a study of God's word we conclude that there is no retirement for Christians in this life. Hebrews 4 speaks of the rest for the children of God. Verse 11 tells us to labor to enter into that rest (Heaven). Jesus says in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night (or death) cometh, when no man can work." I find nowhere in the Bible where Christians can just sit down and take it easy. Rev. 2:10 says, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." James 2:17-18 tells us faith without works is dead, we also show our faith by our works. Conclusion: if we must be faithful until death, then we must work until death.

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We sing the song, "There is work for every Christian in the vineyard of the Lord", but do we do it? When we plan our retirement from our secular job, what do we plan for the Lord's work? We now have more time to study, "visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions" (James 1:27), spread the gospel, help support the weak, help small congregations who desperately need spiritual uplifting, write more (or some) articles for The Christian Courier, so as to bring the Gospel to people who we are unable to visit. Brethren, the list can go on and on, but the fact is, there is no retirement in this life for Christians.

Lots of church members retire and the money they have saved up they consume upon their own lusts, not giving thought to the work of the Lord. Matt. 16:19-20 tells us not to lay up treasures on earth, but rather, treasures in Heaven. I Tim. 6:7-8 says, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content." It is not necessary to strive for wealth (earthly) to retire on. What we need to do is to strive for treasures in Heaven to retire on. Earthly retirement is for a few short years, Heavenly retirement is for eternity.

Written in love,
Howard McCay
3904 Knobel Ave. #8
Yakima, WA 98902

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"COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM"

Hebrews 2:1-3 "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. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Here we see that every disobedience received a just reward; how do we expect to get by when we disobey? Or do we want God to be a respecter of persons? In Heb. 3:12 "Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." We see they could not enter into his rest because they believed not and sinned. Heb. 3:17 "but with whom was he grieved

forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware He that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?" So, in Heb. 4:1 "let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." I John 3:13-14, "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death (which is sin, Rom. 1:23) unto life, because we love the brethren." For in I John 5:3 "for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Now what are his commands? How many do you know? The first one we want to notice is I Cor. 15:1-5. Here it tells us that we are saved if we keep in memory the things preached unto us. Do we know that James 4:4 said that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Then why is it that the church people would rather be with the world at a football game than with the members of the church? Do we not know that we are commanded to be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers? Then he asks for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness; or what communion hath light with darkness; or what concord hath Christ with belial; or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel; or what agreement hath the temple of God with idols, for ye are the temple of the living God. As he has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them and be their God and they my people.

Another command is 2 Cor. 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them and be separate, sayeth the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." How come so many in the church can't seem to wait to get ready to go to a game of some sort, or a rodeo? I have seen people of the Church go stand for 2 or 3 hours in the cold or sometime in the rain and wait for a drawing to see if they **got** the money and then felt too bad to be at Church Sunday morning, but would not have missed the drawing on Saturday. Why? Is it possible that the love of money is what made them go? I Tim. 6:10 - He commands us to take heed. I Tim. 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and to the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear you." Now in I Cor. 10:1-12 he tells us to not be ignorant brethren, how that all our fathers were under the cloud and in the sea. They eat and drink of Christ, and so do we, but they committed all manner of sin and mur-

mured against God and he was not pleased with them. Heb. 3:19 said they could not enter in because of unbelief, and were destroyed in the wilderness; all but two from 20 years old and up. And these are examples to us lest we fall after the same example of unbelief.

Yours for the faith of Christ,
Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, OK 74728

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"SUBTLE MOVES"

When reviewing the history of mankind, we can identify only a short span of time that uses the concept of advertising to sell a product or service. Through milleniums people made a choice to buy or not, strictly on the merits of the product or service. But we have observed in the past 100 years the attempt to sell something based not on merit alone, but on appeal.

The appeal is made to the consumer's emotions or senses. The idea is to manipulate joy, grief, distress, anxiety, self-esteem, or any emotion that causes us to act. The appeal to the sense is one of desire to sense more. The product smells, tastes, feels, sounds, or looks better than the competitor's product. Our most basic desires as lust and covetousness are also stimulated. We begin to think in terms of what we want rather than what we actually need. Billions of dollars are injected into a system that attempts to persuade us to buy and use items that are unnecessary, impractical, harmful, costly, superficial, and short-lived. Television, radio, newspapers, and magazines (mass media) are disguised as distributors of information, news, and entertainment. In truth, their primary purpose is to promote advertising. So, as partners, media and advertisers have the power to change public opinion about products, people, and ideas. They are persistent and we allow ourselves to be receptive.

However, the power of advertising is not exclusively a commercial evil. It is also a spiritual evil. The prophets, Christ, and the Apostles spent a lot of effort establishing a minimum standard of ethics and behavior.

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Their work gives Christians today a solid foundation from which to practice their faith. These ideals were not eroded too severly over the centuries because heretics were few and efforts were unorganized and scattered across the world.

The last three decades have changed the threat. It is no longer small, isolated, nor unorganized. The persistent media and advertisers have tried to change our values, morals, judgment, and behavior. They appeal to our sense of fair play and love of mankind to cause us to accept others even though they live unrighteously. They try every day - all day - in all markets. Their methods are sophisticated. They are out to get YOU!

Do you find your values shifting? Are you allowing yourself more moral freedom than ever before? Are you less concerned about unrighteous life styles that some of your friends and aquaintances pursue? Do you believe the media's portrayal of love and romance and what it can bring you? Have you been convinced of your right to participate in state lotteries and to make a choice regarding the life and death of an unborn baby?

Moral advertising is like commercial advertising. Millions of dollars are spent in attempt to conform our Christian standards to the world's standards. Their goal is to desensitize us and to have us compromise in the interest of peace and approval. Will you allow it to happen? What can you do to stop it? How do you protect your children from it?

In Christian love,
Brother Dan Ross
Selah, WA congregation

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

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here is doing fairly well considering it is the flu season. Several have been sick with the flu. One Sunday several were out with it. Last Sunday, everyone was at least able to be back in services except for some who were

(Cont.)

visiting other congregations. Bro. Paul Auslam Jr. was at Baron and Sis. Reanetta Edwards and family visited on the Bohannon Mountain. We missed them, but are sure they had a good time.

There was much rejoicing last Sunday night when Sister Kathy Taylor cam forward and asked for the prayers of the Church.

I don't know much news from here, so will close. All visitors are welcome anytime.

Paul Andrews
Route 2
Hindsville, AR 72738

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Greetings:

The Waterford Church invites you to our gospel meeting July 1 thru 8 with Brothers Bobby Lamb and Bill McCay Sr. This is Bobby's first meeting, and we are very pleased to have him. It is always a pleasure to have and listen to the good lessons of Bro. Bill. We think this is a combination for a successful meeting. We will serve dinner at 6:00 p.m. each night and after services on Sunday. Services will be at 7:30 nightly and 10:30 and 5:00 on Sunday.

The new year has not been a good beginning for us but things are getting better. On January 19, Sister Wanda Morse passed from this life. We were all shocked and saddened by this. We thought she was recovering when a blood clot went to the lung and she passed away. Bro. Homer Bryant officiated at a graveside burial. On January 17th, Sister Dosia (Arnett) Hagle had a hip replacement and bone graft surgery and is home now with a 3 month recuperation period ahead of her. Sister Kay Guyer had gall bladder surgery on February 7th, and is home doing well. Bro. Darwin Howard had knee surgery, had a good recovery and is back to work. We have had our share of colds and flu, but hopefully, we are all on the mend now.

We are starting some work on our church building and planning to finish by April as we are having the wedding of

(Cont.)

Brother Kurt Harper and Sister Jeanine Brown on April 21st. Remember us in your prayers as we do you in ours.

Al Burtis
Waterford congregation

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TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters:

Hello!! from the new congregation in Tulsa, OK. We are small, but doing our best to serve God in spirit and in truth.

There is not much news because we are so small in number. We recently heard of Bro. Al Way's sickness and we hope and pray that he fully recovers. Our prayers are also for all the sick, especially within the Church.

We must all address a very important issue: LOVE. Love must be pretty important to God because Christ said to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love each other, and on this to hang all the laws and the prophets. When you read I Cor. 13:1-8 you can see how much work is involved in love. You see, it's not just what you feel, more importantly, it's what you DO. It makes a person wonder "when was the last time I really loved someone."

We welcome anyone to come worship with us.

Love to all,
Steve and Cheryl Baird
7990 E. 60th #72-3
Tulsa, OK 74145

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is time again to think about this year's Big Spruce Camp meeting July 1-8. We would like to take this time to thank everyone for the volunteering of their time and all the financial support over the past years; we would not be able to continue without it. Everyone is urged to attend

(Cont.)

this years meeting, to meet new friends and reaquaint with old ones. There is lots of fun for the entire family, great gospel singing, God's word, and good food (who could ask for more?). So, please come and worship under the stars with us in Colorado. This is what Christian fellowship is all about.

Any help for this year's camp would be greatly appreciated.

1989 Donations - $3,190.00
1989 Expenses - $3,541.26 (rent, utilities, food, supplies and deposit)
Camp Balance - $1,591.24

Happy Hollow Church of Christ
Box 702
Cedaredge, CO 81413

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Over the past month most, if not all of us, have been sick with colds and flu. We are at the point where we are wondering if it's ever going to end.

On March 2nd, Sister Betty Perigen and our daughter, Sister Tammy Perigen, were taking The Courier to be mailed when they were rear-ended by another car. The Lord was watching over them as they were not hurt seriously. Tammy was put in the hospital where it was found she had gone into contractions. With our prayers answered, the contractions were stopped and she was released after 24 hours. At this writing she has had no further problems. Betty has been seeing a doctor, as she suffered a back out of place and much soreness, but is better now.

When I consider the trials and problems we face in everyday life on this earth, I am reminded of Psalm 42:2 "my soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God." I for one am ready to go on to a better life.

I have received several calls and cards from concerned loved ones and thank you all for your care and concern. I have had skin cancer since 1981 with several being removed from my face. Quite frankly, I got tired of being cut on,

(Cont.)

and have chosen to go on the Hoxsey cancer treatment in Tijuana, Mexico. I am doing very well and look forward to a complete recovery. Again, thank you all for your care and concern.

Keep us in your prayers as we will pray for you. So many are suffering loss and sickness, and we pray for you daily.

"Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

In Christian love,
Al Way
Bellflower, California

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is about time for Nell and I to start for home. We hate to leave as we have enjoyed being here at Yuma for the winter. The fellowship has been wonderful. All our hearts are gladened by Bro. Harry Davis reenlisting in the Lord's army and I know there is rejoicing in Heaven. I am sure he will be an important asset to the congregation. Our love to all the brethren until we see you in the future, if the Lord wills.

Howard McCay

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Dear Christian Friends:

Brother and Sister Steve Martin and boys would like to welcome anyone coming their way to come by and worship with them or visit with them. And if you are thinking about moving, they can use help in the Church.

Their address is 1275 Lone Star Drive, New Brauntels, Texas 78130 - phone: 512/620-0604 (near San Antonio). Jill (Herbert) Martin is Bro. Ken and Sis. Verlie Baldwin's granddaughter.

They are striving to do the work of the Lord in his vineyard. Your letters, visits and help in the Church would be appreciated. Write or call Jill or Steve.

Love and prayers,
Ken and Verlie Baldwin

BIG SPRUCE CAMP MEETING

"DON'T FORGET"

DON'T FORGET - You are invited and welcome to the Colo. Camp Meeting.
DON'T FORGET - The date is June 30th to July 8th.
DON'T FORGET - To bring your Bibles and study books.
DON'T FORGET - To bring a friend or friends.
DON'T FORGET - To bring sleeping bags, etc.
DON'T FORGET - To bring your towels & toiletries.
DON'T FORGET - To bring sweaters, the nights are cool.
DON'T FORGET - There will be young men's services also.
DON'T FORGET - There will be Bible discussions.
DON'T FORGET - To bring your questions to be discussed.
DON'T FORGET - There will be daily activities
DON'T FORGET - There will be lots os singing and fellowship.
DON'T FORGET - There will be lots of preaching each night.
DON'T FORGET - There are R.V. hook-ups.
DON'T FORGET - There are rooms and dorms for everyone.
DON'T FORGET - We need you, you need us.
DON'T FORGET - The Lord needs workers.
DON'T FORGET - Congregations, we need your contributions to help support the Camp Meeting.
DON'T FORGET - Contributions may be sent to: Eddie Wilkerson, Happy Hollow Church of Christ, 1605 - 2125 Dr., Cedaredge, CO 81413

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"CAMP"

Camp is a time shared with loved ones so dear,
Coming for a week together the gospel to hear.

Everyday, singing praises unto his great name,
Exclaiming we are his and are not ashamed.

Being spiritually uplifted by fellowship sweet,
Having some added to Christ, a joy that can't be beat,

But remembering always He died for our sins,
And through Jesus Christ the victory we'll win.

(The writers did not sign their name.)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

CEDAREDGE, CO	June 30 - July 8	Camp
WATERFORD, CA	July 1 - 8	Bobby Lamb Bill McCay Sr.
BELLFLOWER, CA	July 8 - 15	Howard McCay
LORENZO, TX	July 22 - 29	Mark Perigen
GLENWOOD, WA	July 29 - Aug. 5	Dan Teague
YAKIMA, WA	August 5 - 12	Camp

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We were very disappointed to hear that Sister Lula Way was back in the hospital. She apparently had another stroke which is keeping her from remembering and getting around. Everyone, please put your minds in fellowship with the Father and plead for her healing. Jesus died for our sicknesses as well as our sins.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We are pleased with the response this month. We have a full and informative paper and we hope every edition will be as full. But, we have done The Courier long enough to know that this enthusiasm for writing is often short lived. We know first hand how easy it is to forget writing or think within yourself - "I'll write next month." Unfortunately, this attitude pervades the Church to the point where only a few write articles and only a few write newsletters. Please remember to write. This letter goes out to around 600 people, some of whom are not Christians. What a testimony of fellowship if every part of the country were represented in The Courier. Please be faithful and keep writing!

-The Editors