The Christian Courier



JUNE 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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"BLESS THE CRITICS"

This is a hard admonition, but Rom. 12:14 tells us to "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." Critics are often prejudice and oftentimes remarks may hurt us deeply. Yet we should stop and consider that maybe there is some truth in what they say, and maybe our motives and actions are not as pure and worthy as we think they are.

If we are wise, we will listen to our critics and we may learn from them something that will help us to become better christians in the future. II Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Tim. 4:2 "Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." To reprove and rebuke is to criticize, and all Christians are to do this as long as it is according to the doctrine, the Word of God. But the truth is most of us do not take criticism very well. We have a tendency to get angry, but the Lord says that who he loves, he chastens. So should we not realize that brothers and sisters may be criticizing us because they love us and want us to do that which is pleasing to God? What is our attitude toward our critics? Prov. 9:8 "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."

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Prov. 6:23 "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life." As long as criticism is from the Word of God, we had better pay attention to it if we want to live. Prov. 15:32 "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding." Prov. 15:5 tells us that he that regardeth reproof is prudent and verse 10 says he that hateth reproof shall die. Prov. 10:17 "He is in the way of life that keepeth (obeys) instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth." When we criticize, we better be sure that we are right. Prov. 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Let us be very sure that when we are quoting a brother or sister, that we are accurate or else we will be found a liar.

Criticism is good if it is accurate and just, and we should pay close attention to it and not allow our anger to cause us to sin, because those who criticize us justly are watching for our souls and we should bless them for their interest in us. If are unjustly criticized, we should pray for them, as we must all give account of ourselves to God, and we are commanded to pray even for our enemies. So let us bless our critics and do good unto them.

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

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"DOES GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAYS?"

Rev. 3:15-16 "I know thy works, that thou are neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Here Christ has said that He would spue them out - why? Verse 17 - "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Are we in this shape today? Can't we see what we are doing is wrong? It is because most all of us has more around us than we've ever had, and the love of riches rules in our heart.

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I remember when I first started preaching, that when you were called to preach somewhere, you went. But now we have to wait until we get a paid vacation before we can turn loose and go. Where did Christ or the apostles set that example? I Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps." Again, does God mean what he said? Or do we think we can get by - for we are such good people. Know ye not that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)?

In Jer. 23:1-2 "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people." Who is the prophet talking about here - the people of that generation or of the generation of Christians? According to Peter, he is talking to us. I Peter 1:10-12 "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." In Jer. 23:1 we see he is speaking unto the pastors, and in verse 2, he is speaking against the pastors that feed his people. Who is Christ's people? Peter said in I Peter 5:1-2 "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." So here we see that the leaders of the churches are to feed the flock. What are they to feed them? We are to feed them the words of warning. Read Jer. 23:10-11 "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right. For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord." We also see in Rev. 1:18 through 3:22 he is telling these churches the same thing - for it was amongst almost everyone of them. He told them to repent or what he would do for them.

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Jer. 23:12 "Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the Lord." Again in verse 14 he is telling the things that are done, "they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers that none doth return from his wickedness." Verse 17 says "They say still unto them that despise me, the Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you." This is what they say today. There is no harm in going to this worldly place and enjoy an evening of fun with your friends - not caring that the Lord said in James 4:4-5 "Ye adulterers and aduleresses, 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. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?" (Or in our words - God doesn't mean what he said). But God said in James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Why? Because I Peter 4:17 tells us "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" For Rom. 2:13 - not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

Written to help us think. Are we just and justified before God in what we do and teach?

Lloyd Treat

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"AM I A CHRISTIAN?"

Acts 11:26 "And the disciples were called Christians first in Antiock." The words disciple and Christian means "a follower of Christ". So, if I am a Christian, I am following Christ in that straight and narrow way that leads to Heaven, where Christ is. If I am following the world, I am on the broad way that leads to Hell where the Devil is.

So, I must ask myself, am I living a life pleasing to Christ or the Devil? Do I speak the words of truth and soberness or do I lie (Acts 26:25)? Am I zealous of good

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works (Titus 2:14)? Or am I following my own desires? Do I behave myself disorderly (II Thess. 3:7)? Have I let my light shine so as to bring others to Christ (Matt. 5:16)? Am I seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33), or am I seeking to gratify my own fleshly lusts? Do I wear modest apparel (I Tim. 2:9), or do I follow after the fashions of society? Do I seek to please men or God? If I seek to please men, I am not a follower of Christ (no christian) - Gal. 1:10. Do I think more highly of myself than I ought to, or do I think soberly and prayerfully on the kind of person I am (Rom. 12:3)? Have I denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, and lived soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12)? In everything I do, in word or deed, do I do it by authority of Christ, giving thanks and glory to God (Col. 3:17)? Do I glorify Christ and God in the things I say and do? If my conversation is filthy and I curse and swear, am I glorifying God? If I defile my body with alcohol, drugs, premarital sex, etc., can I give glory and thanks to God in this? If I am dancing and reveling with the world, is this bringing glory to Christ who died for me?

Brethren, I think we should look carefully at our lives and see if we are truly following Christ and bringing him glory. If I were arrested and accused of being a Christian, as the early Christians were, would I be convicted or turned loose because I am too worldly, following the wrong master? Brethren, let us think seriously on our lives while we have the time and opportunity - for our lives are but a vapor and are so soon gone.

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

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"And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my fee, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet."

Luke 24:38-40

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

Prov. 25:25

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church here is doing well and sends our love and best wishes to all.

The first Sunday of each month, the church here has lunch after the morning worship in the kitchen. This past Sunday, May 6th, was great. There were lots of good food and association with each other. As mentioned last month, there is singing on Saturday evenings. Brother and Sister Ken and Verlie Baldwin are leaving to go to Cedaredge, Colorado on the 15th, so we had a cook-out and singing this Friday to wish them a good summer. We will all miss them much.

We have decided on a date for our meeting this winter; Dec. 23rd through the 30th. We will have guest speakers each day. There are R.V. hook-ups and kitchen facilities for our guests. Everyone who can, plan to be with us for all or part of the meeting. Everyone is invited.

There is still quite a lot of illness and your prayers are always needed. Sister Valerie Davis, in her battle with cancer, needs our prayers often.

The congregation here and at Citrus City visit and exchange speakers quite often on Sundays. Brother Tony Brister and family are to be here Sunday, May 13th, with Tony being our speaker.

May God bless and be with us all.

Our love and prayers
to all,
Yuma, Arizona congregation

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

To all the brethren:

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

There is not much news from our way this month. Healthwise, we seem to be holding our own; our prayers go out for

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the many that are suffering and are sick. May the Lord's will be that you are healed.

Stephen Perigen, Mark and Tammy Perigen's son, will have tubes put in his ears on the 21st of May. We pray this will relieve him of the suffering he has had with one ear infection after another. Tammy is expecting any day now; this will be our fourth grandchild.

Sister Burdette Perigen is up in Washington visiting with her son, Bill Taylor, and his family. We miss her very much, but know she is enjoying her visit.

Those in school are getting ready for finals and looking forward to summer vacation.

Meetings will be starting before we know it. We're hoping we can attend some and hope you'll consider attending ours. We would love to share with you the blessings we've received from the Lord.

May God richly bless and keep you.

In Christian love,
Al Way for the
Bellflower congregation

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WELCOME TO THE BIG SPRUCE CAMP MEETING
JUNE 30th TO JULY 8th, 1990 - IT'S FREE

"LAST MINUTE REMINDERS"

- Bring your sleeping bags, bedding & pillows.
- Bring sweaters and warm clothes as the nights are cool.
- Bring your towels, wash cloths and personal items.
- Bring a friend to hear the Gospel.
- There were 23 congregations represented last year.
- Will you be at the Camp Meeting to represent your congregation this year?
- Let's make 1990 the largest Camp Meeting ever. Can we top 153 people?
- Full hook ups for R.V.'s.
- Rooms and dorms, for you that don't have a R.V. and it's all free.
- Let us know early if you need a room or dorm.
- The camp will be ready to go into on Saturday afternoon, June 30th. If you arrive earlier than Saturday afternoon, we have room for you, give us a call.

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Eddie & Diane (303) 856-3875; Terry & Debbie (303) 856-6852; Movelle (303) 856-3703; Ken & Verlie (303) 874-4581; or write Ken & Verlie Baldwin, P.O. Box 188, Delta, CO 81416 or Eddie Wilkerson, Rt. 2, 1605-2125 Drive, Cedaredge, CO 81413.

THOU SHALT NOT

- Wear shorts, mini skirts, muscle shirts, and such like.
- Hand out literature without the approval of Eddie Wilkerson who is in charge of the camp meeting.
- Thou shalt not bring radios, small TV's, cards, etc.
- Use revised versions at the camp meeting.

There will be daily activities for all ages.
You can bring tape players for recording at the Camp Meeting and gospel tapes only.

See you at the Colorado Camp Meeting. We need you and you need us. Don't miss the best time of your life with Christian friends, fellowship, beautiful singing, Gospel sermons preached by the young men and older men, children and young people getting to know each other and being together for a week of togetherness, that they will remember for the rest of their life. It's great - come see for yourself.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

GOSHEN, AR	June 3 - 10	Audley Barnes
CEDAREDGE, CO	June 30 - July 8	Camp
WATERFORD, CA	July 1 - 8	Bill McCay Sr. Bobby Lamb
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
YUMA, AZ	December 23 - 30	Guest Speakers

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"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11