The Christian Courier

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

JULY 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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"SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE"

Suppose it is true after all that God must punish sin? How would you stand before him? Would your meeting be a joyful occasion or one of sorrow and disappointment?

The scriptures tell us in Rom. 14:11-12 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

We will all answer for what we've done while here on the earth. What will our outcome be if God follows through as he has promised in Col. 3:25 "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

Suppose it is true: That there will be no liars in Heaven (Rev. 21:27 and Rev. 22:15). Will we then be left outside?

Suppose it is true: That we must put worldly cares and desires out of our life. I John 2:15-16 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Suppose it is true: We are to turn the other cheek and not return evil for evil or take vengence. (Matt. 5:39, Rom. 12:19).

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Suppose it is true: God wants us to "put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth, lie not one to another." Col. 3:8-9.

Suppose it is true: "That the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." I Cor. 6:9-10.

Suppose it is true: That God not only wants us to stay away from sin but "abstain from all appearance of evil." I Thess. 5:22.

Suppose it is true: That God really expects "that whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Col. 3:17. If we truly followed this teaching and did everything in the name of the Lord, could we still do the things we do in our life today?

Suppose it is true: That God will not accept anything short of a hardworking, diligent, full-time Christian? "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or 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." Rey. 3:15-16.

Suppose it is true: The Lord wants us "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is..." Heb. 10:25.

Suppose it is true: The Lord really does expect us to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

Suppose it is true: The Lord is going to do just what he said he will do and keep all evil out of Heaven. "And there shall in no wise enter into it (Heaven) any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Rev. 21:27.

We must put all our efforts into serving the Lord. The Lord has left us his word as a guide for us to follow. We must follow it to the end, not going to the right hand or to the left, but only down the straight and narrow pathway.

Are you willing to risk your salvation on the hope that at the last minute the Lord will change his mind and allow unrighteous Christians into heaven?

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Suppose it is true the Lord is going to do exactly as he has said of rewarding righteousness and punishing iniquity.

Written in love for the
brotherhood,
Gerald Brockman

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"HERETICS"

Strongs Definition: One who chooses.
Oxford American Dictionary: A person who holds a heresy.
Oxford American Dictionary - Heresy: A religious opinion contrary to orthodocs - Doctrine.

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Now I am persuaded that the Lord meant all of his commandments and not just those that suit us and make us feel at ease with our lifestyle, and in teaching others. The commands that might offend a dear friend or relative we have a tendency to leave alone. One of these is found in Titus 3:10, "A man that is an Heretic, after the first and second admonition, reject; knowing that he is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself." So we see that those who choose to teach contrary to sound doctrine as Paul admonished in Titus 2:1 are heretics.

II Peter 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you who privily shall bring in damnable heresies." This admonition was written to all members of Christ's body. This does not mean just preachers, but all who teach publicly or privately because this is what the word privily means (in secrets). This is what Paul was teaching in I Thess. 5:12 "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you." Know what they teach and practice both publicly and privately and see if they are sound in the faith or false teachers. Now I believe we all understand what a heresy is, what a false doctrine is, and who heretics are; but the admonition is to reject them. Does this mean to kick them out of the church? I think not. Jesus says in Matt. 13:41 that He will send angels to do this. Matt. 13:29 tells us not to take up the tares (weeds) lest we root up the wheat also.

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The only conclusion I can come to is that we are to reject them as teachers and not let them preach and teach their false doctrines or heresies. This responsibility is not just on the leaders of the church but on all disciples.

II John 10-11 "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God-speed: For he that biddeth him God-speed is partaker of his evil deeds." One of the heresies taught today is that in our personal lives, what we eat, drink, wear, entertainment, life style, etc. No one has a right to judge us. Even by righteous judgement, which is the Word of God. John 7:24 commands us to judge, but people do not wish to have their deeds and actions judged, they want the liberty to do as they wish as long as society or their own conscience does not tell them it is wrong. Now in this they are right because everyone has the right to choose for themselves. But they can't choose that life and be Christians; and anyone who teaches they can is an heretic and whosoever follows them will be lost. Brethren, surely we understand that men, society, nor conscience will judge us in the last day. Only God will judge and that will be according to His word, not mans'. Dearly beloved, let's follow God's word in everything and not listen to heresies.

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

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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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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters:

This letter finds all of us basically well, but we've had our share of the cold, flu, and other illnesses. One of the youngest members of our flock, Courtney Putz, had scarlet fever but she is recovered now through prayer and God's helping hand. Greg Staley recently injured his knee playing volleyball. We pray for his speedy recovery.

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Brother Garold Morris has gone to spend a couple of months with his elderly mother in West Virginia. We shall miss him. We are happy to have Amy Orendorff and her children back home after spending some time in Texas with Amy's father, Earl Howe, and his family. We have also enjoyed having Howard and Nell McCay over on this side of the mountains. They will be returning home soon to get ready for their summer traveling and fellowship.

Sister Nell sewed cushions for our benches which makes sitting much easier. Now she is helping sew for the upcoming wedding of our Lori Forsman and Brother Eric Harper. We rejoice for this young couple who plan to start their life together on August 25, 1990. While everyone is here to share the joy of Eric and Lori, we also plan to celebrate fifty years together for Howard and Nell McCay. While their actual fiftieth anniversary is October 1st, we will honor this wonderful couple on August 26th with family and friends.

On March 30th, a son, Ryan Anders Forsman, was born to Kevin Forsman and Thonna Hoskins. We pray for the family of Thonna Hoskins, with the passing of her mother, Charm Hoskins, in a motorcycle accident on May 4th, 1990. We also grieve for the family of Nancy Staley, with the passing of her father, Mr. Fuller.

With the traveling, meetings, weddings, etc., we hope to see many of you this summer. We will try to be more diligent in writing to the Courier from now on. God be with all of you.

In Christian love,
The Sisters at the
Sea-Tac Church of Christ

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The church in Yuma sends our love and blessings to all. Our news at this time is not all happy news. Sister Valerie Davis is in Tuscon as her condition has worsened some. Brother Earl Broadway has had to have a pacemaker implanted in his chest. He seems to be doing well at this time. Brother Sonny Boling was unable to attend services this Sunday because of back problems.

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Brother Harry Booth, Bud and Sister Willie Davis, Sisters Verda Nelson and Dorothy Williams are all now leaving for the summer. Hoping them all a good summer, we will miss them much and be happy to see everyone back in the fall, being God's will.

The church here is doing well and is looking forward to our meeting this winter - December 23 through December 30. Hope to see you all here, everyone is welcome. We will have guest speakers each day.

Let us all continue our vigalent prayers for the sick and for unity of the Church.

Our love and prayers
to all,
Yuma Church of Christ

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LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

My name is Michael R. Burkhart of the Church of Christ in La Habra, California.

I have to agree with Mark Perigen concerning his feelings about the Churches of Christ in California and also across the land. What is happening to us? I mean as a whole - Why is it that the Churches of Christ are getting smaller and smaller and the worldly churches are getting bigger and bigger???

I believe that we are very close to the end - closer than we all think. So let us all keep the faith and endure to the end.

"Concerned" for the Church,
Michael Burkhart

Greetings to all Christian Courier Readers:

We read the Courier as soon as it arrives at our house. Enclosed is a check to help keep them coming.

We had fully inteded to have a few days at the camp meeting at Cedaredge, Colorado this year - but are unable to do so due to Randolph's surgery. On June 3rd, he developed abdominal pains which worsened. On June 6th, the Internal Medicine doctor said it was the gall bladder and for me to

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take Randolph to the Ontario Hospital. The surgeon operated at 10:00 p.m. that night. The gall bladder had ruptured and was gangrened. Had he waited until morning for surgery, it would have been too late. Randolph is recovering real well and attended church yesterday morning, so our prayers were answered.

In Christian love,
Randolph and Olive Kellems

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BOHANNA MOUNTAIN, ARKANSAS

Greetings from Bohanna Mountain Congregation:

Just reporting most of our number came through the winter in fair shape. Colds and such are mostly gone. Sister Rori McCay is back with us after a 4 week stay in the hospital. She has had quite an ordeal but is better and able to be at church again. For this and all blessings, we give thanks to God. Anyone coming our way will find a welcome. Contact James Vanderpool or Melvin Daniels; both are in the Fayetteville, Arkansas phone directory.

Yours in Christ,
Melvin Daniels

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We here at Bellflower are doing pretty well, except for the usual colds and flu that seem to be making the rounds.

Sister Burdette Perigen has been away visiting family in Washington. Sister Earlene Chessman has also been away visiting the mid-west with her family. We miss them and are praying for their safe return.

Brother Mark and Sister Tammy Perigen have been blessed with a beautiful, healthy little girl, Chelsea Lee, born June 16, 1990. Mom and baby are doing fine. A warm congratulations to them.

Our meeting is rapidly approaching and we wish to extend an invitation to any and all who can come be with us.

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Our homes are open and we would love to have you.

In Christian love,
Martin Brockman
for the Bellflower
congregation

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

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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We are joyful to hear the news of Sister Patty Wilkerson being baptized on Monday, June 11, 1990, of the Cedaredge, Colorado congregation. We welcome you into the family of God with best wishes for a joy-filled walk with God.

After the baptism of Sister Patty Wilkerson, her husband, Brother Keith Wilkerson, came forward for the prayers of the congregation. Humility before the eyes of God and man is one of the greatest virtues we can hope for. God bless you, brother, in your walk with God.

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Due to the happenings of this summer with traveling, babies, and meetings, our paper has gotten behind schedule. We apologize for this and will try to remain on schedule as best as we can in the future.

- The Editors