The Christian Courier



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

NOVEMBER 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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"IS THE SPIRIT IN YOU?"

Rom. 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Here we are told that we are not in the flesh, yet we see that people today choose to live in the flesh. Verse 9 says we are not in the flesh if the Spirit of God dwells in us. What is this spirit that transforms us out of the flesh and into something else? It is called the "Spirt of God" - but what is it? Rom. 12:1-2 then says that if we have not the Spirit of Christ we are none of his. What is the difference between the Spirit of God and the Spirti of Christ? John 4:24 says "God is a Spirit".

In Luke 24:39 Jesus says "a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have." Now we have it - and we can see how the Spirit of Christ dwells in us. For he had a body and a spirit and when he spoke the word, he spoke his spirit. Jesus says in John 6:63 "and they are life", then in Rom. 8:16 Paul says "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." But how does God's Spirit dwell in us? For it says in Rom. 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies

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by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Now if this belief dwells in us (Heb. 11:6; John 8:21), and if we have this faith of Abraham (Heb. 11:8), then we are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14)and are the Sons of God and God is the power and the life in us. 1 John 1:2 "For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us." (Manifested means made to where we can see it). So that we can have fellowship with God, the Father, and with his son, Jesus Christ. So if we try to walk after the flesh, we "cannot please God" (Rom. 8:8), "because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7).

If we are fleshly minded (meaning that we think like and indulge ourselves with the world) and do what your friends do, then we are fleshly minded are are dead from the life of God in Christ. James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the fiendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." So we see that being a friend of the world - which is going and doing the things they do - makes us God's enemy. How can the Spirit of God dwell in such people? James 3:12 "Can the fig tree (child of God), my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs?" So can no Child of God go to such places where sin runs rampant and still please God - for he has become God's enemy. So let us "quit like men and be strong".

In love of the truth,
Lloyd Treat
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"JUDGING"

While many lessons have been given on this subject, it seems to me that people do not take into consideration the whole teaching on this matter. There seems to be three positions on the matter of judging. 1) Only God can judge; 2) Man is to judge in moral (earthly) matters; and 3) We won't have anything to do with it at all or refuse to take a position. Now, number 3 is the worst of all. Jesus tells us in Matt. 12:30 "He that is not with me is against me." There

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is no straddling the fence, refusing to take a position. Rev. 3:15-16 "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that ye wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, [fence straddlers] and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Matt. 7:1-2 "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Those who hold to number 1 position, that only God can judge, use Matt. 7:1 in saying judging is up to God only and if we do any judging we are in a lot of trouble and if we take this verse only, it seems that this might be right. But verse 2 says "With what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged." Let's look at this statement of Christ for a moment taking the second part first and see how we are to be judged. John 7:24 "Judge not according to the appearance but judge righteous judgment." If we are to be judged as we judge, and we are to judge righteously, where do we find this judgment? Rom. 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also the Greek. For therein is the Righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word (Gospel of Christ) that I have spoken the same shall judge him in the last day.

If we will be judged by Christ's words wherein is righteous judgment then that is the way we must judge. Position number 2 is right and we are to judge moral matters in the brotherhood. I Cor. 5:12 "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?" How are we to judge them that are within? As we shall be judged by the Gospel of Christ. Luke 12:52 "Yea and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?" I Cor. 6th chapter tells us five different times that we are to judge in certain matters and not only are we to judge but also to take action if the party is found guilty - I Cor. 5:13 "Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." Rev. 2:2 "I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and hast tried (judged) them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." Not to weary you and because many other scriptures have been used on this subject, I do believe these do show that we are to judge in moral or earthly matters, but only God can judge and pass sentence in the final day. And he will judge righteously as we are to judge and if we refuse to judge

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we are breaking a commandment of Christ and we will face God's judgment as a law (of Christ) breaker.

Written in the love of the
truth, the Gospel of Christ,
Howard McCay
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"THE GLORIOUS CHURCH"

The marriage between man and woman is a parable with Christ's marriage to His church. In Eph. 5, Paul refers to "man as head of the wife even as Christ is head of the Church." The Christian union between man and wife is to be based upon love and submission to one another. Likewise, our union with the church should be built upon love and submission to one another. Likewise our union with the Church should be built upon love and submission to God's command. Christ will cleanse by "washing of water", that he might present it to himself a glorious church;" not having spot, wrinkle, or any such thing. He purchased the glorious church with his blood, Acts 20:28. If we are really sincere about these institutions, how could we defy what has been written pertaining to them? Paul asked the Galatians, "After ye have known God or rather known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" John tells us to "walk in the light". That light refers to Christ. His blood cleanseth us from all sin (I John 1:7). "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). Our faithfulness in following God's word as it is written, will keep Christ's bride a "glorious Church" without spot, wrinkle or blemish.

We at Chesterton are fine and welcome any visitors passing through. We were fortunate to have Bro. Jerry Perigen with us for 2 week-ends recently. We enjoyed his visit and discussions.

Submitted in love of
God's word,
Charles Jared

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

Prov. 25:25

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SELAH, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

The Church at Selah is getting along well. The Lord has blessed us with pretty good health on a whole. Bob Farley still has problems with his back. Mostly it has been a dry, hot summer with some of our members gone to other congregations part of the time.

Brother Harry Booth has been with us for some time but will be leaving for Arizona before long.

We still have not found a permanant meeting place of our own, but have found a Grange Building to hold a meeting next summer. Although we have not decided on speakers, etc., the date will be July 28th through August 4th. We intend to serve evening meals and there is lots of parking. Plan to be with us. Will be writing more concerning our meeting later.

Our love to all the brethren,
Selah Church of Christ

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our news this month comes with sadness in the hearts of many. As many of you may know, Valerie passed away on September 30th. A graveside service was held in Desert Lawn Memorial Park on October 3rd, with Brother Tony Brister of Citrus City Church of Christ officiating. We of the Davis family want everyone to know how much your prayers and thoughts helped Valerie and us. Your love helped make a very difficult time a little easier.

Brother and Sister Broadway are doing much better and at this time are in Arkansas vacationing. Sister Mary Long still is not able to attend services. Remember her in your prayers.

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The church here at Yuma is doing fine, people are returning from their summer away and it is good to have them home. We are looking forward to a lot of activity this winter and everyone keep in remembrance our meeting in December. We hope to see you all here, everyone is welcome.

In conclusion of our news this month, we send our love, prayers and hope for unity in the Churches of Christ.

Bro. Harry Davis for the
Church of Christ in Yuma

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church here at Bellflower sends its love to all the brethren. We pray that the Lord Jesus is foremost in everyone's mind and heart. It's such a comfort knowing that we have someone watching over us and guiding us that really cares. If we will truly give ourselves to serving God, the problems and cares of the world will be unimportant.

We are still saddened by the loss of Sister Burdette Perigen. She was such a strong christian lady and a fine example of one who had dedicated their life to serving Jesus. Her parting has left a void in all our lives, but we can find joy in knowing she's gone to a much better home.

Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse has been ill the last couple Sundays. We certainly miss her and pray for her speedy recovery.

A few of us have had colds and flus already this season. Brother Alfred Way (A.J.) was in the hospital with a severe case of flu or acute appendicitis - the doctors still aren't sure. He is better now and has returned to his normal activities with work, school, etc. We thank the Lord for this.

Brother Al Way (Sr.) severely injured his back while we were working on building a fence at the church building. He is slowly recovering. We feel confident that he will fully recover although it will take time.

We were happy to have Brother and Sister Don Hammond and family worship with us one Sunday. They are from the Selah, Washington congregation.

In Christian love,
Gerald Brockman

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Christian Friends:

We hope this issue of the Courier finds all of you doing well. We were short of newletters this month and we hope that next month we'll hear from you "quiet" congregations.

We are enclosing a form to help congregations delegate the responsibility of writing to the Courier amongst the members. We know this will help in keeping the news coming as it has at our own congregation. It's not that writing is necessarily a burden or difficult, but often our attention is far from thinking about an article or newsletter to send it. This helps to remind us and to take the load off of just one or two people who do all the writing.

We thank the brethren at the Seattle and Selah, Washington congregations for coming up with this idea and making up the forms. Don't forget to make copies yourself before you fill in the year.

Thank you.
The Editors

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God, help me in my feeble way
To somehow do something each day
To show You that I love You best
And that my faith will stand each test
And let me serve You every day
And feel You near me when I pray...
Oh, hear my prayer, dear God above,
And make me worthy of Your love!

- Selected

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Yuma, Arizona	December 23 - 30	Guest Speakers
Selah, Washington	July 28 - Aug. 4	To be Announced

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DEATHS

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sister Valerie Davis of the Yuma, Arizona congregation. She passed from this life of September 30th. Please remember her family and loved ones in your prayers for God to give them the comfort that only He can give.

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"SEEK THE LORD CONTINUOUSLY"

It's not enough to say "I Believe,"
It's not enough to Ask and Receive,
It's not enough to repeat the Lord's Prayer,
It's not enough to just say, "I Care,"
It's not enough to be Pleasant and Kind,
It's not enough to keep God in your Mind,
It's not enough just to Feed the Poor,
It's not enough to Forbear and Endure,
For while these things are all good to do
They cannot insure salvation for you,
For not until you are born anew
Can the Spirit of God be alive in you,
For the Spirit of God will soon be dead
Unless it is daily nourished and fed!

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