The Christian Courier



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

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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 IT WRITTEN?

In answering questions on the Bible, we have a tendency to answer something we have been told by a father, grand- father, preacher or someone whom we respect, maybe even our own thoughts. How often do we turn to the Bible and read what the divine authority has to say? In John 5:39 Jesus tells us to "search the scriptures." The term "it is written" or similar phrases was used by Jesus 32 times. The term "it is written" was used by the apostles in answer to questions by their accusers, also to admonish christians as well as unbelievers, 64 times. The term "thus sayeth the law" or "what sayeth the law" and similar phrases are used many times in the Bible. Since "God's ways are not man's ways or His thoughts man's thoughts" - Isaiah 55:9; should we not turn to the Holy Scriptures, the inspired Word of God, in answer to every man for the "reason of the hope that is in us?" Should we not "rightly divide" the word of truth? Too often people give their opinion based on what they think, or what someone else has told them, instead of just quoting or reading from the Word of God.

Do men think they are smarter than God or the inspired writers? We are told to "avoid foolish and unlearned questions" because they cause strife. If the Bible says it, it is so. If it doesn't say it, leave it alone. "Let God be true and every man a liar." Paul writing to the Corinthians tells us that the things written before was written for our admonition and learning. This was not written to the Jews but to all, even Gentiles.

The old mosaical law was nailed to the cross, but the writings of the prophets and fathers are still true today and what God loved then he loves now, and what he hated then, he hates now. We had better follow what God approves and leave our thoughts and conscience alone because they will lead us to destruction. Let the Bible and it alone answer all questions - without adding to or taking from.

Written in love
of the truth,
Howard McCay
3904 Knobel Avenue #8
Yakima, WA 98902

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THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY - WHAT IS IT?
James 1:25

James 1:25 says "whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty", what is it? It is a law! And where there is a law, there can be transgression and usually is; someone will break the law and when they do they are sinners (law breakers). I John 3:4 "whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." What law? Law of liberty! So what is the law of liberty? Rom. 8:2 "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, (liberty) hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Now Rom. 8:1 says "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." So as long as we keep the law of the spirit, or liberty, we are not condemned; but when we break that law we sin and the law condemns us. So the law of liberty makes us free from sin, (or keeps us from transgression), as long as we abide by this law.

It does not give us the liberty to do the things we want to do, so we are free and at the same time are not free.

Rom. 7:7-10 "what shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay I had not known sin but by the law: For I had not known lust, except the law had said, thou shalt not covet. But sin taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead." What is concupiscence? Webster says "to covet or lust after, to desire or lust unlawful or irregular desire of several pleasures: the coveting of carnal things or on irregular appetite for worldly goods; also, inclination for unlawful enjoyments; also, desirous or unlawful pleasure." So we see here that sin taking occasion by the commandment worked in us all manner of lusts or covetous things; but the law of the spirit keeps us from doing the things we desire to do (so we see we are not free to use our own conscience, only as the law directs). I Cor. 6:20 states "for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods. Gal. 5:17 "For the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other." So, we see that we cannot do the things that the flesh desires, we cannot do what our conscience tells us is okay. We have the law of the spirit to tell us what we are to do and not to do, so liberty does not let us do what we think is right. It makes us free from sin and it frees us from one law and brings us under another.

Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us "For my thoughts are not yours, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." With God's thoughts and ways so far above ours, how can we let our conscience guide us in what is right or wrong?

Are we ready to be judged by what we think or do what we want to be judged by the law of liberty? Romans 2:23 "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, (or say we are christians) through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?" In I Cor. 10:25-29 Paul teaches, beginning with the 24th verse, "Let no man seek his own, but every man anothers wealth." Verse 25 "whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that each asking no questions for conscience sake." Verse 26 "For the earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof." Verse 27 "Now if any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is

set before you eat, asking no question, for conscience sake." Verse 28 "But if any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not, for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake" (not yours, but his). Verse 29 " For why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" Because they see you as a christian doing the things that christians ought not to do. The 32nd verse of that chapter tells us that we are to "give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God." I Cor. 8:10 "For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idols temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened (persuaded) to eat (which is to do the things you do) those things which are offered to idols: (or that does not glorify God). Wherefore verse 13 "if meat, (the things I do), cause my weak brother to offend or stumble or fall, then I will not do these things while the world standeth lest I make or lead my brother astray." So where is the law that says I can be guided by my conscience? Is not the perfect law of liberty enough to save me and my brother without using my conscience?

If my brother is grieved by what I do, am I following the perfect law of liberty? Rom. 14:15 "But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died." We are not to destroy our brother by what we think is okay.

In love of the truth,
Lloyd Treat

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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:

I will try to catch up on the news from here. There is no serious sickness here. We seem to have quite a lot of good

news. We are all rejoicing that Bro. Paul Auslam, Sr. came forward for prayers while in California at his brother's funeral. We are sure glad to have him back in duty and meeting with us.

Bro. Marion and Sis. Mary Serrano moved back here from California and are meeting with us. We hope they are as glad to be here as we are to have them.

We have really been blessed with visitors lately. Two ladies from Yakima, WA met with us three Sundays while here visiting relatives. I am sorry I can't remember their names. Brother Gerald and Sis. Wilma Buckner and granddaughter from Stilwell, Oklahoma visited one Sunday. Bro. Gerald gave us a good lesson. Bro. Paul and Sis. Becky Warford visited one Sunday and Bro. Paul came by himself the next Sunday while Sis. Becky was in the hospital having their baby. Bro. Paul gave us a very good lesson one Sunday. Another Sunday, Bro. Earl and Sis. Zelma Broadway from Yuma, AZ surprised us by being here. They were on their way to eastern Arkansas to visit relatives. Our attendance seems to have increased and we are very thankful.

All visitors are welcome to meet with us anytime.

In Christian love,
Paul Andrews

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LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

Greetings from the Church of Christ in La Habra. A lot of things have been happening since the last time I've written to The Christian Courier. As you know, we've had the death of Bro. Gabe Auslam and several illnesses. We also lost Bro. Marion and Sis. Mary Serrano who have moved back to Arkansas. This was a big blow to us, but praise God we are doing fine.

Brother J.B. Nunnally was in the hospital for open-heart surgery. We request the prayers of the church for his speedy recovery. We must also keep in mind, that if one member suffers, we all suffer. On the other hand, if one member rejoices, we all rejoice.

I am going to try to write to The Christian Courier once a month or every other month to keep in touch of what is going on with our congregation.

May the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

Michael Burkhart

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We send our love and good wishes to all. We are doing much better at this writing with our illnesses. At last writing, it was mentioned that Bro. and Sis. Broadway were visiting in Arkansas. While there, Zelma fell and broke her right leg below the knee. They are home now and she is recuperating well. Sister Mary Long was in the hospital for a short stay and is home and able to be in Church.

We are most happy to have Bro. and Sis. Baldwin back with us as well as Bro. and Sis. Bumgardner and Sis. Dorothy Williams. We are looking for Bro. and Sis. Howard McCay back at any time.

This Saturday, the 17th, we will have a workday at church, with a baby shower for Stephanie Nelson, dinner in the evening and singing after. Our plans are to either paint the kitchen or have it stuccoed as well as a number of other improvements.

Citrus City congregation begins their meeting this Sunday, the 18th. It will be guest speakers each day. Hope we can attend much of their meeting.

Our meeting is coming up in December and we are getting anxious. It looks like we should have a good meeting with people from far and near. Don't forget and be here too if you can. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks again for your prayers and your comforting messages at the loss of our loved one, Valerie.

We send our love
and prayers to all,
Bro. Harry Davis

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brother and Sisters:

Again our Colorado camp meeting is history for 1990. It was great meeting with many spiritual, uplifting lessons from God's holy word. With lots of fellowship, singing praises to God, and very uplifting Bible discussions, the meeting was enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank all of you that come and help make the camp meeting a very successful one again this year. Thanks a million - everyone!

Our camp meeting for 1991 will be June 29th to July 7, 1991. Make your plans now to be with us next year in 1991, for another great meeting. We miss you all and look forward to being with you in 1991.

God bless you all.
Happy Hollow
Church of Christ

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The brethren at Bellflower sends their love to all the brotherhood. All of us here at Bellflower are doing fairly well. We seem to be getting over all the illnesses we were having earlier. The good Lord is certainly watching over us and healing make it through the ordeals we face here in this live. Without his help and love it would be a pretty lonely and bleak world. Although Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse missed one Sunday, she is feeling well enough to be back with us and we can enjoy her smiling face.

Sister Jo Williams from the Loco, Oklahoma congregation was here to visit and meet with us in early November. We really enjoyed seeing her and visiting with her. Please come back, Jo, anytime!

We hope and pray that is all well throughout the brotherhood. As the Apostle Paul ended his letter to the Corinthians he left some reassuring words. II Cor. 13:11 " Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

In Christian love,
Gerald Brockman

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Yuma, Arizona	December 23 - 30	Guest Speakers
Cedaredge, Colorado	June 29 - July 7	Camp
Selah, Washington	July 28 - August 4	To be Announced

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REMINDER!!!

Let's all remember to announce gospel meetings as soon as possible, or start thinking about them if you are planning to have one in 1991. A lot of people have to turn in their vacation requests around the first of the year and may want to attend your congregation's meeting. We only have a few months left before summertime hits and we need to announce these as soon as possible.

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"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning and thy faithfulness every night."