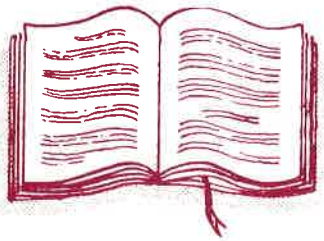
The Christian Courier



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

FEBRUARY 1991

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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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CONSCIENCE - CO-PERCEPTION OR MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS

In I Cor. 15:44-49 Paul tells us there is an earthly body and there is a spiritual body. It follows that there must be an earthly conscience and a spiritual conscience. We can have a good conscience in an earthly sense, according to the morals of society around us and still not have a spiritual conscience. We know that a good conscience has to have knowledge of the realm that is over it. A man can have a clear conscience of worldly things if he lives a good moral life, but to have a good spiritual conscience it must be educated and directed by the Word of God. I Tim. 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." I Tim. 1:19 "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwrecked." If our conscience is not directed by faith, the Word of God, we will be shipwrecked or lost.

Titus 1:15-16 "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their minds and conscience is defiled, they profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and

disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Even a spiritual conscience can be defiled if we slip back into the morals of the world. I Tim. 4:1-2 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." No more do they have a spiritual conscience. Heb. 13:18 Paul asks the brethren to "Pray for us, for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Paul had lived in all good conscience all his life but the conscience he had after he obeyed the Gospel was different than the one he had when he persecuted the Church. Our conscience is only of benefit to us if it is controlled by the word of God. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and the widows in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world." We cannot have pure religion and have an earthly conscience which is spotted by worldly things; neither can we have a spiritual conscience unless we leave the old world behind and live for God. The question for each of us, my beloved brethren - are we guided by a spiritual or an earthly conscience?

In brotherly love,
Howard McCay
3904 Knobel Ave. #8
Yakima, WA 98902

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ADULTERY - FORNICATION

We can look at the scriptures and see there are two types of these sins; temporal and spiritual. In Matt. 5:28 Jesus says "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Here we see that this man did not commit adultery in the flesh but in the mind. But Matt. 5:32 says "whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery." Why? Why is it when you divorce for any reason except fornication this causes his wife to commit adultery? Why is it and how does this have an effect on her life? We see here in Jesus' example that unless the woman is already committing fornication when the man divorces his wife he

is to blame for her sin if she remarries. She sins by committing adultery but he is also guilty before God for her fall.

Then in Matt. 19:9 Jesus says "Whosoever shall put away his wife except it be for fornication and shall marry another committeth adultery..." Now in Mark 10:11 Jesus said "whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another committeth adultery against her and if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Here we see that God does not approve of anyone putting away their wife (or husband) and marrying another. As Jesus said in Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Now let us look at the adultery of the mind and how its committed. Matt. 5:28 he looked on her and lusted. John 2:15-16 tells of the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye. So we see here that this adultery was committed by looking. Without the eyes it would not have been committed. In I Samuel 8:4-8 we see that the Israelite people came to Samuel and wanted a king like the other nations. In verses 7 and 9 God said "Harken to the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, they have rejected me that I should not reign over them." Now when they rejected God's rule they committed adultery by looking and being like other people.

So Isaiah 57:1-11 the prophet said the righteous perish and no man layeth it to heart, and merciful men are taken away. In these passages we see <u>the righteous shall enter into peace</u>. But he says "draw near ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore... are ye not children of transgression a seed of falsehood, (Why? How had they come in this state?) inflaming yourselves with idols." How? By reading on through verse 11 we see Isaiah says) <u>Thou fearest me not</u>. We see they looked on the way others did and followed them and rejected God. Jeremiah the prophet says in Jer. 9:2 "Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them; for they be <u>all</u> <u>adulterers</u> and assembly of treacherous men. And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies." In Jer. 9:8 "their tongue is an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait." Verse 9 "shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this" (what kind of people? Adulterers.)

II Peter 2:12-15 "But these, as natural brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the daytime. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceiving while they feast with you; having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin. Beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices, cursed children: which have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam." What did God do to this kind of people? Jer. 3:8 "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery. I had put her sway and given her a bill of divorce;" (will God divorce his people again for their adulterers? Of the mind? Yes, he will but this time it will be forever).

Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 17:5 - When we join ourselves to the world by pleasures of life we marry the mother of all harlots or one of her daughters for I John 2:15-16 "the lust of the flesh lust of the eyes and pride of life are no part of life or godliness." 2 Peter 1:3 "For the seed that fell among thorns." Luke 8:14 "are those that have heard go forth and are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Romans 12:1-2 they are conformed to this world. Isaiah 5:8 "That join house to house, that by field to field, till there be no place (difference) that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." How do they join themselves house to house? Well let Paul tell us in 2 Cor. 6:14 "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? (verse 16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of God. (verse 15) or what part hat he that believeth with an infidel?" For we (Rom. 7:1-4) are or should be married to Christ and as long as he lives if we join ourselves to another we commit spiritual adultery. For (1 John 2:15-17) the love of God is not in us for (Rom. 1:21) we glorify him not as God. Like these did so while we are married to Christ we look on the mother of all harlots (the world and its pleasure) or one of her daughters to lust after her we commit adultery - with the eyes and of the mind; for we are (Rom. 2:1) inexcusable whosoever we are that judgest the world in what they do and then join them in their pleasures. Space does not permit

me to continue but hope this will help us to understand. Rom. 8:9 if we have not the Spirit of Christ we are none of his.

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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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Greetings to all. We hope everyone is well both spiritually and physically. This letter brings much good news and a little bad. We would like to share with you some of the good news. The long awaited meeting of December 1990 has come and gone - in time only, not in memory. The meeting was a great success in that two were added to the family of God and we were all spiritually strengthened. Lewis and Susan Boling were baptized the last evening of the meeting. Needless to say, this brings much happiness to us all, as it does to the hosts of Heaven. Lewis and Susan have nine daughters, six of their own and three that are in their care. Lewis and Susan are related to quite a number of us here and in the Citrus City area. We are all happy to have them as brothers and sisters in Christ with us. There were thirteen congregations represented at the meeting and 110+ people attending. Speaking were Homer Bryant, Gene McKinney, John D. Logan, John Usrey, Gary Pruett, Ken Harper, Robert Davis, Howard McCay and Bill Marten. Some could not get here because of severe weather and we missed all who could not attend. Thanks to all who were able to attend, you helped so much to make the meeting a great success.

After the meeting, we have since had several who have been baptized. They are Teah Boling, age 15; Angie Boling, age 14; Amanda Boling, age 10; Samantha Boling, age 11; and Shawna Wardle, age 37. As you can see, we have quite a few new members and we are all rejoicing!

Now a bit of bad news - both Bro. Sonny Boling and Bro. Earl Broadway had to have kidney stones removed. Both seem to be

doing good at this time. Sister Mary Long is not able to attend services often. Remember her in your prayers.

We had record breaking cold weather and high winds during our meeting and almost everyone was down with colds. It was inspirational to see people battle their discomforts and make so much effort to attend services and participate in the different activities.

This letter could go on and on, but must limit our space for others. We send our love and prayers to all and ask you to remember us in your prayers that together we may accomplish some good things for the Lord.

Harry Davis and family
for the Church of Christ at Yuma

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Christian Friends:

January 1991 finds us all pretty well here in Colorado except for colds and flu. We have had snow this winter which we need very badly.

We have had a lot of response on our upcoming camp meeting June 29 to July 7 from you faithful ones that come every year, and from christians that have never been before are planning to come. Make your plans now to be here with us, we need each and every one of you for a week of great fellowship to study God's word and sing praises and make melody in our hearts to God.

Brother and Sister Paul Kinney are back with us after being gone for several years. We missed them and are very happy to have them back worshipping with us.

Bro. Keith Wilkerson does a fine job bringing lessons to us along with Bro. Eddie Wilkerson. Both young men are doing a great job.

We will try to keep you posted on our annual camp meeting as time passes. We pray that you can attend all or part of the week's meeting. We would enjoy hearing from any of you anytime.

God bless you all until we meet again,
Happy Hallow Church of Christ
P.O. Box 702
Cedaredge, CO 81413

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Greetings to all:

We enjoy the articles and newsletters in the Courier very much. We are doing fairly well here at Baron. The church is growing and we are all thankful for that. There is quite a bit of sickness in our congregation at this time. We pray that they will soon be back to their normal state of health.

On Sunday, January 13th, Brother Brian Ross gave the lesson and 22 came forth for the prayers and two for baptism - Brother Bob and Sister Shirley's second oldest daughter, Wendy Eldridge, and the sister was our grandson's girlfriend, Charlotte Coday from Sallisaw, Oklahoma. There was much rejoicing at church and I'm sure in heaven.

Let us all pray for the sick and that we may all grow stronger in the Lord and in the knowledge of his word. We also pray for the conflict that is going on in the middle East, that the rulers of the nation will find a peaceful solution to this war, as we are taught to pray for them in I Tim. 2:1-3. Let us also pray for peace among our brethren that we all may unite upon what saith the Lord. God bless each and every one.

Written in love of the truth,
James Brown
Route 2 Box 101
Westville, OK 74965
(918) 778-3240

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Loved Ones:

We at Bellflower are getting along fairly well. We've had a lot of flu hit our little bunch but it seems to only last one day. God willing, we're just about through with it.

We had a surprise visit from Bro. Roger and Sis. Janice Walkingstick and children this month. We were also happy to have our dear friends, Brother Tom and Sister Charlene Broadway stop in for a visit on their way down to Yuma to visit Tom's father and mother. Although I was not here that weekend, I understand Brother Tom gave a very good message Sunday morning.

We've had some frequent visits from the La Habra congregation and sure do appreciate the support. All are welcome if you happen to be passing by. Our homes are open should you decide to visit Southern California.

God bless,
Mark Perigen

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1991 MEETINGS

Cedaredge, Colorado	June 29 - July 7	Camp
Bellflower, California	June 30 - July 7	Jim Brown
Selah, Washington	July 28 - August 4	To be Announced

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DEATHS

Bro. William Farrar of Elk City, Oklahoma passed away December 22, 1990. He joined the Church of Christ while a teenager and obeyed the Gospel and remained faithful until his death at the age of 84.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Christians:

As we thumb through the Christian Courier we notice only a handful of congregations write to tell of news, good or bad. It's important that more do write; what an important resource to get prayer or thanksgiving to God by righteous people all around the country. If I were sick or in need, it would be peace to my mind to know hundreds of people were praying for me. So please, if you have news, send it in. We're not in the business of seeing how fat we can make the paper, but you support it and you should have benefit from it.

Friends, if you or your congregation are considering a contribution to the Courier, now is a good time as we are running short of funds. Thank you.