The Christian Courier



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

NOVEMBER 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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TO WHOM WAS THE NEW TESTAMENT GIVEN - TO CHRISTIANS OR TO THE WORLD IN GENERAL?

It was directed to every creature, the whole world in general; Mark 16:15-16 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The gospel was to be preached in its fullness, not just faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. There were no christians when the commission was given to the apostles; the gospel was to be preached to every creature and obeyed in its entirety. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism is the beginning of obedience, the first steps in obeying God. I Tim. 1:15 "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners". This statement is made. The carnal mind is not subject to God's law - Rom. 8:7 (true, but misapplied). The scriptures here is not speaking of the physical man, but is speaking of the spirit of man; his mind, his thinking part, if you please. As long as his mind is set on carnal things, it is impossible for him to please God, it is his choice to serve God

or disobey. God's choice is that all men would repent and turn to him - 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 26:20. Rom. 12:2 "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." One must get their mind off carnal things and set it on Christ. Col. 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

If the New Testament is not to sinners, that is alive sinners, then what would they be baptized for? They have not sinned - Rom. 4:15 "for where no law is, there is not transgression." If is is not to them, how can they sin? If they have no sin, they have become as newborn babes before baptism. The apostle Paul writing to the Corinth brethren in 1 Cor. 6:9-11 tells them there were some of them that were some of those sinful things, but now you are washed. We do have a law today and it is to all men in general. Rom. 5:6-8 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The world is without excuse. Rom. 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

The New Testament gospel was given to the world, in general (given to all men). The above scriptures show without doubt that is was given to all men; whether they obey it is up to them. It is on their shoulders, not God's. God tempteth no man; James 1:13 "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man."

Melvin Daniels
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Fayetteville, AR 72703

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SERMONS THAT WE PREACH

I want to speak to the preachers among us of which I myself am but a novice in comparison to most of you. I am speaking as a new brother in Christ, but feel compelled to speak on a matter

of the style of delivery of the sermons we preach. As I study the word of God more and more, I realize that only God should have the job of chastening the hearts of His children. We find in Revelation 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent." Brothers, the Word of God should never be watered down; God forbid that this should ever be, but we must let the passages we select do the work on the hearts of men. We find that God's word does this all by itself in Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." While I believe strongly that the Holy Spirit guides us to say what we do, we must be careful not to be brazen and brash in our tone and delivery. The people who attend church are awake in Christ a great majority of the time and come to church to be fed by the Word of God. We are merely vessels for the Word to be spoken through.

As the ministers of God's words, we should be gentle as Christ was gentle, and meek as Christ was meek. We discover the gentleness of Paul (Christ's messenger) in Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." I know I have met very few of you and am looking forward to hearing the elders of the church speak. I know of one elder, and names are not important, that I heard speak at a meeting. His message was powerful and meaningful, but the delivery was such that it was not offensive or brash. We can be stern without being overbearing. We must try in all we do to impart wisdom in a kind and gentle way knowing that the wisdom is that of God and not of ourselves. We must hold up the Lord, but do it as instructed in Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. I know that the things I bring lessons on the most are things that I need to grow in myself. Please, as you put these scriptures together to edify your congregation, do not do so to hurt or cut those that God commands us to love. I leave you with the words of Paul from Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love."

Your brother in Christ,
Steven B. Coody
Oklahoma City congregation

"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY." Prov. 25:25

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

To all our dear brethren in the Lord:

It has been some time since I have written. For the past year we have travelled far and wide urging the brethren to write to the Courier and I have neglected to do so myself. Nell and I went many thousands of miles, sometimes alone and sometimes with the beloved of the Lord. We were blessed in being able to attend four gospel meetings, seeing some whom we had not seen in years and meeting some whom we had never met before. Meeting loved ones for the first time in 20 years or so made us realize we are all getting older and need to keep in closer touch with each other. We could not attend some meetings that we wished to because of conflicting dates. Also, we have moved, which has taken time. We are not in Seattle. Again, we would urge all the congregations to get their meeting dates into the Courier as soon as possible. Many brethren have to put in for their vacation time before the first of the year. They would like to go to gospel meetings, but just have to guess at the dates.

The church here is doing well. We have quite a number of visitors who pass through stop by to worship. We are preparing for our winter and spring travel, if the Lord continues to bless us. Our love to all the faithful.

Howard and Nell McCay
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Seattle, WA 98168
(206) 241-4745

YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings and best wishes to all from the congregation in Yuma. We have had several not feeling so well lately, but things seem to be looking up. Sister Broadway hasn't been feeling well and has lost quite a bit of weight. She has been undergoing tests and examinations for some time now. Yesterday (Oct. 11) she got her final results from the tests and they were good news. Our prayers are of great effect. Sister Ruth Duncan has also been ill, but may be improving at this time. Others are Sister Mary Long, Alice Davis and Sis. Vermer.

We had a very mild summer, but it is staying with us longer. We are hoping for cool weather soon.

Bro. Bud and Sis. Willie Davis have returned from their summer away. Sister Verda Nelson shoudl be home by next week and others should be with us in the not so distant future.

We are planning our guest speaker meeting this coming year during Easter week vacation. That is a pleasant time of year. Everyone is most welcome to be with us and hope you will mark your calendars and plan to be with us then. We will have more information later. We may try to have a meeting this winter, but is yet to be decided.

It is most enjoyable to see quite a number of news letters in the paper. This is the best way of communication throughout the brotherhood that I know of. What better way can we all know of illness and other distresses and join with you in prayers.

This about concludes our news for this month. Our activities will be picking up with cooler weather. We still have Wednesday evening Bible study, Saturday singing and cook-outs and on the first Sunday of each month, dinner in the kitchen.

Our prayers are with you, we send our christian love to all.

Church of Christ in Yuma
from the Harry Davis family

IPSWICH, ENGLAND

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters in Christ:

We are sending our love to you from Ipswich, England. For anyone who may not know us, we are Mike and Felicia Geho. We have two little boys, Michael and Samuel. Mike is in the Air Force and our travels brought us to Bentwater Royal Air Force Base. We live about 20 miles from the base in a town called Ipswich.

We love and miss all of you, especially the loving folks from our old congregation in Port Orchard, Washington. Speaking of congregations, we have been on a wild goose chase for one that we heard was right here in Ipswich. It's really a long story but we haven't given up. We know of some other christians who are stationed here in the air force. When I say here, I mean in England. We are trying very hard to find out what base they are at so that we might have services with them. As of right now, we have been meeting in our home. We would love to hear from you all; even if we don't know you. We could use all the love, support, and prayers you can give. And by just getting a letter every now and then would help make it feel like we aren't so alone. You only need a 29¢ stamp when writing to our APO instead of to our house. God bless you all. We miss and love you all very much!

Mike, Felicia, Michael and Sammy Geho
When writing, please address to:
Sgt. Michael Geho
81st Supply Sqd.
PSC 53 Box 796
APO-AE 04947

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DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

We are all doing well at the Duncan congregation. We really enjoyed our week-end meeting with Bro. Jim Brown. Bro. Jim gave four very good lessons and the singing was great. We think very highly of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruby and enjoyed having them visit with us in our homes. We want to thank all the visitors who

attended our meeting. There was a lot of good christian fellowship.

If any of you are ever in the area, we would love to have you stop in and visit with us. My phone number is (405) 255-7278.

Don Lewis for the
Valley View Church of Christ

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our congregation is doing pretty good. We seem to be passing around a few flus and colds, but that is expected with this time of year. Some days we are in a heat wave and other days it is cooler.

Bro. Al Way is recovering nicely after his surgery. He still tires easily and is taking it easy, but is on his way to feeling better. We want to thank all for the prayers.

We are anxiously waiting for the arrival of two little babies to add to our number. Sister Tayna Brockman is in her last month and Sister Natalie Brockman is due in February. Please pray that they will be healthy and there will be no complications.

Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse is still not feeling too well, but is able to come to church almost every Sunday.

There are few in this congregation who have a new area code for this area. There are too many people here that we are running out of numbers. Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Perigen's phone number is now (310) 925-0786 and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Betty Perigen's phone number is now (310) 866-0656. Please note that only the area code has changed to 310 from 213. The phone company is giving us a six month grace period where either area code will work, but in May only the 310 area code will work.

There is not much news to report and we have not had any visitors this past month. Please pray for us as we continually pray for you.

In Christian love,
Mark Perigen

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Delta, Colorado June 28 - July 5 Camp

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Please note the change in dates for the Delta, Colorado meeting. They were not able to reserve the camp the week that they wanted and had to take the week before they had planned. Please adjust your calendars. Thank you.

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THE SCRIPTURES SAY

Matt. 5:22 "But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."

Listen to Jesus' words - whosoever shall say thou fool shall be in danger of hell fire. How often do we hear religious people say this very thing? Do we call people fools? If we do we better think long and hard on what affect it will have on our eternal life.

Raca - empty headed - worthless - Are we guilty of making this statement about our brother? Jesus warns quite clearly not to call a brother worthless.

Col. 4:6 "Let your speach be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man."