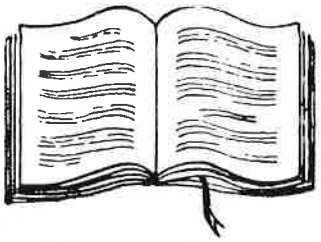
The Christian Courier



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

MARCH/APRIL 1992

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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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ARE NON-CHRISTIANS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD'S LAW

The question has been asked - Who is subject to the doctrine of Christ as found in the New Testament?

To find the answer to this question, like any other question, all we need to do is search the scriptures. The New Testament answers this question completely. Let's forget man's reasoning and thoughts and search the scriptures. Are non-christians subject to the commandments of God? Are non-christians going to be held accountable to God for not following the teachings of Christ and the apostles? Specifically, is a drunkard or fornicator, etc. "sinning" outside of Christ's body? Are they subject to God's laws of conduct even while not being his children?

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

These Jews were told to repent and be baptized <u>for the remission of their sins</u>.

Luke 13:5 "I tell you, nay but except ye <u>repent</u>, ye shall all likewise perish." Repent of what? What was there in their life that they needed to repent of - past sins, of course. There must, of <u>absolute necessity</u> be a "code" of conduct that these sinners were held <u>accountable</u> to in order for God to declare them guilty.

Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." Here again, these non-christians were told that they needed to get rid of their sins. The only way to do that was through Christ. If they are not subject to the laws of God, what sins do they have that they need to get rid of?

1 John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin, transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." The scriptures tell us that sin is nothing more than transgressing the law - God's law. All who are outside of Christ are sinning. The scriptures teach this over and over and 1 John 3:4 tells us sin is transgressing or breaking God's law. Are those non-christians or those outside of Christ subject to the laws of Christ? Of course they are. God says they are sinners or law breakers. Yes, they may not believe in God; they may not accept God or the teaching of his law, but that makes no difference because God has clearly stated that we shall all stand before Christ and give an account of ourselves to God. What do they have to account for if not subject to God's laws? Gal. 6:7 "Be not deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption..."

Acts 17:30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." God has commanded all men everywhere to repent. God has commanded that non-christians repent of their sins. That clearly shows that in God's eyes these non-christians are breaking his commandments and must turn from their ways. Does God consider those outside of Christ obligated to keep his will? The scriptures clearly shows he does.

I Cor. 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators nor idolators, 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. And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the spirit of our God."

Paul tells these Corinthians that at one time some were adulters, thieves, idolaters, etc. but they were washed or baptized. They had put away these evil things out of their lives. Prior to being washed (baptized) they were living in sin and committing these sinful deeds. These verses here clearly show that non-christians were doing sinful deeds but then changed (and such were some of you). If they are not subject to the New Testament doctrine of Christ, how could they be adulterers, fornicators, thieves, revilers, etc.? Paul clearly shows that all those items listed are unrighteous deeds. Sin is the

transgression of the law. When sinners repent and come to the Lord, they are cleansed of the sin that was in their life. Sins such as listed in I Cor. 6:9-11. These sins, adultery, stealing, drunkedness, etc. are all transgressions to God's law whether you are in the church or not.

John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him the last day."

Jesus, once again, clearly shows that non-christians will be judged against the words Jesus has spoken. All men have been commanded to repent and serve the Lord. Everyone will give an account for the deeds done on this earth. Everyone will stand before God and answer for their sins. This is christians as well as non-christians. We will all be judged against the words Christ and the apostles have left for all mankind.

In love of the truth,
Gerald Brockman

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REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT

I want to give a few thoughts to the words reprove and rebuke. I have read the religious papers for some time and have not seen any articles on these words. The word reprove means: 1) to blame, to censure or 2) to charge with a fault to the face, 3) to chide, to reprehend (Luke 3:7-9), 4) to convince of a fault and to make it manifest (John 16), 5) to reprove, to disprove. These are some definitions. Now rebuke: 1) to chide, to reprove; to reprehend for a fault, to check by reproof, 2) to check or restrain, 3) to chasten, to punish, to afflict for correction.

Now, are we doing the commands of God as outlined in 2 Tim. 4:2? Romans 1:16 - I ask, do we really preach the word? II Tim. 4:1 and Acts 20:27 - Are we afraid and keep back part of the word? Are we failing to declare all the council of God? Are we keeping back part of the price Jesus paid for our sins (Acts 5:1-2) as well as what he paid for others? For we should know that not the hearers of the law are just before God but the doers of the law shall be justified. Do we make our boast of keeping the law of God and fail in this one point of preaching not only things easy to hear but some hard and painful. Paul said in 2 Tim. 4:1-4 "Preach the word (v. 3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but often their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (v. 4) and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." It is a lot easier to

preach the first principles but Heb. 6:1-6 said "therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection....". Jesus told the apostles in Matt. 28:18-20 "teach and baptize, also teach them all things I have commanded you. Are we doing just that? Do we give heed (Heb. 3:12-13) lest there be in any of you an evil heard of unbelief, in departing from the living God? We are to exhort one another daily, do we do that? James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Do we not know that we shall be judged by the way we teach and preach the word? I Pet. 4:11, Rom. 14:10-12. Is there two ways to be right? I have asked in times past what is the pleasures of life? Luke 8:14. What is the world (1 John 2:15-16) and things of this world (James 1:27) that we are not to partake of? What is sin? Romans 6:23. That is death (I John 3:4). Do we deceive our own heart (James 1:26)? What is those pleasures (I Tim. 5:6)? 2 Tim. 3:4 - These people are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. Heb. 10:38 Who is it that God said my soul shall have no pleasure in him? Exekiel 18:32 God said I have no pleasure in the death of him. That death sayeth the Lord. Where is the chapter or chapters that tells us we can still go and partake of the things we used to do and still please God? Eph. 2:1-2 said that we were dead (v. 1) in trespasses and sins (v. 2) when we walked according to the course of this world (v. 3) we all had our conversation in times past in the lust of our flesh and fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind. (v. 12) at that time ye were without Christ and without God in the world. When were we dead and without God? When we lived in the desires of our mind and flesh. Now if we were dead when we walked this way, I ask the question - How can we go and do the things we used to do and not be dead now?

In love and search of this truth,
Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, Oklahoma

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

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IPSWICH, ENGLAND

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from England. We are doing just fine. We are still meeting in our home on Sundays for church. As of right now it's just the boys and us. Our sermons are usually very simple so that the boys don't lose interest. We pick a short story from the Bible, having singing and prayer, then we have communion. Our singing consists of "Jesus Loves Me" and "I'll Fly Away". After services are over, we ask the boys what the story was about. If they answer fairly good, they receive a star. Also, if they know what the communion represents they get a star and if they participate in the singing they receive another star. I must say that since we have been here, they've learned a lot. We have become much closer with God and Jesus. One reason I believe is because we need them in our lives even more here. Over seas there is so much stress and lonliness. We, ourselves, are do an awful lot of praying. It also helps to hear from other christians. In fact, I'd like to take this time to thank a sister out there who read our first article, Sister Bonnie Johnson, - thank you for the beautiful card. I apologize for not writing. Michael loved the card so much he lost it. I can't find it and it has your address on it. God bless you and it really did make us happy to hear from you.

We'd love to hear from any of you. In fact, maybe you could send us tapes of some lessons and singing. Then we could hear some of you and be lifted spiritually. Felicia has started a women's Bible study. Although no one in the group as of yet is ready to accept that there is only one true church.

Both of the boys are doing just fine, and are growing like weeds. We love and miss you all!

Mike, Felica, Michael & Samuel Geho
Ipswich, England

BOHANNAN MOUNTAIN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is not much news to write about. Everyone is doing well except for colds and arthritis. Brother James Vanderpool has reitred on social security disability. We hope and pray his health does not get any worse, only better.

We always enjoy visitors and invite anyone coming our way to stop, fellowship and worship with us. Sunday services start at 10:00 am. We have scheduled a three day weekend meeting for May 1-3 and invite everyone to come.

Yours in Christ,
Melvin Daniels
999 Watson Circle,
Fayetteville, AR 72703
521-5185
442-4834 (Bro. James Vanderpool)

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LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to all. We enjoy the good articles in the Christian Courier. Enclosed is our check to help with getting out the paper. We plan to attend a few days at the meeting at the church in Yuma Arizona.

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Gerald and Natalie Brockman on the birth of their baby girl and to brother and sister Martin and Tayna Brockman on the birth of their baby boy.

Glad to hear all are doing well. Brother J.B. Nunnally of the La Habra church will have surgery April 15th at a hospital in Palo Alto, CA. Our prayers go out to him and his wife Mildred that all may be well with him. Our prayers go out to sister Myrtle Lee Clouse too.

In Christian love,
Randolph and Olive Kellems

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hello to all of you from the Yuma congregation. Hope all is well with you. We are mostly getting along OK except for sister Ruth Duncan. She is to leave for Phoenix today to undergo surgery. Remember her, as well as all others who are ill, in your prayers.

This past Sunday Tony Brister and family were with us. Tony gave our lesson. After services we had a fine dinner and visit. Our weather has been ideal and it is most enjoyable to be together and visit.

Christians throughout the brotherhood are not able to see each other often and some not at all. The many news letters in the paper are a great opportunity to have contact and correspondence. They are the first part of the paper I look at each month. This is most of the news for us at this writing. Let us strive for unity and be of one mind in the Spirit. If we do, the Lord will bless us and he will be proud of us. We send our best wishes and love from the congregation at Yuma.

Harry Davis and family

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All are well here except for colds, flu and minor aches and pains. We have occasional visitors from other congregations which we always look forward to. One Sunday Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Buckner were here. It was good to see them again. On Bro. Brian Ross' last appointment, his mother, Sis. Beverly,
came with him. We were glad to have both of them with us and evjoyed Bro. Brian's lesson.

Bro. Subir Sen and family have been gone to California on vacation. We missed them while they were gone and are glad to have them back. I almost forgot Bro. Gary Ferguson from La Habra, CA visited one weekend. I apologize to Bro. Gary for almost forgetting.

We have our meeting date set. It will be June 14 - 21 with Bro. Audley Barnes doing the speaking. All that can come are welcome.

Paul Andrews

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church at Baron is doing well and attendance is good. We are very happy to have Sis. Carolyn Barker and boys back worshipping with us again. The Lord has blessed us with a steady increase for which we are thankful.

We have covered dish dinners the second Sunday of each month, and we have begun Bible study on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. We invite anyone to worship services and the dinners.

We also heartily invite everyone to join us in fellowship during our upcoming meeting June 21-28. Accommodations will be provided. Our homes are open to all. There is space for sleeping and showers in our new fellowship hall, which Lord willing, will be air conditioned by meeting time. Hook-ups for travel trailers and motorhomes are available. Meals will be served daily. Week long activities are being scheduled for all ages. Brother Robert Farley of Selah, Washington will be speaking and we look forward to meeting him, his family and to hearing some good lessons. Plan to join us!

If you need further information about the meeting, call: Jim Brown (918) 778-3240; Brian Ross (918) 696-7029; Bob Eldridge (918) 696-6317; Darrell Wilson (918) 696-7377; Gene Barrett (918) 775-5165; David Brown (918) 723-3879; Jack Warford (918) 696-6590; Doyle Wilson (918) 696-7354; Fred Brown (918) 696-3731.

Bob Eldridge

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Goshen, Arkansas	June 14-21	Audley Barnes
Baron, Oklahoma	June 21 - 28	Bob Farley
Delta, Colorado	June 28 - July 5	Camp
Waterford, California	June 28 - July 5	Richard Johnston
Bellflower, California	July 5 - 12	Bob Eldridge