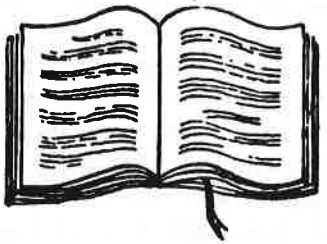
The Christian Courier



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

MAY/JUNE 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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WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Today I am speaking of a problem we all face in today's church. There are those who profess to be teachers of the gospel that serve only to make the church what they will. When we get away from God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ we tread on dangerous ground. Brothers we can not allow this "cancer" to enter into our midst. Those who say that the Bible's teaching on the path that we must follow are "too idealistic" or "do not fit in todays modern times" are no less than the false prophets that Jesus warns us about. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of this in Jer. 14:14 "Then the Lord said unto me. The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, hither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart." Even before Christ walked on the earth, these people were in the scriptures with God's stern warning against them.

Jesus spoke of these people and the subtle way that they can mislead the weak in Christ. I am speaking of new brethren such as myself which may not be as firmly rooted as you older brethren. When a christian is young in the faith and unstudied, he tends to be open to these people. Jesus foresaw this type of false approach in Matt. 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Protect those young in the faith. Do not allow these men to lead them away from the truth that is Jesus Christ.

It is sad to see men trusted with such authority in the church mislead

and teach doctrine conducive to the way of life they would like to experience. We are warned again against these false brethren in 2 Cor. 11:13-15 "For such as false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righeousness; whose end shall be according to their works." The tragic end to the teaching of these men is the fall of those who earnestly seek the truth but do not take the time to read the Bible. In today's busy world it is easy not to take the time to crack the Book of Life and rely on preacher's teaching as the only feeding we receive. I myself am guilty of these distractions.

Brothers we must not allow these distractions to interfere with the true test of all teachers. We are instructed to test the spirits of those giving instruction to us on Sunday mornings. In I John 4:1 the Bible speaks of this saying "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the sprits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." We must test the words of all teachers to make sure that they "right true" of the words in the Bible. We must see what each man stands for and what fruits he brings, Luke 6:44 "For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes." Shepherds of your flock, look around you and what fruit do you see? Does Christ teach you that people are to come to Him as they are? No! God commands repentance and Christ promises in Luke 13:3 "I tell you, nay but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." We must not allow the teachings of the "come as you are" preachers to enter into the body of Christ. Did Peter not teach us the conditions of pardon in a simple but clear way? Peter made crystal clear the terms and conditions which man must meet in order to receive the remission of sins. Man must "call on the name of the Lord", but it was not at first clear how he calls. So, the question was asked, "What must we do?" Peter showed them that they must truly open their hearts to "hear" the gospel and believe it. Then, he commanded each one to "repent" and to "be baptized" in water (Acts 2:22-38). Shepherds, I would appeal to you; Look around you and be alert to gospel perversion! Do some say get people baptized however you can and then "clean them up later"? Does Christ teach this? What should men love more: the number in their congregation or the souls of men for Christ? Maybe the correct question is, shouldn't men love their own souls more and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness? The truth is this: I Cor. 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, 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." If any man comes to you making allowances for those in these conditions, be wary of this person. We should not reveive this teaching or the teacher as instructed in 2 John 9:11 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed. For he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of His evil deeds." I urge you brethren to not allow that "cancer" to enter in to the household of faith. We must be steadfast and hold the light up. It may see "idealistic" to some, but doesn't God already tell us that his ways are foolishness to

Yours in Christ,
Steven B. Coody

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THE WAY OF HOLINESS

Isaiah 35:8-9 "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there." We see here that the unclean cannot pass over this way. Back in the Old Testament when leprosy came upon a person, they were put away from among the congregation and walked about unclean and people would not mix with them (Lev. 13:45) Leprosy was spots that appeared on their flesh and they would soon pass on unless something was done to cure the leprosy (Lev.14:2-3; Num. 5:2; 2 Chr. 26-21; Luke 17:12). Today we see Christ as that "way" in fulfillment of Isaiah 35:8-9. The unclean of today shall not go upon this "way" which is Christ's body, the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4-5). So what does it take to be unclean today as the leprous was then?

Jesus said in John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you". 1 Pet. 1:21-22 says you have purified your souls in obeying the truth thereby we are justified and made alright (clean) and put on Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). But when we transgress the law of God (1 Jn 3:4) we become a leper or unclean (Rom. 6:23, 14:23). In 2 Cor.6:16-17 we are to come out from among them and be ye seperate and touch not the unclean thing for God to receive us and be our father. There is also another father, the devil (John 8:44). Which one of the two fathers do you serve? We can't serve both. In Eph. 5:1-5 we find

some of the things that make us unclean, which are (v.3) fornication - this can be either fleshly or spiritual fornication. Also, all uncleanliness, which can be evil thoughts; covetous, will also spot our robes of righteousness. Others are filthiness and foolish talking (which is using conversation which leads to foolishness); jesting (teasing or carrying on in a foolish way); whoremongering; carrying on in a worldly manner (or like the worldly people) 1 John 2:15-16; James 4:4. Or as in Eph. 4:14, walking as other gentiles walk, which is doing the things others do. Eph. 2:2-3 and Eph. 4:18-19 being ignorant because of the blindness of the heart or mind and have given themselves over to lasciviousness and greediness. Also those that use their former conversation, they have not put off their old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. Things like (v.25) lying - being angry and sinning (disobeying God); 1 John 3:4, Eph. 4:28, stealing; Gal. 5:15 biting and devouring one another (v.17) the lusts of the flesh. Gal. 5:19 "For the works of the flesh are manifested which are these adultery, fornication, uncleanliness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling (dancing), and such like: of the which I tell before as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Rev. 21:8 the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liers, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death". So God says come out of her, my people that ye be not partaker of her sins and receive not of her place (Rev. 18:4).

Rev. 14:9-10 says that if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his make in his forehead, or in his hand, "the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb": Why? Because they are unclean and did not come out from among her and be seperate (2 Cor.6:16-17). Let's be certain we are not like the church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-17) and think we are doing fine and need nothing more than to go to church, and then go out and have a big time with the worldly people (James 4:4).

Lloyd Treat

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

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

We here at the La Habra Church of Christ would like to extend our deepest thanks to Bro. and Sis. Gerald Perigen from the Bellflower Church of Christ for their thoughtfulness and help at our dear Sis. Bernice Cavin's graveside services recently. We deeply appreciate Bro. Perigen's eulogy at the services. We will all miss our Sis. Cavin very much; she was truly admired and loved for all the wonderful works she did while here on earth.

Our dear Sis. Florence Millard has attended church the last 2 or 3 Sundays after being missed so much after her long illness. We thank God she has been able to attend Church as she has had a long, hard battle with her illness and God has truly blessed her with better health.

We all look forward to receiving the Courier and appreciate all the efforts put forth to getting it out to the Churches. May God bless all of you at the Churches of Christ and may all of us do our share while here on earth to further the gospel by our good works and extending help to others who may need our help wherever that may be.

Bro. J.B. Nunnally has not had his heart surgery as of yet. He attends church every Sunday even though he can barely make it sometimes. Our prayers are with him always. The doctors keep postponing his surgery due to his 25% chance of coming through the surgery. Please, let's all keep him in our prayers daily and we all know the power of prayer and God's will will be done. Bro. Nunnally, we all love you and our prayers are with you. You are not alone.

Also may all the church meetings this summer be a big success at getting the Lord's word out to people and pierce their hearts enough to help them to come unto him before it is everlastingly too late; such as should be saved. Our love to you all.

In Christian love,
Sis. Mary Serrano

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BOHANNAN MOUNTAIN, ARKANSAS

Hello to the brotherhood. Our meeting of May 1st was a blessing to each one who attended. Bro. Brian Ross from Baron, OK congregation brought us four very good lessons. They were very uplifting to the older members. Also, Brian was able to give the lesson in such a style that he had the full attention of our 10-14 year age group for the entire service. Any speaker that can do that, you have to know he is good! Thanks Brian; you drove a long way to give us your time and help. May God keep you in his care always.

We had good attendance each service (approx. 60 people). For our small congregation, that was uplifting in itself. It had been many years since we have counted that number in our services. We want each person to have our thanks for making that number possible.

Melvin Daniels

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RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

All here at the Randlett congregation are doing well. We had a week-end meeting on May 1,2, and 3 with guest speakers. It was a very uplifting meeting with wonderful christian fellowship. The only drawback was that it had to come to a close so soon!

Everyone enjoyed a very good lesson Friday night by Bro. Dan Teague. On Saturday everyone had lunch and sang that afternoon. Saturday night we had another good lesson by Bro. Larry Pollan. We had homemade ice cream after services Saturday night. Two more wonderful sermons were brought on Sunday by Bro. Jerry McCay and Bro. Don Lewis. Lunch was served between services on Sunday. In spite of the fact that the letter sent in by Bro. Roy Mullens announcing the meeting must have gotten lost and that everyone didn't get the news of the meeting through the Courier, we still had a great turn-out. Word of mouth spread the news enough to bring us several visitors from Texas and Oklahoma. We apologize to those who did not know in time to attend, but Bro. Roy made a great effort! We appreciate the effort of the visitors to come, because these week-end meetings are so much more enjoyable and uplifting when you are blessed with visitors. I will not try to list names of visitors, being afraid I might miss some.

We want to welcome you all back and personally invite those who did not get to come, to come worship with us. Our homes are always open to any visitors coming our way, whether planned or surprised!

Bro. Bob Eldridge and family was down the following week-end and Bro. Bob gave us a fine lesson to study. So, we were doubly blessed with company on two consecutive week-ends.

If you are going to be out this way and need directions or a place to stay call Bros. Leroy Mullens (817) 569-1956; Andy Barnes (405) 439-5956; Roy Mullens (817) 569-1543; Otto Elliott (405) 281-3630; or Preston Barnes (405) 439-2208.

In Christian love,
Bro. Andy Barnes

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We apologize for not getting the announcement of this meeting in The Christian Courier, but we truly did not receive word on this.

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

We are doing pretty good here. We have had a few visitors lately. Sis. Donna Taylor and her friend from Oklahoma City, OK were here one Sunday. It was a pleasure to see them. We also had a surprise visit from Sis. Joan Shea, her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Darla and Bro. Bill, and their daughter, Danielle, from the La Habra, California congregation. Accompany- them was Bro. Earnest and Sis. Maysel Buchanan from the Goshen, Arkansas congregation. Another Sunday evening, Bro. Marion Serrano came to visit from the La Habra, California congregation. We really appreciate and enjoy all of the visitors and welcome them back anytime.

Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse was able to attend one Sunday with her daughter, Ruby. It was a real treat to see her at church again, but her health has prevented her from coming out anymore. She has to move to Texas with her daughter, which saddens us all, but her only alternative is a nursing home. We will greatly miss her.

Bro. Al Way was gone one Sunday due to illness but is back with us again. The small children have had their share of colds but everyone seems to be well now.

We invite everyone who can to come attend our meeting with Bro. Bob Eldridge of the Baron, Oklahoma congregation. Our meeting will be July 5-12. We are really looking forward to the spiritual uplifting and want to encourage anyone who can to join us. Al Way (714) 842-1633; Gerald Brockman (714) 595-1801; Martin Brockman (714) 598-2109; Jerry Perigen (310) 866-0656; Mark Perigen (310) 925-0786.

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Hello to everyone and hope all is well with you. We are mostly doing okay; Bro. Earl Broadway seems to be recovering from his bout with blood clots in his head. Sis. Ruth Duncan is also recovering from her surgery. At this time Bro. Donny Long is having some difficulty with his equilibrium. Your prayers for these and all who are ill will be of much benefit.

I would like to devote most of our news this time to our past meeting. In my opinion it was a great success. There were no baptisms neither souls restored to the faith but good attendance and good lessons from a large group of speakers. Each evening we had dinner together, fellowship, singing after services and other different events. To me it was an enjoyable, fun-packed week. It is also of my opinion that much good came of this meeting.

If space will permit I would like to name the guests that were from out of town. This does not include those from Citrus City and locally. Brothers and Sisters Jimmy and Jaetta Loftis from Lorenzo, TX; Ed and Francis Tate of Olney, TX; Verlie Baldwin of Cedaredge, CO; Al and Charlotte Burtis of Modesto, CA; Harry Booth of Washington; Bill and Veda McCay of Yakima, WA; Frank Morse of Empire, CA; Lloyd Treat of Broken Bow, OK; Ivan and Betty Carlson of Oregon; Elmo and Juanita Brown and their grandchildren, Holly and Ronald, from Modesto, CA; J.D. and Jo Johnson from New Mexico; Rex and Tina Mickey of Flora Vista, NM; Mary, Adam, Jessica, Loriana, Nicole, and Tim Shepherd of Payson, AZ; Keith and Patti Wilkerson of Cedaredge, CO; Dorothy Calhoun and granddaughter, Christine, of Pheonix, AZ; Randolph and Olive Kellems of Cucamonga, CA; and Robert and Ellen McCay of Port Orchard, WA. We had wonderful support from Citrus City and our local group. Thanks to all. It was you who caused this to be a wonderful, never to be forgotten event. There are several meetings scheduled throughout the year. Let each of us pray for their success that God's cause will prosper.

We are experiencing our summer warm weather and several will be gone for the summer. Our group will be smaller during this time. If you are passing by or would brave the warm weather, come and be with us. All are welcome. We send our love and prayers to all. May God bless us all.

The Harry Davis Family

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Robert Edwards (23 yrs. old) of the Seymour, TX congregation is seriously ill and needs the prayers of the brotherhood. He has gone through several surgeries and is now waiting for a liver transplant. Any cards, letters or financial help would be greatly appreciated. Send all correspondence to Doug Dixon, Rt. 3, Box 11, Seymour, TX 76380.

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1992 MEETINGS

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
Lorenzo, Texas	July 26-Aug. 2	Dan Ross

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We are pleased to announce Robert & Cindy Delacruz was baptized in the Salem, OR congregation.