The Christian Courier



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

SEPTEMBER 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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ADULTERERS AND BAPTISM

The Bible teaches quite extensively that divorce and remarriage is wrong. We find many statements in the Bible where God states infactically that he does not like it and will not allow adulterers into Heaven. (Gal. 5:19 and I Cor: 9-11).

The scriptures tell what God considers an adulterer to be. Rom. 7:3 "So then if while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law so that she is not adulteress though she be married to another man."

Here Paul shows clearly that if a woman remarries while her husband is alive she is an adulteress. He doesn't give any exceptions or allowance for excuses. It's quite clear, if her husband liveth and she remarries she shall be called an adulteress. If Paul only meant this for a certain group wouldn't he have said so? Wouldn't he some place in the scriptures tell us that an adulterer that is baptized doesn't have to follow this command? Of course he would. Since the teachings of Romans 7:3 is the only command and guidance that is given us in the scriptures then we have to accept it as God's only command on the subject. It has been said "Adultery is an act that one commits (John 8:4) not a condition in which one lives." Sure John 8:4 states the woman was taken in the very act of

adultery. This in no way says that adultery is only an act. Many scriptures clearly show that a person can be in the condition of an adulterer just as they can be in a condition such as a drunkard, idolater, thief, homosexual, etc. Rom. 7:3 "So then if while her husband liveth she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress..." This is a condition, not an act.

James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God...". This is also a condition, not just an act.

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 thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God." Is adultery different than the other items mentioned here? These are not just individual acts. This is the condition these peoples' lives were in. The question is: If an adulterer learns of God and comes to Christ, does he have to change his ways when he becomes a christian? Of course he does. As we become a christian and accept the christian walk of life we have to put away our past sins as well as our past sinful ways of life.

I Cor. 6:9-11 - Here Paul names quite a list of sins that people were committing. He specifically names fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, etc. and says these shall not inherit the kingdom of God. In the 11th verse he says "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Paul is telling those at the church at Corinth that in the past they were adulterers, they were thieves, they were drunkards but they became christians. They were baptized and had their sins washed away. Nowhere does he say or even imply they can stay in the same condition. Just because they were washed (or baptized) doesn't mean they can continue to be an adulterer and be pleasing to God. Just as we don't believe for one minute that if we were a thief, homosexual, or drunkard then got baptized we could continue to steal, be a homosexual, or get drunk. Of course not. If we are an adulterer and repent and are baptized, God washes away our past sins. He washes away those past sins of adultery but it doesn't immunize us from that sin in the future. If we continue to live with the same person we once again commit adultery and are considered an adulterer in God's eyes (our actions and life hasn't changed).

The idea is put forth that God will wipe out the whole adulterous marriage. Which marriage is he wiping out; the first or the second? The second marriage (if we have a living spouse) is the one causing adultery. If we say God erased the second marriage, then we are still sinning

because we're living with a woman who isn't our wife. If we say God wipes the whole second marriage off the books as being a sin then we contradict what Paul says in Romans 7:3 "So then if while here husband liveth she be married to another man she shall be called an adulteress..."

Also, is God a respector of persons? Is God consistent? Does God wipe out <u>all</u> second (3rd & 4th) marriages or just those of people committing adultery? No, the scriptures never say or even imply that a new christian can continue living in the same sinful state as they were before they accepted Christ. Paul says in Eph. 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor working with his hands..."

Being a thief is listed in the same context as being an adulterer as in I Cor. 6:9-11. Paul told the Ephesians that if you steal (or are a thief) stop it. Don't continue in your past ways or sins. The same holds true for being adulterers - stop it; don't continue in your past sins. If we say God justifies and accepts the second marriage by baptism then are we going to say God justifies and accepts all these items listed in I Cor. 6:9-11? They are fornicators, idolaters (worshipping another God), adulterers, effeminate (referred to as male prostitutes), homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners. If we say that God accepts the adulterer without having to change then we must say that God will accept the idolater, homosexual, thief, etc. without changing. We all know this is far from what God says. Repentance is clearly what Paul has said. A change of heart which brings about a change of action. A change of action is a change to committing no more adultery by getting out of the adulterous marriage. Just as the thief changes by stealing no more. I Cor. 6:9-11 in no way allows for adulterers to remain as they are just as homosexuals, etc. cannot continue in their same present state.

Some say I Cor. 7 allows an adulterer who is baptized to remain in that condition. This chapter does discuss the marriage obligations but it's main point is the commitment of a christian to God. He says (v. 18) "Is a man called being circumcised? Let him not be circumcised." Verse 20 says "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called." Verse 21 says "Art thou called being a servant? Care not for it..." Verse 24 again says "Brethren let every man wherein he is called, therein abide with God." He says if you are circumcised or a servant, accept that as your lot. Don't try and change this condition in your life. Because it makes no difference to God but nowhere does it say if you are divorced and remarried you can remain in that condition. Being a servant or circumcised is not a sin to God but being an adulterer is. You cannot tie the two together. You cannot say that just because God tells you if

you are circumcised or a servant to abide in the same calling that gives you the freedom to continue living in every sinful condition man comes up with. If you say that, then you must say that if you are a thief, a homosexual, or an idolater, etc. you can abide in the same condition you are called. Saying that a person can continue living in an adulterous marriage because of these verses is adding to God's word. God never said a person could continue in a sinful state.

Some say we cannot break a "legal, binding, and solemnized covenant with a faithful spouse" (this being an adulterous marriage). They already did this when they divorced their first spouse. This legal binding covenant is only legal and binding by man's laws. It's only man's laws that allowed these two people to divorce and remarry as adulterers (in God's eyes in the first place). Just as the new christian would put away any prior commitments of committing sin, the new christian who is living as an adulterer must put away that sin they have in their lives. Their commitment to God to live as a Christian obeying his laws takes priority over any past commitment to man.

A recent article ended by saying "Let's start building God's house as he directs, welcoming them all in and letting them accept the free gift, justification of life. Then never, never say to anyone "Divorce your faithful spouse". This statement sounds almost like what the apostle Paul was combating in I Cor. 5. He says in I Cor. 5:2 "And ye are puffed up and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you." Verse 13: "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." This is the teachings Paul taught the church at Corinth that those living and committing fornication (includes adultery) were to be put away from among them. The church was scolded for being puffed up and glorying in this adulterous person. In love for Christ, love for the church, love for our souls and love for the adulterous souls, we must tell them what the scriptures teach. If we expect to receive a home in Heaven we must follow the Lord's path not the path of the world. We must listen to God's direction, not what society tells us.

Rom. 7:3 "So then if while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulterous:..." Rev. 2:20-22 tells of the condition and judgment of the church in Thyatira. "Not withstanding I have a few things against thee because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication and she repented not. Behold I will cast her into a bed and them that commit

adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds."

In Christian love,
Gerald Brockman

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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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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will take the time to write news to all. I have been travelling a lot this year and haven't taken the time to write. I have been to the meeting at Lorenzo, TX in March, the meeting at Randlett, OK, the meeting at Valley View and Oklahoma City then to the camp meeting. After the camp meeting I went to the Stilwell, OK and Lorenzo, TX meetings. I have been quite busy. We had a good camp meeting and you that didn't make it sure missed out on a good meeting and a lot of fellowship, preaching and singing. I hope to be able to go next year - June 25 thru July 4 is the date I know at this time. I hope to see you all there.

The churches are still trying to spread the gospel as we are commanded. Some of the churches had their meeting too close together for others to attend. I wish we would consider this when we plan our meetings.

Your brother in Christ,
Lloyd Treat

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RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Christian Friends:

We hope to find everyone well. We are doing fine here. We enjoy the Courier and are enclosing a check to help with expenses.

Some of the congregation has enjoyed traveling to a couple of meetings this summer at Baron, OK and Lorenzo, TX. We are looking forward to the

meeting at the Valley View Church of Christ in Duncan, OK and hope to see lots of support.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support for Bro. Roy and Sis. Kim and Jace Mullens during Jace's stay in the hospital. Jace is now doing very well. He is growing bigger and stronger each day. He recovered quickly from his hernia operations and is rounding the 13 pound mark at 8½ months.

We pray that all will hold strong to the truth and support the growth of the church.

In Christian love,
The Randlett, OK congregation

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Bro. and Sis. in Christ:

The Delta camp meeting held the first week of July was a great success, with many spiritual uplifting sermons, singing, visiting, fellowship and Bible discussions. The spiritual food was very uplifting - all of you speakers did a great job. We were all benefited greatly. Thanks a million to all of you that came the long distances - or short distances - to make 1992 the success it was. Thanks to all of you that sent and gave donations to help to do this each year. Next year (1993) will be our 30th year reunion. So, start your plans now to be here next year during the first week of July. We will have the dates later. Come help celebrate the 30th year.

Brent Berry was baptized the 4th of July. He is from our congregation and there was much rejoicing here and in Heaven. Bro. Brent is the son of Skip and Pam Berry. Bro. Brent is active in church and we are all proud of him.

Thanks to our own congregation for a job well done. We were all tired when the meeting was over, but what a wonderful felling to have such a beautiful, uplifting gospel meeting with all of you wonderful people. Thanks for all of your help around the camp. We appreciate you.

Our weather is great and we invite any of you to come visit us anytime you can. Anyone of us has room for you and would enjoy hearing some sermons - so come visit us when you can.

God bless you all,
Happy Hallow Church

YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings and best wishes to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have good news from Yuma Church of Christ. Brother Tony Brister and family from Citrus City visited and Tony gave us another uplifting lesson. We always love his good lessons. After the service Bro. Steve Nelson announced that a young lady wanted him to baptize her. Her name is Danielle Williams. There was great rejoicing here and I know great rejoicing in Heaven. There was also a sister in the church and said she was baptized at a young age and wasn't sure she knew if it was the right way so she asked Bro. Steve if he would baptize her too. He did and it sure was a happy day.

We need the prayers from all the congregations. Bro. Donny Long is in Tucson and had surgery Friday night. We need to remember him in your prayers. Bro. Earl Broadway is having surgery here in Yuma. Remember him and Sis. Zelma in your prayers also. We all need all we can get. Let us all strive to unity and try to be of one mind in the spirit. I am sure that would be pleasing and a blessing to the Lord. I am sending a check to help out with the paper.

In Christian love,
Sister Ruth Duncan

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COMANCHE, OKLAHOMA

We've finally done it! After many years of wanting to build a new church building, it's finally accomplished. We could hardly believe all the red tape we ran into. One of the larger problems was caused by an article Howard read in a Cotton Electric paper. It stated that, since 1987, any remodeling or new building where people meet has to be approved by the State Fire Marshall. No one can legally remodel or build without submitting plans to them. The consequences of not going through them could be up to a $10,000 fine. Of course, we fully intended to comply with the law and we surely didn't want a fine. We had to get plans drawn, submit them to the Fire Marshall and wait. When we got them back, they were approved, with a few conditions such as lighted exit signs, panic hardware on the doors, battery operated emergency lights, and no heating system that wasn't vented to the outside. These all seemed silly for such a small building, but we have obeyed the laws of the land as the

Bible tells us to do. The weather refused to cooperate too. From the time we poured the footing, it was three months before we could pour the floor because we kept having so much rain. The red tape is behind us, the building is completed, and now we want to let all of our out-of-town and out-of-state brothers and sisters know how to find us.

The Loco congregation is no more. We are now the Countryside Church of Christ. From the north edge of Comanche, Oklahoma, we are the first intersection going west. The church is located 1 1/8 miles west. Brother Don and Sister Zelpha Taylor donated the land, for which we are very thankful. All of us here are really excited about meeting in our new building. It is only a couple of miles from several of our homes and at least 20 miles closer for Teresa and I since we've moved north of Duncan.

We want to thank all of the brothers and sisters that helped us for their labors of love. Brother James and Sister Beulah Vanderpool were here when we dug, by hand, the ditch for the footing. So, you could say they helped us from the ground up. They came again later and helped some more. There seems to be someone's initials drawn into the concrete footing -- JOV, 1992. Do you suppose they belong to anyone we know?

There was much needed help and support from Brothers Don and Mark Taylor and wives also. They saved us many dollars. Just one of the things they did was build and paint our baptistry. Sister Kathy Taylor and husband, from the Goshen congregation came and did our taping and bedding and did a beautiful job. Thanks so much to those that helped us monetarily too. Every bit of assistance we received was greatly appreciated.

The middle of July we had a week's meeting with Bro. Jerry Perigen of Bellflower, California. We are very thankful and uplifted by him and Sister Betty being here. They had to make some sacrifices to get here because of some last hours catastrophes. Thank you Betty and Jerry.

We also want to thank all those from other congregations who came to support us. Some were here all week, some for only some of the nights. All were appreciated. Besides Bellflower, Lugert, New Castle, Goshen, Bohannon Mt., Oklahoma City and Lorenzo were represented. We also had several neighborhood people to drop in which was encouraging. We're on a beaten track now and a lot of traffic goes by.

Anyone coming this way can come by and worship with us and stay in our homes. We love to have visitors. For further directions you can call me at (405)255-2943, Richard Jones at 439-2319 or Howard Taylor at 439-2728.

Audley Barnes

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BOHANNAN MOUNTAIN, ARKANSAS

Hello to the brotherhood:

We just returned from Comanche, Oklahoma meeting. We really enjoyed hearing Jerry Perigen. He can give such interesting lessons for the young and old alike. We are happy for the church at Comanche as their new building is really nice.

We enjoyed our visit with Howard and Leola Taylor - thanks for the bed and food. Melvin is back at work after taking a 5 weeks unplanned vacation in June and July with staff infection in his hand and arm. That is nasty stuff and we are thankful to God that he came through it and is back at work. I want to thank the brethren at Cedaredge, CO and Bohannan Mt. for their help during that time.

Everyone at Bohannan Mountain congregation are doing okay. Some are gone on vacation now but will be back soon. We some away it makes our group on the short side. Bro. and Sis. James Vanderpool were able to attend most of Comanche's meeting. I know they enjoyed it also.

In christian love,
Bro. and Sis. Melvin Daniels

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DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

Over the Labor day weekend, we had a wonderful week-end meeting with Bro. Bob Eldridge of the Baron, Oklahoma congregation doing the speaking. Bro. Bob brought four very uplifting sermons straight from the word of God. We really enjoyed having Bob and his family spend time with us. We want to thank all the visitors who came out to support our meeting. Having the house full made the singing really great. I counted 52 people at the Saturday night service. My niece, Carrie Iker, was baptized during our meeting and three came forward to ask for the prayers of the church.

In the year and a half that we have been meeting here, we have really grown in number as well as in spirit. We feel that the good Lord has really blessed this congregation. It is wonderful to have a place where we can come together to worship God and keep his commandments in peace, without having to contend with the constant bickering and hard feelings too often found in the church.

On September 10, 1992, there was a reception at the home of my grandparents, Bro. and Sister Joe Taylor to help them celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. This is a milestone that very few couples ever reach. They have really been blessed in being able to still live at home and take care of themselves and attend church every Sunday morning. Bro. and Sis. Taylor have 3 children, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

If any of you are very passing through this part of the country, stop in and visit with us. Our worship service is at 10:30 every Sunday morning.

With christian love,
Don Lewis for the Valley View cong.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:

It's been awhile since you have heard from us here in Seattle, and we do apologize. A lot has happened here over a period of time. We, like all of you, have had our share of disappointments, sorrows, and joys. For all, we strive to give "thanks" to our Father.

This spring, our dear Staley family suffered a double loss. In March they lost their beloved mother and grandmother, Barbara Brown, after a long illness. Then in April, they lost their step-father, Edson Brown. Our love and prayers go to each member of this family in their loss.

In August, our dear sister, Nell McCay, had her right knee totally replaced. She came through beautifully, but recovery has been a long, slow, painful process, and she still has to take it easy.

Some of our number were able to attend meetings and gatherings, and were much uplifted and strengthened spiritually.

This Spring, John and Melinda McKinney moved to the Seattle area for which we are very thankful. Their sister, Threasa McKinney, also lived and worked here for several weeks, but she's back in Yakima, at least for now, right TC?

Our big news from here is actually "little" news. We have been blessed by the arrival of two brand new baby girls. Stephanie Taylor McKinney, weighing 9 lbs., 4 oz., joined the family of John, Melinda and Blake McKinney on July 26, 1992. Then on August 1, 1992, Teri Sue Warford, weighing 7 lbs., 12 oz., joined the family of Terry and Suzie Warford.

Teri Sue had to go back to the hospital for a couple of days for treatment of jaundice, but seems to be fine now. Please pray for these and all parents for success in striving to raise their little ones in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Also, we continually pray for those among the brotherhood with various sicknesses and ailments, as well as those who have suffered loss.

We have been uplifted by those of you who worshipped with us from various congregations near and far, and for this we thank each and every one of you. We also look forward to being reunited with our dear brother, Daniel McCay, who's moving to Seattle from Lorenzo, Texas this fall.

As we close, our love and prayers are for each and every one of you. Come and see us, or call us at (206) 241-7493.

Brothers and sisters at
Sea-Tac Church of Christ

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

There is not much to report here. Our summer has quickly gone by and we have some of our little ones back at school. The weather has been hot and we look are looking forward to some cool weather ahead (hopefully soon).

Gregory Brockman has had trouble with ear infections and is now on maintenance medicine. Lord willing, he will outgrow this without having to have surgery to have tubes inserted. Heather Brockman has had a few ear infections also, but seems to be doing well now.

Al and Okja Way were gone for a couple of Sundays on vacation visiting some brethren in Oregon and Washington. We were very thankful for their safe return. After spending the summer in Washington, A.J. is now back with us going to school. We are happy to see him as we missed him while he was gone.

Martin Brockman and family and Gerald Brockman & family were gone a couple of Sundays. They were visiting the Chico congregation. We all seem to be back now and it is nice to have all of us here again. The Lord has been good to us and brought us all back home safely.

Please keep us in your prayers and we do you. Anyone that will be in this area, please stop and worship with us.

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We have received news that Bro. Ben and Sis. Krystal Scott had a healthy baby boy on August 27, 1992. They named him Benjamen Tanner Scott and he weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Both mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations to all of you!

We also want to offer all of the new, proud parents congratulations on the new little additions to the church and their families. Babies are such a blessing and we all rejoice with you.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Christian Courier is going to have an address change. The address now goes to Mark and Tammy Perigen's home, but they have sold their house and will be moving soon. We are going to ask that you start directing your mail for the Courier to 9914 Arkansas Street, Bellflower, CA 90706. This is the church building's address. We will have the mail forwarded so nothing should get lost in the mail, but future correspondence should be addressed to the above address. We hope this does not inconvenience anyone - the new address will be printed on the top caption with next month's issue. Thank you.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Cedaredge, Colorado	July (dates to be announced)	Camp