The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to 9914 Arkansas St. Bellflower, CA 90706

DECEMBER/JANUARY 1993

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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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"DOES THE LORD HATE YOU?"

Dumb question you say? Maybe not. The chorus of an old song we sometimes sing says - "Oh, I want to see him, look upon his face, there to sing forever of his saving grace." Consider for a moment how it would feel to see hatred and disgust when we finally do get to look upon the Lord's face. If you are interested in finding out if the Lord might hate you, there is a test you can take which is found in Proverbs 6:16-19. Of course these verses just contain a few of the things that could cause the Lord to hate us, but it is certainly a good place to start.

Do you have a proud look? You don't really know? Get a mirror out and take a look for yourself. Look into the face

that the Lord and the rest of the world sees. You can't tell if you have a proud look or not? Well, how do you perceive yourself? Do you see yourself as just a little smarter or a little better than the average person around you? If so, you just might a have a proud look. Rom. 12:3 "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." Let's never let our own sense of greatness go to our head or we could develop a proud look. Keep in min, the higher we build ourselves up to be, the farther we will have to fall when the good Lord comes along and kicks the pedestal out from under us.

Do you have a lying tongue? Revelations 21:8 "But the fearful and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." It says all liars. It doesn't matter if we tell little white lies or if we tell whoppers. The Lord hates a lying tongue. Isaiah 63:8 "For he said, surely they are my people, children that will not lie; so he was their Saviour." Imagine the look of disappointment we will see on the Lord's face if we betray him - if we don't always make an effort to be truthful. Do you ever lie to cheat someone on a business deal? Do you ever call in sick from work when you aren't really all that bad off? Do you ever cheat just a little bit on your income tax? Do you ever stretch the truth to make yourself seem more important or maybe to put another person down? If we do any of these things, the Lord is sure to notice. Another reason for us to always be truthful is our reputation. If we make a habit of exaggerating or stretching the truth, word gets around. And if we ever get the reputation of being untruthful, it will be very hard to regain people's trust. Let's constantly be on guard to be truthful. Remember, the Lord hates a lying tongue.

Have you every shed innocent blood? We sometimes see people develop a grudge against another person and try to harm them - to get even. Too many times an innocent person is hurt in the process. If we ever feel the need to strike back at someone, we better be sure not to harm an innocent bystander. Be sure not to shed innocent blood - especially if this person is a fellow christian. Matt. 18:6 "But whoso

shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Keep in mind this verse isn't just warning us against harming children. When it mentions these little ones that believe in me, it takes in all ages. A ninety year old person who is a christian is a child of God. If we harm one of them, guess who we have to answer to? I Cor. 6:7 "Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do you not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Isn't that the christian way - to just take wrong? Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, vengeance is mine, I will repay, sayeth the Lord." Let the Lord set things right. This way, we won't run the risk of shedding innocent blood. Keep in mind you don't have to use a gun or a knife to mortally wound someone. I remember a saying we had in grade school - "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me." How wrong we were. Harsh words can cut us very deeply and it will take much longer for these wounds to heal that if someone had used a weapon on us.

Does you heart devise wicked imaginations? There are so many ways we can get ourselves in trouble by letting our imagination run away with us. One example can be found in Matt. 5:28 "But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." If a person can commit adultery in his heart just by looking at someone, you can bet his heart was cranking out some pretty vivid and wicked imaginations. Let's control our imagination. Remember, there is someone watching over us who is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Do you have feet that are swift in running to mischief? In this permissive, anything goes society we live in today, we can get into all kinds of mischief without even trying. We don't have to go running around looking for mischief - it will come looking for us. Probably the biggest cause of people going astray, especially young people, is falling in with the wrong crowd. II Cor. 6:17-18 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, sayeth the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and

daughters, sayeth the Lord almighty." We will have to separate ourselves from worldly people if we are to have a chance of obtaining a home in heaven. Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." How much easier it will be to stand against the temptations of this world if we hang out with christian friends. Let's always remember I Thess. 5:22 "abstain from all appearance of evil." Such a short verse, but just stop to consider the great advice it contains.

Are you a false witness that speaketh lies? If we every have a disagreement with someone, it is just human nature to want to line public opinion up on our side. So what if we make a little exaggeration here or tell a half-truth over there? At all costs, we can't have anyone thinking for a second that we could be at fault. But before we bear false witness against our adversary, let's ask ourselves one question - will it be worth it? If I stretch the truth a little bit and convince the whole world that my adversary is a total degenerate, will it be worth the loss of my soul? Let's never allow ourselves to become so poisoned against someone that we jeopardize our soul by saying things against him that just aren't so. Let's always remember the Lord hates a false witness.

Do you ever sow discord among brethren? I Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." It isn't the people of the world or any of the other religious denominations that the devil is after. He already has them. Just who is it then that he is seeking to devour? It's you and me, brothers and sisters, and you can bet he isn't going to play fair. Satan knows perfectly well that if we would all stick together and support and strengthen one another that he wouldn't stand a chance. So he has come up with a perfect strategy to accomplish his goal - divide and conquer. If he can find some way to cause division among us, if he can find someone to sow discord among us, he can pick us off one at a time. Mark 3:24-25 "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." By the same token, a church divided against itself cannot stand. Too often we see personal problems and disagreements taken into the church. Just imagine Satan sitting back clapping his hands

with glee when this happens. Matt. 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." It would be well to keep this verse in mind before we sow any discord in the church. There is a witness to everything thought, said, and done; and some day we will all have to stand before this witness and give account. Proverbs 6:14-15 "Forwardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord. Therefore, shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy."

Let's each one of us examine ourselves and if we are guilty of any of these seven things that we have briefly discussed, let's repent and set things right while we still can. When we come face to face with Christ our Saviour, it will already be too late. Consider for a moment how it would feel to hear these five words - "Depart from me ye cursed." - A pretty sobering thought isn't it? We are only human. We all make mistakes from time to time. We can only hope and pray that the good Lord will forgive our shortcomings and that it will be a happy, joyous occasion when we finally do get to look upon His face.

Submitted in Christian love,
Don Lewis

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HAVE WE OBEYED THE VOICE OF THE LORD?
(1 SAM. 15:13, 15:22; HEB. 5:8-9)

Here in Samuel, the Lord sent his chosen man, Saul, to do a job. When Saul returned, he boasted Samuel that he had done the commandments of the Lord (vs. 13). Also in vs. 20 he again says he has obeyed the voice of the Lord. But in verse 14 Samuel responds "When meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and lowing of the oxen which I hear?" In verses 22, 23 "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

Are we like Saul? God commands us to do things and we say we have obeyed the voice of the Lord. We go to worship as

Saul did, but will God accept our worship? Or will he reject us as He did king Saul? Heb. 5:8-9 states that He is the author of our salvation to all that obey him. But, do we obey?

II Cor. 6:16-17 "Come out from among them and be ye separate, and I will receive you." Have we? If so, what meaneth the voices of the crowd and the cheer leaders and the beating of the drums in our ears? I Sam. 15:14. Col. 2:20-22 "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which are all to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh." Have we obeyed his voice when we do such things? Rom. 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Are we obeying the voice of the Lord? 2 Tim. 4:1-4 - are we obeying this? "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort.." Do we do this? If so, how? By joining them? We see here that people will not endure sound doctrine but turn away their ears from the truth and turn to fables (or lies). Do we obey his voice and neglect to do these commands?

Heb. 10:23-31 - here we are commanded not to forsake the assembly of ourselves together. How often? Acts 20:7 - on the first day of the week. For how long? Acts 20:11 Paul continued until the break of day. Do we have a night service? Matt. 18:20 "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Do we assemble as they did in Acts 20:11? If so, what has happened when the church is full on Sunday morning and 4 or 5 on Sunday night. Did not God leave us an example here to follow - at least for a reasonable length of time? Or do we have too many worldly things to do? Is not obedience better than sacrifice (what is worldliness?). Webster: a predominant passion for obtaining the good things of this life

(covetousness) addiction to gain the temporal enjoyments. Worldly - secular, temporal pertaining to this world or life in contradiction to the life to come - as worldly pleasures. See Luke chapter 8 - the seed fell among thornes, worldly affairs, worldly estates, worldly honors, worldly lust. I John 2:15-16 also in Titus the 2 chapter devoted to this life and its enjoyments bent on worldly gain. Are we coming short of his rest (Heb. 2:1-2, 3:18-19) through unbelief. 2 Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." 2 Tim. 4:2 - how do your reprove and how do your rebuke? 2 Cor. 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Or not by the things we want to do or like to do. In Matt. 26:30-41 Jesus was teaching things pertaining to God and his kingdom and it was night (Matt. 26:31) then in verse 41 he was still teaching at night when he said watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Do we miss services Sunday night because the flesh has something more important to do? Matt. 18:20 Jesus said where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst. Don't you like to meet with the Lord? If so, then what were you doing with the world? Are we like Peter denying the Lord by not being at the service where he was? If you fast for one meal a week - how long would you live? If you fast one spiritual sermon a week - how long will you live? Are we doing what Peter commanded - 2 Peter 3:1-14? Are we stirring up the pure minds by way of remembrance that God (2 Pet. 2:4) spared not the old world but saved Noah. Also, he spared not the angels that sinned (I John 3:4) but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgement. Are we awake? If so, how come Paul (Rom. 13:11) said it is high time to awake out of sleep: how could we awake if we were not asleep. Are we obeying?

Yours for the faith of God,
Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock, Broken Bow, OK 74728

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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 in Christ:

It's always a pleasure to hear from the different congregations around the country. As far as here, several members have been down with the flu and with persistent colds. We always hope and pray that all are well.

We are holding our meeting in April on the 11th through the 18th and all are welcome to attend. It is going to be guest speakers. I am looking forward to meeting new brothers and sisters and also seeing, once again, the ones I have already met.

In Christian love,
Lewis Boling and Family

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KEIZER, OREGON

To the Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus:

Greetings from the Keizer congregation. It has been some time since we wrote to the Courier and we would like to report of our October meeting held by Bro. Gerald Brockman. It was very uplifting for all of us here. Bro. Brockman gave us some very powerful lessons from God's word on christian living. I know it stirred us all here to walk a little straighter with the Lord Jesus, and his encouragement that his preaching of the Gospel gave us all were strengthening and uplifted. Gerald, thank you and Natalie.

The christian fellowship was wonderful, some were old friends and others were newly introduced brothers and sisters. We had some very thought stimulating Bible

discussions. All of us here would like to thank Mark Perigen for his wonderful song leading it was truly a treat for us. In attendance were Bro. and Sis. Gerald Brockmand and their 2 children, Monica, and Heather. Also from Bellflower, CA, Mark and Tammy Perigen and their two children, Stephen and Chelsea. From Chico, California, Bro. and Sis. Clif and Wanda Brockman, and from Rogue River, OR, Bro. and Sis. Tom Broadway. To all of our visitors, we would like to thank you for all your efforts and the many miles you drove to be with us, it was deeply appreciated. Again, we were all truly uplifted by this christian fellowship. We will close for now and may the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

For the Keizer, OR congregation,
Chuck Garner

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Hello to everyone:

We have had a beautiful summer and fall; the fall colors are beautiful. We have been blessed with a lot of visitors from various congregations. We are so delighted to have each and every one of you come and visit with us anytime.

Our 30th year camp meeting is coming up; June 26th through July 4th. Make plans now to attend the Delta camp meeting in 1993. You will be happy and spiritually uplifted by coming.

Sister Betty (Roberts) Carlson is improving after her gallbladder surgery in September and broken shoulder in July. Sister Betty is still taking therapy for her shoulder and will be for quite some time. So, Bro. Carl is chief cook and bottle washer. They are settled into a nice two bedroom house in Cedaredge (P.O. Box 542 - zip: 81413).

Bro. Paul Kinne is improving after a few weeks of pain and swelling in his hand and arm. Bro. Keith Wilkerson has been ill for quite awhile suffering with the glands in his neck and going through some extensive testing. Sister Movelle Wilkerson has been suffering with the shingles, but has improved some. Sister Craig has also been ill. Remember them all in your prayers.

We have a new family from California meeting with us now. Allen and Glenda Sellman and their 4 children. Welcome Allen, Glenda and family. We appreciate having you. Also, welcome back Sister Debbie Newman and her 3 children. Debbie is Bro. Bob Eldridge's sister.

Bro. Steve Martin and Sister Jill (Herbert) Martin and two boys are still meeting in their home in New Brauntels, Texas (1275 Lone Star Drive, zip:78130; phone: 512-620-0604). Anyone going that way, please call or write to them. They would appreciate you coming and worshipping with them or just coming by and visiting any time. Also, you that know them, write to them. They would enjoy hearing from other christians and friends.

May God bless you all.
Our love and prayers,
The Happy Hallow congregation

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Hello. I am writing you for my momma, Sis. Carrie Roberson from the Tiner congregation. She asked the prayers of all the churches for my dad and herself. Daddy, Bro. Robert Roberson, had a horrible accident November 5th with an air hose. He was airing up a trailer tire when the wheel exploded. It did extensive damage to his right hand and his left thumb and index finger. He was air lifted to Little Rock, Ark. and was admitted to the Doctors Hospital. Without the skills God gave Dr. Frazer, I don't believe my dad's right hand could have been saved. He underwent 8 hours of surgery the 5th of November, then the 12th he had 6 hours more. Since then he has had 3 or 4 thirty-minute surgeries. He will have at least one more and then several more days to see if all the grafting takes before they will talk about "home" and that is the only place Dad wants to be right now. Please remember them in your prayers. Momma's heart has really acted up under all of the stress. She collapsed at Little Rock. I took her home with me for a few days and now she is at Broken Bow and my sister is taking care of her.

Cards and letters will be helpful to them, I'm sure. Robert "Bob" Roberson and Carrie Roberson, Rt. 4, Box 116, Broken Bow, OK 74728.

From Sis. Rachel Daniels

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We at Bellflower are doing pretty well. We got through the holidays which is always a busy time.

Most of us are well but someone is always out sick with the flu. We have had quite an epidemic going around. It is hitting the kids pretty hard and we've had some pretty sick little ones. I think every one of them has had the flu at least once during the past few weeks. When they are not exchanging the flu bug, they are dealing with colds. Our daughter, Chelsea, had pneumonia but is on the road to recovery and is acting like herself again. Our prayers have been answered and for the time being, I think every one of them are well.

Bro. A.J. Way has relocated up to the Yakima, Washington area. We really miss him and hope he misses us too. Maybe he will miss us so much that he will come back. I think everyone would be happy if he did but we wish him God's blessing as he goes out "on his own". Bro. and Sis. Al and Okja Way helped move him up there and we understand they went through a lot of blizzard conditions and had a rough trip. Our prayers were answered and they returned safe and sound.

One Sunday we had the pleasure of having Chuck and Dana Garner and their two girls and Perry Calhoun and his two daughters worship with us. They are from Oregon and were on their way to Pheonix, AZ to visit their relatives over the holidays. We welcome them back anytime and invite anyone else who is passing through these parts to come worship with us and visit with us also.

Please remember us in your prayers and we pray that all the brotherhood everywhere be healthy and happy.

In Christian love,
Bro. Mark Perigen

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There have been two recent baptisms in the Keizer, Oregon congregation. Desire De La Cruz and Katie Garner were both baptized. We know there was much rejoicing in Heaven and we are definitely rejoicing here on earth.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

April 11-18	Yuma, Arizona	Guest Speakers
June 26 - July 4	Cedaredge, Colorado	Camp

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Please note that we now have a new address for the Courier mail. It is 9914 Arkansas Street, Bellflower, CA 90706. Please direct all mail for the Courier to this address and not the old address on Bixby Avenue.

We also want to remind everyone that it is once again time to start thinking about gospel meetings. Let's get the dates and congregations in the Courier so everyone can have plenty of time to plan for vacation time when they wish to attend a meeting.