The Christian Courier



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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1993

COMMANDMENTS

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15). All of them, for Psalms 119:172 "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all they commandments are righteousness." If all of His commandments are righteous and we show our love by keeping them, why do men think they can pick and choose and still be pleasing to God? The question is, are some commandments more important than others? Is 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,...", which is accepted by most men, more important than Heb. 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..."? Also, is it more important than 1 Cor. 16:1-2 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there will be no gatherings when I come." Or 1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing." or Matt. 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"? Gal. 6:10 tells us to do good unto <u>all</u> men.

Brethren, these are just a <u>very few</u> of God's commandments. There are many hundreds of them in the Bible, the Word of God. Since <u>all</u> of his commandments are righteous, I cannot affort to leave any of them out of my life. They are all important to our soul's salvation, so we dare not neglect any of them. We <u>must</u> pay heed to our brethren who teach His word instead of their own doctrine for they watch for our souls for which <u>they</u>

must give an accounting to God. But each of us must give an account of ourselves to God, so we must be sure that the things we follow and do are the commandments of God.

Written in love,
Howard McCay
1034 1/2 So. 140th Street
Seattle, WA 98168
(206) 241-4745

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SHRUGGING - SHRUG OFF

What are the teachings of the apostles that we find most interesting? Usually the teachings that agree with the life style we live. What the teachings of the apostles do we feel uncomfortable with? Usually the teachings that cramp our life style. Luke 8:15-16 "Good ground are they, which in an honest heart, having heard the word, and keep it,a nd bring forth fruit with patience. No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candle stick, that they which enter in may see the light." Brethren, there isn't a passage of scripture that I don't find most interesting, and there aren't any teachings that cramp my life styles. There are some prophecies I don't clearly understand, but when the teachings say not to do and do, I understand. I have a confession to make concerning my weakness in standing tall and not speaking out for the truth of Christ. Not to send messages of the word of the Lord is letting Christ down, and not letting others see the light of Christ shining in me. You will never know how much joy I had in my heart when I read the articles in the Courier by the brethren who spoke out against divorce and remarriage. The brethren who publish the Courier are to be commended. What I have done is like an ostrich sticking it's head in the sand. If we don't let other know how we stand on the scriptures, we make them and ourselves feel as if we are alone serving the Lord. The type of thinking I was committed to, gives those who would like to change the way the brethren live and worship, an upper hand and run wile with untruths. The same goes if we see evil being performed and say nothing, or try to do nothing to stop it, we let evil rule and we have covered our light by silence.

I'm sorry for what I have done and will support the Courier as long as it represents the truth, publishes the truth, for through this all the brethren will fee strong and be comforted. Happiness is being comforted

by the Lord. Love is to want to give with nothing in return. Sorrow is knowing one will have to spend eternity in Hell. God help us above that which we are able to help ourselves.

Your brother in Christ,
J.D. Jared

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WHO GETS THE CHILDREN - GOD OR SATAN?

This subject is of great concern to me, especially having children of my own. There are many children and young adults around the country that we all care so much about. Our main concern is whether or not they will live their life for the Lord. As adults we know that there is no hope outside of Christ; there is no hope outside of God's word and no hope outside of living a life that follows the teachings outlined in the Bible. The responsibility we have is to teach the children by Word and Deed so they will grow up in the Lord. Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We as parents, as adults, as brethren, as leaders of the church, and as elders have a responsibility to train up the children in the way they should go. Are we fulfilling this responsibility or are we shirking our duty and expecting someone else to train them? Are we sitting back and allowing others to train and teach our children not knowing or caring what they are being taught? Do we feel all we have to do is bring them to church and let the church do all the teaching? Do we really care what our children learn? As I've titled this letter "Who Gets the Children - God or Satan?" Do we really care? Is this of any concern to us?

I'm sure everyone will answer that it's a big concern to all. But, how do we really answer? Do we answer in word and deed? Are we showing by our deeds or actions that we really care who gets the children? Are our actions bearing out the point that we are concerned how the children turn out? Are we as parents teaching our children about God? Are we teaching our children to study (2 Ti. 2:15)? Are we teaching our children to pray (1 Th. 5:17)? Are we teaching our children to love each other (1 Pet. 1:22)?

How are we teaching them? Is it like the old saying "do as I say, not as I do"? Are we teaching our children by our example? Are we studying, praying, and loving our brethren so our children can see our example and be led to Jesus Christ? Or is our example one of not studying the Bible, not praying often, and not showing brotherly love? Solomon says to train

up a child in the way he should go. If we really care about where our children spend eternity, we will give them the example that follows the straight and narrow pathway. Eph. 6:3 "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".

Are we as elders, church leaders, or brothers and sisters in Christ training the children in the Lord? Jesus says in Matt. 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in Heaven."

Are we by our actions and example teaching the children to: Keep oneself unspotted from the world (Jam. 1:27); Seek God's things first (Matt. 6:33); Love not the world (1 Jo. 2:15, Jam. 4:4); Obey civil government (Rom. 13:1-4); Glorify God in our bodies (I Cor. 6:19-20); Take no thought for the morrow (Matt. 6:34); Show a pattern of good works (Tit. 2:7); Show uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned (Tit. 2:8); Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Tit. 2:12); Abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thess. 5:22); Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:1-2); Fight the fight of faith (I Tim. 6:12); Love God and keep his commandments (I Jo. 5:3).

The way we conduct our life may make the difference in whether the children decide to follow the Lord or go after the ways of the world. Our life may be the one they mold their actions after. The apostle Paul said in I Cor. 11:1 "Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ." We are to follow Christ and pattern our lives after His example; but it's only normal for young people to look to their elders and try and emulate them. If we are those elders those young children are looking to and molding their life around, what will their life be like? Is our life as Paul's, where we can say "be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ"? If the children follow us, will they make it to Heaven? Who get's the children - God or satan?

Each and every person has to make their own decision whether to serve the Lord or not. We can't make it for them but our example can either help or hurt. Rom. 14:13 "..that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way". Are our actions, teachings, deeds, etc. putting a stumbling block before our children?

Immodest apparel used to be shunned and taught against. Now we just change the definition of immodest and wear what the world does (I Tim. 2:9). Lying used to be unheard of for christians and a person's word was as good as gold (Eph. 4:25). Immorality in the church was taught against. Now some are closing their eyes and letting it in. Adulterers and fornicators were shunned (1 Cor. 5, Eph. 5:3), now they are welcoming them

in. Abstaining from all appearance of evil used to be stressed (I Thes. 5:22). Eating no meat if it caused our brother to stumble was the creed we lived by (ICor. 8:13). Long hair on women used to be the standard. Now it's a rarity to find it in the churches today (I Cor. 11:1-16). Forsaking the assembly was strongly taught against (Heb. 10:25). "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" is what Jesus said (Matt. 6:33). The early christians met daily from house to house (Acts 2:46). Many churches today are discontinuing their midweek and Sunday night service.

Living as close to the straight and narrow used to be the goal. Now it seems we want to live as close to the world as we can. A changing gospel for a changing world used to be the motto of the denominational churches. Now it seems that some today are teaching this, and welcoming them all in.

What kind of church example are we showing the children? Are the children being brought up in a holy and glorious church? Eph. 5:27 "That he might present it to himself, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

We should all be concerned about who gets the children. We should be concerned about where they'll spend eternity but we must remember that our actions, our teachings, our examples, will either help or hurt them on their path to eternity. We must make sure that our actions, teachings, and examples are according to the teachings that are in the scriptures. Jesus puts a pretty stiff warning to all those who offend a "little one". If we are responsible by our actions, examples, teachings, etc. for one of these to go astray, we'd better stop and take a good look at our life. Matt. 18:6 "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believes 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."

Who gets the children - God or satan? When we allow the world to creep into the church...When we allow our children to be taught teachings contrary to the scriptures...When we alter God's teachings.... Are we not offending these little ones? Let's all take a good hard look at the examples we are passing on. Let's make sure that the children are getting the best spiritual example we can give them.

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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YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings from the Church of Christ in Yuma. The news from here is mostly good news at this time. Most everyone is doing fairly well. Bro. and Sis. Broadway both have not been doing well at all, but have improved much. Likewise, Bro. Al Jones hasn't been doing very good either, but at this time is somewhat better. Sister Ruth Duncan has some fairly good days and not so good.

This past Saturday, Oct. 16th, the eldest daughter of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Susan Boling, Teah Boling, was married to Bro. Jerry Friend. Bro. Horace Orendorff performed the ceremonies in the church here. Jerry and Teah are both members in the church.

On Sunday, Oct. 17th, Christina Friend, sister to Jerry, was baptized. We are all pleased to have her with us. Everyone please remember her and all young christians in your prayers. The road ahead is often long and rocky.

Some more good news is our weather has finally turned cool. The church is having services on Wednesday evenings now - services begin at 6:00 p.m. Sunday mornings 10:00 a.m. and evenings 6:00 p.m. and singing on Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

We send our love and best wishes to all. Come visit us if you can.

The Harry Davis Family

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COMANCHE, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We just finished a fantastic and very uplifting meeting with Bro. Paul Auslam, Jr. doing the speaking. Paul seems to be a very conscientious speaker and is very good at spreading the true gospel. Bro. Paul brought his mother, June, to spend the week with us. His wife, Lou Ann, and three children, Elyssa, Josh and Jake weren't able to come until the last weekend because of school. Paul's brother, Tim and family - Deann, Vanna, Dallas, and Jordan came and brought Paul's family with them. They all represented the Goshen congregation.

The first week-end, Bros. and Sis. Errol and Earlene and Becky and Evart Forsman from Lorenzo came to support us. Becky and Evart brought their two daughters, Erica and Kami, and niece, Jetta Barker. All but Errol had to return to work on Monday, so he stayed with us until Thursday. On Saturday, he returned with Earlene, son Christ, and Sister Reba White. To anyone that doesn't realize it, it is about a five hour drive from Lorenzo to here. They made not just one effort, but two to show their support to us and Bro. Paul.

Sister Kristal, Bro. Ben and Tanner Scott, who now live in Oklahoma City, were here the first Sunday and the last week-end. Kristal and Tanner were here from Tuesday through Friday, too.

Sister Jo Goodwin, from New Castle, came and spent a couple of days during the week during the week with us. Bro. Don and Sister Zelpha Taylor from the Lugert congregation were here Friday and Saturday nights, and Sis. Karen McCullough and Morgan were here Saturday night. Bro. James and Sis. Beulah Vanderpool from Bohannan Mountain came in on Friday and spent the rest of the week-end with us. Of course, the members of our own congregation all put forth every effort to be there, too. Bro. Richard Jones had to miss one night because of fair up of diverticulitis. He had never had it before, but almost ended up in the hospital because of it. It hit suddenly and lasted several days, but only kept him from church one night. The doctor expected him to have to be admitted before the night was over, but God had other plans.

Our dear Sister Smith had to miss the whole week of the meeting. She was in the hospital, several days in ICU, with her heart acting up. Thankfully, she is out of the hospital, although not able to stay by herself yet. Her son has been very good at bringing her (from about an hour away) to church every Sunday. We are so grateful that she is recovering and getting her strength back. She is very special to us and an inspiration. She is our oldest member and is always eager and willing to talk the gospel. There is no fence sitting for her or changing the way she believes with the blowing of the wind. She knows the gospel and doesn't hesitate when asked a question. We would all be better if we had here strength and fortitude. She's one great lady, as far as we are all concerned.

All in all, we had a great group of visitors and we hope all of you realize how much we love and appreciate every one of you. A meeting isn't nearly as much fun without our loved ones coming in to be with us and sharing the spiritual uplifting we get every time we have a meeting.

We want to thank all of you that came from far and near and hope you enjoyed hearing Bro. Paul as much as we did. Bro. Paul, thank you so much for your time and efforts. We know it was hard for you to be away from

your family, but you were giving glory to God and preaching His word. That has to mean much to Him and to you. There are few today who will speak the true gospel. Keep up the good work and don't ever waver as so many are doing today, teaching the doctrine of men and things to tickle the ears.

In Christian love,
Audley Barnes for the
Countryside Church of Christ
Comanche, Oklahoma

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KEIZER, OREGON

Greetings to all the brethren and sisters in the Lord Jesus from the Keizer, Oregon congregation. We have some very good news to report this month. Shiela Maloney, the granddaughter of J.L. and Eunice Jared, has made the commitment to obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus. We are all rejoicing here as we know they are in heaven. We are also very thankful to our Heavenly Father that he has drawn another very precious child to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Praise the Lord.

The other good news is that Sister Lana Slease has moved back to Oregon to be with us. Indeed, the Lord keeps sending his blessings upon us.

We would like to take this time to thank Bro. Tom Broadway and his wife, Charlene, for visiting this month with us. He also brought a very inspiring and uplifting lesson. Tom teaches the gospel at everyone's level, even the younger ones come away with some edification on God's word.

At this time, everyone's health is good and we are all thankful. We will close for now and may the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

Brother Chuck Garner
Keizer, Oregon

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here are doing fine. Our meeting last July with Bro. Jim Brown from the Baron Church of Christ in Oklahoma, was very uplifting for us here at Goshen. Bro. Jim gave us ten very good lesson to think upon. We had visitors from the Comanche Church of Christ, Valley View, Baron, Bohanna

Mountain, and if I forgot anyone, I am sorry. It is always good to see other brothers and sisters from different congregations to have fellowship with each other.

We have changed our every-other Wednesday get together to the first Sunday of each month. We will have Sunday morning services, lunch, singing and Sunday afternoon services at 2:00. This is only for the first Sunday - the rest will be Sunday mornings at 10:30 and Sunday evenings at 6:00. We invite any who can to come worship with us when they can.

There is so much turmoil in the church today, it is getting hard to know who you can call on during services. Some say we are right,, some say they are right, but remember, it is NOT who is right, but WHAT is right. With God's help, that is what a true christian longs for. When the church was being born on that Day of Pentecost, 3,000 souls were saved and all were like mind. But, then man started to see easier ways to obey Christ's commands and that is where the trouble started. Jesus says "if ye love me, keep my commandments". So let's all strive to do what Christ wanted us to do from the start. Love the Father, Love the Son, Love the Holy Spirit, and to love each other.

In Christian love,
Paul N. Auslam, Jr.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Greetings to our brethren everywhere:

We are coming to the close of a busy, but wonderful and uplifting summer. We have been lax about writing, but we will try to catch up on the news, and do better in the future. We have been blessed with quite a few visitors, and some of our members were able to be at other places as well. Sis. Amy Orendorff and children visited with her folks in Texas for several weeks. Bro. Wayne Orendorff met them in California, and came home with them. They attended services at Bellflower and Penn Valley before returning home.

There have been several additions to the brotherhood in various places through the summer. We here in Seattle rejoiced in June at the safe arrival of Rachel Ann, born to Matthew and Kelly Shepherd. Mary Shepherd of Payson, Arizona, was able to come and visit her granddaughter and the rest of us. Then in July, we rejoiced with Mark and Tammy Perigen of Bellflower, California at the safe arrival of their daughter; in August,

both Rich and Barbara Carter of Port Orchard, Washington, had a new daughter, and Eric and Lori Harper of Sacramento, California, also had a daughter, Ashley Jenell. Grandparents Ellis and Lynell Forsman, as well as Jeannean McSwane, Mark and Scott Staley, Matthew and Kelly Shepherd and girls, as well as Wayne and Amy Orendorff and family were all able to go and visit the new arrival as well as the others in the area. We're so very thankful for each of these healthy babies and the complete recoveries of their mothers.

We here in Seattle have been blessed with no serious illnesses. Our hearts grieve in the loss of loved ones in several places, but most recently, we share in the loss of Brother Ken Harper's mother on October 3rd. Our prayers go to all of the families who have suffered in these and other trials.

We have learned that Sister Betty McKinney of Selah, Washington, is to have a large tumor removed on October 12th. Please share our prayers for her complete recovery.

In July, a whole van load of folks came from Lorenzo, Texas, as well as Eric and Lori Harper having flown from Sacramento, California. We enjoyed the fellowship so very much, and were uplifted by the leassons Bros. Jerry McCay, David McCay, and Eric Harper shared with us in a weekend meeting. We also sang until we were hoarse. We know that the memories of these and other gatherings help to sustain us in this life.

Now that we're in the Fall season, it is still very busy. Sister Jeannean McSwane's sister donated enough carpet that we were finally able to get new (and badly needed) carpet on the church floor. It surely looks much nicer. Brother Ellis has been racing against the rainy season to get the outside of the church building painted, and it's nearly done.

Terry and Suzie Warford were able to buy a small house much closer to the church. Last mid-week's fellowship meeting was spent helping them get moved. It was a great time for all who were able to be there, except Terry and Suzie, who get to unpack it all.

We also rejoiced that Mike and Felicia Geho and boys are back from England. We missed them terribly. They are now stationed in Utah, but at least it's within driving distance. We will close for now.

Written in brotherly love,
Sea-Tac Church of Christ
1034 South 140th Street
Seattle, WA 98168

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

There is not much news to report here. Several of us have been travelling on vacations. The Lord has brought us all back together safely. A lot of us have had colds, but hopefully, are on the upswing and recovering from that. We have no other illness to report, for which we give God thanks.

We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

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A DYING MAN'S PRAYER

I've lived in darkness most my life,
Knowing always there was this light.
And in this light salvation's found,
Where you can receive a holy crown.
If I should die before I wake,
Satan's sure my soul to take.
But if more life you grant to me,
To serve you always is my plea.
I know on the cross he died for me,
So when my life departs, my soul's set free.
I'll work for Jesus, where redemption's found,
So when I die, I'll be Heaven bound.

Amen.

Written by Curtis Allred
Submitted by Paul Auslam, Jr.

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Wyoma Mae (Conder) Cavin was born April 28, 1912 and passed from this life October 2, 1993 at Dallas, Texas. She leaves a daughter, Myra, and several grandchildren, two sisters - Sis. Myrtle Lee Clouse of Austin, Texas and Sis. Fern Logan of Stockton, California, and many nieces and nephews. She had been a member of the church for many, many years attending many years at La Habra, California for worship before moving to Texas.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It has come time for the Courier to once again make a change. The Courier will be leaving the Bellflower congregation and be going to the Seatlle, Washington congregation.

I have been in contact with Bro. Ellis Forsman for the last few months and we have discussed transferring the Courier up to that congregation. The brotherhood here have give the idea much consideration and have decided that this would be a good change.

We wish to encourage everyone to give your full support - both with news & articles and financially. It is a big responsibility and requires a lot of time and effort.

Please send all future correspondence to The Christian Courier, 1034 So. 140th, Seattle, Washington 98168.

We want to thank everyone who supported us and gave us so much praise. We appreciate it more than you know. We have made a lot of friends and enjoyed being in contact with so many people. We also want to thank you for putting your trust in us and we pray that everything we have done is in accordance with the Lord's will. God bless and keep you in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Editors

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Nov. 19, 20, 21	Duncan, Oklahoma	Jim Brown

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BAPTISMS

We have received word that two new members were baptized in the Keizer, Oregon congregation - Steve and Nancy Silva.