

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

JANUARY, 1994



THE COURIER CHANGES HANDS

Brethren, the congregation here in Seattle wish to thank the Bellflower congregation for their efforts in publishing *The Christian Courier* these past several years. As we here in Seattle attempt to continue publishing *The Courier* we hope to have the continued support of everyone. We know that it is not an easy undertaking, and we need all the help we can get.

Brethren, in 2 Thess. 3:1 Paul admonishes the brethren to pray for them that the word of the Lord might have free course. It is no different for us here in Seattle as we strive to publish *The Courier*. We certainly need your prayers. Not only do we need your prayers, but also your input; we welcome constructive suggestions. Let us hear from you. If we make a mistake let us know. If you disagree with a specific article, let that author know, for each writer is responsible for his own articles. For you just to keep quiet will not help the cause of the Lord, nor us, the body of the Lord.

Rom. 12:15 says, *"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another."* Too often in the past, joyous events happen and most of us don't know of them until months later. Maybe a new Christian home is established through a wedding; maybe an addition to a home occurs through a birth or an adoption; or someone is added to the Lord's body, etc. The whole brotherhood would like to rejoice, but it is hard if there is no knowledge of these happenings. Also, if one sorrows we should all sorrow, whether an accident, an illness, surgery, death, or for whatever reason, for we are all brethren in Christ. These are some of the things we are to pray for as 1 Peter 5:13 says, *"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray..."*; also verse 15, *"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up..."*; and verse 16, *"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

If you are having a meeting, let it be known ahead of time so others can make plans in advance to come and enjoy the fellowship and teachings. The paper cannot grow without your support, your news, and your lessons. We all enjoy reading of other congregations; don't you suppose they enjoy hearing from you also?

If an article is written in the wrong spirit, or is unreadable, we will not publish it. It is not absolutely necessary, but it would help tremendously if submitted materials were typed to make them more readable. The sender will be notified if an article is not published for any reason. Do not be offended if we correct punctuation, spelling, or incorrect scriptural references to the quoted passage. Scripture used in any article will be verified with *"The Word"* Bible software by **Bible Systems**. This, however, does not guarantee that mistakes won't be made. When we make mistakes, please let us know, and we will try to correct them.

The Courier is your paper; please support it, and have patience with us as we attempt to publish it. And again, we ask you for your prayers.

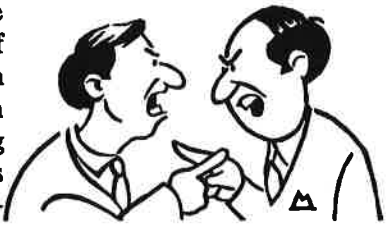
In love of the truth which is in Jesus Christ,
The Christian Courier staff

We cannot do everything we want to do, but we should do eveything God wants us to do.

WHAT IS CONTROVERSIAL?

Three people sitting under a tree resting. The first said, "Did you see that bird go by?" The second said, "I didn't see a bird, but I saw it's shadow." The third said, "I'm going to find out what caused the shadow." The third person got up, walked out from under the tree, and saw a plane in the sky. He knew what caused the shadow. "Come and see the plane in the sky", the third person said. By the time the other two walked out from under the tree, the plane was out of sight. The first two accused the third of not telling the truth. The first person thought he was right by assuming the shadow was from a bird, but didn't do anything to prove his statement. The first person was totally wrong, making a statement without proof. The second person wasn't willing to agree with the first person altogether; but accepted the version of the first person, stating it was a bird, when the only thing the second person saw was a shadow. The third person would not settle for anything but pure fact. He sought the truth and found it, but was put down. The first person made a statement not knowing the truth, not willing to admit he could be wrong or make a mistake, and would not back down from his statement. The second person made a statement accepting the statement of the first person that it was a bird, by saying he saw it's shadow. Regardless of how hard the third person tried to convince the other two what caused the shadow, they wouldn't believe him. Brethren: We must be like the third person and search for the truth. We need to do as Paul told Timothy: (2nd Tim. 2:15) *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* Our salvation has come by grace: (Eph. 2:8) *"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"* Are we going to sit back and despise the gift that God gave us? When we fail to agree with the law of Christ, and assume we are right without: (Phil. 2:12) *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* We are going to fall, because we will not know the whole truth. I'm sure you have heard the expression, "He or she never grew up." (Heb. 5:12) *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again* which be the first principles of the oracles of God; *and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."* (Heb. 5:13) *"For everyone that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe."* (Heb. 5:14) *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are full age, even those who by reason of use have their sense exercised to discern both good and evil."* If it is too hot to handle, drop it; it didn't come from God. God will only direct us in *"love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; against such there is no law."* (Gal. 5:22-23) We will find we have the fruit of the spirit. If I say I *"love God and keep his commandments, I am a liar and the truth is not in me."* (1 John 1:5 to close) When Christ was being asked questions concerning the right and wrong, he gave a good answer: (Matt. 22:18) *"Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?"* The Pharisees knew the answer, but wanted not to obey. Are our minds twisted just a little and do not want to obey every ordinance of God? I do not want to be a hypocrite; do you? We must ask ourselves this question, "Which side are we on?" The side that holds to the truth as it is written, or on the side which causes a division? Did any of these cause a division? Being buried in baptism, love each other, helping those in need, not drinking, not playing the game of chance, not being an adulterer, having one wife or husband until death do us part, one cup, no classes, not







> *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (2 Tim. 2:15)

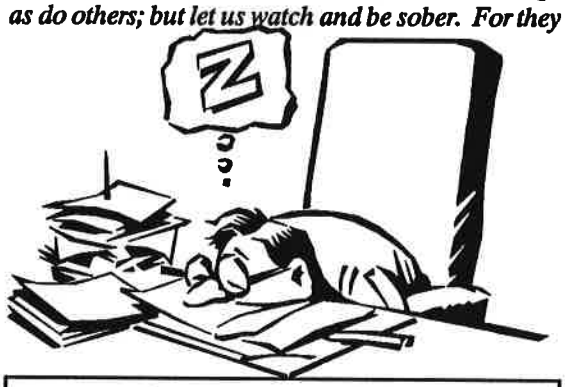
having musical instruments, not lying, not stealing from the brethren, and not a partaker of evil deeds. (2 Pet. 2:20) *"For if they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."* (2 Pet. 2:21) *"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."* (2 Pet. 2:22) *"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."* (1 John 1:9) *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Let us not tempt Christ and take part in those things that cause divisions, lest Christ call us a hypocrite.

With love, your brother in Christ,
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ARE WE ASLEEP?

In Eph. 5:1-2 it says, *"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."* Then verse 3 continues through verse 5, *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolator, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."* Then he warns us in verses 6 and 7, *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."* Then in verse 17 says, *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* In verse 11 he said, *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Or as he puts it in verse 7, *"Be not ye therefore partakers with them"* (fellowship). Do not partake in their works. (So are we asleep?) Verse 14 says, *"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."* Dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:2, *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world..."* We walked this way. We were without *"hope, and without God in the world:"* (Eph. 2:12) We were as dead, spiritually, as we will ever be fleshly.

Now in I Thess. 5:6-7, *"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they*



"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Eph. 5:14)

that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night." (which is sin). How do we sleep? By not abstaining from (staying away from) all appearance of evil (1 Thess. 5:22); and by not watching (looking at) the things we are doing (Mark 13:37). Mark 13:35 said, *"Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh..."* Verse 36, *"Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping."* (Having a good time with the people of this world). James 4:4 says, *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* (or is asleep).

In Luke 22:46 Jesus asks, *"...Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation."* How do we sleep? By lying one to another (Eph. 4:25); by being angry and sinning (Eph. 4:26: *"Be ye angry, and sin not; let not the sun go down upon your wrath;"*); by stealing (Eph. 4:28: *"Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."* If we don't give we sin and are asleep. How do we sleep?); by letting corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth

(Eph. 4:29); by being bitter one toward another (Eph. 4:31: *"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger"* (that said all anger), *"and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice:"* I Peter 2:1: *"...all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,"*).

How do we sleep? By not studying (2 Tim. 2:15); and by walking (doing) as other Gentiles do and not walking in the Lord (Eph. 4:17). When we walk as other Gentiles do, we are without *"...hope, and without God in the world."* (Eph. 2:12). Are we asleep in sin? Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Gal. 5:1, We are to *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free"* (which is free from sin, Rom. 6:17-18) *"and be not entangled again with yolk of bondage, which is sin or disobedience."* To do so is death (Rom. 6:23).

Brethren, Gal. 5:25 says, *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* Verse 26 says, *"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."* Eph. 4:1 says, *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"* Then in Eph. 5:6, *"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."* Verses 7 and 8, *"Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness,"* (or asleep) *"but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"* (awake or free from sin).

In love of the truth
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IF I WERE THE DEVIL, I'D DO WHAT HE'S DOING

If I were the devil... If I were the prince of darkness, I would want to engulf the whole world in darkness.

I'd have a third of its real estate and four-fifths of its population, but I would not be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree – thee.

So I would set about to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first.



Being led down the garden path.

With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: "Do as you please."

To the young I would whisper that "the Bible is a myth." I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I'd confide that "what's bad is good and what's good is 'square.'"

And the old I would teach to pray after me, "Our Father,which art in Washington..."

I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull, uninteresting.

I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves and nations at war with themselves. Until each was consumed.

And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects but neglect to discipline emotions; just let those run wild.



Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing and judges promoting pornography.

Soon I could evict God from the courthouse and the schoolhouse and then from the houses of Congress.

In his own churches I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science.

I'd lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls and church money...

If I were the devil, I'd take from thos who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

What'll you bet I couldn't get whole states to promote gambling?

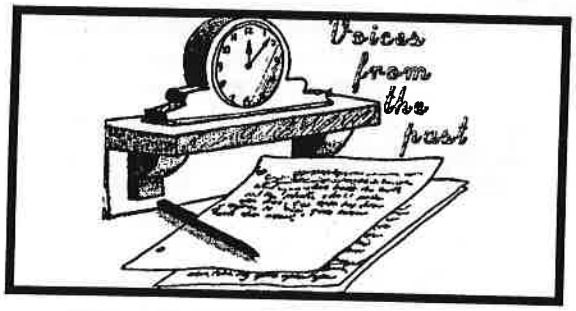
I would caution against "extremes" in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct.

I'd convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun.

And thus I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure.

In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing.

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CAN A MAN BE SURE OF HEAVEN?

It would be hard to conclude that any person who believes in heaven would not wish to go there. Probably one reason more people are not concerned about it is because the seed of the kingdom has fallen among thorns and "cares and riches and pleasures of this life" have choked the word so it cannot produce fruit. If such is the case, the individual is to blame. In Matt. 6:33, Christ gives some perfect advice, *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* If people would do all that is contained in that statement of Christ yhey would have all the necessary things of this life, and also be sure of heaven. Most people in discussing this statement emphasize the fact that every one should seek the kingdom of God, but do not seem to put as much emphasis on *"seeking God's righteousness."* One is just as necessary as the other. While a person may find and enter the Kingdom as it now exists in a very short time, it is a lifetime job to obtain God's righteousness. Every Christian is a subject of the Kingdom. Col. 1:13, *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son."* Those members of the church had been translated into the Kingdom at the time Paul was writing. That is proof that the Kingdom did exist then. And if we want to find that Kingdom, we must do as people did in the time of the Apostles. They did what is commonly referred to as "obeying the gospel." They believed in Christ, repented of their condition in life, confessed their faith, and were baptized for the remission of sins. That put them into the Kingdom. But it took a lifetime of living in harmony with God's word for them to have the righteousness of God. It might be well for us to find out what and where is the righteousness of God. Rom. 1:16-17, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."* If all preachers full understood all that is contained in verses 16 and 17 of the first chapter of Romans, and would preach it as they understood it there would be no division, nor confusion, in the religious world. There is only one true gospel. Regardless of the warning written by Paul, Gal. 1:8, *"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed,"* many so-called gospels are preached and believed, and multitudes are led to the wrong place. As there is only one true gospel, there is only one place to find the righteousness of God. All the righteousness of God is contained in the one true gospel. Then any teaching or practice of a religious nature that is not found in that gospel is not a part of God's righteousness. The people who are teaching or practicing anything religious that is not "written" in the gospel are teaching and practicing their own righteousness, and have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Those people are not sure of heaven. Paul says the Jews were ignorant of God's righteousness. They had plenty of zeal, but not knowledge. Who was to

blame? They had the same chance to know God's righteousness as did the Gentiles. But they willingly did not search the scriptures that they might have knowledge. All people have a chance to know what is right in God's sight. If they are unwilling to search the teachings of the gospel to find out what God wishes them to do in order to go to heaven, they only will be to blame if they are eternally lost. Now as righteousness of God is contained in the gospel, then all religious teaching or practice that is not contained in the gospel is unrighteousness. But John says, *"All unrighteousness is sin."* (1 John 5:17). Therefore all religious teaching or practice that is not in the gospel is sin. The gospel comprises the teachings of Christ and his Apostles. Now, if I go beyond those teachings I do not have God. (1 John 1:9). If I have not God, certainly, I have not his righteousness. I can have God only by teaching and





Which church?



Now the next question is, what church is necessary in order for one to go to heaven? It would have to be one that was in existence on the day of Pentecost when the Lord added those who should be saved. It could not be any of the modern churches because they were not in that time. In Matt. 16:17 Christ promised that he would build his church. It had not been built before that time; but it was existing when the three thousand were baptized and added to it. Now the church is the spiritual body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:27, *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."* Every Christian at Corinth was a member of the body of Christ. They had a promise of heaven, if they continued faithful. Now Christ has only one spiritual body. Eph. 4:4, *"There is one body and one spirit."* Eph. 1:22-23, *"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all things."* These scriptures prove beyond a shadow of doubt that the one and only true church is the Church of Christ. Faithful members of that church are sure of heaven. How can one find that church today? There is a perfect picture of that church in the New Testament. If we can find a church today that is exactly like the one pictured in the scriptures, we know we have the right church. It must have the right name. It must teach the alien sinner to do exactly as the apostles taught people to do in order to be saved from past sins, and to become members of the right church. The great majority of churches today do not so teach. Listen to the popular radio preachers and you will find that nearly all of them fail to preach the gospel as it reads. I listened to Charles E. Fuller from Long Beach, Calif., auditorium when he said he was going to tell his audience exactly what a sinner has to do to be saved. He never mentioned baptism. I



wrote him and called his attention to the fact that the Apostle Peter, who had the keys to the kingdom of heaven, said, *"Baptism does also now save us."*



Either Peter was wrong or any preacher who does not teach that baptism is necessary to salvation is wrong. Who do you think is wrong? In answering my letter Fuller thought I did not understand the plan of salvation, and informed me that he is a Baptist preacher, and was converted while riding in the back seat of a car across the Mohave Desert. Quite different from the way people were converted and saved in the times of the early apostles and preachers. Thousands of people hear him, and others like him, every week; and if they believe what they hear they never will have any promise of heaven. Those preachers who do wish to save themselves and them that hear, need to take heed to the admonition of the Apostle Paul, *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."* (1 Tim. 4:6). It is hard to say what keeps people from preaching the truth. The love of money is a root of all evil. Preaching error, or what is not in the Bible, is an evil. So, one cause of people not preaching the truth is the desire for money. Though Paul teaches that they who labor in the gospel should live of the gospel,

yet that does not make it right for a man to demand a certain salary for his preaching. Paul says, *"Be ye imitators of me, even as I am of Christ."* When there was a call from Macedonia asking Paul to come over and help them did he write back asking them how much money they could pay him? He went and did his work. Sometimes he was paid and sometimes he wasn't. Only as preachers do like Paul can they be SURE that they are preparing for heaven. I have preached for fifty years and never did I ask a congregation to tell me how much they would give me for my part in a meeting. Once for two weeks meeting I received nothing. For a meeting in which I baptized 22 persons I was given $30.00. But, we have always had something to eat, and I have never been influenced to preach to please people and not please Christ. After a person has found and become a member of the true church (the Church of Christ) it is necessary for him to learn what the gospel teaches that the early Christians did in their public worship and in their every day life. There is not much confusion concerning what they did in their every day life. They were honest and righteous in all their dealings with the people by whom they were surrounded. One would have to read all of the letters to the different congregations to learn all that they did. But most of the confusion is in regard to what they did in their public worship. The different acts of worship are understood by all scholars: teaching, prayer, communion, contribution, and singing. As far as the word picture is given to us in the gospel, no instrumental music was had in the church. It was not used by so-called Churches of Christ until less than one hundred years ago. So we know that it is not a part of God's righteousness; and not being a part of God's righteousness it is SIN. The manner of financing the work of the church is very simple. *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."* (1 Cor. 16:2). Though this was in regard to money that was to be sent to the saints at Jerusalem, the manner of raising it has never been repealed. I do not read where the members of a congrgation PROMISED ahead of time how much each one would give during one year. Of course, the congregation did not contract with some preacher to pay him so much if he would come and preach for them. That way which is practiced by so many so-called Churches of Christ today of contracting for a preacher is NOT a part of God's righteousness, but is an innovation of men and the people who do it are not sure of heaven.

G. EARL MCCAY
(Reprinted)



HUMOR

PAINTING PARTNERS

Two house painters lived and worked together in a tiny little town. Business was difficult, as jobs were scarce and paint was expensive. Then one of the painters came up with an idea of how to decrease costs and increase business. They could water down all of the paint. This would give them more paint for their money; it would make it easier to spread the paint; and it would decrease the expected life of a job, so business naturally would increase over time. The painter convinced his partner to go along with the idea. Soon they were thinning out paint and spreading it on houses. Business increased and profits rolled in. Several times the second painter approached the first with misgivings. "I can't do this anymore. It's wrong; it's cheating the customer and I feel guilty." Each time, the first painter reminded him of all the money they were making and convinced him to keep on watering down the paint. As his guilt feelings mounted, the second painter started to have bad dreams. Night after night they got worse and worse until one night, in the middle of his worst nightmare of all, the light on his ceiling flashed on. He woke up with a bolt and sat straight up in bed. Then he heard a deep booming voice thundering from above, "REPAINT, YOU THINNER! REPAINT. GO AND THIN NO MORE!"

Karl H. Millie, 500 CLEAN JOKES AND HUMOROUS STORIES

BAPTISM - ARTICLE 1

For approximately the next year I will be providing a monthly column on the subject of baptism. These will generally be short pieces about specific aspects of baptism, or answering specific questions about it. While I'm sure it will be nothing new, my hope is it will give you deeper understanding, and help us all improve our efforts to bring lost souls to Christ.

I have planned articles about such specifics as the relationship between grace and baptism, the other steps that work with baptism in our salvation, the way the scriptures view baptism as opposed to the way most denominations view it, and many different specific things that baptism does for us. If you have any questions you would like me to answer you may either write me directly or send your questions with your other mail to the paper.

For this month let's begin with the basics, and consider the role of baptism in God's wonderful plan of salvation.



First of all, let's consider the term salvation. It is a noun referring to the saving of our souls. For our soul to need saving something has to be threatening or harming it. So you have to be saved from something.



That something that is harming our soul is sin. Sin is the reason our soul needs saving; what our soul is saved from. Eph. 2:1 reads. *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses in sins;"* and verse 5 says *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened* (raised us from the dead) *us together with Christ,* (by grace ye are saved;)". The harm (death) that sin brings to our soul is shown in Rom. 6:23. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

This eternal life is given through Jesus because He died the death we deserved, (because of our sin); to save us from that death. Rom. 5:8-9. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."*

So we see that Christ died to save us (by grace) from sin and the wrath that sin brings. Through Him therefore God gives the gift of eternal life. But how is this gift of salvation administered to individuals?

First of all, by faith on the individual's part. Eph. 2:8. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"* But how can we believe in something we don't know anything about? Rom. 10:17. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

Now, while faith is essential for salvation there is nothing in the scriptures that comes close to indicating it is the only thing necessary.

Further search of the scriptures reveals that our heart and life must change. Jesus himself said in Luke 13:3. *"...Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* So the wrath of God is still directed at a person who hasn't repented. Thus repentance also is a necessary step in the plan of salvation.

The bible reveals confession as another necessary, but intermediate, step in this plan. Rom. 10:10. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* The word *"unto"* in this scripture indicates that confession is necessary for salvation, but that salvation is not fully administered at this step. What do we confess? I John 4:15. *"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."*

Where does baptism fit in? Baptism is the final step in administering God's wonderful plan of salvation, because baptism is where Christ's death (and burial and resurrection) is applied to an individual. Rom. 6:3-4. *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Let's read two more related scriptures to emphasize the role of baptism as the final step in the plan of salvation. First, let's return to Eph. 2:5. *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)".* Where are we quickened, or risen, together with Christ? Col 2:12 answers this question. *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*

Let's close with the fact that while baptism is the final step in the plan of salvation, salvation itself begins (not ends) a Christian life. Eph. 2:8-10. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

I hope this study has been profitable for you. Next month, Lord willing, we will explore further the relationship between grace and baptism. Then the following month we will see how the other steps work with baptism. Then we will cover other aspects from there.

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THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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The Lord Hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him..."

A proud look

A lying tongue

Hands that shed innocent blood

A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations

Feet that are swift in running to mischief

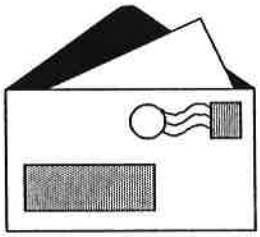
A false witness that speaketh lies

He that soweth discord among brethren

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CARDS & LETTERS



DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

We are all doing well here at the Duncan congregation. We thank the good Lord for watching over us. We had a wonderful weekend meeting November 19th, 20th and 21st. Brother Jim Brown of the Baron Okla. congregation brought four very fine lessons. If you are looking for a speaker to come in and tickle your ears with lessons that sound good but have no substance, I don't recommend Brother Jim. He shuns the liberal, anything goes teaching that is undermining the church of Christ today. We think very highly of Brother Jim and Sister Ruby and really enjoyed having them spend this time with us. We had good attendance at all four services with a house full Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Large crowds like this make the singing very uplifting. Sister Verle Baldwin of the Cedaridge, Col. congregation was with us all four services. Sister Reba White came up from Lorenzo, Tex. and brought Beau Forsman along with her. Brother and Sister Ed Tate from the Newcastle, Tex. congregation were with us for three services. Brother and Sister Lee Joe Pollen from the Ringold, Tex. congregation brought a large number with them and Brother and Sister Leroy Mullins of the Randlett, Okla. congregation brought their whole congregation along with them. We want to thank all the visitors who made a special effort to come out and be with us, these meetings are very beneficial to everyone who attends them. We can draw so much strength and encouragement from them.

Seven of our members were able to attend part of the meeting at Goshen, Ark. in August. We had the pleasure of seeing old friends and making new one, plus we got to hear four very good lessons. Hopefully next year more congregations within driving distance will have a meeting. We all need all the help we can get in our struggle to gain a home in Heaven.

Our Sunday morning service is at 10:30 and we meet at 6:30 Sunday night. If you are ever in the area, stop in and visit with us.

Don Lewis
Valley View Church of Christ

ALOHA, OREGON

Greetings to all the Brotherhood in Christ Jesus, well we have some very exciting news to report. We had two new members join God's family by obeying the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. As reported last month their names are Steve and Nancy Silva, they have three daughters Jessica, Andrea, and Holly. They are wonderful people and their conversion has inspired us all here to walk a little straighter on the narrow way.

The other news is that we are no longer able to worship Brother and Sister Jared's in Keizer, Oregon, due to our growth. We are now assembling in Aloha, Oregon at 3670 S.W. 185th.

We all seem to be doing pretty good health wise, except Sister Lana Slease was in an auto accident and had some minor aches and pains. We are thankful they were just minor.

We all would like to thank the Bellflower congregation for the excellent job they did in handling the Courier, we all know that it was not a easy job. Thank you all for your hard work and effort. Will close for now and if anyone needs help in finding the assembly in Aloha, and plan on visiting please call any one of the brethren: Brother and Sister Jared at (503) 393-3267 or Chuck and Dana Garner at (503) 640-4438 or 648-4552. May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

For the church of Christ in Aloha, Oregon
Chuck Garner

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The church here in Seattle sends its love to all the brethren. Most of us are doing well here, but there has been a round of flu and colds.

We are saddened to report that Nell McCay fell and broke the femur bone in her left leg. Nell came home from the hospital just before Christmas, and she will have to wear a cast for some time.

Terry and Suzie Warford were away for the holidays. They had gone to visit relatives in Oklahoma. Glad to have them back home.

Word from Port Orchard, Wash., is that Robert McCay has had to undergo surgery for prostate cancer, and has been bothered with a sore shoulder. Ellen Jean McCay is to have surgery a second time for cateracts this week. Also, Maggie Forsman has been battling some problems of her own. She has a growth on her liver, and her kidneys are failing. She has been undergoing quite a number of tests. Maggie is 88 years old. These all attend at Glenwood, WA.

From Yakima we hear that Kelly and Kathy McCay were in a train accident in November. Kathy is still bothered with some problems relating to this accident.

Let's remember all of these people in our prayers, as well as others not mentioned.

We have had a few visitors during the holidays: Eric and Lori Harper and family, from Sacramento, CA; Kelly and Kathy McCay and family, Yakima, WA; and Jeff and Debbie Johnston and family, Yakima, WA;

New Congregation

3670 S.W. 185th
Aloha, Oregon



Gospel Meetings

June 19-26	Pleasant View, OK (Stillwell)	Robert Lamb & Brandon
July 1-10	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest speakers

Baptisms

Arnold Brant	Stillwell, OK	
Ananelle Haskinson	Satana, KS	
Gary Johnson	Sacramento, CA	Nov., 1994
Paula Johnson	Sacramento, CA	Nov., 1994



In Memoriam

Sister Velma Andrenacci's husband — Penn Valley, CA Jan., 1994

Prayer for Sickness, Surgery, etc.

Paul Auslum	Goshen, AK	open heart surgery
Lana Slease	Aloha, OR	accident related problems
Chris Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	broken foot
Maggie Forsman	Glenwood, WA	liver, kidney, cancer
Robert McCay	Glenwood, WA	cancer surgery, sore shoulder
Ellen Jean McCay	Glenwood, WA	cataract surgery
Jeanne Boroff	Seattle, WA	lengthy & serious illness
Nell McCay	Seattle, WA	broken leg, related surgery



WORD SEARCH: JANUARY

N	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	M	D	R	I	C	R	Q	I	M	E
P	E	E	L	S	C	X	J	L	H	F	F	F	X	K	W	H	Z
X	C	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	B	A	K	S	A	W	T	T	U
T	H	G	I	N	Y	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	N	U	O
V	T	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	S	T	R	W	O	E	W	R	D
F	E	L	L	O	W	S	H	I	P	H	A	C	P	S	F	T	T
Q	M	F	W	O	D	A	H	S	H	L	E	R	H	R	F	O	D
C	P	E	P	G	N	P	D	U	N	T	E	C	A	E	P	Q	Q
C	T	V	C	X	E	W	K	O	N	S	S	G	X	H	V	F	D
H	A	K	P	N	V	B	C	E	C	S	E	T	N	C	X	O	X
Z	T	L	X	H	A	C	P	H	E	T	K	L	A	A	Q	G	L
P	I	I	E	P	E	R	R	N	I	Y	R	I	I	E	K	R	Y
W	O	M	T	P	H	I	E	R	C	R	D	I	L	T	M	A	X
Q	N	I	P	L	S	L	C	P	Z	R	A	U	N	L	N	C	L
H	S	W	A	T	T	O	B	E	M	J	G	A	T	E	F	E	O
M	Z	E	Q	N	P	M	G	M	E	E	K	N	E	S	S	U	G
I	K	C	E	Y	N	G	C	P	C	P	T	S	I	J	S	T	L
R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	N	E	S	S	G	U	R	X	R

Hidden words may be found across, down, up, backwards, or diagonal.

WORD LIST

ANGEL	GOSPEL	MEEKNESS	SHADOW
BAPTISM	GRACE	MILK	SLEEP
CHRIST	HEAVEN	NIGHT	STUDY
DOCTRINE	HYPOCRITE	PEACE	TEACHERS
FAITH	JOY	PENTECOST	TEMPERANCE
FELLOWSHIP	KINGDOM	PROVERB	TEMPTATION
GENTILES	LAW	RIGHTEOUSNESS	TRUTH
GENTLENESS	LOVE	SACRIFICE	UNSKILLFUL