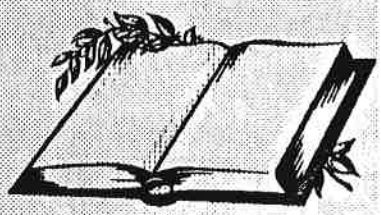


THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

FEBRUARY, 1994



WORDS

Words are the expressions of ideas. Used in groups, they express complex thoughts both concrete and abstract.

Words deal with subjects trivial, serious, profane: with things that have to do with life and also death. They can either justify us or condemn us!

Is it any wonder that great stress is places on words by the writers of the holy scriptures?

GOD'S WORDS

The importance of understanding the thoughts expressed by words in the scriptures is obvious in the words of Christ himself. Matt. 24:35, *"...my words shall not pass away."*.

Jesus said in Jno. 12:48, *"...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."* Also in Matt. 4:4, *"...man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* **HOW GREAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORDS!**

OUR WORDS

How important that we guard our words carefully; that we speak only as is becoming to a child of God.

Our Lord said in Matt. 12:37, *"..by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."* Also verse 36, *"..every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."*

Of the word *"idle"*. Strong says, *"lazy, useless,"*(trans) *"barren, idle, slow."*

(1) Barren 2 Peter 1:8, *"...that ye shall neither be BARREN or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

(2) Slow Titus 1:12, *"...Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, SLOW bellies."* The expression *"slow bellies"* is translated generally as *"lazy gluttons"*. This was from a saying prevalent among the Cretians (who should have known) describing the habits of themselves. In this case it was buttressing what the apostle had previously written (vs 10), *"...unruly and vain talkers and deceivers."* Thus we get the idea of *"idle"* and *"barren"* from the expression *"slow bellies."*

Thayer further says of *"idle"* (argos-Greek), *"lazy, shunning the labor which one ought to perform"*.

It has been said that God's word is like a mine in which is found precious substances. To properly use it one must not merely scratch the surface, but must dig deeply and locate the *"mother- lode"*. This requires hard labor. THE LORD IS NOT PLEASED WITH *"IDLE"* WORDS!

WORDS DEAL WITH GOD'S WORD

How do we use God's word? Peter said that Jesus had the *"...words of eternal life"*. John 6:68. The importance of the proper usage of God's

"Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope." (Psalms 119:116)



Don't be careless with your words; you may someday have to eat them.

word cannot be overstated since it deals with life and death!

We must deal with God's word honestly, not with intent to deceive or to satisfy one's own peculiar preconceptions. Note 2 Cor. 4:2, *"...(not) handling the word of God deceitfully."* We should avoid using expressions such as *"not important"*, *"mentioned only once"*, *"one small verse"*, etc. These leave the impression on the hearer's (reader's) mind that such references are unimportant and thus should or could be ignored. Remember: we are to live by *"every word"* that comes from the mouth of God. Matt. 4:4.

In the genesis of mankind, Satan added one word to God's command and thus caused the "great perversion". How important one word can be! Satan added *"not"* to God's word. On the other hand, if God used the word *"not"*, do we have the right to omit it or refuse to use it? How important one word can be!

I propose to conduct an investigation of the words used by God to express His will to mankind. I will attempt (with God's help) to follow the meanings through the various translations used today with the object to determine the true and accurate meaning.

I do not propose an empty word game, designed only to fill space, but to show the meaning as it truly is and how it relates to all men today. This is an exceedingly complex study and I will be open to suggestions and correction by all of the brethren. There is disagreement between the most learned scholars concerning the meaning of certain passages, so it would be no small thing if I make mistakes. Please pray for me.

Yours in Christ,
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"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." (Psalms 119:72)

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NOT

I'm sure everyone noticed our mistake on page 2 in Bro. Jared's article, **"What is Controversial?"**. We have to apologize for that; it was our fault, not Bro. Jared's. But as you look at it, it's amazing how much damage leaving out the word *"not"* could have done to God's word, (I John 2:4) Had we not corrected that mistake it would have completely reversed the meaning.

OOPS! We Goofed..

While leaving out *"not"* was a mistake, we read of an occasion where the devil deliberately reversed the meaning of God's word by adding the word *"not"*. When he tempted Eve to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil she replied: (Gen.3:3) *"But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die."* Verse 4. *"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."* Changing God's word by the addition of *"not"*; combined with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life in verse 6, successfully tempted Eve to sin.

So let's be careful as we study, listen to, and teach God's word. Let's be sure the *"nots"* are where they are supposed to be, lest we be tied in *"nots"* come judgment day.

In Christian love,
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BAPTISM COLUMN NO. 2

GRACE AND BAPTISM

In this month's column on baptism we wish to explore further the relationship between God's grace and baptism; and answer some objections and alternatives offered by denominations.

In the second chapter of Ephesians we find a description of the salvation of our souls by the grace of God. The chapter begins, *"And you hath he quickened"*(which means raised from the dead) *"who were dead in trespasses and sins;"* It goes on in the next two verses to describe those sins. Then, in verses 4 and 5 it describes the process by which God's grace saves us from those sins. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)."* As noted last month this being quickened together with Christ happens in baptism. Col. 2:12. *"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,"*. This is the basic relationship between grace and baptism -- baptism applies God's grace in that it is where you are risen together with Christ.



Unfortunately, most denominations reject baptism as part of the plan of salvation. From what I have read and listened to, most of them believe that baptism is a work you do after you are saved, to show that you have been saved; not part of what saves you. Most of them offer the "sinner's prayer" as the final step in what actually saves you.

Now, my purpose is not to judge, criticize or try to make anyone look bad. But, on the other hand Jude tells us to *"... earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."* We must be able to answer these objections and false doctrines as they come up if we ever hope to truly bring people to Christ.

So, let's compare baptism and prayer. Which is of grace, and which is a work? Which is part of salvation, and which is given after a person is saved?

Let's look to Acts 8:38. *"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."* Here in the account of Philip bap-

tizing the eunuch, who did the work? The work, both the immersing under the water and the raising up from the water, was done by Philip to (and for) the eunuch. And the real work, of course was done by Jesus on the cross, and in and out of the grave, see Rom. 6:3-4. The point is, you cannot baptize yourself. It must be done to you and for you by someone else. The essence of grace is that it is a gift, and not of works; and in baptism the work is done by someone else, not yourself. Therefore baptism is most clearly by grace.

Prayer, on the other hand, is something you do yourself. Matt. 6:9. *"After this manner therefore pray ye..."* Thus prayer is a work. And since salvation comes by grace, not works, salvation cannot come through prayer.

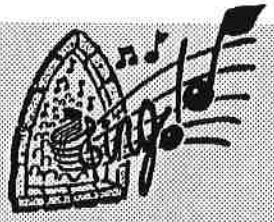
I Pet. 3:12 emphasizes this, showing that prayer is a gift to the saved, not part of salvation of the sinner. *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto <u>their</u> prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."* Since evil works, or sin, are what we are saved from, how can prayer save you when the Lord's face is against you at that point?

On the other hand, I Pet 3:21 shows us that *"The like figure"* (the previous verse shows how Noah and his family were saved by water) *"whereunto even <u>baptism doth also now save us</u> (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ;"*. And brethren, the end of that verse shows how baptism saves us; it does not change the fact that baptism does save us.

These points about prayer and baptism are shown very clearly in the example of Saul of Tarsus. After his repentance Jesus knew that Saul was praying, Acts 9:11. But Jesus did not save him by his prayer, but sent Ananias to teach him. Acts 22:16 shows what Ananias taught him. *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* Notice, despite his prayers, his sins (what we are saved from) were not forgiven until they were washed away in baptism.

We want to close with the simple fact that since Eph. 2:8 says we are saved by grace and I Pet. 3:21 says baptism saves us, <u>*both are necessary*</u>. They aren't competing elements, they work together. And the way they work together, as shown in Eph. 2:5 connected with Col. 2:12, is that baptism applies God's grace to an individual through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
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Let every heart rejoice and sing,
A wonderful Savior is He;
What a friend we have in Jesus,
Nearer, my God, to Thee.

Drifting along with a smile and a song,
I am bound for the promised land;
'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus
And hold to God's unchanging hand.

Come let us all unite to sing,
Just a closer walk with Thee;
Take the world but give me Jesus,
The Lord has been mindful of me.

Sing me a song about Jesus,
He is my everything;
We have heard the joyful sound,
Christ for the world we sing.

Oh, heart, bowed down with sorrow,
Why don't you let Him come in?
There is a place of quiet rest
From every stormy wind.

Heaven will surely be worth it all,
My faith looks up to Thee;
To Canaan's land I'm on my way,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Jesus is all the world to me,
I love my Savior, too;
I will sing the wondrous story,
Can He depend on you?

Author unknown

THE MIRROR OF THE SOUL

People have always been interested in mirrors, and most of us use them several times each day. Probably, even the savage was interested in his reflection in the streams or ponds of his time. Men have made a number of different types of mirrors, even to look at places impossible to look at normally.

God has made a mirror which reflects the soul of man. This is mentioned to show the importance of being doers of the word. It is intended to show that the Bible is the standard to show man the way. The mirror shows that which needs changing.



Mirrors, which men make, have imperfections. Some of these are made that way by plan to show distortions, as one finds in a fun- house. But the word of God, which is the mirror of the soul, does not show a distorted picture. It is perfect. *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed"* (James 1:25).

The purpose of a mirror, basically, is to reveal - to give a true reflection. A mirror tells it like it is, good or bad. If correction is to be made, the individual who looks in the mirror must make the correction. God's word is the mirror, or reflection, of the soul. *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was"* (James 1:22-24).

What the mirror tells is not always a pleasing picture. Seeing ourselves in the mirror does not change us. To change we must do what God's word tells us. Like in the physical mirror, the correction must be done by the individual, as the word helps in revealing. If we see the imperfections of ourselves as we look into the word, and then don't do anything to correct them, we are like unto a man who beholds himself in a mirror and then does not do anything about it. The mirror does not help him, and God's word does not help us under such circumstances.

God's word, the mirror of the soul, reflects our origin when we look into it. *"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness:..."* (Gen. 1:26). In this mirror you can see that you are not a monkey.

A mirror can reveal signs of our activities by our facial expressions: lack of sleep, anger, love, etc. It may even reveal your evening meal by the spaghetti and meatballs stain on your shirt. God's mirror reveals our doings, whether it be of God, or man. *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God"* (Gal. 5:19-21). It tells us that if we do these things, we commit sin. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law"* (1 John 3:4).

A mirror can reveal our needs: a comb (unkempt hair), a washcloth (dirty face), a tie (for this evening outing), etc. God's mirror also reveals our needs - most especially that we need Jesus. *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much*

SIN WILL TAKE YOU FARTHER THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO GO, KEEP YOU LONGER THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO STAY, AND COST YOU MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO PAY.

more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:8-10).

Since this mirror of God reveals our spots and blemishes, and it reveals that we can be reconciled by the death and the life of Jesus, does it reveal how this is performed? Yea, verily! *"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"* (1 Pet. 3:21). Oh, such a cleansing; that even our sins are removed, and we are made white by the blood of Jesus! (Rev. 1:5; Rev. 7:14). When we apply the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to our personal self through the act of baptism, reconciliation by the blood of Jesus is then performed (Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12). *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord"* (Acts 22:16).

This cleansing by the blood of Jesus can be perpetual if we continue faithfully to walk in his righteousness. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). The mirror of God reveals his righteousness; his path is clearly visible to us; and we are without excuse. (If only my bathroom mirror would tell me if that Hawaiian tie is appropriate for formal wear).

What if I fall spiritually, and soil my garments? Does this mirror reveal what I should do, then? *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins..."* (1 John 2:1-2). How does this work? Let's look at Peter's answer to Simon, the sorcerer, as Simon had tried to buy the special gift of God: *"...Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee"* (Acts 8:20-22). Simon perceived immediately his error and feelings of despair. He felt inadequate in his own prayer, as we all do in such times when we feel distant from God; so he petitioned Peter for assistance: *"...Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me"* (Acts 8:24). Will that make a big difference? *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (James 5:16).

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our mirror would remind us when we overlook something? *"Excuse me, but aren't you forgetting your deodorant, today?"* If we have rigorous study habits of the word of God, His mirror does just that for us. *"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (2 Cor. 13:5).



"The kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind."

Matthew 13:47

When you look in the mirror and see imperfections in yourself, do you get mad at the mirror? Strangely, that is precisely what the sinner sometimes does when God's mirror points out his imperfections. *"...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:"* (Heb. 12:5). Good fathers know the pain of chastening their children, but do so with love in their heart because of the lasting benefits of it. It is the same with our heavenly Father. Should we become down-hearted and despondent because of our chastening by the Lord? That is not His desire; He wants a better response from us. *"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed"* (Heb.12:12-13).

Do you know someone who cannot pass a mirror without checking himself over? Perhaps we think him vain; and he may be, but we don't know his heart. He may have persistent trouble with fly- away hair, and just wants to make sure it

is still in place. It certainly is not vain to regularly and frequently check the mirror of God; in fact, we are encouraged to do so. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Tim. 2:15). It is the noble thing to do: *"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11).

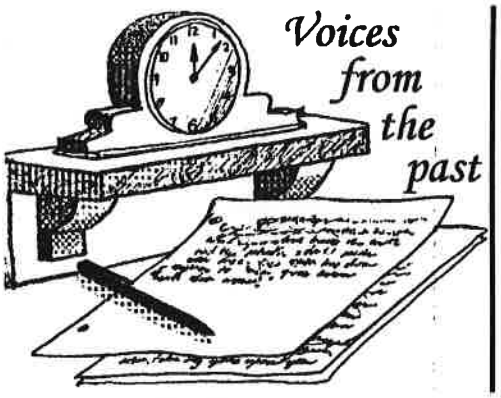
It is better to use God's mirror than to search out one made by some man. There certainly is no purer mirror. *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"* (Psalms 1:1-2).

Are you looking into the mirror of the soul? It will show you like you are.

Written in Christian love,

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YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN



Jesus, speaking to Nicodemus, said, *"Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5). Most every religious person will agree that the new birth is necessary to get into the kingdom. But as to the *"how"* that this birth takes place, I am sure that if you should ask a number of different religious people, you would get about that many different answers. We want to notice some scriptures on the subject, so we can arrive at a Biblical conclusion, as the scriptures thoroughly furnish unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17).

In the beginning, God made man and woman and placed them in the garden which he had prepared for them, and he gave them a law of procreation, that all generations should come through them, that the earth might be replenished (or filled) (Gen. 1:27-28). When the kingdom (or church) was established, God set some in the church (1 Cor. 12:28). As God made Adam and Eve a full grown man and woman, not born into existence, he also made these full grown, not born, into the kingdom. They were set in, and he gave a law of procreation. Since then, those that get into the kingdom, are born into it. They grow to maturity, or become full grown.

Jesus says, *"...born of water and the Spirit"* (John 3:5). Notice the two factors by which we are born, i.e., *"water"* and *"the Spirit."* Each has its part in the spiritual birth, and being born again places us into the kingdom of Christ. Hear the Saviour again: *"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 18:3). By being converted, we enter the kingdom. Therefore, being born again and being converted are the same in meaning as they place us into the kingdom. Again, Jesus said, *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 7:21). God's will is equal to being born, since doing the will of God puts us into the kingdom. In the kingdom are found the blessings spoken of. Notice, if you will, all promises are in Christ (2 Cor. 1:2), and all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3). Paul says, *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"* (Col. 1:13-14). From these two verses we learn that when we are in the kingdom, we are redeemed, our sins are forgiven. Therefore, we are born again, converted, or saved, meaning the same thing, for we receive the same result – salvation.

Now, since we have learned that by doing God's will He will save us, we shall see what God wants us to do, or what His will is. Paul says, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."* (Rom. 1:16). The gospel of Christ is the power that God uses to save the believer, as Paul says to the Corinthians, *"I have begotten you through the gospel"* (1 Cor. 4:15). Again Paul says, *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..."* (Eph. 1:13).

Jesus, as he was speaking to his apostles before he went away, said that he would send them another Comforter, or the holy Spirit, *"and when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin"* (John 16:8). The 13th verse says, *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..."* We can see what part the Spirit has in the new birth. It guided the apostles in what to say, so the Spirit furnished the word or truth, as the word of God is the seed of the kingdom, the life giving principle (Luke 8:11). Hear the testimony of the Apostle Peter: *"Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth...Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever"* (1 Pet. 1:22-23). As Jesus said, *"The words I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life"* (John 6:63).

To obey God's will (or word), we must hear Christ (Matt. 17:5). *"So then, faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). We must have faith. *"Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* (Heb. 11:6). We must repent and turn away from our sins, for Jesus said, *"Except ye repent ye shall...perish"* (Luke 13:3). We must confess our faith in Christ (or acknowledge him), or he will not confess us (Matt. 10:32). We must be baptized, for *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"* (Mark 16:16).

On the Day of Pentecost when the gospel was first preached in fact, the question was asked of the apostles, *"What shall we do?"* Peter said, *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins"* (Acts 2:38). It is evident then that baptism is the last act that puts us into Christ. *"For as many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ"* (Gal. 3:27). In obedience to the necessary steps of faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, we are put into the kingdom, where salvation is. We are saved, redeemed, converted, or born again. All of these terms are used. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"* (2 Cor. 6:17), a child of God.

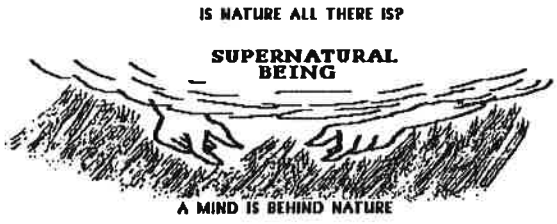
May the Lord bless us in learning his will, that we may do his commandments, that we may all have a right to the tree of life, is my prayer.

Paul Ferguson

(Reprint – original: December, 1955)

DID YOU KNOW?

We have all enjoyed the clear blue skies of summer, the majestic sunrises, the gorgeous sunsets, and the radiant glow that follows. Did you know that none of these would be possible if it were not for tiny dust particles in the atmosphere?



Dust in the air should not be considered as air pollution, because it actually serves as a very necessary purpose in God's design of this world. Without dust our view of the skies would be blackness. Our view of the stars and planets would be much clearer, but the splendors we now enjoy would be gone. More importantly, life would be entirely different if it were not for dust. Rain and snow would be non-existent for they both need dust to form. Temperatures would be much higher without clouds to shade the earth. In fact, the earth would be void of plants, for how could

they grow without moisture for survival. Even fog cannot form without dust.

Long before the scientists understood the role dust played in the cycle of water (sea to clouds; clouds carried by wind; clouds to rain; rain gathering to streams with return to the seas), God had revealed it in His word: Nahum 1:3, *"...the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."*

In God's word it is revealed that Wisdom preceded the creation; but dust played an important role in that creation: Prov. 8:23-30, *"I* [Wisdom] *was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world* [in the atmosphere, needed for rain]. *When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: when he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him."*

Truly the Wisdom of God is greater than anything man can imagine.

In Christian love,
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Cards and Letters

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Greetings to all:

We here at Baron congregation are all doing fair, except colds and flu that's been making its rounds. Pray the church there is well. We will have a gospel meeting here starting June 5th through 12th with Brother John McKinney doing the speaking. We would like to invite all who can come and join us for a week. I'm sure you will hear some good gospel sermons and a lot of Christian fellowship. We will do our best to make everyone welcome and comfortable as we possibly can.

Brother John is from the Selah, Wash., congregation. Most of the meals will be served at the Lunchroom near the church building.

We enjoyed The Courier very much. Keep up the good work. We are sending a little financial help from the Baron Church Of Christ.

God bless you all. Pray for us.

See you in June, Lord willing.

James F. Brown

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: We, here in Bellflower, are doing pretty good. We've had some minor colds, but nothing to really complain about.

We have some exciting news to report. Brother Alfred (A.J.) and Sister Kimberly Guarnotta were united in marriage on January 1st. They had a beautiful wedding at Knott's Berry Farm, and the

weather was perfect. We enjoyed celebrating the new year with such a happy occasion. We also really enjoyed our out-of-town visitors who came for the wedding. It made the following Sunday quite a pleasure.

Brother Brian Ross went back to Oklahoma for a couple of weeks to visit his family. We are very thankful for his safe return. It is nice to have him and his friend, Glen, back with us.

We all survived the earthquake just fine, thanks to the Lord. The worst damage we had was falling pictures and other things; and a few of us were without electricity for awhile. It did give us a scare, though. We really appreciate all of the telephone calls and expressions of concern. It feels good to know we are in so many people's thoughts and prayers. Thank you again so much.

We want to say that *The Christian Courier* looks great, and we want to commend everyone in the Seattle congregation for doing a terrific job! We are really looking forward to the next issue.

That is about all of the news to report for now. We wish everyone a blessed and prosperous new year. May God be with all of you.

In Christian love,
Mark Perigen
for the Bellflower congregation

FURNISH CANYON, OKLAHOMA

The Christian Courier:

The members here wish to thank The Courier publishers both past and present. We look forward to reading the Bible lessons and hearing how others are getting along.

The congregation here is starting a new year in pretty good health. We are always pleased to have anyone passing this way to come worship with us.

In Christian love,
Furnish Canyon Church of Christ

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Thank you one and all for all the calls and letters we received expressing support for The Courier. Your response was great. Let's keep those letters and articles coming in.

Starting in this issue we have added a new column which we hope will be a regular: *Did You Know?* This section will cover science and history as brought out in the scriptures.

Some information called in to us:

1. Chris Forsman, Lorenzo, Texas, now has the cast off of his broken foot. Chris is currently doing some weight lifting.

2. Paul Auslum, Jr., Goshen, AK, is home now after a week's stay in the hospital for heart surgery. Our prayers are for his continued recovery.

3. Robert (Rabbit) Lee Morris, Yuma, Arizona, passed away Jan. 26, 1994. He was born on March 8, 1924, and was survived by his wife, Joyce; his daughter, Brenda Howard; and his son Kenny Morris. He was 44 years a member of the church of Christ. He will be missed very much.

4. Joyce Morris' mother is in a nursing home.

5. Lewis and Susan Boling's grandson is in the hospital in Phoenix, Arizona.

Let's remember all of the sick, afflicted, and family members in our prayers.

Response to comments received:

1. "In the baptism article I think it would be better if the subjects were not portrayed with long hair." – We had already discussed this and had decided to use a different illustration (See Baptism - 2nd by Terry Warford).

2 "Please print each brother's address with his article." – We are printing the addresses on all articles submitted with the exception of *Voices From The Past*, which are articles from our archives by people who have departed from this life. There have been many good articles in the past that we can benefit from today.

3. "Could you please print the address of the Valley View congregation in Commanche, Okahoma?" – We don't have the address where they meet, but our mailing address for that congre-

gation is: Don Lewis, Rt. 5, Box 627L, Duncan, OK 73533. How about all of you congregations supplying *The Courier* with addresses of your meeting places? It would be a boon to those traveling to know where you meet.

In Christian love,
Ellis Forsman
for the Sea-Tac church of Christ

SELAH, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers in Christ,

It seems like forever since you have heard from the Selah congregation. We are still alive and well.

Mike and Felica Geho have now moved from England to Utah where Mike is stationed. We had a good visit with them and the boys, when they came through to visit their parents. Threasa McKinney has now moved to Utah to help her sister with the boys while Felica is going to school.

We are happy now to have Gene and Pat McKinney living in our area and worshipping with us. Betty McKinney and Wilma Farley have both had surgery recently, and both are doing well. John McKinney is busy preparing for the meeting he will be holding in Baron this Summer. We have a few visitors from time to time, but would always enjoy having anyone that could come spend time with us.

Written for the Selah congregation,
Robert Farley

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to all from the congregation here in Yuma. Hope all is well in the brotherhood.

We have several with this bad flu that is going around this year. Also brother Al Jones has been having a bad time lately. He spent several days in the hospital, and was released yesterday, Jan. 6. Brother Robert Morris is critically ill with cancer. Our youngest sister in the Davis family, as well as in the Faith, lost her husband, Leon Calhoun a few minutes before midnight Dec. 31st. Please remember these and all in your prayers.

With the news that is not pleasant, there is also good news. Jan. 2, 1994 Charles McKenny was baptized and then on Jan. 3, Kevin Yeghoian was baptized. We are pleased to have these young men with us and glad that they share the same Hope with us all.

We are fortunate to have several visiting with us winter, Brothers and Sisters: Frank and Doris Ridlon, Phil and Eunice Bomgardner and brother Harry Booth are with us and have been such a great asset to us.

This past Sunday Sister Verlie Baldwin, her brother and wife were with us. It was good to see her again.

We are sending a bit of financial help and our prayers in your efforts in publishing the paper. It is a big undertaking and time consuming.

We send our best wishes and Christian love to all. May God bless us with His love.

For the Church at Yuma,
by the Harry Davis family

(Editor's note – Since this letter was received, Brother Robert Morris has passed away Jan. 26, 1994.)

BULLETIN BOARD



Gospel Meetings

June 5-12	Baron, Oklahoma	John McKinney
June 19-26	Pleasant View, OK (Stillwell)	Robert Lamb & Brandon
July 1-10	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
July 3-10	Waterford, CA	Roger Walkingstick
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest speakers



Baptisms

Rick Carter	Glenwood, WA	Jan., 1994
Charles McKenney	Yuma, AZ	Jan. 2, 1994
Kevin Yeghoian	Yuma, AZ	Jan. 3, 1994



Weddings

Al Way, Jr. & Kimberly Guarnotta	Bellflower, CA	Jan. 1, 1994



In Memoriam

Robert Morris	Yuma, AZ	Jan. 26, 1994
[redacted] Leon Calhoun	Yuma, AZ	Dec. 31, 1993



Prayer for Sickness, Surgery, etc.

Paul Auslum	Goshen, AK	home after open heart surgery
Chris Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	cast off broken foot
Maggie Forsman	Glenwood, WA	liver, kidney, cancer
Robert McCay	Glenwood, WA	cancer surgery, sore shoulder
Ellen Jean McCay	Glenwood, WA	cataract surgery recovery
Lewis & Susan Boling's grandson	Phoenix, AZ	in hospital
Jeanne Boroff	Seattle, WA	lengthy & serious illness
Nell McCay	Seattle, WA	broken leg, related surgery
Wilma Farley	Selah, WA	surgery
Betty McKinney	Selah, WA	surgery
Kathy McCay	Yakima, WA	train accident related problems
Al Jones	Yuma, AZ	home from hospital
Joyce Morris' mother	Yuma, AZ	nursing home





In the Hospital

Editor's note — Because of the large amount of material this month, the Puzzle was eliminated.