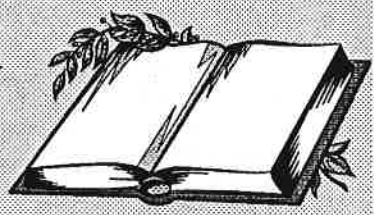


The Christian Courier



APRIL, 1994

Send all correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168

LUST AFTER EVIL THINGS

I Cor. 10:6. *"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."*

Here we are told they lusted after evil things, but the thing they lusted after was food like they had in Egypt. How could this be evil? What else was evil in the desert of sin? I have searched and can find nothing else they could have lusted after. Yet these things were written for our examples.

Then verse 7 says they were idolators. What were they doing that made them idolators? They sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. This is our example. How do we do this? Well, the only way I can see is we eat and drink at the Lord's table, Luke 22: 19-20, and then go and enjoy the things of the world, I John 2:15-16, and lust after the things of the world which is called play or pleasures of this life. As in Luke 8:14 we go forth and are choked with cares and riches. We have become dead while we live for here. Because Paul said in I Tim. 5:6 that to live in pleasure we are dead while we live. Dead how? Eph 2:1-2, dead in trespasses and sin. When? Verse 2, when we walk according to the course of this life or world. We follow after the things in which we love to do here in this world instead of working in the vineyard of the Lord. At the time we do, Eph. 2:12, we are without Christ, have no hope and are without God in the world.

"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted." (1 Cor. 10:6)

Rom. 8:11 says, *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."* Rom. 8:6, *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* Verse 10. *"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."*

So how can we continue to lust after evil things? For Rom. 6:1-6 says. *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."* And verse 7 continues: *"For he that is dead is freed from sin." Verse 11. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."* So now we see that they our examples were dead in sins.

I Cor. 10:8-10 says they were guilty of fornication. They tempted Christ. Mt 4:7. *"...It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."* They murmured. **Notice:** In verse 8, 23000 fell in one day for the fornication. In verse 9 they were

destroyed of serpents for tempting Christ. In verse 10 they were destroyed of the destroyer for murmuring. What did they lust after? Evil things. These things are evil for us today, and if we lust after these things (Lust - a strong desire for these things) and then think we stand, we need to take heed lest we fall, verse 12, and be destroyed.

Gal. 5:7-15 and 19-21. So we see the evils of the flesh. "*... Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry* (I Cor. 10:7), *witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, 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.*" There are numerous other things the Bible tells us not to lust after that space will not allow in one article.

So look to I Cor. 10th chapter. Although they were baptized and ate of Christ in like manner as we do today, in verse 5 "*...with many of them God was not well pleased...*" For they all died that came out of Egypt from 20 years old and up except two. God kept them for his name's sake. Heb. 13:7-11. "*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*"

Do we grieve God by following their example? They had not known God, so he sware in his wrath they shall not enter into my (His) rest. Refer back to I Cor 10:1-12. Think how we become entangled in the things of this, and don't please God because of it.

Do we have a pure heart? Heb. 3:12. "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*" (How do we depart?) By not keeping his commandments, John 14:15. Heb. 3:17-19. "*But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*" So, Chapter 4, verses 1-2. "*Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*" Verses 5-6. "*And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*". Verse 9. "*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*" Verse 11. "*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*"

Written in love of the truth
and love of the churches,
Bro. Lloyd Treat
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BAPTISM - COLUMN NO. 4
BAPTISM - FOR SINNER OR SAVED?

This month we wish to consider the question of who baptism is for. This is an important question because it is a major difference between the church of Christ and most denominations. Most denominations believe baptism is a work done after a person is saved, for the purpose of showing that person is saved. We believe baptism is the final step of the process that saves us.

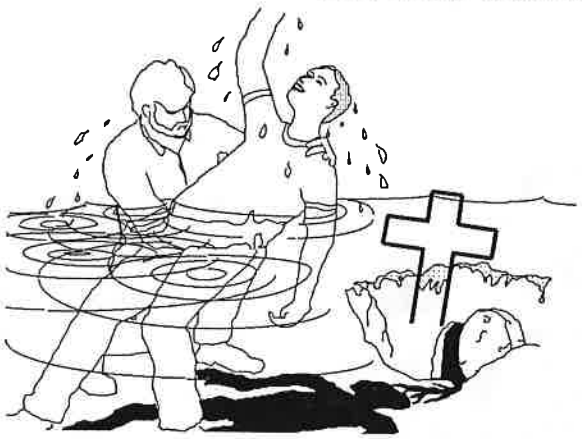
To answer this question we will consider the condition of the sinner, the condition of the saved, then consider what baptism does to see who needs it.

We will look at these things in five different areas.

First of all, a sinner by definition has sins in his life. Rom. 3:23 reads, "*For all have sinned, and*

come short of the glory of God;". A saved person has had his or her sins forgiven. Col. 1:13-14. "*Who* (speaking of God) *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:*". Now, in Acts 22:16 we read that baptism washes away our sins. "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" So who needs their sins washed away; those who have already had their sins forgiven, or those whose sins are still there?

Next, we read that a sinner is dead, spiritually, in those sins, but that a saved person is spiritually alive in Christ. Rom. 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" And in Eph. 2:1 we read "*And you hath he quickened,* (risen or made alive) *who were dead in trespasses and sins;*". Baptism is the step wherein a person is risen from being dead in sins as we read in 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.*" Again, who needs baptism? Who needs to be risen with him; one who is already alive in Christ, or one who is dead in sins?



Sinners are described as lost in II Cor. 4:3, "*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.*" The saved are, of course, saved. Saved by the gift of God we read in Eph 2:8. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*". And we read in I Pet. 3:21, that God bestows this gift of salvation in baptism. "*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:*". Who needs to be saved; the saved or the lost?

Next, we see that a sinner is without Jesus Christ, and without God, Eph. 2:12. "*That at the time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*". A saved person is much closer to Jesus, having him living in their heart. Verse 13, "*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,*". And Gal.2:20 "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" We read in Gal. 3:27. "*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*" Who needs to put on Christ; someone with him already in their heart, or someone who is without him?

Last, a sinner is in the flesh, while a saved Christian is in the Spirit. We read about this in Rom. 8:8-9. "*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*" We read in Acts 2:38 that God bestows his Holy Spirit in baptism. "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*" Also I Cor. 12: 13. "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*" Again, who needs this gift of the Holy Ghost; someone in the Spirit, or someone in the flesh? Who needs baptism, a saved Christian or a sinner?

I hope this hasn't sounded sarcastic or mean in any way. It was not my intent to put anyone else down. I simply wanted to show by these scriptures and questions that God does indeed use baptism; not as a work for a Christian, but as a means to bestow salvation and these other wonderful gifts on a sinner.

In Christian Love,

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WORD STUDY

BY THE NUMBER

Used in the following study, there will be found numerical references such as #2107, either in bold print (**2107** - Hebrew), or *italics* (*2107* - Greek). These are referred to as the "Strong numbering reference". The system was first developed for use in Strong's Concordance for rapid reference and has since been adapted to Vine's expository of Biblical Words. I have been led to understand that it is being adapted to the format of Thayer's Lexicon. It is an excellent help for Bible students.

J. D. Logan



NURTURE Eph. 6:4

This is a word used only three times in the New Testament and on each occasion translated differently. This poses no difficulty since many words have different variations of meaning, depending on the ambiance of the thought involved in the writing.

Paideia *3809*

- *"Tutorage i.e. education or training; by impl. disciplinary correction."* (Strong)

Also translated:

- *"Chastening"* (Heb. 12:5,7,11) *"Chastisement"* (Heb. 12:8) *"Instruction"* (II Tim. 3:16).

Also useful is the manner in which some scholars have translated this word.

For *"nurture"*, Eph. 6:4, see *"discipline"* (New Amer. Stand. Ver.); *"training"* (New Int'l Ver.); *"education"* (Williams); *"teaching"* (Phillips); *"correction"* (New English Bible)

For *"chastisement"*, Heb. 12:8, see *"punished"* (Today's English Ver.): *"correction"* (Phillips); *"discipline"* (Revised Standard Ver.) For *"instruction"*, II Tim. 3:16; see *"training"* (New Amer. Std.); *"discipline"* (New English Bible).

ADMONITION Eph. 6:4

Nouthesia *3559*

- (See Vine) *"—lit.. a putting in mind: —of the scriptures (I Cor. 10:11); —by the Lord (Eph. 6:4); —administered for the correction of one who creates trouble in the church. The training by word, (a) of encouragement, (b) if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance."*

We have two words similar in import, coupled by the Apostle, expressing God's will concerning the parent child relationship. We should recognize the authority as *"of the Lord"*.

Certainly, we all acknowledge the statement as a command and as such, binding on all children of God.

OBLIGATION OF PARENTS

Obligation, not Choice is placed on those who are nurture- providers. Not only is the onus placed on parents to *"nurture"* with God's *"admonition"*, but comes encumbered with one important pre-condition.

PROVOKE NOT

Parorgizo *3949* (Vine)

- *"to arouse to wrath—to enrage"* (Strong);
- *"indignation, exasperation, wrath"* (Thayer)

This is rendered as *"—must not goad your children to resentment."* (New English Bible) and *"—scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful."* (Living Bible)

The meaning is clear. We must avoid tactics which anger and provoke our children's resentment, and with patience and loving kindness, with God's *"nurture"* and *"admonition"*, bring them up.

Thayer says of *"nurture"*. *"—the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals)."*

Much is made of the education of our children to prepare them to take their place in our technological society. We have schools and training facilities for this purpose. This is all good and fine. But what of the flip side of the coin?

God's *"nurture"* and *"admonition"* are both the responsibilities of Christian parents. We cannot relegate this responsibility to schools or any other agency of man.

We hear today many hysterical statements by self serving politicians concerning "prayers in school", as though "praying" in school is a panacea for all the ills of society. I for one will not relinquish my responsibility to pray as part of God's nurturing to another person whose qualifications are unknown and at best, questionable.

Let us all ask ourselves a question. "Can I, as a Christian, abdicate my obligation as a nurture-provider to anyone else without putting myself at risk of God's displeasure and placing my child at risk?



THESE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHRISTIAN PARENTS!

It is interesting to consider how society spends its time. We send our children to school about 1/3 of the day and it is not uncommon to see television (and VCR) used much of the remainder as an electronic baby-sitter. I observe this to be not an uncommon practice in the community where I live and, if the media can be believed is a common practice throughout the country.

The nature of TV "entertainment" today is so depraved that it defies description! The actual count of murders, robberies, rapes, and assorted other violent acts, under any other circumstances known as sins, simulated for the consumption of young and tender minds, staggers the mind. Add to this the portrayal of depravity and the use of profane and filthy language makes it almost impossible to find much that is wholesome for children to watch.

Add to this the portrayal and glorifying of lifestyles inimicable to God's *"admonition"* and you have a very dismal picture indeed. The airwaves and channels are saturated with portrayals of "partying", beer-drinking, etc. as the epitome of "fun". Our children are told *"it doesn't get any better than this"*. Is it any wonder that we, in our nation today, a higher incidence of children and teens drinking than at any time in our nation's history?

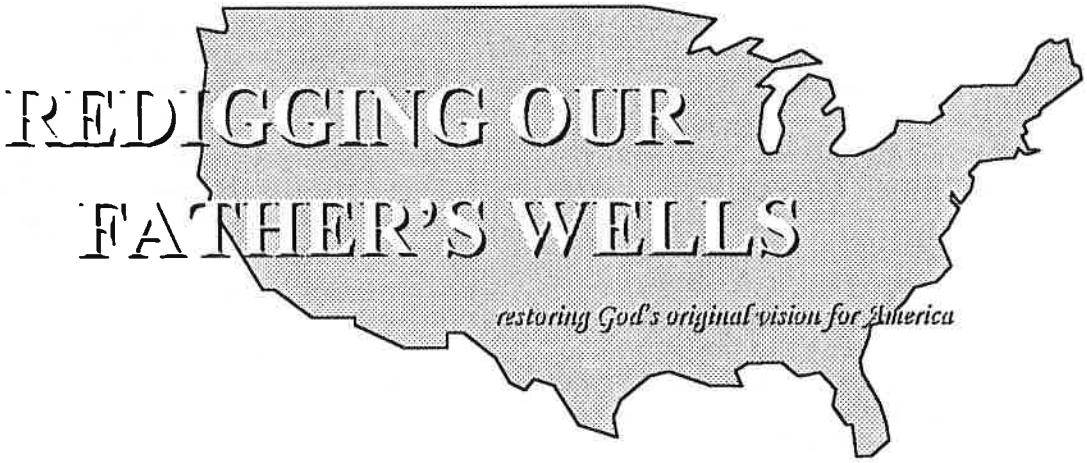
These are merely a few of the dangers our children face if we abandon our God-given responsibility to bring them up in the *"nurture and admonition of the Lord"*.

The nature of the command is such that our children cannot do this for themselves. If we refuse to take the time to provide the *"nurture and admonition"* as we are enjoined, we will bear prime responsibility for the consequences.

Our children are our most precious commodity. Let us more and more devote every waking moment to the spiritual education of our children; in so doing we will be obedient to the command to bring up our children in God's *"nurture and admonition"*.

For a better understanding of God's word,

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REDIGGING OUR FATHER'S WELLS

restoring God's original vision for America

("REDIGGING OUR FATHER'S WELLS" is a monthly column dedicated to educating readers on the dramatic impact that biblical scripture has had in the original vision of America, that of the founding fathers.) This vision is the key element for any chance of true restoration to the moral and religious integrity that God has honored in this country for over 500 years. No other government in the history of the world has been borne and maintained upon Christian principles except this one. II CHRONICLES 7:14 is in principle the means by which revival occurs in this country: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."*

Christians have been torn between two scriptures- Jesus saying *"his kingdom is not of this world"* (JOHN 18:36)-VS-*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid"* (MATT 5:14),leading them into either disinterest or involvement in government. The world suffers when the church withdraws from it, and sees incredible standards of truth established and upheld when it is involved. God's vision for America was understood and obeyed in the lives of people like: Christopher Columbus, William Bradford, Johnathan Edwards, James Madison, John and Samuel Adams, George Washington, Johnathan Trumbull, John Quincy Adams, Noah Webster, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson and Daniel Webster. These were people committed to seeing a nation governed by the Word of God, and committed their very lives to living it out. The volumes of their personal work and writings number over 100,000 and are accessible in most college, and some public, libraries. Sadly, only about 1 out of 100 Americans in this generation have read any of these founding father's works, and have a secularly tainted idea of what they believed.

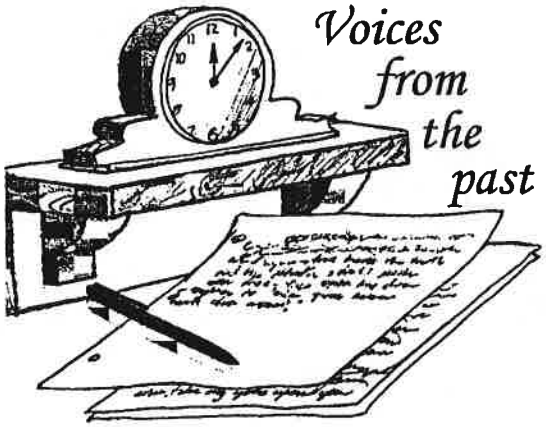
The Christian heritage of our country has been systematically taken out of our history books since the 1920's by the "Revisionists", and has been replaced with a secular, humanistic version of American history, spreading a moral bankruptcy over successive generations of students for 70 years. Without the teaching of this Christian heritage,our country has been led into an abyss of confusion about who we are. President Woodrow Wilson once declared "A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about." That is a good way of saying *"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."* (PROV 29:18)

What is the foundation from which our nation has moved, and where can our bearings be found again? Israel faced this dilemma repeatedly in its history, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob restored her foundations, principles and freedom when those people restored their heart to Him, and saw the original purposes for which they were created. So it will be with America; many have said it is too late to restore, but remember Sodom and Gomorrah -- God would have saved them for the sake of just 10 righteous people! We need to do what Isaac did when he had to move his people and flocks away from the envious Philistine king and people: instead of digging new wells from scratch, he redug the wells of his father Abraham (GEN 26:18) that the Philistines, in their envy for him, had stopped up.

He knew that beneath all of that Philistine dirt and garbage still lied the cool, pure water that his father had found. Likewise, we have a task, as Christians in this country to redig the father's wells and give back to the people the cool water of the original vision of its fathers. It will take great courage and sacrifice to dig through all the secular and humanistic dirt and garbage that has accumulated in these perilous decades, but it is still much easier than starting again from scratch. Next month: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, the Christ-bearer.

In the love of the truth,
Wayne Orendorff
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THE TWO FAMILIES



We want to consider the two families. One of them is the family of the flesh-the other is the family of God. In considering these two families, we want to notice the similarity of the two.

First, we will notice the family of the flesh. To begin this family, there must be a father and a mother. Then children are born, each time one is born into that family, the entire family rejoices over it. While it is in its infancy, it is not held responsible for its acts. All are interested in its welfare-they want to see it make a great man or woman. All are interested in giving it the best of food that it may grow thereby. They all are interested in seeing that it has the best of medical care.

In the course of years, we consider that with the teaching it has had and the knowledge it has gained, it is now responsible for its own acts. Even so, if it violates the good moral traditions of the family, we still love it as one of the family, and in kindness try to correct it. If a member of the family, after maturity, goes away and we find him in need of financial help, we make every effort possible to help him. If he is sick, we give every possible effort to his aid, and even though he is morally bad, we still love HIM, but dislike the THING he does. We still feel near him as one of the family, yet it makes sadness in the family. It hurts the family in the eyes of the world and throws a dark shadow over them, as I am sure many of us can call to memory. But should he repent, there would be much joy in that family.

Now, we will notice the family of God, or does he have a family? Yes, Eph. 3:14-15: *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.* Rom. 8:16: *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.* Do we have a father in the family of God? Yes, Eph. 4:6: *One God and Father of all.* Do we have a mother in the family of God? Yes, Gal. 4:26: *But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

Now the children of God have children of the flesh born unto them. Are they responsible to God? When God refused the adults of Israel of going into the land of Canaan because of disobedience, He said, Duet. 1:39: *Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.* Then we hear Jesus saying in Matt. 18:3: *Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.* Matt. 19:14: *Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Children, when born into the world are in the same stage of life that Adam was when God created him, and without God's creative power of nature, there would be no children. When God created Adam, he was pure, innocent, without sin, and had no knowledge of evil. But, when he ate of the tree

of knowledge of good and evil, then he had knowledge of both good and evil, and he had to answer to God for his acts.

Now, we find Paul in Eph. 6:4: *Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.* James 4:17: *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth IT not, to him it is sin.* We used the same logic of reason in the family of the flesh. When we considered our children had had the knowledge to do good, we held them accountable. When children become to know to good and do it not, James says it is sin. Those children were once pure and acceptable, Matt. 18:3 and 19:14 and Deut. 1:39. So was Adam once pure, acceptable, but when he came to know the knowledge of good and evil, he was accountable and had to be reconciled to God. So it is with children when they come to know to do good.



They are just as Isaiah said of God's people in Isaiah 59:2: *Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid HIS face from you.*

What is the remedy? John 3:3: *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* But born how? Of the flesh? No, we are born of the flesh once and cannot be born of the flesh again. John 3:5: *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and OF the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.* Just as we were born into the fleshly family, we are born into God's family.

Now, how did we administer to the necessities of the babe in the flesh? We gave all assistance possible to his well being. Now, we have one just born into the family of God, a babe in that family. What are we going to do for him? Shouldn't we give him the good care that we gave the one in the fleshly family? Most certainly. He is one of the family we love and we are interested in his well being and in seeing that he has proper food. I Pet. 2:2: *As new* born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. Help in all ways possible. As in Gal. 6:2: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. And in Rom 15:1: We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. Eph. 4:32: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

But supposing one of the family of God goes away, fails in his duty, takes up bad morals. What then? Well, it causes sadness with the rest of the family, throws a dark shadow over the rest of the family in the eyes of the world, and hinders the cause for which the rest of the family is striving. Should we have hate for him because of his weakness? No, we love HIM, but hate the THING he is doing.

What then should we do? What did we do with the brother in the flesh? This what we must do with the brother in the family of God. Gal. 6:1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. II Thess. 3:6: Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Brethren let us not cause grief to the family of God by walking disorderly and not after the tradition we have received from the apostles, and let us be as fair with the family of God as we are with the family of the flesh. Let us love, forgive, bear each others burdens, pray one for the other and be kind one to the other. St. John 13:35: By this shall all MEN know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. If we fail in our duty, the world would not know that we are Christ's disciples, so let us show to the world that we are a disciple of Christ.

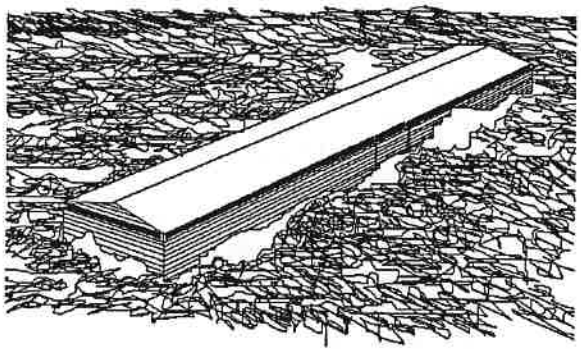
Yours in Christ, W.E. Daniels, Broken Bow, Okla.

(Reprinted from *IT IS WRITTEN*, April, 1954)

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" - 1 Pet 2:2

DID YOU KNOW?

We have all read the Genesis account of the flood in Noah's time, where only Noah, his wife, three sons, and their wives were saved in an ark. Since all other lives were lost in the great flood, every human race today would of necessity have its ancestry derived from this family. This being the case, does the story of the flood exist in the legends, lores, or traditions of cultures other that the Christian-Judeao? Did you know that many do? I think you will find the comparisons of the following examples interesting (Genesis, Babylon, China, Greenland, Hawaii, India, Mexico, and Roman):



(1) The author and hero of the flood:

- Genesis 6:13, 17: God told Noah that he would destroy the earth by a flood.
- Babylon: Enlil (a god) decided to destroy the world by a flood. Ea (another god) warned Utnapishtim of the flood.
- China: Fahhe escaped from a universal flood.
- Greenland: A god caused the flood; a man saved himself.
- Hawaii: A god caused the flood; Nu-u saved himself.
- India: A great fish warned Manu of a universal flood.
- Mexico: Concox (also called Tezpi) saved himself from a great flood (cause of flood unknown).
- Roman: Jupiter (a god) caused a great flood; Deucalion escaped in a boat.

(2) Reason for the flood:

- Genesis 6:5: Wickedness of man was great.
- Babylon: Increasing number of people making too much noise so that he could not sleep.
- China: Cause of flood unknown.
- Greenland: No reason given.
- Hawaii: Wickedness of man.
- India: No reason given.
- Mexico: No reason given.
- Roman: Human rebelliousness.

(3) The ark (boat):

- Genesis 6:14-16: An ark, 300 x 50 x 30 cubits, 3 stories high, made of gopher wood, and pitched within and without.
- Babylon: An ark, 120 x 120 x 120 cubits, 9 stories high, pitched watertight.
- China: A boat.
- Greenland: A boat.
- Hawaii: A great canoe with a house on it.
- India: A great ship.
- Mexico: A boat.
- Roman: A boat.

(4) The people saved on the ark (boat):

- Genesis 7:13: Noah, his wife, 3 sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth), and their three wives.
- Babylon: Utnapishtim, his family and other relatives, craftsmen, and boatmen.
- China: Fahhe, his wife, 3 sons, and 3 daughters.
- Greenland: A man. (He was supplied with a wife after the flood).
- Hawaii: Nu-u and his family.
- India: Manu and 7 family members.
- Mexico: Concox, his wife, and children.
- Roman: Deucalion, his wife Pyrrha.

(5) Other things on the ark (boat):

- Genesis 6:19-21, 7:2-3: 2 of every sort of animals and birds, 7 of the clean animals and birds, and food.

- Babylon: "The seed of all living creatures", gold and silver.
- China: None mentioned.
- Greenland: None mentioned.
- Hawaii: Plants, animals, and food.
- India: All kinds of seeds.
- Mexico: Animals and grain.
- Roman: None mentioned.

(6) Cause and duration of the flood:

- Genesis 7:11-12, 17-20, 24, 8:1-6: The fountains of the deep broke up, and the windows of heaven were opened; rained 40 days and nights; waters prevailed 150 days; followed by an additional 221 days during which the waters abated.
- Babylon: Rained 6 days; remained in the ark an unspecified number of days.
- China: Not mentioned.
- Greenland: Not mentioned.
- Hawaii: Not mentioned.
- India: Not mentioned; but a great fish towed the ship to a summit of the Himalayas.
- Mexico: Not mentioned.
- Roman: Rained from above, and waters came up from the deep, as in the biblical account.

(7) The bird scene:

- Genesis 8:7-12: Noah sent out a raven once, then a dove, then another dove that returned with an olive leaf, then another dove that did not return.
- Babylon: A dove is sent out, then a swallow, then a raven.
- China: None mentioned.
- Greenland: None mentioned.
- Hawaii: None mentioned.
- India: None mentioned.
- Mexico: A vulture was sent out, then other birds, finally a hummingbird returned with a branch with leaves.
- Roman: None mentioned.

(8). The landing of the ark (boat):

- Genesis 8:4: The ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat, either in eastern Turkey or adjacent territory in Russia.
- Babylon: The boat landed on Mt. Nisir, east of the Tigris River and 400 miles north of the Persian Gulf.
- China: Not mentioned.
- Greenland: Not mentioned.
- Hawaii: Not mentioned.
- India: Ship was towed to the summit of the Himalayan mountains.
- Mexico: Not mentioned.
- Roman: Boat landed on Mt. Parnassus.

(9) The sacrifice and blessings:

- Genesis 8:20-21, 9:1-17: Noah built an altar and prepared a burnt offering to God; God makes a covenant with Noah and his family; and makes a promise never to destroy the earth by water again, using the rainbow as a sign of his promise.
- Babylon; Utnapishtim and his wife are rewarded by being made gods and are taken to the realm of the gods.
- China: Not mentioned.
- Greenland: Not mentioned.
- Hawaii: The great god put a rainbow in the sky as a token of forgiveness.
- India: Not mentioned.
- Mexico: Not mentioned.
- Roman: Not mentioned.

The Biblical account is the only one inspired and controlled by the Spirit of God; but the similarities of these accounts are amazing, considering the diversity and distance of these cultures. This list is by no means complete, as there are similar stories from other regions of the earth.

Source of material: Genesis 6:-9:; *The Genesis Flood*, Whitcomb, John C. and Morris, Henry M., p. 36-42; *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Volume 1, Flood Myths, Elwell, Walter A., p. 789-801.

Written in Christian love,

Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th
Seattle, WA 98168



Cards and Letters

COLORADO CAMP MEETING
July 2nd through 10th, 1994

You are cordially invited and welcome to attend our annual camp meeting held the first week of July each year at the Big Spruce Church Camp, Cedaredge, Colorado.

The camp will be available to us Saturday, July 2nd, not the 1st, as that is on a Friday. But any one planning on being here on Friday, or earlier, we have a place for you.

The meeting closes Sunday evening, July 10th. But you are welcome to stay as long as you wish.

We are looking forward to seeing each one of you July 2nd.

Donations are appreciated.

The Happy Hollow Church of Christ
Cedaredge, Colo. 81413

BELLFLOWER, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We hope and pray that all of the brotherhood is doing well. We are all doing fairly well. All of the children of our congregation came down with the chicken pox. They are all better now, but we had several weeks of looking at spotted faces. We are very thankful that none of them were seriously ill.

We have enjoyed some really warm days, a couple of them in the 80's. It makes a nice change to run around in short sleeves.

That's about all of the news for now. Please remember us in your prayers. God bless.

Mark Perigen for the
Bellflower congregation

SACRAMENTO, CA

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May our heavenly Father continue to bless you with his truth which has availed itself through His glorious Son, Jesus Christ. All are doing fairly well health-wise, here in Sacramento. The usual and annual colds, flus and sinus infections so popular in this valley have affected us physically. However, spiritually we are vibrant and full of His love.

Negligence on the part of yours truly has caused a drastic delay in relaying of glorious news. I wish to extend my apologies to all concerned for this oversight. My human side is again exposed with all of its obvious imperfections. Back to the subject, during the month of November two more souls were added to His church by the baptism of (now) Bro. Gary Johnson and his wife Paula (now) Sister Johnson. We, in this congregation, have been blessed with two Sister Johnsons, and the original has been grinning ever since her son Gary took the plunge. The summer of 1993 was very active for Bro. and Sis. Johnson, they celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary by renewing their wedding vows in Discovery Park. Also this summer, Donnie and Cathy Carpenter were baptized and joined His

church and while they were still in the water, fresh from their double baptism, they renewed their wedding vows. Thank you Lord for letting us be part of something so glorious as the saving of a soul, what a blessing. And since I'm trying to clear the slate of unpublished news, approximately a year ago Bro. Kevin McDermott confessed and was baptized.

God is good and we are so thankful. We in Sacramento send our love to all the family that love our Lord Jesus Christ.

In love of the Truth,
Bro. L.S. Usrey

(The following was in a private card received from the Sacramento congregation since Brother Usrey's letter — the Editor.)

Sorry I haven't written and sent more cards, but we've been so mixed up down this way. J D and I ill with this virus, bronchitis, and my asthma, then our sister-in-law, Melva, had open heart surgery, and that went well, then one week later, bursted gall bladder (had surgery). She never woke up, and one week later died — gangrene had started in already. She was 78 years old — a member of the church 63 years. Elbert is taking it hard. Dean Guyer conducted the service in Modesto.

Brother Paul Lucas had brain surgery — he is home doing quite well. Brother John Usrey had bladder tumor surgery. He is home doing well — hear at end of week if it was benign or malignant.

Sister Dorothy Johnson has missed two Sundays with this nasty old virus. Kevin (Harper) said Neen (Harper) had it also.

Sister Cooper called, and wanted prayers for their grand-daughter (she's 32). She has diabetes real bad, and now is in the hospital with very bad pneumonia — really ill.

Brother Jack Cooper passed out while speaking Sunday. Called for emergency equipment. They took him to the hospital and did all kinds of tests, but couldn't find out why he passed out. Felt fairly well today.

J D and I finally feel some better, still cough some.

Love always,
J D and Fern Logan

PAYSON, AZ

We are all doing very well. All of us are planning (Lord willing) to travel up to Seattle for Matthew Shepherd's graduation, so there will be no services held here on June 12th. Other than that, we meet every Sunday at 10:30 am at Mary Shepherd's home in Star Valley (close to Payson). If you are in the area, please come and meet with us; you can call Adam Shepherd at 602-478-4204 or Mary Shepherd at 602-474-4603.

SAN PABLO, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your concern, and for your continuous prayers for our granddaughter, Kathy Hull, who is a diabetic with complications. She was in the hospital on life support for awhile. That is, until your prayers were answered.

If you are wondering if God answers prayers, be rest assured that he does. Kathy was taken off life support the very day you were notified of her condition. She had to go on the dialysis machine, but she now has been released from the hospital (3/4/94). She is home and is doing better. Please continue your prayers for her, and for us as well.

We send our love and thanks to each and everyone, and especially our thanks to our Lord God for His answering our prayers. May we all keep on praying for each other.

In Christian love,
Jack and Mable Cooper
1540 Emeric Ave.
San Pablo, CA 94806
Ph. (510) 233-3144

WATERFORD, CA

Dear Friends,

It has been awhile since the Waterford congregation has reported. We were all doing great until January and February. We had two of our members in the hospital. Sister Melva Logan and Bro. Paul Lucas. Bro. Paul Lucas had blood vessels break in his head and had to have blood removed from around the brain. Paul had treatment for a cancerous brain tumor eight years ago and had been doing so well until this. He has recovered and was able to be back to church February 27.

Sister Melva Logan had heart surgery for a valve replacement. She recovered from this surgery, but before she was able to go home she had to have emergency gall bladder surgery. Melva went into a coma after the surgery for ten days and passed from this life on Feb. 14. She will be sorely missed from our congregation. Melva always had a ready smile, a strong hand shake and great hugs. Bro. Dean Guyer conducted the funeral service on Feb. 19. Sister Melva was so happy when she got to move back to Modesto so she could attend church regularly. She had been a member of Christ's church for 62 years. She was 78 years old.

We have had our share of colds and flu this year, but are all back on track now. Spring is in the air with the beautiful almond trees in full bloom. We have had some much needed rain and hope our rainy season is not over.

Our hearts were made happy with the return of Bro. Don Weakly to the church. Don has been a member of church here for about 45 years.

We had a nice visit over New Years with Bro. and Sis. Bill and Veda McCay. Bill brought us a very good lesson on Sunday. A great way to start the New Year with good christian friends.

We are looking forward to our meeting July 3-10 with Bro. Roger Walkingstick. We always enjoy Roger, Jan and the boys. We invite all those who can to come be with us for our meeting. We have room in our homes and RV hook-ups at the church. We will serve dinner each evening at the church.

Remember us in your prayers as we do you in ours.

In Christian Love
Al Burtis
Waterford, CA Congregation
Our address is:
Waterford Church of Christ
11844 Yosemite Blvd.
Waterford, CA

The church is located about 10 to 12 miles east of Modesto on highway 132 (Yosemite Blvd.)

Services are held Sunday at 10:30 A.M.

You can contact:

- Al Burtis (209)-523-6387
- Dean Guyer (209)-883-4195
- Ken Williams (209)-522-4617

After 10 A.M. on Sunday (209) 874-3248

SELAH, WA

The editors of the Christian Courier are considering purchasing a copy machine. Over the long run, this would minimize the cost of publishing the paper. Brother Ellis Forsman is pricing several used copiers, and we are willing to contribute to this cause. We ask that all congregations please give what they can to support this endeavor.

All of the people that had surgery are doing well. Visitors for this month were Terry & Suzie and Rick & Barbara Carter.

Robert Farley
Selah Congregation

Editor's Note

We have had several inquiries about how much it costs to publish *The Christian Courier*. The costs for March's 525 copies were as follows:

Print Shop	$143
Postage	$163
Envelopes	$ 9
Total	$315

Currently, we are typesetting the *Courier* on Bro. Ellis Forsman's computer and having the copies ran at a local print shop.

I REMEMBER MELVA MAE LOGAN

On February 19th, we laid to rest a Christian woman who was part of my life for almost as long as I can remember. Melva Mae Logan, daughter of the late Sister Minnie Willingham, was my sister-in-law, wife of my brother, E. W. Logan.

I remember well 59 years ago following the loss of my mother, when, as a girl in her late teen years, Melva sought to comfort me in my desolation.

Shortly after, I remember my feeling of joy and completeness when she and my brother married. I had a "big sis!"

Throughout the years as my nieces and nephews were born, I stood on the sidelines and shared in small ways her joys.

But all was not joy in her life. I remember the numbing grief of the loss of her youngest son, Gary, in a logging accident. I do not believe she ever completely got over this great sorrow.

I remember the happiness of the fiftieth anniversary not long ago, when I was able to be with them in their celebration.

I also remember the many kindnesses and encouragements given to me on my journey through life.

Yes, Melva, my big sis, I will not forget. I am also certain that God will not forget, either. *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."*

Rest well, my sister, in hope of the resurrection God has promised.

I will not forget!

J. D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd
Stockton, CA 95204

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalms 116:15)

MISSING OLD ISSUES

As you know, we are collecting past issues of the newsletters by the Church of Christ so that we can republish articles and news from the past. Here is a list of the issues that we are missing — if you have any of these, please send them (or photocopies) to *The Christian Courier*. (If you want, we can make photocopies and mail the originals back to you.)

It Is Written: before 8/47, 9/47 to 12/47, 1/48 to 8/48, 12/48, 1/49 to 7/49, 10/49 to 12/49, 1/50 to 3/50, 5/50 to 6/50, 7/50 to 12/50, 2/51, 4/51 to 7/51, 12/51, 1/52, 4/52 to 12/52, 1/53, 2/53, 4/53, 5/53, 7/53 to 11/53, 1/54, 2/54, 5/54, 9/54, 10/54, 12/54, 1/55, 6/55, 7/55, 7/56, 8/56, 10/56, 2/57, 11/57, 12/57, after 12/57

The Gospel News Courier: before 6/61, 6/62, 9/62, 4/65, 8/65, after 10/65

Little Love Letter: before 12/69, 1/70 to 4/71, 7/71, 8/71, 10/71 to 6/72, 8/72 to 11/72, 7/73, 8/73, 10/73, 11/73, 1/74, 2/74, after 4/74

The Christian Courier: 6/66 to 12/66, 1/67 to 12/67, 1/68 to 8/68, 7/69, 4/70, 6/70, 9/70, 10/70, 12/70, 5/71, 7/71, 11/71, 1/72, 3/72, 7/72, 4/73, 6/73, 7/73, 8/73, 3/74, 7/74, 8/74, 10/74, 12/74, 7/75, 12/75, 4/78, 12/80, 1/81, 3/84, 6/84, 8/92, 10/92

Fruits of the Spirit: we have all of the issues

Special thanks to J. D. Logan, Verlie Baldwin, Ellis Forsman, and Howard McCay who donated many old issues, making our collection what it is today.

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

"The memory of the just is blessed:..."
— Prov. 10:7

It is Written, Apr '54 - • Bro. Paul Ferguson of Buena Park, CA announces that the completion of that congregation's building (possibly La Habra congregation) is nearing completion.

Gospel News Courier, Apr '64 - • Sis. Jaetta Loftis writes of the new building in Seymour, TX. They celebrated the grand opening with a weekend meeting, one service Saturday night and three services Sunday. Bro. Jack White and Bro. Francis did the preaching. • Bro. J.D. Logan writes that his dad has appendicitis, and Brother Lloyd Coleman had to have brain surgery. In the midst of all this Bro. J.D. had to change jobs, but was still diligent to report it all to the paper. • Bro. Ken Baldwin writes of his improving health, the new building going up for the Delta congregation, and of Bro. Vernie Hill and Bro. Ron Herbert giving their first lessons.

Christian Courier, Apr-May '74 - • Congratulations are given as the engagements of Teri McCay to Bobby Lamb, and Connie Burtis to Ken Williams are announced. • Bro. Earl Howe writes a lot of news from the Lorenzo, TX congregation, including: Marriage of Bro. Willie Howe and Sis. Mary Pollen Jan. 19, 1974; Baptisms of Bro. Keith Hatter and Bro. James Clements; Marriage of Bro. Keith Hatter and Sis. Carolyn Loftis. Bro. Earl wrote of Bro. R.H. Peel. *"He can't drive anymore, so some of us pick him up for worship services. His greatest desire is to be in church every Sunday and hopes to as long as he can walk or ride or by any possible means, as long as the Lord wills."* Bro. Earl also writes that Sis. Maude Scott can no longer care for herself, and of the passing of Bro. Howard Studer Dec 3, 1973. • Bro. Homer Bryant reports on a visit by Bro. and Sis. Curtis McCluskey. *"I know it is a chore for them to drive from Sacramento to be in the worship here, because of his health, but he says, we all must do all we can to further the work of our Lord, no matter what we have to endure. I hope and pray every one of us feel this way, and go on and do that little "extra" for the Lord."* • Births are announced of Stacey Logan and Eric Foundation, third granddaughter and first grandson of Bro. and Sis. J.D. Logan. • Obituary of Sis. Laura E. Willis, who departed this life Feb. 24, 1974. *"Sis. Willis had been a faithful member of the Church of Christ for over 60 years."*

Christian Courier, Apr '84 - • Birth of Kenneth Randall Buckner Jan 11, 1984 to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Debbie Buckner is announced by Bro. Gerald Buckner. Little Kenneth had kidney trouble when he was born, and is scheduled to have one kidney removed Apr 18, 1984. (Ten years later, he is doing just great, according to his grandmother, Sis. Wilma Buckner). • The editors announced that the May '84 issue would be the last printed by the Bellflower congregation, and that the Courier would be transferred to Bro. Homer Bryant of the San Pablo, CA congregation.

We hope and pray that this column does bring back memories to you that are precious, even of those who are now asleep in Jesus, and waiting for their reward. Rev. 14:13. *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."*

"...the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." (Psalms 112:6)

BULLETIN BOARD

Gospel Meetings

June 5-12	Baron, OK	John McKinney
June 9-16	Pleasant View, OK	Robert & Brandon Lamb
July 2-10	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
July 3-10	Waterford, CA	Roger Walkingstick
July 3-10	Bellflower, CA	Ellis Forsman & Eric Harper
July 17-24	Valley View, OK	Jerry Perigen
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest
TBA	Lorenzo, TX	Paul Auslum
TBA	Comanche, OK	Al Way



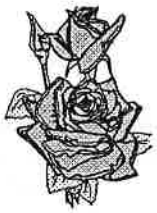
Baptism

Gary & Paula Johnson	Sacramento, CA	1993
Kevin McDermott	Sacramento, CA	1993
Donnie & Cathy Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	1993
Gary Bergman	Glenwood, WA	1994



Deaths

Melva Mae Logan	February 14, 1994
Roy Snoderly	February 16, 1994



Prayer of faith shall save the sick (James 5:15)

Paul Lucas	Waterford, CA	brain surgery
Don Weakley	Waterford, CA	cancer of lungs
Kathy Hull	Sacramento, CA	diabetic
Maggie Forsman	Glenwood, WA	88 yrs old-declining health
Nell McCay	Seattle, WA	walking with cane
Belle Taylor	Yakima, WA	nursing home
John Usrey	Sacramento, CA	cancer-bladder
Al Jones	Yuma, AZ	in hospital



WANTED

Church near Nashville, TN
Please contact Mr & Mrs Jerry Wilcher
5001 Old Nashville Hiway Apt H
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 890-5281

