The Christian Courier

MAY, 1994

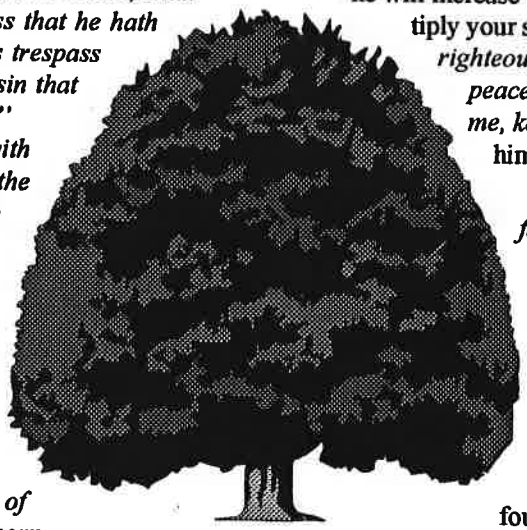
Send all correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168

WE ARE PLANTED TREES

Psa. 92:13. *"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God."* In I Tim. 3:15 we find the house of the Lord is the church. Col. 1:18, For he is the head of the church, and we have been planted, Rom. 6:5, in the likeness of his death and have been raised in the likeness of his resurrection. (Why?) To bring forth fruit unto God.

Mt. 7:18. *"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit..."* (Unless) he turn from his righteousness and commit sin, I John 3:4, which is to disobey God. Ezek. 18:24. *"But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity,* (sin in mild form), *and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live?* (No) *All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die."*

Mt. 7:21. *"Not every one 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."* Rev. 22:14. *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*



Psa. 1:1-3. *"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. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

In Rev. 22:1-5 John said he saw a pure river of water of life proceeding forth from the throne of God. The tree of life was on either bank and in the midst of it. The 17th verse said *"...whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* This tree bore its fruit each month of the year. (What fruit do we bear?) John 15:1-5. We are to bear fruit or we will be taken away.

The water of life is God's commands. Psa. 119:172. *"...all thy commandments are righteousness."* Psa. 119:105-106. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments."* (The fruit of the tree, or us keeping his judgments or commands, Matt. 7:17), for *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life..."*, Prov. 11:30. II Cor. 9:10 says he will increase the fruits of your righteousness and multiply your seed sown. James 3:18. *"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."* In John 14:15 Jesus said. *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* So do we love him?

Mk. 11:13-14. *"And seeing a fig tree far off having leaves, he came, if haply he find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever..."* (Remember we are the fig tree). And when he comes will he find us bearing fruit? Mt. 25:14-31. Here he found no fruit on one; the one talent man. What did he do to him? Think what he will do to us, Mt. 7:23, Mt. 25:41. In John 14:23 Jesus said. *"If a man love me, he will keep my words..."* Verse 24. *"He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings..."*

Yours in Christ,
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Broken Bow, OK 74728

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the mountains of Lebanon were once the source of the richest timber in the world, most specifically its cedar? This cedar was recorded as standing 120 feet high with a trunk diameter of 8 feet (*Plants of the Bible - Cedar*, **Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible** [hereafter referred to as **B E B**], p. 1708). These great forests do not exist today. This article will explain why. The dates listed are approximate.

The earliest historical record of logging in these mountains was around 2600 B.C. by Pharaoh Snofru of Egypt, who hauled out 40 shiploads of cedar logs (*Lebanon*, **B E B**, p. 1321-1322).

Around 1890-1800 B.C. Egypt purchased cedars from Lebanon with golden ornaments (**Ibid.**)

Then from 1552 B.C. to 1306 B.C. these mountains were controlled and logged by Syria (**Ibid**).

From 1100 B.C. on, when the Lebanon mountains were controlled by Phoenicia, vast quantities of cedars went to Assyria, Egypt, and Mesopotamia for construction of temples and elaborate palaces (**Ibid**; *Phoenicia*, **B E B**, p. 1688-1691).



A cedar tree in Lebanon

Around 1048 B.C., after David had conquered Jerusalem and moved his capital there, Hiram, King of Tyre (main shipping port near the Lebanese Mountains), sent cedar wood, masons, and carpenters to David to build his palace (2 Sam. 5:11; 1 Chron. 14:1).

Now, it bothered David that he lived in such a grand palace made of cedar, while the ark of God dwelled in curtains (2 Sam. 7:1-2). God replied to him through Nathan, the prophet, that He would accept a temple to be built for the ark, but not by David. His successor, Solomon, was to have that honor, God said, because David was a man of war (2 Sam. 7:3-29; 1 Kings 5:3; 1 Chron. 22:3-8).

Later, in 1017 B.C., David instructed Solomon that he was to build the temple (1 Chron. 22:9-10). Two years later David gave Solomon all of the patterns of the temple that he had drawn up (1 Chron. 28:11-13).

Solomon took to the task in a grand style by arranging for 80,000 men to help Hiram (David's friend and King of Tyre) cut cedar trees in Lebanon. Solomon also sent another 70,000 men to move the logs to Jerusalem after they were floated to Joppa. Another 3600 men served as overseers on this project (2 Chron. 2:1-18). This timber was purchased with wheat and olive oil (1 Kings 5:11) and 20 cities in Galilee (1 Kings 5:1-11; 9:10-14).

The building of the temple took 7 years (1 Kings 6:38). Solomon also used this timber to build his personal palace (which took 13 years), a house for Pharaoh's daughter, the House of the Forests of Lebanon, the Hall of Pillars, a hall for his throne (1 Kings 7:2-8), and 1400 chariots which were lighter and speedier than other chariots because of this cedar(1 Kings 10:26-29).

The city of Tyre (sometimes called Tyrus) increased in importance as a shipping port, and had a large fleet of merchant ships that traded in a wide variety of merchandise all over the world (Ezek. 27:3-4). The masts of these ships were made from the cedars of Lebabon. Among the cargo that was shipped to other ports were cedar chests (Ezek. 27:24).

Whereas Tyre was once an ally of Israel during David's and Solomon's time, this port city fell into extreme pressure from Assyria and Babylon to dissolve this relationship (*Tyre*, **B E B**, p. 2111-2112). Tyre turned to unscrupulous tactics that displeased God (Ezek. 26:-28: chapters). In 712 B.C. Ezekiel prophesied her demise, and the destruction of her forests (Isaiah 10:33-34; 14:8).

In 626 B.C. Habakkuk spoke of the destruction of the forests of Lebabon (Hab. 2:17-19). Others also prophesied the destruction of the cedars of Lebanon (Psalms 29:5; Isa. 2:11-13; Jer. 22:6; Ezek. 31: chaper).

Tyre was beseiged by Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon) for 13 years (587 B.C. - 574 B.C.), and later was conquered and destroyed by Alexander the Great (332 B.C.) (**Ibid.**)

By New Testament times, Tyre was rebuilt and had became an important shipping port again, but timber was never again the great resource it once was. The mountains of Lebanon had been stripped of her forests, and the land was given over to large goat herds which prevented the great forests from returning. Today, the cedars of Lebanon are very rare (*Plants - Cedar*, **B E B**, p. 1708).

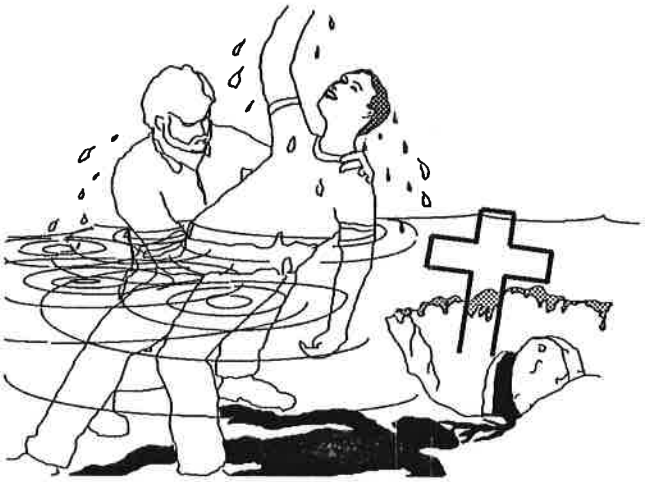
In Christian love,

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BAPTISM COLUMN NO. 5

IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

In Rom. 6:3-4 we read. *"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."*



In the previous months' columns on baptism we have focused on the many benefits that baptism does for us. The above verse tells us that when we rise from baptism we should walk in newness of life. So this month we want to study some of the things that should be new in our life after we are baptized.

NEW PURPOSE:

We find a new purpose and goal for our lives in Col. 3:1-2. *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."* Of course, setting our affection on things above is more than daydreaming of heaven; it is focusing our efforts on attaining it. Mt. 6:20. *"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"*. This leads to a new service for Christ.

NEW SERVICE:

II Cor. 5:14-15. *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* We serve Jesus by serving others, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus himself taught us this in Mt. 25:40. *"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* Gal. 6:9-10. *"And let us not be weary in welldoing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

NEW STRUGGLES:

We also will have new struggles in our Christian life, but we must meet them with faith and courage. Rom. 8:18. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

NEW FRUIT:

In meeting new struggles we will develop new fruit, or inner qualities, in our lives. Gal. 5:22-23. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Notice that while this is inner fruit we add to ourselves, much is directed toward others.

NEW REWARD ON JUDGMENT DAY:

I Cor. 15:58. *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
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EDITOR'S NOTE: We are enjoying putting together the paper very much, including the articles and columns our members are writing. However, we know there is a lot more knowledge and talent out there in the brotherhood. As you have been great with your letters, how about more articles from you? We have heard many wonderful lessons at many different congregations from many different brethren. Many of these would make wonderful articles. Sometimes even a single point in a lesson makes an excellent article. Don't feel comfortable putting a lesson into written form? Just send it in in outline form. We can use those as well. Any scriptural material you have would be profitable for all the brethren. Please, send it in.

WORD STUDY

OFFEND

4624

"Skandalizo" — to entrap, ie trip up (fig. stumble or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure): (make to) offend."

This word, in many ways exemplifies the difficulties many modern readers encounter while reading the King James text of the Bible. Many words used in this translation (from 1604 A.D. to its publication in 1611 A.D.) have altered to the point that we need help to grasp the original thoughts intended by the writers.

Today the general idea of "to offend" is to insult, to displease, to irritate, etc. Although this could very well be the end result, in many places in the scriptures the word takes on a different shade of meaning.

OFFENDED IN ME

Jesus foretold that there would be those that would be *"offended"* in (or because of) him. In Matt. 11:6 he said, *"And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."*

This is rendered variously as *"...no doubts about me..."*, Today's English Version; *"...does not find me a stumbling-stone..."*, New English Version; *"...does not fall away on account of me..."*, New International Version.

The meaning is obvious. We are not to entertain doubts concerning Jesus' doctrine, or in any way allow the teaching of Jesus to be a stumblingstone to us; otherwise we sin (are offended).

OFFENSE

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"skandalon" — a trap-stick (bent sapling) ie snare (fig. cause of displeasure or sin). Also translated "thing that offends, stumbling-block."

Note Rom. 9:33, *"...I lay in Sion a stumbling-stone and rock of offense:"* We can see that Israel failed to attain salvation because they stumbled, tripped at the teachings of Jesus.

In 1 Pet. 2:8, Jesus is identified as that stone over which so many trip and stumble when they will not accept his word, and thus they sin.

Another good reference to illustrate this shade of meaning is Matt. 13:57.

This is the record of an incident which occured in Jesus' home town wherein many townspeople who were acquaintances of his family were *"offended in him."* This was not because Jesus insulted them in any way, but they were angry with him because of his teachings. Today's English Version says, *"...they rejected him...."* Simply put, this was sin.

MAKE (SELF) TO SIN

Our Lord stated (Matt. 5:29) that one can be *"offended"* by the very functions of one's own being. He uses the expressions, *"...if thine eye...hand or foot offend thee."* This is somewhat difficult in the light of modern usage of the words used. However, with a little help from the Lexicon, and comparison to other translations, we have no trouble. Today's English Version says, *"...causes you to sin..."*; Phillips says, *"...leads you astray...."*

The meaning is clear: if your eye, hand, or foot (or any other part of your being) leads you into temptation and sin, you must "cut" it off (neutralize it) with the help of God's Word, and thus not sin. *"Offend thee"* here means to cause you to sin.

OFFEND OTHERS

Much is said in the New Testament about "offending" others. We should not omit to consider these.

We are warned by Jesus to not offend young ones by leading them astray by either our teaching or example. Matt. 18:6-7, *"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh."* This should be cause for sober reflection by all who take upon themselves the duties of teacher. Whatever we may practice in our lives or teach others from God's Word, we must avoid the slightest chance of leading anyone astray (especially the "little one").

MAKE BROTHER(S) TO OFFEND

1 Cor. 8:13, *"Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth,* ***LEST I MAKE MY BROTHER TO OFFEND.***" (emphasis mine) The meaning is clear. If we, by our indulgences, cause our brother to participate in an act that he or she conceives to be wrong, we sin against our brother and also against Christ (verse 12). Of verse 13, the New English Bible says, *"Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall."* By any other description, this is sin.

WE OFFEND ALL

The Apostle James (James 3:2) admonishes not to have many become teachers because *"...in many things we offend all."* Phillips says of this passage, *"...make mistakes"*; New International Version says, *"...stumble in many ways."*

This should be cause for sober reflection by all of we who are teachers. In many ways we stumble and go wrong. What effect will this have on our brothers? The possibility is always present that we could lead others astray, and thus *"offend"* them (cause them to sin). This is to be avoided at all costs!

WHO IS OFFENDED?

2 Cor. 11:29, *"...who is offended and I burn not?"* Paul here refers to his reaction to a brother being offended. *"...who is made to fall and I am not indignant?"* (RSV). *"...who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?"* (New International Version). Should we not feel the same? Are we not followers of Paul as he is of Christ? (1 Cor. 11:1).

MARK THEM WHICH CAUSE...OFFENSES

Rom. 16:17, *"...mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."* The whole thought is to *"...watch out for those who...put obstacles in your way."* (New International Version).

Jesus called Peter an *"offense"* unto him because he (Peter) presumed to correct jesus. *"You stand right in my path..."* (Phillips).

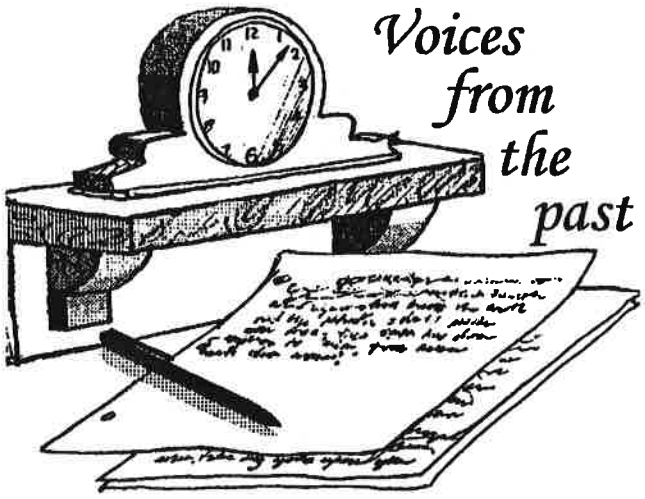
If we should seek to modify or pervert the words of Jesus in any way, do we not become an *"offense"* to him? (stumbling-stone).

Brethren, in all we say or do, let us strive to avoid being a stumbling-block in the path of others!!

For a better understanding of God's Word,
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WHAT ABOUT YOUR RELIGION

Are you prepared to die? What if you were called today what would you do? Oh, I have plenty of religion. My uncle died and he said he was ready to go. What church did he belong to? None, you don't have to belong to a church to be saved. These churches don't amount to anything. They are all just man's work, and man today is just as crooked as ever. I pay my debts. I visit the sick. I treat everybody just as good as I know how to treat them. I don't owe any man one cent. I don't hate anybody. I don't lie for what I have. I work for my living. I help my neighbors if I see them in need. My uncle followed that policy. And I believe he is saved if anybody is. And I believe the Bible teaches us to do those things. Don't you? And another thing I want you to notice the churches are full of hypocrites. They won't pay their debts. They will tell a lie just as quick as they will tell the truth. And the scriptures tells us that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire. And if the Bible is true that's going to be their fate. But I doubt that it is really the truth.



I believe that if it was really the truth and people believed it was, that all of the churches would be one great body of people. All worship God together in unity and there would be no divisions among them. But there is over one thousand different kinds of religion. One teaching this and another that. Preaching and howling at the top of their voices. One saying come this way. And another saying another way. What confidence do you think people can have in such a religion as that? Do you think that God is well pleased with such? No. If there is a God, he hates such, and will say to them in that day, depart from me ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you. That's going to be the answer to many poor souls that have been deceived by false teaching. This is a plea for unity. Not divisions.

R.C. Clements, Broken Bow, Okla.

Reprint from **IT IS WRITTEN**, April 1954



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, the Christ-bearer:

"I found our Lord very well disposed toward this, my desire, and He gave me the spirit of intelligence for it. He prospered me in seamanship, and supplied me with the necessary tools of astronomy, as well as geometry and arithmetic, and ingenuity of intellect and manual skill to draw spherical maps. At this time, I have seen and put into study to look into all the scriptures, cosmography, history, chronicles, philosophy and other arts, which our Lord opened to my understanding; I could sense His hand upon me so that it became clear to me that it was feasible to navigate from here to the Indies, and he unlocked within me the determination to execute the idea. I came to Your Highnesses with this charter...I spent 7 years in your royal court arguing the case with so many persons of such authority and learned of all the arts, and in the end they concluded it was all idle nonsense, and with this they gave up the project. Yet, the outcome will be the fulfillment of what our redeemer, Jesus Christ said, that everything shall pass away, but not his wonderful Word." - in a letter from Christopher Columbus to Ferdinand and Queen Isabella,1502.

The vessel through which God first opened His gospel to the Americas was Christopher Columbus. His whole life was spent in the endeavor to find the new world prophesied of. Only christian dreams have reason enough to take on such "impossible" challenges. The driving motivation for his journey was to: 1) find the great land and people and impart the Gospel to them; 2) fund the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem with the gold gathered from that land. His purposes were not to prove the world was round, or establish new trade routes to the Indies, as we have been told in secular education. The Greeks had long since proven the world was round, and the business community was among his most critical scoffers. It was the prevalent belief within the churches and in Columbus that gold lay in tremendous quantities in the western hemisphere in Solomon's mines in the Garden of Eden, and that Jerusalem in the east, and the Garden of Eden in the west needed to be reclaimed for Christ in order for the temple to be rebuilt so Christ would return. For 7 long years, Columbus plead in the courts of Europe to be commissioned for the voyage until Spain finally subdued the Moors (an Islamic power), in Granada and in the Holy Land. It has been said that for Spain to have sent him within that time would have been like the U.S. sending someone to the moon during World War II. The day Granada was taken, Spain approved him to go.

Columbus was chosen of God to make this voyage. His very name means "Christ-bearer"; his grandfather's experience with the martyred saint, Ramon Lula prophesying in his final words of a great continent to the west 170 years previously; another prophecy of the Roman poet Seneca, who over 200 years B.C., in his work Media, spoke of a "mariner who would find a great land revealed, so that Thule (Greenland) would no longer be the ultimate" - Columbus believed he was the one chosen to make this voyage. He was a brilliant, devoted, self-taught young man who was a veracious reader. His personal library consisted of over 20,000 volumes. He knew Castillian Spanish, Latin, Greek, and some Hebrew. In his "Book of Prophecies", an 84-page hand-written work in Latin, he repeatedly refers to MATT 11:25, *"...thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."* to console himself that he had no credentials of formal education. Columbus made the 2700 mi. voyage across completely unchartered waters using "dead reckoning navigation", using only an astrolathe, a compass, an estimate of the wind speed, and direction of the water's current. He sailed 3 ships, a crew of 39, at first south to the Canary Islands and then due west along the 28th parallel, until he came unto what is now the Bahamas- an incredible piece of navigation. In his Book of Prophecies, he often acknowledges the presence of God with them, consoling him and his crew when they feared they were lost (you see, Christopher was the "Christ- bearer". At 2am, on Oct. 12,1492 ,the day Columbus promised his crew he would turn back on 3 days earlier if land had not been sighted, the cry "tierra,tierra,tierra!" was heard from his ships.)

Next month:"For God, or Mammon?" - a look at the move into the new world.

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HAS THE KINGDOM COME?

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples to pray to God for His kingdom to come. If it has come, then it is not proper to pray this portion of the Lord's Prayer.

Before Pentecost, John the Baptist and Jesus taught: *"the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* After Pentecost it was not taught that the kingdom was still at hand, or in the future.

If we take a concordance and assemble all the references to the kingdom of heaven, kindom of Christ, kingdom of God, a question on this subject may still remain. For instance in 1 Cor. 6:9-10, if the kingdom of God is here now, why did Paul say those guilty of these sins would not inherit the kingdom of God?

Let us review some of the references to the kingdom. In Matt. 13:41, Jesus said when He returns, His angels would gather out of His kingdom certain ones. So His kingdom is already here when He returns. In Matt. 16:19, Jesus said He would give Peter the keys of the kingdom. Peter used these keys on the Day of Pentecost. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said there were some present *"which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."* Just before Jesus ascended we read in the first chapter of Acts where He told the apostles (verse 2) they would receive power after the Holy Ghost came upon them (verse 8). The kingdom came on the Day of Pentecost and it came with power as we find in the second chapter of Acts. In 1 Cor. 4:20, Paul said the kingdom of God is in power.

How about Paul's statement that certain ones would not inherit the kingdom of God? Does this indicate the kingdom has not as yet come? No, it doesn't. We read in 1 Cor. 15:50, *"flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God."* Those who inherit the kingdom of God will do so after death or the resurrection for those still living when Jesus returns.

In 2 Peter 1:11 we read: *"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

The last reference I want to refer to is Rev. 1:9. John says he was *"in the kingdom"* at the time he said this, and he was still living.

So we conclude the kingdom which is here now is the church, the kingdom of Christ on earth. Christians have been translated into this kingdom (Col. 1:13). Peter tells us, those in the kingdom, there are *"exceeding great and precious promises"* for Christians who add to their faith the seven graces. They will enter *"into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* The latter kingdom must be after the resurrection.

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PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Nehemiah 13:31 *"...Remember me, O my God, for good."*

Gospel News Courier, May 1964

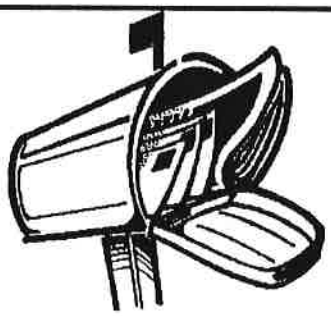
• Bro. Jim Brown announces that the first services at the new Baron building would be Saturday night June 6th, with the first Sunday services the 7th. • Among the meetings announced for 1964 were three by brethren who are now asleep in Jesus, Bro. Elmer H. Hunt, Bro. J.C. Spurlin, and Bro. Paul Ferguson. • Bro. Harry Dye announces that Bro. Boling and his wife had a new baby girl. • Bro. F.H. Logan announces baptisms of Mrs. Aszelee Jaco and Joyce McLain. • There are messages from 2 congregations no longer in existence today. Brethren, what needs to be done to ensure congregations don't die out this way?

(The Christian Courier was for April and May in 1974. News was reported from that issue in last month's "Precious Memories" column.)

Christian Courier, May 1984

• Bro. Bobby Lamb of Yakima announces the birth of Ashley Leann Bauer to Bro. John and Sis. Carol Bauer. • Bro. J.W. Bedingfield announces the baptism of Bro. Chris Casterline. • Bro. Tony Brister announced that the Roll, AZ congregation started holding services in their new building April 29, 1984. • Bro. Bobby Lamb encourages us: "We are to love, strive for patience and without fail, forgive. One of the three generally will solve most problems."

"Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations."
(Psalms 145:13)



Cards and Letters

ALOHA, OR

To all the brotherhood in Christ Jesus,

All of us here at the Aloha, Ore. congregation want to say hello to all the churches of Christ.

Everything has been going very well, last month brother J.D. Jared came out and preached a weekend meeting for us. Any that have heard him know of his unique style, in that he draws from life's experience and simple pleasure in a way we all can relate to. The younger especially enjoy his preaching. Thanks J.D. from all of us here.

We have more good news to report this month, yet another child has come to God through our Savior, the Lord Jesus by obeying His Gospel. His name is Albert Crum, he has moved here from Phoenix, Arizona and plans to make this home. His wife and four children will be joining him soon. We never really know where the Lord is going to add to His churches, but it is very exciting to be a part of it and see a church grow.

All are doing well here, health wise. The daughter of Steve and Nancy Silva (Andrea) had her tonsils removed and is doing well.

We will close for now. We pray that all Christians everywhere stay faithful to Christ. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with the faithful.

For the Aloha congregation
Chuck Garner

AZTEC, N.M.

Hello Christian Brothers and Sisters,

It has been some time since I have written, I will try to cover all the recent news.

Brother Duane and Sister Siegenliede Bixler have a new addition to their family, a daughter, Samantha Laray, born Dec. 1993. She is a real cutie.

Sister Lahoma Noyes had a knee operation recently and is doing fine.

Brother J.D. Johnson is bothered with a heart condition and need the prayers of the congregations.

Sister Retha Morris, her daughter and four grandchildren recently visited, from the Stillwell, Okla. congregation. We enjoyed seeing them again.

Brother Justin Jones is an addition here at Aztec and his participation is welcomed.

We surely do miss the Gerald Gabehart and Lyle Fouch families that have moved from the Aztec area to Cedaredge, Colorado. We wish them all the best.

The church building has been remodeled inside, and is truly beautiful. Brothers Leo and Gene Noyes installed new doors and windows, and also redid the walls. The church Sisters then took over and did their thing with new blinds, drapes, wall hangings and flowers. The Lord's house really shines.

Doris and I spent the winter months in Yuma, Arizona, and enjoyed being with the congregation there and also at Citrus City. We came home to Aztec several weeks early so Doris could be close to treatment in Albuquerque. She seems to be doing better.

With love,
Frank and Doris Ridlon
Park Ave. Church of Christ
Aztec, New Mexico

CARLSBAD, N.M.

Dear Christian Friends,

I looked through a stack of old Christian Couriers and found only one that you needed.

I'm enclosing the check for the paper and also one for payment on the copy machine.

Enjoyed the paper and was pleasantly surprised to see my uncle's article, Bro. Daniels, and my mother's obituary.

I suppose most everyone knowns that Paul is in the nursing home. I do hope all the sick are much better and may God comfort the family of Sister Melva Logan.

I want to thank everyone for the phone calls and letters since Paul has been ill. They truly are appreciated.

Please pray for us. I remember those who are ill in my prayers.

With Christian love,
Eunice Bruce
Carlsbad, N.M.

CEDAREDGE, CO

Dear one's all:

All of us here in the Cedaredge congregation (Happy Hollow) would like to share some great news with everyone. Brannan Berry was baptized Sunday, April 3rd, to become a child of God. Brannan's Dad (Skip) had the honor of baptizing his daughter.

We also have had quite a few visitors: Brother Steve and Sister Jill Martin and two boys, Garette and Hunter, from New Braunfel's, Texas (Steve brought us a real good and uplifting sermon Sunday morning); Sister Flora Ruth Bixler, Sister Myra Dabbs, and Brother Frank and Sister Doris Ridlon, all from Aztec, New Mexico; also Sister Carolyn Bedingfield from Avondale, Colorado. We were happy to have everyone that visited us, and invite them back anytime.

We had our pot luck dinner Sunday, the 3rd, at Brother and Sister Severson's. Everyone had a great day playing volleyball, horseshoes, and other games all afternoon. The fellowship and all of the food was great.

We meet at 10:30 each Lord's Day morning and 5:00 Sunday evening, also 6:30 on Wednesday evening for singing and fellowship together. Everyone is welcome to come worship with us anytime.

Don't forget the Colorado Camp Meeting July 2-10.

Our love and prayers,

The Happy Hollow Church of Christ

Cedaredge, Colo.

COLORADO CAMP MEETING
July 2 - 10, 1994

Location Big Spruce Church Camp in the Spruce & Pines, Cedaredge, Colorado

Facilities Full hookups for R.V.'s and trailers, rooms for adults, dormitories for boys and girls.

Dress Code The dress code was discussed and decided at last year's camp meeting by everyone that was there: ALL CLOTHING FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN MUST BE BELOW THE KNEE.

Welcome Everyone is welcome and invited to come and worship with us.

May God be with you all.

The Happy Hollow Church of Christ.

ELKINS, AR

Hi,

Keep up the good work. We like the paper's new look, its getting better. We like voices from the past, we all need to be reminded of what the older people were telling back then! It is the same thing we should be telling the younger ones today. The same yesterday, today and forever.

I found this article in our Sunday paper, it hits the nail on the head for our times. Please consider printing it in the paper.

Here is the article that was submitted by:

Brother Melvin Daniels

170 Oneal Lane

Elkins, Ark. 72727

WHEN CHRISTIANITY IS INOFFENSIVE, IT IS INEFFECTIVE

When our Lord walked on this earth, he was not a mild preacher with smooth, ear-tickling messages that offended none. He lived in a storm. He aroused the violent opposition of bitter enemies, and it grew worse and worse until it crucified him.

His followers created a commotion in every place they visited, disturbed the status quo and frequently landed in jail, many of them dying the death of martyrs.

Throughout church history the gospel, when preached in purity and power, has upset the world, divided the people and incensed the powers of darkness.

Today evil is more concentrated and sin more entrenched than in all history: and of all times, one would think this is the time for Christianity to stand out in vivid contrast to prevalent godlessness.

But an alarming condition now prevails, Christianity has lost its cutting edge, and the heresy has gotten around that we are to be only pleasant, religious gladhanders, getting along with everybody and everything.

The average church service has been described as "a mild-mannered man, standing before a congregation of mild-mannered people, exhorting everybody to be more mild-mannered".

Now I am not saying the Christian's main business is to stir up trouble and certainly not personal antagonism because of a wrong attitude, but when Christianity is inoffensive, it is ineffective. All we have to do is be Christians and take our stand with Christ for right against wrong, and there will be trouble aplenty. If there is no trouble, then there is something wrong with our Christianity.

The world has put up a "please do not disturb" sign, and some Christians are walking on tiptoes to respect it. They labor under the mistaken notion that it is un-Christian to take a stand against anything.

The man who is not against something is not really for anything. To be for God with any fervor is to be opposed to evil with equal fire. The degree of intensity with which we hate evil is a pretty good gauge of how much we love God. John 3rd chapter.

Lord, help our Christianity to be effective!

SAN PABLO, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings: Just received the April issue of The Christian Courier, and am enjoying the articles and news letters. Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones, and we pray for the new babes in Christ.

Please continue your prayers for Brother and Sister Cooper's granddaughter, Kathy Hull. We thank God for answered prayers. As of Thursday 3-31-94, she has improved somewhat, but still needs your prayers.

Brother Jack's back is bothering him, but we know that God will take care of that, too. Sister Melody Glynnell's mother has lung cancer and needs our prayers. Also pray for Sister Melody and her family, Louis, James, and Jacob.

Please find enclosed 2 older copies of the paper dated June 1970 and April 1973. Brother J.D. Logan has a very good article about "Easter" in the April 1973 issue. It is very timely, being that season is upon us. Please return them to me when you are through. I thought I had many more but not the dates needed.

We wish to thank the Seattle, Wa. congregation for their labor of love in publishing the Christian Courier. Let us all help out with getting a copier. It would cost much less to run copies than printing.

In Christian love,
Homer Bryant
1273 Plumleigh Lane
Concord, Ca. 94521-3410
(510) 682-2600

SEA-TAC, WA

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

In our desire to hear from other congregations, it has become apparent that perhaps you would enjoy hearing from us as well. We stand corrected with red faces. Please, rest assured we will strive to do better.

We're all very excited about the Courier. It has caused us to spend more time together as a group, working through all these challenges. We feel so much closer to each other and to all of you as we stuff your envelopes and read your letters. "Courier Sundays" are an all day event, with basket dinner, singing and fellowship. Even the kids work on the paper , down to any who can count to one. (as in one paper in one envelope.)

We're also very excited that Sisters Kim McCay, Kim Foundation and Karen Foundation have moved to this area. These lovely young ladies are a definite asset to our group.

Sister Nell McCay is still on crutches and canes, but the doctor says her pain will pass in time, up to 3 months.

We've had a few visitors lately. Several were strangers to us, but we enjoyed their presence. Also Brother Bob and Sister Wilma Farley were here on their way to and from Arizona. Brother Bob spoke for us. More recently some of Brother Kelly and Sister Kathy McCay's family were here. Kathy continues to need prayers for her head injuries from the train wreck last November.

Sister Lynell Forsman recently spent some time in Texas and traveled with Brothers Jerry McCay and David, also Sisters Sheila and Britni and Shonda McCay to several states further east. They worshiped and had lunch at Baron, Okla. and very much enjoyed the brethren there. She also spent a Sunday worship and fellowship at Lorenzo, Tex., with those loved ones.

The rest of the folks here are very busy and mostly fine.

We would like to express our thanks for the prayers on the behalf of Ellis' mother, Sister Maggie Forsman as she seems to be doing somewhat better than expected, but still is in declining health.

Our thanks and our love to all of you,
Sea-Tac church of Christ

YUMA, AZ

Hello to all from the Church in Yuma,

Greetings, with the hope all is well in the brotherhood. We are all doing pretty well, except for Brother Al Jones. He just doesn't have many good days.

We are experiencing some rather warm spring weather. We have had a mild winter, its been most enjoyable. The citrus is in bloom now and the aroma is everywhere.

Brother and Sister Ridlon had to leave early so that Sister Doris can attend a clinic in Albequerque. She has had a bad cough for quite some time and it seems that one of her problems may be Valley Fever. We miss them, but look for them back come fall. They and the others that winter with us are a great asset to us here.

Our son Joe and his wife Diane Davis have a new son, his name is Joseph James Harry Davis. I think he will be lucky and go as Joey. He is a healthy, fine looking boy, born Feb. 9,1994.

Brother and Sister Broadway are thinking strongly of selling their home and relocating near the church. Night driving has become difficult and they feel more at ease being close to church.

This is about all the news I can think of. May God bless and look after us and everyone. Take care and be good.

In Christian love,
The Harry Davis family

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
July 25-31	Lorenzo, TX	Jerry Perigen
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest Speakers
TBA	Comanche, OK	Al Way



Baptisms

Albert Crum	Aloha, OR	March, 1994
Brannan Berry	Cedaredge, CO	April 3, 1994



Births

Samantha Bixler	Aztec, N.M.	Dec. , 1993
To Duane & Siegenliede Bixler		
Joseph Davis	Yuma, AZ	Feb., 1994
To Joe & Diane Davis		



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

J. D. Johnson	Aztec, N.M.	heart condition
Lahoma Noyes	Aztec, N.M.	knee operation
Doris Ridlon	Aztec, N.M.	bad cough
Andrea Silva	Aloha, OR	tonsils removed
Paul Bruce	Carlsbad, N.M.	nursing home
Maggie Forsman	Glenwood, WA	88 yrs old-declining health
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	back problems
Melody Glynnell	San Pablo, CA	lung cancer
Nell McCay	Seattle, WA	walking with cane
Kathy Hull	Sacramento, CA	diabetic, condition same, but improved
John Usrey	Sacramento, CA	cancer-bladder
Paul Lucas	Waterford, CA	brain surgery
Don Weakley	Waterford, CA	cancer of lungs
Kathy McCay	Yakima, WA	head injuries from train accident
Al Jones	Yuma, AZ	in hospital



Deaths

Belle Taylor	Yakima, WA	April 17, 1994



WORD SEARCH: MAY

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

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

WORD LIST

ASSYRIA	FLOURISH	LEBANON	SNOFRU
BABYLON	FORESTS	MEMORIES	SOLOMON
BAPTISM	FRUIT	MOUNTAINS	STUMBLINGBLOCK
BROTHER	HABAKKUK	NEIGHBOR	TIMBER
CEDAR	HIRAM	OFFEND	TREES
DAVID	INHERIT	PROMISES	TYRE
DOCTRINE	KINGDOM	RELIGION	UNITY
EVERLASTING	LEAVES	SERVICE	WATER