

The Christian Courier



JULY, 1994

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

IS THE NAME OF JESUS GLORIFIED IN YOU?

Brothers and sisters in Christ I would like to offer this question for our consideration. Let us read II Thess. 1:12: *"That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

This is the foremost thought and goal of every faithful Christian. But, let us look further than the mere surface of these words. People of churches in all faiths claim the right to be worthy of the name of our Lord. We read in Eph. 4:5: *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."* To interpret II Thess. 1:12 to mean Jesus' name can be glorified in any or many faiths in not *"according to the grace of our God."* We cannot separate the grace of God and the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like all who read this article to read John 20:30-31: *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.* "Can we receive this to mean to be saved we need only to believe? It is said by the world we need only to receive Jesus as our savior and by a simple prayer of faith we are saved. If we receive Jesus as our savior are we not also commanded to receive his commandments? Let us read John 14:15: *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*



In keeping the commandments of our Lord there are many things we must do. We must be members of the body of Christ, Eph. 5:30: *"For we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones."* Also read Zech 6:12-13: *"And speak unto him, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."* Can anyone say the church can wear another name other than Christ? Not by the grace of God. We cannot deny our Lord's holy name and still be worthy of his name.

Some people say we need only to have faith. In doing so they read some scriptures by themselves without associating them with other scriptures. If I were to believe I only needed faith I would read Rom 10:9-10: *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* These scriptures say we must believe in our heart. Can this be the extent of our obedience? Surely a person searching for the truth can understand verse ten in saying *"unto righteousness"* and *"unto salvation"* does not mean into, meaning there are further steps to be taken.

Let us add to our faith these things: Acts 3:19: *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord,"* Matt 10:32-33: *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."* Acts 22:16: *"And now why tariest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*

These are the steps that we must take to be in Christ. (If I omitted hearing it was not intentional.) Hearing; Rev. 2:7: Faith; Heb. 11:6; Repentance; Acts 3:19; Confession; Matt. 10:32-33; Baptism; Gal. 3:27. No one can find another method to be a member of the body of our Lord. These steps must be taken in order and according to the plan of salvation our dear Lord died for.

When we become members of the church by completing these steps we begin to be worthy of the name of our Lord; Eph. 4:1: *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."* and Rom. 6:4: *"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."* Can anyone say baptism is optional but not essential for salvation? Not according to grace of God that is spoken of in II Thess. 1:12. Having taken these measures let us read Rom 6:1-2: *"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?"* We must confess Jesus with our lives also.



To continue in righteousness we need to consider the assembling of ourselves together. Heb. 10:25: *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."* There are sometimes events that prevent us from going to church. However God knows if these are circumstances of our own making. When we don't go to church we had better have a reason God will justify on the day of judgment for the consequences are eternal. Some people say they are pro-choice meaning they reserve the right to live their lives as they choose. (Those who defend abortion for example) People that believe this need to read I Cor. 6:19-20: *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* This life and body we have does not belong to us, God loans these to us to use in preparing for the judgment. Do we use or misuse this life and body?

Another sin the world seems to think to be harmless is using God's name in vain. Let us read Exodus 20:7: *"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."* When I hear someone use the name of God or Jesus in profanity I wonder if people really listen to the words coming out of their mouth. It is just as sinful to take God's commandments in vain as it is His name. Read Heb. 10:28-29: *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"*

I also want to talk about the communion. I heard a man, that claimed to be a church of Christ preacher (individual cup), say, *"I don't think it makes any difference how Jesus instituted the communion."* This man really needed to study Heb. 10:28-29. First of all read John 6:55: *"For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed."* The individual cuppers say the bread and grape juice represent Jesus' body and blood. Is this what our Lord Jesus said in Mark 14:22-24?: *"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."* Not a chance! Also where does anyone find the authority to divide the bread and cup before giving thanks? Now read Rom. 16:18: *"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."*

Some people want to keep the bread unbroken until the first person receives it. Is this what Jesus did? Not a chance! Jesus himself said in John 10:1: *"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."*

The communion must be observed in this order: the bread is taken, given thanks for, and given to those who are church members; the cup is taken, given thanks for, and given to those who are church members. Any other method is not to the glory of our Lord according to the grace of God.

Some people believe the bread and cup are a memorial or in place of Jesus' body and blood. He said in his own words, *"This is my body"* and *"This is my blood."* How can anyone dispute the words of our Lord and claim to be worthy of his name?

Another way Jesus' name must be glorified in us is forgiveness. Read Mark 11:25-26? *"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."*

Many congregations have fallen apart because church members feel offended because of others. First of all none of us are above sin, Rom. 3:23: *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* Have we ever walked up to a church member, we feel, through studying the plan of salvation, has fallen and said, "I know how you feel. Would you like to talk about it?" Or do we consider those who have fallen away, many times members of our own families, not worthy to attend church with us? Do we attempt to "Freeze out" those who have fallen? Read I John 2:11: *"But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness*

hath blinded his eyes." When someone is angered by hearing the gospel preached in truth and in spirit it really is sad. We cannot and must not forbid others from attending church with us and still glorify Jesus' name. Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us love one another for we are commanded to do so.

Obeying God is not a part time job. Too many people will be lost because they have allowed the issues and temptations of the world to invade their faith. Read Matt. 6:33: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* I have heard some people say "I don't have time to go to church" I even heard one person say, "It is all right to go to church if your don't have anything else to do." Some people miss church to go on vacations, to work on their job, and some just want to stay in bed and sleep late. How many of these will wish, while standing before God on judgment day, they had more faith when they had the chance?

We are given one lifetime and must use it wisely. For this time God loans us is an unsure amount to us. The time will come for all of us when our opportunities will be gone. So let us use wisely the things that pertain to life and godliness.

Let us read Col. 2:6: *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him."* We only have one gospel regardless of what the world tries to tell us. All man-made fabrications are wrong, and will only result in being lost. We cannot allow these *"words of eternal life"* to slip through our fingers. Also read II Pet. 1:5-11: *"And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

These are the things God's divine power gives unto us. It is our choice whether to use them as we are commanded or not to use them. They cannot be changed although many people devote their entire life to trying. As servants of righteousness we must search for ways to increase spiritual unity and the love we are commanded to have. Only those who choose to be lost will be lost.

Too often we hear others laugh and make jokes about the church of Christ. I am proud to be a member of the only true church, that wears the name of our Lord. Also I am proud and thankful for every chance to share the joy of righteousness with anyone that is willing. I haven't seen the church member who I would refuse to take communion after. I have never intentionally tried to offend anyone by attempting to preach the gospel. If I have I pray for God's and all others forgiveness.

I do however believe in preaching the truth as the truth is given. If some choose to reject the gospel let it be their loss and not ours. Read I Cor. 14:38: *"But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."* We must not allow others to discourage us or cause us to be ashamed. For truly the people of the world do not poke fun at the true gospel of themselves. They are saying the things of their master who is Satan. If they choose to follow after sin instead of righteousness let it be on their account in the judgment and not ours.

Now read Col. 2:18: *"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."*

In closing I want to say I realize these things are only a few of the things we must do as members of the church. Let us be *"steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."* (I Cor. 15:58) and in II Tim. 4:8: *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

In Christ's love,
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HOW TO DETERMINE WHEN A MAN IS SICK



Does he miss church?
He may be sick.

Does he miss work?
He probably is sick.

Does he miss his favorite sport or amusement?
He really is sick.

From the **Gospel News Courier**, March 1964

GOD'S BUILDING: WHAT IS IT?

In Acts 7:49 God asks the question. *"...what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"* We see from this that there was a house to be built, so what kind of a house and what is the material that is put into it?

Isa. 2:2-3. *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go up to say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."* In this scripture we find that the Lord's house was going to be built, in the last days; the last days of the Jewish covenant, (not the end of time).

Now in I Tim. 3:15 we find the house of God is the church. We also see in Acts 2 that Peter started laying the stones of the walls. And Acts 2:47. *"...And the Lord added to the church* (or house) *daily such as should be saved."* In Acts 2 this was in Jerusalem and in the last days.

I Cor. 3:9-13. We see here that Paul said. *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."* (So will they stand the test?)

Will your faith stand in the word of God or will it fail when you are tried, Rev. 2:10 by persecutions, evil speaking, making a choice to be content with such things as you have, Phil. 4:11? I Tim. 6:6, 8, Heb. 13:5. Or are we always looking for more money and more things of this life? What kind of person are we, II Pet. 3:11-14?

I Pet 2:5. *"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."* Do we make preparations and count the cost when we start this house on Christ and the apostles, Eph. 2:20-22?

God said through the prophet, Isa. 40:3, (also St. John 1:19-23), *"...Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* Mt. 3:3, speaking of John the Baptist, said. *"For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."* John prepared a people for the foundation and Christ, John 10:2-3, came and led his sheep out and started building his house, Mt. 16:18-19, and called it his church, which is his people. His church is built out of people that will do his will, Mt. 7:21-23. Then in Acts 20:28 Paul told the elders to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood, for in verse 29 he warns that grievous wolves would enter in and not spare the flock, which are God's people.

These people are peculiar: they are different than others. For when others are striving for more money and looking for a better job his people are content with such things as they have, Heb. 13:5, and are not covetous. They are willing to help a brother or sister in need, I John 3:18, not looking on their own things but also on the things of others, Phil. 2:4.

We are peculiar in that we don't want any to perish, II Pet. 3:9-10, but that all would come to repentance. But some have so departed from this thought that do not consider others in the church as being equal with them because they have done a worse sin than themselves. So they think. Not first considering the cost of a soul that they cause to be lost by the way they treat them. For in I Tim. 4:16 Paul said. *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*

I Tim. 4:8. *"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."* I Cor. 3:10. *"...let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon."* (On this foundation). For, I Cor. 6:19-20, we are not our own; so we can't do as we want. We are bought with a price. We belong in God's building as one of the living stones, a precious stone, Rom. 12:1-3. Let us be careful.

In love to all,
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The vain and the young
May attend for awhile
But thanks be to Jesus
For His Spirit to guide.

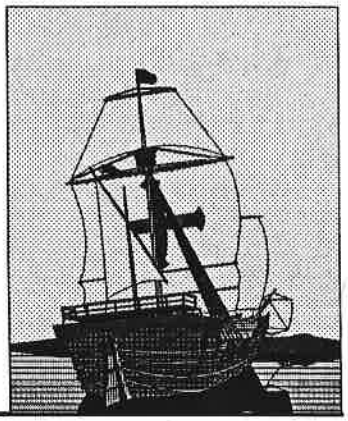
Let us fancy those things
That will never decay,
Nor listen to all that
Deceivers may say.

Written by Brother R.C. Clements' mother,
Mrs. Mattie Clements, about 1890.

Excerpted from It Is Written, Aug., 1954.

REDIGGING OUR FATHER'S WELLS

restoring God's original vision for America



THE VOYAGE OF THE MAYFLOWER

When tourists visit the history-rich area of New England, why are more drawn to a rock on a lonely beach on the coast of Massachusetts than to the old Bay Colony sites in Boston where so many greater things happened? When they leave the rock at the Plymouth Plantation, they're more apt to feel as if they've been on a pilgrimage than a sight-seeing tour. The handful of pilgrims that God used on that day of Nov 11,1620 to lay many of our foundation stones in this country are the focus this month in **"THE VOYAGE OF THE MAYFLOWER".**

The first matter to clear up is why did these pilgrims come to America at such great expense and danger? We were taught in secular education that it was a matter of religious persecution they were running from in England. They really were not trying to run from anything! They had seen 12 years of religious freedom in Holland up to the voyage and England itself was changing with the public distribution of the King James Bible. These were a *missionary-minded* people used to being tempered with fire, not runaway gold diggers! Like the Spanish and French Jesuits, destined for sainthood from the start, these were ordinary Christian men with their families.

They did have claims against the Church of England (a Protestant church), however. To name a few: 1) No person but Jesus Christ could take the title "Head of the Church", not a bishop, pope, King or Queen. 2) Worship would be conducted with public preaching of the scriptures, teaching, singing, and free praying - a departure from the established liturgical traditions of nearly 16 centuries. (Hymns were not sung in the services before this time by anyone but professionally appointed singers) 3) Authority came from canonized scripture, not from church hierarchy formed under the "House of Bishops".

This House of Bishops sought full church control in England, and King James I let them have their way (Queen Elizabeth was not so persuaded) in rounding up any "fanatics" or "heretics" perpetuating the movement. The movement had two groups: 1) "Separatists"- those who believed the Church of England had strayed beyond redemption, and so they "came out from among them", and 2) "Puritans" - the much larger group who believed they should stay in the church and try to purify it. The Bishops saw nothing that needed to be purified, and mockingly called them "Puritans". The Bishops feared the Separatists more, so the pressure against them was greater (fines and imprisonments). Some Sepratists had gone into hiding in England, others began moving to Holland (it was open as a "refuge") in about 1607, and the ones in Leyden sparked interest in making the voyage to America (particularly William Bradford, John Robinson, and William Brewster). They were bound together in a "covenant relationship" brand of Christian faith and practice. ("covenant" life will be reviewed next month)

The obstacles they faced in getting the voyage off the ground were many: 1) The first English venture to colonize America (1606 in Jamestown,Virginia) was a dismal failure-lack of leadership, conflict between captains in charge, and with Indian tribes, dead-lazy English "Gentlemen" who would rather die than do hard work (and many did- they had gone there to get rich finding gold), insufficient crops to feed their numbers, and a greater than 50% yearly mortality rate due to starvation. 2) Saving enough money to make the voyage (they spent 12 years of savings, working 12-15 hours/day) 3) Declining numbers of Christian groups who shared the same vision 4) Only able to send 1/3 of their congregation in Leyden,Holland - 16 men, 11 women, 14 children (2 more children were born on the trip!) 5) Finding a company to charter the voyage (the selection was slim because of the risks) 6) Financiers who went back on their word, which delayed the trip 2 weeks while they sold their trip foodstores to pay the extra money. 7) An average individual survival rate of 50% in crossing the Atlantic (because of delays, they traveled in the stormy season) 8) Traveling with 80 other "strangers" from England for 2 months (most turned out sharing similar views regarding the Church of England) 9) One of the 2 boats they were originally traveling on, the *Speedwell*, broke down twice, 3 days into the trip

(they returned, and after 2 failed attempts at fixing the leaks, loaded everything into the *Mayflower* - 20 people dropped out of the trip at this point; God had sifted them Gideon-style; the number was too great to do the miracle) 10) With the delays, food supplies were shortened to a 1 mo. supply available after their landing. Robert Cushman wrote back to a friend,"... if ever we make a plantation, God works a miracle."

On August 5,1620, the *Mayflower* set sail for the new world. For 66 days the souls of everyone on board would be tried to the limits. First of all, crew captain Christopher (remember Christ-bearer?) Jones ordered all passengers under deck, into 2 lower decks, to keep from getting swept off the ship by the waves. Those 102 people remained in quarters of combined floor space of about the size of a basketball court with about 5 1/2 ft. of headroom for 5 weeks (somewhat like Jonah in the belly of a whale). The crowded and miserable conditions, dim lighting, crying children, no cooked meals brought out sins buried for years - anger, self-pity, bitterness, jealousy, despair. All these sins had to be faced, confessed, given to the Lord for cleansing. No matter how sick they felt, they continued to seek the Lord together, praying and singing into peace and thanksgiving, just as they had learned from their years in Holland.

There were only two fatalities on the trip; a servant who refused to drink his daily portion of lemon juice and died of scurvy, and one of the ship's crew members who gloated over the pilgrim's seasickness and delighted in telling them how much he would "enjoy sewing them in shrouds and feeding them to the fish" (death was a common visitor on long voyages). He alone caught a deadly fever and died within a day, and was put over the rail in a shroud! From that point on, the crew never mocked the pilgrims again. Another servant, John Howland, almost died when he came up on deck to get away from the stench for awhile, and was swept off the boat by storm waves, but one of the ship's ropes loose from the rigging was down in the icy water, and it trailed over his hand, and taking that one-chance grip, they were able to pull him back on board and nurse him back to health from the cold exposure.

Shortly after the halfway point,a fierce storm blew the ship almost on its side, and the main mast crossbeam cracked and swung against the deck with a tremendous thud. The crew frantically tried to lift it back into place, but it was much too heavy. William Brewster, who had coordinated the trip originally, remembered bringing a long iron screw on board as part of a printing press. With that screw, they were able to raise the mast and its crossbeam into place as the pilgrims prayed, "Yet Lord, thou canst save!". Otherwise, the *Mayflower* would have been lost at sea. Even the crew gave God the praise for his miraculous salvation at sea.

Although they had originally contracted to start a plantation on the south border of the Hudson River (under The Virginia Company), further expedition was not approved once the Mayflower had reached Cape Cod. This forced them to set up a settlement in New England quickly (it was winter, Nov.,1620) and they arranged a form of government after their covenant-style church government from principles found in scripture, which was put in document form, and is known historically as *The Mayflower Compact.*

Next month, **"COLONIAL LIFE IN NEW ENGLAND: A STUDY IN COVENANT CHRISTIANITY."**

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CAN WE FELLOWSHIP ALL?

I will not attempt to wrest the scriptures (2 Peter 3:16) in attempting to answer this question. I'll let the scripture answer it by showing how we must treat certain sins.

Fornication: deliver to Satan. 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5.

Fornication, covetousness, idolatry, railing, drunkenness, extortion: with such no not to eat. 1 Corinthians 5:11.

Fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, jesting, whoremongering: let it not once be named among you. Ephesians 5:3-5.

Walking disorderly: withdraw yourselves. 2 Thessalonians 3:6.

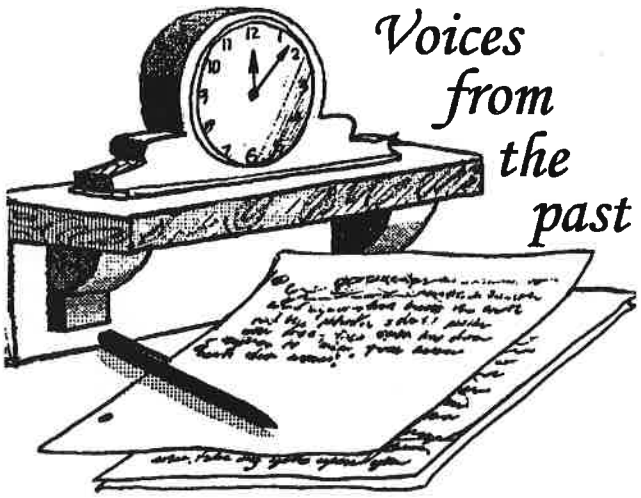
Not working: with quietness they work and eat their own bread. 2 Thessalonians 3:12.

Heretic: reject after the first and second admonition. Titus 3:10.

Trespassing against a brother: let him be as a heathen and publican, if he will not hear you, two brethren and the church. Matthew 18:15-17

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THE BOOK OF LIFE



One that is born again is saved from past sins and their names are written in the Lamb's book of Life, but God told Moses that whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book, Ex. 23:33. In Psalms 69:28, *"Let them be blotted out of the book of living, and not be written with the righteous."* In Daniel 12:1, the ones that have the promise, are the ones with their names written in the book. If we want our names to stay in the book, there is something for us to do, Matt. 25:25-30. This will be our doom if we neglect our duty. Christ sent out the seventy, and they were told not to rejoice because the spirits were subject to them, but to rejoice because their names are written in Heaven, Luke 10:20. All that are in the Church are saved from past sins and their names are written in heaven, Heb. 12:23. The names of those who labored with Paul were written in the Lamb's book of life, Phil. 4:3. We must overcome, if our name is confessed before the Father and His angels, Rev. 3:5. Satan has made war with the Saints, and all will worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world, Rev. 13:7-8. Now notice Rev. 20:12. The ones who will be able to stand, are the ones whose names are written in the book of life, and whose works are found perfect. *"And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."* Rev. 21:27. *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* Rev. 22:18-19.

R.H. Peel
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BAPTISM COLUMN NO. 7

OUR NAMES WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

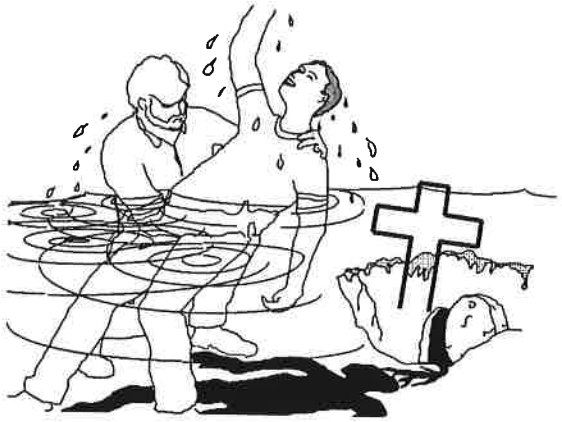
In this month's column on baptism we wish to point out from the scriptures that it is by baptism that our names are written in the book of life in heaven.

This is of course very important to us, as we read in Rev. 20:15. *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Jesus offered the following reward to those of the church in Sardis, Rev. 3:5. *"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."* For Jesus to say he would not blot out their names out of the book of life (if they overcame), their names would have to already be there.

So how are our names written there in the first place?

Well, we see in Heb. 12:23 that it is the people in the church who are written in heaven. *"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,".*



The next scripture we wish to examine is simply a connecting scripture, to show that the church is Christ's body. Col. 1:18. *"And he* (Jesus) *is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

Last, look to 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."*

Notice the pattern. We are baptized into His one body, which is the church, which is where our names are written in the Lamb's book of life in heaven.

In Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Bible speaks of Jesus in so many different ways that the infidel is confused, and claims that the Bible contradicts itself? Let's look at just a few examples and see whether they are contradictions, or not:

Is Christ one with God?

- They are one. John 10:30, *"I and my Father are one."*
- They are not one. John 16:28, *"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."*

Many religious people in the world are confused about this relationship, believing they are the same person. If this were so, they why did Jesus pray to God on numerous occasions, or say to God just before he died on the cross, *"...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* They are not one person, but they are one in will, plan, and purpose. There is no contradiction.

Is Christ merciful or unmerciful?

- Merciful. Luke 9:56, *"For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."*
- Unmerciful. Rev. 6:16, *"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."*

Christ is not willing that any should perish , but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). He does hate sin, and the picture in Revelation is of those who have embraced sin and have not repented. Mercy is definitely present when sin is remitted because of our obedience to Him.

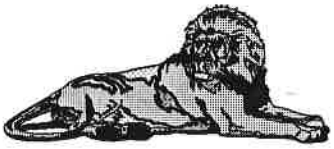
Did Christ bring war or peace?

- War. Matt. 10:34-36, *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."*
- Peace. John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

Jesus did bring peace, and He said it was not the same as the world's peace. The Christian will always have turmoil about him as he presents God's Word to a world who hates Christ. This will even cause problems within family relationships. Paul, a Christian well worth emulating as he lived for Jesus, suffered much, yet was at peace with Jesus. He said, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness..."* (2 Tim. 4:7-8). It gives one comfort as he does God's will to know there is a greater life awaiting the faithful.

Was Christ a Lion, or a Lamb?

- A lion. Rev. 5:5, *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."*
- A Lamb. John 1:36, *"And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!"*





He is both. The lion represents power and authority; the lamb represents innocence and sacrifice. Both are correct and fitting representations of Jesus. He was also referred to as a vine (John 15:5), which represents his close relationship to the church and his disciples (branches); a chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20), which represents Jesus as the foundation of the church; a shepherd (John 10:11), which represents one who watches over the flock; a door (John 10:9), which represents Jesus as being our only access to heaven; and bread (John 6:51), which represents Jesus satisfying our needs. There are many more examples, but none of these can be viewed as being contradictory. They are merely showing the different facets of Jesus in our lives.

Was Jesus murdered?

- Laid down His life. John 10:17, *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."*
- Jews murdered Him. Acts 2:23, *"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."*

Both statements are true. Jesus voluntarily gave His life into the hands of the Jews, who hated Him. They had Him crucified. He laid down His life. They killed Him.

There are many, many examples, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, where those unlearned in the scriptures think they find contradictions. I have found that those who make such claims are really unwilling to study the truth. They want to believe the Bible is false so they can live their life of sin without their conscience getting in the way.

In love of the truth,
Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th St.
Seattle, WA 98168

Precious Memories

"...the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

(Psalms 112:6)

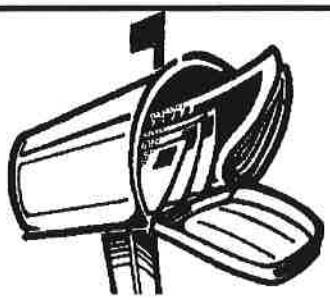
It Is Written, July 1954 - • Bro. Coy Garrison of Grand Prairie, TX reports of remodeling a garage into a church building. He writes: *"We realize that this is not the most desired place, but we are too, very thankful for the same."* He also writes of baptizing a young woman.

Gospel News Courier, July 1964 - • Bro. Ken Baldwin writes encouraging all to come to the Delta camp meeting. • Many write of successful meetings, including: Yuma, AZ with Bro. Elmer Hunt; Carlsbad, NM with Bro. J.C. Spurlin; Furnish Canyon with Bro. Paul Ferguson (one was baptized); and Modesto, CA with Bro. Tom Broadway. •Especially encouraging was the report of the weekend meeting to open the new building at Baron, OK. According to Bro. Earl Atchley's report, Bro. Paul Auslam gave the first lesson on Saturday night, and Bro. Lloyd Treat, Bro. J.C. Spurlin and Bro. W.E. Daniels did the preaching on Sunday. One was baptized during the meeting, then June 14th two of Bro. Jim Brown's daughters and one of his nieces were baptized. • Sis. Maud Scott writes that *"The little girls played house again"* during the Carlsbad meeting. The editor, Bro. Roy Snoderly, explained. *"In 1962 when Bro. Ferguson and myself attended the 5th Sunday Meeting in Lorenzo, Tex., we kidded Sister Scott and Sister Willis about playing house like little girls. When they are together, it is a joy to watch and to listen as they visit and talk of days past as they do the house work. Two fine lovely, kind and faithful sisters in Christ waiting His coming."* (See closing scripture) • Bro. Roy writes of those (at the Modesto meeting) who visited Bro. J.D. Condor for quite some time, visited Sis. Stark at the Rest Home, and visited those who were sick and unable to attend services. Let us remember that this kind of visiting and encouragement are also good works that are commanded by the Bible. (See closing scripture) • Bro. Donald Dabbs writes of the birth of Bro. George and Sis. Retha Morris's daughter (Debbie); and how much they missed Bro. & Sis. Hayse Morris and some of their family, and their singing, when they moved back to Kentucky.

We didn't have a copy of the July 1974 Courier.

Christian Courier, July 1984 - • Bro. Ron Herbert writes of baptizing Steve Martin and his (Bro. Ron's) daughter, Jill Herbert April 29th, then of their wedding May 19, 1984 with Bro. Ken Baldwin having the honor of marrying his grandchildren.

Malachi 3:16-17. *"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."*



Cards and Letters

ALOHA, OR

Greetings to the brotherhood in Christ Jesus,

We failed to report in last month but we are all doing fine in our measure of health. The church here seems to be growing stronger in faith and in spirit and growing close as one mind. We had a very wonderful month of May as we were glad and surprised to see brother and sister Carl and Betty Calson, they stopped in for services to visit. Brother Carl is always good for a few thought provoking bible questions.

Sister Doris Jared from La Harbor congregation made a long trip up to visit with us, we all enjoy her visits and welcome her back.

I will close for now, remember us in your prayers as you will all be in ours. May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Chuck Garner, for the Aloha congregation,

SEA-TAC, WA

Greetings to the family of the faithful in Christ Jesus spread abroad; how great our Father is to lengthen the days of His grace in our time, and continue to reconcile us unto Himself. May you all enjoy true fellowship with Him today.

The month of June has brought two school graduates into our congregation: Damien Staley and Matt Shepherd. Damien has successfully completed his High School studies and is off to applying those skills toward grander things. Matt has graduated from the University of Washington School of Engineering, earning a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, with highest honors. Nothing will please him more than to use this knowledge to glorify the One who gave it over the years.

The Seattle congregation announces its first week-long meeting, starting Sat. July 31 and running through Sun. Aug. 7,1994. This year, both J.D. Logan and Robert Davis will alternate speaking engagements, bringing the most fitting treasures of the Word they can find to anyone hungering for the Truth. The event figures to take place on the grounds here, and we are looking into the possibility of renting a tent to hold the meetings in (as in the days of Moses!) Can you come and be a part of the renewal our Father would want?

The kids here are waiting excitedly to hear from those others who want to pen pal with them. Their desires to communicate are a strong reminder to the entire body to be "kindly affectioned to one another", and a personally written word can leave a hallmark like nothing else. We should know; we've read the Bible.

Terry and Suzie Warford are expecting their 2nd child in early July, and have "graduated" from their childbirth classes in preparation for the grand delivery. Announcements should be forthcoming in August.

Mid-week Bible studies are currently in the book of Proverbs (about 2/3 finished). What a tremendous wealth of Godly wisdom those little verses bring to all - timeless tid-bits of truth that show how to use the "nuts and bolts" in building a life of service to God, and yet daring enough to describe how another rejects his Creator, so that your sons may be able to discern both ways of life.

Our numbers of people hope to see many of you while traveling this summer. Be overflowed with contentment in loving God and keeping His commandments.

This last month we all enjoyed a brief visit with the Shepherd family who came up for Matt's graduation. Those visiting were Mary; Adam, his three daughters Vanessa, Lorianne, and Nikki; also Tim and Cassie as well as Matt Matlock and Barbara Bumgardner. We really enjoyed some great singing while they were here.

In Christian love from the Sea-Tac Church of Christ

YUMA, AZ

Brother Kevin Yeghoian and Sister Jackie Brister were united in marriage June 6, 1994. The ceremony was held at the Ave. B Church of Christ of Yuma, AZ. The services were conducted by Brother Bill Martin.

The bride is the daughter of Brother Tony and Sister Louise Brister. The bride and her attendants were lovely in their hand made dresses. Some of the ladies gathered in the dining room and had sewing sessions making the gowns. A reception was held after the ceremony in the dining room.

It was a lovely occasion and love and laughter was shared by many. We wish the bride and groom all of God's blessings and many years of happiness.

We are happy to announce the baptism of James Boling, age 9 1/2.

In Christian love, Verda Nelson

Bulletin Board







Gospel Meeting

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
July 31-Aug. 7	Seattle, WA	J. D. Logan & Robert Davis
August 7-14	Yakima, WA	Skip Berry & Guest Speakers
August 7-14	Comanche, OK	Al Way

Baptisms

James Boling	Yuma, AZ	May 22, 1994; age 9 1/2

Marriage

Kevin Yeghoian & Jackie Brister	Yuma, AZ	June 6, 1994

Graduation

Phil Bumgardner	Yakima, WA	mid year 1993-1994

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

Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	back problems
Larry Stevens	Lubbock, TX	open heart surgery
Kathy Hull	Sacramento, CA	diabetic, improving
Don Weakley	Waterford, CA	cancer of lungs
Roger Lamb	Yakima, WA	foot broken, auger fell on it
Earl Roby	Yakima, WA	stroke June 6th

Deaths

Joe Taylor	Comanche, OK	June 2, 1994

BROTHER JOE TAYLOR

Obituary:

Bro. Joe Taylor was born July 13, 1897. He married Oma on September 10, 1922. He passed from this life June 3, 1994. Bro. Ed Tate conducted his funeral.

Bro. Joe departed this life leaving his wife, Oma, with whom he shared 71 years; 3 children, Howard, Harold Don, & Ora Jo Williams; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren; and countless brothers and sisters in Christ who loved him dearly.

I first met Bro. Joe at the (then) Loco, OK congregation's meeting in 1985. I spent the night with him and Oma several times over the next few years. He became a very good friend to me. I remember him leading the song "Call For Workers" and will always think of him when singing it. And we should take close heed to the message Bro. Joe was trying to bring in leading it.

You know, we always want our kids to develop friendships with other kids around their own ages in the church, and this is good. But we should never forget that some of the most special friendships they (and we) can develop is with our older brothers and sisters in Christ.

And now, another dear friend is asleep in Jesus; waiting for that glorious trumpet sound when the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. May we take comfort from this knowledge.

With love, Terry Warford

I met Bro. and Sis. Taylor in 1968. While meeting with them periodically over the years, I learned to love them dearly as staunch members of Christ's body.

Bro. Joe was a member of the Lord's church for 82 years, and was a devoted Christian. The last time I saw him, three years ago, he was still carrying on the Lord's work.

He loved to work in his garden and I was told he was still working in it up until the time of his passing. I was also told he was still working in the Lord's vineyard as well. On the last Lord's day of his life, while too feeble to give a sermon, he still led a song from his seat and led in prayer.

His life should be an inspiration to us all as it was a life of devotion and dedication to the Lord. We will truly miss this stedfast soldier.

In loving memory, Bro. Howard McCay

WORD SEARCH: JULY

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

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

WORD LIST

BARREN	COVENANT	JERUSALEM	RAIMENT
BEGUILE	DARKNESS	KINGDOM	ROBBER
BLOOD	DILIGENCE	LAMB	SHEEPFOLD
BRANCHES	EXERCISE	LION	TEMPLE
BUILDING	EXHORTING	MASTERBUILDER	TESTAMENT
BURIED	FELLOWSHIP	MEMBERS	THIEF
CHANCE	FOUNDATION	MERCIFUL	UNFRUITFUL
CHARITY	GLORIFIED	MERCY	VINE
COMMANDMENTS	HEART	MOUNTAIN	VOCATION
COMMUNION	HUMILITY	PRISONER	WARNING