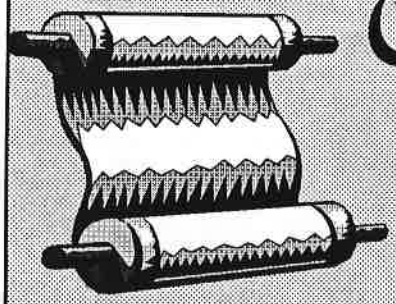
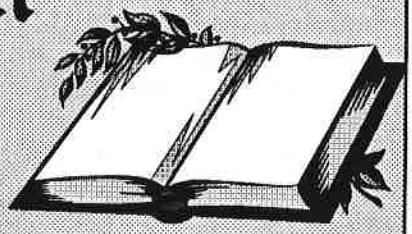


The Christian Courier



February, 1995

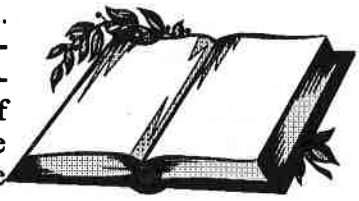
Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168
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GOD GIVES THE ANSWER

God judged man before he committed his first sin; when he said thou shall not. This judgment was carried out when he condemned man for the sin that was committed; Gen. 3. God's judgment of man has been about man disobeying his commands. Being disobedient to God's law is sin. Sin was running rampant with mankind until God put a stop to it by destroying everyone except eight souls. (Gen. 6:6-7)

God brought judgment upon the children of Israel by giving them a set of laws to abide by. The breaking of any of these laws was ins; some to forgiveness by sacrifice and some to death. God sent Moses to be ruler over the children of Israel, to direct and lead them, also to judge them.

Exodus explains the judgment used by God's law. God judged Moses harshly when he became angry while he smote the rock. Anger cost Moses an opportunity to go into the promised land. The people of Israel wanted a king to rule over them, and God gave them a king. The kings were subject to God through the prophets, and the kings appointed judges to be under them. (II Sam. 15) The kings and the judges became evil by judging without God's law; partiality (Prov. 24:23); taking bribes (Is. 61:8). God is the ultimate judge of all the earth (Gen. 18:25; Is. 33:22; and Ja. 4:12).



God's judgment by the law stayed in effect until Christ died upon the cross and the veil was rent in twain.

Let us look at the relationship of God and man until the time of Christ. God said: let us make man in our image and likeness to have dominion over living things and over all the earth (Gen. 1:26). Man started abusing the gift God gave to him by being disobedient and taking it upon himself not to obey.

When God rejected the gift Cain gave; Cain became full of hatred, forsaking God when he took it upon himself to become judge as to the quality of gifts. This judgment by man cost Abel his life.

God's love for his creation is so strong that he continued to give him a choice, and man's last chance is with Christ, his son. When we study God's relationship with man, we find he uses man to bring his laws into effect. When man chose to have a king, God gave them a king, but did not change the rulership. God gave us a king, his son Jesus Christ. As God spoke to the kings of old through the prophets for proper judgment; he speaks to us by our king and Savior Jesus Christ.



Just think how humble he was when he was upon the earth to honor his father by not being a judge and fulfilling the wishes of his father. When Christ fulfilled his work on earth with the final fight for us by crucifixion, he became judge over man.

Matt. 28:18, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and earth."* Rom. 6:14, *"Ye are not under the law, but under grace."* Rom. 6:15, *"What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid."* Rom. 6:16, *"Know ye not to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness."* We became a judge when we checked the rewards of good and evil; the rewards of our king, Jesus Christ become our choice.

Ga. 3:27, *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* Our worship to God is by the spirit of truth (John 4:24), then we must be obedient to the spirit God, the same as Moses.

Judgment was placed upon man by the perfect law of liberty. James 1:25, *"Whosoever looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deeds."* II Tim. 3:17, *"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* ROM 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* 1 Pet. 4:1-2, *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."* 1 Pet. 2:23, *"Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"* Notice the parallel between the judgment by the law of Moses and perfect law of liberty; obey; do not sin; God's judgment is righteous.

Where is there a passage of scripture where man has the right to use his judgment? God has always given man the right to use God's judgment. You will forgive my ignorance, if it be so, and if so, I stand to be corrected. Can we push, pull, or throw anyone into the kingdom of God? .Col. 1:12-14, *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"*

We can push, pull, or lead anyone to the door of the kingdom by God's word, but it is up to the individual person to give themselves to Christ. If we are not able to place anyone into the kingdom; how is it possible to cast anyone out? When we think this way, we are using man's judgment because we do not control who is in or out of the kingdom. A good example of this: Acts 2:47, *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* Luke 9:62, *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.* Who made the man look back: himself? Christ judgeth.

Luke 17:21, *" Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."* No one can cast out the spirit of God but ourselves, and then we are placed along side the sinner. 1 Pet. 4:18, *"And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"* John 3:5, *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

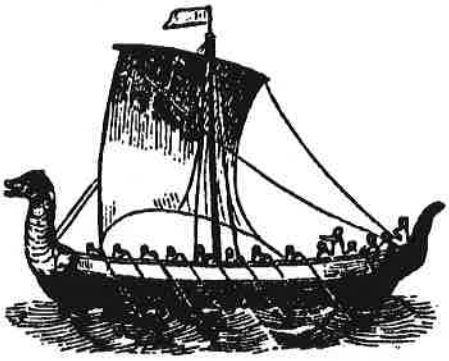
I Cor. 6:8-10, *"Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."* Rom 1:16 to the close tells us of the evilness of man, and if we find pleasure in those who commit these evil deeds, we are as bad as those who commit the same. God does not play with words and their use, for he is direct and precise.

Command is a position of highest authority; to direct, authoritatively, control, govern. Withdraw is to take away, remove, to terminate ones participation in, or use of something. II Thess. 3:6, *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."* Command and withdraw is a direct order and I must obey.

Can anyone say I am judging (man's judgment) when I am fulfilling a direct command by using God's judgment. I Cor. 5:10 tells us we cannot be in the world without the evil people being about us. Listen closely to what Paul tells us in I Cor. 5:10-13, *"Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."*

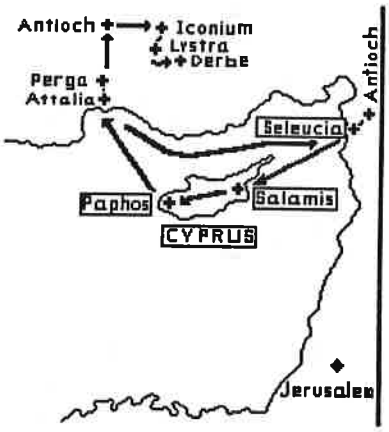
With brotherly love,
J. D. Jared
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Many people believe in God, but not many believe God.



THE TRAVELS OF PAUL —FIRST JOURNEY

Antioch to Paphos, Cyprus



While the disciples were doing the Lord's work and fasting at Antioch, the Holy Spirit spoke to them, *"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."* (Acts 13:2-3). Jesus beforehand had told Saul that He would send him to preach to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:16-18) Perhaps Saul thought the work he performed at Antioch fulfilled that duty. The Lord had something much more grand in store for him. One wonders what went through their minds on the eve of such a great undertaking. What an exciting time in their lives; yet, even though fraught with danger, the Holy Spirit was there to guide them.

The first leg of their journey took them 16 miles down the Orontes River to the coastal seaport Seleucia. On many of these occasions we don't know how Paul traveled, whether by boat, camel, horseback, or by foot. Since river travel here was available, although only by small craft, it is probable that Paul let the river carry him to the sea.

A major port near the mouth of the Orontes River has not been feasible since 1300 BC. Ever since the grave deforestation of the cedars of Lebanon by the Phoenicians (see Did You Know?, *The Christian Courier*, May, 1994), the problem of erosion by the Orontes River had filled in much of the sea at the mouth of the river. Even cities on the river had to deal with the silt, just as the towns did here in Washington along the Toutle River when Mt. Saint Helens blew its top. Because of this silt, the port site of Seleucia was selected about five miles north of the mouth of the Orontes River. This erosion remains a problem today. Seleucia is no longer a port, as the river ultimately filled and choked this city's outlet to the sea.

From Seleucia they sailed to Cyprus, an island on the north-eastern Mediterranean Sea. They very likely traveled on a merchant ship, as the Romans were mining and shipping copper from Cyprus. Although it is about 130 miles from Seleucia to Salamis, where they landed (Acts 13:5), it is uncertain how long the trip took them. The prevailing winds in that region are from the west, although in early Spring it is from the east. It is probable the ship had to do a lot of tacking to reach Salamis. Salamis was the largest city on the island, and had a huge Jewish population, with several synagogues. Barnabas undoubtedly felt quite at home, being a Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36-37). Finding all the synagogues where they preached the Word of God should have been no problem at all.

Although not previously mentioned as traveling with them, we find John Mark assisting Saul and Barnabas at Cyprus (Acts 13:5). John Mark was not a local citizen of Cyprus, but came from Jerusalem. It was there at his mother's house that the saints were gathered praying while Peter was in prison. (Acts 12:12).

They covered the island from one end to the other preaching the Word, eventually ending at Paphos, the seat of the government on Cyprus, on the western shore. Here they encountered Bar-Jesus (also called Elymas because of his practice in the black arts), a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, who was also an advisor to the governor. Sergius Paulus had heard of their work on the island and wanted a private hearing of what they were preaching. Elymas stubbornly opposed the gospel, and advised the governor against them. But Saul (hereafter called Paul — Paul being the Greek form of the Hebrew name Saul), being filled with the Holy Spirit, responded back to Elymas, *"... O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand."* (Acts 13:10-11). The judgment against Elymas was not done by Paul, but by the Lord through Paul. *"The hand of the Lord is upon thee."* The governor, after seeing this event, then believed (vs. 12). More importantly, he was astonished when he heard the Word taught.

Next article: Journey From Paphos.

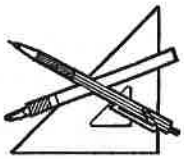
Written in love of the truth,

Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th St.
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THE CHURCH, BY CHANCE OR BY DESIGN?



"The Lord's House"

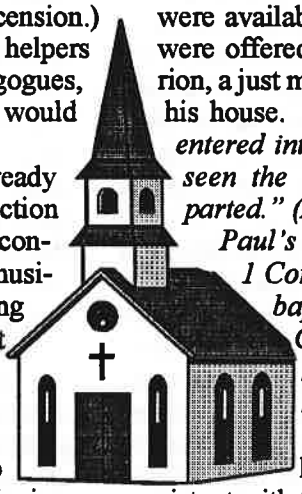


Ekliesia: "the called out", a word which was first used in the NT. in an utterance of Jesus at Caesarea Philippi: Matt. 16:18, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." And in his words in Matt. 18:17, shows the Hebrew word for "congregation," *"gahal"* ... "tell it to the church".

Yes, the Lord did have in mind as to what he wanted the church to be; "the Kingdom". This was the first reference, and the second instance of the use of "the church" may imply the successor to God's wilderness congregation. Some say that during Christ's ministry He made no plans for a church. But we know that he taught all the apostles and disciples so they would be ready and know how to conduct the church when it became a reality. (i.e. at his resurrection and ascension.)

He looked upon the apostles and disciples as helpers and as a brotherhood, recruited from the synagogues, the Temple and villages, and fish boats, etc. that would make up the church.

The earliest church, as seen in Acts 2, was already springing up from a lively belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The disciples and apostles, convinced of this persisting life in Christ, were enthusiastically spreading the gospel with the strong faith, convinced that in Jesus they had at last found the Messiah.



Following the ascension of Jesus our Lord, (Acts 1:9) the little company of his faithful returned to Jerusalem from Mt. Olivet (v. 12) to an upper room, where the eleven and the believing women (a company numbering about 120) met, with Peter as the "preacher" (Acts 1:12-15).

This cell of first Christians was multiplied after Pentecost to groups meeting in other homes, possibly that of James (Acts 21:18). Thus grew the church, with occasional large group meetings in the Temple arcades, where all citizens were permitted to gather for expression of ideas. The first church was still "in the house", when Pentecost came. (Acts 2).

The preaching of Peter (2:14-36); and the addition of 3000 souls who were baptized into the body of Christ, the church (v.38), the breaking of bread, (v. 42) and the voluntary sharing of possessions for mutual service based on actual need (v.45). Even after Pentecost, the apostles were free to go into Solomon's Porch of the Temple to heal and to preach the resurrection of Jesus, until their very access drew official rebuke (Acts 4:5-7). The rapid growth of the church is clearly stated in Acts 5:12-42. Even a *"great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."* (Acts 6:7).

Even though the church was first in Jerusalem and every other city, they were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The church was greeted, which was in the house of Priscilla and Aquila, Jesus' helpers "in Christ" (Rom. 16:5) *"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."* (v. 16). The church continued to grow and meet from house to house over which officials presided. The church was the structure on which others builded. Christian homes were available, which were places where the apostles were offered hospitality earlier. Cornelius the centurion, a just man, was one of those who invited them into his house. (Acts 10:23; 16:15) *"And they went out entered into the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed." (Acts 16:40).*

Paul's conception of the church is summarized in 1 Cor. 12:13-14, "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. For the body is not one member, but many." And we know that each member has their own function and obligation consistent with their own "Gifts" Verse 4, *"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."* But all working unto the same Spirit, and for the same cause, in all humility and love. Keeping in mind that the Savior is the head of the body (the church) Eph. 5:30, *"For we are member of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."*

The growth of the church is vividly indicated in Acts and in the N.T. Epistles. The baptism of Cornelius and other Gentiles by Peter at Caesarea, the seat of Roman government in Palestine, astonished those "of the circumcision" *Acts 10:45, "And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."* A step forward was taken when the Gentiles were permitted to enter the body of

Christ, for remission of sins. This step was not taken until after Peter was rebuked for unorthodox eating with Gentiles. *Acts 11:1, "And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God."* But after the voice of the Jerusalem Council had spoken through James.

There was joy and glorifying of God because of the Gentiles, (Acts 15:12-13) as well as the Jews, had been granted *"repentance unto life."* Acts 11:18, *"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life".* The only entrance requirements for Gentiles, in addition of F. R. C. B. into the body of Christ, was that they *"...abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangles, and from blood."* (Acts 15:20).

Paul, Silas, Barnabas, and John Mark went through Syria, Asia, Cyprus and Achaia, organizing and confirming churches, (Acts 15:25-36), and preaching even in Jewish synagogues as at Damascus, (Acts 9:20) and Salamis, Cyprus (Acts 13:5). Remaining at Antioch for a whole year, and at Corinth for as much as 18 months at one time, Paul and his colleagues laid substantial foundations for permanent congregations, confirming them in the faith. The churches to which the epistles were addressed, took form ,and those other churches which weren't honored with letters, such as Athens. Paul saw the idolatry there and he disputed in the synagogue with them (Acts 17:16-34).

The early church at worship met daily in the Temple as well as in homes. Acts 5:42, *"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."* Later, in recognition of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week, that day was the scriptural day of worship, publicly and officially, whether in homes or in some designated building. This also was the day in which all were to lay by in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when Paul came. The church today is to do the same, lay by in store, that when the need arises, the money will be there. And at these Lord's Day worship services, the gospel was to be preached to all who would attend, whether it would be held in home, in the Temple, or on the riverbank, or under an arbor, or where ever services held. And yes, even in jails.

Prayer was also offered up (Acts 4:31) not only on Lord's Day, but whenever special occasions demanded it. Acts 4:31, *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."* Acts 12:5, *"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."*

Scripture was read: and instruction about hearing it was given. James 1:22, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves".* 1 Thess. 5:27, *"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."*

The communion, as was instructed by the Lord himself, was acknowledged also. The breaking of the bread, and the drinking of the cup. (I Cor. 11:23; Matt. 26:26; etc.) Most of the historians say that the communion was partaken of in the evening worship. The reason for this, is that the worship lasted all day in most cases, and at the conclusion of the services, communion was observed. And this was done on the *"first day of the week."*

Offerings for the needy saints were received (1 Cor. 16:2,3). Fellowship was stressed, as it had been in the time when Jesus was on earth. Acts 2:42, *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking o bread, and in prayers."* Church organization did not occur right away, because the new converts still had a lot of old idol worship to get rid of. The church organization grew steadily, because of the faithful saw to it that it was organized and ran properly, according to the scripture.

The people vested with official responsibilities as the church of Christ grew, are as follows:

THE APOSTLES

Those who had seen the Lord. (Luke 1:2; Matt. 10:2; I Cor. 9:1); and was especially appointed by Jesus to continue his work. This group included the original eleven, plus Matthias, Paul, James, and probably Barnabas. Upon these leaders fell the greatest responsibilities and decisions.

THE SEVEN

Acts 6:1-6, *"...men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business".* These seven were appointed as helpers, which some say they were to look after the *"widows indeed"*, and other needy saints, and to *"serve tables"*. Note: See the qualifications we have to have just to serve tables in the kingdom of God?

PROPHETS

ACT 11:27, *"And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch."* The forerunners of ministers.

MINISTERS

Teachers, with the ability and knowledge to present the Gospel of Christ, with wisdom. Matt. 4:18-19, *"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Acts 20:17-27 ... read.

EVANGELISTS

Philip also was an evangelist. (Eph. 4:11; Acts . 21:8).

LOCAL OFFICIALS

As the church grew rapidly in numbers and needed definite organization, these positions were needed:

ELDERS

Acts 14:23, *"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."* Not only in Jerusalem, but in every church, elders were needed to be overseers of the flock.

BISHOPS

Tit. 1:7-9, *"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers".* Why does the church need such men to have such tight control over the congregation? Mark 12:29, *"And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"* Eph. 4:4-6, *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

Do we vote on whether or not we follow certain scriptures? No, the Elder, or Bishop, which is the same, has the last word. It is his responsibility and his alone to rule and judge the local congregation. That is why Paul and others set in ***"every church"*** elders.

DEACONS

.1 Tim. 3:8-10, *"Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."*

Some are surprised that the same qualifications for an elder or bishop is the same for a deacon, and even yet, the same for any member of the body of Christ. Are we all not priests? Think on this.

The sense of the word, "church" is used to indicate the total timeless body of all children of God, who have been, who are now, and who will be in years to come, who are answerable only to God, and who will be judged in **THAT DAY**, by our just Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The ideal church? The one that Jesus established, and the one that is invisible to the world, unblemished by sin, who will be, and who are the people of God. 1 Cor. 12:3, *"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."* 1 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."*

1 Pet. 2:10, *"Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."*

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A person who merely samples the Word of God never acquires much of a taste for it.

Laws - How Many?

Gen. 2:21-25

Is the marriage law of God or man? Adam named all things, and in Gen. 2:23 Adam was the one that gave here the name Woman because she was taken out of man. And Adam was the one that called here his wife, Gen. 2:24. Then Gen. 3:20 Adam called his wife Eve. Then Gen. 3:16 God said unto her, *"...thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."*

Rom. 7:1-3. *"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."*

It seems like most of the brethren think that Paul was writing to the man and wife that are in the flesh here in this life. But he was writing to the Jews and Gentiles in the church which were supposed to be in the Spirit.

How? Rom. 8:5-6. *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* For as long as they were fussing among themselves they could not please God for they were dead, I John 3:4 and Rom. 6:23. Rom. 8:7-8. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* Verse 9. *"...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."* And are dead, John 14:6. Rom. 8:10. *"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."*

Rom. 7:2. *"...if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband."* Isaiah 50:1 and Jer. 3:8, God had put her away and divorced her, verse 13, for what she had done. And according to Rom. 7, she was dead to the law of her husband, which was God. Rom. 8:13 - They were living after the flesh. So the law of the Spirit of life, Rom. 8:1-4, had made them free, and now they were trying to live 2 laws, the law of the Spirit and the law of the flesh, and it could not be done, Rom. 14:1-4. For Christ said you can't serve 2 masters, Luke 16:13, and if we do today we die. So their husband was dead, and she was loosed from the law of her husband, God, so he put her away so she could be married to Christ. Rom. 7:4. *"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ;* (which is the Church - I Cor. 12) *that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."*

Rom. 7:21-23. *"I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."*

So how many laws are there?

In Gen. God said man would rule over his wife because of what she had done, but does he? It seems to me that she rules over him one way or the other. Gen. 3:20, Col. 1:18-19. Eph. 5:23. *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."*

Rom. 7:1-3, if her husband be dead she is free from that law but still under the law of the Spirit of life (which is Christ), Rom. 8:1-3. That law, Rom. 10:9, is. *"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."* See also Mark 16:15-16. Shalt does not mean <u>maybe</u> but people try to change the word of God and make it read: "Do as I say, and you shall be saved."

What about a man that is dead in sin? Is he dead or not, Eph. 2:1-4? Eph. 2:12, he is without God and hope in the world. If so is he dead? And if dead then is she still bound to him? If while her husband liveth, <u>still in the Church active</u>, she is still bound to him, but if he is dead in sin is she still bound?

So what is the law of sin and death, Rom. 6:23? I John 3:4 says sin is disobeying God, or the law of the Spirit which is Christ. For they were carnally minded, and that is death, Rom. 8:6, and they are the enemies of God.

He that is joined to an harlot is one body. I Cor. 6:15-17. *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ,* (I Cor. 12) *and make them the members of an harlot?* (Which is one that is dead in sin, an enemy of God) *God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined* (married) *unto the Lord is one spirit."* Verse 18. Are we fleeing fornication, spiritual fornication, or are we misinterpreting the scriptures? Read verses 19-20. Can you glorify God in your body and

spirit, which are God's, and be joined to an harlot, (or sin, which is to disobey God)? We are dead to the law of sin and death by the church which is Christ's body. And if we play the harlot as the children of Israel did we too will be put away forever, Rev. 20:13-15.

This is just a start on this subject so study to meet God's approval.

Your Brother in Christ,
Lloyd Treat
13 North Bock
Broken Bow, OK 74728

Precious Memories

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

It Is Written, February 1955 _ Bro. W.E. Daniels poses the question. What can we do to help build up the small congregations? And what are we doing? _ Bro. R.C. Clements announces that the congregation at Aztec, NM was looking to buy a lot and build a building for worship.

Gospel News Courier, February 1965 _ Bro. Ken Baldwin announces the birth of his granddaughter, Kristie Elyda Drysdale, Born November 21, 1964. _ Bro. Elmer Forsman announced the 69th birthday of Bro. Howard Studer.

The Christian Courier, February 1975 _ From Yakima, WA; Jimmy and Kathy Lamb were married November 1974. A not-so-precious memory in that Sis. Terry Lamb's automobile accident was reported. _ Word was received from Yuma that Bro. Jack Renick passed away November 23, 1974, and that Bro. Tony Brister's father passed away. Services were held Dec. 21, 1974. The marriage of Allen Lytle and Sandy Weaver January 1, 1975 and the baptism of Vernie Davis was also announced. _ Bro. Earl Atchley announced the passing of Bro. John C. Spurlin January 1, 1975 at the age of 84. *"Brother Spurlin was, as most of you know, a good Bible scholar and did not shun to declare all that he had learned through his study of God's Word."*

The Christian Courier, February 1985 _ Bro. Larry Wood of the Lorenzo, TX congregation announced the birth of Carita Lynn Spurlin to Steve and Oletta Spurlin, and the marriage of Cliff Boling and Leesa Howe. _ Bro. Don Hamett of Selah, WA reported the passing of Bro. Kelsey Markham. _ Bro. Earl Atchley reminds us. *"It's not who we are, what we have done, or where we have been that counts. It's where we are GOING that counts."* _ The sisters at Cedaredge, CO expressed thanks to the brethren at the Aztec, NM congregation for holding services for them; and announced the baptism of Eddie Wilkerson December 26, 1984.

In Loving Memory

Earl Elmer Broadway

On December 7, 1994, our dear brother Earl Elmer Broadway, 87, passed from this life at his home in Yuma, Arizona. He was born September 25, 1907, in Attica, Arkansas.

On January 29, 1929, Earl married Zelma Dean Koster, and soon after both were baptized into the Church of Christ where he remained a faithful member for some 65 years.

He had lived in the Yuma Valley since 1937, except for five years in and around Bellflower, California.

He is survived by his wife Zelma and three sons: Bill, of Rye, Colorado; Vern, of Bonita, California; and Tom, of Rogue River, Oregon; eight grandchildren; and three great grandchildren; also a brother, Buel, of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas; and three sisters: Thelma Seagraves, Stella Stockwell, and Pearl, all of Arkansas.

He also leaves a loving host of Christian brothers and sisters, who mourn the passing of this faithful and dedicated brother. Our hearts are comforted in knowing that he "fought a good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith." For him there awaits a crown of righteousness.

John R. Brown

Bro. John R. Brown - Stilwell, OK - Pleasant View congregation

Psa. 122.1. *"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."*

This is the way I remember Bro. John most. He was always there, and always very happy to be there. He was also very happy to see you there, and always showed a lot of Christian love to everyone. In doing these things he represented the church very well. I once took a friend of mine to church. After meeting Bro. John and the rest, he remarked to me later that it was definitely the friendliest church he had ever been to.

Rev. 14:13. *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."*

In loving memory,
Bro. Terry Warford

Cards and Letters



Chesterton, IN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the congregation at Chesterton, IN. It has been some time since anyone has written, so I thought that I would send an update. Most here are enjoying fairly good health, although Sister Carolyn Jared and Brother Billy Ferrell spent some time in the hospital this past summer, and more recently Sister Helen Beckett and Sister Bonnie Dougherty were ill, but are doing better now.

We would like to acknowledge our appreciation for the visitors we have had over the past year, or so: Brother and Sister James Vanderpool, from Arkansas; Brother and Sister Howard Taylor, from Oklahoma; Brother and Sister Robert Bearden, from Georgia; and Brother J. D. Jared, from Ohio. We are still very few in number here, and want to thank them for coming by and helping us in our services.

We are very happy to report that our numbers have increased some this past year. Brother Steve and Sister Andrea Kelly and their children, Laurie and Jason, are meeting with us since moving into our area last Spring. Brother Steve is a very capable speaker and song leader, and Brother Jason, who was baptized this past summer, is now also helping in our services. After nearly fifteen years with only two of us taking an active part, this has really been a blessing to us all. Another more recent addition has been Sister Helen Beckett, who has been meeting with us since moving here this past Fall.

I apologize for not finding the time to report this sooner, but on a couple of business trips to New Jersey in the summer of 1993, I was able to find two faithful congregations to meet with in Pennsylvania. They were both hours away from my work site, but knowing that you are fulfilling your duty to the Lord and meeting new Christians who are endeavoring to do the same certainly made the effort worthwhile. The Nittany congregation is located in central Pennsylvania. Directions: From I-80 exit 25, go SW on Hwy. 64, about 4 miles to Hwy. 445, then south two blocks. Contacts there are: Brother Willard Weber, Box 295, RD. #2, Howard, PA 16841. Ph.: (814) 383-2730; and Brother Ralph Day, Box 395, Lamar, PA. Ph.: (717) 726-3457. The other congregation meets at Pottstown, near Philadelphia, on the SE corner of Beech and Grant Streets. Directions: From US 422, exit North on Hwy. 663 (Hanover St.) to the center of town, then east on Beech about 3/4 mile. Brother Philip Stroman is a contact there, 14 Holton Ln, Willingboro, NJ 08046. Ph.:(609) 871-6344. I am sorry to say I misplaced the other more local contact's addresses. The membership at Pottstown is Black, and they spoke of another congregation closer to Pittsburgh. Both places I visited were very few in number, like many of us, but big on hospitality with meal invitations and fellowship. Both groups seemed to feel somewhat isolated out East, and were excited to hear about the other faithful churches that I was acquainted with; and, of course, I was thrilled to find them to meet with.

I was able to find both places through listings in two categorized Church of Christ directories. One of the congregations was listed under a more liberal category than they should have been, and neither church was familiar with the directories I was using, so I would advise anyone using such books to try to do some additional checking before ruling out a place for worship. We may be pleasantly surprised to find there are more loyal congregations than we think.

My dad and I spent the weekend after Thanksgiving with J. L. and Eunice Jared, and enjoyed meeting with the church at Aloha, Oregon. There are several young families attending there, and it was really encouraging to see all the young men taking an active part.

In closing, please remember us meeting at Chesterton in your prayer, and come visit if you can. We pray that the new year will bring happiness and prosperity in your service to the Lord.

In Christian love,
Bill Jared
1007 Elm Street
Valpraiso, IN 46383

Lorenzo, TX

We are a little behind in sending news from Lorenzo. Most of our members were able to attend an extra meeting or two, besides our own this summer. It's so uplifting to attend meetings and to visit other congregations. During our meeting with Brother Jerry Perigen, we were blessed with many visitors. They came from Abilene, TX., Newcastle, TX., Burkeburnett, TX., Comanche, OK., Duncan, OK., Broken Bow, OK., and Goshen, Ark. We enjoyed a wonderful crowd each service and many wonderful lessons. Brother Jerry is an excellent speaker. We really appreciate the effort Brother Jerry and Sister Betty made in coming to be with us for a week.

We've had several visitors this fall: Jo Goodwin from Newcastle, TX., Gene and Jo Ann Boling from

Georgia. On Nov. 27, 1994, we all rejoiced with Aspen Spurlin, who was baptized while visiting here from Reydon, OK. In December, Amy, Shaya, David, and Hanna Orendorff, along with Ellis Forsman from Seattle, Wash., were here over two Sundays. Brother Ellis gave a really good lesson each Sunday. Oletta, Steve, Justin, Aspen, and Carita Spurlin from Raydon, OK., were also here two Sundays. Willie, Mary, Brandon, and Shane Howe from Duncanville, TX., were here one Sunday. If we have left anyone out, please forgive our short memories. We really enjoyed having all the visitors.

We've had mostly good health so far this winter, with the exception of colds, etc. Reba White has had a hard time getting rid of a terrible cough and bronchitis. She is doing a little better now after four weeks and several trips to the doctor. Sharon Moore had knee surgery, and is still recovering. Olene Howe is having problems with her knees and back. Earl Howe is doing very well, and is staying busy in his wood shop. He appreciates all who have asked about him and prayed for him.

That's all for now. Our prayers go out to Christians everywhere.

The church at Lorenzo, Texas.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear loved ones in Christ,

This winter we have had more than our share of rain, even for Seattle, although not as much as they have had in parts of California. Most of us here are fine, except for some having had colds, flu, and light pneumonia. We're thankful it's not been any more serious than that.

Over the holidays, Ellis Forsman, Amy, Shaya, David, and Hanna Orendorff, went to Lorenzo, Texas to visit loved ones. It was wonderful to be with "family." The love and hospitality shown was wonderful as well.

Also over the holidays, we were happy to have Eric & Lori Harper, and their children, Jonathan and Ashley, visit here from Sacramento, California. We don';t get to see them as often as we would like. There were other visitors as well, and we're thankful for all who came to be with us. Troy and Shawna Solomon of Selah, Washington, were here briefly on their way to Mississippi to help bury Troy's step-father, who was found shot to death. Our hearts and prayers go out to them and any others who have suffered tragic losses.

Howard & Nell McCay are still in Yuma, Arizona, and seem to be mostly doing well. J.D. & Fern Logan are now back in Stockton, California, after a time in Yuma, also. J.D. is doing some work on their old home where their son, Lloyd, now lives. The last we heard, both of these families plan to be back in the Northwest around the 1st of March. We'll be happy to see both families.

Matthew Shepherd, since graduating, has taken a job working for Hewlett Packard at Vancouver, Washington. The past two weekends, Lynell and Kelly have gone down there house-hunting. We are so thankful for the church at Aloha, Oregon, for making them feel so loved and welcome. This congregation is not far away — just across the Columbia River near Portland, Oregon. There are several young families with a fair-sized group of children. It looks like the church has a lot of promise in that region. We surely are going to miss Matt & Kelly and their family; but Seattle's loss is Aloha's gain. They have assured us they will be here often, which we hope, especially since they were both doing a tremendous amount of work on *The Courier*.

We have a new family now meeting with us here in Seattle. We are happy to have Sister Sylvia Cousin and her two children, Vincent and Daniel. They have recently moved here from Ohio.

Brother Garold Morris and his wife have just shared their 50th wedding anniversary, and are now away for three weeks. Our love and congratulations to them.

Our love and prayers to all of you,

The Sea-Tac Church of Christ

San Pablo, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to all. Our prayers are with you and pray that you are well. It sure was a good way to start a new year, with Lord's Day worship. Every year should start that way.

We are all doing okay, except for the usual aches and pains. We are glad to report that Sister Mable Cooper's tests were negative, and that she had some cysts removed and is doing fine. Brother Jack Cooper still has some pain and limited use of his injured shoulder, but he never complains.

We were blessed with a visit from Sister Eunice Bruce from Carlsbad, NM and her daughter and son-in-law from Morgan Hill, CA. Our son, Richard Bryant came from Oregon to visit and worship with us Thanksgiving weekend. We also were blessed with a lesson from Brother J.D. Logan. He and Sister Fern stayed with us one night, on their way to Yuma, AZ. We would liked to have them stay longer. We would also like to go with them, but limited funds sometimes prevent us from doing what we want to.

We plan on going to Colorado this year, if the Lord wills. We haven't been there for a few years and we know that we will learn a lot and we always are blessed when we go. I would encourage you all to go if you possibly can.

Remember us in your prayers, as we do you.

In Christian love,

Homer Bryant

1273 Plumleigh Lane

Concord, CA 94521-3410

Comanche, OK

Brothers and Sisters,

The year of 1994 is now history, and so is the beginning of the new year, 1995. Hopefully, our little congregation ended the old year and began the new one in a way that was pleasing to God.

The last two nights of 1994 and the first day of the new 1995, we were singing His praises and listening to His Word. Brother Errol Forsman, from the Lorenzo, Texas, congregation, gave us four wonderful lessons. He had some very good thoughts and brought out some meanings that might not have been thought of or heard in that light before.

We were proud to have Brother Errol and Sister Earlene with us for the weekend. We always enjoy being with them, and this one was special since Errol spoke four times for us.

Thank you, Errol and Earlene, for sharing your weekend with us.

We missed the ones of you that couldn't come because of illnesses, or whatever. Some have written to say they were planning to come before illnesses intervened. We missed you, and you missed some great lessons. We hope all are well and up and about the Lord's business by this writing.

For all of those that did come, we want to thank you. We enjoyed having you worship with us and stay in our homes.

Audley Barnes
for the Comanche Church of Christ

Baron, OK

Greetings to all from Baron Church of Christ,

First we want to apologize for waiting so long to write; we will try to do better.

We enjoy the paper very much. We look forward to receiving them each month.

We are a little late about reporting our Thanksgiving weekend meeting. We had 4 very capable speakers. Bro. Ed Tate spoke the first night, Nov. 25th, from the Newcastle, TX congregation. Brother Eric Forsman spoke Nov. 26 from Lorenzo, TX. Bro. Paul Auslam from Goshen, AR congregation on Sunday Morning, Nov. 27. Bro. Leroy Mullins from Randalett, OK congregation on Sunday evening. All had some real good, soul-stirring lessons, and we appreciate those Brethren who came so great a distance to help us out. We had wonderful fellowship. Here's a run down on some that were here. Bro. and Sis. Ed and Francis Tate, Bro Eric and Becky Forsman and girls, Bro. Paul Auslam, wife and children, also his mother June from Goshen. Brother Paul Andrews and his mother, Margie, from Goshen, Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Rachel Daniels and son from Bohannon Mountain, AR. Also Brother Curtis and wife and 2 children from Goshen, Brother and Sister Audley Barnes from Comanche, OK Sisters Jo Williams and Ruth Clay, also Sister Jo's grandson Mike Lewis from Valley View, and Brother and Sister Leroy Mullins from Randalett, OK. We had good support from our home congregation. If we left anyone out please forgive us. We certainly didn't mean to.

We have dinner at church every 2nd Sunday and we are very fortunate to have Bro. Paul Andrews and his mother come. He gives some very good lessons. We are also so thankful to have our grandson back with us from California, Bro. Brian Ross. He also brought us 2 good lessons last Sunday. Bro. Andy Barnes and family came by a few Sundays ago. He also gave us an inspiring lesson. Our son Brett got to be home for some of the meeting but had to leave early Sunday morning back to camp. He also brought one of his buddies home with him.

With Christian love to all,
Bro. Jim Brown from the
Baron Church of Christ

Others

Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer will be for others.
Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I do for you
Must needs be done for others.
And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun;
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.
Others, Lord, yes, others;
Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others
That I may live like Thee.

— Author Unknown

Bulletin Board

Meetings

July 1-9	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
Aug. 18-20	Yakima, WA	Eric Harper

Baptisms

Aspen Spurlin	Reydon, OK	Nov. 27, 1994

Births

Alexandra Hope	Citrus City, AZ	Born to Tim & Cassie Shepherd Jan. 23, 1995

Prayer of faith shall save the sick

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Vincent Johnson	Bellflower, CA	Bound to wheelchair
Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Back Trouble
Jo Williams	Comanche, OK	Battling cancer
Gerald Warner	Eugene, OR	Heart trouble
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Back & knee troubles
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Bronchitis recovery
Sharon Moore	Lorenzo, TX	Knee surgery recovery
Robert McCay	Port Orchard, WA	Fighting bone cancer
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	Injured shoulder
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	Leukemia
Phil Bumgardner	Yuma, AZ	Severe lung problems

Mom or Dad

Below is a list of Bible characters. Beside each character is the name of one of their parents. In the blank after each parent's name, write "M" if the parent is the character's mom and "D" if the parent the the dad.

Bible Character	Parent's Name	M or D?
Manasseh	**Hephzibah (2 Kings 21:1)**	
Josiah	**Jedidah (2 Kings 22:1)**	
Moses	**Jochebed (Numbers 26:59)**	
Joash	**Ahaziah (2 Kings 11:1-2)**	
Hosea	**Beeri (Hosea 1:1)**	
Zephaniah	**Cushi (Zephaniah 1:1)**	
Samson	**Manoah (Judges 13:2-24)**	
Jezreel	**Gomer Hosea 1:3-4)**	
Abram (Abraham)	**Terah (Genesis 11:31)**	
Midian	**Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2)**	