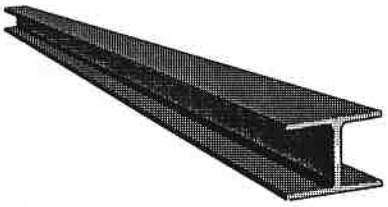
The Christian Courier

June, 1995

Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168
Writers are responsible for their own articles.

Casting the Beam Out of Our Eye

One part of Jesus's sermon on the mount, Matt. 7:1-5, was a lesson about hypocritical judging. *"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."*



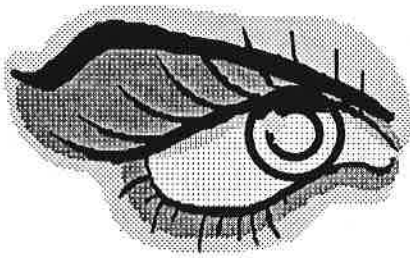
Now the main point, of course, is not to judge your brother hypocritically. It's good to help your brother with his mote, but Christ said only AFTER casting the beam out of your own eye.

With this article, however, I want to focus on a sub-point of Christ's teaching here. That point is that we CAN cast the beam out of our own eye. If we have a fault that is continually tripping us up, we don't have to live with it. Don't ever give up. We can overcome it. This is a grand message of hope and opportunity to us.

But how is this casting out the beam accomplished? Gal. 5:16 gives us the answer. *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* Thus walking in the Spirit casts out this beam. So the question becomes: How do we walk in the Spirit?

Let's turn to the 8th chapter of Romans for the answer. Rom. 8:1. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* Then the chapter goes on from there with several specific steps to take, each of which helps to cast out our beam.

The first step is in verses 5-6 of Rom. 8. *"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."* We can never overcome our beam if that beam is what we think about most of the time. But if the focus of our mind becomes God and his word, we can overcome anything. Psa. 1:2 describes a man who is blessed in God's sight. *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."* And the result? Verse 3. *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*



The second step in Romans 8 is found in verses 12-13. Just as our minds are to be on Christ, so must our actions be. *"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."* At some point in our lives, we MUST mortify (put to death, or stop doing) these sinful things. ACTIVELY CAST OUT THAT BEAM. I Pet. 2:11. *"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;".*

When we do this, the world will persecute us for it. I Pet. 4:4. *"Wherein they* (the people of the world) *think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you."* But this is something we must endure, for it is the third step of walking after the Spirit that casts out our beam. Rom. 8:16-18. *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* The way suffering persecution helps cast out our beam is revealed in I Pet. 4:1. *"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;".*

The fourth step is hope, Rom. 8:24-25. *"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."* We see how hope casts out our beam in I John 3:3. *"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."*

The final step in this walk in the Spirit is prayer, Rom. 8:26-27. *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* And not only does the Spirit help our prayers, but we can also have the prayers of our brethren to cast out our beams, or faults. James 5:16. *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.* (Healed of what? Healed of those faults!) *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

Now, responsibility almost always tags along with opportunity, does it not? So, with this opportunity and ability to cast out the beams out of our eyes comes the responsibility to do it. Christ died to defeat sin, to cast it out of our lives. He did not do so for us to just keep sinning. Yes, Satan is putting up a fight. But we can fight back. And we have even more powerful allies than we do a foe. So let's cast those beams out. Let's live for Christ as we ought.

Let's return again to Rom. 8:13 to close. *"For if ye live after the flesh ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."*

In hope that this study is profitable to all,

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Unpleasant Facts

Often, in studying the scriptures, we have our attention focused on less favorable subjects dealt with by the inspired writers. Sometimes we tend to shy away from these writings, an (understandable) reluctance on the part of most people to deal with the more unpleasant aspects of human behavior. These "less pleasant", however are part of the scriptural record, and must be dealt with forthrightly.

However, we find that the Scriptures usually strike a balance, and, whereas they deal with the unpleasant, they also deal with the pleasant. Both are obviously necessary to be understood.

The same scripture that deals with the *"works of the flesh"* (Gal 5:19-21), balances the scales with the *"fruit of the spirit"* (Gal. 5:22-23). This balance is seen in Gal. 5:24 - *"crucify*(ied) *the flesh with the affections and lusts,"* and verse 25, *"—live in the Spirit—walk in the Spirit".*

We should not fear to speak of the unpleasant merely because it is unpleasant. Often the avoidance of things unpleasant results in ignorance of those facts, something that is to be avoided at all costs. I should like to look at one such subject at this point. It has been referred to somewhat by writers in the Courier, but seldom studied as to its meaning(s) and usage in the Scriptures.

Fornication

(Strong) *#4202* - "porneia" is defined as "harlotry, (incl. adultery and incest)."

(Vine) *#4202* - "porneia" is defined as "of illicit sexual intercourse, stands for, or includes adultery — distinguished from it in Matt. 15:19 and Mk. 7:21."

PORNEIA

This a word that deals with the baser desires of humanity (it is the word from which our modern word "pornography" is derived). The world does not seem to be able to define the meaning of this word, but, to the Bible student, its meaning is quite clear. If we can define the words "harlotry," "adultery," and "incest," we surely can understand the meaning of fornication (porneia).

"Fornication" is, then, an all compassing word. This can be seen in 1 Cor. 5:1 where "fornication" is used to describe an act so unspeakable that even the heathenish Corinthians avoided it. This was incest, any way you look at it, whether the woman involved was the man's mother or his step-mother. Such conduct was forbidden under Moses' law (Lev. 18:7,8). It is fornication (im-

moral conduct), so referred to under Christ's law (1 Cor. 5:1). Incest is fornication!!

This also can be seen in some passages where the specific word "adultery" is used. See Rev. 2:20-22. In the church of Thyatira the Lord referred to *"...that woman Jezebel"*. Among the sins of which she stood accused was that of seduction, to commit FORNICATION, vs. 20. In the same context it is *called "her fornication"* and of it she did not repent, vs. 21. Now notice in vs. 22 her judgment and fate, *"...I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit ADULTERY with her."* By this we can see that the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably. Thus "adultery" (moichao) is also referred to as "fornication" (porneia), immoral conduct, which it surely is.

Sometimes adultery and fornication are mentioned in the same verse (Matt. 15:19, Mk. 7:21). One might ask, "why would the Lord do this if both meant the same?"

Note: This mention of the broad and specific in the same context is commonplace in the Scriptures. Christ mentioned *"evil thoughts," "wickedness," "lasciviousness," "foolishness,"* etc. (Mk. 21-22). Certainly all these things can be defined as "evil thoughts," but to magnify and broaden scope, Christ mentions both the broad, generic term and the specific. In no place is this practice contradictory, nor does it alter the meaning of the words so employed.

"Fornication" (immoral conduct) takes another form as denoted by the word "lasciviousness." This is described as "indecent thoughts, lewdness, licentiousness, sensuality, and indecency." Surely one word (either) would serve to describe all this array of sinful conduct. Why, then, use them all?

The Lord was inveighing against every form of immoral conduct, both moral principle and overt acts. In using both the general and specific terms involved he was using a "broad blanket" to describe all thoughts involved, a common literary practice.

Note again the *"works of the flesh"* (Gal. 5:19-21). "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness" are used together. Actually, they could all be summed up in one definition, "uncleanness." No one would doubt that all these are "unclean." The meaning of this word (akatharsia) is, "impurity (phys. or mor.)." Of this, Vine says, "suggestive of the fact that sensuality and evil doctrine are frequently associated." Surely, all fleshly sins are "unclean." Why, then, mention them together? For reasons already stated, this denotes a broadening of the indictment against all forms of "uncleanness."

This, then, is fornication. It is a broad term, encompassing all forms of immoral conduct on the part of the Christian.

It is noteworthy that the word "fornication" (porneia) is rendered variously as "unfaithful," "marital unfaithfulness," and " unchastity" by various translators. Any one of these words portrays the meaning of Jesus' words clearly. It thus means the act of disregarding the marriage vows by an act of immorality with someone other than the legitimate marriage partner (Matt. 19:9).

If Paul had used only the word "adultery" (Gal. 5:19-21), one might imagine someone reasoning thus: "If only adultery is forbidden, and I am not married, I am not forbidden." However, with the addition of the broad term "fornication," Paul renders the married or unmarried condition as unimportant. Harlotry is harlotry, regardless of marital status. It is also unclean, lascivious, unchaste, etc. It is sin!

By these and many other examples in the scriptures, we can determine the true meaning of this highly important, but distasteful, word.

For the truth,
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God: Give us Wisdom

We see the evidence of God by the flesh and the understanding by the spirit. Without the spirit, the flesh will not be able to understand the meaning of the evidence. Previous to the coming of Christ, the prophets were the ones who had contact with God by the spirit. They were called the son of man (Ezek. 11:4). *"The spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said unto me, speak; thus saith the Lord,"* (Ezek. 11:5). If we as the children of God would take the time to fully realize the importance and greatest blessing ever bestowed upon the sons of man; to be called the sons of God. Son of man is referred to as a servant, but the son of God is called an heir of God through Christ (Gal. 4:).

How much different are we today than the Jews who were under the law? *"But now after ye have known God, or rather know of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage."* (Gal. 4:9). Rom. 8:5-6, *"For they that are after 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."* Life and peace: that is the question.

If we let the mind become carnal, we will start to question the word of God. What is life; but hard work, sickness, lack of finances, death of a loved one, etc. We should never question God, but listen to God tell us who

is the cause of all our troubles, even death, which brings us to the knowledge of signs of the times by *"being filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding: that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"* (Col. 1:9,10). *"Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered,"* (Luke 11:52). *"Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"* (Rom. 1:28)



"The wicked flee when no man pursueth. But the righteous are bold as a lion." "Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things." "The prudent man forseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and consider not that poverty shall come upon him." "Whoso robbeth his father or his mother and saith, it is not transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer." "He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife." He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." "The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it." "In the transgressions of an evil man there is a snare." "The blood thirsty hate the upright." "If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked." "When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth." "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Were these words from man's wisdom, or God? God gave Solomon and others this wisdom about spiritual truth. This wisdom helps us to distinguish between good and evil. The above quotes are from Prov. 27-29. We find these words are prevalent today as to the troubles and wicked life people live, as when they were written some nine hundred years before Christ.

1 King 4:29, *"And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand on the sea shore."* 1 King 3:5, *"...And God said, ask what I shall give thee."* Verse 9: *"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge they people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"* Verse 11, *"And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for riches for thyself, not hast asked the life of thine enemies;"* Verse 12, *"Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart."*

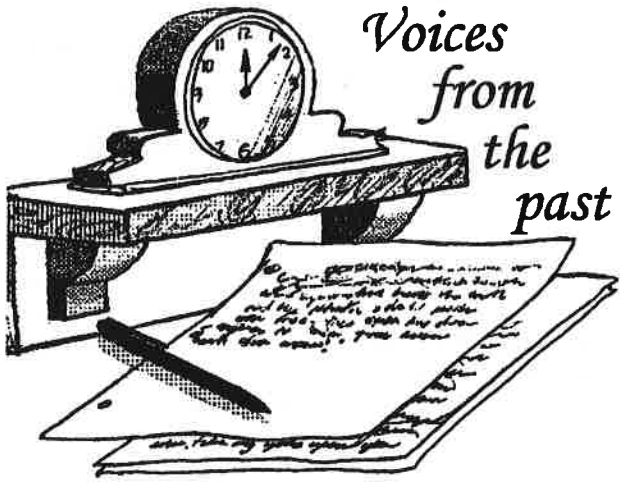
I Thess. 4:7, *"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."* Verse 8, *"He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit."* Verse 11, *"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."* Verse 12, *"That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."*

There is so much sickness, and pain and suffering and we offer up special prayers for the brethren, we must never give up or doubt the power of healing by the Lord. Let us ask ourselves if we are worthy to have the Lord heal us. Are we harboring something within ourselves that we should let go of? It is amazing what happens to the flesh when the Holy Spirit is not grieved, praying with a sincere heart, calling on the elders for prayer help (James 5:13-16). Regardless of what the outcome may be, keep the spirit right with God, and rejoice with Christ through eternity without end.

With Brotherly Love,
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Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read.

Not Everyone Shall Enter



"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matt. 7:21-23).

But says one, "I don't understand; for I read in Acts 2:21, *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Now will you please explain it to me?

Paul said in Rom. 10:14-15, *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"*

John 12:49-50, *"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."* (Jesus speaking). He spake unto the apostles, then commanded them to "Go ... and teach all nations..." that commandment of God. Jesus said in Matt. 28:18-20, *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* So, then, we must do all the things that Jesus commanded the apostles to do in order to be saved.

Deut. 18:18-19, *"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."* Peter quotes the words of Moses, *"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."* (Acts 3:22-25).

"...But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Acts 7:21) — That will is the New Testament, from Matthew to Revelation. Then we enter the Kingdom of Heaven by doing His will, and NOT by JUST calling upon the name of the Lord. So, then, let us find out what His will says for us to do.

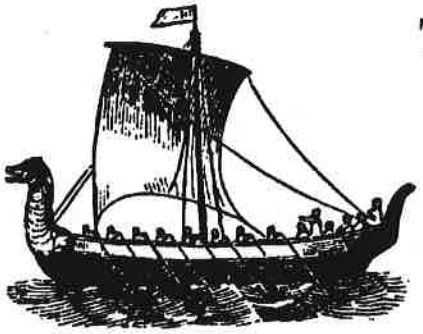
- We must be taught the Word of God, the Gospel. (Mark 16:15; Deut. 18:18; Acts 3:22; Matt. 28:18-20; John 6:44-45) Every conversion spoken of in the New Testament was taught by a preacher.
- They must all hear the Gospel, learn of the Father. (Deut. 18:19; John 6:45; Mark 16:15-16).
- We must all believe the Gospel, have Faith in HIM. (Heb. 11:6; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:17).
- We all must repent, reform our life, or perish. (Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:45-47; Acts 17:30; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- We all must confess Christ with the mouth before men. (Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:8-10; Acts 8:37).
- We must all be baptized *"in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,"* saved and in the church, the kingdom, in Christ's body, the church. (Acts 2:38, 41, 47; Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18)

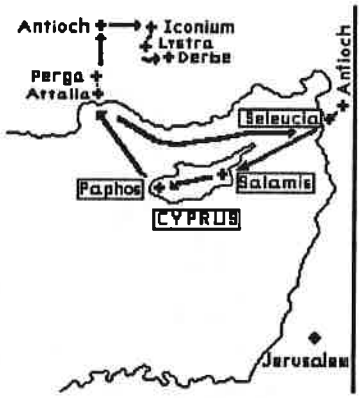
But some say, "I believe in baptism, but I think it is the baptism of the Holy Ghost." But let's read these: Eph. 4:5 — one baptism; Acts 8:35-39 — water; Rom. 6:3-4 — buried and raised; Rom. 6:17 — that form; Rom. 6:18 — then free; Gal. 3:27 — put on Christ; 2 Cor. 5:17 — *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..."*; 2 Pet. 1:5-12 — grow and add.

F. H. Logan, reprinted.

The Travels of Paul

The Jerusalem Council





After Paul's return to Antioch in Syria (Seleucia), he met and ate with the brethren telling of his experiences (Acts 14:27; Gal. 2:12). Peter was also there, having come up from Jerusalem, perhaps to meet Paul. He also ate with the Gentile Christians.

About this time, James had sent out some men to preach the gospel in this same region (Gal. 2:12). After they arrived, Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles; the other Jews also separated themselves. Even Barnabas was initially caught up in this action (Gal. 2:13). However, when these men spoke, their doctrinal message disturbed Paul; which was that the Gentiles had to be circumcised, or they could not be saved (Acts 15:1). This was contrary to what Paul taught on his journey; thus a sharp argument ensued, with Barnabas backing Paul (Acts 15:2). Paul turned to Peter and resisted him to the face before them all, because he of all people knew better, yet he had separated himself from the Gentiles when these men arrived (Gal. 2:11). Peter's actions showed that he already knew what they believed, yet did nothing to correct them. His actions were prompted by fear of these men, who were Pharisee priest converts (Gal. 2:12-13; Acts 6:7; 15:5). These were men used to authority, and still acted as such. Today, it would be like trying to control a group of senators of the United States, converted to Christianity, who had an agenda contrary to that of Jesus Christ.

The local brethren, perhaps confused as to who was right, asked that they go down to Jerusalem and get this matter settled. More importantly, the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul that he should go to Jerusalem (Gal. 2:2). On his trip to Jerusalem, Paul continued to preach his same gospel to the Gentiles, who were happy to hear this message compared to the one taught by those from Jerusalem (Acts 15:3).

At Jerusalem, Paul met privately with some of the leaders, and explained to them the gospel he had been preaching to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:2). His missionary efforts were in danger of being in vain. At these private meetings, Paul convinced others and gained support toward the general meeting of the church to discuss this important question.

At this meeting, after Paul had his say, the Pharisee converts arose and contended that *"...it is needful to circumcise them, and to charge them to keep the law of Moses."* (Acts 15:4-5). After there had been much questioning, Peter rose up and defended Paul, recounting his own experience with his vision of a great sheet with all manner of unclean animals, and what it meant (Acts 10; 15:7-11). His confrontation with Paul earlier perhaps convinced him that he could not allow these Judaisers to have their way.

Paul and Barnabas then spoke again, this time to a silenced audience, telling *"...what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them."* (vs. 12). James, who had sent these men out to preach, then spoke. His message supported those of Paul, Barnabas, and Peter (vs. 13-21); and finished by saying the Gentiles were not to be troubled by this question any longer (vs. 19), only *"...that they should abstain from*



pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood." (vs 20). This they all agreed was true.

Now that the troublesome question was settled, what was to be done with the problem of all those who had been taught incorrectly? It was decided that they should send men back out to correct this error, and also to send letters (vs. 22-23). Paul found out that after his effort of preaching the gospel and establishing churches in Galatia, others had gone there and taught that they had to be circumcised, contradicting his teaching (vs. 24). He immediately wrote a letter to be read by all the churches in Galatia (Galatians), wherein he recounted his experience at the Jerusalem council. He emphasized that they were not to accept any message contradicting what he had already preached unto them, even if an angel was the spokesman (Gal. 1:8-9). His experience caused him to write this twice for emphasis.

Judas and Silas, prominent men at Jerusalem, went with Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch to verify what had transpired at the Jerusalem meeting (vs. 22-27), carrying with them a letter by others clarifying the question (vs. 30). James had written that the men he had sent out preached things which *"...we gave no commandment..."* (vs. 24-26). When this letter was read they all rejoiced. (vs. 31).

Paul was concerned about the damage done to the churches in Galatia, and wanted to return to see how they were doing (vs. 36); so he started making plans with Barnabas. Judas returned to Jerusalem, but Silas decided to remain with Paul at Antioch. This was a decision that greatly affected his life, for Paul wanted him on his next journey. This came about because Barnabas wanted to include John Mark, but Paul didn't because of his defection on their first journey (vs. 37-40). A contention arose between them. They settled the matter by Barnabas taking John Mark to the region of Cyprus, and Paul taking Silas into Galatia (vs. 39-41).

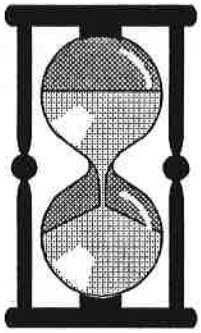
Next article: Return to Galatia.

In Christian love,

Ellis Forsman

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Precious Memories



***Gospel News Courier*, June, 1965.** F.H. Logan, Modesto, CA, wrote: He had been ill for a long time; Brothers Velmo Brown and Frank Morse and Sister June Paioni returned to the fold; Brother Ben Rollins was still in a nursing home; Sister Stark passed away after a long illness; and Howard McCay would hold their meeting in July. J. H. Lackley, Springfield, COLO., reported that they had a successful meeting with Brother Hunt. Laura Willis, Carlsbad, NM, said their meeting with Brother Auslam was the "best one we ever had." Elmer Hunt, Garden Grove, CA, reported that he preached for two weeks at Springfield, COLO., with the number of sermons totaling 21. There were visitors from several states.

***The Christian Courier*, June, 1975.** Robert McCay, Port Orchard, WA, wrote that Sister Ellen and he had taken a long trip visiting brethren all over the country. The places visited in sequence were: Chico, CA; Modesto, CA; Bellflower, CA; Lakeside, CA; Yuma, AZ; Lorenzo, TX; Yuma, AZ; Parker, AZ; Modesto, CA; Eugene, OR. Sister Usrey, Sacramento, CA, announced that her daughter-in-law, Debbie, and Geneva Jett were baptized. Ron Berry, Humble, TX, reported that he just moved to this city from Aztec, NM, to help this small congregation. Tom and Janet Neal were added to the Lord's body. Elmer Hunt, Lakeside, CA, announced that their meeting with Brother Rex Mickey was uplifting. Report from Modesto, CA, stated that Sister Elizabeth Stark was recovering from surgery; Debbie White was very ill; Sister Mae Johnson (90) wasn't doing well; and Sister Mae's daughter Oleta was doing better after a fall.

***The Christian Courier*, June, 1985.** Tony Brister, Roll, AZ, reported one sister went forward at their meeting. Howard Taylor, Loco, OK, announced their meeting in August with Howard McCay. Al Burtis, Waterford, CA, said they were getting ready for their meeting with J. W. Bedingfield. He also wrote that Randy Burtis was getting around on crutches while recovering from an accident. Surgery on his knees would be needed. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, said they were looking forward to their meeting with J. W. Bedingfield. Randolf Kellums, South San Gabriel, CA, reported that his brother, Chester Kellums, had passed away at 82. Tony Brister, Roll, AZ, reported on their meeting with Harry Dye; and announced his meetings at Broken Bow, OK, and Stilwell, OK, in July. Letter from Lorenzo, TX, said that Brother Jimmy Loftus got out of the hospital with "hiatus hernia." They also announced their meeting in July with Howard McCay. J.L. Jared, Stayton, OR, reported that Sister Arcy Peavey had passed away.

Day Of Decision

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

Choose *you this day whom ye will serve.*

We all have choices to make in this life. Not always do we make the wisest choice. Educational, career, and marital choices, certainly, are high on our list; but the choice of living for Christ is the most important choice we can ever make. The Apostle Paul considered every choice he made prior to his service to Christ, as loss, because they were not beneficial to Him. (Phil. 3:5-8). Make your choices as wisely as Paul's.

Choose ***you*** *this day whom ye will serve.*

Jesus asked his disciples to go and preach the gospel to all the world (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15). The work was great then, but there is still much to do today. The harvest is plenteous; the laborers, few (Matt. 9:36-38). Jesus would like you to work for Him. This is a personal decision you must make. No one can make it for you.

Choose you ***this day*** *whom ye will serve.*

Many times we put off things we know need to be done; especially, the things that involve a lot of time. Our work for the Lord should have precedence over anything else in our lives. Paul admonishes us to work together with Christ, and not to let the grace of God go in vain (2 Cor. 6:1). Don't put it off. Eternity hangs in the balance of your decision. *"...Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."* (2 Cor. 6:2).

Choose you this day ***whom*** *ye will serve.*

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt 6:24). God can never be pleased with a lukewarm Christian (Rev. 3:16); and that's what we are when we consume our energies striving for this world's interests, instead of His. If we choose to serve and please the Lord, we cannot entangle ourselves with the affairs of this life (2 Tim. 2:6). God will spew out of his mouth those who choose to work for him half-heartedly (Rev. 3:16).

Choose you this day whom ***ye will*** *serve.*

Paul said there must first be a willing mind (2 Cor. 8:12). It pleases God not if we serve Him grudgingly. Only those who work willingly will be rewarded (1 Cor. 9:17). It does no good to go through the motions of attending the Lord's services on the first day of the week, and consider Him not the remainder of the week. Let your will be like that of Christ's who did His Father's will, instead of His own (John 6:38).

Choose you this day whom ye will ***serve****.*

This is a significant decision. Christianity is something to **DO**, as well as something to **BE**. *"...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."* (Phil. 2:12).

— Ellis Forsman

Cards and Letters



Baron, OK

Greetings to all, everywhere:

The church here is doing quite well. We are looking forward to our weekend meeting, which will be history by the time the next Courier comes out; but we are looking for a good meeting.

We also look forward to the Seattle, Wash., meeting in August; also the Comanche meeting in July. Hope to meet a lot of brothers and sisters there that we haven't seen for awhile.

Glad to have our grandson Brian Ross back in our midst. He delivers some very inspiring lessons; also, our son David, who is also progressing with his preaching.

Bohanan Mt., Arkansas, had a weekend meeting from May 12th to the 14th. Brother Senn gave a wonderful lesson on Friday night; the only night we were able to go. We enjoyed being with the brethren over there. We got to see Brother and Sister Audley Barnes. It was good to see them, also.

Brother Darrell Wilson seems to be doing a lot better. We still pray for him for a complete recovery. Also, for the others that have had some health problems. We also pray for the sick in all other congregations. Brother Gene Barrett has had back surgery awhile back. He's still having complications. Also, Emma Williams, our daughter, had surgery in her neck and hip. She is still having problems. We ask your prayers for all who need them here.

Brother Bob Eldridge's two sisters are here visiting this week. One is from Idaho, and one is from Cedaredge, Colorado, and her two sons. That's Debbie from Colorado, and she has been under radiation treatment for cancer. Our prayers are still going out for her also. We wish them all the best, going back home.

Christian love to all,

The Baron Church of Christ

P.S. We are looking for our son Brett home this weekend. He won't get to be here long, but it's been about 9 months since we saw him last. It sure will be nice to see him again; and he is terribly homesick, too.

Goshen, AK

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Just a line to let you know that our meeting this year will be July 23-30, with Brother Howard Taylor of the Comanche Church of Christ. Both Sundays will start at 10:30 mornings, and then lunch, and 2:00 afternoon services. Monday through Saturday, the time will be 7:00 p.m. We invite all to come be with us.

In Christian love,

The Goshen Church of Christ

Goshen, AK

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We wish to send our love to all of you.

We here in Seattle are eagerly anticipating our meeting with Bro. Jim Brown of the Baron, OK congregation. It will be a special treat for all of us, perhaps especially for Bro. Terry Warford and his family, after moving here from the Baron congregation several years ago.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Kelly Shepherd were here this past Sunday, May 28th. Bro Matt reminded us of the importance of prayer in our lives. It was an excellent lesson, titled "Ask, Seek, Knock".

Sis. Lynell Forsman has gone to Sacramento for a while. Her daughter, Sis. Lori Harper, and her husband Eric, are expecting their third child soon.

Speaking of expecting babies, Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Baird (Bro. Terry Warford's sister) of Fayetteville, AR are expecting their first in the month of June.

It looks like there will be a lot of good meetings this year. It is important to attend as many as we can. One of the greatest sources of strength that God has provided us with are our brethren in Christ.

Please remember to keep the sick in your prayers. It is a good idea to specifically mention each person on the prayer list in your prayer. And those you may know of that are not on the list.

While praying for these, please pray also for all the speakers holding the meetings this year, that God may bless their efforts, and much good be accomplished in the Church. Then pray for all of us, that we may each APPLY the lessons learned to our lives, and become a great light to the world.

Finally, please pray for us, in our endeavor to make the Courier the best it can be. With your prayers, and God's blessings, it can be a blessing to us all.

With love,

The Seattle Church of Christ

"Church of Christ" 31st Annual Colorado Old Time Camp Meeting



Invites you to join us in Cedaredge, Colorado, for

"CAMP MEETING 1995"

Big Spruce Church Camp
July 1st through July 9th

LOCATION

- Take Highway 92 east out of Delta (4 miles to Junction); turn left (north) onto Highway 65, and go through Cedaredge, and continue north past Camp Cedaredge and Aspen Trails Campground for one mile. Turn right onto U50 Road; continue one mile to Big Spruce Camp on the right. Follow the signs.

FACILITIES

- Full hookups for RV's and trailers.
- RV spaces, rooms, and dorms available. To reserve an RV space, room, or dorm space, please call (970) 856-7481, or write to Sister Verlie Baldwin, P.O. Box 663, Cedaredge, CO 81413.

THINGS TO BRING

- Your own sleeping bag, bedding, pillows, and flashlights.
- Sweaters and warm clothes as the nights are cool. Days can be warm.
- Your own towels, washcloths and personal items.

POLICIES (STRICTLY ENFORCED) AT THE CHURCH CAMP

- All clothing for men, women, and children must be to the knee or below.
- Dress appropriately for all church services.
- Do not hand out literature without approval from Brother Eddie Wilkerson.
- Please use King James Version Bible in the services.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Any questions, please call: (970) 856-3875; (970) 856-3703; or (970) 856-7481.
- Camp phone number is (970) 856-3741, in case of emergency.

THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL EVENTS PLANNED THIS YEAR FOR OUR GOSPEL MEETING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US!

Donations are appreciated to help with rent of the camp & groceries. Everyone welcome — Y'all come!

HOSTED BY THE HAPPY HOLLOW CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. BOX 663, CEDAREDGE, CO 81413

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 18-25	Lorenzo, TX	Paul Auslam, Jr.
July 1-9	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
July 1-9	Bellflower, CA	Bob Eldridge
July 9-16	Comanche, OK	Jim Brown
July 23-30	Goshen, AR	Howard Taylor
Aug. 6-13	Sea-Tac, WA	Jim Brown
Aug. 18-20	Yakima, WA	Eric Harper
Aug. 20-27	Aloha, OR	Mark Perigen

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Darrell Wilson	Baron, OK	Heart surgery
Emma Williams	Baron, OK	Neck & hip surgery
Gene Barrett	Baron, OK	Back surgery complications
Hugo Denny	Baron, OK	Recovering from pneumonia
Scottie Gardenhire	Baron, OK	Eye put out
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Vincent Johnson	Bellflower, CA	Bound to wheelchair
Lloyd Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Back trouble
Debbie Newman	Cedaredge, CO	Major cancer surgery
Jo Williams	Comanche, OK	Battling cancer
Gerald Warner	Eugene, OR	Heart trouble
Jack Morris	Ft. Collins, CO	Recovering from open heart surgery
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Recovering from knee surgery
Jack Wood	Hornbeck, LA	Severe heart attack
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Back & knee troubles
Cleo Sump	North San Juan, CA	Internal problems
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	Eye problems
Richard Bryant	San Pablo, CA	Personal problems
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	Leukemia
Barbara Bumgardner	Yakima, WA	Fractured vertebrate
Phil Bumgardner	Yuma, AZ	Severe lung problems

Note –

Please send us a line and let us know how these brothers and sisters are doing.

– the editors.

BIBLE MATCH-UP

Match the person in column 1 to the object or place in column 2 with which they are associated. If you need help, you may look up the scriptures listed.

COLUMN 1		COLUMN 2	
1.	Noah	a. _____	Ladder (Gen. 28:10-12)
2.	Eve	b. _____	Ark (Gen. 6:13-14)
3.	Cain	c. _____	Altar (Gen. 22:9)
4.	Joseph	d. _____	Locusts & wild honey (Matt. 3:4)
5.	David	e. _____	Calf (Exodus 32:3-4)
6.	Esau	f. _____	Hair (Judges 16:13-22)
7.	Isaac	g. _____	Fruit (Gen. 3:2)
8.	Daniel	h. _____	Pitchers (Judges 7:19)
9.	Shadrach	i. _____	Cross (Matt. 27:22-23, 40)
10.	Moses	j. _____	Coat (Gen. 37:3)
11.	Gideon	k. _____	Lions (Dan. 6:16)
12.	Samson	l. _____	Jordan River (2 Kings 5:9-14)
13.	Jesus	m. _____	Sycamore tree (Luke 19:2-4)
14.	Zaccheus	n. _____	Sling (1 Sam. 17:39-40)
15.	Naaman	o. _____	Manna (Exodus 16:15)
16.	Israelites	p. _____	Venison (Gen. 27:5)
17.	Lot's wife	q. _____	Fire (Daniel 3:20)
18.	John the Baptist	r. _____	Salt (Gen. 19:23-26)
19.	Aaron	s. _____	Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:16-18)
20.	Jacob	t. _____	Fruit of the ground (Gen. 4:3)