The Christian Courier

March, 1997

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

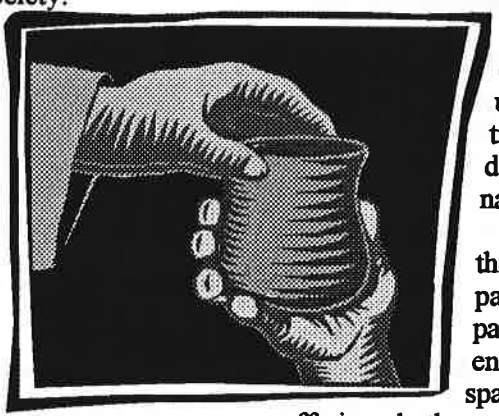
The Lord's Supper

There is no intention to discuss the mechanics of the communion service in these lines. This has been done countless times before. There are, however, other considerations about this institution that are overlooked often. I believe these to be important.

There are two directions to which I wish to direct our minds. In these two aspects is embodied the total reason why it is vital to approach participation in this memorial with the proper attitude.

Retrospective

To remember something ,monumental, someone worthy, or an act comparatively void of selfishness, is a trait of the highest character of civilized society.



Sir Walter Scott, that "great Scot" of cherished memory, put it in proper perspective when he said, "Anyone who cannot or will not remember the great deeds of his forebears will never be remembered for any greatness of his own." Just so in the study at hand!

Our memories are short. We need to be reminded constantly of our duty, lest we forget. This is a strange phenomenon, hard to understand. Consider Israel of old. They were witnesses of deeds unprecedented in history, awesome in their nature, and so obviously the handiwork of God that it was impossible to misunderstand. Yet, the very generation miraculously delivered from their oppressors by God quickly "forgot", complained against God, and ultimately paid the price for their transgressions.

Our Saviour understood this shortcoming of humanity, and took steps to insure that his disciples would not forget his sacrifice and teachings. He set up a memorial!

"This do"

"This do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). We call this memorial the *"communion of the body and blood of Christ"* (1 Cor. 10:16) and the *"Lord's supper"* (1 Cor. 11:20).

In the affairs of men it has long been recognized that a people should have its heroes with their heroic deeds. The truly heroic time of our nation's history was the time of the Civil War. Memorials of the men who struggled and died, both of the South and North, are abundant throughout our nation. The most notable is the memorial to Abraham Lincoln in Washington D.C. Above and beyond anyone else, there was no one person who endured such torment and abuse at the hands of his own countrymen, and endured to ultimately preserve the unity of this nation, than Lincoln. Ultimately, he paid the price for this devotion to duty when he was assassinated. We should all remember this!

Despite the horrors of the time and the gallantry of those who fell, they all pale into insignificance when compared to the persecutions and cruelty endured by the Son of God. Time and space will not permit is to enumerate the sufferings both emotional and physical endured by our Lord. Despite all this, *"... when he was reviled* [he] *reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not ..."* (1 Pet. 2:23). He took upon himself the burden of our sins, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: ..."* (1 Pet. 2:24).

This, then, is the retrospective view; this is what we are to remember!

Introspective

In addition to remembrance, our mental vision is directed inwardly. By observing this memorial we are prompted to look at the actions and motives of our lives. Each must ask him/her self, "am I worthy?"

Indeed, we must take personal inventory at this occasion or run the risk of the displeasure of God. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). It is imperative that we each search our heart at this time!

It is noteworthy that Paul places the burden of proof of worthiness upon the conscience of each individual. He teaches self-examination! Indeed, one's worthiness to participate cannot be determined by any, other than one's own self!

Search as one may, it is impossible to find authority for one to examine another's worthiness to participate! Likewise, we do not find where the sanctity of the Lord's Supper is "polluted" by the participation of another. It is truly an occasion of inward looking, self-examination, and only the individual can do this!

Paul says to *"... Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind."* (Rom. 14:5). Of course, he is discussing eating meats opposed to eating herbs (vegetables) and whether one can decide for the other to eat, or abstain. Each must decide for himself. Individual responsibility!

Just so with the Lord's Supper! *"Let a man examine himself."* Individual responsibility!

Paul speaks to the totality of salvation when he says, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* (1 Cor. 10:12). This speaks to individual responsibility!

Although we all can use help from time to time, and our brothers and sister are a source of great comfort and help, ultimate decision of worthiness is an individual matter (see James 5:16).

The concept of "closed communion" is foreign to the scriptures. This emanates from the assumption that the "church" (that is, it's officers) decides who is or is not worthy to participate, and all others are excluded. Of course, this thought comes from the fertile imaginations of men, and not from God's Word! Nor do we find the idea of "excommunication" in the Bible. This is a similar concept. It conveys "authority" to exclude anyone from communion whoever may be disapproved of by some. This concept is so open to personal abuse, it is no wonder that inspiration has remained silent on the matter.

Reconciliation

At this point, we would do well to look at a principle taught by our Lord during His earthly ministry: *"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."* (Matt. 5:23-24).

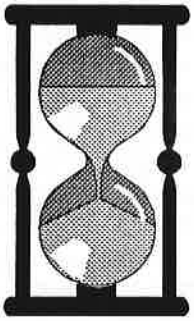
The principle here addresses both self-examination and our relationship with our brothers. It appears that if we approach our worship and remember that our brother holds something against us, we should attempt reconciliation before engaging in worship to the Father.

Of course, this directs our minds to the ideas of humility and forgiveness, emulating the very spirit of Jesus (1 Pet. 2:23-24). It appears if we cannot be of this mind and spirit, our worship will be in vain and should not be attempted! How could we better achieve good will and brotherly kindness among brethren?

I believe this to be true and scriptural. I am sure that there may be contrary opinions among the brotherhood on this matter. I invite your comments, and assure one and all that, if demonstrated to be in error, I will truly change my outlook.

I remain your brother in Christ,
John D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd.

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, March, 1957.** * An announcement from Aztec, NM, of the marriages of Joe Trotter and Sheilda Shields, and Roger Bixler and Flora Dabbs. * Brother R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, Ok, reported they had two baptisms. * And a note from Carlsbad, NM, stating they had one baptism.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1967.** No file copy exists.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1977.** * Brother Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported that Sister Clouse fell and seriously sprained her leg; recent visitors were Brother Gene McKinney and Brother Earl Broadway; and they planned on having Brother J. D. Logan hold their meeting in July. * Brother Dan Treat, Broken Bow, OK, mentioned that Brother Wayne Treat had surgery and was recovering well; Sister Susie Treat had lost her mother; and announced their meeting in June with Brother Jack White. * Brother Elmo Brown, Fort Bragg, CA, noted that Brother Arnett baptized two while visiting them. *

The Furnish Canyon congregation announced their meeting in July with Brother Tom Broadway. * Brother N. E. Bergstrom, Gardendale, TX, wrote that they were having Brother Earl Atchley hold their meeting in June. * Brother John Usrey, Sacramento, CA, invited others to stop by and worship with them. * Brother Gerald Buckner, Pleasantview, OK, announced their meeting in April with Brother Earl Atchley. * Brother Robert Morris, Yuma, AZ, reported they planned to have a meeting in April with Brother Ken Harper. He also noted the passing of Brother Bob Shepherd at the Peoria, AZ, congregation. * Brother Earl Atchley, Elk City, OK, wrote that Brother Glen Peterson was recovering from a hip operation. * Brother Homer Bryant, San Pablo, indicated that Brother Spohnholtz was very sick with pneumonia; they had visits from Brother Jerry Brockman, Brother Willard, and Sister Nora McLear; and that his son Brother Michael Bryant had waited on the Lord's table for the first time.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1987**. * The Baron, OK, congregation announced that Brother Richard Johnston would hold their meeting in June; the passing of Sister Lawson; and they had visits from Brother Melvin Daniels and Brother Gerald Buckner. * Brother David McCay, Lorenzo, TX, reported that they had quite a number of visitors. * Brother Al Way, Bellflower, CA, wrote that Sister Burdett was recovering from surgery; and that they had several recent visitors. * Brother Roger Walkingstick, Oklahoma City, OK, announced the baptism of Greg Burgess. Brother Gerald Buckner, Pleasantview, OK, mentioned they had two baptisms: Rodney Young and Olyene Caviness; and five marriages: Randy Morris and Tammy Hart; Rodney Young and Becky Allgood; Zeb Allgood and Sharon Ames; Greg Allgood and Tammy Buckner; and Paul Guffie and Thessie Morris.



Cards and Letters

Carlsbad, NM

Dear ones in Christ,

I was glad to get the *Courier*. Sorry the computer received so much damage during the bad weather, but glad no one was hurt in the flooding.

My prayers were for all the members everywhere there was so much snow and flooding.

Thanks everyone for your prayers, cards, and phone calls after I broke my hip and shoulder.

Anyone passing this way and would want to stop and have services on Sunday, or just stop and visit, would be welcome. Just let me know ahead of time, so I can have things ready. I can't get around very good with just a walker.

May God bless all the sick with a complete recovery.

With Christian love,

Eunice Bruce

Pleasantview, OK

Greetings to the Brotherhood from the church at Pleasantview, OK.

We're sending a little financial help for the paper. We enjoy it very much. Keep up the good work.

We ask for the prayers of the faithful for our granddaughter, Lauren Guthrie. She has epileptic seizures.

Our love goes out to all.

George Morris for the Pleasantview Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK

No man ever regretted CHRISTIANITY on his deathbed.

BULLETIN BOARD

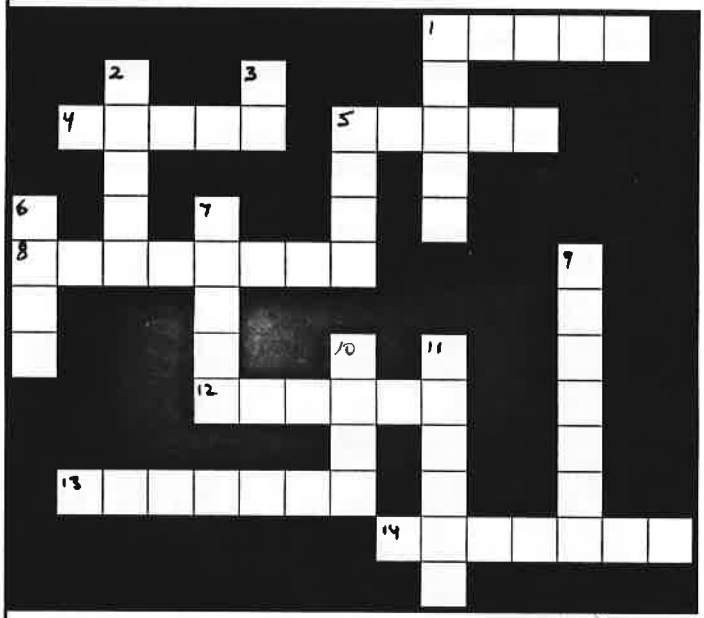
Meetings

May 2-4, 1997	Randlett, OK	Guest speakers
June 8-15, 1997	Baron, OK	Homer Bryant
June 28-July6, 1997	Delta, CO	Camp Meeting
July 6-13, 1997	Yakima, WA	Roger Walkingstick & J. W. Bedingfield

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
James Vanderpool	Bohannan Mt., AR	Heart surgery recovery
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Heart attack recovery
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Heart surgery recovery
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Luke Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Jessica Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Ashley Larson (8 1/2)	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home
Horace Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Very ill

BIBLE BROTHERS



ACROSS

1 Esau's brother (Gen. 25:26)
4 Abraham's brother (Gen. 22:20)
5 Brother of Levi (Gen. 35:23)
8 One of Joseph's brothers (Gen. 42:4)
12 Judah's brother (Judges 1:3)
13 Shem & Ham's brother (Gen. 5:32)
14 Another one of Joseph's brothers (Gen. 35:23)

DOWN

1 Brother of James (Luke 6:16)
2 Moses' brother (Num. 26:59)
3 Onan's brother (Gen. 38:3-4)
5 James' brother (Matt. 10:2)
6 Cain's brother (Gen. 4:1-2)
7 Brother of John & son of Zebedee (Matt. 4:21)
9 Caleb's brother (Josua 15:16)
10 Cain's other brother (Gen. 4:25)
11 Simon Peter's brother (Luke 6:14)