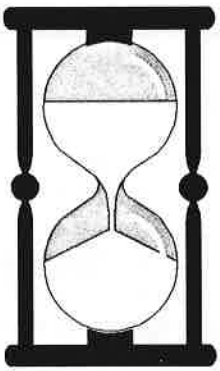
The Christian Courier

July, 1998

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

Doing Things For The Lord



In Col. 3:17 we read, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"

Since childhood, I well remember that every Bible student in the Church of Christ, and especially the preachers, would have us know that to do a thing in the name of the Lord, is to do it by His authority (Acts 4:10-12). We are persuaded that the word of God is equally forceful today, as it was hundreds of years ago. 1 Pet. 1:25, "*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*" Isa. 40:8, "*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*"

Keeping that in mind, we want to call attention to some folks of long ago. May we say that every one of these people, whom we shall mention, were engaged in the service of God, and were supposed to be "Doing things for the Lord." In considering those folks and their attitude toward God, let us remember the words of Paul in 1 Cor. 10:11 and Rom. 15:4. We should profit by their mistakes, and not come under a punishment that we cannot bear, as did Cain (Gen. 4).

In studying his case, we find that God did not respect him and his offering. Why? Surely Cain did not give earnest heed to the things spoken, and therefore let them slip (Heb. 2:1-3). Bear in mind that the word of God is steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience shall receive a just recompence of reward; therefore Cain said, "*My punishment is more than I can bear.*"

But, says one, "God never told Cain **NOT** to offer a vegetable offering." True enough, yet it is not necessary for God to say a thing is wrong for it to be wrong, but on the other hand, we must do what God says do, and not presume to do as we think best (Deut. 18:20). Now that we have learned the predicament that Cain became enveloped in, all because he disobeyed God, let us contrast the attitude of the two brothers.

Heb. 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*" It is obvious that Cain was indifferent in making his offering (Heb. 11:4). We learn that Abel "*by faith, offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.*" Then if Abel's sacrifice was by faith, we know that God has told them what kind of sacrifice to offer. Rom. 10:17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" In other words, before we can practice (or do) a thing by faith, we must have heard God authorize it in His word. Therefore, Abel's attitude was to hear, believe, and obey God (Col. 3:17), while Cain's was not; therefore, it was a sin (Rom. 14:23).

In Numbers 20:8, we have another example of disobedience, as the children of Israel journeyed through the wilderness. They became destitute of water for themselves and for their livestock, threatening to stone their great leader, Moses. He cried unto God for help; whereupon God said, "*Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and **speak ye unto the rock** before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.*" But instead, Moses smote the rock twice with his rod. True enough, he accomplished his purpose, but he disobeyed

God, and for that reason was not allowed to enter into the promised land.

That reminds us of our digressive brethren, who deviate from God's word in the teaching of their children. Sure, they get the job done, as did Moses , but not according to God's way; therefore, we may hear them someday say, "My punishment is more than I can bear." We do not deny the fact that they do get the children taught, but we do deny their way of teaching as being authorized by the word of God; hence, a violation of Col. 3:17 and Rom. 10:17. Bear in mind now, that they are in the services of God, as was Moses at the rock; but if they override Col. 3:17 (which they do), they are not acting by faith, hence it is sin (Rom. 14:23).

Another case of rejecting God's word is found in 1 Samuel, chapter 15, in the person of Saul, the first king of Israel. God told Saul to go and smite the Amalekites, and to utterly destroy both man and beast. Saul went and destroyed Amalek as a nation, but he disobeyed God in that he saved their king alive and a portion of the livestock. Returning home, Samuel convinced him that he had rejected the word of the Lord. As Samuel pressed him for the reason for his disbedience, he declared, "***THE PEOPLE TOOK OF THE SPOIL***." (emphasis mine, J.C.S.), which should have been destroyed. 1 Sam. 15:21, "*But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.*" Hear Samuel again in verses 22-23, "*And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*"

Too bad that our digressive preachers are practicing things without authority, just to please the people. Of course, "the people" pay those boys, which brings us to 1 Tim. 6:10, "*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*"

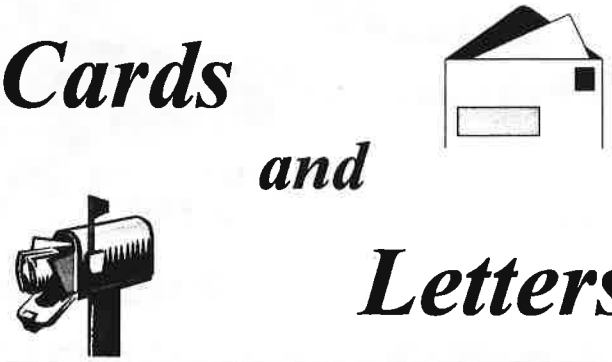
Just recently, I met and attacked another error, as found among some of the loyal congregations, namely: two communions on the Lord's Day. Believing as I do, that no victory was ever won by fighting a defensive warfare, I attacked the error with all my strength and knowledge, laboring to show them that they were violating God's word (Col. 3:17; Rom. 10:17), and to do so is committing sin (Rom. 14:23). Some challenged to write it on the board where God forbid us having two communions on the Lord's Day. I have shown in this article that God does not have to tell us not to do a thing in order for it to be a sin; it is a matter of faith that we do just that. On the other hand, if we introduce anything into the service that He has not commanded, it is not of faith, therefore a sin (Rom. 14:23).

This being my first effort to write an article for the paper, I sincerely hope that it will be received with the same spirit in which it is written.

In Christian love,

J. C. Spurlin

(reprinted from ***It Is Written*, April, 1957**)



Baron, OK

Greetings to all from the Baron Congregation.

The church here is doing well; most are back to their normal health.

We had our 2nd-Sunday dinner today. Everyone had a nice time visiting. Bro. Paul Andrews gave us a good lesson this morning and Bro. David Brown gave us another good one this afternoon.

We had the opportunity to attend the Goshen meeting last week; several members from Baron went. We got to hear Bro. Richard Jones from Comanche, OK, for the first time. We enjoyed his lessons and being with the brothers & sisters there.

We are looking forward to our meeting which starts next Thursday (June 18th-22nd) night with a different speaker each night.

We enjoy reading the *Courier* and reading about other congregations in different places.

In Christian love,

The Baron Church of Christ

Newcastle, TX

The Church of Christ in Newcastle, TX, will be having a weekend meeting beginning July 17th - 19th. Services will be each evening at 7:30, Sunday morning will be at 10:30, and there will be an afternoon service at 2:00. Bro. Bob Eldridge will be doing the speaking.

The Newcastle, TX, Congregation

Aztec, NM

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We hope this letter finds you well. During the winter, several of our members were ill or had surgery, but most are better now. We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Thelma Bishop and Sis. Lula Noyes.

We would like to report that Tanya Bixler was baptized and four members came forward for the prayers of the church this past Sunday. We also have a new baby boy born to Bro. Marshall Johnson and wife Delinda.

Some of us are planning to attend the Cedaredge, CO, Camp Meeting. If there is any way anyone can make it, we encourage you to do so. Young and old, alike, will enjoy the experience, and make memories that last a lifetime.

The Aztec congregation would like to hold a meeting later this summer. We are still working out the details, but if you are interested in attending, or being a guest speaker, please call Bro. Gene Noyes (505-325-0675), Bro. Joe Bixler (505-334-9822), Bro. Charlie Johnson (505-334-2411), or any other member and let us know. We are looking forward to many nights of good teaching, singing, and fellowship, and would love to have your company.

In Christian love,

The Aztec, NM, Congregation

Bohanna Mt., AR

The Christian Courier:

Bro. Marvin Daniels of Bohanna Mt. Is doing great after his surgery in February. The doctor caught a large aneurysm in his artery just above his kidneys. After a week in the hospital, that was rough. He begins to improve very well.

Also, Bro. Ed Faulkner is home after 2 ½ weeks in the burn center in Springfield, MO. He had 3rd & 4th degree burns to his upper body, arms, and legs. He has really been a fighter. The doctors did a lot of skin grafting. He has worked very hard to regain use of his hands, and his hard work has paid off. I was surprised at how well he was doing when we saw him yesterday.

Also, please remove Bro. Ernest Buchannan from the prayer list. He passed away in the latter part of 1997. It was reported, but overlooked. We all miss him and his singing at services.

Goshen finished their three-day meeting. We of Bohanna Mt. Enjoyed hearing Bro. Richard Jones very much. He is a very down to earth speaker. Thank you, Richard.

With love from the Bohanna Mt., AR, congregation

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

We have some good news to report from Seattle. On June 7th, Rennie Marie Elwell was added to the family of God. After Sunday morning services we all went down to the Green River where she was baptized. We are all so very happy for her. Rennie just graduated from high school this year.

Bro. Howard McCay has slowly been improving. We were able to get him out of bed into a wheel cheer a few times; something he has not been able to do since the first of April. He has to be assisted, as he has no strength in his legs.

Bro. Greg Staley had knee surgery on the 19th, and was home on crutches the next day. The surgery went quite well.

Lord willing, Bro. Mark Staley, Bro. Scott Staley, Bro. David Orendorff, Bro. Sammy Geho, Mike Geho, Sister Threasa McKinney, and Bro. Ellis Forsman plan on making the trek to the Delta Family Camp Meeting. Everyone is so anxious to be there.

In Christian love from the Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

E-Mail Addresses

Clifford P. Boling	cpboling@juno.com
Leesa Boling	lhboling@juno.com
Eunice Bruce	embruce@webtv.net
Remco Dykstra	remco.dykstra@tip.nl
Robert Farley	farleyr@juno.com
Becky Forsman	Becksf@juno.com
Earlene Forsman	Lingy@juno.com
Ellis Forsman	ForsmanEP@aol.com
Evart Forsman	Forsman_Eric@juno.com
Kevin Harper	kjharper@worldnet.att.net
Matt Matlock	Matt_Matlock@juno.com
Bill McCay, Jr.	Mccayb@wolfenet.com
Ellen McCay	EMcCay@aol.com
Gene McKinney	monya@televar.com
John McKinney	Jmckin7799@aol.com
Matt Shepherd	mattsheph@aol.com
Amy Orendorff	amh31@juno.com

Children:

Sarah Boling (12)	sj1boling@juno.com
Sheena Boling (9)	sj2boling@juno.com
Shiloh Boling (6)	sj3boling@juno.com

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 27-July 5, 1997	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers
July 17-19, 1998	Newcastle, TX	Bob Eldridge
July 19-26, 1998	Lorenzo, TX	Ellis Forsman

Baptisms

Tanya Bixler	Aztec, NM	June 7, 1998
Rennie Marie Elwell	Sea-Tac, WA	June 7, 1998

Births

Name (?)	Aztec, NM	(?)

Born to Marshall & Delinda Johnson

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Thelma Bishop	Aztec, NM	Ill
Lula Noyes	Aztec, NM	Ill
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Heart blockage
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Marvin Daniels	Bohanna Mt., AR	Surgery recovery
Ed Faulkner	Bohanna Mt., AR	3rd & 4th degree burns
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Geri Bryant family	Ceres, CA	Lost mother in fire
Jo Williams	Duncan, OK	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer & broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Jack Cooper	San Pablo, CA	Dizzy spells
Lola Prado	San Pablo, CA	Lost home to fire
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Epstein Barr virus & mono.
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	R S D Syndrome
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Anna Lee Warner	Springfield, OR	Broken vertebrate, surgery
Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Fighting cancer in hip
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Bud Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lung cancer