

The Christian Courier

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Rust

Rust in the thoughts of many may not have any relationship with us as church members, but there is, in fact, a lesson for us to consider. Some definitions of rust are:

- any harmful or deteriorating effect or influence, especially one that is the result of inactivity.
- to cause deterioration through lack of use.
- similar mixture of compounds, mainly metallic oxides, formed on other metals by oxidation or corrosion.

By these meanings we understand rust is a destructive condition because of neglect, misuse, lack of use, and lack of care. Doesn't this sound familiar? Rust is a condition caused by deterioration and contamination, as is sin.



Sometimes, large and small pieces of metal that are rust perceptive become totally useless and good for nothing because they haven't been properly stored or used. Some metals may not rust themselves, but if other metals that rust lay on them, especially outdoors, rust resistant metals can still become contaminated and be damaged because of association. Basically, all metals can become corroded and be damaged if conditions permit.

Steel has a glaze coating which helps to prevent rust for a short time. However, the glaze coating is not able to prevent rust from forming after long periods of time. The glaze begins to break down, and the metal starts to corrode. God's grace is our protective coating and is able to prevent us from being contaminated with sin if we use His grace as we are commanded.

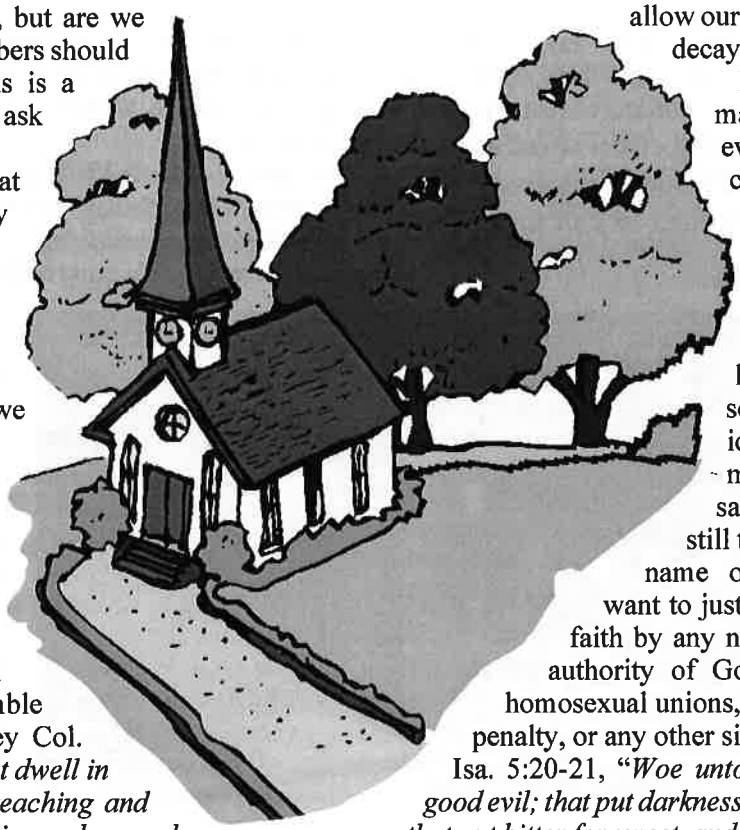
Let us read Eph. 5:27, "Let us read Eph. 5:27, "*That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" We must be free of the contaminations and corrosions of sin as church members, for the church is glorious, and we must not be spots and wrinkles on the body of our dear Saviour.

Our protective coating is God's grace which never fails when it is used correctly; but when it is neglected, or not properly used, we become polluted with sins.

Sometimes, we might not want to admit our sins; however, we must acknowledge our wrongs and cleanse ourselves of our sins as Jesus said in Luke 13:3, or we will perish in our sins. We are commanded in Rom. 6:12, "*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*" Some sins may not seem to be as bad as others, but we are told in 1 John 3:4, "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*" We could try to convince ourselves that it is okay to use God's name in vain, drink alcoholic beverages, miss church when there is no justifiable reason, live in adultery, or any other sin, *because*

"... God knoweth your hearts ..." (Luke 16:15). Truly, God does know exactly what is in our hearts; and if we are content to let sin reign in our mortal bodies, we are choosing to be lost.

Another sin of which we need to be aware and admit is laziness. I am as guilty of this, if not more so, than anyone else. I apologize for not sending any articles to *The Courier* for so long. I have intended to, but I just didn't do it. We read in Eccl. 10:18, "*By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.*" We all must try with all of our hearts to live unto God's glory. Of course, we cannot have our Bibles in our hands all of the time, and our lives cannot be a never-ending prayer; but we can be thinking about God's commandments, sing church songs, and sometimes talk to others about Bible subjects. Whenever someone asks what we believe, we should tell them, and say why. I have heard some say they don't get out of bed early enough on Sunday morning to go to church; some say they don't have time. I wonder how many church members don't read their Bible at home, or even pray because they don't have time. We are church members every minute of every day, but are we really living as church members should be living every day? This is a question we each must ask ourselves.



We all miss church at times. We must be very careful that we do not try to justify missing church with excuses instead of reasons. Occasions that may cause us to miss church must not be of our own making. If we begin to skip a Sunday every once in awhile, we will start looking for excuses, and they will become easier and easier to find. Instead, we should be waiting for each opportunity with anticipation to assemble ourselves together and obey Col. 3:16, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" We are commanded also in Heb. 10:24-25, "*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" How can we obey these commands if we go the church just most of the time? How can we obey these commands if our only thought in church is to "hurry up and get everything over with, so we can go home?" We must not allow our efforts of praise to become as lame as what we read in Mal. 1:10, "*Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.*" If assembling ourselves together mean as little to us as this, what have we already become?

If we allow personal disagreements and jealousies to prevent us from assembling ourselves together, so "*that the word of Christ may dwell in us*," and we argue among ourselves, what is that saying for us as church members? Sometimes, entire congregations fall apart because of these things, and Satan gains more victories. Is this the kind of obedience we want to present unto God on the day of judgment? We read in Gal. 5:15-16, "*But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*" I most surely hope and pray we are better church members than that. We cannot, and must not, allow our fellowship and spiritual unity to decay and be destroyed.

Morality is another subject that many consider to be less important everyday. Some people say this country was founded upon the principles of freedom of religion to do as we please in all things. The freedom of religion without political intervention and oppression are liberties some do not have in some places in the world; but this idea has been abused so much, man has rejected God's plan of salvation to establish his own, and still thinks he is obeying God. In the name of religion, people sometimes want to justify their sins. Man can call his faith by any name he chooses, but not by the authority of God. He can say God blesses homosexual unions, adulterous marriages, the death penalty, or any other sin; but let us read and remember Isa. 5:20-21, "*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*" Also, Gal. 5:19-21, "*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of*

God." Of course, there are many other sins that would prevent us from being saved; but only if we allow ourselves to become contaminated with such things.

We also need to consider our Lord's Day worship. If we should try to improve the gospel "just to make it better," would it be to God's glory? Through the years man has attempted to change what our Lord gave His life for, and added such things as individual cups, Sunday school, instrumental music, women teachers in church, and even the name of the church; still, man says he is following the Bible. Is he not calling good, evil; and evil, good? We read all through the Old Testament about how the people of Israel polluted themselves by trying to improve God's commands. To please the people, Aaron made a molten calf for the people to worship in Exo. 32:1-8. Also, in Num. 20:8-12 Moses smote the rock when God commanded him to speak to it. His and Aaron's sins kept them from entering the promised land. Also read 2 Pet.2:20-22, "*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. ...*"

We read in 1 Cor. 11:27, "*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.*" This is not what I want to present unto God on the day of judgment as the life I have lived. I want to be on the side of the righteous, because we have worshipped our Father in spirit and in truth. We must study to show ourselves approved and, and shun the profane and vain babblings as we are commanded in 2 Tim. 2:15-16. We also are commanded in Gal. 5:1, "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*" I really love being with others in Christ, singing church songs, having prayer, hearing the gospel preached, and taking the communion in the way we are commanded; but if these efforts are not from our hearts, or not according to the Word of God, then what is this saying for us as church members? If our efforts of worship are not according to the gospel, we would be trodding underfoot the Son of God, and counting the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, as we read in Heb. 10:29.

We read in John 3:19-20, "*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*" If we become so full of ourselves and just fail to see the error of our own sins and are content to be wrong, it doesn't matter how well-polished our words are. The fact of the matter is, right is right, and wrong is wrong. Of course, life is never so easy as just right and wrong; but when we stand before God's throne there won't be anything else.

Sometimes, people don't want to hear the truth, because the truth says they are wrong; some would even say they don't care if they are wrong. It is also sad, and a shameful thing, when religion becomes commercial, and is for sale. There are those in the world that have made their own church, and rejected the only one our Lord bought with His own blood. While they try to make what they say and do look good, we read in 2 Pet. 2:18-19, "*For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*" We are not living in the world of darkness, and we must never be content to be wrong. Read 1 Pet. 2:5, "*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*" Also read 2 Cor. 2:17, "*For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*" We are a different kind of people, living in a different way than the world.

We are truly blessed in being members of the body of our dear Lord, and we must do as we read in Col. 3:16, "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" If because of the lack of use, deterioration, or the influence of others, we allow our use of God's Word to be according to the terms of man, the life we will present unto God on the day of judgment will be unacceptable, and we would be cast into the lake of fire mentioned in Rev. 20:19.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we must not be as those of whom we read in Matt. 5:13, who have lost their Saviour. Jesus said they are good for nothing, but to be cast out and be trodden under the foot of men. We must be true worshippers, and worship God in spirit and in truth as we are commanded in John 4:23-24. We are commanded also in 2 Cor. 2:17, "*For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*" Also read Rev. 19:7-8, "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*" It is my hope and prayer we will all present fine linen, clean and white, unto God in the name of our Lord and Saviour on the day of judgment. Truly, let us be glad and rejoice together, letting the words of Christ dwell in us richly that we may all be together in heaven.

In Christ,
Larry Pollan
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Sin Lieth at the Door

One of the challenges we face as Christians is the proximity of sin. It seems and often is very close to us.

Cain was upset in the 4th chapter of Genesis because Abel's sacrifice was acceptable to God and his wasn't. God warned him how close sin was. Gen. 4:7. *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him."*



This verse shows not only the problem of the proximity of sin, but also the solution. It is a simple, 4-part lesson to us, 2 parts warning and 2 parts hope. Hopefully we can learn the lesson more easily than Cain did.

We will look at these 4 parts in reverse order, so that we may begin with the problem, and end with the solution.

1. "Sin lieth at the door."

The basic challenge we are looking at is how close sin is to us. Heb. 12:1. *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,".*

One reason sin besets us so easily is that Satan attacks at our closest, weakest, most vulnerable points. I John 2:16. *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* Our flesh, eyes and heart are very close to us, and so very vulnerable to Satan's devices.

So, how do we let sin get so close to us?

2. "If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."

Basically, we let sin get close to us when we get close to sin. We can apply this teaching in two different ways, both of them accurately.

First, if we don't do well, as in not doing good deeds, sin lieth at the door. James 4:17. *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."*

Second, if we don't do well, as in doing bad things, sin lieth at the door. I John 3:4. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* We can also get ourselves close to sin by pushing the envelope of right and wrong. I John 5:17. *"All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death."*

So we want to be sure that the things we do are pleasing to God. Eph. 5:10. *"Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."*

And we need to avoid as much evil as we can. We cannot completely avoid temptation. But if we avoid what we can, it makes it that much easier to resist what does come our way. I Pet 3:10-11. *"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil,* (eschew means to avoid) *and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."*

3. "Shalt thou not be accepted?"

Yes we can be accepted with God come Judgment Day, as the profitable servant in Matt. 25:21. *"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*

And if accepted we will dwell with Him forever in Heaven. Jesus said in Rev. 3:21. *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."*

How do we ensure that we will be accepted?

4: "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"

Why did the profitable servant's lord tell him "well done"? Very simply, he told him "well done" because he had done well. Matt. 25:20-21. *"And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."*

Our good works keep our faith strong. Heb. 4:11. *"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."*

And we will be rewarded according to our works, Matt. 16:27. *"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."*

So the 4-part lesson from Gen. 4:7 is a simple, yet vitally important one. *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."*

In Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford
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The Way of Life



In the long ago, that wisest of all mortal men wrote this: *"The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath."* (Prov. 15:24.) When we look upon the fleeting life of all mankind, this scripture should be a solemn consideration to all. Indeed, to those of us who are spiritually wise, it is a profound fact. As we are only pilgrims and strangers on the earth (Heb. 11:13), and can only make this pilgrimage once (Heb. 9:27), this should make all responsible people want to make ready to leave here and face the judgment in a prepared state (Amos 4:12). In order to be scripturally prepared, one should have the proper vision through God's Word, so as not to perish after the judgment (Prov. 29:18). As our vision of the scene after this life is wholly governed by our faith in God's Word (2 Cor. 5:7), we would do well to be more careful to avoid any false walk or action in our religious life. Then, too, since our faith comes wholly from God's Word (Rom. 10:17), we are made to wonder why religious people could even imagine they were walking so as to please God, when much of their life is carried on in a way in which they cannot read in God's Book. In our daily living, we must be ever so careful that we walk in the footsteps of the Master (Luke 9:23 & 1 Pet. 2:21). To follow Him is to be led by His divine Word (Psalms 119:105), and only that part of His Word found in the New Testament (Heb. 10:7; 8:13). When God's children openly do and say things which not only are not in the New Testament, but are contradictory to the Word of God, then it is time to sound out the warning that such will not lead to heaven. Daily exhortation, then, is surely in order (Heb. 3:12-13).

Brethren in Christ, let us not enter into any profession where we cannot take and keep Christ in His spirit of approval. Surely, then, in our worship and public services this would be even more true. Yet, brethren who claim to be true Christians are entering organizations and practicing things which cannot be read in the scriptures and are openly violating God's will. How, may I ask, can we expect our light to be worthwhile to the lost world when we do these things? What would we be doing more than our denominational friends do, if we enter into these unscriptural ways and practices? When the Sunday School, with its plurality of classes and teachers, with some of these teachers women, is carried on in the public way, how can those who practice such, reprove the denominational world which enters into churches, wears names and practices things which are not mentioned in the Holy scriptures? That reminds us of the saying of Jesus of the "mote and beam" in Matt. 7:3-5. Then, too, the practice of some in using a plurality of cups in the Lord's Supper, when only the one can be read in the scriptures. ... Also, a plurality of cups in the Lord's Supper would necessitate more than one volume "of the fruit of the vine" as the drink element to be qualified by the same thanks to become our Saviour's blood for His followers to drink. Just a wee bit of study on our part makes us know that our Saviour had only one volume of blood to shed, and did just this when He gave it all on the cross. Careful reading of the accounts of the Lord's Supper found in Luke 22:20 and 1 Cor. 11:25 is enough to convince anyone of the above facts. Could people be said to be in God's way of life without vision enough of His Word to carry out the above as the pattern that has been shown? Then, there is the practice of the one at the Lord's table presiding where, instead of taking the bread, breaking it, and giving it to the disciples to eat, the one officiating at the table changes the scriptural way by taking the bread, gives thanks, then breaks off a piece (a small piece), eats it, then gives the remainder to the disciples to each take off a piece and eat it. To cap it all off, they then make the absurd claim that no breaking of our Lord's body takes place in such a practice, even though many different ones take off a portion for each to eat.

So goes the way of life to the unwise, and yet they claim to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent, and then refuse to affirm that their practice can be read in the New Testament scriptures. Brethren, the scriptures do guide our Lord's true followers, and if things are practiced religiously which are not in the New Testament, how could they who practice such be wise and walk by the faith which comes by hearing the Word of God?

To all of our great number of denominational churches with their unscriptural church names and member names (also the great number of practices of each of them use that are not found in the New Testament): How could you be in the wise way of life that leads above when you be and do such? Do you deny the New Testament scriptures to be man's only guide from here to heaven? If you do not, reason and get "*wise unto salvation*" (2 Tim. 3:15).

Yours, for one who wants to have chapter and verse for everything we practice and claim to do to be religious or as an act of worship.

In love of the truth (not more or less),
W. H. Francis
(Reprinted from ***It Is Written*, August, 1954**).

From Whence Came Confusion, Strife, and Division in the Church?

Since the above conditions have existed from the early existence of the church, and are at the present disturbing the peace and unity, we shall notice a few scriptures pertaining to those items:



First, the Doctrine of Circumcision *"And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question."* (Acts 15:1-2). This demanded the attention of the Elders and Apostles. Paul teaches us that in Christ, neither circumcision availeth nothing nor uncircumcision, but faith that worketh by love (Gal. 5:6). So let us take a look at some prophecies by the Apostles that are being fulfilled today.

In Acts 20:29-30, Paul warns us that grievous wolves would enter in. Now the purpose of the wolves is to destroy the flock, or church. They are in the church, they are those who were obedient to the first principles, and then turned away from them. Paul says that they will rise up among us and will speak perverse things.

The purpose is to draw away disciples, therefore causing confusion and division, and that destroys the unity, dividing the body of Christ, or the church.

Is it not a fact that this condition exists today? Again, the Apostle Peter writes in 2 Pet. 2:1-2, *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."* We know that this is true. It happens to anyone who insists to speak the things that we can read in the scriptures and to teach that the Bible things are to be done as the scriptures read. The false teachers are ready to say it is wrong. Although they will admit that the scriptures read that way, they say it is not as good as what they call their more modern way. Why do they thus contend?

Now, all confusion, strife, and division that ever has molested the church has had its origin within the church. The denominations, as they are known, never have caused any trouble in the Church of Christ; nor has the world, because the world does not care how or what we do. They show no interest in the church, whatsoever. Paul tells Timothy (1 Tim. 4:1-2) that some would depart from the truth and would speak lies that mean they will teach things that they cannot read in the New Testament. Also, that there would be some that would not endure sound doctrine, but would turn away from the truth, and be turned unto fables. Notice Paul said that it was their own lust, or their desire to be. So, then, we should beware of who we support and follow. As John tells us, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* (1 John 4:1) and *"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."* (2 John 1:10-11).

Now all things that have caused division, such as the Sunday school (or Bible study, as it is sometimes called), the plurality of cups, the breaking off a piece of the bread, and the wine theories, all were started by those in the church. These things were (and are being) taught, and cannot be read in the New Testament.

Written in love of the truth.

E. H. Cavin

(Reprinted from *It Is Written*, August, 1954).

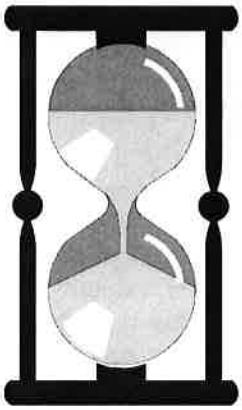
The Best Thing To Do

When someone comes into the congregation full of hobbies, set him down. We are too slack on those matters. Many times we give false teachers a chance to sow discord among the church, and many times cause divisions. Any man that's not in harmony with God's Word is not fit to put up in the church for a teacher, or a preacher. We have got to watch, as well as pray. There are many false teachers gone out into the world today that will preach anything. I say watch all the time, for the devil is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). In these last days, don't think he is devouring many. Not only many, but thousands are falling into his pits. As I have said before, many ditches have been dug along that strait and narrow way in the last fifty years, and many have fallen into them. And many will be dug in the future.

R. C. Clements

(Reprinted from It Is Written, August, 1954)

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, March, 1959.** * Bro. J. I. Brown, Modesto, CA, wrote that Bro. And Sis. Condor's health had improved. * Bro. Earl Arnett, Modesto, CA, added that they had one baptism. * Bro. L. C. England, Whittier, CA, reported that he and his wife had been sick, Bro. Elmer Hunt was home after surgery, and that Sis. Ella Cavin was feeling better. * Bro. R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, OK, indicated that he and his brother in Austin, TX, were in poor health. * Bro. Foye Garrison, Nocona, TX, wrote that Bro. Coy Garrison preached for them every 2nd Sunday of the month. * Bro. W. E. Daniels, Broken Bow, OK, said they had a lot of recent sickness.

***The Christian Courier*, February, 1969.** * Bro. W. E. Daniels, Pleasant View, OK, invited others to stop by and meet with them. * Bro. Ed Tate, Newcastle, TX, reported that Bro. & Sis. Ray Bishop's son, Harvey, had passed away of a stroke. * Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, announced that they gave Bro. & Sis. Dick Taylor a wedding shower, and that Bro. Bill Taylor would be home again after active duty in the Air Force. * Bro. John Usrey, Sacramento, CA, reported that two women had returned to the fold, and that Toby Lawder had been baptized. * Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, invited others to come to the '69 Delta Camp Meeting. * Bro. J. D. Logan, Modesto, CA, indicated that Sis. Connie Burtis was burned in a campfire accident and had to undergo a skin graft on her hip, and that Sis. Pat Logan was living a normal life after her auto accident in October. * Bro. N. E. Bergstrom, Stanton, TX, reported on the passing of Sis. Willie Ann Fisher. * Bro. Gene McKinney, San Pablo, CA, invited others to meet with them. * Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, listed several of their members who had been sick.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1969.** * Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, wrote that some of their members had moved away. * Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, reported that Sis. Ruth Duncan had returned home after serious gall bladder surgery. * Bro. Gene McKinney, San Pablo, CA, said they were looking forward to the far west camp meeting. * Bro. Ron Berry, Pampano Beach, FL, wanted to know if there was a congregation near Pampano, Florida. * Yuma, AZ, reported on recent illnesses. * Bro. Marvin Daniels, Goshen, AR, indicated that he was bed ridden with the mumps, and that Sis. Lucy Harrison was in a rest home. * Bro. Tom Broadway, Grant's Pass, OR, wrote that Bro. Robert McCay & family stopped by on their way to Modesto, CA. * Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, listed a number of recent visitors. * Bro. J. D. Logan, Modesto, CA, urged others to attend the camp meeting at Booneville, CA, and announced the passing of Bro. Alvis Walker who was killed in a violent windstorm.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1969.** * Bro. N. E. Bergstrom, Stanton, TX, reported the church there planned to purchase a lot north of Odessa, TX. * Sis. Lou Freeman, Pasadena, TX, expressed a desire to correspond with other young Christians. * Bro. Kenneth Wilcher, Redvale, CO, invited others to worship with them. * Bro. W. E. Daniels, Stilwell, OK, announced they planned to have a meeting in July with Bro. J. D. Logan. * Bro. Earl Jones, Springfield, OR, invited others to meet with them. * Bro. L. E. Arnett, Waterford, CA, announced they planned to have a meeting in June with Bro. Carrel Gray. * Bro. Gene McKinney, San Pablo, CA, reported on recent visitor; Bro. Jack Cooper's son, David, received a broken collar bone; and that Bro. & Sis. John McKinney had a baby girl, Threasa. * Bro. N. C. Quinn, Eureka, CA, expressed a desire in obtaining employment near a loyal congregation. * Lorenzo, TX, announced the weddings of Bro. Charles Burt to Sis. Kathy Howe and Bro. Evart Forsman to Sis. Becky Loftis. * Yakima, WA, indicated they had three baptisms: Cinde Meek, Judy Penuel, and Terrie Simon; and that Bro. Elza Loveland was recovering from surgery. * Bro. J. H. Lackey, Springfield, CO, wrote that they had been snowed in for three weeks, during which time they were unable to attend services, which were ten miles away. * Yuma, AZ, listed a number of recent illnesses and visitors.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1979.** * Bro. James Brown, Baron, OK, announced they would share a meeting with the Pleasant View congregation in June with Bro. Richard Johnston. * Bro. Gerald Buckner, Pleasant View, OK, indicated that they have been preparing for their upcoming meeting.

***The Christian Courier*, February, 1989.** * Bro. Lee MacDonald, Oliverhurst, CA, listed a number of recent illnesses and visitors. * Bro. Eddie Wilkerson, Cedaredge, CO, submitted the 1988 Delta Camp budget report, and invited others to attend the 1989 camp meeting. * Bro. Randolph Kellems, Cucamonga, CA, wrote that they were meeting with the LaHabra congregation. * Bro. Errol Forsman, Lorenzo, TX, reported on their winter meeting with Bro. Ellis Forsman. * Oklahoma City, OK, wrote that their congregation had grown a little.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1989.** * Bellflower, CA, announced Dan Teague would hold their meeting in July. * Bro. Ken Harper, Indian Springs, CO, reported that Sis. McCluskey's eyesight had improved somewhat and that Bro. Ron Tibbs & family were meeting with them. * Bro. Al Burtis, Waterford, CA, reported that Sis. Kay Guyer had heart

by-pass surgery; Bro. Frank Morse had surgery for a ruptured appendix, and listed other illnesses. * Sis. Verda Nelson, Yuma, AZ, wrote that several had the flu; Sis. Debra Nelson had surgery; Mary Davis had surgery for a growth (she passed away before the paper was printed); and Sis. Ruth Duncan was scheduled for back surgery again. * Sis. Verna Danforth reported that her mother had passed away. * Bro. John Usrey, Sacramento, CA, reported on the passing of his wife, Sis. Deana Usrey. * Seattle, WA, indicated that Sis. Amy Orendorff received a broken collar bone and pelvis and her son David received a broken spleen and other injuries in a car accident.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1989.** * Bro. John Shepherd, Payson, AZ, invited others to come and meet with them. * Bro. Robert Bearden, Temple, GA, wrote that he enjoyed the Delta Camp Meeting.

Trust in God

It seems that life just spins out of control.
No structure, only God will see me through.
God is the way I reach my final goal.
When long ago I would have just withdrew;
With God, I can achieve my hopes and dreams.
Without Him, I'd surely have given up.
Every day, trials make me want to scream.
All I've got to do is sip from His cup.
He will help me accomplish what I need,
To get by the troubles I face toady.
You ask, "Is this all there is?"; well take heed,
You will go to a better place someday.
All you have to do is follow the Lord,
And then you will say, "My cup runneth o'er!"

— Joey Usrey



Cards and Letters

Bellflower, CA

Dear ones in Christ,

We have been so very neglectful in sending in news for our congregation, and beg your forgiveness. We are still here and meet Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The doors of this congregation are never closed to anyone for worship services. We are very small in number with sometimes only two in attendance.

We ask the *Courier* staff to please add to the prayer list Bro. Vincent Johnson. Vincent is a soldier of the cross and an inspiration for us. He is confined to a wheelchair with very little normal movement. He has put himself through school and is now working. Please keep Erelene Chessman on the list; she continues to fight cancer. All of us need your prayers.

Our love and prayers go out to all of our loved ones who are suffering. There is so much sickness, pain, and suffering in the church. Our hearts hurt each time we read of the suffering among the brethren.

We are still in shock having lost so many brothers and sisters to death. We know to be absent from the body is to be present with our Lord, and those faithful who have departed have their promised home in heaven, but the loss is so great it is almost too much.

We have had visitors from Oregon, Texas, Arkansas, Washington, Colorado, and Northern California in the past several months, and have enjoyed the guest speakers and visits. In the future we will do a better job and include the names of those who visit us.

In Christian love,

The Bellflower congregation

Broken Bow, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have not received a paper in quite some time, and we hope and pray that you will be able to continue in the future. We are enclosing a gift to help in your continued effort in the Spirit. It is a wonderful paper, and to not receive it is very sad. We would like to request at least 14 copies of the paper to be sent to us due to the fact that we are growing somewhat, and it is difficult to share the paper.

It has been a long time since I have written. We at Broken Bow have had some move away, and a couple of new people are attending the congregation. Bro. Rick Brown and family moved to Virginia, and Bro. Edwin Crowell's mother, Estelle Crowell, and Ruby Johnson are attending regularly. We sure are glad to have the addition to our small group.

Sis. Hazel Harville has been having some difficulty with her heart and diabetes. She has been in and out of the hospital several times this past month. Please keep her in your prayers. She is a very dear sister, and she is a rock for us ladies here.

It is also our intention to ask for your support in our small congregations in Broken Bow. Visiting brethren who speak or lead songs are very welcome to come and join us. Many have come to Oklahoma to visit, and we hope someday those of you who come will worship with us and visit our beautiful part of the state. If you are coming to this area, contact Bro. Doug Ferguson at 580-981-2243, or Bro. Edwin Crowell at 580-584-7496, or Bro. Dan Treat at 580-584-6897.

Keep us in your prayers, and may God bless each and every one for his intended purpose in this life.

In Christian love,

The Broken Bow congregation

Cedaredge, CO

Hello to all of our Christian families and friends,

Here it is 1999, and a new year ahead of us, and a lot of gospel meetings planned for this year.

Our Delta Family Camp Meeting is planned for July 3 through July 11, so please mark your calendar now so you don't forget.

All congregations are invited and welcome. We will get more in the paper about it as soon as we get the plans finalized.

The congregation here at Cedaredge is doing great. We do have some colds, etc. going around. Sis. Craig fell and broke her hip and had surgery. She is doing great and will get to come home this week. Sis. Patty Wilkerson had Gall Bladder surgery last week and is now home and recovering very well.

Sis. Diane Wilkerson works at the hospital in Delta. She was sent to Boston for more training a couple weeks ago for a week. Sis. Movelle (Mae) Wilkerson is visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Pam & Skip Berry & family, in Georgia. We are anxious for her to come home.

Bro. & Sis. George Cowger had their daughter & family come and visit them from Georgia for the holidays. Sis. Verle Baldwin went to Brawley and San Diego, CA, to be with her daughter, Alyce Drysdale, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren for the holidays. She also visited her brother, Joe Jones & family, in San Diego. While there, Joe

lost his wife, and Sis. Verle stayed to help out and attend her services. While there, she attended church at Bellflower, CA, and visited with Bro. Al & Sis. Okja Way and Bro. Jerry & Sis. Betty Perigen. Bro. & Sis. Subir Sen & daughter from Goshen, AR, were there. Bro. Subir brought a good lesson.

Sis. Verle attended church at Yuma, AZ, three Lord's days and enjoyed visiting with old friends there and listening to some very uplifting lessons.

When Sis. Mae gets home we will have everyone home, once again, with the exception of Bro. Keith Wilkerson.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our camp meeting in July.

May God bless you all.

The Happy Hollow congregation

Cedaredge, CO

Elkins, AR

I would like to report the passing of our mother, Sis. Carrie Roberson, of the Tiner congregation at Broken Bow, OK, on February 24, 1999. Graveside services were held on March 1, 1999, at Hochatown, OK, with Bro. Marvin Daniels officiating.

Sis. Carrie was a member of the church for over 50 years. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Bro. Robert Roberson of Broken Bow, OK; two daughters: Rachel Daniels, Elkins, AR; Pat Reed, Broken Bow, OK; two sons: Clifton Roberson, Murray, KY; Edward Roberson, Winlock, WA; ten grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

Our mother is only asleep until the last trumpet shall sound and the dead shall rise.

The Roberson children

Show Low, AZ

Greetings from the Body here in Show Low, AZ.

All of us are doing well. The weather has cooled right down, and I guess winter is well upon us. We have no complaints about that. Winter brings a beauty all of its own; also a new set of challenges.

There is, for the most part, about a half dozen of us meeting here now, but where two or three gather in His name there He is in the midst of us.

We still would like to see all the visitors that we can. You all come.

Keep us in your prayers, as we keep all of you in ours.

With love,

The Show Low congregation

RR2, Box 22034

Show Low, AZ 85901

Show Low, AZ

Hello to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are all doing fine here. The weather has been very nice. Spring is trying to come.

Well, we all send our love; and if anyone happens to be coming this way, give us a call. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Thank you,

Joseph Davis

Show Low Church of Christ, AZ

Pleasantview, OK

We would like to announce that we will be having a gospel meeting June 6-13 with Bro. Rex Mickey performing the speaking. We would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy the preaching and fellowship.

Robert Fusan, Jr. Will be getting new braces soon. These braces will enable him to walk with a cane. Robert is looking forward to the braces, then he can do away with the crutches.

Bro. Gerald Buckner

Pleasantview Church of Christ

Rt. 5, Box 3020

Stilwell, OK 74960

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

The church in Yuma will hold a gospel meeting at Easter time with Bro. J. D. Logan doing the speaking. The dates are from March 28th to April 4th. It will be great to see Bro. & Sis. Logan again. All are welcome to be with us; your presence would greatly enhance the meeting. There are some R. V. hookups with bathroom and shower. facilities. If you could come and need accommodations, please call ahead of time.

There is still quite a lot of illness in our group. Sis. Duncan suffered a heart attack on Dec. 8th, and was air evacuated to Phoenix for the repairs to her heart. She is home now and is doing fairly well. Sis. Heck has not been well for some time. Some days she is fair; and others she is not so good. Sis. Schrader has lost sight in one eye and almost all in the other eye. Sis. Loveta Boling has had problems. I'm not sure of the results of her tests. Sis. Alice Davis has had problems with a restriction in her throat. Most of her tests have been good; there is one still pending. We have received word that Sis. Earlene Forsman has had surgery to remove 1/3rd of one lung at the hospital in Lubbock, TX. The news is good in that it was not malignant.

Bro. Joe & Sis. Diana Davis & family were with us this past Sunday (Feb. 7th), and Bro. Joe gave the lesson for morning worship. Bro. Dennis William Davis II returned to

the Lord's service. There was much joy in our midst as we know there was in heaven.

There is a lot of illness throughout the brotherhood, as we read from the newsletters. Let us all be mindful to be prayerful for the ones that are sick, for as King David once said concerning the ill, "... *Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me ...?*" Prayers are powerful and comforting.

Phone numbers to call concerning the meeting:
Sonny Boling 520-783-8580
Robert Davis 520-782-2986
Horace Orendorff 520-782-4001
Harry Davis 520-783-0474

This is about all I can think to write about. May God bless us all richly.

In Christian love,
The congregation in Yuma, AZ

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brethren and Friends,

After twenty years working at the wind tunnel at Boeing, Bro. Ellis Forsman was forced to find other work within Boeing due to drastic cutbacks (60% reduction). His new job is still in Boeing, creating parts catalogs of all the Boeing planes on CD's for the airline customers.

Sis. Ellen McCay of the Glenwood congregation had an operation for colon cancer, and the doctors believe they got all of the cancer.

We were pleased to have Matt & Kelly Shepherd visiting, though it's still hard to think of them as visitors. John & Betty McKinney were here recently as well.

Several of our number have been visiting other congregations when opportunities have been there to do so. Let's always remember travelers in our prayers.

With Love,
The Sea-Tac congregation

Tiner, OK

Hello,

I'm writing this letter at a very sad time for our family to let you know of the death of Carrie Roberson (82) of the Tiner Church of Christ in Broken Bow, OK. She was a member for more than 50 years. She died on February 24, 1999. Please stop sending the paper to her address.

Thank you so much. Keep up the good work.
Pat Reed of the Tiner Church of Christ

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Cedra Wood	Vague94.5@juno.com
Javan Wood	Mystic211@aol.com

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Mar. 28-Apr. 4, 1999	Yuma, AZ	J. D. Logan
June 6-13, 1999	Pleasantview, OK	Rex Mickey
July 3-11, 1999	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers
Aug. 1-8, 1999	Yakima, WA	TBA

Prayer of Faith for those in need

James Vanderpool	Bohannan Mt., AR	Hepatitis
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Vincent Johnson	Bellflower, CA	Confined to a wheelchair
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition & diabetes
Sis. Craig	Cedaredge, CO	Broken hip & surgery
Patty Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Gall bladder surger
Jo Williams	Duncan, OK	Fighting cancer
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Colon cancer operation
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer, broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Emphysema
Marion Serrano	Goshen, AR	Back surgery
Earlene Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Lung surgery
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Fighting cancer in hip
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Throat restriction
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Heart attack
Ruth Duncan's husband	Yuma, AZ	Lung cancer
Sis. Schrader	Yuma, AZ	Eye sight troubles

Passings

Sis. Carrie Roberson	Tiner, OK	February 24, 1999