

The Christian Courier

April, 2003

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The Wisdom of Men

Since the very early days of the earth man has sought after knowledge. Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge because of their desire for greater knowledge. We read in Gen. 3:6-7. *"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."*

From that time to now mankind has continued to educate himself and now many times considers himself to even be smarter than God. Technology has been developed to do many amazing things. Mankind has learned to use electricity, to combine ingredients to make chemicals, make machinery, travel to space, to prolong life through medical breakthroughs, and to the latest discovery to clone human life according to some; all the while giving himself the glory and not God. In many ways man has exalted himself above all that is called God showing himself he considers himself to be his own God as we read in II Thess. 2:4.

"... hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"
(1 Cor. 1:20)

For many years some have believed man evolved from some kind of animal. I even read once man learned to walk upright so he could see over the tall grass. If a skull is dug from the ground it is said to be that of man in transition from animal to man. To make these things yet worse the government of our country gives millions of dollars for research of such things.

I cannot speak for everyone on earth but I do believe all who are faithful in Christ agree with me in saying we did not originate from apes, lizards, fish, dogs or any other animal. We are not animals and it is personally insulting to me as a church member for others to say we are so. Please read Gen. 1:26-27. *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* Also Acts 17:28. *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."*

I do not intend to say I don't appreciate the conveniences that have been invented. All I am saying is we have none of these things by our own hand. Our Lord said in John 15:5. *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

Would God after creating us in His own image give us the ability to discover we were of animal origin? To do so would be in contradiction of His own Word. We read in Heb. 6:18. *"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:".*

Once in a documentary on television I heard it has never been discovered by what force the universe and all the planets were created. What a surprise is waiting for those who believe this!

Not so long ago rocks were brought back from Mars by an unmanned spacecraft. When broken open evidence of water was discovered. To the amazement of many it was revealed there was at some time water some place other than earth. This really rocked the world of science. Any person that studies and believes God's Word already knew this to be true. Read Gen. 1:6-7. *"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."* Everyone should note this is the God of heaven speaking. We have known all along water was on Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the other planets. We also know beyond all the planets there is also water, and we need no scientific proof.

Every once in awhile someone discovers a "new" planet millions of light years away, and people are amazed at this discovery. In all of this great research and technology no glory is given to God. When God is mentioned He is brushed aside because there is no scientific proof God exists. But we in Christ read in Psa. 14:1. *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."* Also read II 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."*

The natural man in his arrogance does not receive the things of the Spirit of God because they are foolishness unto him as stated in I Cor. 2:14. He has no proof that is acceptable to him that God exists and he exalts himself above God and amazes himself with his discoveries. We also read in Eph. 4:17-18. *"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:".*

All too often in man's effort to have wisdom he does not recognize how far away from God he is going. Even to have religion at times man looks to himself and not to God. It seems more reasonable the more intelligent man becomes he would realize there is a power greater than human reasoning. However it is his demand for scientific proof that keeps him from acknowledging God's power. His understanding is full of darkness. Jesus said in Matt. 6:23. *"But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"* Also read Job 21:14. *"Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways."* Also read I Cor. 3:19. *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."*

To have religion the natural man allows himself to believe he can go away from God. God said in Isa. 29:13. *"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"* How great their darkness has become! This is the same logic the devil tempted Eve with in Eden. He convinced her she could be faithful to God without obeying God. Jesus in talking to those who would not accept His commandments said in John 8:44. *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*

It is by the power of persuasion and temptation the devil has lied to man, and convinced his to require scientific proof of God's existence. It is because of this kind of logic the natural man believes the church can be anything he chooses to make it. Because of his faith being by the precept of man he has tried to put age divisions in the church and attempted to change the pattern for the communion. In Paul's account of the communion in I Cor. 11:23-25 Jesus commands. "Do this in remembrance of me" both for the bread and the cup. How is it possible to obey the command of our Lord by believing even though we are commanded to take the communion it doesn't matter how we do it? These are what Bro. Bob Eldridge calls "digressive Churches of Christ". I agree with Bro. Bob. In I Cor. 11:27-29 we also read. *"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. 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."*

When we are ill or injured, depending upon to what extent, often we go to a doctor. If we do not seek medical treatment and get well anyway how do we recover? If we regain our health after seeking medical help by whose grace are we healed? How can even the finest of physicians have any ability at all except by God? Through the years there have been many noteworthy intelligent people. To name a few: Thomas Edison, Madame Curie, and Louis Pasteur, and many others also. Jesus said in John 15:5 except by Him we can do nothing. Also we are told in Luke 17:12-19. *"And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice*

glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." When I am sick or injured, and with or without medical treatment recover, I know I have experienced the grace of God at work. For in God I live and move and have my being as told in Acts 17:28.

When I see the stars on a beautiful clear night I know I am seeing what God has created. Read Psa. 19:1. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."*

And as the famous song says: "Then sings my soul, O Lord my God how great thou art!" It is the God of all eternity that I give the glory, and I don't care about scientific proof.

I am from what many call the old school. I believe without doubt in the power of God. And I know to be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; to take bread, give thanks, brake it, and eat of it as the body of Christ; and in like manner take the cup, and only one cup, give thanks for it, and drink it as the blood of Christ is to faithfully obey the command of our Lord in I Cor. 11:23-25. When Jesus commanded "this do in remembrance of me" He meant exactly what He said without adding to or taking from His holy Word. By pointing to the Word of God and honestly saying "This is what I believe" and then obeying it is then we truly can say we are faithful in Christ. There are of course many other commandments in the Bible. We as church members must obey all of God's Word in Christ to be faithful.

I am a member of the Ringgold, TX congregation, and have been since 1959. I try my best by the grace of and in the name of Christ to preach the gospel in spirit and in truth. I am not well spoken or highly educated as many are blessed with. However I am determined to be the very best church member I can be by the grace of God bestowed upon me with all my heart. I cannot have peace while knowing some that are dear to me are not living faithfully. To be with others in Christ, to hear the gospel preached, to sing songs of praise to God in the name of our Lord, and to take the communion is my greatest joy in this life. In the words of Balaam in Num. 22:18. *"...I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more."* We should all be thankful for our congregations and rejoice not in iniquity, but in truth as commanded in I Cor. 13:6. To do these things upon the first day of the week is when the word of Christ dwells in us richly, Col. 3:16-17, and we worship our God in the beauty of holiness.

Let us also read Prov. 9:10. *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."* The real wisdom of man is to know God as God commands. The real wisdom of man is to know God created heaven and earth, and made us in His image. Those who are faithful to God do not go away from God seeking greater knowledge.

Let us also read I John 5:6-10. *"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in*

himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

On the day we must all appear before the throne of God, what will become of those who have trod underfoot the Son of God and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing as we are told in Heb. 10:29? Where will the scientific proof be then? Also read II Pet. 2:12. *"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;".*

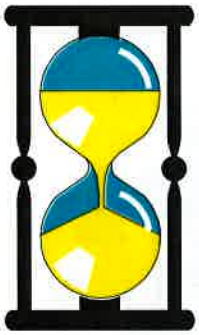
When I stand before the judgment seat of Christ I want to be with those who have believed and obeyed the record God gave of His Son. I want to be with all the early day church members we read of as in I Cor. 1:2. And with my family members that have lived before me that were also faithful, and all who are with me now in this life in Christ everywhere on earth.

In closing let us all read and remember Psa. 33:8. *"Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him."*

In Christ,
Larry Pollan
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"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."
(Prov. 4:7)

Precious Memories



***Gospel News Courier*, March, 1963.** Bro. Hayse Morris, Hamilton, OH, announced they had gained 3 new members. Bro. George Vanderpool, Huntsville, AR, wrote of the accident that took Bro. Paul Auslam's father's life. Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, indicated that because of sickness the following had been unable to attend services: Bro. & Sis. Condor, Sis. Stark, Sis. Smith, and Bro. Rollins. He also mentioned that Sis. Baxley fractured her leg in a fall. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, announced the engagement of Bro. Ellis Forsman and Sis. Lynell McCay. Bro. Roy Snoderly, editor, announced that a camp meeting was being planned in Delta, CO, in August.

***Gospel News Courier*, April, 1963.** Bro. W. E. Daniels, Stilwell, OK, wrote of his travels to other congregations. Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, announced the baptisms of the following while visiting the congregation at San Pablo, CA: Lola Mae Beaver, Rhonda Maddox, and Marcelle Maddox. Bro. Claud Perigen, Bellflower, CA, announced a meeting in July with Bro. J. D. Logan. The La Habra, CA, congregation listed several recent visitors. There also was a memorial of Sis. Maggie Reese, who passed away on March 13th.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1973.** Bro. Marion Warford, Baron, OK, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Ken Baldwin. Bro. L. E. Atchley, Elk City, OK, indicated he moved to Elk City from Westville, OK. Bro. Jim Bryant, Klamath Falls, OR, announced the baptism of Eddie Chilcote. The Modesto, CA, congregation announced the marriage of Sis. Sheila Guyer to Grant Arnold on March 17th. He also indicated they were preparing for their meeting in June with Bro. Sammy Boen.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1973.** The Yakima, WA, congregation announced the passing of Bro. William Edge on March 3rd, the birth of Kimberly Kay McCay on February 20th, and their meeting in June with Bro. Harry Dye. Bro. Jim Bryant announced the baptisms of Philip Bryant, Ray Bryant, and Steve Eldridge. The Modesto, CA, congregation mention a number of illnesses and that Sis. Elizabeth Stark was recovering from an operation.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1983.** Bro. L. C. Barker, Gardendale, TX, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Tony Brister. The Aztec, NM, congregation announced a meeting in May with Bro. Harry Dye and the 101st birthday of Bro. Earl Noyes. Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, Humble, TX, wrote of his travels to other congregations. Bro. Larry Fulkerson, Yakima, WA, encouraged others to write to Sisters Nora Loveland and Jenny Mack who were upset with having to move to a new nursing home. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, added that Joyce Crowel was baptized and that Bro. Merle McKinney had undergone surgery. Bro. Roger Walkingstick, Oklahoma City, OK, announced they had adopted another son: Cory Dale. There also was a memorial of Sis. Janice Herbert who passed away in March.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1983.** Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, Humble, TX, announced a meeting in April with guest speakers. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen AR, list ed a number who had been ill. The Yuma, AZ, congregation wrote of the passing of Sis. Virgie Bishop. Bro. Tony Brister, Roll, AZ, wrote that they have title to a piece of land to erect a church building. Bro. Billy Richardson, Furnish Canyon, OK, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Howard Taylor. The Duncanville, TX, congregation listed several recent visitors.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1993.** Bro. Chuck Garner, Keizer, OR, wrote that Bro. J. L. Jared had been taking radiation treatments for cancer. Bro. Don Lewis, Duncan, OK, wrote that Sis. Ruth Clay has started meeting with them. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, announced their meeting in July with Brother Mick Boen and Eric Harper.





Cards and Letters

Cedaredge, CO

Well, another year has gone by. We here at Cedaredge are doing fine; we have no one sick at this time. We have decided not to have our annual camp meeting this year. We want to thank all of you who have helped us so much in the past years. May God bless you all.

We have decided to build a place to park some trailers and put in a big bathhouse and kitchen. We hope to have all of this finished in two years. Bro. Ed Wilkerson has already drilled a well in back of the church building. It is drilled to 64 feet and there is about 24 feet of water. The well is putting out about 36 gallons per minute, so it looks like we will have plenty of water. We want to make about 6 or 8 parking spots for trailers. When we have completed this, we will resume with our camp meetings. For those of you who don't have RV's, just come on and we will put you up in our homes or in a motel. I called Bro. Loftis in Lorenzo, TX, and he said he would like to come up and help us build a kitchen. I will call him when we get started on it. We are working on plans for the bathhouse now.

Well, getting back to our congregation now. Sis. Craig is doing some better now. The doctor put her on some water pills and she has lost about 40 pounds. She is able to attend services now. Bro. George Cowger got a good checkup in December. We have been few in attendance up until last week when we had 5 visitors. This week we had 8 that had not been here for some time. We also would like to be included in your prayers. We also remind you to keep all those who are ill and or suffering in your prayers.

Bro. Chester A. Craig
For the Cedaredge, CO, congregation.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

Greetings from the brethren at Sea-Tac.

We've enjoyed having a few visitors the past few weeks, (3 separate families, locally), for which we are all very happy. Also, we enjoyed the company of Bro. Matt & Sis. Kelly Shepherd from Vancouver, WA. While Bro. Ellis Forsman was in California on Boeing business, he visited the Bellflower congregation. The same weekend, he missed seeing Bro. Jerry & Sis. Betty Perigen, who were visiting the Sea-Tac, WA, group while here on work business.

The 1st of May, Sis. Nell McCay (83) plans to have shoulder replacement surgery. On May 6th, Sis. Jeannean McSwane will have the first of two surgeries on her foot. Please remember them in your prayers.

As a reminder, we are planning a combined meeting with the Glenwood congregation. Their portion of the meeting is Aug. 17-20 with Bro. Ken Williams, while the Sea-Tac meeting is Aug. 21-24 with Bro. Robert Farley. Make plans to join us this summer. For information call Bro. Bill Taylor (360-876-1460) or Bro. Ellis Forsman (206-241-7493).

On behalf of *The Courier*, we thank you for your letters and support.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Bulletin Board

Meetings

May 23-25, 2003	Randlett, OK	Larry Pollan
June 29-July 6, 2003	Yakima, WA	TBA
July 6-12, 2003	Stilwell, OK	J. D. Logan
July 13-21, 2003	Beaver's Bend, OK	Camp Meeting
Aug. 17-20, 2003	Glenwood, WA	Ken Williams
Aug. 21-24, 2003	Sea-Tac, WA	Robert Farley

Baptisms

Chris Carter	Glenwood, WA	End of March at Selah, WA
Kayla Carter	Glenwood, WA	End of March at Selah, WA
Jessica Carter	Glenwood, WA	End of March at Selah, WA

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Mike Bogue	Glenwood, WA	Back injury
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Terminal emphysema
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Knee replacement
Jaetta Loftis	Lorenzo, TX	Double-knee replacement
Wilma Buckner	Pleasant View, OK	Heart attack, bypass surgery
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Hip replacement surgery
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Cancer
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Betty Walling	Yuma, AZ	Leg complications



***"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."* (Prov. 25:25)**