

The Christian Courier

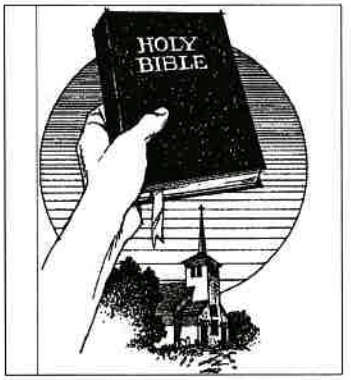
August, 2003

Send correspondence to:
1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168
Ph: 206-241-7493
E-mail: cocsea-tac@attbi.com
Writers are responsible for their own articles.

The Value Of Obedience

Often we in the church of Christ are accused of being too strict in trying to follow God's Word. We are accused of being dogmatic, too traditional, or the favorite word is "legalistic".

So to defend our faith, let's look at the value of obedience. We will see that there is real value in following God's Word as closely as we possibly can. We will find that obedience is not legalism, but in fact shows all the things of the heart that we are supposedly lacking.



First of all, we see that obedience is humility. When we humble ourselves in obedience to God's Word, we are following the example of Jesus Christ Himself. Phil. 2:8, "*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*" Notice, Jesus humbled himself and became obedient. What a great example that is for us to follow. Verse 5, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*". Obedience is humility, not legalism.

Obedience is one of the ways we praise God. We praise God in many ways, such as in song, in prayer, in proclaiming His Word to the world. We also praise God by obeying Him. Psa. 148:7-8, "*Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:*". How did these things in nature praise God? By fulfilling His word. Again, a great example for us to follow in Psalms 112:1, "*Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.*" Obedience is a form of praise, not mere tradition.

Obedience is a result of faith. In the 11th chapter of Hebrews, the great chapter on faith, every example given shows the person obeying God through their faith. Not one disobeyed by faith. Not one did "nothing" by faith. They did what God wanted them to do by faith. Let's read verses 7-8, "*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*" By faith Noah prepared, by faith Abraham obeyed. And where does faith come from? Rom. 10:17, "*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Not by changing His Word. We are not being dogmatic by obeying; we are being faithful.

Obedience is the only path to peace. Eph. 4:3, "*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*" How can we do that? By listening to and obeying the Spirit. Rev. 3:22, "*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" The Spirit inspired the apostles, (Acts 1:2), who wrote down the Lord's commands for us, (II Pet. 3:1-2). Obedience to the apostles' words is the path to peace. II Pet. 1:2, "*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*".

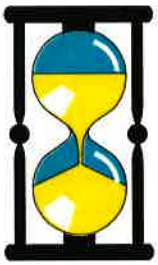
Finally, obedience is how we show God we love Him. II John 6, "*And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*" John 15:9-10, "*As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*" And Jesus said very plainly in John 14:15, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*"

So obedience is not evidence of a lack of the sincere, zealous things of the heart. Obedience is humility, praise, faith and peace. Obedience is not legalism. Obedience is love.

Rom. 6:17, "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have <u>obeyed from the heart</u> that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*"

In Jesus Name,
Bro. Terry Warford

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, July, 1953.** . Bro. Leonard Pamplin, U. S. Navy, Korean waters, wrote of meeting and debating with a small group of sailors on a number of Biblical subjects aboard the USS Manchester.

***Gospel News Courier*, July, 1963.** The La Habra, CA, congregation reported that Sis. Bernice Cavin and Sis. Roxie Adams returned from a long trip through Texas and Oklahoma; that Bro. J. G. Condor of the Modesto, CA, congregation was in ill health; that Bro. Jerry & Sis. Betty Perigen were the proud parents of a son, Mark Evan, on June 22nd; that Sis. Ruth

Duncan and Bro. Donnie Long had to undergo surgeries; and they also reported on their 5th Sunday meeting in June, which was a huge success with visitors from Arizona, California, and Washington. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, announced the birth of his granddaughter, Denise Alyce, to Bro. & Sis. Charles Baldwin on May 7th. He also encouraged others to attend their Delta Camp Meeting in August. Jack Morris, Yuma, AZ, reported on their meeting with Bro. Hayse Morris where there was one baptism and two restorations. Bro. Jack White, Munday, TX, requested prayers and assistance for Bro. Felix Goforth, who was severely burned and had no insurance. Sis. Laura Willis, Carlsbad, NM, reported that Bro. Ed Atchley was ill in the hospital. Bro. Amos Beaver, San Pablo, CA, sadly reported that Sis. E. O. Beaver had her right leg taken off above the knee and that Sis. Bradley's husband had passed away in June.

***Gospel News Courier*, August, 1963.** The La Habra, CA, congregation announced the passing of Bro. Raymond Ardantz in July. Bro. Paul Auslam, Fayetteville, AR, listed several recent visitors. Bro. Willie Doan, Broken Bow, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Jack White.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1983.** Bro. Tony Brister, Roll, AZ, reported on his visits to the Gardendale and Delta meetings. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, reminded everyone of their meeting in October with Bro. Jerry Perigen. Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, Humble, TX, announced the birth of his grandson, Weston Jay, to Bro. & Sis. Dennis Bedingfield on June 23rd. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, had a lengthy report on the Delta Camp Meeting wherein there were 200 people from 26 congregations with 6 baptisms: Christina Buckner, Jeff Freeman, Patches McAlister, Roger McAlister, Kevin Forsman, and Donna Lindley. There were also 21 who came forward for prayers from the church. Bro. Billy Richardson, Furnish Canyon, OK, announced the wedding of Bro. Matt Wiggins and Sis. Tawanta Hagelberg on June 18th. Bro. Ellis Forsman, Sea-Tac, WA, listed their new address that was 6 blocks from their place of worship. The Gardendale, TX, congregation reported that Sis. Alice Bergstrom was killed in an automobile accident. Bro. Audley Barnes, Loco, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Al Way during which his son Al III and Darla Barnes were baptized. Bro. Al Way, Bellflower, CA, listed several recent visitors. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on their meeting with Bro. Homer Bryant during which there were 3 baptisms: Mike Boroff, Monica Sue Johnston, and Tony Heckert. Bro. Lawrence Arnett reported on their 50th anniversary celebration. Bro. Robert McCay, Glenwood, WA, invited all to attend their meeting with Bro. Ken Harper.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1993.** Bro. James Brown, Baron, OK, invited others to come and worship with them. Bro. Paul Auslam, Goshen, AR, listed some in their attendance who had been sick. Bro. Don Lewis, Duncan, OK, reported on their weekend meeting with Bro. Jerry McCay. The San Pablo, CA, congregation reported that Bro. Homer Bryant and his son Rick discovered that they are diabetic. Bro. Robert Delacruz, Keizer, OR, announced the birth of Charles Robert to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Dana Garner on May 17th.



Cards and Letters

Aztec, NM

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Aztec has had unseasonably warm weather. The dry winter was nice, but it will make for a long, hot and dry summer.

We are heart broken to report the loss of two lifelong members of the Aztec congregation. Sis. Lula Noyes and Mary Ellen Bishop both passed away in May. These ladies will be deeply missed.

We send our prayers to all of those who are ill and in need throughout the brotherhood, and a special prayer for Sis. Kresta Fouch of the Cedaredge, CO, congregation. Kresta just graduated from high school and is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor. Your continued prayers are needed for Bro. Duane Bixler Sr., who is in the late stages of Alzheimer's disease and Bro. Roy Dabbs has also been ill, but recovering.

Sis. Myra Dabbs, known by most as "Grandma Dabbs", is doing great but has moved to a rest home in Farmington. She can be contacted at this address:

Grandma Dabbs
C/O Cedar Ridge Inn
800 Saguaro
Farmington, NM 87401

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Delinda Johnson have a new son, Trey. Trey has two older brothers, Taten is 4 and Teagan is 2.

Sis. Sue Bixler just returned from her grandson's graduation in Montana. Sis. Doris Ridlon attended the Yuma meeting and had a wonderful time. We have had visitors from Washington & California.

We are disappointed to hear that the Delta Camp Meeting did not take place this year, and we miss all of our dear friends. The meetings provide such excellent opportunities to renew your spirit, learn from other Christians and meet new friends. You are always welcomed to visit us when you are in our part of the country – there's always plenty of room. We have our potluck the first Sunday of each month and we all look forward to that!

In His Love,
The Aztec Congregation

Baron, OK

Hello To Everyone,

We are sorry to be so long in writing. Everyone here is doing pretty well now. Sister Lectie Denny has had some health problems but is doing better at this time.

We had the privilege of having Brother Otto Alvarez and his wife Mariela with us Sunday, March 31st. He gave us a wonderful lesson on Sunday. He had Brother Jim Brown read the lesson in English as he preached from a draft that he had previously prepared. He showed slides of the many churches he has started and is working with on Sunday afternoon. We had visitors from other churches who were able to see this wonderful work Brother Otto is doing.

He has also consented to holding us a Gospel Meeting starting August 27th thru the 31st. We are looking forward to this very much. He will be bringing an interpreter with him for this meeting.

Sincerely,
Baron Church of Christ

Broken Bow, OK

Hi!

My nephew, Mark Daniels of Elkins, Arkansas was baptized in March. We are so proud of him.

Just last week they found out he has a tumor, and will have to have brain surgery. He really needs the prayers of the church. His parents, Melvin and Rachel, aren't in real good health. They need prayers too, to get them through this. Any financial help would be greatly appreciated. They have to travel back and forth about 700-800 miles to the doctor and for surgery.

Their address is:

170 O'Neal Lane
Elkins, Ark 72727

Thank you and God bless,
Pat Reed
Broken Bow, OK

Randlett, OK

Greetings from Oklahoma to all brothers and sisters in Christ,

On November 27, 2002, Roy and Kim Mullens welcomed a new addition to their family. They named their new son Bodie.

Darlene Mullens had surgery in October 2002 and has recovered nicely. Everyone else in our congregation survived the winter rather well. There were colds, viruses, and other minor illnesses, but nothing major. We had a mild winter here in southwest Oklahoma and north Texas, and now spring is here, and God's beautiful creations are beginning to unfold.

May God bless you and your family. On behalf of the Randlett congregation, Andy Barnes

Randlett, OK

Hello to all the Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Brother Larry Pollan was the speaker at our weekend meeting held on May 23, 24, and 25. We were privileged to hear four wonderful lessons. We are thankful to Larry for holding our meeting. The meeting had great attendance.

Our visitors were: Ed & Frances Tate from Newcastle, TX, Jimmy & Jaetta Loftis and Earl & Olene Howe from Lorenzo, TX, Willie & Mary Howe from Duncanville, TX, Roy Smith, Howard & Leola Taylor, Don & Zelpha Taylor, and Oma Taylor from Comanche, OK, Don & Linda Lewis and their granddaughter from the Pleasantview congregation in Duncan, OK, Cheryl Pollan & Valerie Pollan from Ringgold, TX, and Bob, Shirley & Wendy Eldridge and Kayla & Mercedes Swift from Stilwell, OK. I sincerely apologize if I have missed mentioning anyone by name.

It was truly wonderful to get everyone together to fellowship. When we gather like this, everyone is strengthened.

Here it is June 26 and we are still getting rain in southwest Oklahoma and north central Texas. It is unusual to get much rain this time of the year, but we definitely enjoy this blessing from God. We have received 8.5 inches of rain so far in the month of June. We did not get as much rain in April and early May as we usually do, and this is making up for it. The rain started about the same time that wheat harvest began.

Brother Roy Mullens has been battling acute bronchitis. Sister Darla Barnes is having some tests run to hopefully determine the reason for pain in her lower abdomen. Everyone else in our congregation is doing pretty well. The children are all growing so fast.

Several of our members were able to attend the weekend meeting at Comanche, Oklahoma, and were enriched by the wonderful lessons presented by Brother Larry Wood and great hospitality of the Comanche congregation.

May God bless you and your family.

On behalf of the Randlett congregation,

Bro. Andy Barnes

580-439-5956

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We send all our love to each and every one of you. We have quite a bit of news from here to report, both good news and sad.

Sis. Shaya Orendorff and Bro. Lawrence Flugence were married on June 28th at a beautiful ceremony at the beach at Seahurst Park in Burien. His delightful mother and aunt were up for the ceremony from Houston, Texas..

Sis. Amy Orendorff had to leave immediately afterward to go to Texas. Her dad, Bro. Earl Howe, suffered a severe heart attack and passed from this life on June 30th. While we will all miss him greatly, it is a blessing to know that it is death which is temporary, and life which is eternal.

We have enjoyed several visitors. Sis. Lori Harper, and Bro. Matt and Sis. Kelly Shepherd and kids were up for Shaya's wedding. The Shepherds have also been visiting at other occasions recently. Bro. Eric and Sis. Lori Harper and family also made another recent visit here. Bro. David and Sis. Sheila McCay and daughters were with us July 13, then Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wynetta McCay the following two Sundays. Bro. Jerry brought us an excellent lesson on "The Soul" the 20th. Bro. Eric Harper brought a great lesson the following Sunday, the 27th, on "Saved by Water".

On July 26th, many of us were able to share the joy of Bro. Mark Staley and Sis. Nguyen Vo as they were wed at a lovely oriental garden. The Harpers, Shepherds and McCays were here for that beautiful event. For each of the newly married couples, we pray for many years of happiness.

We are looking forward to our meeting August 17-24, with the Glenwood (Port Orchard) congregation. The entire meeting will be at the Glenwood building. It is a larger building (newly and nicely remodeled) with better facilities, and not so close to Sea-Tac airport. Bro. Ken Williams will be speaking the first part of the week, and Bro. Bob Farley the second part. We appreciate our speakers, and the brothers and sisters from the Port Orchard congregation for their willingness to work with us.

Please continue to send your news and articles. Thank you for your support.

With all our love to all.

The Sea-Tac congregation.

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

In Memory of Bro. Earl Howe

We at the Lorenzo Church of Christ would like to express our gratitude to all those who have shown their love and support at the passing of Bro. Earl Howe. Your letters, calls, gifts and most of all, your prayers where so helpful in our time of sorrow. He was a great husband, father, grandfather, friend, and Christian. His stand for Christ was a strong inspiration for the ones of us who were blessed enough to have him in our everyday life. We as Christians should look at how Bro. Earl lived his life. Any time (and I do mean any time) he would come to your rescue. He would visit the sick, and helped anyone who needed it without hesitation. He has lived for Christ most of his life. He was strong in preaching and loved singing. Anyone who knew him knows how he loved that singing. All 7 of his children made it to the hospital before his passing and got together to sing him some of his favorite gospel songs. There was nothing more fitting to do for this great man.

Bro. Earl Passed on June 30th at the age of 76. He was survived by his life-long spouse, Olene; 7 children: Earlene, Willie, Kathy, Vandra, Amy, Oletta and Leesa; also a bunch of grand & Great Grand children.

Over 200 people attended his funeral, which was conducted by Bro. Richard Jones of the Comanche, OK. congregation. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, RICHARD! He did a wonderful job, we could not have asked for anyone better. His love poured out to all of us. His passing is a loss to us, but I feel a great gain for Heaven.

Baron Church of Christ

will host a gospel meeting with

Brother Otto Alvarez

Wednesday, August 27 – Sunday, August 31, 2003

7:00 nightly, Sunday 10:30am and 2:00pm

Dinner will follow Sunday services

Brother Otto is from Harlington, TX and has started many churches in areas such as Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

We hope you will join us in fellowship and hear many inspiring messages from this wonderful speaker!

(A Spanish interpreter will assist Brother Otto in presenting his lessons.)

RV Hook-ups Available

Bulletin Board

Meetings

Aug. 17-20, 2003	Glenwood, WA	Ken Williams
Aug. 21-24, 2003	Sea-Tac, WA	Robert Farley
Aug. 27-31, 2003	Baron, OK	Otto Alvarez

Baptisms

Mark Daniels	Elkins, AR	March, 2003

Births

Bodie to Roy & Kim Mullens	Randlett, OK	Nov. 2002
Trey to Marshal & Delinda Johnson	Aztec, NM	

Weddings

Lawrence Flugence & Shaya Orendorff	Sea-Tac, WA	June 28, 2003
Mark Staley & Nguyen Vo	Sea-Tac, WA	July 26, 2003

Passings

Lula Noyes	Aztec, NM	May, 2003
Mary Ellen Bishop	Aztec, NM	May, 2003
Billy Sewell	Ringgold, TX	June 21, 2003
Earl Howe	Lorenzo, TX	June 30, 2003

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Kresta Fouch	Cedaredge, CO	Brain tumor
Mark Daniels	Elkins, AR	Brain tumor
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Terminal emphysema
Wilma Buckner	Pleasant View, OK	Heart attack, bypass surgery
Roy Mullens	Randlett, OK	Acute bronchitis
Darla Barnes	Randlett, OK	Lower abdomen pain
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Cancer