

The Christian Courier

August, 2004

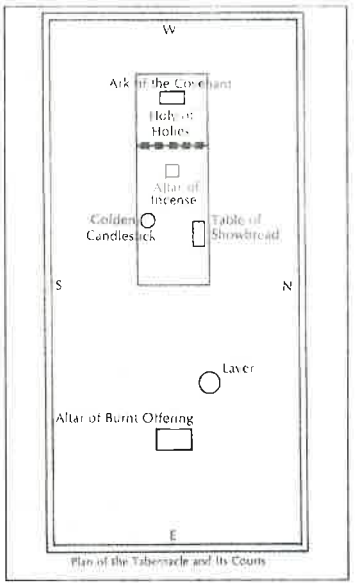
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Our Heart - House Of Prayer Or Den Of Thieves?

In Luke 19:45-46, we read about Jesus casting evil men out of God's temple. "And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold therein, and them that bought; Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Today, we in the church are the temple of God; Christ dwells in our hearts. I Cor. 3:16. "*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*" Eph. 3:17. "*That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*"

Let each of us then examine ourselves. Since we are the temple of God, is our heart, our life, a house of prayer or a den of thieves?



Plan of the Tabernacle and Its Courts

Let us consider some of the qualities of a man of prayer, and contrast them to some of the qualities of a thief. Then let's use this information to examine ourselves and improve ourselves, casting out evil and strengthening good in our lives, with the help of God.

The House of Prayer

First of all, let's look at the house, or heart, of prayer.

The prayerful heart has reverence for God. Heb. 12:9. "*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*" I Tim. 1:17. "*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*"

The prayerful heart is humble before God. I Pet. 5:6. "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*" We need to always lift God up and recognize and submit to His authority over us.

The prayerful heart trusts in God. I Pet. 5:7. "*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*" Know that God loves us, wants what is best for us, and will take care of us. I John 5:14-15. "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*"

The prayerful heart is thankful to God. I Thes. 5:18. "*In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*" Phil. 4:6. "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*"

The prayerful heart submits to God's Word. John 8:31-32. "*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" And submitting to His Word results in answered prayers, as we read in John 15:7. "*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*"

These are some of the actions and attitudes we need to apply to our hearts, our prayers, and our everyday lives.

The Den of Thieves

Let's contrast these with the den, or heart, of thieves.

First of all, the thief does not respect God or His Word. In Malachi God asked the question of how a person would rob Him. Look to Mal. 3:8-10. "*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*" I understand we are not commanded to tithe, but they were under that law. And we can learn a lot by studying their attitude. They robbed God by not obeying His command, by not respecting His Word, by not believing His promise. Let us consider, and not fall into that same trap.

Look earlier in Malachi at other ways they did not honor God. Mal. 1:6-8. "*A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts.*" When they gave to God, it was not the best they had as was commanded. Let us learn from their error. Let us always honor God, obey His every Word, give Him the best we have, and trust in the promise and fact that He will take care of us.

The thief is often violent. John 10:9-10. "*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more*

abundantly." Notice the thief came not just to steal, but also to kill and to destroy. Why? Because he does not honor God. Psa. 10:4. "*The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*" There is no excuse for violence in our lives.

On the other hand the thief may appear good, but be false and hypocritical. Such were the scribes, as condemned by Jesus in Luke 20:45-47. "*Then in the audience of all the people he said unto his disciples, Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.*" They made a show of righteousness in order to steal from the poor. We cannot be like that. It is not pleasing to God.

So the heart of prayer is all about God. The heart of a thief is all about themselves. Let us learn from these scriptures, examine ourselves in the light of them, and apply them to our lives. Let's make sure our prayers are sincere, and our lives are active in His service.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198



Cards and Letters

Comanche, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Sorry we are late getting our stuff together but we wanted to let you know about our weekend meeting that was held May 1st and 2nd. Brother Paul Auslum, Fayetteville, AR came down and held a very enjoyable meeting. We had visiting for the meeting Tim Auslum and his two sons from Fayetteville, AR, Beulah Vanderpool, Goshen, AR, Reanetta Edwards, Goshen, AR, Anna Bell Barnes, Randlett, OK, Nora Elliott, Mark Curtis from Randlett, OK, Linda Northrip, Randlett, OK, Larry Pollan and Daughter Cheryl from Ringold, TX and Oma Taylor, Valley View, Ok. We also enjoyed the visitation with everyone. Sorry if we missed anyone.
From the Comanche, OK Church of Christ

Goshen, AR

Greetings from Goshen, AR,

Sorry I've been slow in sending news from the Goshen congregation. We have had so many passing from this life in our congregation.

Bro. Euless Laney passed away in late May; Sis. Maycel Buchannon in July (she had been in the nursing home many years); then on August 4th we lost Sis. Leatha Ferguson after a long fight with cancer.

Prayers for the families of these brothers and sisters are always needed, as well as prayers for all the sick and hurting everywhere.

We have had some visitors from time to time – always glad to see new faces; come and visit us. Services are at 10:30 Sunday morning and chapter study at 6:60 p.m.

With love from the Goshen, AR, congregation, Sis. Melvin Daniels
479-643-3615

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

Here is the news from the congregation at Sea-Tac.

First of all, the best news is that we have a new sister. Teri Sue Warford, daughter of Terry and Suzie, was baptized this past Tuesday afternoon, July 27th. We are so excited and happy, as is she. This is why Christ died, to bring dear ones to Him. Rejoice with us, and say an extra prayer for her.

We have also been blessed with recent visitors. One weekend, Bro. Eric and Sis. Lori Harper, and Bro. Matt and Sis. Kelly Shepherd were here with their families. Bro. Eric brought us an excellent lesson on Judging. We have also enjoyed having Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wynetta McCay here the past week or so with their granddaughters Britni and Shonda McCay. They, along with several of our congregation, attended one Sunday at the Glenwood congregation, and one Sunday at the Springfield, OR congregation. This past Sunday, Bro. Matt and Sis. Kelly and family were back with us. Bro. Matt brought the lesson about the purpose of Christ's parables. We always appreciate him. Sis. Jackie McCay and her son, William, were here 5 weeks visiting. It is always great to see them.

We are planning a short meeting the weekend of Labor Day, September 3rd through 5th. We apologize for the short notice, but with visiting and illness we have had trouble finalizing the plans. Lord willing, the brethren from the Glenwood congregation will be doing the speaking for us. We plan services for Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning of course, and the final service Sunday afternoon. That way any visitors can have time to drive back either Sunday or Monday.

Bro. Ellis Forsman hasn't been feeling well for a couple of months. His tests have come back negative. So it looks like his problems have all been related to atrial fib., a heart fluttering condition, which he has had for some time, but which now seems to be growing worse.

Bro. Terry Warford was at the Glenwood congregation this past Sunday, August 8, and has news from there. Jonathon Day was baptized the 8th by his great-grandpa, Bro. J. D. Logan. Welcome to the brotherhood, Jon. Bro. J. D. was very ill on their recent trip to California, where their daughter-in-law passed away. He has had an asthma condition. Then, he was diagnosed with several problems including diabetes and pneumonia down there. He seems to be slowly getting better and regaining his strength.

Please send us your news, and we welcome any articles as well. It doesn't have to be extensive. Even a short paragraph or two from all would result in a larger paper being printed more often.

We thank you and love you.

The congregation at Sea-Tac, WA

Waterford, CA

Dear Brethren,

Hope everyone is well. The Waterford congregation is about the same.

Kaye Guyer isn't doing too well. She isn't able to come to church very often. She is in and out of the hospital a lot. We sure miss her when she can't come.

Gerald and I are taking it one day at a time. Some days we are doing good and other days are not so good. We are thankful that our health is as good as it is. God has been good to us.

I am writing to you to ask if you could send 2 copies of the paper to my daughter and her son in Portland.

Here is a small check to help with it.

Thank you.

In Christian love,

Juanita and Gerald Warner

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A short message to say "Hi", with best wishes for all. We know there is much illness amongst our loved ones, and our prayers are with you.

Sister Verda Nelson has been very ill for more than a month now, and is awaiting test results at this time. Sister Orendorff also has been ill and unable to attend services some. She seems a bit better at this time.

Our past meeting is still vivid in our minds. The people and events will remain with us throughout the year and years. Christians being together and working together creates a bond of peace that the church needs.

Our weather has been about the same as other parts of the country, but that will change. Then we will lose some of our members for a couple of months as they head for the high country and some meetings.

We don't have much news. Just like to let you all know we are still here and thinking of you. May God bless and keep us.

In Christian love,

The Church in Yuma

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hi to all of the brotherhood, with hope and prayers all is well, both physical and spiritual. We have had a few ill of late, but seems all are improving. Sister Verda Nelson is doing much better after a long illness. Sister Iris Stewart spent several days in the hospital testing for heart problems, but is home and feeling better. Sister Alice Davis has had a recurrence of shingles. They have been extremely painful this time. They are drying up but she is still with quite a lot of pain. With a lot of prayer, faith and trust in God things usually work for the good.

Our weather has been still treating us fairly good but it can't last much longer.

Soon, several will be gone for the summer and others for a few weeks. There will be a few weeks when our little congregation will be rather small, but knowing with God's blessings they will be back helps keep us going.

We really don't have a lot of news, but just like to keep in touch. Brother Harry Dye was with us the first Sunday of June with a good lesson on how Christians deal with governing powers. This is a matter all Christians should be aware of.

Take good care, work hard for the Lord. Let us all work together for the good of the brotherhood.

Bye for now,

The Church in Yuma

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers & Sisters, with hopes and prayers that this letter will find all well or mending.

We, here in Yuma, for the most part are doing fairly well. Sis. Ruth Duncan has been in the hospital for several days, now, with heavy pain in her chest. Heart problems has been mostly ruled out, and at this time the doctors just don't know. They have been working hard (and still are) to find the problem.

Bro. Harry Booth is up in the Yakima area and plans to be there maybe all summer. Bro. Dennis, Sis. Susie, and his mother Willie are also at their summer home in Alpine, AZ. Hopefully, they will attend meetings at Beaver Bend, and then later in Washington. Sis. Verda Nelson hasn't left to her place in Heber, AZ; and as late as it is getting, maybe she will "tuff" it out here with us.

This past Sunday, Bro. Tony Brister and Sis. Louise were with us, with Bro. Tony giving the message. He is a very capable speaker. The brotherhood is very blessed to have young brothers such as Tony in the Lord's service. Also, we had lunch after services at the kitchen – "m-m-m, good!".

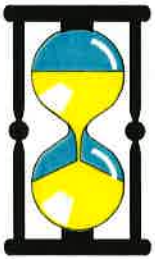
This is about all I can think of at this time. It is most enjoyable to see letters and messages in the papers.

Everyone take good care and continue the good work of our Lord.

We send our love,

The church in Yuma, AZ.

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, July, 1954.** Bro. Coy Garrison, Grand Prairie, TX, announced they were remodeling a garage into a place for worship services, and that a young woman was recently baptized. Bro. W. E. Daniels, Broken Bow, OK, wrote that he visited the congregation at Crosbyton, TX.

***It Is Written*, August, 1954.** The Crosbyton congregation announced their meeting in August with guest speakers: Brothers, W. H. Francis, Lloyd Treat, J. C. Spurlin, W. E. Daniels, S. J. Wallace, and A. H. Howell.

***Gospel News Courier*, July, 1964.** Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, wrote that they were preparing for their camp meeting in August and that they were getting outstanding news of all those who plan to attend from around the country. Bro. Clyde Couchman, Carlsbad, NM, reported on their meeting with Bro. J. C. Spurlin. Bro. Elmer Hunt, Corona, CA, reported on the meeting at Yuma, AZ. Bro. Harry Dye, Yuma, AZ, also reported on their meeting with Bro. Elmer Hunt. Bro. Paul Auslam, Fayetteville, AR, announced one baptism while he was at the Baron, OK, meeting. Bro. Donald Dabbs, Phoenix, AZ, mentioned that they plan to have a meeting later in the year; and also the birth of a baby girl to Bro. & Sis. George Morris. Sis. Laura Willis, Carlsbad, NM, mentioned that Bro. Berkstresser was improving after breaking a leg. Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, announced two baptisms in Yakima and that a large number from the Northwest planned to attend the Delta Camp Meeting. Bro. L. E. Atchley, Westville, OK, mentioned they had four baptisms during their meeting in June with guest speakers. The Furnish Canyon, CO, congregation announced one baptism during their meeting with Bro. Paul Ferguson. Bro. Roy Snoderly, La Habra, CA, reported on the meeting at Modesto, CA, which was attended by members from several congregations on the west coast.

***Gospel News Courier*, August, 1964.** Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on the meeting they attended at Modesto, CA. Bro.

Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, reported they had rented the campground above Cedaredge for their meeting. Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, wrote that a number from there visited the Glenwood congregation over the 4th of July weekend. Bro. Claud Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported on their meeting with Bro. J. D. Logan. The La Habra, CA, congregation wrote that Bro. Condor wasn't doing well. Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, reported on their meeting with Bro. Tom Broadway. Sis. Laura Willis, Carlsbad, NM, announced the death of Sis. Annie Basco. Bro. J. H. Lackey, Springfield, CO, reported on their meeting with Bro. White. Bro. Donald Dabbs, Phoenix, AZ, announced their meeting in August with Bro. Roy Dabbs.

***The Christian Courier*, July, 1984.** Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, announced they were excited about publishing the paper. Bro. Ron Herbert, Austin, TX, announced they started a new congregation there, baptized his daughter, Jill, and Bro. Ken Baldwin had the honor of uniting in marriage Sis. Jill Herbert and Bro. Steve Martin May 19th. Bro. Robert Farley, Selah, WA, announced the baptism of David McKee. The Cedaredge congregation wrote that Bro. Ken Baldwin's health prevents him from living in Colorado through another winter and put out a plea for someone to move there to assist that congregation.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1984.** Bro. Gerald Buckner, Stilwell, OK, announced the baptism of Susie Buckner and reported on their meeting with Bro. Bill McCay. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, reported on their meeting with Bro. Al Way. Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, indicated they were busy remodeling their building. Bro. Sammy Boen, Stilwell, OK, reported that he visited meetings at Broken Bow, Ok, Baron, OK, and Goshen, AR. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on the meetings they attended during the summer. Bro. Robert McCay, Glenwood, WA, thanked the Yakima congregation for helping out with services while some at Glenwood could attend other meetings. Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, announced the baptism of Brian Ross and reported on their meeting with Bro. Richard Johnston.

***The Christian Courier*, July, 1994.** Bro. Chuck Garner, Aloha, OR, listed some recent visitors. The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the graduation of Bro. Matthew Shepherd from the University of Washington School of Engineering; and the meeting planned in August with Bro. J. D. Logan and Bro. Robert Davis. Sis. Verda Nelson, Yuma, AZ, announced the marriage of Bro. Kevin Yeghoian and Sis. Jackie Brister, June 6th and the baptism of James Boling. Bro. Howard McCay and Bro. Terry Warford wrote of the passing of Bro. Joe Taylor, Loco, OK.

***The Christian Courier*, August, 1994.** Bro. James Brown, Baron, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. John McKinney. Bro. Lloyd treat wrote that he was having difficulty with an injured back. The Cedaredge congregation reported on their camp meeting where a number were baptized: Matt Logan, Matthew McCoy, Jason Ross, Dawn Fairchild, Kamie Newman, and Jared Newman. Bro. Larry Pollan, Ringgold, TX, wrote that his daughters, Jennifer (11), Cheryl (10), and Valerie (8) would like to write to others in the church of their same ages. Bro. Terry Warford, Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the birth of their second girl on July 1st, Kaylena Dawn; and the baptisms of Mark & Scott Staley. Bro. Don Lewis, Valley View, OK, rued the loss of Bro. Joe Taylor and announced their meeting with Bro. Jerry Perigen.

Bulletin Board

Meetings

Sep 3-5, 2004	Sea-Tac, WA	Glenwood guest speakers

Baptisms

Teri Sue Warford	Sea-Tac, WA	July 27, 2004
Jonathon Day	Glenwood, WA	August 8, 2004

Passings

Euless Laney	Goshen, AR	May, 2004M
Maycel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	July, 2004
Leatha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	August 4, 2004

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Lectie Denny	Baron, OK	Not doing good
Floyd Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Heart attack
Ray Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Mark Daniels	Goshen, AR	Recovering from tumor
Stephen Perigen	Oakdale, CA	Fighting cancer
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Severe hip pain & weakness
Ellis Forsman	Sea-Tac, WA	Atrial Fibrilation
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Shoulder repair & severe arthritis
Barbara Paseman	Springfield, OR	Fighting cancer
Shirley Severe	Springfield, OR	Health problems
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Kaye Guyer	Waterford, CA	Not doing good
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Shingles
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Chest pain
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Ill for some time
Iris Stewart	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems