

The Christian Courier

May, 2006

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The Glorious Gospel
2 Cor. 4:4

Our text speaks of the **glorious** gospel. Some would ask, "wherein is the **glory?**" It is the task of all children of God to supply the proper answer. Let us explore this question.

Good News

The word **gospel** is rendered variously as **good news** and **glad tidings.** If the gospel was good news, what did this good news proclaim? The fact that it was **news** infers that it was something not heretofore declared: in short, a **mystery**.

Paul declared, "*(praying always)...for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.*" (Eph. 6:19).

The gospel was a mystery prior to Christ's advent. Speaking of the church, he taught, "*Whereof I am made a minister, ...to fulfil the word of God. Even the mystery which had been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is* ***Christ*** *in you, the hope of glory.*" (Col. 1:25-27).



Light and Immortality

Before Christ, the law (of Moses) held sway. In this law, there was no promise of immortality and very little light was shed concerning God's will for man. What light there was, was very dim and the world awaited the coming of a truly *great light* that would dispel the darkness into which it had fallen. "*The people which sat in darkness saw a **great light**; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.*" (Matt. 4:16).

This is what Paul referred to when he wrote, "*(...holy calling...)...is made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought **life** and **immortality** to light through the gospel.*" (2 Tim. 1:9-10).

The glory lay in the fact that the gospel made all this known to an ignorant and sinful world and provided hope to all the races of men who, "*being aliens*, had *no hope, and [were] without God in the world.*" (Eph. 2:12).

There are many facets of the gospel which we might explore, but one that is timely and, for the sake of the church today, we should look into.

Gospel of Reconciliation, or Alienation?

We can find the reason for the gospel in a few words. "*...all things are of God, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given unto us the **ministry of reconciliation.** To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**. ...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye **reconciled** to God.*" (2 Cor. 5:18-20).

Paul speaks here of reconciliation to God. Since man was separated from God, it follows that the first move on man's part is to be reconciled to Him.

Reconciliation carries with it a responsibility on the part of both separated parties. We know from the foregoing quotation that God put forth his hand to man through Christ. "*...God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself...*" This was God's part. God's hand is reaching out to dying humanity through the gospel. The rest is up to us.

We are beseeched by Paul to "*be ye **reconciled** to God*". There can be no reconciliation except both parties putting forth an effort. Our part consists of a faith in God and all this entails, and of obedience to the gospel. Col. 2:12-13, "*And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.*"

It is relatively easy to understand this. Reconciliation to God is something we can all agree on. The second part of this is seemingly difficult to understand and from all indications, almost impossible to obtain.

To each other

We must remember that one result of this reconciliation was "*...he is our peace, who hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might **reconcile** both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.*" (Eph. 2:14-16).

Of course, he had reference to Jews and Gentiles in the same body. Does this not imply, since we are **all** in the same body, that we should all be **reconciled** with each other?

Jesus taught as much, when he said, "*...if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest*

that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be ***reconciled*** *to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*" Matt. 5:23-24).

Some insist that Jesus could not have spoken this to us inasmuch as he referred to the *temple* and the *altar.* It is the lesson, not the particulars involved, that enables us to grasp the meaning of Christ's words. For instance, Jesus described the *kingdom of heaven* as a *treasure hid in a field.* Again, he described it as a *net, that is cast into the sea.* (Matt. 13:44, 47) Many other descriptions he used to describe the kingdom. We know these words were for us, for Paul said, *(God)...hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son...* (Heb. 1:2). Our "*great salvation...at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.*" (Heb. 2:1-4). **All of our Lord's words have a great significance for us** if we will only open our minds to grasp it!

The important question is, If God wants reconciliation between Himself and man; if he teaches us to be reconciled to each other, why is it that between us today there is so much alienation?

"Gospel" of Alienation

It seems that today, if someone doesn't agree with a brother on some point of doctrine, there can't be any fellowship between them. In many cases, it seems that a great degree of animosity exists and there can't even be friendly relations between them. In some cases brethren have even refused to shake hands or even speak to those with whom they disagree! Does this display the Spirit of Christ who commanded us to love one another?

There are "other" gospels that are being taught in the world, and sad to say, sometimes in the Church of Christ. Paul was astounded that some were "*so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto* ***another*** *gospel.*" (Gal. 1:6). We are not to give heed to ***any other gospel*** than that preached by Christ and the apostles. (Vs 8-9).

Where did Jesus or the apostles ever teach the idea of alienation between members of his body? If there is any justification for this kind of action in the scriptures it has escaped my notice. Please, my brethren, call it to my attention!

For myself, I will not allow a disagreement with a brother cause a state of alienation to come between us.

Even if a brother refuses to obey the words of inspiration revealed to us in the scriptures , so that we are told to "*have no company with him, that he may be ashamed,*" we are not to be alienated from him. Paul commands, "*Yet count him not as an enemy, but* ***admonish him as a brother.***" (2 Thess. 3:14-15).

It would be impossible to do this if we were alienated from him.

So brethren, it behooves each of us to examine himself or herself to determine which gospel we are following and teaching others: the gospel of **reconciliation,** or the gospel of **alienation**? As for me, I know which one I will follow.

Yours in Christ, J D Logan



Cards and Letters

Pleasant View, OK

Greetings from Oklahoma,

Just a note from your brothers and sisters at Pleasant View Church of Christ. We are sending a donation to help with expenses of the paper.

We just got back from Kentucky. We had some sad news from there, my nephew had passed away. The saddest part was knowing that he never obeyed the gospel. It's hard enough to say goodbye to a Christian, even harder to the ones who never obeyed.

We also found out today that my niece has cancer, my brother Russell Morris' daughter. We request the prayers for her.

George Morris,

Written for the Pleasant View congregation.

(This letter did not arrive in time to make the last edition of The Courier — The Editors)

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ

Greetings from the Sea-Tac congregation.

Not much news to report at this time.

Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell Forsman report that it was good to be at the Yuma Meeting. It was very uplifting to all who attended. Sis. Lynell is currently visiting her brother Bro. Jerry McCay in Lubbock, TX, and plans, Lord willing, to return home on May 24th. Bro. Terry & Sis. Suzie Warford & family just returned home after vacationing in Southern California. We thank the Glenwood congregation for helping out with services here during their absences.

Lord willing, Bro. & Sis. Lynell Forsman plan to attend the Beaver's Bend Camp Meeting in Oklahoma this summer.

Please remember the following in your prayers: Bro. Mile Boroff, battling cancer; Sis. Jeanne Boroff, weak with medical problems; Sis. Jeannean McSwane, Wheel-chair bound, severe hip pain, and infection has returned to her knee; and Sis. Odessa Honorable, suffering from arthritic pain. Remember all those throughout the brotherhood who need your prayers.

With love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Yuma, AZ

Dear brothers and sisters,

Hope this message finds all well, or through God's blessings, healing. We are doing fairly well here.

We have good news this month. Our meeting of March 19th – 26th has come and gone. The meeting was represented by 16 or 17 different congregations. The brothers that did the speaking did a wonderful job of bringing inspirational and uplifting lessons. I believe that everyone benefited from the teachings, associations, and singing. With guest speakers, all the other speakers had the opportunity to hear the other messages. As always, all the ladies worked so hard to provide everyone with lots of delicious food. We had lots of beautiful singing. All that could not be here were missed. There is no way we can say "Thank you" enough to all — many coming long distances to be here. The meeting is not just our meeting, but your

meeting, for your being here made the meeting what it was. We all benefited so much. (Until next year!).

Thanks to those who edit the papers and send them out to us with news from congregations across the country. We are always eager to receive the next edition.

Our weather has been nice through the meeting, a little cold and windy, but mostly good.

This is about all I can think to write. My thinking is very limited of late. Let us hear from you and take good care.

In Christian love,
The Yuma, AZ, church

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, April, 1956.** Bro. J. D. Logan, Modesto, CA, reported they meet in the Odd Fellows Temple and invited others to join them. Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, wrote that Flossie Taylor, Jeannie Johnston, and Karen Roberts were baptized when he spoke for the Springfield, OR, congregation. There was a memorial notice for Sis. Sarah E. Starnes of Springfield, OR. Sis. Starnes passed away on March 3, 1956.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1976.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Earl Atchley. Bro. Don Taylor, Lugert, OK, reported that his son Mark was baptized at Stilwell, OK, while attending a meeting with Bro. Howard McCay and that his daughter Donna was baptized at Comanche, OK. The Loco, OK, congregation reported the loss of Sis. Katey Hartman who passed away on February 20th.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1976.** Bro. N. E. Bro. N. E. Bergstrom, Gardendale, TX, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Lloyd Treat. The Glenwood, WA, congregation announced the baptism of Randy Orendorff on March 21st. The Yuma, AZ, congregation announced the passing of Sis. Jewel Jones and Sis. Norma Lyons. Bro. Mike McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on their meeting with Bro. Sammy Boen in April. Also announced: Birth of Justin Dean on April 26th to Bro. Roger and Sis. Sharon Lamb and a wedding announcement of Bro. Mike Brockman and Sis. Charlotte Wisehart on June 26th.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1986.** Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, announced a meeting in June with Bro. J. W. Bedingfield and another in July with Bro. Al Way. Bro. Al Burtis, Waterford, CA, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Bill McCay. Bro. Errol Forsman, Lorenzo, TX, reported the baptisms of Stacey Burt and David McCay and noted that Bro. Earl Howe was hospitalized with a heart attack. Also reported: Bro. Ira Brown, Waterford, CA, passed away on March 24th; and Sis. Clements, Lorenzo, TX, was hospitalized for a stroke.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1986.** The Lorenzo, TX, congregation announced a meeting in June with Bro. Jerry McCay. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, announced the baptisms of Erica Ferguson, Scott Edwards, and Quenton Smith.

***The Christian Courier*, April, 1996.** The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the passing of Sis. Mattie McCay of Springfield, OR, on March 4th.

***The Christian Courier*, May, 1996.** Sis. Doris Jared, Aloha, OR, wrote about her father's (Bro. J.L. Jared) need for surgery on his left arm

after an artery was punctured while working on the siding of his house. Bro. Melvin Daniels, Bohannan Mt., AR, sadly reported the loss of Bro. Ed Goldsmith on March 22nd. The Glenwood, WA, congregation mentioned that Sis. Ellen McCay had gone to Lorenzo, TX, to be with Bro. Errol Forsman who was suffering with cancer. The Cedaredge, CO, congregation encouraged all to attend their 32nd annual Delta Camp Meeting; they also announced the marriage of Marty Guy and Christina Baker on March 24th. The Yuma, AZ, congregation announced the baptism of Melissa Nelson on April 7th. The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the birth of Amarissa Faith to Bro. Wayne & Sis. Amy Orendorff on April 18th; also Bro. Ellis Forsman went to Lorenzo, TX, to be with his brother Errol Forsman who was suffering with cancer.

6th Annual Church of Christ Camp Meeting
Beaver's Bend State Park, Broken Bow, OK
July 15th - July 24th, 2006

We invite you to join us in a week of Christian fellowship and fun. We have many activities planned for the week. We would like for everyone to take the time to join us. The following is a list of things that you will need to bring:

Your own bedding (sleeping bags, sheets, pillows, etc.)

An air mattress is recommended if you plan on sleeping in the cabins. The beds are just a tad too hard.

Toiletries (towels, washcloths, etc.)

Flashlights

Bibles, Notebooks & pencils/pens

Guidelines: Clothing should be appropriate & modest
Park curfew is 11:0 p.m.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

July 15-24, 2006	Beaver's Bend, OK	Guest Speakers
August 6-13, 2006	Yakima, WA	Jerry McCay

Baptisms

Abran Luna	Flora Vista, NM

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Synda Swaim	Bellflower, CA	Arthritis pain
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Fighting cancer, stroke
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe Pain
Robert Fuson, Jr.	Pleasant View, OK	Spinal Bifida
Russell Morris' daughter	Pleasant View, OK	Fighting cancer
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Severe weakness
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Wheel chair bound, infection
Mike Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Odessa Honorable	Sea-Tac, WA	Arthritis pain
Barbara Paseman	Springfield, OR	Fighting cancer
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Kaye Guyer	Waterford, CA	Not doing good
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Ill health
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Ill for some time