

The Christian Courier

February 2023

Abundant Life

In the 10th chapter of John is recorded the parable of the Good Shepherd. In this parable, Jesus says that He is both the doorway to the sheepfold and the good shepherd. And in the 10 th verse He makes a statement that is often misunderstood.

John 10:10 reads: "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." We want to study what Jesus meant by this, but let's look first at what He did not mean.

Jesus was not promising abundant wealth, luxury, and ease in this life to His followers. His disciples were, and still are, a mix of rich and poor – the gospel invitation is to all. But as Christians, we are pilgrims through this world, and its wealth is not the focus of our lives. While we are instructed to work to support ourselves and our family, Christian lives are often examples of of poverty and suffering in this life, rather than the building of wealth.

We can use what God has blessed us with to help others, as we read in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Yet earlier in the chapter, Paul also warned that pursuing riches can be a source of temptation, 1 Timothy 6:9-10. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Throughout scripture we are encouraged to focus on spiritual goals rather than physical

ones. Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

So if abundant life does not mean wealth in this life, what is Jesus promising? There are several abundant blessings talked about in this parable, as well as some qualities that other passages instruct us to add abundantly to our lives.

First off here in John 10 is salvation from our sins. John 10:9-11. "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. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Salvation has been given to us, and offered to all mankind, to give abundant life, through Christ's death. Verse 17 goes on to tell of His resurrection. "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again."

Through His death, burial, and resurrection we can be saved from our sins, as we read in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:".

When we hear of His death, burial, and resurrection, believe in it, repent of our sins and confess our faith in Him, through baptism we then partake in His death, burial and resurrection. It is applied to us personally, Romans 6:3-4. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." We begin a new life, because our sins have been forgiven, Colossians 2:12-13. "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;". Abundant life starts with salvation from our sins.

Another promise of abundant life Jesus gives us in John 10 in His presence, John 10:3-4. "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

With the presence of Jesus is the presence of God in our lives as well. In 1 Peter 3:18 we read that Jesus died for our sins, but also to bring us to God. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

We have the presence of Jesus through faith, Ephesians 3:17-19. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

God and Jesus dwell with us when we love and obey them, John 14:23. "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

One of the most beautiful verses about the Lord's presence is 2 Corinthians 13:14. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

A third abundant life blessing in the parable is His Word. John 10:4. "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice." John 10:27. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

What is Christ's voice? And how do we hear and follow it?

God gave His word through Jesus, as we read in Hebrews 1:1-2. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;".

Jesus gave God's Word through His apostles, as He said in His prayer to God in John 17:8. "For I have given unto them (His apostles – see verse 6) the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me."

His Word is abundant, it gives us all we need to successfully follow Him throughout this life. 2 Peter 1:3. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things (abundance) that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:".

Christ's voice is the Word of God. Hearing and following it yields abundant life to us. And throughout New Testament scripture we find various qualities that we are to abound in.

For example, in 2 Thessalonians 1:3, the apostle Paul commended them for their abundant faith and love. "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

And in 2 Peter 1:5-8, Peter lists several things to add to our faith, and instructs us to add them abundantly. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue;
and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Abounding in the qualities God desires for us is part of living that abundant life. Abundantly pleasing Him is our goal.

The last point we want to look at is that the abundant life Christ promises is eternal life. John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

1 Peter 1:4. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,".

In Christian love,
Brother Terry Warford

Yuma Camp Meeting

March 11-19, 2023

Get ready to be there! Endless fun, fellowship, worship, festivities, and yes, FOOD!!! It´s going to be a blast, so don´t miss it!

Dennis Davis - (928) 503-3709

We have truly been blessed! Our gratitude to our financial supporters for this month's issue:

Citrus City Congregation
Aztec, NM Congregation
OKC, OK Congregation
Nancy Stauber
John Lampp
Roy Wright

Please remember we need letters, lessons, corrections, prayer requests, etc!! So pick up a pen and write us a note! Thanks!



Notes & Letters

Just a catch-up note from the Citrus City Church of Christ. Our congregation is samll, smaller now with the passing of our sister, Ann Lytle, in June of 2022. Her infectious smile and warm hugs are greatly missed.

Our brothers meet each Sunday and take turns speaking God's word. Every lesson is inspiring, with titles liek God's Mirror, Stewardship-Ownership and So Close but Yet So Far. A few weeks ago, we had the pleasure of listening to Terry Wilkerson, when he and Debbie came to visit. It was a great visit with a BBQ at the Martin house after church.

As winter ends in the desert southwest, we are happy to announce that everyone is recovering from the seasonal sniffles. We are so blessed to announce that Tony and Louise Brister, are officially cancer free. Mike Wilcher, doesn't have cancer and our prayers have been answered and continuing prayers are greatly appreciated.

We would like to take the time to thank those who have used our digital world to share their Sunday speakers. It makes a difference when you are ill and shut in to be able to listen to the Lord's word online. When you get to listen to a portion of God's word despite missing the fellowship is tryly a healing moment.

Also, we would like to thank Paul Warford, his family, and the Pleasant View Church for their dedication in continuing to make sure the Courier gets to our congregation and others like ours, across the country.

We look forward to the Yuma, AZ meeting, on March 11th-19th. It is an uplifting time to hear great lessons, listen to beautiful singing and visit with all our loved ones.

In Christian Love from the Church of Christ at Citrus City in Tacna, AZ.

ps. (Enclosed is) a check to help with the expenses for the paper. We appreciate all the hard work and effort. Thank you!

Jan 19, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My parents, Walter and Olvie Spurlin, have died. Dad at 1 week shy of 95 and Mom as 92. Nice long life. They enjoyed The Christian Courier for years.

My brother John lived with them and helped with their care. He would like you to mail The Christian Courier to him.

Thank you very much for all you do to get God's word out.

Nancy Stauber

The Christian Courier: Here is a donation to help anyway you see fit! I enjoy reading the Courier. Thank you,

John Lampp
Acworth, GA

Lorenzo Love Letter

Jan 2023

Wow another year has begun. It already has been a blessing. We celebrated Gene Boling's 94th birthday last Wed. at singing. Gene has been and continues to be an inspiration to us all. We have had visitors, Austin Rose and Eli Bryant from Yuma. We were also blessed by a visit from Diane Hoffman's son Mike and his family. We are always uplifted by visits from those that we love and we thank them.

We are mostly in good health here except for Lynell getting a broken leg from which she is recovering nicely under the loving care of her busband Ellis.

We look forward to meetings that are coming up. I believe that Yuma March 11-19 is the next one. Any time we can fellowship with brothers and sisters in the Lord, the blessings make our hearts overflow with Joy. Try it you will Love it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "16: Rejoice evermore. 17: Pray without ceasing. 18: In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I can't wait to see the doors that the Lord will open for each of us in the coming year. Walk through them with joyful hearts and the Lord will walk with us.

Love to you all from Lorenzo Congregation.

Jerry McCay

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here at this congregation we have had our usual bouts of sickness but most seem to be on the mend now. Please continue to keep Russell Morris in your prayers as he is taking treatments for cancer. Also keep George Morris in your prayers as he is recovering from surgery.

We will be having a weekend meeting April 14-16 with Paul Warford speaking. We will also be having our Labor Day Meeting September 1-3 with the speaker to be announced later. Please join us if you can. Let us know if you need a place to stay. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you all!

Gerald Buckner
Pleasant View Church of Christ
Stilwell, OK

Published by the Pleasant View Church of Christ in Stilwell, OK

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Correspondence must be received by the 20th of the month to be included in the next issue, which is published and mailed on the 25th.

Prayers and support are greatly appreciated!

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

By Alex Sadat - Africa Mission

The Kingship of Christ is central to the gospel message. Jesus is the legitimate King of the Jews. Throughout His life, He is portrayed in the gospels as the King that's come to save the people. From Bethlehem to Calvary, He is the rightful sovereign. Even at the cross, a sign was hung above Him in three languages. Recorded in the gospel account of John are these words: “And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.” (John 19:19-21).

Notice how Pilate ignored their pleas -- they had wanted the sign to declare Jesus had said this without a legitimate claim to the throne. Pilate did not grant them this, and placed the sign above the man in which he had found no fault. Notice that when their supporters had a choice between Christ and Barabbas, when “Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King?... (they declared) We have no king but Caesar.” (John19:15).

This was treason against the King of prophesy; from their reasoning, if He was not the true Son of David, then He was not the rightful King and, therefore, their conscience would be soothed. There's just one very big problem -- Jesus was no false prophet and His claim to kingship is legitimate.

The promise God made to David that his line would reign forever was not dependent upon the goodness of David’s dynasty. God promised David an eternal dynasty in 2 Samuel 7:16. He told David, “Thy throne shall be established for ever.” In 1 Kings 9:7, Solomon received the same assurance: “I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.”

The scriptures plainly declare that Jesus, our blessed Redeemer, reigns eternally at the right hand of the Father! Hebrews 10:11-14 makes it clear that our Lord is ruling now and into the future. With the eternal throne established, the Davidic promise kept, and the authority of His kingship set apart from earthly rulers. Jesus is “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORD.” (Revelation 19:16).

Throughout the Bible, the legitimacy of Christ's claim is key to our salvation. Paul tells of God’s fulfilment of the promise of salvation through and in Christ: “The blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:14). The legitimacy of Jesus, rightful heir of the house of David, supports his role as the Messiah King!

His followers are subjects of a single Kingdom. The law of Christ supersedes all others and its constitution is the spirit-breathed Word of God! Its territory is world-wide and all who rule on earth are

accountable to Him. In 1 Corinthians 15:28, Paul tells us that all things are subject to our Lord!

No other ruler has ever received such rightful praise. Even the multitudes of Heaven declare of Him, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” (Revelation 5:12).

It is no wonder that Scripture reveals of our Kings majesty: “And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” (Revelation 5:1).

Gods anointed King is reigning now! Make sure you are in the Kingdom and not in the fire (Rev. 20:15)!

We are proud to present our new
Church of Christ Information & History website!
1CupHistory.Church
It is up and running, but also a work in progress and still under construction. Some things will work, and some won't. Please bear with us. Feel free to look around. We haven't collected much information yet. You may help us out greatly by helping us fill in the blanks. We need pictures of church houses with contact info, lists of preachers and contacts, any history you can dig up, a list of members, anything at all there are buttons or areas for on the site.



Thought for the Month

Our faith is tested again and again from above, below, all around us and even from within. But do we actually believe, in the very core of our being, that what we want will actually be delivered? When we ask without rock solid faith, don't we tend to stand on the sidelines and watch to see if it will come to pass? Ever see anyone with great faith ALREADY KNOW the outcome and continue on as if their prayers had already been answered? Because they BELIEVE! Doubt has no place in Christian faith!

Although physical miracles like this don't happen these days, consider Matt 9:20-22 when the woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Jesus' garment. SHE BELIEVED without a shadow of a doubt she would be healed. Her faith was so strong that Jesus himself didn't heal her, as he very well could have, but instead told her that her faith alone had made her whole. Is our faith today that strong and rock solid? Do we actually believe and act accordingly? Or do we ask, and then merely hope while we wait?

Love & blessings

Jesse Warford

Congregation of the Month



Goshen Church of Christ

Hwy 45 about a mile east of
Goshen, AR 72735
GPS: 36.106193, -93.980453

Paul Auslam
(479) 409-4081
Sunday 10:30 AM

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PLEASANT VIEW WEEKEND MEETING
IN STILWELL, OK
APRIL 14-16

Speaker: **Paul Warford**
Focus: **The 3 Questions of Matt. 24**
Email ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com for more info

Bulletin Board

Those in need of our prayers

Troy Mooney		Knee replacement
John Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Needs heart transplant
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, enlarged heart, heart attacks
Wilkister Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Malaria
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Carolyn Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Back pain
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Mike Wilcher	Citrus City, AZ	**** DOESN'T HAVE CANCER! ****
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Ilene Thrush	Gleed, WA	Several strokes & heart issues
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, two angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Jackie McCay Via	Lorenzo, TX	Recovery from gall bladder removal
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Lupus
Russell Morris	Stilwell, OK	**Passed away Fri, Feb 24, 2023**
George Morris	Stilwell, OK	Recovering from surgery
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Fighting Parkinson's disease
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Tony Brister	Yuma, AZ	**** NOW CANCER FREE! ****
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Congestive heart failure
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues

Gospel Meetings

Yuma Camp Meeting	Yuma, AZ	March 11 - 19, 2023	Guest speakers
Pleasant View Weekend Meeting	Stilwell, OK	April 14-16, 2023	Paul Warford
Lorenzo Meeting	Lorenzo, TX	June 11-18	Mike Harcrow & Duane Bixler
Church of Christ Family Camp	Cedaredge, Co	July 8-16, 2023	Guest Speakers
Labor Day Meeting	Stilwell, OK	Sept. 1-3, 2023	To be announced

Let's try to remember our Christian workers in the field over in our foreign ministries. They're spreading the Gospel of our Lord and converting many sinners. But they still need our help! Please consider contributing. Email us at ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com for details. Thank you.

Voices From The Past

GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 1962

THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

I. WHAT CONSTITUTES THE BODY OF CHRIST?

1. It has a head, which is Christ Jesus our Lord. Eph. 5:23; Col. I:I8; Eph. I:22-23.
2. It has members which is His body. Rom. I2:4-5; I Cor. I2:I-I5. Those that have believed and obeyed the gospel of Christ. John 6:44-45; Mark I6:I5-I6; Heb. II:6; Matt. 3:2; Acts I7:30; Matt. I0:32-33; Rom. I0:8-I0; Matt. 28:I8-20; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:I-4; Acts 8:26-39; I Pet. 3:20-2I.
3. It has the Spirit of God dwelling in that one body. Rom. 8:9-II. We are also led by the Spirit of God. Rom. 8:I4. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. Rom. 8:I6-I7, and without the Spirit the body is dead. Jas. 2:26.
4. It has the blood of Christ which he shed upon the cross for that one body (the church) and gave it for them to drink in memory of Him that he might remain spiritually alive. Matt. 26:27-28; Mark I4:23-24; Luke 22:20; John 6:53-57; I Cor. II:23-33. And John said except we drink it we have no life in us. John 6:53.
5. In it is all Spiritual blessings. Eph. I:3.

II. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ONE BODY, THE CHURCH?

1. It is the called out from the world.
2. It is a Spiritual body. I Pet. 2:5.
3. It is a unified body. Eph. 2:I-22. (To page 2)

4. It is a Holy Priesthood. I Pet. 2:9.

5. It is the church. Col. I:I8. The one body of Christ. Eph. I:22-23. There is but one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one Faith, one baptism, one God the Father of us all, and is in us all. Eph. 4:4-6. Paul said in Rom. 8:I-I4, "Thereis therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"

We walk after the Spirit when we are led by the Spirit of God to do the commandments of God. Rom. 8:14; Rev. 22:I4.
We walk after the flesh by doing the works of the flesh. Gal. 5:I9-2I.
Brethren, let us walk after the Spirit.

Your Brother in Christ.
--F. H. Logan.
5II S. Sunset Ave., Modesto, California

This is Bob Musgrave presenting one of his many lessons. This photo is hanging in the foyer of the Oklahoma City congregation on Moore Ave in the Nicoma Park neighborhood. It was supposed to be included with last month's Honoring the Saints section, but honestly, we forgot.

