The Christian Courier



Volume 59, Issue 2 February 2024

Blessed Assurance

Bro. Troy Mooney

What does assurance mean? To be certain and confident, free from doubt. Blessed assurance is a holy or sacred confidence. It's an unshakeable certainty of the truth. Jesus is mine. He is my savior and lord forever.

Fanny Crosby provides the following account of the creation of this hymn. Then Mrs. Joseph K. Knapp composed a melody of it. Everybody knows this hymn. I would like to read it to you at this time...

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with his goodness lost in his love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my savior all the day long

Philippians 4:6-7 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

God already knows what you want. And he knows what you need. And actually he knows if you're thankful or not, but wants to hear it in your prayers. Let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpassed all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. That kind of peace and that kind of contentment only comes from being fully assured, that God is in control and that he is with us and that we are with him. There shouldn't be any doubt in anyone mind that God is in control.

Psalm 33:9 *For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.*

Hebrews 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

The Most High is the ruler over the realm of mankind. Daniel 4:32 reads we know that God causes all thing to work together for good to those who love the Lord. Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* A God is clearly in control and He is with us, if we will be with Him and love Him.

Hebrews 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

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In full assurance of faith. That's how we're supposed to draw near to God. So then it must be possible to have full assurance in our relationship with God. But how do we have that full assurance? What is it that gives us full assurance? Everybody wants the assurance that they'll be saved, but most people only believe part of the bible. Everyone believes John 3:16. Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

It's like that almost goes without saying, but then that's as far as most people want to go with the bible. They want to be assured that they are saved just by knowing that Jesus shed his blood for us. They want to be assured by faith alone. But there is no assurance in faith alone, because the bible says that faith alone is useless and its dead.

James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.* Verse 20 *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?* Verse 26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

For some reason people think that there's no room for anything but faith. How odd considering what the bible says.

What about living a moral life? Is there room for that in your salvation? Is that not absolutely necessary for us to be saved?

Let's read in Ephesians 5:5 *For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

For this you know with certainty! (certainty is assurance) Morality holds a pretty important place with God doesn't it? Without it you have no inheritance. Morality isn't faith only, is it? When we talk about living a moral life as God commands us to do, we're talking about obeying God! We wouldn't have the slightest idea of what morality is if it weren't for the fact that the bible tells us what is moral and what is immoral. Morality comes from God. And so to live a moral life is to obey God. But that word 'obey' that's a dirty four letter word to the faith only crowd. They cringe just at the sound of that word.. Obey wow don't say that!

So here's the question that you'll get from a faith only advocates, when you try to tell them that God requires our obedience. Theyll say "Well how much obedience is enough? Or how little is enough? How are we supposed to know?" And I think to myself how little? Are you serious? You really want to know how little you can do to be saved? Seriously? If you have to ask how much or how little obedience is required, then you've completely missed the point! The point isn't how much or how little, but the point is if God said it just prove your faith and do it!

How much obedience do you have to give to God ? Complete obedience. That's how much. And if

you have to ask how little you can get by with, well i guess it really doesn't matter because your never going to be saved with that attitude anyhow. How little can I do for you in return for the suffering and the humiliation, and the rejection, and the pain of the crucifixion and for dying in my behalf? What's the least amount of obedience I can give you for that Lord?

Philippians 2:8 talks about Christs perfect life and perfect obedience: *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

But some people go to extremes again and they say well you're saying that God demands perfect obedience from us just like Christ. We can't do that! Of course we can't! That's the whole purpose for Christ, because he could do that, and he did do that!

1 Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* By his perfect obedience we are healed for our imperfect obedience. You and I will never be perfect. How are we to love the lord? Mathew 22:37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

Through Jesus, God is reversing the action that took place in the garden with Adam and Eve. Back then it was man's physical disobedience that resulted in spiritual death entering into the world. But now it is God in Christ whose physical obedience results in spiritual life entering back into the world.

Romans 5:17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*

How much or how little; what's the standard? Here's the standard right here: The Bible. Have you done what the bible tells you to do? The problem is that most simply don't like the standard. There are no optional commands. Whatever the bible says, that's the standard. "Be faithful unto death!" Jesus said.

Revelation 2:10 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

The one who endures to the end. Matthew 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

That's the standard!

Bro. Troy Mooney
Broken Bow, OK

(concluded next month…)

Notes & Letters

Hello to every brother and sister in Christ. We are blessed to be in good health here. Remembering the year of 2023 and giving all glory to God for bringing us through all our struggles and trials of last year. We are wonderfully blessed in flesh and spirit. As we begin this year may we all "AND LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS, TO THE WHICH ALSO ARE CALLED IN ONE BODY: AND BE YE THANKFUL" Colossians 3:15. We all have daily circumstances that demand our attention. Doctor appointments are always important and we need to attend to them when they are scheduled. We have a greater appointment every Sunday morning. To assemble ourselves with our loved ones at our Church building, our home, or with another congregation as we are blessed with the opportunity. Sometimes we all have circumstances not of our choosing or making that prevent going to Church. These are times our faith must be the strongest we can be. The need for us to pray for each other becomes greater every day. Here we always ask everyone traveling through our area to stop and stay in our home and worship God with us on Sunday morning.

Larry & Maxine Pollan
Ringgold Texas congregation

We have some great news from the Montrose congregation, we have a new Sister in Christ, Kenzie Larson was baptized into Christ on the 18th of February. Kenzie has been coming to worship for awhile and we were so glad when she made the decision to be baptized. It is a tough decision for a young person to make in this day and age to follow Christ, we would ask all of you to ask a prayer for her to help to keep her strong.

In Christian Love—Tony Schell



News from Abroad

Dear brethren in the Lord. We are doing well in the Lord and we thank him for the life he gives to each of us daily. We would like to thank everyone who involves him/her self in this good work that God has given each of us. Lord's work is doing well though Satan tries to hinder it but we are continuing to work and see that people believe in him.

In March 25, we shall be conducting the gospel meeting and we covet your prayers so that our Lord may bring the increase. Many people are in need of the gospel and teachings of our Lord.

I got a call from Katesh and Mpwapwa that brother Joseph from Katesh is sick for Malaria and UTI. Also brother Kefa (Cephas) from Mpwapwa also sick he got the motorcycle accident.

Report from Congo: These are the congregations they have in Goma region:

1. Baraka.
2. Kikwena.
3. Iweba
4. Uvira.
5. Mumoshwa Bukavu

May God bless all of you and keep you safe. The church of Christ Katoro -Tanzania.

Your brother in Christ.
Sadat

We have received a number of full length lessons, as we requested. The ones that are too long for print in the Courier will be added to our website. And we are eternally grateful for them!
We would love to hear from you! Send us a letter or short article about a page or page and a half for print in the Courier. –Thx!

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Africa Mission
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Mexico Mission
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413



Voices from the Past

It Is Written

Oct 15, 1948

Mangum Oklahoma. October 3, 1948

Dear Brother Bedingfield:-

Since last report I have done the preaching in three fine meetings: one at Gilliland Texas; one at Elk City Oklahoma; and one at Furnish Colorado for the brethren that meets in that place, some 15 miles north of Kenton Oklahoma.

There were two baptisms: at Gilliland, one at Furnish and one restoration there. While we had no additions at Elk City, the church is stronger. All are in position for better work and harmony in the true New Testament way. All of these places ask me to return for meetings next year.

I am to preach at Reydon Oklahoma tomorrow, and am looking forward to a great time there. The above meetings close my meeting work for the present, I only hope the great cause for which our saviour died may press forward with new zeal and true work and knowledge. I still look forward for the publication, "It Is Written" each month; and may the Lord bless you and all other true Christians in the great fight. To win a claim in Heaven is my prayer. Pray for us too and tell all. I am ready as much as is in me is, to help the cause by preaching the pure gospel anywhere I may.

Your brother
W.H.Francis.
423 West Tyler, Mangum Oklahoma

I recently drove through Mangum on my way home from Lorenzo because I knew there used to be a congregation there. It is sad there are so many old congregations gone. None of the congregations mentioned in this letter exist today. –Paul Warford

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 1:1-3

Bro. Paul Warford

Prologue

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his

The Revelation

The word Revelation here is the Greek word “Apocalypse”. And Hollywood went crazy with that. But simply put, the word Revelation means “an uncovering of anything or an unveiling so that what is hid can be known.”

of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants

At the time of this unveiling or revealing, this revelation belonged to Jesus Christ, and God had given it to him to give to us.

things which must shortly come to pass

When it says “things which must shortly come to pass” commentators agree that it's saying things which must soon start. It's not saying that all these things, written Revelations, will happen in a short amount of time, because you have the history of the church, from the persecutions that soon started, till the end of time.

and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

Christ gave it to his Angel to bring to John or sent it to John through an Angel and signified it which means that he brought it to John in a very symbolic or picture style manner. This symbolic manner was used quite a bit in the Old Testament in Daniel and Ezekiel mainly. It's no great thing that a book of the New Testament has this same type of language.

Rev 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Now John is officially given the title of the one who recorded the three different things. He is to bear record of the word of God, the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that was shown to him.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy

During the time that this was written there were not many people that actually owned books or scrolls, as they were rare back then. It was the custom back in this time, especially in the churches, for one to read and everybody else listened. In this way the blessing was on everybody, the reader, and the listener.

and keep those things which are written therein

This was a statement given for positive affirmation for people not to forget the things that were written that they either read or heard.

for the time *is* at hand.

To me this is a warning that the things that were about to be "revealed" unto man were at a time frame of beginning to start happening.

Website update: 1CupHistory.Church

We are pleased to announce there are over 900 documents posted on our Church of Christ history website: Articles, Lessons and Video Lessons mostly. All the articles from www.ChurchOfChristOneCup.Org are there (but we're not quite finished with descriptions and topics and most of those have been converted to the African Swahili language, thanks to Alex Sadat), Jack Warford's lessons are all there, and all the video lessons we have from the Pleasant View congregation. And we'll be adding lots more very soon. Please contribute if you're able! ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

When you're browsing the content, if you see a title you think you might be interested in, hover your mouse pointer on it and if there is a short description available for it, it will popup under the mouse pointer like a tool tip. We still have a little polishing to do on it, but it works great.

We would also like to thank those who have completed the membership surveys we mailed out, and encourage those who haven't to please consider helping out by at least updating/providing essential contact information. The info helps those looking for a true worship congregation. We sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts and assistance!

Paul Warford - Jesse Warford



Thought for the Month

Our Christian journey may be thought of as walking down a street. But is that totally accurate? There is a lot of leeway on both sides of a street; a lot of room for error without falling into the ditch. But the Old Testament warns us multiple times to "*not turn aside* (from the law) *to the right hand or to the left.*"

Although God can be forgiving, His law is not. So how can we veer even a little? Perhaps we should think of our journey as a walk on a tight-rope, strung high over a canyon. Even the slightest little mis-step could spell disaster. Does the verse "*Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, and few there be that find it*" come to mind? Inspiration for this months thought comes from Bro. Robert Fuson Sr.'s lesson, "Lawless Ways." Stay strait, my friends.

Love & blessings
Bro. Jesse Warford



Milk of the Word

Cain and Abel

Genesis Chapter 4

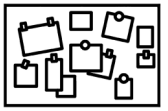
We find in Genesis that the first man and woman were Adam and Eve. Eventually they had a son. Eve called him Cain. She said: "I have gotten a man from the Lord." (Genesis 4:1) Adam and Eve had another son. They called his name Abel. Abel was a keeper of sheep, or a shepherd, and Cain was a tiller of the ground, or farmer. (Genesis 4:2)

One day Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. God respected Abel's sacrifice. But He did not respect Cain's sacrifice. The Bible doesn't say exactly why he didn't like Cain's offering but he became angry. God told him to do what was right so that he would be accepted. If Cain did not do what was right then he would sin. (Chapter 4:3-7) God told Cain to rule over sin.

Cain talked with Abel and they went out in the field. Cain killed Abel. Later God asked Cain: "Where his Abel?" Cain said that he was not his brother's keeper. But God knew that Cain had killed Abel. God punished Cain. He could not be a good farmer anymore and he would be a criminal forever. But, God loved Cain. Cain was afraid that people would hurt him. So God gave him a special mark so that no one would kill him. (Chapter 4:8-16).

We cannot hide our sin from God. Even though Cain tried to cover up his sin by lying, God already knew what he had done (Genesis 4:10). Scripture reveals nothing can be hidden from the Lord who knows and judges all things (Hebrews 4:12-13). This means no sinner will ever get away with their sin.

In Christian Love
The Robert Fuson Sr. Family



Bulletin Board

Those in need of our prayers

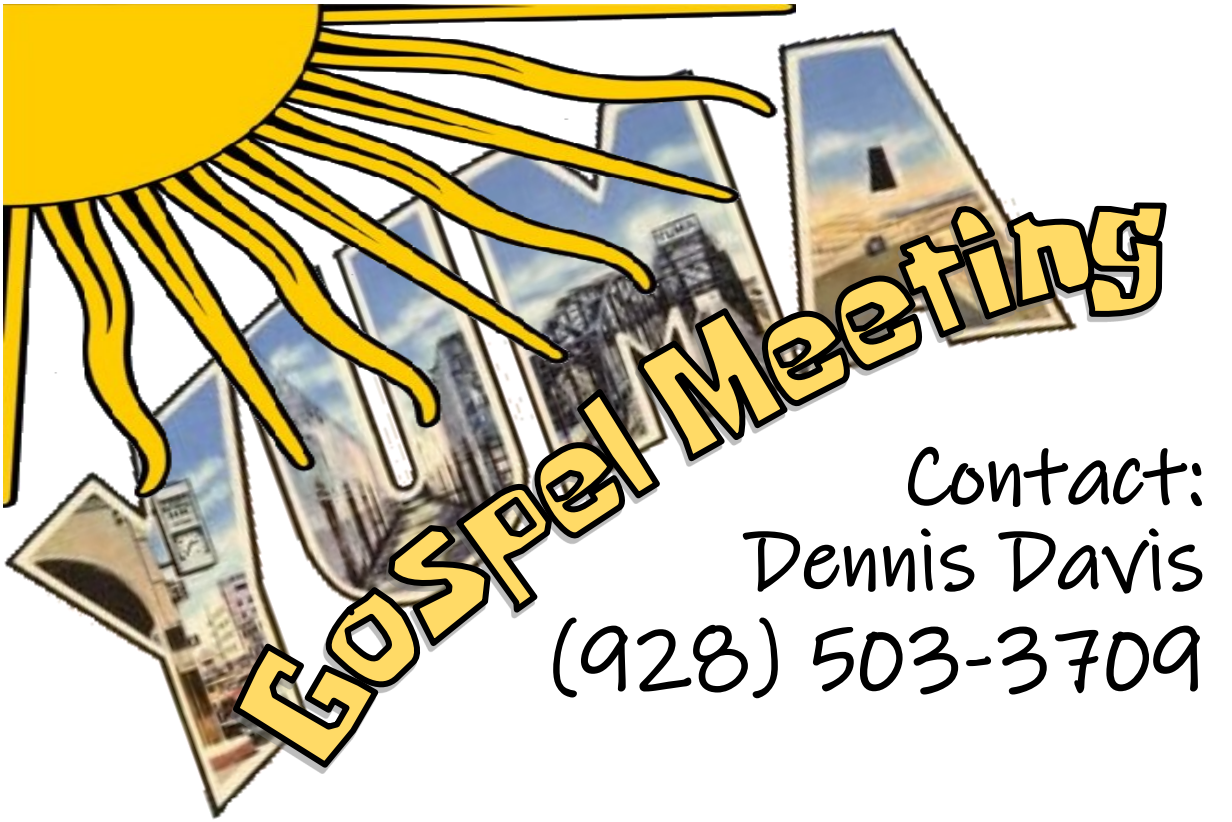
Mick Boen	Denton, TX	Fighting Cancer
Bro. Joseph	Katesh, Africa	Malaria & U.T.I.
Jon Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Diabetes, heart issues
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Malaria
Wilkister Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Cancer
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex/nerve tumors
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Unexpected loss of wife/mother
Beason Family	Broken Bow, OK	Fighting cancer
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Uterine & cervical cancer
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Several strokes & heart issues
Ilene Thrush	Gleed, WA	Dangerous travels, 2 angioplasties
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Health issues
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Lupus, recent loss of husband
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Parkinson's disease
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Congestive heart failure
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Recovering from heart surgery
Tom Core	Gleed, WA	Cancer surgery

Baptisms

Kenzie Larson	Montrose, CO	February 18, 2024

Gospel Meetings

Yuma Meeting	Yuma, AZ	Mar 10-17 '24	Assorted
Big Spruce Camp	Cedaredge, CO	Jul 6-14 '24	Assorted



Contact:
Dennis Davis
(928) 503-3709

Congregation of the Month



Waterford Church of Christ

11844 Yosemite Blvd.
Waterford, CA 95368
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

GPS: 37.638146, -120.776620

Contact:
Kurt Harper (209) 630-0900
or Terry Lucas (209) 604-2753

"Pls stop in and worship with us!"