

Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the PASTOR'S DESK

Volume 16, Issue 7
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Hello My Liberated Brethren,

It is in this month, on the 4th of July that we celebrate our Independence Day here in America with picnics, family gatherings, waving flags, parades and fireworks displays. We are blessed with freedoms and liberties that few people in the history of mankind have enjoyed and one of our most precious freedoms is the freedom "of" religion, which unfortunately, some exercise as freedom "from" religion.

In our Christian walk, freedom and liberty are words oft applied to our calling. Religious souls, as Jesus Himself found, too often attempt to hijack our liberty and force us into bondage. Jesus spent much of His ministry denouncing those who claimed to be believers and placed religious burdens on those trying to follow God; more time than He spent denouncing those who did not claim to be believers. Jesus emphasized an important principle of life—all is judged by the fruit it produces. If the fruit is good, then that which produces it is good and conversely, if the fruit is bad, that which produces the bad fruit must be bad.

How often do we see Christians divide and separate over some religious or doctrinal debate, often over one point or even one word? Is that good fruit or bad fruit? Paul warned us about getting caught up in these wranglings and nitpickings.

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. (1 Tim 6:3-5 NKJV)

Everyone thinks he/she is right and any who disagree therefore are wrong. That is dangerous ground, for Jesus promised that we would be judged "AS" we judge others (Matt. &:1-5). Christians, who have so much in common, should bond together, not divide over this issue, that word, or some interpretation of scripture or doctrine. A

(Continued on page 7)



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Praise the Lord.
Praise God in his sanc-
tuary; praise him in
his mighty heavens.

—Psalm 150:1

[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always
did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place.

Luke 4:16 (MSG)



I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." — Psalm 122:1

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH US EACH SATURDAY
11 A.M. Christian Education / 11:45 A.M. Worship Service

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CHECK THIS MEDIA

Our sermons broadcast on

KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday.

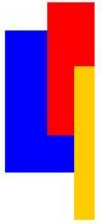
www.pan-tex.net

Our Home Page: www.christianchurchofgod.org

Church E-mail:
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PRAYER REQUESTS: "... The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; ... Pray for one another that you may be healed."
— James 5:15-16.



Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

DeAnne DeLuna: Larry Lyles' stepdaughter, completed treatment for breast cancer.

Velvet Green: Gary's wife, schizophrenia. She is not doing well.

Randy Gnessett: Friend of Candace Sellers, received a lung transplant. Is still in critical condition..

Anna Law: Lupus & kidney failure. Is in need of kidney transplant.

Jerry McClenagan: Scheduled for heart bypass surgery July 10th

C.D. McKinney: Julia's husband, experiencing heart arrhythmia.

Dollie Meil: Cerebral palsy. She is growing weak.

Rose Munholland: Betty Clark's sister's mother-in-law, cancer and complications from treatment.

C.L. Osterloh: Undergoing dialysis weekly.

Glenda Rankin: Niece of Rudolph, Hodgkins Lymphoma. Received stem cell transplant .

Ted Rankin: Undergoing physical therapy, following back surgery. Is showing slight improvement but still having vision problems.

Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.

Emma Searl: Less than 1-year old, Spina Bifida, staph infection.

Wilson Stewart: Diagnosed with prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.

Ron Vorheis: Suffering from macular degeneration and heart arrhythmia.

Bob Wertz: Achalasia, esophagus disorder, having surgical correction.

IF YOU HAVE UPDATES OR NEW REQUESTS PLEASE INFORM THE EDITOR.

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When Jesus put the little child in the midst of the disciples, he did not tell the little child to become like his disciples, he told the disciples to become like the little child.

~ Ruth Bell Graham

Jesus promised his disciples three things: that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy and in constant trouble.

~ F. R. Maltby

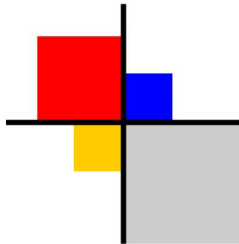
No Christian escapes a taste of the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land.

~ Evelyn Underhill

There is a virtuous fear which is the effect of faith, and a vicious fear which is the product of doubt and mistrust. The former leads to hope as relying on God, in whom we believe; the latter inclines to despair. .

. . Persons of the one character fear to lose God; those of the other character fear to find him. ~ Blaise Pascal

Always remember that there are two types of people in the world. Those who come into a room and say, "Well, here I am!" and those who come in and say, "Ah, there you are!" ~Frederick L. Collins



Birthdays:

Teresa Cryer	7-10
Jo Beth Vines	7-10
Shannon Stephens	7-16
Larry Lyles	7-22
Julie Ford	7-23
Gary Green	7-27

Congratulations to Jason & Kristy Kirkpatrick, United in Marriage June 23, 2007

Condolences to the Kirkpatrick family on the death of Glen Kirkpatrick. He died June 23 and was interred on June 25, 2007.

Get Well Wishes to Martha McCleagan. She experienced a TIA and was hospitalized for a short time the weekend of

Hymns for Him

Hymns for Him

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Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
A Helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work his woe;
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruel hate—
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Doth ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus it is He!

Lord Sabaoth is His name,
From age to age the same;
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath will'd,
His truth to triumph thro' it.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

~ Martin Luther

**Courage—an independent spark from heaven's
bright throne, by which the soul stands raised, trium-
phant, high, alone.**

~ George Farquhar

Peanuts for Life



In this issue of the Christian Church of God newsletter we are reminded by Pastor Booth that we have a liberty in Christ that transcends by far our wonderful national freedom.

We take a brief look at how we might apply to our own nation the Scripture that espouses patriotism for Jerusalem and Israel of old. Please read these beautiful passages in the **HeartSearch** and **His Powerful Word** features.

Our guest columnist wrote in the 19th century of the power of our great God that met the needs of ancient Israel, and how individual Christians can apply that principle with "heroic faith."

Even the words of Martin Luther in that grand old hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is rich with meaning that applies to any age and any nation that will dare to trust God for its safety and deliverance. Meditate on its words for a few minutes this month and pray for our nation as Paul enjoined in 1Timothy 2:1, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be

made for everyone-- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

How we respond, individually, to these words is what matters. Our ongoing "Door" theme on the address page points this out with the quotation from Revelation. Christ is speaking to the entire Church, but says "if any man" will hear, any person within the Church, and will open that door to Him, that person will be blessed.

God, like Charlie Brown, is saying **BOOM!** Do you hear Him? Are you going to hide out, or are you going to celebrate His glorious intervention and help?

Your Editor, Jerry McClenagan





From the PASTOR'S DESK

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mature Christian can accept the fact that someone may disagree with him or her and still be a brother or sister in Christ. God is in no way attempting to trick us or make it difficult to have eternal life and enter His Kingdom; to the contrary, He wishes that all would be saved and that none would perish (2 Peter 3:9). He is not playing intellectual mind games to keep us out and insert those clever enough to solve the puzzle into His Kingdom.

In the Old Covenant, God asked Israel to obey His laws in the letter, adding statutes, ordinances and rituals in an attempt to teach the Israelites how important it was to walk according to His instructions. It was an approach of working from the outside in, with the goal of internalizing the two great commandments which the Ten Commandments delivered at Mt. Sinai were meant to fulfill. In the New Covenant, with the aid of the Spirit of God, by which we know the things of God (1 Cor. 2:11).

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matt 22: 35-40 NKJV)

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. (Rev 22:14 NKJV)

What commandments? Jesus was referring to the two timeless great commands that were known by Israel also (see Deut 6:4 & Lev 19:18). The Law of God transcends any one covenant and that law which remains includes

the Ten Commandments as clearly defined by Jesus (Matt. 5:17-22) and the Royal Law of love for God and man that these ten were built upon, defining how to fulfill those two great commandments (see Matt.22:35-40).

The Law of Moses passed with the passing of the Old Covenant and with it the sacrifices, ordinances and statutes contained in that law have been done away by our Lord and Savior on the cross. We cannot strain under a yoke of bondage by laboring to be Old Covenant Christians. Trying to pick and choose which ordinances or statutes we keep and which ones we discard is a frustrating and useless effort in futility. It is divisive and diminishes the great sacrifice of our Lord.

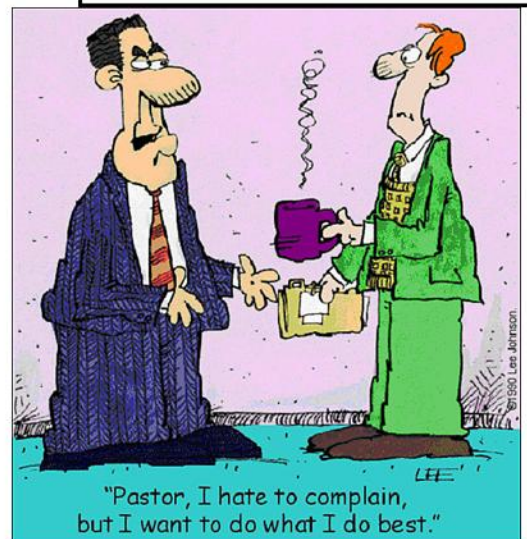
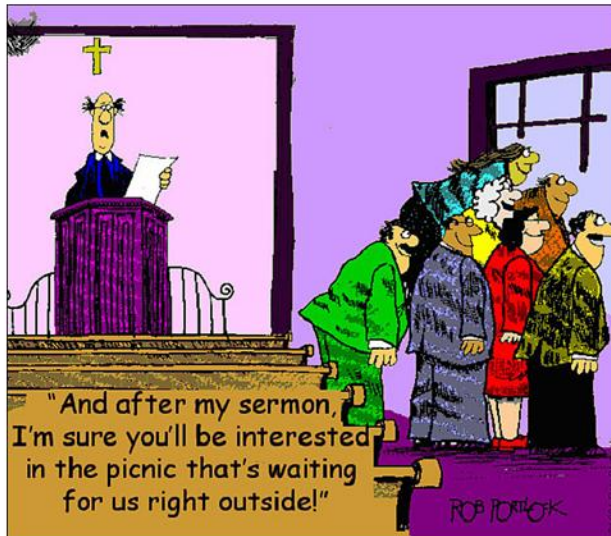
For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. (2 Cor 3:11 NKJV)

Paul explained the liberty of the New Covenant and the easy yoke of Jesus (see Matt. 11:30) we enjoy and the freedom that yields such an abundant crop of good fruit.

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels.

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A cheerful disposition is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone-tired. —Proverbs 17:22, *The Message*





From the PASTOR'S DESK

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For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor 3: 5-18 NKJV)

Thanks to our Savior we have liberty, freedom and the Spirit of God!

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**. (2 Cor 3:17 NKJV)*

In Christ Jesus is Liberty,

Jeff Booth

LORD AND MASTER, I WILL TAKE
TIME THIS MONTH TO LOOK AT MY
HEART MIRROR AND EXAMINE MY-
SELF REGARDING . . .



PATRIOTISM

- Compare the theme of patriotism in relation to Jerusalem and Israel:
Psalm 51:18; 122:6-7; 2 Samuel 10:12;
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Judges 5:1-31;
Psalm 85:1-13; 136:1-6; Lamentations

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it,

Guest Column

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Ah Lord God, behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee." Jeremiah 32:17

At the very time when the Chaldeans surrounded Jerusalem, and when the sword, famine and pestilence had desolated the land, Jeremiah was commanded by God to purchase a field, and have the deed of transfer legally sealed and witnessed. This was a strange purchase for a rational man to make. Prudence could not justify it, for it was buying with scarcely a probability that the person purchasing could ever enjoy the possession. But it was enough for Jeremiah that his God had bidden him, for well he knew that God will be justified of all His children. He reasoned thus: "Ah, Lord God! Thou canst make this plot of ground of use to me; Thou canst rid this land of these oppressors; Thou canst make me yet sit under my vine and my fig-tree in the heritage which I have bought; for Thou didst make the heavens and the earth, and there is nothing too hard for Thee." This gave a majesty to the early saints, that they dared to do at God's command things which carnal reason would condemn. Whether it be a Noah who is to build a ship on dry land, an Abraham who is to offer up his only son, or a Moses who is to despise the treasures of Egypt, or a Joshua who is to besiege Jericho seven days, using no weapons but the blasts of rams' horns, they all act upon God's command, contrary to the dictates of carnal reason; and the Lord gives them a rich reward as the result of their obedient faith. Would to God we had in the religion of these modern

11 His Powerful Word

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

~ Hebrews 4:12, The Message

Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight. 2 Sam 10:12 (NKJV)

So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king. 2 Sam 20:2 (NKJV)

Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" Neh 2:2-3 (NKJV)

For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen. Esth 10:3 (NKJV)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
Prosperity within your palaces."
For the sake of my brethren and companions,
I will now say, "Peace be within you."
Because of the house of the LORD our God
I will seek your good. Psalms 122:6-9 (NKJV)

Oh, that my head were waters,
And my eyes a fountain of tears,
That I might weep day and night
For the slain of the daughter of my people! Jer 9:1 (NKJV)

"Rejoice with Jerusalem,
And be glad with her, all you who love her;
Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; Isaiah 66:10 (NKJV)



Christian Church of God

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FOLLOW CHRIST WHEN HE

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.
~ Rev. 3:20, NIV

