



The Christian Courier

November, 2013

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SIN

THE REALITY OF SIN

The Nature of Sin

Definition of sin: 1 John 3:4 is a key passage that presents a biblical definition of sin. John stated, “*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*” (NKJV)

Sin = Not doing what God says to do

God has given positive laws to man. For example, James commanded, “...*visit orphans and widows in their trouble...* (James 1:27). This is a POSITIVE COMMANDMENT; something that God has told us to do. If one refuses to do this, he sins against God’s law.

Sin = Doing what God says not to do

An example of a negative law would be, “*Let him who stole steal no longer...*” (Eph. 4:28).

This is a negative statement of law, something that God has told us not to do.

Sin is man’s personal free-moral choice to either not to do what God has told him to do or do what God has told him not to do.

SIN = OMISSION AND COMMISSION

Sin is a way of life

The word sin is used in the Bible to refer to a way of life. For example, when one continues in the practice of sin in general, he or she does what Paul described to the Ephesians concerning their former way of life, “...*in which [sin] you once walked according to the course of this world, ... in the lusts of our flesh ... and of the mind...*” (Eph. 2:2-3). John said that this is the one who “*walks in darkness*” (1 John 1:5-10). The

Ephesians lived in a sinful behavior that was commonly practiced in their culture. This was before they were converted.

Sin is a particular action of life

There is also the definition of sin as a **particular action** which the Christian does that is contrary to God's will. John says, "... *if anyone sins, we have an Advocate ...*" (1 John 2:1). This is the "occasional" sin that Christians commit but do not practice as a way of life. Therefore, there is a difference between **living in sin** and **committing a sin**. The unrepentant will lose his soul for practicing sin. The repentant will be forgiven of a sin if he or she willingly confesses the sin (1 John 1:7-9). There is, therefore, a difference between the unbeliever who lives in sin and the believer who commits sin. The unbeliever will be lost because he or she did not obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9). The believer who continues in a sin will be lost because he or she is unrepentant of a particular sin in life for which he or she will not repent (Heb. 10:26; 1 John 5:16).

THE RESULT OF SIN IS SEPARATION AND DEATH

All men have sinned (Rom. 3:9-10, 23). Sin in the life of the individual separates one from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and in separation from God there is spiritual death (Rom. 5:12; 6:23). The result of sin is separation from God which is spiritual death; whenever we think of sin, therefore, we must think of spiritual death.

When we become a Christian, we do not lose our ability to sin. We are still free-moral agents. God does not make us robots. For this reason

Paul exhorts Christians, "*awake to righteousness, and do not sin*" (1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 4:26). He said "*But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection....*" (1 Cor. 9:27). This is a warning to every Christian concerning the deceitfulness of sin in one's life.

A Christian's salvation as a result of obedience to the gospel in baptism is conditional. Christians must remain faithful.

The salvation of Christians is at least based upon the following conditions of maintaining faithfulness:

- We must hold fast the word of God (1 Cor. 15:2).
- We must be faithful until the end (Heb. 3:6).
- We must continue in faith (Col. 1:23).
- We must be faithful even to death (Rev. 2:10).
- We must bear fruit (John 15:1-7).
- We must abide in Jesus (John 15:4).
- We must walk in the light (John 1:7).

Read the following:

- Phil. 2:12.
- 1 Tim. 4:16
- Heb. 3:13

Bro. John Kombo
Barut Church of Christ
Nakuru, Kenya



News from Abroad

Report From Kenya

We are happy to greet you in the Mighty name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the work funds you sent. We received in Kenya Shillings 24,771.88 (\$288 American dollars – Editor The donation money from the U.S. is apportioned by the number of congregations we are working with in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. Since this money was sent we decided to send money to Africa on a quarterly basis, as it costs \$45 for each wire transfer regardless of the amount.).

We met on 17th Oct 2013 (Brothers John Kombo, Laban Ambogo, John Mbithi and Thomas Situma) at Barut, in John Kombo's home and agreed after deliberating, to go and open a Bank Account for the church in Kenya. We already have sent you the account number, and the registration certificate copy for the church.

Evangelism report:

- Nakuru — Ronda church of Christ is the oldest in Nakuru to be established. After studying the Bible with preachers and all members, the congregation has fully joined us in the use of one cup. Two new Christians were baptized last month of September: one secondary school boy and Mrs. Mojumbe.
- Kakamega — Bro. Laban Ambogo reported that there are now 4 congregations

loyal to one cup worship within Kakamega, Ivochio is latest to be converted. 3 Baptisms there.

- Machakos — Bro. John Mbithi reported about the evangelism meeting they had at Mumandu church for 2 days. They did teaching and door to door evangelism.
- Naivasha — The report from Naivasha is that Macharia who left the congregation has now been replaced by Bro. Amos Mandu. One family (husband and wife) has expressed they want to join the church. They are to be baptized soon.

Challenges:

In most of newly established congregations, there is one common problem, a place of worship. Most of the groups worship in houses or rented places. At Barut they worship at a secondary school. The future here is uncertain. We later had Bro. John Kombo teach the lesson titled “Evangelism that has been initiated from the local church”.

Our vision:

We look into future to establish a strong ministry that will serve to restore the Biblical principles and hence empower the church. We would work together to identify projects. (Editor's Note — Each country requires a humanitarian project for each church

registration. They have an orphanage on Kenya, but the other two countries in East Africa also need something).

Our Mission:

To continue to work together in order to establish other congregations that will meet and worship according to the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. The above could only be achieved through love, commitment, study and above all fervent prayer unto God to give us his wisdom and strength.

God bless the church in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, U.S.A and other parts of the world.

Yours in Christ

Bro. John Kombo, Nandwa, - Barut, Nakuru

Bro. Laban Ambogo Lukunza, Kakamega

Bro. John Mbithi, Machakos

Bro. Thomas Situma, Naivasha.

Prepared by: Bro. John Kombo, Nandwa

[Editor's Note: Also, please remember the orphanage in Matundu, Kenya. They also could use your financial support]

Report From Tanzania

Brethren, I greet you in the name of Jesus. We are doing well in Africa, except for Bro. Musa Kimani in Arusha, our evangelism coordinator in Tanzania, is sick with cerebral malaria.

As far as the Evangelism work is concern we have been so blessed.

- The Lord has added one congregation at Bunda called Busweta.
- A man and his wife have been baptized in Bitaraguru
- Bro. Kachege did the follow-up for the denomination leaders who attended the gospel seminar at Shirati and have recovered three congregations: one at Shirati Center, another 10 kilometers (6 ¼

miles) away, also he has managed to restore the Mirare church. Now we have 6 Churches in the Rorya District.

- One person has been converted from Edasak Junction and meets with the Simba Hills congregation.
- On our way to King'ori known as Junction where we branch when going to Malachi congregation, a Lord's church has been started there.

So far this is what we have on our table, we shall be updating you often. On behalf of whole Evangelism Coordinating Committee in Tanzania,

Bro. Julias Masirori Kachege

Report from the Philippines

Brethren,

Most of you have probably seen the news about the terrible typhoon that occurred in the Philippines on November 8th. The following are extractions from emails I received from Bro. Dickson Fabian of the church of Christ

congregation in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines:

Dear Brother Ellis Forsman;

Good evening from the Philippine Island! Yes dear brother, we are very affected from the typhoon here in Tacloban City and other nearby

provinces. A thousand members of the Church are affected, some members are dead and some are still missing at this moment. Many have lost their homes.

We humbly come to you by knocking into your hearts to extend help to our distressed brothers and sisters in Christ of the churches of Christ of one cup persuasion in Visayas Region, Philippines. We are now asking for help from the brethren in the US. Rest assured that all help you send will be going to the brothers and sisters in Christ who are affected by the typhoon.

In the City of Tacloban there is nothing to buy; you can't buy anything but outside Tacloban, like nearby province Cebu City we can buy some goods, food, clothing, and other needs. Not the whole Philippines are without stocks, only in Tacloban City, Samar, and Leyte. We can buy in Cebu City, one of the biggest City in the region of Visayas.

Hoping for your kind favor and in consideration on this matter.

Thank you in advance; God Bless!

In Christ Jesus, Brother Dickson Fabian

One report I read stated that there is an estimated 620,000 people who have lost their homes in the Philippines. The Red Cross is helping with this tragedy, but it is not enough. If you desire to help those in the church, please notify Bro. Forsman at forsmanep@yahoo.com. I have been advised that we should not send packages to the Philippines as there is little chance of their reaching the desired destination. I have posted pictures of the devastation on my wall on Facebook.

Included are some photos I received from loyal congregations in the Philippines back in 2011. These congregations used to be multiple cups but now worship with one cup and break the bread in the communion.

The following is the message I received from Bro. Fabian on October 21, 2011:

November, 2013

Dear Brethren in Christ;

I came from a multi-cups Conservative Church of Christ, I was converted last June, 2006, The Pioneering works of the Church of Christ, using one cup, without foreign help, started in my house from a small Barangay of Binoligan, City of Kidapawan. We had planted over 30 established Churches of Christ all over Midanao, Philippines. We are purely one cup persuasion, preaching the sound doctrines of Christ. speak where the Bible speaks, silent where the Bible is silent. We are not using musical instruments during worship, but vocal. There is only one loaf at the table. First we pray then break it in two, and then pass it on. The same with the cup using only one cup, pray then pass it on.

Brother Dickson

Bro. Dickson is compiling a list of the congregations and members count of the churches of Christ in the Philippines that worship with one cup and break the bread in two in the communion; I can tell you that the individual count will run into the thousands. I will post the final tally when I receive them. These brethren have been spreading the gospel in the Philippines without any help from the United States other than receiving tracts from us to study. Let's do what we can to help them.

We are temporarily going to use the Mission account as a way of collecting money to send to them. It is not effective for everyone to send money directly to the bank account in the Philippines as it costs \$45 each time a wire transfer is done. We will use the account at Wells Fargo that we have been using for the African Mission for you to deposit for this purpose as well. I will forward this money via wire transfer to the account in the Philippines. I only ask that whoever sends money to this account to please send me an email or call me (206-948-3597) to let me know that that deposit is for the Philippines and not for the African

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Mission. I will keep separate books on this money. If you need to know the account number for this deposit, please contact me through my email or by phone. The agent at Wells Fargo Bank told me there are scams going on whenever there is a disaster. I told him that I know this person in the Philippines and that I initiated the

contact because I wanted to know how the people in the church were faring. And I am not keeping any of this money for myself.

There is a photo album of the pictures of the devastation in the Philippines on my wall on Facebook.

Your brother in Christ, Ellis Forsman



Gospel meeting at Camp Bulatukan, North Cotabato, Philippines, in 2011. Attendance 887; congregations present: 27; baptisms: 218.



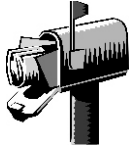
Gospel meeting at Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines. 7 congregations present.



One of 7 congregations in North Cotabato, Philippines.



One of 2 congregations in Zamboanga North, Philippines



Cards and Letters

Correction



Dear Editor at the Christian Courier,

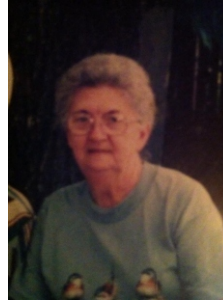
In the October, 2013, edition of your magazine, you ran an obituary of my father, Bro. Daniel Shirey, with an incorrect picture. Please find the correct picture below so you can make the correction for a future edition of the magazine.

Thank you for your kind inclusion of my father in your magazine. He always enjoyed reading your magazine each month.

Sincerely,
Bro. Steven Shirey

[Editor's Note — Thank you for the correction. We obtained information about Bro. Daniel Shirey from an obituary notice on the web in Pennsylvania which included the incorrect picture. We apologize for having the wrong picture. Included is the correct picture supplied by Bro. Steven Shirey.]

Missing Picture



When we published the last issue of The Christian Courier we did not have a photo to go with the obituary notice of Sis. Beulah Mae Vanderpool. Here is her picture that we received after that publication.

Lorenzo, TX

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We here at the Lorenzo Church of Christ Salute you in Christian love.

Health wise we have had a few illnesses and pains. Sis. Olene Howe has been diagnosed with cancer. It is a spot on her right cheek area. They seem to have caught it early and she has started a 30 day round of radiation therapy. We ask all of you for your prayers, because it is the best medicine she can receive. Bro. Matt Matlock has been having issues with kidney stones again. He did go in for surgery and we are hoping this will give him some relief. He is up and around now, but he was down several days. Sis. Nell McCay had a fall and broke her tail bone. We have all missed her very much. Angela Boling had a car accident a little while back and was pretty sore, but seems to be doing better, but we are not really sure because she never seems to complain about her ailments and seems to be as feisty as ever.

Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell Forsman will be traveling to Sacramento, CA, soon Lord willing. He is going to help remodel/re-wire a building they have purchased to be used for worship. Not sure how long it will take.

We have had a few members traveling. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wynetta McCay, Bro. Gene, Sis. Joan and Sis. Angela met up with Bro. Richard and Sis. Monica Johnston and went in search of some congregations back on the East coast. They had a good time and meet with a few folks. It is good to find more faithful members out there.

Sis. Wynetta McCay will go to Brady, TX, to be with her son Michael Hudson & family and her grandson Joshua Hudson who is fighting Cystic Fibrosis in the hospital.

We were happy Sunday to have Sis. Michelle Forsman who is moving back from Florida.

Over the Veteran's Day Holiday in November, Bro. Jerry & Sis. Wynetta McCay (& Abby), Bro. Ellis Forsman (& Duffy), and Sis. Becky Forsman spent the long weekend visiting at Broken Bow, OK. Several other visitors were also able to join them. On that Saturday, Nov. 9th, they all witnessed the marriage of Bro. George & Sis. Tammy Phipps daughter Sarah as she was wed to Clay Davis. A fellowship time is always a blessing.

I know Bro. Ellis has been sending out information about the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. Please remember them in your prayers. A fund is being handled by Bro. Forsman, so please send what you can. The stories are pretty tragic, and they are our brothers and sisters over there. We need to help in any way possible. Even if it is small, it will help.

We continue to support the African Fund and we encourage the other congregations to do the same! They are in such need over there and we

have such bounty. The Lord wants us to help other Christians.

Also, remember to support the orphanage in Kenya.

I also do not want to forget Bro. Alvarez. His work also is so wonderful. We really need to help there where we can.

The holidays are upon us, so remember that Jesus is the reason for any season.

In Christian Love,

The Church of Christ in Lorenzo, Texas

Yuma, AZ

November 18, 2013

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A short message from the Yuma congregation. It is with hopes and prayers that all are doing well during this time. We have heard of quite a few that are suffering with ailments and injuries, different sicknesses; we have also had a number of deaths of longtime brothers and sisters that will no longer be in our lives but with sadness only in our memories. It was another great summer with church meetings. We went to the meetings in Washington and were able to meet with the congregations a couple of Sundays in Aztec, NM, and a couple in Cedaredge, CO. We were enriched by all of the visits with the various brothers and sisters along the way. Susie and I made the trip back to Cedaredge to attend the funeral of Sis. Movelle Wilkerson, and like all of our losses, she will be missed by family and friends. Susie and I have been back in Yuma for two weeks now and it is good to be home after such a long time away. Most everyone here in Yuma are doing well. Bro. Joe Davis is having some health problems; our concerted prayers would be helpful for him. He has moved back to

Yuma and it is good to see him here at church. My Aunt Ruth Duncan has missed a couple of Sundays due to ill health. When she is feeling well enough she comes to church. Bro. Karl Carlson is doing well, Bro. Harry and Sis. Alice Davis, Sis. Verda Nelson are about the same as the last time that I wrote. Bro. Mike Welcher is having surgery Wednesday to remove some very painful kidney stones that he has been suffering with for some time; our prayers have been for the successful removal and his regained health. Our brother and sister Robert and Debra Davis have just returned from a second trip to Israel and from what I heard from Robert this second trip was as good or better than the first. We have yet to hear more of all they have done nor have we seen the pictures that they took while there. It will all be wonderful to visit through their

memories and pictures. It is great that they were able to go.

We are planning our meeting this year again for March, beginning with the 16th ending on the 23rd. So, needless to say, if you get the opportunity to be here during that time please come and visit with us. It has never been anything but wonderful at the meetings here. We enjoy so much the fellowship that God has asked of us as Christians. Just enjoying each other's company is worth the effort and time spent. We always hope for bigger crowds. If you are able to attend let us know so we can plan everything in advance as much as possible. Our prayers and love are for each and every one of you

Bro. Denny Davis for the Yuma, AZ, congregation

Stilwell, OK

Our apologies! News from Stilwell, OK, about Bro. Russell Morris was inadvertently left off the last issue of *The Courier*. Bro. Russell was thrown by his horse against a fence. His left ankle was broken, he got a gash on his head, and his back was fractured. Please keep him in your prayers.

Psalms 100

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.*
- 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*
- 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*
- 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
- 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>
Mar. 16-23, 2014	Yuma, AZ	Guest speakers

Baptisms

<u>Name</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Date</u>
John Vandenberg	Lexington, OK	Sept. 15, 2013

Weddings

<u>Name</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Date</u>
Clay Davis & Sarah Phipps	Broken Bow, OK	Nov. 9, 2013

Prayer of Faith for those in need

<u>Name</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Prayer Need</u>
Musa Kimani	Arusha, Tanzania	Cerebral Malaria
Rachel Kimani	Arusha, Tanzania	Extreme Malaria & Typhoid Fever
Linda Wilson	Aztec, NM	Extreme anxiety
Nina Bixler	Aztec, NM	Esophagus repair, serious complications from surgery
Sue Bixler	Aztec, NM	Stroke (2), heart attack, & Diabetes
Tina Mickey	Aztec, NM	Extreme dizziness & blood clots
Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Pam Berry	Canton, GA	Severe headaches
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Mike Welcher	Citrus City, AZ	Kidney stone surgery
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems

Ola McKinney	Gleed, WA	Tumor removal & age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, & blood clots, falls
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel
Gary Calhoun	Hillsboro, OR	Brain tumor
Robert Lane	Hillsboro, OR	Recovering from stroke
Jerry McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Eye treatments for Macular Degeneration
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Fall & broken tail bone
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Removal of skin cancer on right side of face & radiation treatment
Wynetta McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Severe neck & back pain (undergoing treatment)
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Bo Forsman	Pine Mountain, AR	Heart attack (still recovering)
Ken Harper	Sacramento, CA	Recovering from stroke & paralysis
Nene Harper	Sacramento, CA	Broken knee cap (now using a walker)
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Renee Seaton	Stilwell, OK	Blindness, auto accident related & eye surgery
Russell Morris	Stilwell, OK	Broken left ankle, gash on head, back fractured
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Parkinson's & stomach surgery
Kay McCay	Yakima, WA	Knee surgery
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lower back pain
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Throat cancer, Diabetes, & Alzheimer's And all those in nursing homes or advanced age-related issues

[Editor's Note — Please let us know if any can be deleted to conserve space. We have removed some that have been on for quite some time with no current mention of status. If these people still need to be included, please let us know.]

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