

Abilene Christian University

Digital Commons @ ACU

W. Carl Ketcherside Papers

Manuscripts, Personal Papers and Archival
Records

6-26-1978

W. Carl Ketcherside letters to Cecil Hook

William Carl Ketcherside

Terry J. Gardner

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/carl_ketcherside_papers



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), [History of Christianity Commons](#), [History of Religions of Western Origin Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ketcherside, William Carl and Gardner, Terry J., "W. Carl Ketcherside letters to Cecil Hook" (1978). *W. Carl Ketcherside Papers*. 4.

https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/carl_ketcherside_papers/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscripts, Personal Papers and Archival Records at Digital Commons @ ACU. It has been accepted for inclusion in W. Carl Ketcherside Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ACU.

①

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

June 26, 1978

Cecil, my dear brother:

Nell and I celebrated our fiftieth anniversary day before yesterday and that night in a ceremony which will never be forgotten by those who attended it on Washington University Campus I united in marriage our oldest granddaughter and John Koch. The service lasted an hour and uplifted Jesus to the Jewish and atheistic students who attended and closed with the statement, "The Master has come and calleth for thee!"

We are so happy with everything that is happening and so thrilled with the marvelous change that is being wrought in our age that we forget there are those who are being ground under the wheels of a callous orthodoxy which sacrifices love for convention and tradition. That you should be one of those called upon to join the long list of martyrs through the ages seems incredible to me.

We are sending you the copy of *The Twisted Scriptures*. If we mailed them to you without charge, how many could you give away to those who need them and who would read them. The book has literally changed minds and lives and we would like to know how many you would use to the glory of God and the advancement of His marvelous kingdom. Do not be afraid to tell us, and we will see what we can do. With prayers for you and all of yours in this critical era of your life when you are being passed through the fire, look up. Keep the faith. Never be overcome. I am thrilled you are my brother. I am happy to be always both

Yours and HIS,

Carl

①

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

July 5, 1978

My gracious brother:

Your letter expressing hope of being able to ride out the condition that exists locally reveals an answer to our prayer for you, offered immediately upon receipt of your letter before. I have found that trust in God is the most pragmatic thing in my life. We have seen such remarkable examples of answers to our petitions this last few years that we have literally cast our cares upon Him for He cares for us.

Obviously we have to be fair with Him and treat Him with justice and righteousness. This you will do. I am sure you will neither relinquish nor bind upon others your views and understanding of His words. All we are called upon to do is to sow the seed and to plant like Jonatham Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. Many of the orchards in the midwest grew out of the planting of apple seeds by this harmless and simple Swedneborgian who feared neither settlers, Indians or animals of the forest. It is God who gives the increase.

I am sending you 12 copies of the book and had expected you to ask for a hundred. If you can use additional copies please ask for them. We know you will not ask for more than you can give away. These are sent with the fervent prayer that lives may be enriched and hearts opened to the beauty of Jesus and the grace of God. We are happy to be both yours and HIS,

Carl



ANCHORAGE WESTWARD HILTON

THIRD AT E STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 • (907) 272-7411

139 Signal Hill Drive
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121
November 4, 1978

Cecil, my dear brother:

I am sending you 12 copies of the book. One of them is for the brother who sent the money. Do not be timid about asking for the books as we will gladly send them as long as they last. Give them to those who will read them with our love. I got a bang out of the question about this "new revelation" seeing that it is as old as the new covenant scripture.

I am distressed by personal conditions you describe. Nell and I are in about the same situation, except that we are with brethren who are tremendous. They are not members of any sect. They reach out helping hands to others. They do not question those who come about how they stand on this or that issue. If they are in Jesus Christ our Lord they are accepted. The congregation is growing in grace and knowledge.

Never mind about writing about emotional involvements. We are already involved thus with each other and cannot help it. We have heard the word to rejoice with those who do rejoice and weep with those who weep. We have fervently prayed that your work for the company selling mortgage cancellation insurance will prove to be what you wanted it to be. I am thrilled to be always both yours and HIS,

Care

①

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI ~~62232~~ 63121

September 22, 1980

Dear Cecil:

It was a rare privilege to hear from you. I was especially blessed by your good letter. Nell has mailed the books during my absence. I am pleased that you have measured up to God's great criteria of responsibility while time still waits. It was good that you opened up the grace of God to the brethren. They will one day be glad that you did. Some of them, as you point out, are already beginning to glow in His love and mercy.

Great changes are taking place everywhere. Of course, I am still within the range of the guns of many of the clergy but a great many of the common people hear me gladly. Their lives are touched and reformed and they are able to glorify God. I am in the calmest water I have ever been in. It makes me wonder if I am doing anything. God be with you, bless you, keep you, and make His face to shine upon you. I am always yours and HIS,

Carl

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

May 9, 1981

Dear Cecil:

Your gracious and kind letter could not help but bring cheer to my heart. I have just brought Nell home after three weeks in the hospital. We were briefed to expect the worst by the surgeons. They discovered a mass in her colon which was at first assumed to be malignant. They talked about a colostomy. But when they got in and saw the condition they found that 20 inches of her colon were infected so they took that much out. It was filled with slime and pus but there was no sign of a malignancy. So prayers were answered all over the world where she is known and she is building back pretty rapidly now under the influence of my cooking. She has been home about five days.

You are generous indeed in your statement about my part in the growing reformation. But I am sure I do not deserve the honor. It required no particular courage to stand against the attacks of the brethren. I anticipated them and they came as no surprise. But there is nothing quite so powerful as an idea whose time has come. It was a time far past due for us to begin to group up and to leave our childish and unprincipled quarrels of the past. As an active participant in them I knew much about them.

All sectarianism, of whatever kind, is built upon fear, and when God delivered me from the sectarian spirit, my heart was infused with love by the Spirit, and that love cast out the fear, so there really was no problem at all. I believed and therefore spoke, and I have lived to see the day of triumph for many of the things which came to me as I meditated upon His word. Most of the credit belongs to men like yourself who were not afraid to help hold up the hands of the rest of us. I have thanked God for you many times. I am always both yours and HIS,

Carl

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

Dear Cecil:

It was so precious to hear from you and I thank God and take courage because of you. Each of us has his own talents, which are really gifts from God. Each must exercise them according to his understanding of the calling of God. It is so enriching to me to see you use yours in the manner in which you do. The writing of the book must have been a real task. There is always the heart-rending recognition of how far short one has fallen in the past. Actually when I was dividing the saints I assumed that I was working for unity. This demonstrates how all of us are victims of our past teaching and training.

How thrilled I am to be free again. To know that I can use the powers God has given me to share with others the great and grand good news of heaven, to be able to listen to those who disagree honestly, not with rancor or hostility, but with the overpowering love and grace for them which the Father showed to me. We are blazing new trails for us. It is a beautiful thing to see what the Love of God does for those who are suddenly lifted from their sectarian stance by virtue of the love of God which we can see and know and understand.

I talked to Cal Downs last night. He is a kind of inspiration to me. I like him and Alice a great deal. They are skilled and talented and I love them sincerely. I trust that our God will be with you, bless you, keep you, and shower His love upon you and all of yours. I am as ever both yours and HIS,

Carl

circa May 1982

3.

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

Dear Cecil:

I have just had the pleasure of reading your article on the subject of "Law and Principle" as it appeared in Firm Foundation, May 4 issue. I want to take this opportunity of thanking you for it. It was one of the clearest statements of our relation to God through His precious word I have ever seen. Those who read it thoughtfully and meditatively, and many will, will be greatly helped and brought to a closer and more intimate relationship with the Lord of all life.

Some of the statements in it cut like a knife when I realize how very sectarian I have been in the past. I would be greatly upset and disturbed by my debating tendencies with brethren if I did not and could not recognize all of this as a part of the growth process. Through it all God had a plan for my life and was slowly and carefully bending me toward a greater love of Him and all of the saints.

Now that I am older and can give my time and talents to an implementation of His will for the unity of all believers, I suspect I should rejoice that I came through a period when I was seeking unity on my terms rather than upon His. It makes it all the more precious for me now to move among those who believe on the ground of the apostolic witness without becoming too disturbed by the fact that a lot of them do not concur with me on many topics.

I stopped reading and prayed for you and will continue to do so. May God grant you other such opportunities to write in a journal from which I am barred and may He make His power known through your trenchant pen is the prayer of both yours and HIS,

Carl

①

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

January 31

Dear Cecil:

I continually pray for you that our God will take a hand in things and open up for you a great door and effectual. He can do it. When things look particularly grim He can wave His hand over them and all of a sudden there are great things that begin to happen. We cannot account for them except on the basis that He is alive and well and still interested in His people who love Him.

I am glad that you can see an easing of tension there and obviously the course you are pursuing is the correct one. God does not want us to barge in and to make our own ideas the way to go. He wants us to relax and to let Him be a part of the scene. We often force things too much and too fast and they will not work that way. I am glad you are acting as you are.

There are more and more free churches and people all of the time. They shame the old time spirit of sectarianism by their loving concern for the ills of the world and the sharing of their love. It is a blessed thing when there are these who can let God love others through them.

I sent the five copies of the book to Byron. I hope that through the good grace of God you will find hope and power. It is a blessing to be always both yours and HIS,

Care

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

Dear Cecil:

It has been an interesting journey thus far and it is not over yet. Not the least among the blessings has been the occasional letter from yourself. I have treasured every word you have written. It has, as you point out, been somewhat of a struggle to wrench myself loose from the trap. One is conditioned by the teachings of humble and honest parents, by the good members of the party to which he gave his allegiance, and to the culture of which he is a part. The essential thing to determine first off is whether one will put Jesus first in his life. Once that is settled everything else falls into place for him.

Of course, all of us could have had better ministries had we known then what we know now, but there is a slowness about the learning process. And good metal has to be tried by fire before it can perform its work. Let us be grateful that before we are called upon to meet him, and all of our doubts are banished, and all of our ignorance erased, that we have caught hold of the hem of His garment and been made whole.

The reason insights have come to you is because you are now open to them. There is no use of trying to pour buttermilk in a gallon jug with a stopper in it. God recognizes that you are going to profit by the openness of your mind so you can expect to see many more things you have never seen before. Be true to the heavenly vision and walk in the light as He is in the light. It is great to hear from you and Nell joins with me in this expression of love. I am always yours and HIS,

Care

circa late 1984

W. CARL KETCHERSIDE
4420 Jamieson, I-C
St. Louis, MO 63109

My dear Cecil:

I have been made the welcome recipient of your book "Free in Christ" and I rejoice to know that, under the impact of the Spirit, you have become a vanguard of that mighty host gathering from all quarters and marching toward the sunrise of a better day. The hosts are gathering from far and near. Your book will serve to help summon them from a sterile legalism and from the oppression of a written code to a brighter existence. I am glad that, in His good pleasure I have come to know you and to love you. Please take note that we have moved. After 56 years of owning our home we are now in an apartment in the city, able to work at the promptings of my dreams. Thank you and God bless you.

Yours and His,
Carl

4420 Jamieson 1-C St Louis, Mo 63109

THE CORNERSTONE

3258 OHIO AVE. (AT UTAH)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63118

Free To Speak

10-9-95

My dear brother and sister:

I am the grateful recipient of your new book and I want to tell you how much it means to me to have it. Surely God will bless the trenchant thoughts expressed in it and you will be blessed from heaven's store. It is astounding how we were befuddled by Satan into elevating a purely historically-oriented movement into the one body for which Jesus paid His all. Our loss outweighs our gain and we have been condemned to wallow in the shallows of mediocrity because of our error. But God has a way of defeating the purposes of men and He has not retired on social insecurity. Great things are in the offing. Let us prepare ourselves for them.

Yours and His,

Carl

Liberating Books By Cecil Hook

FREE IN CHRIST ... \$5.00
FREE TO SPEAK ... \$7.00
FREE AS SONS \$7.00
FREE TO CHANGE . \$7.00
FREE TO ACCEPT .. \$7.00

These books lead to freedom from bondage to law, legal works, and ritualistic details into the peace and security that grace offers. Acceptance replaces judgmental attitudes.

Do you already have all the comfortable answers? If so, these books may be unsettling to you. They are messages of restudy, reappraisal, and correction with intelligent challenge of the simplistic traditions of the Church of Christ. Many testify of exciting, liberating change after reading these books. You will be challenged! About 150 pages each. Paperback.

OUR HERITAGE OF UNITY AND FELLOWSHIP

Selected Writings of

Carl Ketcherside and Leroy Garrett

Edited and Published by

Cecil Hook

One may as easily deny the influence of his genes as that of his religious heritage. By knowing of our roots, we can better understand ourselves.

Men of conviction and courage in the Nineteenth Century made a bold effort to unite the Christians in all the sects. A swelling acceptance of their plea developed into the Restoration Movement. In time, the thrust of it was dulled by many divisions. Now we are divided tragically.

Carl Ketcherside and Leroy Garrett, men who have loved their heritage, have been calling upon us to reclaim our legacy of unity and fellowship over 30 years. In their journals, *MISSION MESSENGER* and *RESTORATION REVIEW*, they have been declaring the Biblical course for restoration of unity among believers.

Here in a beautiful 350-page paperback are 51 of their essays selected from their journals which I edited without comment at the invitation of Leroy Garrett. It is my conviction that every person of our heritage needs desperately to read and heed their compelling messages.

In language easy to understand, yet with elegant style, these talented men inform us of our noble origin as a unity movement, of our change of direction, and of the Biblical approach to unity. Whether you agree with them or not, you will be challenged and enriched by their reverent approach to scriptural teachings concerning brotherhood. There is not a dull chapter, I promise you. Large (11-point) type. An excellent gift, or donation to the church library

dull chapter, I promise you. Large (11-point) type. An excellent gift, memorial, or donation to the church library.

New Price: \$16.00 plus postage.

The Death Of The Custodian

W. Carl Ketcherside

This study of the Covenants may enrich your understanding of the Bible more than any book you have read. It offers a unique insight into the nature of the New Covenant through which individuals relate to God.

Supposed tensions between Law and Grace are examined and relieved. The Biblical basis for unity is clarified.

Upon completion of this material, Carl Ketcherside commented that he thought this was the best that he had written. We think you will agree. I agree so strongly that I have reprinted this great book for our people.

Extra large print, 152-page beautiful paperback.

Price: \$5.00 plus postage.

The Twisted Scriptures

W. Carl Ketcherside

Carl Ketcherside startles us by showing that we have twisted the very scriptures which teach acceptance and unity to justify and uphold separations. Divisions, being a work of the flesh, cannot be justified by words of the Spirit.

The chapter of "Gospel and Doctrine" proclaims the Biblical basis for unity in spite of diversity. It is an invaluable lesson we have failed to discern.

This book, distributed free by Carl, and long out of print was reprinted in 1992 by Bob Lewis. That supply is depleted; so I have made another reprint of it because our people need this book so urgently.

The Twisted Scriptures was almost like a new revelation to me when I was wrestling with our legalism and disunity. I recommend it very highly. 192-page attractive paperback. Good for class discussion guide. Price: \$6.00 plus postage.

"I Permit Not A Woman..." To Remain Shackled

Robert H. Rowland

Bob Rowland exposes our glaring inconsistencies in dealing with the role of women. He makes an irrefutable case against our traditional application of Scriptural prooftexts relating to silence and usurpation of authority. He makes a valid case for a much wider role for women in public life and congregational assemblies and function.

Bob received an undergraduate degree from Pepperdine and a graduate degree from Harding. He served both as dean and president of Columbia Christian College, as an administrator at Oklahoma Christian College, and an elder in the Quail Springs church in Oklahoma City.

His experience as a preacher, missionary, Bible teacher, college administrator, elder, and student of the Word fully qualifies him to address this issue facing the church.

You may order the book from me. 165-page paperback. **NEW PRICE: \$6.00 postpaid.**

THE SECOND COMING: **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**

Tom Kloske and Steve Kloske

Jesus is not coming again. He has already come in fulfillment of all prophecies!

These brothers clearly and convincingly show that the Scriptures teach that all prophecies relating to the coming of Christ and all "last days" prophecies have been fulfilled.

This book is being acclaimed by those who have studied fulfilled prophecy most. By quoting writers with differing views on each side of the many points discussed, it clearly refutes the futurist views that are being promoted so widely by popular men who excitedly declare that the return of the Lord is near – and even set dates!

This 621-page hardback is in very large, clear font and easy to read format. Tom and Steve do not boggle you with verbosity and technicalities. They attended Harding University and quote from many writers in our Movement along with a greater number of other scholars.

This book will serve generations to come.

You may order it from me for \$30.00 postpaid.

A Lover's Quarrel

An Autobiography: "*My Pilgrimage of Freedom in the Churches of Christ*"

By Leroy Garrett

Leroy Garrett's quarrel has not been one of grumbling or animosity. True lovers quarrel in endearing voice and with tender touch and unquestioned love. With grace and scholarship, he has stood taller than the crowd teaching positive change among his people in the last fifty years. All the time he has with gentle spirit born the criticism, misrepresentation, and abuse of the many who rejected his message and attacked the messenger.

This is more than about a man. No man among us has had wider experience and greater interest among our people in the Churches of Christ. He and Carl Ketcherside introduced the *Unity In Diversity* concept to our people. The book will long stand as a record of our changes in the last century. If you are of the Stone-Campbell Movement, this 302-page book is a *must* for you. It quickly engages and holds the reader offering interesting anecdotes and insights involving people, places, colleges, and universities familiar to you.

A best seller! \$14.95 plus postage.

"End-Time Prophecies" All Fulfilled!

Cecil Hook

This is a new 38-page introduction to the study of fulfilled prophecy. It is no effort to explain all prophecies but it shows that redemptive history, of which prophecies were part, was completed/perfected in the lifetime of some of Jesus' hearers.

It demands a great revision of many of our interpretations of Scripture – and it should make you want to read *The PAROUSIA* described below. \$1.00 plus postage, or \$2.00 single postpaid..

THE PAROUSIA

James Stuart Russell

If you were impressed favorably by my booklet listed above, you will surely want to read this most revealing book written in 1878 in England. It offers harmony of the Scriptural teachings that Jesus would return in the lifetime of many of his hearers.

This book shakes up traditional beliefs concerning the last days, the termination of the Law of Moses, the coming/return of Jesus, the "rapture," the falling away, the restoration of the church, the judgment, the resurrection, the nature of heaven, our heavenly nature, the man of sin, the great tribulation, the anti-Christ, and more!

If you think you already have all these things figured out, *The Parousia* is not for you!

561 pages. \$20.00 plus \$1.50 postage for a single copy.

Libre En Cristo

A Spanish translation of *Free In Christ*
For free distribution to serious Bible students.

Order From:

Moises Lujan, P O Box 972205, El Paso, TX 79997

Email: <LUM0446@aol.com>

Please figure your payment from this brochure.

POSTAGE: Orders of \$30.00 postpaid. If less, please add \$1.50. Thank you.

Order from:

Cecil Hook

905 Forest Canyon Cove

Round Rock TX 78664-5621

Phone: **1-512-716-3048**

(Evening and holiday calls OK)

E-mail: **hookc@teleport.com**

Web Site: **http://www.freedomsring.org**

To receive Freedom's Ring by email weekly:

<freedomsring-subscribe@yahoo.com>

Alternate Contact:

Paul & Mira Prince, (Same Address) 1-512-716-3066

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

June 26, 1978

Cecil,¹ my dear brother:

Nell and I celebrated our fiftieth anniversary day before yesterday and that night in a ceremony which will never be forgotten by those who attended it on Washington University Campus I united in marriage our oldest granddaughter and John Koch. The service lasted an hour and uplifted Jesus to the Jewish and atheistic students who attended and closed with the statement, "The Master has come and calleth for thee!"

We are so happy with everything that is happening and so thrilled with the marvelous change that is being wrought in our age that we forget there are those who are being ground under the wheels of a callous orthodoxy which sacrifices love for convention and tradition. That you should be one of those called upon to join the long list of martyrs through the ages seems incredible to me.

We are sending you the copy of *The Twisted Scriptures*.² If we mailed them to you without charge, how many could you give away to those who need them and who would read them. The book has literally changed minds and lives and we would like to know how many you would use to the glory of God and the advancement of His marvelous kingdom. Do not be afraid to tell us, and we will see what we can do. With prayers for you and all of yours in this critical era of your life when you are being passed through the fire, look up. Keep the faith. Never be overcome. I am thrilled you are my brother. I am happy to be always both

Yours and His,
/s/ Carl

¹ Cecil Hook (1918-2007).

² W. Carl Ketcherside, *The Twisted Scriptures*, (St. Louis: Mission Messenger, 1977).

MISSION MESSENGER
W. CARL KETCHERSIDE, EDITOR
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

July 5, 1978

My gracious brother:¹

Your letter expressing hope of being able to ride out the condition that exists locally reveals an answer to our prayer for you, offered immediately upon receipt of your letter before. I have found that trust in God is the most pragmatic thing in my life. We have seen such remarkable examples of answers to our petitions this last few years that we have literally cast our cares upon Him for He cares for us.

Obviously we have to be fair with Him and treat Him with justice and righteousness. This you will do. I am sure you will neither relinquish nor bind upon others your views and understanding of His words. All we are called upon to do is to sow the seed and to plant like Jonathan Chapman,² better known as Johnny Appleseed. Many of the orchards in the Midwest grew out of the planting of apple seeds by this harmless and simple Swedeneborgian³ who feared neither settlers, Indians or animals of the forest. It is God who gives the increase.

I am sending you 12 copies of the book⁴ and had expected you to ask for a hundred. If you can use additional copies please ask for them. We know you will not ask for more than you can give away. These are sent with the fervent prayer that lives may be enriched and hearts opened to the beauty of Jesus and the grace of God. We are happy to be both yours and His,

/s/ Carl

¹ This letter was written to Cecil Hook (1918 -2007).

² John Chapman (1774-1845) a/k/a "The Apple Tree Man" or "Johnny Appleseed." Famous for planting apple tree orchard in Western New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. Allegedly Chapman never carried a gun and had no fear of the Native Americans or of wild animals.

³ A follower of the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772).

⁴ W. Carl Ketcherside, *The Twisted Scriptures*, (St. Louis: Mission Messenger, 1977). See letter from WCK to Cecil Hook dated 26 June 1978.