

# 2002 Proclaimer

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa.61:1-2*

\*\*\*\*\*

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the  
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

Homepage: [www.lanset.com/carmichael](http://www.lanset.com/carmichael)

**(916) 483-9318**

\*\*\*\*\*

## ELDERS / EVANGELISTS

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944  
<lareagan@lanset.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com> <vernwil@lanset.com>

## DEACONS:

**Brent Agee 786-0436; Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Jeffry Pennant, 331-1535; Carl Romine, 773-4402  
Bob Sadler, 789-0547; Oliver Sasse, 723-4425; Bill Schultz, 771-0263; Brad Shuck, 990-0533**

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002

## **THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM**

*by Gordon Wilson*

The name of Sodom has come down through history as a synonym for wickedness, and its destruction as a symbol of eternal punishment. Wherever the sibilant sound of "Sodom" is hissed it invokes images of evil and degradation unsurpassed; even as the story of the fire and sulphur that destroyed it conjures a picture emblematic of the lake burning with fire and sulphur where the beast and false prophet are, and where impenitent sinners will be found in eternity.

There are plentiful lessons to be drawn from the story told in **Genesis chapter 19**. The story centers on Lot, nephew of Abraham, a righteous man who had made a bad choice of a place to live. Two "men" (really angels) visited Lot in the city to inform him that God's judgment was about to be poured out on its inhabitants.

Consider first the responsibility of Lot to warn the people of the city; at any rate, he was told to warn those over whom he might have influence. His daughters, sons-in-law, and others were told that they should leave because Jehovah would destroy Sodom. *"But he seemed unto his sons-in-law as one who mocked."* Nevertheless, they had been warned. The lesson here is plain as regards our duty: it is to warn sinners of their impending doom; to say, *"Up, get you out of this place."* Whether the warning is heeded does not effect our responsibility.

Then, consider the flight from Sodom. It is summed up in two statements: "Lot *lingered*" (**verse 16**), and *"his wife looked back"* (**verse 26**). It is easy to understand the

*---Cont'd. on page 2*

hesitation on the part of both. Leaving behind children and, no doubt, grandchildren would be painful in the extreme. To depart from a comfortable home knowing that it with its furnishings would soon be burned, would take courage. So Lot lingered almost too long --but the angel took him by the hand, "*Jehovah being merciful to him,*" and put him with his wife and two of his daughters safely out of the city. And so it is with us all in our salvation. Even while we lingered in sin, not knowing how to take the first step to escape, Jehovah was merciful to us, and some angel (messenger) of truth took us by the hand. Praise God!

God commanded those fleeing from the city not even to look back, but Lot's wife did so anyway and became a pillar of salt. Perhaps this does not mean that she only glanced back over her shoulder (which would be natural), and was miraculously punished. Likely she balked at the flight, stopped to watch in wonderment and anguish the rain of fire behind her --and it caught up to her, encasing her in pitch: "*salt*" meaning any hardened or crystallized substance. Be that as it may, Jesus said in **Luke 17:32** "*Remember Lot's wife.*" Remember, for it is necessary to continue in flight until we have reached the safety of the summit. When one has escaped "the corruption that is in the world through lust" he must not look back; he must not go back lest the latter end be with him worse than the first. He must continue to grow until sin presents no more to him its dangers. Read **2 Peter 1**.

Finally, consider the severe punishment visited upon Sodom, and what it stands for to those who refuse to be corrected. We would rather not think about the wrath of God; far more

pleasant to meditate on His goodness and the glories awaiting the righteous. And yet – **AND YET** – "*Behold then the goodness and severity of God: toward them that fell, severity; but toward thee, God's goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*" (**Rom 11:22**)

I used to think that the idea that monkeys had changed into men was silly. I have always hooted at the idea that one species could change into another. But having seen so many people become "night-owls" on Saturday night, and then become "bed-bugs" on Sunday morning, I'm beginning to wonder!

## **JUST MUSING**

**The life of every man is a diary in which he intends to write one story, but writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is, with what he vowed to make it.**

====

**Abraham Lincoln once said, "If I tried to read, much less to answer, all the criticisms made against me, and all the attacks leveled against me, this office would be closed for all other business."**

====

**Some wise men have made monkeys of themselves by trying to make apes of their ancestors. R. L. Whiteside**

====

**I can't dial 911. There's no 11 on my phone.**

**SERMON SUNDAY NIGHT**

***DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SINNERS***

## THE POEM

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due.  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease.  
All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to  
friends,  
They'd laugh at me, I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die  
I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.  
For in His hands God held a book;  
It was the book of Life.  
God looked into His book and said  
"Your name I cannot find,  
I once was going to write it down ...  
But never found the time."

Now do you have the time to  
reach out to the lost?

---Sent in by Jim Jones

=====

GOSPEL MEETING IN ORANGEVALE  
AT THE HAZEL AV CHURCH:  
February 20-24, 2002  
Randy Dickson & Don Alexander  
preaching

### Carmichael Church of Christ

#### Times Of Services

##### SUNDAY:

Classes	9:00 AM
Worship	9:55 AM
Eve Worship	6:00 PM

##### WEDNESDAY:

Classes	7:00 PM
---------	---------

## **JESUS, ON THE CROSS FOR ME!**

As I was partaking of the Lord's Supper one particular Lord's Day, there before my mind came the thought of Jesus hanging on the cross, which is a regular thought as I take the Supper, but this Lord's day I could visualize Him hanging there, His body beaten, mangled and raw from lashes, and as I chewed the bread it became more real, I could see the body being beaten (in my mind) and then as I took the cup, the fruit of the vine running down my throat was so vivid I felt I could almost touch the blood running down our Savior's body from the wound in His side. He did this for me! It was overwhelming!

--written and submitted by Helen Gray

### **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:**

Sue Claiborne,

Carlene Courtney, continuing health problems

Helen Gray, chemo and hip problem

Annie Holland, back in bay area for chemo

Willa Lockett ongoing physical problems

Clifford Marshall improving after a light stroke

Norma Romine, cancer, with radiation

Tom Royston, cancer & Boots Royston, hip replace

Rena Schultz, intestinal ailment + Annie concern

Velma Stewart, Ron's mother, with alzheimer's

Nancy Valine, enabled to face health problems

Evie Westphal: chemo, your prayers have helped

Maxine Wilson, knee surgery Friday AM

Rachel Johnston, Barbara Sterling, Debi Gaines

(all involved with cancer treatments)

=====

### **THOSE WHO ARE AWAY:**

The Ayers family are in Malibu today

Aaron Robertson at Pendleton on active duty

Glenda Wilson is in St Louis till Tuesday

And these who travel on a regular basis:

Rick Rittenhouse, Carl Romine, Dan Singletto

# **DRAGNET: JUST THE FACTS**

**Matthew 13:47-50**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. In the parables of **Matthew 13** Jesus takes us into fields of planting and harvesting.
  - 1. There we were shown about the broadcasting of the gospel seed.
  - 2. Then we saw the work of the enemy to destroy the gospel message.
  - 3. From there we went into household kitchens where the bread was made, and the warnings about tainted leavening, and how it ruins the "gospel".
  - 4. Then to the marketplace to show us the value of the kingdom of heaven. In these parables Jesus takes us full circle.
- B. And now He presents the end results of our belief **OR** unbelief in the gospel.
  - 1. In the parable of the Dragnet Jesus speaks of the end of time coming to all men.
  - 2. This Day of Judgment is a sure reality, but it appears that both the saved and unsaved give little thought anymore to facing the reality of that day!

## **I. THE FACT OF THE *PICTURE* – 13:47-48**

- A. Using words from the profession of fishing, Jesus tells of the coming judgment.
- B. Fishing was a major industries in NT times. There were three ways of fishing:
  - 1. **Line and hook** ... **Matt 17:27**
  - 2. **One man net** ... **Matt 4:18**
  - 3. **Dragnet fishing** – a large net that was often attached to two boats sometimes half a mile wide.
    - a) The useful (**good**) fish that could be sold at market were gathered and separated from the rest.
    - b) The useless (**bad**) fish that were culled out would be thrown away.

## **II. THE FACT OF THE *PRINCIPLE* – 13:49**

- A. Jesus tells His hearers of the separation of the "just" from the "unjust" - **Heb 9:27**
- B. As those first-century fishermen would separate fish, God's angels will separate the just from the unjust!
  - 1. This will be that "*Great White Throne Judgment*" in **Rev 20:11-15**
  - 2. It is a peril that awaits all who refuse to do the will of **JESUS our Lord!**

## **III. THE FACT OF THE *PERIL* – 13:50**

- A. Jesus uses this parable as a warning of the peril of God's final judgment.
- B. This parable stands with the many other warnings Jesus gave of the coming judgment. **Matt 8:12; 23:33**
- C. Hell awaits those who won't **SEEK** or **SEE** God's truth until it's **TOO LATE**.
- D. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. **2 Pet 3:9**
  - 1. God through His grace has provided the bridge, by the way of Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Those who don't accept Him will be caught in the dragnet of God's judgment and be lost!

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Jesus spoke of a Hell beyond earth and time that gives us much to think about.
- B. Jesus says . . . "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"