

# *2002 Proclaimer*

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

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

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May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

## **HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH**

*by Gordon Wilson*

Have we not all heard it said, "I don't want to be a member of the church because there are too many hypocrites in it"? Tragically, it cannot be denied that a few hypocrites do find their way into congregations of God's people. Just one hypocrite in the church is one too many. It may be true that hypocrisies must come, but woe unto those by whom they come --those who cause others to stumble at the truth because of their own ungodly lives.

However, it is likely that in most cases those who use the hypocrites as an excuse for not obeying the gospel really have other reasons for not obeying. Thus, in making such an excuse when the real reason is quite different, they become guilty of the very kind of hypocrisy that they so readily condemn.

The term "hypocrite" is frequently a misnomer. Many Christians (all?) have weaknesses in the flesh; mistakes are made because we are not always strong enough to resist temptations. I doubt that we have a large number of hypocrites in the church of Christ - we do have human beings who sometimes fail to live up to the high standards to which they are honestly committed. A hypocrite is one who is faking his religion; the rest of us are simply sinners saved by grace, striving hard to do God's will, but sometimes stumbling along the way.

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Man's duty to God involves both the moral and the positive laws, and our submission to both. The hypocrite may obey the latter, or think he does, but live in disobedience to the former. The one who uses the hypocrite as an excuse is not keeping the positive law, even if he is keeping the moral law. In the eternal scheme of things, is the one party any better off than the other?

Our obedience to God really is a personal matter. *"So each one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12)*. What others do or not do should in no wise keep me from doing what I know to be right. If the hypocrite is going to be judged by Christ in the last day, why should I measure myself by him today?

The choice is a quite simple one. We can honestly recognize that a few hypocrites have their names on the church rolls, and that such will not go to heaven; in fact, they will go to hell. Shall I then obey the Lord, enter into fellowship with His people here, and go to heaven after awhile? Or, shall I refuse to associate now where there are a few hypocrites, and end up spending eternity with all of them? This is the choice all must eventually face.

But to say that the hypocrites in the church ought not to keep anybody from belonging to the body of Christ is by no means to minimize the guilt of those who do make a pretense of Christianity. *"Putting away therefore all...hypocrisies...as newborn babes long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation" (1 Pet 2:1-2)*.

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## WHAT ABOUT MY FATHER AND MOTHER?

A man said to me, "Brother, I can't take the doctrine you preach, that one must be baptized to be saved, because it damns my father and mother, who were not baptized."

Well, let us see. Do you think one must believe in Jesus Christ to be saved?

"Oh, yes," he answers. Very well, I will just change my subject from baptism to faith. A Jew comes around and says, "Mr. preacher, I can't accept the doctrine you preach, that faith in Jesus is necessary to salvation, because my father and mother died without believing in Christ."

The Jew thinks as much of his father as you do of yours. By the same argument with which you would eliminate baptism because, per chance, it damns some of your ancestors, he also eliminates faith in Christ.

Then I preach that the knowledge of God is necessary to salvation, a Chinese comes around and says, "I can't take the doctrine you preach, because it damns my poor father and mother, who died without the knowledge of God." And there, you see, the whole plan of salvation is nullified by contingencies.

Friends, I suggest that we leave the matter of clemency to the Judge (a judge only has the power of clemency) and let us observe the law. I have no authority to preach clemency; I must preach what God commands men to do to be saved, and I know what the law says!

--By Foy E Wallace Jr  
--Via Mel Rose

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:**

### **THE SICK AND RECOVERING**

**Addie Alden Peggy Alexander**

**Helen Gray Willa Lockett**

**Ruby & Ted Nicholson**

**Irma Rapiet Norma Romine**

**Tom Royston Boots Royston**

**Terry Stewart Nancy Valine Evie Westphal**

**Gordon Wilson**

### **AWAY FROM HOME:**

**Sue Claiborne** in Texas until May 22

**The Rudes** are in Missouri during May

**Nikki Willey** and **Rena Schultz** in Kentucky

**Vern & Lucille Wilson** in Ariz. & SoCal till 5/30

### **ONGOING "BUSINESS" TRAVELERS:**

**Carol Alexander, Rick Rittenhouse, Carl Romine, Dan Singleton, Gordon Wilson**

## **GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE, THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:**

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't ask her to brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka dots under a white outfit.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

## **GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT LIFE, THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:**

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge - mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, *not the toy*.

## **GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD:**

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

## **THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:**

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

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## **PRAISE REPORT**

"A teacher who strikes the flint with the right words elicits a spark which, when it strikes prepared kindling, can ignite a raging fire".

"**Before and After**" by E. Gaylon McCollough, M.D

## **REMEMBER...**

**The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.**

**The one who kneels to the Lord, can stand up to anything.**

## THE POWER OF THE CROSS

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Before Jesus Christ came on earth mankind was contaminated by sin. **1 Pet 2:24**
- B. The death of Jesus is the most meaningful event that this world has ever witnessed.
  - 1. It is the Magna Charta of Christianity. It is the basis of our freedom and hope!
  - 2. The death of Jesus is the central theme of the Bible.
- C. If all this is true, why is it that the cross means so little to so many?
  - 1. In order to be really serious about **our HOPE OF HEAVEN** –
  - 2. ***We have to be SERIOUS ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS IN OUR BEHALF!***
- D. The reason for this is because the cross DOES HAVE meaning!
- E. I want to tell you three things THE CROSS should COMPEL in us: (“To drive or urge forcefully.”)

### I. FIRST, THE CROSS-SHOULD COMPEL GRATITUDE.

- A. Two thousand years ago outside the city of Jerusalem, when Jesus died on the cross, something **be-  
yond human perception and comprehension** happened.
  - 1. Jesus “put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself” - **Heb 9:26.**
  - 2. Also, through His death He opened up the door that had separated man from God. **Col 1:20-22.**
  - 4. By that death, Jesus gave us the anticipation for a heavenly home! **Heb 9:12.**
- B. These thoughts should stir our souls.
  - 1. We need to **SHOW** that we appreciate what the Lord has provided for us!
  - 2. We need to **RESPOND** with a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness.
- C. How often do you **THANK THE LORD** for the blessings He has provided for our benefits HERE and HEREAFTER?
  - 1. Can you see the magnitude of rebellion when we manifest so little gratitude? **Luke 17:11-19**
  - 2. THE LORD expects us to be grateful and express our praise to GOD in our thanksgivings!
  - 3. **THE CROSS SHOULD COMPEL US** to give thanks to the Lord every single day of our lives for the magnitude of His love and great blessings **to us!**

### II. SECOND, THE CROSS-SHOULD COMPEL SELF-DENIAL.

- A. If we are going to be true followers and disciples of Jesus, we must deny ourselves. What’s this mean? Jesus gives us a definition of what it means to deny self.
  - 1. To deny self is to mind the things of God and put God's will first in our lives.
  - 2. We must put our own personal desires and wants secondary to what the Lord would want.
  - 3. We must voluntarily allow that what God wants must come first.
- B. When we look at the cross, we see the **supreme example of self-denial.**
- C. Brethren, it is time for us to start putting the importance of God's will ahead of our own will. **We need to get our priorities back in order.**

### III. THIRD, THE CROSS-SHOULD COMPEL POVERTY OF SPIRIT.

- A. The cross of Christ teaches that we can’t make it to heaven by the works of our own righteousness.
  - 1. We cannot pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and get into heaven by our own efforts.
  - 2. To presume such, it would be telling Jesus, “I don’t need You to die for me, I can make it alone.”
- B. If we would go to heaven, we will heed the words of Jesus!

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Brethren, the death of Jesus Christ on the cross has a compelling power that, yielding to it, can make us better people and give us the hope of heaven!
- B. If you are not a Christian, you can become one this very day!. God can change you right now!
- C. **Matt 11:28-30; Rev 3:19.** These invitations of Jesus were both spoken to those who claimed to be God’s people! It’s the LORD’S invitation for US – today!