

# *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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## **WHY DO YOU GO WHERE YOU GO?**

*by Teresa Bell Kindred*

*"Let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting Him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.*

*"Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day is drawing near. (**Hebrews 10:22-25**)*

### **WHY DO YOU GO TO WORSHIP?**

Some go to Worship because they consider it a Sunday social event.

Some go because someone they love expects them to.

Some go to be entertained, or just to keep their names "on the roll," or maybe even just to maintain a "group attachment" for emotional or psychological reasons.

A friend of mine regularly complained about their "boring" preacher. "I can hardly stay awake," she said. Eventually she left the church where she had attended in favor of another, but her attitude hasn't changed and she's still "bored!"

While we may need to change congregations for several legitimate reasons, there is something wrong if we are transferring to another congregation only to be entertained, or to remove a malady that only personal insight and action can remedy.

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We attend services to worship God, to encourage His people, and to be strengthened by God's Word and grace. We go to honor Him, to bless His people, and to be blessed by His people as we offer our hearts to Him and His work in our world.

Everyone has talents; but we all have different levels of ability. Some preachers are more eloquent than others. Some congregations have beautiful singing, while others may have to work harder at making a "joyful noise." Larger churches generally have more resources and people to meet the needs of members than smaller rural ones. The important thing is not the building where we meet, whether or not members can sing in beautiful harmony, or if the preacher can give a rousing sermon each and every Sunday... what matters is that the members of the congregation are there for the right reason; to worship God and be a blessing to each other. Expensive sound systems and flashing lights may impress men, but they don't impress the Creator of the Universe. He invented thunder and lightening, remember? He cares for the broken-hearted and thrills at the heart full of praise. We go to church to honor Him and to bless the people He loves.

So why do you attend church services? Really ask yourself this question. Ask God to help you answer it truthfully.

Hopefully we go to give God the honor and glory He deserves. We go to say thank you for all He has done for us. We go to pray and ask His forgiveness. We go to worship Him! We go to stir and encourage God's children to live for Him. We go to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. We go to serve our King and His royal family.

Too many people expect church services to entertain, energize, and uplift them. If they come away from a service without an emotional high they feel they've been cheated. My grandfather would say, "they expect something for nothing." They want something without paying the price, without investing themselves in God

or His people. We read our Bibles daily to deepen our walk with God. We meditate and spend time in prayer to draw closer to our Father. Shouldn't that attitude be reflected in our approach to a worship service with a congregation?

John F. Kennedy once said, "**And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.**" Think about those words in terms of church: let's not go to church expecting something in it for us, but rather asking God what we can do to honor Him and how **we can be the greatest blessing to His people** who are gathered with us!

Instead of changing locations, let's first examine ourselves to see if we need a change of heart rather than a change of address.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.

Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (**Romans 12:1-2, 9-10**- "*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.*"

Teresa Kindred, via Heartland

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:**

### **THE SICK AND RECOVERING**

Peggy Alexander

Ginnelle Dowdy Helen Gray

Joan Hoffman Willa Lockett

Ruby & Ted Nicholson

Irma Rapiet Norma Romine

Tom Royston Boots Royston

Gurdon Smith Terry Stewart

Nancy Valine Evie Westphal

Maxine Wilson Gordon Wilson

### **AWAY FROM HOME:**

Stewarts Robertsons Sasses

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

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

## **WHAT'S PRETTIER THAN FRECKLES?**

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fellow. Embarrassed, the boy dropped his head.

His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "**Wrinkles.**"           xxx

## **Keeping Record of What Happens to You**

*A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "**TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.**"*

*They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "**TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.**"*

*The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."*

**LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN  
THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR  
BENEFITS IN STONE.**

*They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.*

---sent in by Jim Jones

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**"Why is it that all of the instruments seeking intelligent life in the universe are pointed away from Earth?"**

- Unknown

# **THE SOURCE OF BIBLICAL AUTHORITY**

**Malachi 1:1-15**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The subject of establishing Bible authority for our work and practice is a vital one.
- B. Bible authority has never been a more important nor a more neglected subject!
- C. This lesson is to help us see the importance of seeking Bible authority before we act!

## **I. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR GOD-EXALTED MONARCH – EPH 1:22-23**

- A. The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a Religious Monarchy.
  - 1. The kingdom of God, is set up as a strict religious monarchy! **Matt 16:16-19**
  - 2. The church and its members under command to submit to our ruler in obedience to HIS WILL! **Eph 5:24**
- B. JESUS CHRIST is our Glorified King
  - 1. Jesus Christ is ruling over the willing population of His realm: **Acts 2:29-33**
  - 2. Suffice it to say that He is not like any earthly king you've ever studied!
  - 3. He has total and infinite authority over creation: **Matt 28:18-20**
  - 4. He has the right to also expect ***worship and adoration*** from each of us.

## **II. TRUE LOVE MUST BE MOTIVATION OF ACCEPTABLE OBEDIENCE**

- A. Loving Jesus is a requisite of our salvation and hope of eternal life!
  - 1. To express love for the Lord includes our **submission and obedience!**
  - 2. We can't truly love Jesus without obeying Him: **John 14:15, John 15:9-14**
- B. Our desire to please Him is a simple acknowledgement and manifestation of love!
  - 1. He gives to us a responsibility in our own salvation: **Phil 2:12-16**
  - 2. We must understand God's will, **Eph. 5:17**, and obey it! **Col. 3:17**
  - 3. That is what being a royal subject of Jesus involves: **Col 1:9-13**
- C. Begrudging Christ His Authority
  - 1. Rebellion against the authority of Christ will cause the saved to fall from grace!
  - 2. Doing things without God's seal of approval exposes a false discipleship!
  - 3. The Bible pictures Jesus sitting upon His throne and ruling His kingdom!

## **III. ESTABLISHING BIBLE AUTHORITY**

- A. Bible Authority is never set by the doctrines, creeds or commands of mere men!
  - 1. Transgressing God's commands renders our service to God invalid and vain!
  - 2. We ought to obey God rather than men. **Acts 5:29**
- B. Bible Authority Is Established By The Oracles of God.
  - 1. We must speak where the Bible does and remain silent where it is. **I Pet 4:11**
  - 2. God's authority for our actions is established by direct commands, necessary inferences, or approved example.
  - 3. We find then scriptural authority for singing in worship, taking the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week and contributing to support the Lord's work.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Doing things without the Lord's seal of approval can be deadly: **Lev 10:1-3**
- B. If we don't have scriptural authority for our religious action, DON'T DO IT!
- C. **Are you truly subscribing to the authority of Jesus?**
- D. FAITH + REPENTANCE + CONFESSION OF FAITH + BAPTISM INTO CHRIST