

2001 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

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STICKING WITH THE SCRIPTURES

by C.L. "Vern" Wilson

Jesus said, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me," as recorded in **John 5:39**. Members of the church of Christ have, in the past, had the reputation of being knowledgeable in the Bible - because of their study of it and their proneness to engage in discussions, successfully, with people who differ religiously. It's pretty sad to note that we don't have such a reputation today, isn't it? **But why don't we?**

Perhaps a primary reason is that many don't have the time nor inclination to study the Bible as in foregone days. Many of our predecessors didn't seem to be so "pressed for time" like a lot of us feel we are today. There are some things today that seem to require more of our time than it did our forefathers. Consider the following that require time of many people:

- 1) **Television.** So what else is new? It seems the "idiot box" gets a firmer grip on us all the time. Most of us recognize it and blame it but don't change anything. Even though the "programming" seems to be getting worse, in language, morality, and the content of its "messages" to us. Even though many may concur, one of the first things that a lot of us do on arriving home is SWITCH ON THE TV! That IS a measure of "control," isn't it?
- 2) **Automobiles.** We don't HAVE to stay hom, so we don't have to *figure out something to do to keep from getting "bored!"* We can just "go for a ride," can't we? Or, zip down to the mall. Or run over to visit with someone.
- 3) **Work requirements.** In many households now both parents are working, so there's less time to do family bible studies, or training the children in its contents

– we have to be busy taking care of our home “chores” in order to be able to go to work the next day.

BECAUSE MANY DON'T STUDY the Bible as much as people used to we now have to take “short-cuts” to our convictions. And the reason many believe what they do is because their “favorite bible student said this, so it must be the truth ‘because he spends so much time studying!’” Or, one of the most dangerous criteria for establishing our convictions is, “I learned this when I was much younger (say, 30 years ago) and the Bible doesn't change, you know!” **No, the Bible doesn't change, but our KNOWLEDGE certainly DOES, and THAT has to affect our convictions and conclusions about Bible topics.**

Do ANY of us really “know everything?” OF COURSE NOT! Then, as we learn something it's going to affect some of the old convictions we've been holding, sometimes that we held for YEARS! *“Isn't it being wishy-washy to CHANGE my convictions?” Absolutely not! In fact, it's being dishonest if we DON'T change our convictions when we learn new facts about a given subject!*

THE TRUTH OF THE LORD DOES NOT CHANGE! It's been right here all along for us to know God's truth on any revealed subject – but maybe we just haven't been “able to bear it!” We had to learn some other things before we could accept a particular truth. That's exactly the situation with all of mankind, who has to learn **HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST!** That's why God didn't send Jesus to the Garden of Eden to die for Adam and Eve THEN! That's why the Law *“was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ!”*

THE ONE THING WE ALL NEED TO DO every time a Bible topic is brought up for our serious appraisal is to GO TO THE BIBLE and start FRESH in studying what God has said about it! **Do not feel as if you have studied any subject “one time for all time!”** In making a decision today that affects your eternal destiny, **please don't** base your whole life on some *“seldom used but often abused”* conviction you have held for many years, **without re-examining all the facts that brought you to that conviction!** Look into God's word as if you'd never studied that thought before! Bring into bearing all the studying you've done on related subjects and put it all together to form your conclusion **TODAY!** It **MAY** be the same conclusion you have held for years, but it's FRESH and you're MORE SECURE in your thinking and you can be MORE CONFIDENT with it because you have taken the time to *“prove all things!”*

SO, whether the topic is institutionalism, or fellowship, or the qualifications of elders, or instrumental music in worship ... just make sure your convictions are based on TRUTH, and not on the ignorance of many years!

We can reclaim our reputation for being diligent students of the word, but it won't be easy! We all know that it's going to take a dedication and devotion from each one of us to the WORD OF GOD – learning it, living it, and TEACHING IT!

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IS IT RIGHT?

John Maxwell wrote:
Cowardice asks the question, “Is it safe?”. Consensus asks the question, “Is it popular?” But Conscience asks the question, “Is it right?”

PLEASE BE AS BUSY PRAYING
AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER
AS YOU WOULD HAVE JESUS SEE YOU

William & Helen Gray
Sue & Truman Claiborne
Josie Steadman

Evie Westphal
Kay Pennant
Rena Shultz

Sarah Weber Many (young & older)

Thank you for your ministering efforts to those who are ill. May God bless all of our serving!

SERVICES HERE:

SUNDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

Classes	7:30 PM
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HE KNOWS WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW
by Gordon Wilson

"One cannot give what he does not have."
This old saying contains truth so obvious as to require no comment, but what is not so obvious is the multitude of applications that can be made of it, and the variety of conclusions drawn from it. Think, if you will, what it says regarding the origin of the Bible.

If men cannot give what they do not have, it is clear that men did not originate the Bible. Men cannot put divine wisdom into their books, for they do not possess it. Great literary masterpieces may be produced by human effort, for some do possess tremendous talent as writers. But men may write of only that which they know something about. Human books may contain many pearls of wisdom, for some men are blessed with a huge capacity for worthy insights. Yet, these insights can be gained only in the same two ways that all other folks receive knowledge: by experience or from testimony.

The great spiritual issues of life concern questions which men could never answer from their own or others' experiences; nor will human testimony supply the answers. There is no science that deals with ultimate origins; there is no branch of psychology that knows the meaning of sin and salvation; there is no history of the future. If we are to know anything at all about these issues such knowledge will of necessity come from outside the boundaries of human ken. All human beings are asking questions, but not even the wisest of us is giving answers, for one truly cannot give what he does not have.

God knows the answers. He knows how this great universe came into being, for He framed the worlds with the word of His power. He knows where man came from, for He formed man of the dust and breathed life into him. He knows why we are ridden with the guilt of sin, for it was His law that we broke. He knows what lies beyond the valley of the shadow of death, for He stands above the continuum of time and space and beholds eternity stretching out. He knows the one way by which foolish and wicked man can be redeemed from the consequences of his folly and sin, for He drew the plan and worked it too, so that when Calvary happened He could say, "It is done." He knows what we need to know.

And now we can know a part of what God knows, for He has spoken. Man cannot create; he cannot invent except through use of the material given to him; he cannot discover the supernatural. He can, however, listen to divine revelation and believe it. Believe it he must, else he is left with no answers at all. Without faith that the Bible is the word of God, we shall just have to struggle along as best we can in the darkness of ignorance and pessimism, and when our brief day is done drop away into -- what?

Man cannot give what he does not have. Thank you, Lord, for giving us a revelation of what you know that we need to know.

WINTERIZING THE SOUL

Matthew 7:24-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. IN ICY COLD CLIMATES you don't wait until it's well below freezing temperatures to prepare your automobile for the winter.
- B. When we really prepare for the unexpected, or the worst eventualities, often they just don't happen.
- C. It is truly an indictment on our society in general, **and our families in particular**, when we think more of vehicular maintenance than we do of our spiritual protection!

I. NOW IS THE TIME TO CHECK YOUR SOUL'S ANTIFREEZE.

- A. We are told by Paul to be *"not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;"* in **Rom 12:11**
- B. We need to be filled with the "right stuff" or the results can be disastrous.
 - 1. A man who didn't have any coolant tried putting motor oil in his radiator.
- C. **Before an emergency** is also the best time to test our furnace at home, isn't it? That's also when we should set our warmth and compassion for each other in the Lord's body! **Rom 12:10**

II. BOTH GENERAL AND PRECISE ADJUSTMENTS MUST BE MADE PERIODICALLY FOR A SMOOTH-RUNNING LIFE OF HOPE!

- A. The lives of many Christians' aren't running smoothly all the time. **2 Cor 13:5**
- B. Timing is of vital importance for a properly operating machine.
 - 1. It is important for Christians to be **IN proper timing** as well as **ON time**. **Heb 10:24-25**
 - 2. Having set the proper attitude toward work and worship helps us to have a smoother running life no matter what storm arises. **Phil 4:7**
- C. **Adjusting your attitude** might be compared to adjusting your headlights.
 - 1. Jesus told us that we were the lights of the world. **Matt 5:16**
 - 2. All too many often we may be guilty of shining the light of our lives in another's eyes instead of using it to light their path. **1 Cor 9:19-22**
- D. Some of God's people are not going straight because their life is out of alignment. **2 Thess 3:5**

III. DAILY MAINTENANCE IS NECESSARY FOR PROPER READINESS!

- A. The best way to prepare for the storms ahead is found in daily maintenance now.
 - 1. This way there is no panic or rushing about when the storms do come.
 - 2. **And yes, they will come ... 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Cor 9:26-27**
- B. Lubrication is an integral part of a daily maintenance regiment.
- C. To more adequately protect our possessions from the elements we will use paint and sealant around our homes.
 - 1. We will use all sorts of waxes and rust proofing methods to keep our vehicles protected.
 - 2. HOW FUTILE THAT IS if all the while **we're leaving our souls unprotected from the tempter**.
 - 3. We can't find better "Armor-All" than the advice found in **Eph 6:10-13**
- D. The worst thing you can do to any of your possessions is to let them stand idle too long.
 - 1. A house, or a car, a family or a single SOUL can completely deteriorate from neglect – a lack of concern that doesn't attend to needs!
 - 2. Some mechanics insist that it is harder on an engine to just run, **idling in neutral all day**, than to be speeding 65 mph down the highway.
 - 3. So it is with the soul. **Prov 19:15**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Sooner or later we'll either **sell**, or **trade** or **give away** or **will away** all of our possessions. **1 Tim 6:7**
- B. As we're rapidly approaching the time for this old vehicle to retire to that great garage in the sky, how can we be sure that it's not going to end up in the junk heap?
- C. **THE ONE SURE ASSET WE HAVE** is that we can make provisions for that eventuality this very day. **2 Pet 1:10-11**