

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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I AM NOT OUT OF MY MIND

by Gordon Wilson

"As he was thus making his defense, Festus called out loudly 'You are raving, Paul; your excessive study has turned you to frenzy.' But Paul replied, 'Most illustrious Festus, I am not out of my mind, but am giving utterance to words of truth and sane thinking'" (**Acts 26:24-25** Berkeley Version). For the context and background one would have to read chapters 23 through 26.

There is a certain madness which afflicts much of the religious world. Supercharged emotions are vented in loud, disjointed sentence fragments. Excitement is the test of devotion, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is certified by noise. It is true, of course, that a congregation should not present an atmosphere in which feelings of joy cannot be expressed. Sometimes in our attachment to "*Let all things be done decently and in order*" we have made our own traditions the standard of what is orderly. This having been said, however, let it be clearly understood that much of the religious emotionalism is nothing but frenzied raving. Those engaging in it are not "in the Spirit," but are out of their minds.

Paul was charged with frenzy because what he said was so strange; he probably could not help having a small quiver in his voice as he spoke of the sufferings and resurrection of Christ. But Paul was not mad! He could prove that he was not. The over-excited emotionalist needs to note the tests Paul could pass. First, the words he spoke were true. Second, the words he spoke were sober; that is, they portrayed careful and sane thinking behind them.

If the preaching we hear is true --if it can be confirmed by the sacred word of God-- and if the words are spoken with the calmness and dignity that reflect sane thinking, then the example of Paul is being followed. But a lot of disconnected shouts of "Praise Jesus" or "Hallelujah" -- emotion devoid of intellect-- may well indicate that the performer is out of his mind, at least temporarily.

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SUPER SUNDAY

Here it is, the day of the Super Bowl! A day anticipated by many for months. All of the training, preparation, and endurance of a long season come down to this one day for the two best football teams (this year, at least) in the NFL, in the nation, in the world. And the eyes and ears of most of the free world will be on the spectacle that occurs today.. .yes, that includes many Christians as well.

Personally, I don't see anything wrong in getting excited about a game as important as this one. It's fun to experience and share, maybe even healthy for our emotional balance. I read where the apostle Paul often referred to "the games" (probably the ancient Olympic Games of Greece) to illustrate several spiritual truths. I wonder what he would have thought about this Super Bowl? Anyway, while our immediate attention might be focused on this event, let me stir your thoughts about how "super" Sunday really is for the Christian, every Sunday.

1. SUNDAY IS THE DAY OUR LORD WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.
"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb ... Do not be afraid, for I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is NOT here, for He is risen." **Matt 28:1, 5-6.** Yes, the FACT of Jesus' resurrection gives each of us the sure HOPE of our OWN resurrection from the dead. **1 Cor 15:20-22.**

2. SUNDAY IS THE DAY THE LORD'S CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED. It was on Pentecost after the Lord's resurrection that the outpouring of the Spirit was made manifest in Jerusalem. This signaled the coronation of Jesus as King and the now available means of salvation in His name (**Acts 2**). Yes, this Sunday proved to be "super" for all of mankind.

3. SUNDAY IS THE DAY THE EARLY CHRISTIANS MET TO COMMEMORATE THE LORD'S DEATH IN PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.."* **Acts 20:7.**

Here, as well as **1 Cor.16:2,** we find example and command for Christians to meet together on the first day of the week. Partaking of the Lord's Supper helps to remind us of his sacrifice for our sins, of the commitment we have made in service to Him, and of the union of the body of Christ who partake together. These are truly things for which we are thankful! Yes, Sunday is "super!"

(Glenn Reagan)

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN PRAYER LIST
AND BE AS BUSY PRAYING
AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER
AS YOU WOULD HAVE JESUS SEE YOU

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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HOPE ...

..is what we had that first day we started to school,
- and also that day we graduated
-and when we obeyed the gospel
- and when we paired up with our loving partner
-and when our first child was born
-and even today, facing the traumas of life

AND IT IS ALL SUMMED UP IN JESUS CHRIST! Heb 6:19

---Vern Wilson

A PRUDENT LESSON IN ECONOMICS

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip into the hill country with the firm purpose of getting his son to understand more about how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of, what would be considered, a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you better understand how poor people live?" asked the father.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn?" the father asked.

The son answered,

- "I saw that we have one dog and they have four.**
- We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.**
- We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.**
- Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.**
- We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.**
- We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.**
- We buy our food, but they grow theirs.**
- We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.**

With this the boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad, for showing me how poor we are." Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have.

What is one's person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective. Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for all the bounty we have instead of worrying about wanting more.

TAKE JOY AND APPRECIATE EVERY DAY'S BLESSINGS

BE YE EXHORTED ...

"For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything." (**1 Thess. 1:8**)

Herman Ostry's barn floor was under 29 inches of water because of a rising creek. The Bruno, Nebraska, farmer invited all his friends and neighbors to a barn raising. He needed to move his entire 17,000-pound barn to a new foundation more than 143 feet away. His son Mike devised a lattice work of steel tubing, and nailed, bolted, and welded it on the inside and the outside of the barn. Hundreds of handles were attached. After one practice lift, 344 volunteers slowly walked the barn up a slight incline, each supporting less than fifty pounds. In just three minutes, the barn was on its new foundation.

Likewise, local congregations, when all the members work together, can accomplish great good in leading many souls to Christ.

---David Riggs

THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE

Hebrews 2:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Word of God , The Holy Bible , The Scriptures, God's Testament, call it what you will...
 - 1. The Bible should be everything to us!
 - 2. Our relationship with God will be greatly enhanced with just a **few hours each week** of serious Bible study.
- B. ***THE BIBLE SHOULD BE EVERYTHING TO US BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY THING PERSONALLY INSCRIBED TO US BY GOD!***
 - 1. Why read it?
 - 2. There are three reasons that suggest for us the answer!

I. THE BIBLE REVEALS TO US WORDS FROM GOD!

- A. The Bible is God's **first** and **last** word on every issue, every doctrine, and every teaching, as well as every relevant subject we will ever deal with.
 - 1. Every subject close to the heart of God is addressed in this book.
 - 2. This book we hold in our hands, **is God's revelation to us.**
- B. There is no other verbal testimony of God to enlighten His creature **MAN**.
 - 1. There is no other written revelation from God besides the Holy Bible.
 - 2. Knowing and understanding ***all of the "classics"*** is not nearly so important as knowing and understanding the words of the Lord!

II. THE BIBLE IS "INSPIRED"

- A. "INSPIRED" is a most important Bible word. **It means, "God-Breathed."**
 - 1. It's revealed by God - and we hold that the bible is verbally inspired.
 - 2. Every word, every stroke of the pen on the parchment was from God through the agency of the human personality. **2 Tim 3:16**
 - a) It's not a matter of **our interpretation.** Men were moved by God.
 - b) Some have said the bible **contains** His word. **IT IS the word of God.**
- B. The Holy Bible is literally God's love letter to the human race.
 - 1. This book should not be considered the writings of those names by which we identify its different segments.
 - 2. This is far more - this is the inspired word of God.
- C. The fact of it's inspiration is the main reason for this book's value!
 - 1. It is not so meaningful without inspiration. It would just be another among many good books.
 - 2. The reason why we commit our lives to the God of this book, and to the Jesus of this book, **is because it is inspired. IT IS FROM GOD!**

III. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WILL.

- A How often have we wondered, "How can I know God's will?"
- B. God's word tells us God's will for our lives! **1 Thess 4:3**
- C. I want to know God's will for my life, and He reveals this in His word.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Enthusiasm in our spiritual life will be in proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life!
- B. ***THE BIBLE IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY THING WRITTEN TO US BY GOD!***

Sermon tonight at 6:00:
"WHY PEOPLE TURN AWAY FROM THE FAITH"