

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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October 28th, 2001

SPIRITUAL PROCRASTINATION

By Ira Mikell

We all have been guilty of procrastination at one time or another. Likewise, spiritual procrastination will determine our eternal destination. Let us look at two forms of spiritual procrastination as we study God's word.

1) PUTTING OFF THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SAVED

An example of an individual who put off his opportunity to be saved from his sins was Felix. In **Acts 24:25**, we read, *"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, 'Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.'"*

Felix heard and believed the word, and was pricked in his heart as those were on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**). Unlike those on the day of Pentecost who seized the opportunity to be saved, Felix decided to put it off, believing that another opportunity would arise. As far as we know from this passage, Felix never became a Christian.

There are even those who are invited to attend worship or asked if they would be interested in studying the Bible together. I have known some who refused the offer and said things such as "I don't have time," "I'm too busy," or "When I retire from work, I will be able to come worship with you." I am reminded of the parable Jesus gave concerning this problem, found in **Luke 14:16-24**, where we read,

"Then said He unto him, "A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one [consent] began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

While Jesus did use this parable to teach the necessity of setting our priorities in order, it also illustrates the consequences of putting off the need to seek the Lord first.

2) NEGLECTING TO TAKE CARE OF OUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN

While it is important to help others, we need to make sure our life as a Christian is right in the sight of God. In other words, before we can help others get to Heaven, we must be

sure that we are walking on the right road. Paul says in **Phil 4:12**, *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."*

Working out our own salvation does not mean that we live our life as a Christian on our own terms. Rather, everything that we do and say must be in accordance with His will (**Col 3:17**). At the end of this life, we can confidently say as Paul did in **2 Tim 4:7**. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith."* #####

SHORT SAYINGS

Some so-called open minds should be closed for repairs....

If you think twice before you speak, you'll probably not get into many conversations.

Sincerity gives a simplicity and power to both word and deed.

He who neglects the present moment throws away ALL the time he HAS.

If you do not have every thing you want, just be thankful for the things you do not have that you did not want.

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Many people quit looking for work when they find a job.

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 |
|---------|---------|

A responsibility of the eldership is to "feed the flock of God" - and this is most difficult unless there is a coming together of the group for that which will both edify and enlarge the capabilities of service. To help us fulfill our God-given task we ask you to attend every service of the congregation. In addition to helping us, we also urge you to not miss feeding sessions for the following reasons:

1. For the good you can get from the studies and your association with godly people
2. And especially, for the encouragement you can give to the other members.

THESE NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Truman and Sue Claiborne Willa Lockett
Clifford Marshall Evie Westphal
Roger Lehman Edith Ayers
Rhonda Rittenhouse John & Norma Romine
Helen Gray Nancy Valine

ALSO THESE TRAVELING:

Dan Singleton preaching in Patterson today
Helen Gray is in Washington
The Robertsons in So Cal till next Wednesday
The Sasses leaving for Ireland till early Nov
PLEASE PRAY for these, and others you may be aware of. PRAISE GOD FOR BESTOWING HIS BLESSINGS TO ALL OF US! PRAYERS DO AVAIL!

Private, small group Bible studies are available on any day or evening of the week. Make up your own small group, OR, speak to one of the elders to be placed in an on-going study. Each series of lessons are from four to 13 weeks, depending on the study.

Schedule right away for a study that can be concluded before the end of the year. Call or email me today: vernwil@lanset.com or, 483-9318

Daylight savings time - why are they saving it and where do they keep it?

Do people in Australia call the rest of the world "up over"?

Does that screwdriver really belong to Philip?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?

Why is it that night falls but day breaks?

Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?

Why is it that when you're driving and looking for an address, you turn down the volume on the radio?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Are part-time bandleaders semi-conductors?

"THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES"

Romans 3:10-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. It is possible for a person to lose a fear of God.
 - 1. The penitent thief told his fellow malefactor on the cross, *"Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"* (**Luke 23:40**).
 - 2. Some seem to forget about Godly fear being a necessary part of our lives.
- B. Paul talks about those who have forgotten God in their lives in our text.

I. THE PRIMARY MESSAGE IS AT THE END, "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES." (vs. 18)

A. What does it mean to "fear God?"

- 1. A good working definition of fearing God is, "to love, honor, respect, and obey."
- 2. Several other passages will help give us a right concept of fearing God!
- B. Also, we can better understand why some have no fear for Jehovah God.
 - 1. Fearing God will cause obedience (**Eccl 12:13**) and will keep away from evil influence - **Prov 16:6**
 - 2. While everyone is not as wicked as the worst offenders, these things represent the general character of mankind.
 - 3. Fear and respect for God and His law on our part would go hand in hand with manifesting peace and love for our fellow creatures.

II. SOME UNGODLY TRAITS OF THOSE WHO DON'T FEAR GOD:

- A. Those without fear refuse to seek after God or to walk in His way! **Rom 3:10**
- B. IF WE DO NOT FEAR GOD, we have no value to Him or to His work! **Rom 3:12**
- C. Those who do not fear God are disrespectful in how they act and have poisonous tongues that beguile the innocent! **Rom 3:13-14**
- D. Those who have no respect for God are people of spiritual violence. **Rom 3:15**
 - 1. When **God's will** and man's spirit are separated, man is reduced to a category equivalent to predatory animals.
 - 2. ADD TO this a passage found in Isaiah. **Isa 59:7-6; Prov 6:17.**
- E. There would be no peace for those who had no fear of God.
 - 1. **Rom 3:16-17** *"Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known."*
 - 2. Just opposite to the way of Christ. **Matt 5:9; Phil 4:7**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Many of our contemporaries will say that we should not teach our children to be afraid of God, and THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!
 - 1. But we DO teach our children to **RESPECT** things that can help them, or might even reek a vengeance upon them.
 - 2. **SO, Why shouldn't we teach our children** to fear (respect) that God of the universe who will judge all mankind. **2 Cor 5:10**
- B. Jesus also said for our serious consideration: **Matt. 10:28**

tonight at 6:00 o'clock we'll begin a study of ABRAHAM, THE BELIEVER