

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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November 25th, 2001

Commitment

By Dick Millwee

Our society is plagued with the general problem of "Non-commitment". It is seen: in the tragic breakup of marriages where one or both spouses have not kept their vows they once made to each other; doing just enough on the job to just get by rather than doing the best one can; hiding in the shadows waiting while someone else does what we had the ability and opportunity to do; etc, etc. Far too many have the attitude of "Well, I'll try" or "If it is convenient I'll do it" rather than a stepping up to the plate and saying, "I'll do it and you can put that in the bank!"

The dictionary defines the word "COMMITMENT" as: "To place in trust or charge; consign, entrust." In the spiritual sense, the word "COMMITMENT" is best described in **1 Pet 2:23** and **1 Pet 4:19**. These scriptures talk about Christ and Christians having a complete confidence in God. A confident assurance that God will keep His promises and do what He says He will do. There is absolutely do doubt about God's fidelity and integrity. Consequently, the child of God trusts God will be true to His promises to them.

When we become a child of God, we are saying to God, "We are committed to doing that which pleases You and there is no doubt about it." In essence, we are saying to God, "You can trust me to do the very best that I can to serve you faithfully all the days of my life. "I will be like Isaiah when he said, *'Here am I, send me'* (**Isa 6:8**) . "I will by like Jesus, my Savior when He said, *'Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; nevertheless, not My will be done, but Yours be done'* (**Luke 22:42**).

--Cont'd. on page 2

In both cases cited above we see Isaiah saying, "God, I'll do it and you can trust me (committed) to carry out what You want done" and Jesus saying, "Father, if there is another way to have man's sins forgiven other than my painful death, then please use that means, however, if that can only be achieved by My death, then 'Your will be done'". There was no hesitation on their part; they demonstrated by their behavior that God could trust them in carrying out His will.

We need to do a heart check to determine if we are acting in the manner we indicated we would when we became Christians. Is our life demonstrating to God that He can trust us to abide by our vows of faithfulness to the keeping of His will. Is the kingdom of God and His will our first priority in life (**Matt 6:33**)? Is our service to God "**lip service**" or "**heart service**" (**Matt 15:8**)? Am I quick to volunteer to do spiritual service to another when I have the ability and opportunity or do I lurk in the shadows waiting for someone else to do what I should be doing (**Gal 6:10**)? Am I consistent in my attendance and giving as God commands (**Heb 10:25; 1 Cor 16:2**), etc., etc. Is my daily life saying to God, "Look Father, I committed myself to You and promised You can have confidence and trust in me that no matter what circumstances befall me in life, **'I WILL DO YOUR WILL'**". Jesus said, **"By their fruits ye shall know them"** (**Matt 7:20**). Let us all strive to bring forth fruits of repentance and **COMMITMENT**. Can God trust you to keep your promise?

----Dick Millwee

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<u>Times Of Services</u>	
<u>SUNDAY:</u>	
Classes	9:00 AM
Worship	9:55 AM
Eve Worship	6:00 PM
<u>WEDNESDAY:</u>	
Classes	7:00 PM

PERTINENT INFORMATION

1. Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
2. Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
3. How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
4. Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
5. If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?
6. Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
7. If Walmart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
8. You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
9. Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
10. Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
11. We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors.... But they all have to learn to live in the same box.
12. Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.
13. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour. (Been there, done that!)
14. Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

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WHAT ADVANTAGE HAS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Does the church of Christ have any advantages over the denominational bodies?

1. *It has no social advantage.* Some of her members are sociable; others are not. This is what you also find in denominationalism. It avoids many social practices of the denominations.

2. *It has no financial advantage.* It has some wealth in it; most of its members are of the middle class and a good many are poor.

3. *It does not have an intellectual or cultural advantage.* Its members are about average in this respect. Many preachers have college training; many do not.

4. *Does it have a moral advantage?* I cannot make such a claim. Many have high moral standards, not exclusively. Each one is accountable personally.

WHAT THEN IS ITS ADVANTAGE?

Broadly, the answer is this: It has been satisfied with the Lord's plan as revealed in the New Testament. It has rejected the innovations brought in by men. (This was true about the time this article was first written. But, now such is not true. JWS).

1. *It is satisfied with the divine conditions of salvation.* **Mk 16:16; Rom 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-5.**

2. *It is satisfied with divinely given names.* **Acts 4:10-12; 11:26; 1 Pet 4:15,16; Rom 16:16; Eph 3:14-15.**

3. *It is satisfied with divine acts of worship,* refusing to add to them or take

from them. **Acts 2:42; 20:7; Heb 2:12; 13:15; 1 Cor 16:1-2; 11:23-29.**

4. *It is satisfied with the Word of God as its rule of faith and practice,* having no creed made by uninspired men. **1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 3:16-17.**

5. *It is satisfied with the New Testament form of government.* Christ is the head. **(Col 1:18).** Elders or bishops to administer. **(Titus 1:5-7).** They feed the flock. **(Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-5).** Each church had a plurality of them. **(Acts 14:23).** They also had deacons who were servants of the church. **(1 Tim 3:8-13; Phil 1:1).**

---Gardner Hall
(via Jim Sasser - 10/9/01)

THESE NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Edith Ayers *Tim Bormann*
Truman and Sue Claiborne *Jamie Cole*
Helen Gray *Roger Lehman* *Willa Lockett*
Clifford Marshall *Billy Northern*
John & Norma Romine *Barbara Sterling*
Nancy Valine *Evie Westphal*

ALSO THESE TRAVELING:

Dan Singleton preaching in Grass Valley today
Carl Romine in Colo. Springs this week
The Ries family is in Grants Pass, OR

PLEASE PRAY in behalf of others, as you are aware of their needs. Remember that faith in our prayers doesn't do any good if it isn't manifested in active good works of trying to accomplish what we've prayed for!

Today at 6:00 PM

Abraham the Believer - 4

When Faiths Father Lost His Way

The Sanctuary of the Lord

Psa. 96:1-9; 9:1-10; 46:1-7;

INTRODUCTION

- A. The world in which we live is indeed a troubled place.
- B. A sanctuary or refuge is simply a place of shelter, protection, and safety from danger; a place where one can go for relief or escape.
- C. But, we should know that all of the possible places of refuge we may seek here on this earth are only temporary, except for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 1. IT IS NOT a physical location! RATHER, it is a spiritual relationship IN CHRIST!
 - 2. It is a refuge only so long as we stay in our relationship with God!

I. WE ARE *SAFE* FROM THE PARTY LINES OF SECULAR DIVISIONS

- A. Divisions that are finagled by the doctrines of men will make us weaker and more vulnerable to our enemies – whomever they may be.
 - 1. Divisions are UNFAIR AND ARBITRARY.
 - 2. BUT THEY'RE FOUND EVEN IN RELIGIOUS CIRCLES.
- B. Such Attitudes Should Not Be Found in the Lord's Church.
 - 1. All Are Equal. Gal 3:26-28. There are no lines of distinction regarding those who have opportunity to be saved.
 - 2. Favoritism is Sin. Jas 2:1-9.
 - 3. All are welcomed to the Lord's salvation, excluding only those who refuse to obey Him!

II. IN THE LORD'S SANCTUARY WE CAN FIND *RELIEF* FROM THE CARES AND TROUBLES OF THIS WORLD

- A. There is Much to be Troubled About.
 - 1. Everyday Cares of life. Just everyday life is enough to distress many people.
 - 2. Additional Troubles. There are ungodly problems threatening life and limb.
 - 3. The World's Answer?
- B. Such Should Be Absent in the Lord's Church because God's House is –
 - 1. A Place of Relief. In the Lord's house cares and troubles should disappear.
 - 2. Nothing Can Separate Us From His Love. Rom. 8:35-39

III. IN GOD'S REFUGE, WE *ESCAPE* THE CONDEMNATION OF SIN

- A. Outside of Christ, We Are Lost.
 - 1. Our situation is HOPELESS. Eph 2:11-13
 - 2. And we are personally helpless. Rom 3:23; 6:23
- B. So Friend, it is IN CHRIST that WE HAVE HOPE.
 - 1. FIRST, that there's no Condemnation. Rom 8:1.
 - 2. ALSO, we have the assurance of ONGOING Godly awareness of our needs.

CONCLUSION

- A. OUR ONLY SANCTUARY is to be found In The Lord's House.
 - 1. The Lord's house should be the one place where all men are begging to get in!
 - 2. Sanctuary offered in the House of the Lord is absolutely the ONLY WAY to escape.
- B. The Lord's appeal to the world is to enjoy the sanctuary He offers. Matt 11:28-30