

# 2001 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 WAIT?

*By Roger M. Hendricks*

It is certainly possible that some who read this are not Christians. Are you? If not, do you plan to become such in the future? Do you **desire** to be a Christian? If so, my friend, **why wait?**

A Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ (Acts 11:26 "*the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*"). But, a true disciple of Jesus is one who continues in his Word (John 8:31 "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed*"); one submissive to his gospel (Luke 6:46 "*why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*"). Thus, in order to become a Christian one must do as the Savior and his messengers direct in the teaching of the New Covenant (John 13:20 "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*"; John 12:48 "*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*"). Summed up, the person who would become a Christian must **believe in God** (Heb. 11:6 "*...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*"), **in his Son** (Acts 26:18 "*that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me,*" i.e. Jesus) and **in the gospel** (Mark 16:15,16 "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that*

believeth not shall be damned.”); he must **repent** of his sins (**Acts 17:30** “God...now commandeth all men every where to repent”; he must make a **confession** of Jesus Christ (**Matt. 10:32,33** “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”; **Rom. 10:9,10** “...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”; and he must be buried with the Lord in the waters of **baptism**, being then raised therefrom to walk in newness of life (**Acts 2:38** “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”; see also **Acts 8:36-39** and **Rom. 6:1-18**). So it is, then, that one is saved from the guilt, bondage and condemnation of his sins. Now, dear friend, do you long to receive such a wonderful and wondrous blessing? Well, **why wait?**

Jesus Christ is the Savior of those who are submissive or obedient to his **conditions of salvation** (**Heb. 5:8,9** “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him...”). These, submissive ones, are those who enter the kingdom of heaven (**Matt. 7:21** “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but

he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”). They are the blessed ones to whom is granted the right to the tree of life (**Rev. 22:14** “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”). Is this what you want, by the grace of God, to claim as your own? That being the case, **Why wait?**

You may recall that Felix, trembling at the proclamation of God’s word regarding “*righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come,*” waited for a “*convenient season*” to hear Paul further--and, possibly, to be submissive to the Master--(**Acts 24:24-27**). But, while he did, in fact, continue to commune with the apostle, no “*convenient season*” to begin faithful service to God, through Jesus Christ, ever came--at least as far as we know. Are you waiting for a convenient season? Do you not know that “*now is the accepted time...now is the day of salvation*” (**2 Cor. 6:2**)? Your convenient season may never arrive! So, **Why wait?**

Ladies and gentlemen, we know not what tomorrow might bring our way. Perhaps...though we do not like to contemplate that eventual melancholy certainty...“Death” may knock at our life’s door; demanding an entrance which has a distinct and unequivocal purpose. At that point, all opportunities terminate. At the risk of being tedious, therefore, I ask again... **Why wait?**

---Eastside bulletin  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 Roger Hendricks, editor

# **OBEDIENCE DEFINED**

by Gordon Wilson

We sometimes speak accomodatively of "obedience" on the part of some involuntary or inanimate object: such as references to the world and lower creatures "obeying the laws of nature." Strictly speaking, however, the laws of nature are not laws at all, but are simply descriptions of how things are observed or believed regularly to act. And they are not really obeyed at all, but merely produced as phenomena.

Obedience, properly conceived, is an act of the will. It is a deliberate and voluntary choice, and springs from motives introduced into the heart. Such motives may be in the nature of coercion, or may be the result of persuasion. God has created us with the power to weigh alternatives and to respond voluntarily. Animals have this power, if at all, to a much lesser degree.

Moreover, obedience is the meditated response of the will to the will of another person. It is not obedience simply to act willingly, but only when we choose to do what we are asked or commanded to do by someone else. If one does his own will, because he desires or thinks it reasonable to do it, this is not obedience --even if his acts happen to correspond to those commanded by another. We obey only when we do the will of another because the other desires us to do it.

God wants us to obey Him. He even makes the reception of some of

His blessings conditional upon our obedience. Love for Him, respect for Him, fear of His wrath, and desire for the proffered blessings are the motives which are intended to dispose our hearts to obedience. We obey God, not when we happen to act in accord with His desire because it pleases us or seems reasonable to us; we obey Him when we do what He says to do (exactly) because He says to do it. It is a matter of total submission of our will to His will, with the result that He is permitted to work in our lives what He wants us to do and be. Are you living in obedience to God?

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## **THESE NEED OUR PRAYERS:**

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

## **ALSO THESE TRAVELING:**

Vern Wilson's are in Tracy today (preaching)  
Romine's are in Clovis today visiting  
The Sasses are away until tomorrow  
The Robertson's away today  
The Schultz's are away till Monday

**PLEASE PRAY for the sick, those who are traveling, and others you may know who need your prayers. Just remember that faith in our prayers doesn't really accomplish much if we then dismiss our personal responsibilities to help others. PRAISE GOD FOR BESTOWING HIS BLESSINGS ON US ALL! HE IS MINDFUL OF OUR NEEDS!**

## **MONDAY AND TUESDAY** **SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

On Monday there were people fighting against praying in schools  
On Tuesday you would have been hard pressed to find a school where someone was not praying  
On Monday there were people trying to separate each other by race, sex, color and creed  
On Tuesday they were all holding hands  
On Monday we thought we were secure  
On Tuesday we learned better  
On Monday we were talking about heroes as being athletes  
On Tuesday we relearned what hero meant  
On Monday people went to work at the World Trade Centers as usual  
On Tuesday they died  
On Monday people were fighting the 10 commandments on government property  
On Tuesday the same people all said "God help us all" while thinking "Thou shalt not kill"  
On Monday people argued with their kids about picking up their room  
On Tuesday the same people could not get home fast enough to hug their kids  
On Monday people picked up McDonalds for dinner  
On Tuesday they stayed home  
On Monday people were upset that their dry cleaning was not ready on time

On Tuesday they were lining up to give blood for the dying  
On Monday politicians argued about budget surpluses  
On Tuesday, grief stricken they sang "God Bless America"  
On Monday we worried about the traffic and getting to work late  
On Tuesday we worried about a plane crashing into our house or place of business  
On Monday we were irritated that our rebate checks had not arrived  
On Tuesday we saw people celebrating people dying in the USA  
On Monday some children had solid families  
On Tuesday they were orphans  
On Monday the President was going to Florida to read to children  
On Tuesday he returned to Washington to protect our children  
On Monday we emailed jokes  
On Tuesday we did not

It is sadly ironic how it takes horrific events to place things into a better perspective, but it often does. Those lessons recently relearned, the things we had been taking for granted, the things we had forgotten or overlooked, hopefully, WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN AGAIN!

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Men's (young & old) Training Class  
5:00 PM this afternoon  
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SONG AND PRAYER SERVICE  
6:00 PM TODAY