

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

Homepage: www.lanset.com/carmichael

(916) 483-9318

ELDERS / EVANGELISTS

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944
<lareagan@lanset.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com <vernwil@lanset.com>

DEACONS: Brent Agee - 786-0436; Allen Key, 944-8166; Jeffry Pennant, 331-1535;
Carl Romine, 773-4402; Bob Sadler, 789-0547; Oliver Sasse, 723-4425; Bill Schultz, 771-0263

February 11th, 2001

DIVINE REVELATION

by Gordon Wilson

Propositional revelation must by its very nature have a source, a content, and a point of termination. We believe that the Bible is inspired of God and contains a full and complete revelation of His will to man. Thus, "God" is the source, "His will" is the content, and "man" is the point of termination

This book of revelation has God as its source inasmuch as it originates with Him. There are, to be sure, some things in the Bible that could have been known by us through natural means. But the true nature of Scripture is discerned only when we realize that it also contains much that no man could ever have known had not God chosen to disclose it. As the prophet Isaiah taught, as quoted by Paul, "*Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, and which entered not into the heart of man, whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him*" (**1 Cor. 2:9**); of these things the apostle said, "But unto us [the apostles] God revealed them through the Spirit." No one would ever have invented a plan like the one God offered for the salvation of those who believe. None of us could have discovered by research or reasoning the deep things of God searched out and made known by the Holy Spirit. Our imagination would never have been equal to the task of perceiving the glories God has prepared

Holy Scripture contains a record of what God has done and is doing, and of our proper and expected response to His gracious acts. It is an inspired interpretation of the working of God in history. The stream of historical events that flowed from creation to redemption constitute a revealing of divine purpose. Yet, the hand of God would not be seen by us in those events without verbal and written covenants proposed to man. Revelation, then, is the grammar of history. Our place in heaven's plan and purpose is uncovered in recorded facts, emphatic commands, and promises laden with hope and holy provocation. In a word, God's will for us is expressed in these sacred pages – fully and perfectly. *[cont'd. page 2]*

It follows that the mind of man is the terminal point of revelation. The Bible is from God, but it is to the people and for the people. This means that it is an intelligible book. Could it not be understood by all who desire to understand it, it would not be a revelation at all. But no special genius is required to understand the Bible. No clergy-class has been ordained by God to perceive what is withheld from the masses. One need not be an "initiate into the mysteries," for there are no mysteries that have not been made clear so far as they pertain to human duties. All that is demanded is a zealous application of heart and mind in pursuit of the truths unveiled. God be praised, not only for His grace in bringing salvation down to man, but as well for His wisdom in revealing it to us.

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Have a Bible question?
Need other information?

-Call, click, write or visit-

CHURCH OF CHRIST
6044 Sutter AV
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 483-9318
www.lanset.com/carmichael
vernwil@lanset.com

Today at 6:00 PM

A lesson entitled

"When God Messes With Your Plans"

will be presented, highlighting the fact that our plans are not necessarily the most important things going on in the universe!

This lesson pertains to

three observations based on a wedding in Israel – that well illustrate truths that are pertinent to our actions and benefits today.

BE EXHORTED!

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments; and may not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not set its heart aright, and whose spirit was not faithful to God." (Psalm 78:7- 8)

Between two farms near Valleyview, Alberta, you can find two parallel fences, only two feet apart, running for a half mile. Why are there two fences when one would do? Two farmers, Paul and Oscar, had a disagreement that erupted into a feud. Paul wanted to build a fence between their lands and split the cost, but Oscar was unwilling to contribute. Since he wanted to keep cattle on his land, Paul went ahead and built the fence anyway.

After the fence was completed, Oscar said to Paul, "I see we have a fence." "What do you mean 'we'?" Paul replied. "I got the property line surveyed and built the fence two feet into my land. That means some of my land is outside the fence. And if any of your cows sets foot on my land, I'll shoot'em." Oscar knew Paul wasn't joking, so when he eventually decided to use the land adjoining Paul's for pasture, he was forced to build another fence, two feet away. **Oscar and Paul are both gone now, but their double fence stands as a monument to the high price we pay for stubbornness.** (From Daren Wride, Valleyview, Alberta)

Lev. 19:18 says, *"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."*

--David Riggs

“ESSENTIAL” CHURCH MEMBERS”

by Greg Gwin

In every healthy congregation you will find certain people that comprise the essential "heart and soul" of the church. We note that they are always present at the assemblies. They make it a point to never miss any of the services. If it is necessary to make changes, adjust schedules, suffer inconvenience or simply miss out on other activities, they will do so because they are committed to being present every time the doors are open.

These folks actually look for opportunities to serve. If there is work to be done, Bible classes to be taught, weak members to be encouraged, sick folks to be visited, menial chores to be fulfilled, they will step up and get the job done. They are not waiting to be told what to do. Instead they are searching for more and more that can be accomplished.

In matters of personal purity and morality, these people are setting a worthy example. They don't look for "loopholes" to justify un-toward behavior. Rather they "go the extra mile" to make sure that there is not even an "appearance of evil" (**1 Thess. 5:22**). In the clothes they wear, the language they use, the places they go, the movies and TV they watch, these brethren are determined to do the right thing.

Most surveys indicate that 80% of what is contributed in any congregation comes from about 20% of the membership. The kind of people we're describing here are among that 20%. They are truly sacrificial in their giving.

When conflicts arise in the church, these people can be counted on to help make resolution. They are not the sort to get their feelings hurt easily. Instead, they work hard to

address situations that -- unheeded -- could lead to serious problems. They stand firmly and without compromise for the truth, they love their brethren, and they care about the Lord's body, His church.

More could be said, but the picture is pretty clear, isn't it? Local churches depend on these members. In fact, without them a congregation will never prosper. Now, the simple question is: Are you one of these 'essential' church members? Think!

-- Greg Gwin, Columbia, TN ggwin@edge.net

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SERVICES HERE:

[Note Time change On Wednesday]

SUNDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

Classes	7:00 PM
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PLEASE BE AS BUSY PRAYING AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER

AS YOU WOULD HAVE JESUS SEE YOU

William & Helen Gray

Sue & Truman Claiborne

Josie Steadman

Sarah Weber

Rena Shultz

Gary Willey

Evie Westphal

Willa Lockett

Rick Saccone

Chuck Ries

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

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"There are two kinds of people who will never amount to much: those who cannot do what they are told, and those who can do nothing else."

--Cyrus Curtis

"Quite often when a man thinks his mind is getting broader, it is only his conscience stretching."

"Some people are so "great", it is hard for them to be humble."

AVOIDING THE DEVIL'S DINNER TABLE

1 Peter 5:8-9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Text.**
- B. The question that we must be asking ourselves is this: As Christians, as soldiers of Christ, are we standing guard against the enemy? Or, are we sleeping, and allowing the devil to come upon us and over take us?
- C. It is the purpose of this lesson to remind us about the devil, how he works, and how we can withstand him - ***how we can keep from being devoured by him!***

I. WE MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT THAT THE DEVIL IS OUR ENEMY.

- A. Jesus identified him as such in **Matthew 13:38-43**
- B. The devil is a murderer, and a liar, and a manslayer. **John 8:44**
- C. The devil is a coward when you are walking with God. **James 4:7**
- D. Knowing that the devil is our enemy and dangerous, we must be watchful.

II. WITH GOD AS OUR HELPER AND BENEFACTOR, HOW IS THE DEVIL ABLE TO ENTRAP US?

Note: Let us first remember this one important fact: The devil never makes us do anything. Anything WE do, WE do because WE make the decision to do it!

- A. The devil attempts to trap through deception.
 - 1. The example of how the devil works is found in **Gen 3:1-6**.
 - 2. Jesus said that the devil is a liar. **John 8:44**
 - 3. In **Eph 6:11**, Paul wrote about the "**wiles of the devil.**"
 - 4. Now, consider some of these other methods used by the devil to deceive us.
- B. Knowing how the devil tries to trap us, we should prepare ourselves so that we can defend ourselves against that great tempter.

III. THE BEST WAY TO PREPARE TO DEFEND OURSELVES IS TO EMBRACE THE LORD'S FOUR-STEP PROGRAM.

- A. THE FIRST STEP IN OUR DEFENSE IS TO BE TRULY DEVOTED TO THE LORD. **Rom 12:1-2**
- B. THE SECOND STEP IN DEFENDING OURSELVES IS STUDYING THE WORD OF THE LORD SO THAT WE WILL KNOW A TEMPTATION WHEN WE SEE IT COMING. **2 Tim 2:15; Heb 4:12**
- C. THE THIRD STEP IS BY STUDYING THE WORD SO WE WILL COME TO RECOGNIZE THE FORM OF TEMPTATION SO THAT WE CAN AVOID THE TEMPTATION. **1 Thess 5:22**
- D. FOURTHLY, WE MUST APPLY THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR LIFE. **Rom 12:1**
 - 1. Put on the armor of God and use the sword of the Spirit. **Eph 6:10-17**
 - 2. The word of God gives us everything we need to live a faithful life and to know right from wrong. **2 Tim 3:16-17**
 - 3. Do like David and enjoy and meditate upon the word of the Lord. **Psa 1:1-3**

CONCLUSION:

- A. ***THE REASON CHRISTIANS ARE BEING DEVoured IS ---***
 - 1. We're not watching! *[Not as vigilant as we should be!]*
 - 2. We're ignorant of the Word. *[Sluggards in procuring saving information!]*
 - 3. We're not totally devoted to serving the Lord. *[Acting like Christianity is a "Temp" job for Christ!]*
- B. If we **are guilty of being a daily meal for the devil**, we must turn back to the Lord!
- C. **If we are not Christians**, we are already on the devil's dinner table.