

2002 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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February 24th, 2002

"IN SEARCH OF TRUTH"

by David A. Sargent

What is truth? Is truth relative? Is it that which seems right to each individual? Or, is there an objective source of truth?

What is the truth of the matter?

The Scriptures warn: *"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death"* (**Prov 14:12**). Certainly, all would agree with this statement; it is true! Sometimes a person can be sure that he is right - that he knows the truth about a given situation - yet, in the end he may find out that he is wrong. Therefore, truth cannot be established based upon what *"seems"* right to an individual.

God's word informs us that not only does a body of truth exist but also that truth may be found!

How can we find truth?

First, we must ***LOOK TO*** the right source. Even nature alone does not reveal truth in its entirety; nature does not tell us who God is nor does it inform us of His will for our lives. Jesus, in His prayer to His Heavenly Father, said, *"Your word is truth"* (**John 17:17**). If we will study God's word openly, honestly, and carefully, we will find that it is THE truth. God has revealed truth through His word.

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Secondly, we must ***LONG FOR*** (search for) the truth. A group of people called the Bereans provides a worthy example. *"These [the Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word [which the Apostle Paul preached] with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so"*

(Acts 17:11). The Bereans did not simply accept what the Apostle Paul preached without question; they examined Paul's words in light of what the Scriptures stated. We, too, must not accept someone's teaching as truth until we find that it is consistent with the Scriptures.

Thirdly, we must ***LOVE*** the truth. The Apostle Paul wrote of some who were perishing *"because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved"* **(2 Thess 2:10)**. If we do not love the truth, we are susceptible to believing lies (cf. ***2 Thess 2:11***).

Finally, we must desire to ***LIVE*** the truth. Jesus said, *"If anyone wants to DO His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority"* **(John 7:17)**. Only if we desire to live the truth will we ever learn the truth.

As we apply these principles to our lives, we find that in regard to our salvation from sin, we must believe in Jesus, repent of our sins, confess His name before men, and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of our sins.

Don't take my word for it! Study these Scriptures and see for

yourselves: ***Acts 2:1-47; 8:26-40; 16:25-34; Rom 10:9-10.***

Jesus said, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* **(John 8:32)**.

Have you found the truth?

May God bless you in your search for truth!

--David A. Sargent,

PERSISTENCE

At the Olympics, glory doesn't only go to those who win. Dorando Pietri was in a state of collapse as he entered the stadium for the final yards of the 1908 marathon. The Italian fell five times before an official helped him cross the finish line. Pietri was disqualified, but his indomitable spirit made him an international celebrity.

A similar display of courage enabled Derek Redmond of Great Britain to finish the 400 meters in '92. Hobbled by a torn hamstring near the half-way point, Redmond hopped the rest of the way with the help of his father, Jim, who rushed from the stands to aid his son.

And who would forget the sight of Tanzania's John Stephen Akhwari, his right leg bloody and bandaged, staggering into the stadium more than an hour behind the winner of the '68 marathon? "My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race," he said. "They sent me to finish the race." --Bud Greenspan, Author, 100 Greatest Moments In Olympic History

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Sue Claiborne, feeling some better with her back problems
Carlene Courtney, health problems continue
Helen Gray, cheerful spirit doesn't tell you how much she's hurting
Annie Holland, in bay area for chemo
Willa Lockett please continue to pray
Clifford Marshall is much better, but still needs your prayers
Norma Romine, cancer, with radiation
Tom Royston, cancer & Boots Royston, hip replace
Rena Schultz, intestinal ailment
Velma Stewart, Ron's mother, with alzheimer's
Nancy Valine, ongoing health problems
Evie Westphal, chemo, your prayers have helped
Maxine Wilson, knee surgery a success
Rachel Johnston, Barbara Sterling, Debi Gaines (all involved with cancer treatments)

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THOSE WHO ARE AWAY:

Aaron Robertson at Camp Pendleton
The Stewart's & Robertson family are in Bakersfield
PLUS these who travel on a regular basis:
Rick Rittenhouse, Carl Romine, Dan Singleton

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

**GOSPEL MEETING here April 21-24
Don Bassett, Memphis, TN preaching**

ON DOING NOTHING

He made no mistakes he took no wrong road,
He never fumbled the ball.
He never went down neath the weight of a load,
He simply did nothing at all.

He lost no hard fight in defense of the right,
He never bled with his back to the wall.
He never felt faint in his climb to the light,
He simply did nothing at all.

So death came nigh for life slipped by,
He feared for the judgment hall
When they asked why, he said with a sigh,
He simply did nothing at all.

God can pardon all your blunders my friend,
And regard with mercy your fall.
But the thing that will tell and send you to Hell,
Is to simply do nothing at all.

---Author Unknown

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SHORT SAYINGS

Beware of a half truths, because you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

Be sure to hold on to your temper because no one else wants it.

Make the Word of God your daily bread; not cake for special occasions.

Bad habits are first cobwebs, then strong cables.

You can not walk by faith unless you are directed by the word of God – Rom 10:17.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God..."

JESUS CHRIST: THE ANSWER TO EVERY SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Colossians 1:13-18

INTRODUCTION

- A. Paul was totally *focused* on Jesus Christ! Jesus was central to all things – He was the answer to every question – He was the solution to every problem.
- B. **WHAT HAS CHANGED? ISN'T HE STILL THE SAME?**
 - 1. In *Him* we have redemption & forgiveness of sins – by *Him* all things were created.
 - 2. *He* existed prior to all things – **in *Him*** all things hold together.
- C. **IF SATAN CAN'T SEEM TO SEPARATE US FROM GOD, HE'LL SEPARATE US FROM ONE ANOTHER – and that will effectively separate us from God!**
- D. Remember that in every challenge we examine: **THE ANSWER TO EACH IS JESUS!**

I. THE CHALLENGE OF PHILOSOPHY

- A. The first major challenge is seen in Colossians 2:1-10
 - 1. One of Satan's challenges in Colossae was *philosophy*.
 - 2. Paul condemns the attitude, "*Philosophy is the answer to the challenges we face in life.*"
- B. An important factor in wisdom and enlightenment is the **source** from which we gain that wisdom and enlightenment.
 - 1. Do we turn to the wisdom of the world? The thoughts of mere men?
 - 2. Although the advice of men may at times be good, let us never forget that **OUR ANSWER** is always found in Jesus. **1 Cor 2:1-8**

II. THE CHALLENGE OF SYSTEMATIC RELIGION

- A. In Colossae this was seen in the challenge of the Judaizers.
- B. These people were proponents of a system of religion that posed a grave challenge to the disciples of Christ for two reasons:
 - 1. First, because they did not view Christ Jesus as the answer to their needs.
 - 2. Because they didn't recognize nor accept Jesus as the Messiah.
- C. Christianity (our relationship with God) is much bigger than our personal desires and aspirations, or our plans and programs or traditions!

III. THE CHALLENGE OF LEGALISM

- A. Paul says the Colossians faced what might be termed *legalism*. **Col 2:20-23**
- B. Brethren, it is *Jesus* we serve, ***HE*** is our Lord and Judge, we are ***serv***ing ***Him*** and must do so to the best of our ability and understanding!
 - 1. Jesus is our Master and ***NO MAN*** has the right to regulate our service to God.
 - 2. Any person seeking to **regulate** us is saying, "***I am the answer, not JESUS.***"
- B. Our responsibility is to love one another, to accept one another, to encourage one another, to strengthen one another, to build up one another, **BUT NOT TO BE EACH OTHER'S LEGISLATORS!**

CONCLUSION:

- A. There'll always be errors and misconceptions and false doctrines in every generation!
- B. SO, whose side are WE on? Can we count on EACH OTHER'S HELP to keep us pointed toward Jesus Christ?
- C. Yes, our LORD JESUS CHRIST is the answer to every problem we have!!

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SERMON TONIGHT AT 6:00 – "WHAT IS THE LOCAL CHURCH ALL ABOUT?"