

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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March 24th, 2002

SPRING

By Gordon Wilson

So it is spring (**S.S. 2:11-13**)! Nature in her rounds comes once more in verdant vestures to entice us away from daily chores and to inflict upon us that peculiar fever associated with this year's second season. All about us is testimony to an earth made bountiful and beautiful. Ways ordinarily too wonderful for us seem natural now: an eagle in the air... a serpent upon a rock... a ship in the midst of the sea... and a man with a maiden.

Winter is truly gone; its hibernating denizens emerge. We emerge too, to an earth renewed, to a warming and dazzling reappearance of the daystar. It is a kind of resurrection, certainly a transformation. Our senses are sharpened so that we may smell the growing things... see the colors on display... hear nature's own sweet music... more keenly feel, taste, and yearn.

The spirit of man also needs a springtime. After summer has turned us lazy, and autumn has tricked us into frivolity and carelessness, and winter has frozen our souls - -oh how we need a springtime! Our first love beckons us: now is the time to embrace the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. The zeal and fervor with which to do His work is stirred in us anew. A vision of Christ within us and heaven before us is seen with eyes of faith. The joy of His unmerited favor now presses with rejuvenated urgency into our breasts.

We can be better Christians now than we have ever been before. And how this world of ours does need Christians: not winter Christians, or fair-weather Christians, but living, loving, seeing, feeling, springtime Christians: spring-the-year-around Christians.

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" AND THEN WHAT?"

"Have you given any thought to your future?" a father asked his young son. "Why sure, Dad, I've got it all figured out!" he exclaimed. "Tell me your plans, Son" inquired his father. "Well, after I graduate from high school, I'll go to college." "Fine, Son - **then what?**" "After I graduate from college, I'll get a good paying job and buy a big house and a nice car," he replied. "Great, Son - **then what?**" "Then I'll marry and raise a family - just like YOU, Dad!" "Wonderful, Son - then what?" "Then, I'll continue to work until I am old enough to retire." "Excellent, Son - **then what?**" "Well, then I guess I'll live out my golden years traveling and enjoying my grandchildren." "Splendid idea, Son - **then what?**" Now feeling somewhat frustrated, his son replied, "Well, then I'll die of course!!" At this point, the father looked straight into the eyes of his son and asked one last time, "Okay, Son... **THEN WHAT???**"

It is amazing how we plan so many things in our lives, yet often fail to plan for that which is the most important. **We plan for the journey, but give no thought as to our destination!**

Two things which are certain in this life are **NOT** death and taxes, but rather, **death** and the **judgment** to follow! "*It is appointed for men to die once but after this the judgment*" (**Heb 9:27**).

Wise are those who prepare for appointments that they know they must keep. Death (unless the Lord comes first) and the judgment to come are

two such unavoidable appointments (we see a preview of the judgment to come in **Matthew 25:31-46**, and **Rev 20:11-15** -- *Please Read!*).

It is also certain, according to the Scriptures, that beyond the judgment, **eternity awaits....** Because of His great love, God sent His Son into the world that through Him we might not only be prepared for these inescapable appointments, but **ALSO that we might live eternally with Him in heaven.** "*So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many*" (**Hebrews 9:28**). On the cross, Jesus bore the sins of the world upon Himself; He paid the price for sin. One may receive the benefits of His sacrificial death by faith (**Acts 16:30**), repentance (**Acts 17:30-31**), confession (**Rom 10:9-10**), baptism for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**), and then "walking in the light as He is in the light" through a life of obedience to God's will (**1John 1:7**). Life is a journey, which one day will end. God's emphasis is on direction and **NOT speed!**

When you finally get to where it is you are going, where will you be?

And then what?

God bless you!

David A. Sargent/ M. Eddlemon/ W.T. Allison

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Sermon at 6:00 PM
" Making Our Worship
Acceptable to God"

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

THE SICK AND RECOVERING

Bill Buie, continuing ailments
Sue Claiborne, still treating back problems
Helen Gray, treatments for hip pain
Annie Holland, chemo treatments
Rachel Johnston (*Sue's sister*) cancer treatments
Willa Lockett ongoing physical problems
Clifford Marshall – better, but still recovering
Irma Rapiet – testing for problems and also had reactions to the tests
Jacob & Beka Robertson, asthma problems
Norma Romine, cancer, disease evaluation
Tom Royston – cancer and other problems
Rena Schultz – still has her own health problems
Troy Shadman – had relapse, pneumonia
Velma Stewart, Ron's mother, with Alzheimer's
Nancy Valine, tests/ decisions re. liver transplant
Evie Westphal – having some good days in her battle against cancer
Gordon Wilson – broken ribs from a fall are mending, other health problems continue

AWAY FROM HOME:

Aaron Robertson – away on active duty
Seth Reagan – in Middle East

ONGOING "BUSINESS" TRAVELERS:

Carol Alexander, Rick Rittenhouse, Carl Romine, Dan Singleton, Gordon Wilson

JOB SEEKERS:

Steve Bryant – Jeffry Pennant

CARMICHAEL
GOSPEL MEETING
Don Bassett, preaching

Regular Sunday Services
Weeknights at 7:00 PM

April 14-17, 2002
Sunday thru Wednesday

A Prayer for Purity

O Thou, to whose all-searching sight
The darkness shineth as the light,
Search, prove my heart; it pants for Thee;
O burst these bonds, and set it free!

Wash out its stains, refine its dross,
Nail my affections to the Cross;
Hallow each thought; let all within
Be clean, as Thou, my Lord art clean!

If in this darksome wild I stray,
Be Thou my Light, be Thou my way;
No foes, no violence I fear
No fraud, while Thou, my God, art near.

When rising floods my soul o'erflow,
When sinks my heart in waves of woe,
Jesus, Thy timely aid impart,
And raise my head, and cheer my heart.

Savior, where'er Thy steps I see,
Dauntless, untired, I follow Thee;
O let Thy hand support me still,
And lead me to Thy holy hill!

If rough and thorny be the way,
My strength proportion to my day;
Till toil, and grief, and pain shall cease,
Where all is calm, and joy, and peace.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf,
1700-1760

This Evening's Sermon at 6:00

**MAKING OUR WORSHIP
ACCEPTABLE TO GOD**

Some people's idea of a secret is just not to tell who told them.

WILLING TO COMMIT

Philippians 3:7-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Having a *steadfast and consistent allegiance* to **anything** today seems far-fetched!
- B. Time is a premium and the last thing we want to do is **OBLIGATE** ourselves.
 - 1. But our lives are FULL OF obligations, and we often make new ones every day!
 - 2. Of course, religiously, such **obligation** is referred to as **COMMITMENT!**

I. BEING WILLING TO COMMIT IS TO COUNT THE LOSS. Phil 3:7

- A. What Paul says seems like a mistake in the world we live in today: ***important things are worthless.***
 - 1. We are to understand that “*important things are worthless*” in the light of **knowing Christ** and **valuing Him over the things of our life.**
 - 2. **MY COMMITMENT** says I am willing to count the loss and pay the price: the giving up of self motivating factors. **1 Cor 3:12-15**
- B. Please realize and accept the fact that “counting the cost” is measured by true values.
 - 1. Measuring things by the true standard is necessary for us to have true and valid perceptions.
 - 2. And **THAT’S** what Paul is making his judgment on.

II. WE MUST BE WILLING TO COMMIT TO CHRIST IN ORDER TO GAIN THE GAIN. Phil 3:8

- A. If you want something badly enough, you will give up other things to gain it.
- B. Are we at risk of holding onto our **own** lives rather than **seeking a life in Christ?**
 - 1. **FOR US TO "GAIN"** is to take the garbage out. **Luke 12:15**
 - 2. What will you lose to gain Christ?

III. WE MUST BE WILLING TO COMMIT TO CHRIST IN ORDER TO HAVE CONTINUED GROWTH Phil 3:12

- A. Spiritual Growth is a result of **GOD-ACCEPTED PROCESSED ACHIEVEMENT.**
- B. Grow into and through those acceptably processed achievements of Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 3:18**

IV. OUR WILLINGNESS TO COMMIT TO CHRIST MEANS TO FORGET THE PAST AND GO FORWARD - Phil 3:13

- A. It will require endless energies if we’re not willing to FORGET THE PAST!
 - 1. Energy efficiency is a valuable resource and information tool in the physical realm.
 - 2. **HOW ENERGY EFFICIENT ARE WE IN THE CAUSE OF CHRIST?**
- B. We need to be sure our energy is focused on the present with Christ. **Heb 6:1**
 - 1. We cannot have the proper energy efficiency spiritually if we’re still dwelling on the past.
 - 2. **Plan Ahead! PAY ATTENTION! Keep your mind on your work! Stay focused!**

V. BEING WILLING TO COMMIT TO CHRIST OBLIGATES US TO GO ALL THE WAY WITH HIM - Phil 3:14

- A. To run with Christ is **not a 100 yard dash ... BUT AN ETERNAL MARATHON.**
 - 1. To Keep on keeping on is the call of the day. **John 11:16**
 - 2. The only thing that will last is **what we do for Christ.**
- B. **SO, WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR CHRIST, POSITIVELY?**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Do we understand the necessity of ***that new birth of obedience into the kingdom of Christ!***
John 3:3-5
- B. And we are sustained IN HIM through our continued compliance in those things that honor and glorify Him in our efforts! **1 Cor 15:58**