

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 3rd, 2002

FORWARD, MARCH!

by Gordon Wilson

"Like a mighty army, moves the church of God." So goes one line of the hymn, ***Onward, Christian Soldiers***. And from one standpoint these words are true. Since Pentecost, when three thousand received cleansing from sin by the blood of Christ, the purchased people have lived and moved. From Jerusalem into the provincial townships of Judea; onward into Samaria and outward to the uttermost parts of the Roman world, moved the church of Christ carrying the gospel of Christ. Northward through Europe, leaping the channel into England, and sailing the Atlantic to a new world came the mighty army displaying the banner of the Prince of Peace. Westward from frontier to frontier, taking root in every city and in thousands of villages and crossroads communities; and from such fortresses flinging the gospel back across the oceans to dimmest regions of Africa and Asia, the church kept marching.

That much has been conquered is evident. But that really has little to do with you and me, except that we are the beneficiaries of the great missionary and military efforts of the past. Right now, in our own time, and each in his own place, we need to move forward as the army of God. Each local church must ask itself if it moves as an army should move. More, each Christian must ask himself if he stands in rank as a good soldier, and presses the fight for truth and right.

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WHICH ROAD WILL IT BE?

(Thoughts by Helen Gray)

God gave us a choice, we can take the high road or the low road – “**it’s our choice!**” It does make a difference to God which one we take; He wants each and every one to walk the straight and narrow path and to be with Him!

As we go through life we should sincerely be conscious every minute of what comes from our hearts: our spoken words, our actions, whether we’re alone or if we’re with friends – it does make a difference!

The inspired information Paul sent to the brethren in **Colossians 3:1-17** is pertinent to our making right choices: “*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffer-

ing; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
(NKJV)

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What was that again?

A couple probably shouldn’t have any more children after 35. Really, 35 children are enough!
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MISCELLANEOUS PEARLS OF WISDOM.....

Shopping tip: You can get shoes for 85 cents at bowling alleys.

After all is said and done, usually more is said than done.

I am a nobody, nobody is perfect, therefore I am perfect.

No one ever says "It's only a game," when their team is winning.

If carrots are so good for the eyes, how come I see so many dead rabbits on the highway?

Marriage changes passion ... suddenly you're in bed with a relative.

ELDERS & DEACONS MEET AT 5:00 TODAY IN ROOM 5 – FOLLOWED BY A CONGREGATIONAL SONG & PRAYER SERVICE

CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE?

Ephesians 5:17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. For many years religious people have viewed Biblical teachings as a matter of opinion, saying, "We just can't all see it alike."
- B. Now, even many members of the church of Christ have started to sing this old tune.
- C. The N.T. plea for unity stands in direct contradiction to this opinion.
 1. Prayers over radio, "Lord, we thank you that we have the church of our choice."
 2. Yet, Jesus prayed, "*that they all might be one.*"
 3. SO, do we believe that we can understand the Bible alike?

I. DO PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

- A. There is division over what people think the Bible teaches, e.g., ask different preachers or teachers the same Biblical question and you'll receive different answers!
- B. Division suggests misunderstanding – maybe on the part of all the constituents.
 1. Truth is consistent, i.e., it never contradicts itself.
 - a) This is axiomatic, a self-evident truth.
 - b) Truth is like parallel lines. Parallel lines may be extended to infinity, and they will never intersect
 - c) When we hear a man contradict himself, we know he is wrong somewhere. That is why consistency is important.
 2. The Bible is Truth. John 17:17
 3. Therefore, the Bible is consistent, i.e., it never contradicts itself.
- C. Application of conclusion:
 1. If we understand the Bible at all, it will be alike. 1 Cor 1:10
 - a) If it were to be said of a man that, "He says one thing to me and something different to you" – we would be able to identify him as a liar, wouldn't we?
 - b) What does this make of God, when one says of his word, "*It says one thing to me and something different to you*"?
 2. If we accept conflicting answers, someone is wrong. 1 Tim 6:3-5
 3. It is not a matter of personal interpretation or opinion - 1 Pet 4:11; Mark 16:16

II. CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

- A. Is the Bible an understandable book? (If not, either God could but wouldn't – or he would but couldn't – make it so!)
 1. God wants us to understand. 1 Tim 2:3-4
 2. He revealed an understandable plan. Eph 3:1-6
- B. Is man capable of understanding the Bible? Eph 5:17; John 6:44-45
- C. Are things different today?
 1. God's teaching us unchanged. 1 Pet 1:24-25
 2. Man's nature is unchanged. Ecc 1:9-10
- D. It is primarily a matter of attitude. Matt 13:13-15; Acts 28:24-27

ILLUS: Students in English class:

- ◆-The concepts taught are not difficult.
- ◆-The methods used to teach were not wrong.
- ◆-The children were not unable to learn.
- ◆-They did not want to learn English and refused to be taught.
- ◆-Teacher was powerless to force them to learn.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes, we can all understand the Bible alike. Eph 5:17
- B. How wonderful it would be if we would all heed the admonition. 1 Cor 1:10
- C. We simply need to speak as the oracles of God. 1 Pet 4:11 ----By Randy Cavender