

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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April 14th, 2002

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

An encouragement by Vern Wilson

In order to have a successful meeting, we will need to continue our efforts of being involved and taking an active part in the preparation, promotion and attendance. The following general thoughts are adapted from another bulletin article and are on target with some of the things we need to be doing ***THIS WEEK!***

Attend every service. Like the Psalmist, be GLAD to gather together with others in the house of the Lord. This seems so obvious for Christian people, but many members may be involved in other activities they will attend instead of this gospel meeting. Make your plans now to attend every service of this meeting. Put spiritual things above other things and encourage others to come with you.

Be enthusiastic! Bro. Bassett is a well-known and very capable preacher and will provide us with solid, stimulating Bible messages. Be excited about the salvation that God has already shown to us - and the great possibilities that others will also accept God's offer and obey Him soon.

Work to make it a success. Nothing successful ever "just happens." It takes planning and coordinated effort. Visitors and friends are more likely to attend if they are personally invited by us. Please make positive plans for your eternal home by specifically and emphatically helping to make this meeting a success.

Pray for good to be done. Don't overlook the value of prayer! Pray for Bro. Bassett and for the opportunities that lay ahead for God's word to be heard, understood and obeyed. Pray that God will continue to bless us in all our efforts to advance His precious will in our area!

**THE ANSWER OF A GOOD
CONSCIENCE**
by Rolf Miller

Before his conversion, the apostle Paul was known as Saul, and **Acts 8:1-3** speaks of him making havoc of the church. He refers to this in **Acts 22:4**, saying, *"I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."* Yet, in **Acts 23:1**, he emphatically states, *"I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."*

Obviously, it is possible to have a good conscience before God whether what is done is right or not. This is the nature of man. As **Proverbs 16:2** states, *"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes."*

So, having a good conscience does not make one right. Neither, then, does a good conscience indicate one's standing before God. As **Proverbs 14:12** reads, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

Yet, a good conscience is necessary to be right with God (**1 John 3:20-21**). As **1 Peter 3:20-21** points out, just as eight souls were saved by water in the days of Noah, *"even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but an answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* It is not surprising, then, that Paul, when recounting his conversion, recalled being told, *"Why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord"* (**Acts 22:16**).

In **1 Timothy 1:13**, Paul referenced his misconduct towards God, saying, *"I did it ignorantly and in unbelief."* Therein is the difference between merely a good conscience and the answer of a good conscience toward God. He didn't have a guilty conscience when acting wrongly because he lacked knowledge and faith. And as **Romans 10:1-3** shows, when folks don't know what is right, they will establish their own right. Again, *"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes."*

Plainly, the answer of a good conscience toward God requires knowledge of and faith in God's word. However, knowing the truth does not automatically translate into faith. **Hebrews 11:13** describes faith as an embraced persuasion based on God's word, and not everyone who learns the truth embraces it (**Hebrews 4:2**).

Therefore, the answer of a good conscience toward God occurs when what is done corresponds to faith that reflects what the scriptures say. If, on the other hand, a person holds to something other than what is understood from scripture, acting accordingly will produce a good conscience, but not in answer to God.

via ***Prove All Things***, Ventura, CA

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"Every teenager should get a high school education. Even if they already know everything!"

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so that when you die, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE:

Do NOT ride in automobiles: that's where 20% of all fatal accidents occur.

Do NOT stay at home: 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Do NOT walk on the streets or sidewalks: 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.

Do NOT travel by air, rail, or water: 16% of all accidents happen on these.

Only .001% of all deaths occur at worship services in a church gathering, and these are related to previous physical disorders.

Hence, the safest place for you to be at any time is in a gathering for worshiping.

Bible study is safe, too. The percentage there is even less.

Conclusion: You should attend worship and Bible study services, for THEY COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

from Wes Gilbert, Muskogee, OK

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It sez here:

"A man with a burning ambition is seldom fired.

"To take the wind out of an angry man's sails, stay calm.

Along with optimism, we need some hop-to-it-ism

It is all right to spend money to make character, but it is wrong to spend character to make money

Ignorance is often revealed by opening the mouth.

The best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your arm.

The best way to kill time is to work it to death.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

(cards and calls also appreciated)

THE SICK AND RECOVERING

Addie Alden – improving, with daughter in Reno

Peggy Alexander – cancer surgery was on 4/12

Bill Buie - nagging ailments

Sue Claiborne – back problems continue

Helen Gray – hip-causing pain is still unrelieved

Annie Holland – has gone home to bay area

Willa Lockett – appreciates our prayers/cards

Clifford Marshall – still needs our prayers

Ruby & Ted Nicholson – outlook poor, Rhonda constantly needed, pray for all

Irma Rapiet – diagnosis not good, still testing

Norma Romine – cancer-attendant problems

Tom Royston – cancer and other problems

Rena Schultz – exhausted care-giver

Nancy Valine – needs liver transplant to live

Evie Westphal – prognosis good, scan was clear.

(Bill & Evie send their sincere thanks to all for your prayers and thoughts and concerns for them during these trying times.)

Gordon Wilson – health continues to deteriorate, but he stays busy in the work of the Lord.

Maxine Wilson – knee still bothersome but better

AWAY FROM HOME:

Aaron Robertson – in/out of Camp Pendleton

The Sadler's are in Hawaii till next week

Don Wilson and **Randy & Judy Hilburn** are in the Philippines this month

ONGOING "BUSINESS" TRAVELERS:

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

JOB SEEKERS:

Jeffry Pennant -- **Steve Bryant** has tentative job

Brittany Ayers now working

HOW BADLY DO YOU WANT IT?

Joe Fitch

“*I surely want to go to heaven*” Great! — but doesn’t everyone? Nobody wants to go to hell; yet many will. The difference in outcome is not in the simple “*want to*” but **how badly do you want it?** Herein lies the final difference.

“*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?*” (**Mt.19:16**). This rich ruler wanted life — obviously spiritual or eternal life. Nothing indicates he was dishonest, or that he had some ulterior motive behind his question. That was not his problem; yet he had a serious problem. How much does he *want* that life? Is his *want* defined by a dollar? — a thousand dollars? I think that amount posed him no problem. How about 10% of all he had? — no problem for a devout Jew. However, Jesus really challenged him. How about “...*go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven*” ...(**v.21**). That was a far different story! He did not want life *that much*, and he “*went away sorrowful.*” We worry — how would we fare if we faced the same test? Let me set your mind at rest; we *will* face that test! The price for life has not gone down. You can not have life, and be unwilling to sacrifice all you have. Spiritual and eternal life will surely cost you in terms of dollars. Expect to choose! There is no bargain shop for spiritual life. *Lovers of money* more than *lovers of life* join the rich man as “...*he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions*”(**v.22**). How badly do you want life?

How badly do you want eternal life? — badly enough to give up your current life? You might as well face it; that *is* the price. Heaven’s road is marked by martyrs who died in horrible ways while seeking that life. Graphically they declare how much they wanted what Jesus offers. Even if a bloody death is not in your forecast, *life* is still the necessary demand for *eternal life*. “*I beseech youthat you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*” (**Rom.12:1**). Now,

how badly do you want the life Jesus offers? Badly enough to be “*crucified with Christ*” so that “*it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*”?

How badly do you want spiritual life? Are you willing to deny self — put self off the ruling throne— banish “*do as I please.*” Will you bow to Jesus and do *anything he says*, refrain from *anything he requires*, go *anywhere he sends*. Well, that is exactly where you must start — not where you eventually end up. It is square one fundamental! And without dethroning self, you cannot even come to Jesus. Listen to Jesus: “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me*” (**Mt.16:24**). Do you want the benefits of Jesus that badly? — or is self-centeredness turning you to walk *away sorrowful*?

Likely many are not failing on such big issues; they never get even get that far. They want to go to heaven, but not if they must go to worship more than three or four times a year — and never miss any football games — or never be inconvenienced — or change their lifestyle. It will not happen! The desire is not nearly strong enough.

“*Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able*” (**Luke 13:24**). The success level is found in the word “*strive.*” This word indicates a fight or struggle — a strong desire — an effort without reservation — a quest without regard to price. Sadly, many aspire no higher than “*seek*” to enter in. “*Seek*” is a weak word by comparison to “*strive.*” “*Seek*” may only indicate a whimsical notion — “*I wish...*” “*It would be nice to go to heaven.*” That is not wanting to enter badly enough — and they surely “*will not be able.*”

Cultivate “*want to*” — commit your “*will do*” — and “*strive to enter.*”

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