

# *2002 Proclaimer*

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2*

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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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002

## **JUDAS ISCARIOT**

*by Gordon Wilson*

*"...The devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him..." (Jno 13:2).*

There are in the New Testament a number of Judases or Judes. This one who betrayed our Lord is therefore consistently identified with the surname Iscariot to distinguish him from the others. His name is always given last in the lists of disciples, undoubtedly due to his act of treachery. After his name both Matthew and Mark add, "*who also betrayed him;*" while Luke says, "*the traitor.*" The surname Iscariot is generally held to be literally ish Kerioth --the man of Kerioth. Kerioth was a village of southern Judea and has been tentatively identified by modern archaeologists. It appears, therefore, that Judas was the only one of the twelve who was not a Galilean.

In our text Jesus, following supper with the twelve, arose, put aside His outer garments and took up a towel. He washed the feet of the disciples. This was ordinarily an act of hospitality performed before supper by a servant. Jesus did it in part to teach a lesson of humility and brotherly love to His disciples. There is, then, in the passage a very remarkable contrast --which contrast makes the Savior's lesson stand out more vividly. The great love and lowliness of Jesus in

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washing their feet is contrasted with the selfishness and ambition of Judas in his betrayal. Love prompted the Christ to minister to His own, and this stands sharply against the selfishness that led Judas to do his terrible deed. Love is always opposed to selfishness: "Love...seeketh not its own" (1 Cor 13:5). Jesus humbled Himself and in lowliness of heart washed the feet even of one who despised Him. Judas was ambitious and self-seeking; he did not want to be caught in the web that was being woven around the Lord by the priestly conspirators. What a difference!

It was the devil who put it in Judas' heart to betray Christ. Diabolical influence is certainly not on a level with divine influence, but they have one thing in common: the heart must be prepared to receive it. Judas' own character and attitudes made him amenable to Satan's inspiration. The devil constantly tries to put it into our hearts to satisfy our own ambitions. Our true character is revealed by our response to his efforts.

Judas Iscariot, son of Simon! Ever will his name live as symbol of treachery and shame. Ever will he be branded, "son of perdition."

Can we betray our Lord even now? Is it possible that turning our backs on His fellowship and teaching we may seek our own interests, with the result of final and eternal loss? May we be warned and learn early the lessons taught us by the sin of Judas Iscariot. ###

## **PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:**

*(cards and calls also appreciated)*

### **THE SICK AND RECOVERING**

**Addie Alden**

**Peggy Alexander**

**Norton Dye** (heart surgery)

**Helen Gray**

**Willa Lockett**

**Clifford Marshall**

**Ruby & Ted Nicholson**

(+ Rhonda and Norma)

**Irma Rapier**

**Norma Romine**

**Tom Royston**

**Boots Royston**

**Nancy Valine**

**Evie Westphal**

**Gordon Wilson**

**Maxine Wilson**

### **AWAY FROM HOME:**

**Maxine Wilson** in NY and Maryland

**Sue Claiborne** in Texas for about a month

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

### **ONGOING "BUSINESS" TRAVELERS:**

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

### **JOB SEEKER:**

**Jeffry Pennant**

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"There is a theory which states that if ever anybody discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable. Some observers think this has already happened."

- Douglas Adams

How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Doctors can be frustrating. You wait a over a month for an appointment, and

when he sees you he says, "I wish

*you'd come to me sooner."*

# Tolerating Mistakes

A building contractor was being paid by the week for a job that was likely to stretch over several months. He approached the owner of the property and held up the check he'd been given. "This is two hundred dollars less than we agreed on," he said.

"I know," the owner said, "But last week I overpaid you two hundred dollars, and you never complained."

The contractor said, "Well, I don't mind an occasional mistake. But when it gets to be a habit, I feel I have to call it to your attention."

Before chuckling too much, do you recall the last time a cashier charged you too little for an item? Were you as quick to point it out to him or her as you were when you were overcharged? Isn't it funny how we are willing at times to tolerate mistakes by others as long as we benefit rather than suffer?

That's why our religious standard of right and wrong must be determined by God's word and not by our own feelings. As impartial as we may try to be, that little voice inside that says, "If it doesn't hurt me, then it must be OK", too easily sways us.

*"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

Have a great day!

*Alan Smith, Boone, North Carolina*

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## **GOSPEL MEETING IN WENDELL, ID**

Wendell, Idaho is nine and a half hours from Carmichael ... if you're driving. It seems a lot longer if you're **driving it alone!** The group there is a congregation of approximately 14 or 15 members and Reggie Finch, an old-time acquaintance, is the preacher there. He and his wife, Edna, have been with the group for about two years. The attendance averaged 16-18 during the meeting and one young man (30) who had been out of duty for 11 years was restored.

They're a well-grounded group who are being strong for the Lord in following His precepts. The town is a stronghold for denominationalism (mostly cults)



but the members there have a positive approach to their duty. They send their grateful acknowledgement to you that we could hold the meeting for them. (vw)

## **GOD'S POWERFUL WORD**

**Heb 4:11-16**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. In **Heb 4:11** we find a summary of all that has been said in **Hebrews 3:7-4:10**.
- B. To stress diligence, we're reminded of the importance of God's Word in the text.
  - 1. ***That Word*** which pointed to the example of the Israelites' disobedience
  - 2. ***The Word*** that now warns them not to fall into the Israelites' rebellious example.
- C. At a time when God's Word is so often neglected, *even by some of His own people*, **it will help US to re-establish in our hearts the intensity of His message!**

### **I. THE WORD OF GOD IS "LIVING" AND "POWERFUL"**

- A. Did we get the message? **GOD'S WORD IS NOT SOME "DEAD LETTER!"**
  - 1. It's very preservation to this time is indication it isn't dead! **1 Pet 1:23-25**
  - 2. The ***"LIFE"*** of ***THAT WORD*** is due to the nature of God Himself!
  - 3. Jesus emphasizes this with such statements as He made in **John 6:63**
- B. ALSO, THAT GOD'S WORD IS "ALIVE" IS SEEN IN ITS ***"POWER"...***
- C. With such a "living" and "powerful" word at our disposal, we would be foolish to neglect the **blessings it offers**, or the **warnings it gives!**

### **II. THE WORD OF GOD IS "SHARP" AND "A DISCERNER"**

- A. SHARPER THAN AN "TWO-EDGED SWORD"...
- B. A DISCERNER OF ***"THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART"...***
  - 1. With its sharpness, it can sift through and reveal the heart of man.
  - 2. It's effect on man reveals his true heart.
    - a) Sometimes, a person's heart is sincere and open to change, **Acts 2:36-37**
    - b) Other times, a heart has no desire to change, as in **Acts 5:28b-33; 7:54** --  
One cannot hear or read the Word of God without being affected!

### **III. THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD IS DUE TO HIS OMNISCIENCE**

- A. GOD IS OMNISCIENT... **Psa 139:1-12**
- B. THEREFORE, NO ONE CAN HIDE FROM THE JUDGE.
  - 1. There is a judgment day coming! **Acts 17:30-31; Rom 2:16; 2 Cor 5:10**
  - 2. The BIBLE is the standard by which we will be judged.

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Yes, the power of God's Word is derived from God Himself...
  - 1. God's Word is able to cut to the hearts of men and reveal their true nature
  - 2. God's Word that abides forever will be the standard by which we will be judged
- B. In view of the power of God Himself and His powerful Word...
  - 1. **DARE WE** neglect the warnings given in it, such as in **Heb 4:1, 11?**
  - 2. **DARE WE** neglect to even read the Bible?
- C. What kind of heart do you have?
  - 1. Does your heart cry out ***"WHAT SHALL I DO?"***
  - 2. I encourage you to heed what Peter said - **Ac 2:38**
  - 3. And heed the warnings of our Lord Himself in **Rev 2:10**