

2001 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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August 19th, 2001

Are We Enlightened by His Word?

by David Riggs

"The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130) "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes..." (Psalm 19:7-8)

Some seem to expect the word of God to hit them like a jolt of adrenalin each time they read or study it. Although the "jolt" may hit us periodically, the benefits of the word of God act more like vitamins. People who regularly take vitamins do so because of their long-term benefits, not because every time they swallow one of the pills they feel new strength surging through their bodies. They have developed a habit of consistently taking vitamins because they have been told that, in the long haul, vitamin supplements are going to have a beneficial effect on their physical health, resistance to disease, and general well being.

The same is true regarding the Bible. At times it will have a sudden and intense impact on us. However, the real value lies in the cumulative and intense impact that long-term exposure to God's Word will bring to our lives. (From 1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, p. 29).

STAYING AWAKE

A man went to the doctor to get some advice on how to stop snoring. The doctor asked him "Does your snoring disturb your wife?" "Does it disturb my wife?" he said, "Man, it disturbs the whole congregation."

There is no denying it - people go to sleep in worship services. Eutychus probably was not the first, and he certainly was not the last (Acts 20:9). It is always a challenge to stay interested in the sermon and stay awake.

Different methods have been devised to keep people awake. Many years ago, the Puritans used a long stick to punch any sleepy member. Some today think banging on the pulpit or a hollering preacher will keep people awake. One preacher threw a songbook at a sleeping deacon. Sitting beside a wide-awake spouse has kept many a husband from nodding and snoring. Still people go to sleep.

One thing I have found that keeps many awake and interested in the lesson is to take notes. Assuming a person wants to stay awake and they plan to hear the sermon, a Bible and a note pad works quite well for most. There are several suggestions why a person might get sleepy: because it is too cool; the preacher is too dry; they have not had enough sleep; or they may be on medication. Notwithstanding, it will be harder for people to go to sleep in services if they take notes.

One of my prize possessions is more than 30 stenographer's note pads of sermon notes I have taken since 1971. I have notes on hundreds of sermons of outstanding preachers in the

brotherhood, and some of them are no longer living. When I preached the church in Olive Branch, Mississippi, one of the members took notes in shorthand of each sermon. In over 500 sermons (5 years of preaching), not once did she ever go to sleep. If you are fighting to stay awake in services and usually end up on the losing end, why not try a note pad?

There is a time to sleep and a time to stay awake. May the Lord bless our efforts to stay wide-awake in every worship activity.

---Tom L. Childers
FHU newsletter 4-3-01

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*The only exercise some folks get is jumping at conclusions, running down friends, sidestepping responsibilities, and pushing their luck.*

*Christianity, like a watch, needs to be wound regularly if it is to be kept running.*

*God has plenty of spiritual current, but it does the world good only as it passes through the human lamp.*

*"The man who swears privately but refrains from swearing in the presence of a lady, gives her more honor than he gives God who is present always."*

*White-washing the pump will not purify the water.*

*A loose tongue often gets its owner into a tight place.*

*Some people spend more time trying to dodge duty than would be required to discharge it.*

*Excuses are crutches upon which weak Christians lean.*

*Some people get a divorce from the church and then want alimony.*

## **BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL**

by Bob Craig

*"Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were)," [John 4:1-2 nasb]*

For various reasons, most modern-day churches believe and teach that salvation is by faith only and that baptism is not necessary [non-essential] for salvation. One of the verses used to teach their doctrine is **1 Corinthians 1:17**: *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."*

Paul tells of some that he baptized. His point is not to diminish the importance of baptism in God's plan of salvation but to point out that the baptizer is of no importance. It takes no special preparation nor special selection nor special ordination for one to baptize another person. Jesus himself did not personally baptize, even though he was credited with their baptism, but his disciples performed the actual act. And so it was with Paul. Paul baptized very few in Corinth but many were obedient to the command of the gospel to be baptized. Notice **Acts 18:8**: *"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."*

Yes, Crispus is here mentioned as he is in the 1st Corinthian letter. He believed and was baptized and all the other Corinthians believed and were baptized. Somebody other than Paul did the baptizing. Who? We don't have that information perhaps because the one who performs the act of baptizing is of little or no importance. Paul was sent out under the same commission that the apostles were and that was, *"... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* (**Mark 16:15**).

Paul did what he had been called to do, preach the gospel. The Corinthians did what the Lord commanded them to do, believe and be baptized. When that old time gospel of the New Testament was preached and people obeyed it -- result -- **THEY WERE SAVED.**

### **IF IT SOUNDS ALL RIGHT, IT MUST BE ALL RIGHT!**

Eye halve a spelling chequer  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.  
Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight four it two say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh.  
As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong.  
Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew.

# THE CHARACTER OF THE GOSPEL

Matt.7:13-14

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Lord **STRESSES** the **NARROW** way in this text, as well as many other places in the Bible!
- B. In fact, the biggest complaint the world of denominationalism has against the Lord's teachings is the **NARROWNESS** and the **EXCLUSIVITY** that's claimed continually in the Bible!
  - 1. But remember, only **EIGHT** souls were saved by the flood!
  - 2. And of the 100's of thousands who left Egypt, **ONLY TWO** who left there as adults entered into Canaan, the land for which **THEY ALL LEFT EGYPT!**

## I. IN ALL ITS NARROWNESS, WE MUST BE IMPRESSED WITH THE BROADNESS OF THE GOSPEL!

- A. The **BROADNESS** of the Gospel is impressive as it deals with the subject of **GOD!**
  - 1. Every nation, even among pagan people, recognizes that there's at least **ONE** god.
  - 2. The gospel of the Lord teaches the **BROADNESS** of the God of Heaven! **Psa 139:7-11**
  - 3. **So ACTUALLY**, when *the Bible* is contrasted with the beliefs of other religions, *we find it presents quite the broadest perception of God!*
- B. The **BROADNESS** of the Gospel is also seen in the subject of **HUMANITY!** **Psa.8:4-9**
  - 1. The Ancients looked upon most strangers who came among them as barbarians.
  - 2. For the most part, they didn't recognize any international god, so there was no higher link tying them together.
  - 3. Remember Paul's statement to those Athenians stresses the brotherhood of all people: **Acts 17:26-**" ..He made of one blood all nations of men ..." .
- C. Thirdly, the subject of **HUMAN DESTINY** also shows the **BROADNESS** of the Gospel!
  - 1. The question of the ages is raised in **Job 14:14-**" *If a man die, shall he live again?*"
  - 2. But there's no idea of human destiny so **BROAD** as that revealed in the gospel.
    - a) The universal invitation of the Lord **INCLUDES ALL!** **Isa.1:18; Matt.11:28.**
    - b) There is the **EXPECTATION** of **ETERNAL LIFE!** **Matt.25:34, 46**

## II. WHERE THE GOSPEL IS FAITHFULLY PREACHED, WHY IS IT ACCUSED OF BEING NARROW?

- A. Under many conditions, **THE GOSPEL IS NARROW!**
  - 1. But even so, some are still trying to make it **TOO NARROW!** cf. **Matt 15:22-28; 19:13-14**
  - 2. **ANY DEVIATION** from the gospel brings the condemnation of the Lord, whether we're falling short or going beyond His revealed will! **Gal.1:8-9; 1 Cor.4:6**
  - 3. We must be **JUST AS NARROW** and **ONLY SO BROAD** as the Gospel of **CHRIST!**

## III. THE NATURE OF THE GOSPEL ITSELF IS WHAT DICTATES AND STRESSES ITS NARROWNESS TO US! [THERE ARE FOUR REASONS WHY GOSPEL IS NARROW]:

- A. It is **THE WAY OF TRUTH!** **Jno. 14:6.**
- B. It is **THE WAY OF HOLINESS!** **1 Thes.3:13**
- C. The Gospel is **NARROW** because it is **THE WAY OF HUMILITY**
- D. The Gospel is **THE WAY OF LOVE!** **Jno 14:15, 23; Jas 4:17**

## CONCLUSION:

- A. The gospel is **NARROW** because it's the nature of God's message to so be!
- B. It is **PRECISE**, as in the plan of salvation: **B+R+C+B++RF.**
- C. It's narrowness is one of its unique qualities.

*---from the files of Vern Wilson*