

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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September 23rd, 2001

A HOPELESS END or an ENDLESS HOPE?

By David A. Sargent

ARE YOU HEADING FOR A HOPELESS END OR DO YOU HAVE AN ENDLESS HOPE?

Paul, noting the plight of the Ephesians before they became Christians, wrote:
"Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh ... that at that time you were without Christ, ... having no hope and without God in the world" (**Eph 2:11-12** NKJV).

WITHOUT CHRIST, ONE HAS NO HOPE. AND WITHOUT CHRIST, EVERY ONE IS DESTINED FOR A HOPELESS, ENDLESS ETERNITY AWAY FROM GOD.

Paul went on to remind the Christians in Ephesus of the hope they enjoyed in Christ: *"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ"* (**Ephesians 2:13**). Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross as a payment for sin, and because these Ephesians had come in contact with the cleansing blood of Christ through faith, repentance, and baptism, they **now** had hope.

WITH CHRIST, ONE HAS AN ENDLESS HOPE.

Peter also reminded some suffering Christians of their hope in Christ: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).

Cont'd. on next page

PETER'S AUDIENCE HAD BEEN "BEGOTTEN" (OR BORN) AGAIN WHEN THEY WERE BORN OF THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT (JOHN 3:5) IN BAPTISM.

Theirs was a **living** hope because it was based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Christians have a living hope because the Savior lives!

With Christ, one may proclaim along with the writer of the book of Hebrews: "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). An anchor is used to provide stability, even in the times of storm. In the same way, one's hope in Christ gives stability in the storms that life brings.

LIVES ARE OFTEN TRAGICALLY ENDED IN THIS WORLD TODAY. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A GREATER TRAGEDY: TO DIE WITHOUT CHRIST, HAVING NO HOPE.

As Gilbert Beenken has well stated, "Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope."

DO YOU SEE A HOPELESS END OR ARE YOU REJOICING IN AN ENDLESS HOPE?
God bless you.

---David A Sargent
Mobile, Alabama

It's Never Too Late!

My dad came over the other day and we worked-out together. We had a great time. **He routinely bench-presses 285lbs.!** On this occasion he just missed benching 295lbs.! I jokingly told him, "Not bad for an old-timer!" Oh yeah, HE'S 61 YEARS OLD!

A couple years ago I was playing in a tennis tournament in Oregon. A friendly gentleman had watched me play and asked if I would take the time to watch him. I figured he was probably in his mid-50's and was trying to impress me. Well, he did! He put a "whipping" on a player in his

"WAIT!"

How To Inherit The Promise

The apostles had to wait 50 days to receive what Jesus had promised(see **Acts1-2**).

The boy David, had to wait 15 years from the time he was anointed king, until the time he actually took the throne(see **1 & 2 Samuel**).

Moses had to endure 40 years of preparation before entering into his calling(see **Exodus**).

Caleb had to wait 45 years to inherit the promised land(see **Joshua 14**).

Noah had to wait 100 years...about 1 tenth of his life...from the time God first told him about the flood, until the time the first raindrop hit. (see **Genesis 6-7**).

*The season of waiting is not spent on the couch, it is spent preparing, it is spent proactively anticipating the opportunity!
So we will be ready when it comes.
AND IT WILL SURELY COME!*

**Oh, and by the way, God ... well,
He's still waiting,
2 Peter 3: 8-9**

sermon tonight at 6:00

"THE SECOND MILE"

early 20's! After the match he asked me how old I thought he was. I figured since he asked, he must be older than I thought...**HE WAS 74! He had a gray pony tail.**

In the June 2001 edition of, "*Guideposts*," there's a touching story of **a man named George who, awhile back, learned to read...at AGE 90!** He is currently working on his GED(general equivalency high school diploma). He's now 103 YEARS OLD!

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.
by Brad in "*GodThoughts*"

CARMICHAEL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Times Of Services

SUNDAY:

Classes 9:00 AM
Worship 9:55 AM
Eve Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY:

Classes 7:00 PM

The elders urgently request every member to attend every service of the Church –

- 1. For the good you can get from the studies and your association with godly people
- 2. But especially, for the encouragement you can give to the other members.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Truman and Sue Claiborne Willa Lockett
Clifford Marshall Kaye Pennant
Norma Romine Evie Westphal
Helen Gray Gordon & Glenda Wilson
 Nancy Valine

PLEASE PRAY for these, and others you may be aware of, especially for our national leaders, the congregational leaders, and all those who teach us more about the Lord's Way!

PRAYERS DO AVAIL!

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SERMON TONIGHT AT 6:00

THE SECOND MILE

Some adults are really just kids
who owe money!

I wear my wife's eyeglasses because
she wants me to see things from her
point of view.

URGENT NEEDS!

- More open hearts and fewer open mouths.
- More sacrifice of self and less sacrifice of others.
- More standing for the faith and less falling for the fanciful.
- More concern over direction than speed.
- More knocking on doors and less knocking on each other.
- More praying and less playing.

Selected

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VOICES FROM THE PAST

The story is told of Brother James A. Harding and a fellow gospel preacher riding together in a buggy on the way across country to conduct a gospel meeting. As they rode along a man came out from his house and stopped them. He said, "Aren't you James Harding? I heard you were going to be coming this way. I have heard you preach, and I believe what you preach. I want to be baptized."

They stopped, went over to a nearby pond, and brother Harding took him into the water to baptize him. His traveling companion said, "Wait, brother Harding, you have not taken his confession."

Brother Harding responded, "I heard his confession. He said he believed what I preach. So he believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. That is what I preach."

Cecil May Jr., Dean
Faulkner University
Montgomery, AL

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SAINT

Acts 9:10-19

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In modern religious usage, a "saint" is an extraordinary person, so far and different from the rest of us that they deserve special title as a "saint."
- B. "Sainthood," has become a human, post-mortem religious commendation awarded when people have been dead long enough to exalt them spiritual.
 - 1. It is important for us to know what the Bible says about being a saint.
 - 2. I want to begin by citing some passages of Scripture:
- C. There are numerous other passages confirming that **SAINTS ARE CHRISTIANS**, but what should it mean to us to be The Saints of God?

I. IT DOES *NOT* MEAN A TROUBLE-FREE LIFE. Acts 9:13; 26:10

- A. We read, a few moments ago, the words of Ananias, who had heard about the evil works of Saul - who did "*much harm*" to the "**saints** in Jerusalem."
- B. Saints do not enjoy a trouble-free life here on earth, but saints believe what the Lord said: **Matt 5:11-12**.

II. BUT TO BE A SAINT ALSO MEANS THAT WE'VE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO BEING "*FAITHFUL IN CHRIST JESUS*".

- A. Paul, in his letters, would sometimes describe saints as "faithful in Christ Jesus."
- B. Being a Saint necessarily infers that if we believe in Jesus Christ and we've pledged ourselves in loyalty to Him, that we'll be **steadfast in that determination!**
- C. You just **love the Lord** . . . you just **do what He says** . . . you just **put Him first!**

III. A SAINT IS A PARTAKER OF THE INHERITANCE IN GOD'S HOUSE, WHICH IS BASED ON A LIFE-COMMITMENT! Eph 2:19

- A. Paul to the Ephesians, called them "*the saints who are in Ephesus*,"
- B. An Inheritance Is Something Granted, By Virtue Of A Relationship, and it means you have been named and specified to receive a great reward.
- C. Looking forward to that hope is what nails us to that commitment to be "faithful in Christ Jesus!"

IV. SAINTS ARE OVERCOMERS WHO WILL STAND FOREVER WITH THE LORD IN HEAVEN: Rev 13:10

- A. In the midst of these impressive visions of the conflict between good and evil - this promise in **Rev 13:10** is to **encourage the SAINTS to steadfastness!**
- B. We believe in God's promise that His SAINTS will achieve victory.
- C. **THIS IS THE BASIS** of the patience, and the faith, of **GOD'S SAINTS!**

CONCLUSION:

- A. It may be that there is no terminology used in describing God's people that is more misunderstood than the term "saint."
- B. Now, if you've obeyed the gospel and you are faithful in Christ Jesus, **YOU ARE A PART OF THOSE REFERRED TO AS THE SAINTS OF GOD**; that is your status, it's your **RELATIONSHIP** with the Lord, and it is your **MANNER OF LIFE**.
- C. You can become a saint today!