

2006 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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MORE LIGHT, LESS NOISE

by David A. Sargent

A delegation of well-meaning patriots tried to impress upon President Abraham Lincoln the gravity of the **American Civil War**. They implied that his administration was neither as wise nor as proficient as it ought to be. He listened carefully, and then responded with a memorable anecdote...

He told them that he once had a neighbor who found himself in a tight situation. He was traveling home one DARK and rainy night. There were few bridges in the country and he came to a stream that he would have to wade across. But because of the darkness and the rain, he couldn't see well enough to know just where to cross.

Lightning flashed and he saw his way for the briefest moment. But the man was perplexed because there seemed to be more thunder than lightning. He was convinced that every lightning flash was followed by several loud peals of thunder. The poor man just stood at the edge of the stream in his confusion about how to proceed. He finally prayed, "**O Lord, if it's just the same to you, give me more light and less noise.**" The delegation clearly got the point that the president needed more solutions and less complaining - more **LIGHT** and less **NOISE!**

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Whether we realize it or not, YOU and I are also involved in a critical WAR!

It is a war of good vs. evil -AND- our very SOULS are at stake!

Satan, our archenemy, seeks to blind us -- to keep us in the dark -- "lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on us" (2 Corinthians 4:4). He tries to distract us with a lot of "**NOISE**" - like life's worries, riches, and pleasures (Luke 8:14) - to keep us from finding the Light that illuminates the path to the truly **ABUNDANT LIFE NOW** (John 10:10) and **ETERNAL LIFE TO COME** (Mark 10:28-30).

Jesus said, "I AM the light of the world... He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus has revealed the correct path in life for us to follow. His Word - the Word of God - "is a **LAMP** to our feet and a **LIGHT** to our path" (Psalm 119:105). Through His Word, we are enlightened to the fact that God loves each one of us and that He wants us to follow Him.

The "well-lit path" is one of: faith (Hebrews 11:6) repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10) confession (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism in the name of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). When we follow this path, we are brought "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Then, as we CONTINUE to walk in the light of His

Word, the darkness of **SIN** is CONTINUALLY cleansed from our lives (1 John 1:7).

Abraham Lincoln was right. What we need is a lot more LIGHT... and much less NOISE!

David A. Sargent

Abraham Lincoln

Below are seven of his quotes.

If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?

You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.

Whatever you are, be a good one.

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

Source: Molly's Quotes of the Day,

The five most essential words for a healthy, vital relationship: "I apologize" and "You are right."

When you make a mistake, make amends immediately. It's easier to eat crow while it's still warm.

If he or she says that you are too good for him -- believe it.

I've learned to pick my battles; I ask myself, "Will this matter one year from now? How about one month? One week? One day?"

Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.
 -from Ronee Robertson

Are you using HIS service?

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He started to have a good conversation with his barber. They talked about many things and various subjects and finally reached the subject of God.

The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists as you say so.

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. If God existed, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't think of a God who permits all of these things."

The client stopped for a moment, thinking but not wanting to respond in a way that would cause an argument. The barber finished his job and the client went out of the shop. Just after he left the barber shop he saw a man in the street with long hair and beard (it seems that it had been a long time since he had his hair cut and he looked so untidy).

Then the client immediately turned and re-entered the barber shop and said to the barber,

"You know what? Barbers do not exist."

What do you mean they don't exist? asked the barber. "I am here and I am a barber."

"No!" the client exclaimed.

"They don't exist because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man who's walking there on the street."

"Wait a minute! Barbers do exist!" the barber explained. "All that's wrong is that some people just don't come to me for my services!"

"Exactly," affirmed the client.

"That's the point! God ALSO exists! All that's wrong in this vein is that people won't go to Him or seek for Him to be in their lives, and that's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

Jeremiah 31:27- *"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?"*

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SEVERAL ARE AILING

When you don't feel good do you want others to be concerned? Not interfering, mind you, but really interested in your well-being? IF SO, are you being the same caring person you expect others to be ~ regarding those who are in physical or mental distress. Pray, then call, and even pay a visit. CLW

WISDOM FROM GRANDPA

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always for-gets the past - but never the present.

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stay home and just stick to the washin', ironin', cookin', and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work."

The bonds of matrimony are a good investment, but only when the interest stays high!

Many girls like to marry a military man - he can cook, sew, make beds, and is in good health; and he's already used to taking orders.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age, and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth Remember to think about Algebra.

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

Bible love is symmetrical, balanced. It is not mere sentimentality, nor a reckless emotional abandonment of truth, but is guided by intelligent, rational reasons. In Phil 1:10, Paul calls for that balance as he prays "that your love abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve the things that are excellent." Love is the "motor" for all purity, but it is guided by intelligent and judgmental choices.
-Dee Bowman Christianity Mag. Jan.1991