

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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HAVE YOU HEARD IT?

by David A. Sargent

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, earned a fortune with his concerts and compositions, but he generously gave most of it away. So, when he discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, he wasn't able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, he returned to the seller, hoping to purchase that beautiful instrument. But to his great dismay it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Keenly disappointed, Kreisler was about to leave when he had an idea. "Could I play the instrument once more before it is consigned to silence?" he asked. Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred.

"I have no right to keep that to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

Likewise my dear friends, the Gospel is the "GOOD NEWS" of God to those who would be His people! It is news too good to keep to ourselves!

The message..."Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel [lit. "GOOD NEWS"] which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved **-IF-** you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all ...---Cont'd on page 2

that which I also received: that **CHRIST DIED** for our sins according to the Scriptures and that **HE WAS BURIED**, and that **HE ROSE AGAIN** the third day according to the Scriptures" (**1 Cor 15:1-4**).

WHY is that such GOOD NEWS? Because YOU and I are sinners (**Rom 3:23**), and the wages of sin is DEATH (**Rom 6:23**). But Christ died for our sins (**1 Cor 15:3**) so that we could be forgiven of our sins (**Eph 1:7**) and receive the GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE (**Rom 6:23**) with Him in heaven.

To receive the benefits of Christ's death on the cross, we must: believe in Jesus (**Acts 16:30-31**), repent of our sins (**2 Cor 7:9-10**), confess Jesus before men (**Rom 10:9-10**), and be baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). **Then we must:** CONTINUE to "hold fast" to the Word of God (**1 Cor 15:2**), living in obedience to it, so that the blood of Jesus can CONTINUE to cleanse us from our sin (**1 John 1:7**).

Having heard the GOOD NEWS, have YOU obeyed it?

NOW, will you share it? The Gospel is "GOOD NEWS." We have NO right to keep it to ourselves. Let's take it into ALL the world, and let people hear it, so that they can OBEY it, and be SAVED from their sins. ---**David A. Sargent**

"I Am A Christian"

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and,
I need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say. "I am a Christian" ~

I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed, and
I need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian" ~

I'm not holier than thou,
I'm just a simple sinner,
I received God's grace, somehow!
--*Submitted by Helen Breeding (Antioch)*

A mother was making a batch of scrambled eggs for her teenage son. Suddenly the boy bursts into the kitchen. He screams, "CAREFUL! CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my goodness! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! They're going to stick! Careful! CAREFUL! I said be careful. You NEVER listen to me when you are cooking! NEVER! Turn Them! Are you crazy? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT!"

The mother stared at him, as she said: "What is wrong with you? Do you think I don't know how to cook a couple of eggs?"

The son calmly replied, "I just wanted you to know what it feels like when I'm trying to play baseball."

PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND OF THE MAN FROM GALILEE

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19

A basketball in Kobe Bryant's hands is worth about \$33 million

...It depends whose hands it's in

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.

A baseball in Eric Gagne's hands is worth \$19 million

...It depends whose hands it's in

A tennis racket is useless in my hands!

A tennis racket in Roger Federer's hands is worth a Wimbledon Championship

...It depends whose hands it's in

A rod in my hands may keep away a growling dog.

A rod in Moses' hands parted the mighty Red Sea

...It depends whose hands it's in

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.

A sling shot in David's hand was a mighty weapon.

...It depends whose hands it's in

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands fed thousands

...It depends whose hands it's in

Nails in my hands might produce a bird-house.

Nails in Jesus Christ's hands produced salvation for the entire world

...It depends whose hands it's in

As you can easily see now, it's important whose hands something is in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families and your relationships in God's hands because.....

It surely depends whose hands it's in.

---borrowed & adapted

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Entire Ayers Family

Lucille Erickson

(3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)

Betty Gardner (Loomis)

(Had a mastectomy on Thursday)

Helen Gray

Margaret Holcomb

Chuck House

(In hospital this past week)

Cameron Johnson (in a coma)

Catherine Kay (Escalon)

Jean McCarty

Stan & Therena Mellor

Jeffry Pennant

Kaye Pennant

Irma Rapier

(+ Irma's sister Doris & niece Robin Shockley)

Sven Raven (Still in Sun Bridge)

Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)

Robertson Family

Taylor Romine

Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)

Mike Rude (Missouri)

Bill & Rena Schultz

Geneva Shelton

Shawna Shuck

Ken Sterling

Ola Thornburg

Nancy Valine

Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)

Ellie Williams

Gordon & Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse

Brad Rusk

Aaron Robertson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson

David Lovett

Michael Mendez

Aaron Robertson

Please remember these people when you pray, knowing that *"the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous person availeth much!"*

THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF OUR FAITH

2 Cor 5:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. There are hundreds of religions in our world today; many of them followed after by people who are undoubtedly as sincere in their purposes and faith as we Christians are.
 - 1. So then, what distinguishes the Christian faith from all the others?
- B. In **2 Cor 5** are some traits of Christianity *I believe are different from all other religions!*

I. SAVING FAITH MUST BEGIN WITH A CONFIDENCE THAT IS BASED ON THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD!

- A. Christ's resurrection was absolutely impressive to those in the early church.
 - 1. There was a strong confidence in those first century disciples of His resurrection!
 - 2. It was also an assurance *that Jesus' followers would ALSO be raised from the dead!*
- B. EVEN TODAY, every time another man or woman of faith dies there is STILL, BOTH a verbal testimony as well as a heart-felt assurance to this conviction of FAITH.
 - 1. In sadness we feel the lost companionship, the cessation of our earthly association, as well as utter helplessness in regard to changing the situation!
 - 2. WE SORROW; but not as those who do not have this confidence.

II. AND THIS CONFIDENCE IS SUCH THAT IT GROWS INTO OUR CONVICTION THAT ALSO BEGETS CONVICTION IN OTHERS! 2 Cor 5:11.

- A. By WHAT are we made aware of the Lord's terror?
 - 1. Our faith can't be an arrogant, know-it-all attitude on every subject.
 - 2. Our conviction MUST be one of confident faith!
- B. But we have come to the certainty (*by our faith in the inspired testimony*) that we shall stand before Christ.
 - 1. His laws are still understandable, and they have never been repealed.
 - 2. We'll give an account to God on how we've trusted Him in our obedience.
- C. True followers of God have an assurance that's Bible-based, heart-felt and rational.

III. A CHRISTIAN'S CONVICTION REGARDING RESURRECTION LEADS TO THE UPBUILDING OF GOD'S FAMILY

- A. FOR US, it starts with our conversion to Christ, by the terms of the gospel!
 - 1. Our first experience of an enlivened faith is seen in our obedience to His gospel!
 - 2. The standard for conversion, the norm, is as in verse 17, we're a new creation.
- B. When God's will is done in our lives it is our justification/ our regeneration/ our adoption.
 - 1. The temptation by most religionists today is to judge only by human understanding!
 - 2. Sincere people want to be successful in a Godly relationship, but often yield to human errors of Biblical understanding.

IV. OUR FATHER SENDS FORTH A COMMISSION THAT PROVIDES SALVATION WITHOUT LOSING DIGNITY AND WORTH

- A. Our value is increased by God's love for us by telling and showing us the way of acceptability in the sight of our eternal Father!
 - 1. We are His people ~ we are called to be servants; to be like Him
 - 2. We must have the spirit of obedience that Jesus had when here. Psa 40:8; 143:10

IN SUMMARY:

- A. God grants us confidence, and we are convinced in the service/devotion we give Him.
- B. Faith has a way of growing and developing and getting stronger as we walk along.
- C. FAITH IS VERY SIMPLE: It is either saying "YES" or saying "NO" to Jesus!