

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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May 28th, 2006

The Da Vinci Code:

A MYTH OF CHRISTIAN ORIGINS

Most comments by Dr. Andreas Kostenberger

Has any book/movie ever received so much free, mostly complimentary, attention in the media? Even Matt Lauer of the *Today Show* is visiting the main sites used as setting for the book/movie. This attention is a reflection of the postmodern age in which we live. I think the comment by Dr. Andreas Kostenberger in "The Da Vinci Code: A Myth of Christian Origins" well summarizes the issue.

"The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown is a book about a non-existent code to provide clues to uncover suppressed evidence about a marriage that never took place. But why cover up evidence that does not exist? How does one cover up non-existing evidence? And why cover up evidence about a relationship that never existed in the first place? Such is the "logic" of *The Da Vinci Code*, and the above non sequiturs already make clear that the conspiracy theory underlying the book has holes so large to accommodate much more than the proverbial Mack truck. So, why has this novel been so wildly successful when its plot inventions add up to some "hefty speeding tickets" for its author, as Amy Bernstein aptly noted?

"I think the well-known New Testament scholar Tom Wright has put his finger on the pulse of this issue when he writes that the thesis underlying *The Da Vinci Code* is part of the mainstream liberal American "myth of Christian origins" that is found at elite educational institutions such as Harvard, moderate Southern Baptist churches,

and leading scholarly societies such as the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature alike. According to this "myth of Christian origins," every Christian needs to be informed about issues affecting the faith, and be prepared to provide a defense to those who raise questions concerning our hope (1 Pet 3:15). While we rarely agree with everything that is on one of our linked pages, we believe that you will find much helpful material in the pages below. Become informed and be able to talk intelligently with your associates and neighbors when they speak about *The Da Vinci Code* (book or movie).

VERN'S COMMENTS: It is to this end that I recommend the class to be taught by Gordon Wilson beginning June 6th on "Gnosticism, The 'Other' Gospels, and the Da Vinci Code." The class is scheduled for four weeks. The class will begin this Tuesday at 7 PM at the home of Clay Allen, at the address posted on the bulletin board. Many members of the church (*I hope none of you*) seem to be enamored by such trash that seeks to minimize the veracity of the Bible, and to undermine the faith of the faithful! Anyone interested is welcome to attend the class. Please let Gordon know if you plan to attend, and if you do, please try to attend all four sessions if possible. **1 Thess 5:21**- "**But prove all things, hold fast to that which is good;**"

For those interested, you can find a page of Da Vinci Code Resources furnished by brethren and other Bible believers that might be helpful at: <http://biblicalstudies.info> - and also <http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/>
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If you keep saying things are going to be bad, you stand a good chance of being a prophet!

MOTHERS' MAINTENANCE MANUAL
(A post-Mother's Day "Fix-it" for Mom's)

Many of us take better care of our cars than we do our mothers and yet we only expect our cars to last 5 or 6 years but we expect our mothers to last for a lifetime. Maybe we need a maintenance manual for mothers so we would know how to take care of them at least as well as we do our automobiles. Here are some items that might be included in such a manual.

Engine: A mother's engine is one of the most dependable kinds you can find. She can reach top speed from a prone position at a single cry from a sleeping child. But regular breaks are needed to keep up that peak performance. Mothers need a hot bath and a nap every 100 miles, a baby-sitter and a night out every 1,000 miles, and a live-in baby-sitter with a one week vacation every 10,000 miles.

Battery: Mother's batteries should be recharged regularly. Handmade items, notes, unexpected hugs and kisses, and frequent "I love you's" will do very well! for a recharge.

Carburetor: When a mother's carburetor floods it should be treated immediately with Kleenex and a soft shoulder.

Brakes: See that she uses her brakes to slow down often and come to a full stop occasionally. **(A squeaking sound indicates a need for a rest).**

Fuel: Most mothers can run indefinitely on coffee, leftovers and salads, but an occasional dinner for two at a nice restaurant will really add to her efficiency.

Chassis: Mothers run best when their bodies are properly maintained. Regular exercise should be encouraged and provided for as necessary. A change in hairdo or makeup in spring and fall are also helpful. If you notice the chassis begins to sag, immediately start a program of walking, jogging, swimming, or bike riding. These are most effective when done with fathers.

Tune-ups: Mothers need regular tune-ups. Compliments are both the cheapest and most effective way to keep a mother purring contentedly.

Oh yes, and let's not forget to speak to mother lovingly and respectfully, especially when she reminds you to drive carefully and have a good time.

If these instructions are followed consistently, this fantastic creation and gift from God, whom we call "MOTHER", should last a lifetime and give good service and constant love to those who need her most.

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Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited – until you try to sit in their pews.

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Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

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GOSPEL MEETING IN CARMICHAEL
Speaker: **John Buttrey II**
Dates: **July 30-Aug 4th 2006**
Theme: *"End of Time: Fact or Fiction?"*

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

- Frank & Tina Ayers**
- Robert Erickson**
- Lucille Erickson**
- (3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)
- Betty Gardner** (Loomis)
- Helen Gray**
- Margaret Holcomb**
- Chuck House**
- (heart & cancer)
- Catherine Kay** (Escalon)
- Jean McCarty**
- Jeffry Pennant**
- Kaye Pennant**
- Wendell Rapier**
- Irma Rapier**
- (+ sister Doris)
- Berniece Raven** (needs support)
- Sven Raven** (in Sun Bridge, not too good)
- LA Reagan** (still fighting her war)
- Rosa Reagan** (Bremerton)
- Caleb & Jacob Robertson**
- Taylor Romine**
- Tom & Boots Royston** (Folsom)
- Billie Rush** (Troy's grandmother)
- Bill Schultz** (knee surgery a success)
- Rena Schultz**
- Geneva Shelton**
- Shawna Shuck**
- Virginia Taylor** (Brenda's Mom)
- Ola Thornburg**
- Nancy Valine**
- Donna Williams** (Carol's Sis)
- Ellie Williams**
- Gordon & Glenda Wilson**

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

- Rick Rittenhouse**
- Aaron Robertson**

IN THE MILITARY

- Jason Anderson**
- David Lovett**
- Michael Mendez**
- Aaron Robertson**

ANCIENT ADMONITIONS APPLICABLE IN TODAY'S WORLD

1 Chronicles 28:9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many people do not like to study the Bible ... period! Even much less the Old Testament.
- B. I want you to hear some 3,000 year old admonitions that remain valuable even today.
- C. Let's consider the lessons we can learn from these recommendations from the man who loved God to his son who was to follow him on the throne:

I. "KNOW THE GOD OF YOUR FATHER"

- A. David told Solomon "*know the God of your father.*" To "KNOW" means:
 - 1. To have an understanding of. I know that fire is hot, so I must act accordingly.
 - 2. But the Greeks had more than one word for know.
- B. To really "know" God requires both! 2 Pet 1:3-8
- C. But, many are like the Gentiles described by Paul in Romans:
 - 1. God has made Himself known, but they refused to know Him. Rom 1:19-21
 - 2. ALSO, because of their sinfulness, (vs 28).
 - 3. Today, most men and women are just like those Gentiles!
- D. How do we know if we really "know" God?
 - 1. Must believe two things about God – Heb 11:6.
 - 2. Must keep His commandments – 1 John 2:3-5
- E. Are you living a lie? 1 John 2:4; Titus 1:16
- F. It is possible to live this lie whether you are a Christian or not. In either case you will suffer dire consequences! 2 Thess 1:7-10

II. "SERVE GOD WITH A WHOLE HEART AND WILLING MIND"

- A. Considering the importance of knowing God, it was wise for David to urge Solomon!
- B. Serving God means to give Him our respect and obedience. Prov 9:10; Prov 1:7
- C. How is your service? 2 Cor 13:5; Mk 12:30; Heb 12:28-29

III. REMEMBER, THE LORD SEARCHES ALL HEARTS

- A. We need to realize how the Lord really views us. 1 Sam 16:7
- B. We truly are what we think! Prov 23:7; Matt 15:19-20

IV. IF YOU SEEK HIM, HE WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND HIM

- A. David tells Solomon the only appropriate FOCUS IN LIFE is to "ALWAYS SEEK HIM".
- B. David tells Solomon that "IF" he will seek the Lord, "He will be found by you".
- C. God is not far from any man and can be found if we search! Acts 17:27
- D. Eternal life does not come by accident! It requires a diligence! Heb 11:6

V. BUT ~ IF YOU FORSAKE THE LORD HE WILL CAST YOU OFF FOREVER

- A. THIS IS LAST SPECIFIC warning that David gives his beloved Solomon.
- B. Can you imagine the terror of these words from Jesus at judgment? Matt 7:23; 25:41
- C. The idea of "Forsaking" suggests giving up, renouncing, or leaving.
- D. If we do God's will He will never forsake us! Heb 13:5; Deut 31:6
- E. Seriously ponder the idea of being cast from the Lord forever! Matt 22:13; Rev 20:15

IN SUMMARY:

- A. Do you think David offered his son good advice?
- B. Now really, is "A page of history worth a pound of logic?"
 - 1. Do you know God? Have you considered that GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART?
 - 2. Are you faithfully servng God with your complete being?