

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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June 6th, 2006

HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOU?

(Bible thoughts on the individual importance of every Christian)

by Allan McNabb

During the last few weeks, Andrea and I watched some young folks play organized sports. This got me thinking about an analogy between a sports team and a congregation. In a manner of speaking, a congregation is a team, "a number of persons associated together in work or activity." (Webster's Dictionary)

We Are Members of the Same Body: As Christians, we have been baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3), and we're members of His body (Eph. 5:23). Therefore, we are individually members of one another.

Paul says, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Rom. 12:4-5).

We are Equally Important: The body of Christ is composed of many members, not just one (1 Cor. 12:14). Therefore, each member is equally important and dependant upon one another (1 Cor. 12:15-19).

Paul uses the analogy of the human body. The body is not composed of only one member but many members. Each member needs the other members to function as a body; therefore, each member is equally important (1 Cor. 12:12-26).

As a Result, There is Unity: God created the body of Christ, which is the church (Eph. 1:22-23), so that there is unity (1 Cor. 12:23-25). *Cont'd. on page 2*

Christians bestow more honor upon members the world may deem less honorable, "giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another" (1 Cor 12:24-25) — this results in unity.

In this respect, the church is different from a sports team, where more honor is given to the "best" players. This is especially evident with professional sports teams, where a few members are paid much more than the other team players, often resulting in division of the team.

Christians, "do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil 2:3). They don't merely look out for their own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Phil 2:4).

As a Result, There is Equal Care for Each Member: Since every member is equally important in the church, we equally care for one other.

Paul says, "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor 12:26).

This is one of the tests whereby we can judge ourselves as a congregation.

- Do we equally suffer and rejoice with each member of the congregation?
- Or, do we care for one member more than we care for another member?

Every Function of Every Member is Important: Since every member is equally important, every function

performed within the congregation is equally important.

There is no job within the congregation that is less important or more important than any other job.

No matter what it is, from cleaning bathrooms to teaching Bible class to leading the flock, each job is equally important. No matter our function within the congregation, at the end of the day, our attitude is that we are unworthy slaves (Luke 17:10). We have just done what the Lord would have us to do, nothing more or less.

How Important Are You: You are as important to the congregation as everyone else, not more or less. Therefore, you are as needed as everyone else. Your value to the cause of Christ is incumbent with your abilities, and their use, which is determined by opportunities afforded and the desire on your part to fulfill them.

Without individual people, there wouldn't be a congregation. And without you, the congregation wouldn't be what it is today.

Via ~ BibleStudyGuide.org

THE TIME FOR PREPARATION IS HERE!

GOSPEL MEETING IN CARMICHAEL

It starts only **49 DAYS** from today!

John Buttrey will be preaching

July 30th through August 4th

"End of Time: Fact or Fiction?"

Will you pray for the meeting?

THE ENCOURAGER

IF I REALLY CARED:

Who you are would be more important to me than who I am.

Where you hurt would be more important to me than the fact I'm well.

What you *feel* would be more important than what I *know*.

I'd look you in the eyes when you talk to me;

I'd think about what you are saying rather than what I'm going to say next.

I'd hear your feelings as well as your words.

I'd listen without defending.

I'd hear without deciding whether you are right or wrong.

I'd ask you why and how, not just when and where.

I'd allow you inside me;

I'd tell you my hopes, my dreams, my fears, my hurts;

I'd tell you when I've blown it and when I've made it.

I'd laugh with you, and not at you.

I'd talk with you, and not to you, and

I'd know when it's time to do neither.

I wouldn't climb your walls,

I'd wait until you let me in the gate.

I wouldn't unlock your secrets,

I'd wait until you handed me the key.

I'd leave my solutions at home and put away my scripts; the performances would end.

If I really cared about you, I'd be myself with you

And give you the right To be the same.

DO WE REALLY CARE?

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Frank & Tina Ayers

Bob Curtin (awaiting lab results)

Robert Erickson

Lucille Erickson

(3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)

Betty Gardner (Loomis)

Helen Gray

Margaret Holcomb

Chuck House

Catherine Kay (Escalon)

Jean McCarty

Jeffry Pennant

Kaye Pennant

Wendell Rapier

Irma Rapier

(+ her sister Doris)

Berniece Raven (needs support)

Sven Raven (more procedures needed)

LA Reagan (still fighting her war)

Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)

Seth and Jen Reagan

(arrived safely in Germany)

Caleb & Jacob Robertson

Taylor Romine

Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)

Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)

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

THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

Psa 139:7-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The God who is ETERNAL, and so is not limited by TIME, is also as a part of His Divine nature, OMNIPRESENT, and so is not limited by SPACE! Jer 23:23-24; Psa 139:7-10
- B. HOLDING THAT GOD IS OMNIPRESENT, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING that God's universal presence is known in all of space, all of the time!
 - 1. Please understand specifically, God is not just present IN space; He is, instead, present in every niche of space! He fills all of space completely!
 - 2. Our UNLIMITED GOD in His WHOLE BEING is present at every point in space.
- C. Of course, the most dramatic incident of God entering time and space was the incarnation itself. John 1:14; 1 Tim 3:16
 - 1. EVEN SO, GOD did not cease to be omnipresent! Col 1:17; Heb 1:3
- D. Another example would be the Holy Spirit coming on Pentecost, and the indwelling of every Christian. Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 6:19

I. WE WANT TO START WITH A QUESTION: WHERE IS GOD?

- A. Men's perceptions are as varied as the size of the populace, and most figure Him LESS than a "personal" God!
 - 1. For most people, God is a distant, respected, but relatively impersonal being.
 - 2. Perhaps for some more devout, God may be thought of as someone they go to (or, "try to get next to") when they need help, or solace or salvation!
- B. ALSO, the misappropriated errors of pantheism are NOT manifestations of the omnipresence of God!
- C. It is in this vein that Pantheism fails to distinguish the created from the Creator.
 - 1. The Bible teaches that though God is present EVERYWHERE, He is not resident in EVERYTHING!
 - 2. GOD fills the heavens and the earth, but the things in heavens and earth are NOT GOD!

II. THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD'S "OMNIPRESENCE" NEEDS TO PERSONALLY & POSITIVELY AFFECT EACH ONE OF US!

- A. It's a pertinent point that man thought he could hide from the presence of God! Gen 3:8
 - 1. Ever since then, many people have the idea WE can hide from God!
 - 2. We CANNOT hide from the presence of God! Jer 23:24
- B. Many Israelites thought of Jehovah as their heathen neighbors thought of each of their pagan gods!
- C. We need to have such a relationship with God that we're constantly aware, and able to personally acknowledge, our unique experiences of His ubiquitous nature!
 - 1. FIRST, His omnipresence CONFRONTS us, and we have to face up to it!
 - 2. SECOND, His omnipresence CHALLENGES us!
 - 3. THIRD, and graciously, the omnipresence of God COMFORTS us! Isa 43:1-4

III. THE BENEFITS, OR IMPLICATIONS, OF GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE – ALLOWS US CERTAIN PROVISIONS:

- A. IT'S A BENEFIT: UNBROKEN ACCESS AND COMMUNION: We always have presence with God.
- B. IT'S A BENEFIT: HIS EVER-ABIDING PRESENCE: He is always with us! Heb 13:5-6
- C. IT'S A BENEFIT: CONTINUAL PROTECTION AND COMFORT: for OUR PROFIT, not His!
- D. IT'S A BENEFIT: AN ONGOING AWARENESS OF OUR INADEQUACIES AND GOD'S LOVINGKINDNESS

IN SUMMARY:

- A. Can we even begin to grasp the value of the omnipresence of God?
- B. Some of God's greatest blessings are ours BECAUSE HE IS ALWAYS RIGHT HERE BESIDE US!
- C. A most important question that affects your eternal welfare: *"Just how personally involved do you really want God to be in your life?"*