

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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July 9th, 2006

TAKE HEED HOW YOU HEAR

by Jess Hall, Jr.

I grew up in the "dark ages" when the radio provided home entertainment. With sheet-covered head I chilled to Inter-sanctum's creaking door. With beating heart I rode adventure trails with The Lone Ranger. With vivid imagination I knew each item that tumbled out of Fibber McGee's closet. Sometimes static swallowed the signal just when the Gangbusters were about to bust the gang, and life came crashing down. It made no difference whether the transmitter stopped transmitting or my little receiver stopped receiving; it took both to communicate.

Preaching is like that. Sometimes preachers don't transmit; sometimes hearers don't receive. Jesus addressed the hearer's responsibility in the equation when he proclaimed, "Take heed how ye hear." He urged the hearer to examine the receiver for the static's cause before blaming the transmitter.

Jesus' words are jarring not only because we attach limited importance to hearing, but also because we consider hearing to be morally neutral -- no credit is given for listening; no blame attaches to turning a deaf ear. Whose concern is it if I give no thought to preparing my mind and heart for worship? What difference does it make if I make no effort to control and concentrate my mind when the word is preached? Jesus made it His concern.

---Cont'd on page 2

Immediately prior to Jesus' startling assertion, in the parable of the sower he had explained that the soil's nature – more than either the quality or the sowing of the seed – determined the harvest. The soil's produce flowed from its preparation. *Preparation* to receive the truth is the foundation of all improvement.

What preparation do we make to hear the word? Can we expect to be edified by the proclamation of the word if our hearts' soil is not ready for the sowing? What can we do to prepare our hearts for the worship of God through proclamation of His word?

1. *Prepare to receive the message.* A farmer prepares the soil; an athlete prepares his body; the pianist prepares her concerto. The worshipper, having neither prayed nor studied the word all week, bolts out of breath into the building, plops onto the pew, and is amazed that the service seems "flat." Both body and mind must be prepared for worship; the body by adequate rest; the mind by prayer and study of the word.

1. *Concentrate on the message and not the messenger.* If the preacher, like Paul, lacks eloquence (2 Cor. 2:1), does he preach the word faithfully? If his lessons don't take "fresh" approaches, like Peter, can he not edify by reminding hearers of that which they already know (2 Pet. 2:12,13)?

2. *Be grateful that the word is preached.* Are eloquence and

organization preferable to faithfulness to the word? Paul was able to overlook even evil motives for preaching as long as Christ was preached. **Phil. 1:15-18**

3. *Glorify the word.* When Paul and Barnabas turned from the Jews who had judged themselves unworthy of eternal life to preach to the Gentiles, the Gentiles rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord. **Acts 13:48**. Could it be otherwise? It is the word of life (**John 6:68**) from the Word of Life (**1 John 1:1**). It is able to build us up and to give us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. **Acts 20:32**. It is the power of God unto salvation. **Rom. 1:16**. Does it lose its power because the preacher is not an Apollos? **Acts 18:24**

If a messenger brought us news that we were to receive unimagined wealth, would we reject it because he was not eloquent? Because he was not organized? Because his grammar was poor? Would a starving person refuse bread because it was made from wheat grown in a field with crooked rows? Can we not see the surpassing greatness of the power of God in spite of the earthen vessels? **2 Cor. 4:7**.

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July 30th-Aug 4th 2006
GOSPEL MEETING
John Buttrey II, evangelist
Regular times on Sunday
7:30 PM weeknights
Bring a guest to every service

SPECIAL THOUGHTS:

The great director and producer Cecil B. DeMille was not only a man of great talent but also a man of keen insight. He shared this observation with his friends:

While canoeing on a Maine lake, he noticed a horde of water beetles just below the surface of the water.

One of the water beetles came to the surface and slowly crawled up the side of the canoe. Finally, struggling to the top, the beetle grasped onto the wood and died.

DeMille forgot about the beetle until a few hours later when he noticed the beetle again. In the hot sun, its shell had become very dry and brittle.

As DeMille watched, its shell split open and there emerged a new form, a dragonfly, which took to the air, its magnificent colors illuminated in the sunlight.

The dragonfly flew farther in an instant than the water beetle had crawled in days. Then it circled back and swooped down to the surface of the water.

DeMille noticed its shadow on the water. The water beetles below might have seen it too. But now their erstwhile companion existed in a state far beyond their comprehension.

They were still living in their very small, limited world while their winged cousin had gained for himself all the freedom between earth and sky.

When he told friends about what he had seen, DeMille concluded with this penetrating question: "Would the great Creator of the universe do that for a water beetle and not for a human being?"

---From first IMPRESSIONS, Vol 6.16.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Frank & Tina Ayers
Dorothy Bailey (eye surgery)
Darrell & Kristie Collier
Bob Curtin
Robert Erickson
Lucille Erickson
(3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)
Betty Gardner (Loomis)
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
Jean McCarty
Jeffrey Pennant
Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Berniece Raven
Sven Raven
LaurieAnn Reagan
Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)
Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)
Bill & Rena Schultz
Geneva Shelton
Shawna Shuck
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Maxine Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse
Aaron Robertson
David Lovett

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Michael Mendez
Aaron Robertson

"WE HAVE BEEN BOUGHT AND PAID FOR"

1 Cor 6:9-14; 15-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We can learn valuable lessons from Paul's preaching & trying to destroy sin!
 - 1. Paul cried out in the plainest language: 1 Cor 6:18
 - 2. Peter also joined in on this battle against immorality by writing in 1 Pet 2:11
- B. The SHAME regarding sin is ENGAGING IN IT ~ NOT in *rebuking sinful activities!*
 - 1. Paul lists specific sins that will close the doorway into heaven in our text.
 - 2. Someone has paid the full price for your sins, with no "quibbling" on the value that was placed on your sinfully degraded condition!

I. "YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE" INDICATES A TRANSACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE ~ vs 20 A DEAL HAS BEEN MADE!!!

- A. This statement is denied by today's heretics masking as Neo-orthodox religionists.
 - 1. More specifically, to be PLAIN in speech about it ~ they're better called religious Modernists!
 - 2. And their idea is that such a thought makes it a "mercantile religion" ... but, that's what the scripture says about it: *"you are bought with a price!"*
- B. This is a FACT – it's not a misstatement – every accountable person on earth is either "redeemed by Christ" (and saved), or is "unredeemed" (and condemned)!
 - 1. Our salvation is the GREATEST NEWS about us that'll ever be publicized! John 3:16-17; 1 Tim 2:6; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 5:18

II. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THIS TRANSACTION? "You are NOT YOUR OWN!"

- A. "If bought and paid for, a piece of property no longer belongs to the previous owner!
 - 1. NOW, you are the sheep of a new owner ~ He is called the Good Shepherd. Psa 23
 - 2. You've taken aboard a Pilot; your ship of life is now under His control guidance system.
- B. WE ARE the "property" of Another and have no right to *injure ourselves or our abilities*
 - 1. Our TIME belongs to HIM, we mustn't waste it! Eph 5:16
 - 2. We are to FOLLOW HIM. Eph 5:1; Prov 23:23, 26
- C. Let me ask, are we fully understanding this? We BELONG WHOLLY to Him!
 - 1. We can't be divided by serving two masters! Matt 6:24
 - 2. Be encouraged by the example/ attitude of Paul in Phil 3:13-14
 - 3. Let's get this straight: we belong to the LORD, TOTALLY! 1 Thess 5:23

III. BECAUSE WE BELONG TO GOD ~ WHAT EXPECTATIONS DOES HE HAVE OF US? Vs 20

- A. Give me a little help here ~ WE'RE HIS ... SO, what does He expect?
 - 1. He expects us to Glorify HIM in our life of HOLINESS. 1 Thes 3:13; 2 Cor 7:1
 - 2. He expects us to glorify HIM by *resisting* ungodly thoughts and actions. Tit 2:2
 - 3. He expects us to glorify HIM by our "honesty!" Rom 12:17; 2 Cor 13:7; 1 Pet 2:12.
- B. Regardless of whatever situation may arise in our lives, we must continue to GLORIFY GOD in our Attitudes, and in our Actions, and in our Love!
 - 1. If we must suffer long in the body before we die; Glorify God!
 - 2. If we have to work in difficult places; Glorify God!
 - 3. If those with disobedient hearts are all around you, Glorify God for your prospects!

IN SUMMARY:

- A. Why was so great a price required to BUY US? Why did Jesus PAY such a GREAT PRICE?
- B. Jesus came to redeem ALL MEN from the curse of GOD'S DIVINE LAW!
- C. Have you accepted the purchase price paid for your salvation?