

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

Homepages: webs.lanset.com/carmichael and www.preachersnotes.com

(916) 483-9318

ELDERS / EVANGELISTS

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944
<lareagan@lanset.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com> <vernwil@comcast.net>

DEACONS:

Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Bill Kizer, 745-1043; Carl Romine, 773-4402; Rick Rittenhouse, 728-5077;
Bill Schultz, 543-0206; Brad Shuck, 530-677-9474

July 30th, 2006

"DON'T FENCE ME IN"

by David A. Sargent

Have you ever owned a dog and kept it in your fenced-in backyard for it's own safety? Steve Higginbotham has. He writes: **"We loved our dog, Whitney!** We had a fenced in backyard where she could run and chase birds and squirrels to her heart's content. She was living a dog's life. Pampered, petted, well fed, and loved. However, one day she escaped the confines of our yard, ran into the street, and was killed by a passing truck. It was a sad day for our family." Perhaps you can relate all too well to this experience.

But this article isn't really about a DOG - it's about the purpose of FENCES!

The fence that Steve had in his back yard was NOT an effort to punish or unnecessarily restrict his dog from "enjoying the good things of life." **It was there for protection! It was there for safety!** Placed within the confines of the fence were ALL the things a dog needed for maintenance. The fence wasn't there to torment the dog, but to keep her safe. **Unfortunately, many consider the commands of God to be too restrictive and burdensome.** Because of His commands for righteousness, He is viewed by some as cruel, or a tyrant. Nothing could be further from the truth....

God loves us dearly! In fact, He gave His own Son for us so that we could become His children (see **1 John 3:1; 4:9-10**). Those who place their faith in Jesus (**Heb 11:6**), repent of their sins (**2 Cor 7:9-10**), confess Jesus before men (**Rom 10:9-10**), and are baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**) are welcomed into His family. Yes, God has expectations for His children, but these expectations are ALSO expressions of His love.

God has "fenced us in" by His commandments, not as a punishment, but as protection. There are things out there in the world that will ultimately lead to our hurt and ruin (see **Prov 14:12**). God is not a kill-joy. The rules and regulations He gives us, which restrict our conduct, are given with the intent of protecting us from harm. Within the confines of the Christian lifestyle are ALL the things a person needs to be happy, satisfied, and fulfilled. **But what do we do? We escape! We break through the barrier that GOD BUILT, and eventually we get hurt.** How it must break God's heart to witness his children "break free" from his constraints only to be hurt from the dangers He knew...were just outside his "fence." **How many things we suffer - by DEMANDING and GETTING our OWN way!**

Friends, remember, the commandments of God are not GRIEVOUS,

but GOOD! They are given because God loves you and wants the BEST for you. Be content and satisfy yourself with the good that God provides "**within His fences,**" and TRUST Him when he tells you – **TO NOT go BEYOND His limits.**

---*David A. Sargent*

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SPECIAL THOUGHTS:

A number of years ago young Matthew LeSage, a third-grader, wanted to do something to help the hungry in his city. So he started a program, Hams for the Hungry. In its fourth year, Hams for the Hungry raised \$40,000 to brighten the holiday season for people with limited resources.

Matthew's story reminds me of another young man, 13 years old at the time, who read about Dr. Albert Schweitzer's missionary work in Africa. He wanted to help. He had enough money to buy one bottle of aspirin. He wrote to the Air Force and asked if they could fly over Dr. Schweitzer's hospital and drop the bottle down to him. A radio station broadcast the story about this young fellow's concern for helping others. Others responded as well.

Eventually, he was flown by the government to Schweitzer's hospital along with 4 1/2 tons of medical supplies worth \$400,000 freely given by thousands of people. This, of course, would be the equivalent of millions of dollars today.

When Dr. Schweitzer heard the story, he said, "*I never thought one child could do so much.*"

By King Duncan, "You Feed Them."

DO WE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

A city dweller moved to a farm and bought a cow. Shortly after he did, the cow went dry. When he reported this fact to a neighbor farmer, the farmer expressed surprise.

The city man said he was surprised too. "I can't understand it either, for if ever a person were considerate of an animal, I was of that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I only needed a quart, I only took a quart."

The farmer tried to explain that the only way to keep milk flowing is not to take as little as possible from the cow, but to take as much as possible. Is that not also true of the Christian life? Those who turn to God only when in dire need miss the real joy that flows from a daily infilling of that spiritual relationship.

The preacher of a congregation was sick one Sunday morning, so another preacher was called in for that day.

As the substitute preacher was greeting the congregation he made the statement, "You know, a substitute preacher is like a piece of cardboard in a broken window. He fills the space, but after all, he's not the real glass." He then proceeded with his sermon.

After the service, a lady approached him trying to pay him a compliment by saying, "You weren't really just a replacement after all. You were a real pane."

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Frank & Tina Ayers
Dorothy Bailey (eye surgery)
The Collier's
Bob Curtin
Robert Erickson
Lucille Erickson
Minnie Fox (Washington)
Betty Gardner (Loomis)
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
Alisa Key (Sprained ankle)
Jean McCarty
Jeffry Pennant
Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
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
David Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse
Aaron Robertson
David Lovett

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Michael Mendez
Aaron Robertson

SERMON TOPICS FOR THE MEETING

By John Buttrey II

Let No One Mislead You

2006 Gospel Meeting at Carmichael Church of Christ Discovering the Biblical Truths Regarding Left Behind in End-Time Sensationalism

July 30th Sunday Morning: *Prophets or Profits?*

A look at the "prophecy publishing industry." Covers sensational claims made in various prophecy books, date-setting errors, contradictions, and the need to know the truth about this important subject.

July 30th Sunday Evening: *Learning the Language*

A glossary of terms with definitions is presented, such as: the rapture, pretrib-rapture, post-trib, dispensationalism, premillennialism, amillennialism, preterism, the last days, etc. A hand-out is given to those in attendance with all the terms listed.

July 31st Monday Evening: *The Olivet Discourse (Part One)*

A detailed examination of Matthew 24. This first lesson sets the context for understanding Jesus' words, actually beginning in chapter 23. Some key time texts are presented and explored (Matt. 23:36; 24:34).

August 1st Tuesday Evening: *The Olivet Discourse (Part Two)*

Continuing from the previous lesson, the main focus is on 24:27-36, demonstrating a first-century fulfillment of these verses. Throughout both lessons the Bible's truth is used to refute the errors of dispensationalism, i.e., the rapture, the great tribulation, current events as "signs," etc.

August 2nd Wednesday Evening: *Daniel's Prophecy of Seventy Weeks.*

A look at Daniel 9:24-27. This is a key text in the teaching of dispensationalism. This lesson will *seek* to demonstrate that there is no future 70th week. Fulfillment of this prophecy will be demonstrated in the A.D. 70 destruction of Jerusalem. Two charts will be given to those in attendance: 1). Outlining the dispensational teaching. 2). Outlining how the text is actually fulfilled.

August 3rd Thursday Evening: *The Book of Revelation*

An overview of the book of Revelation. How misunderstanding its time texts has led to much of the end-time sensationalism presented today in books like *Left Behind*. The lesson will seek to make some connections between Matthew 24, Daniel 9, and the Book of Revelation. (There may possibly be a chart for this lesson).

August 4th Friday Evening: *What Really Happens in the End?*

The Bible's true teaching about Christ's Second Coming is presented from texts such as 1 Cor. 15:51-58 and 1 Thess. 4:13-18.