

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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COMMITMENT

by Tom Wacaster

Lafayette, the Frenchman, is remembered in the history books as a bold, courageous individual. During the French Revolution he was dismissed from the army. He tried to escape to America, but was captured and imprisoned in Germany. It is reported that he was offered freedom on the condition that he join the conspiracy against France. Even though he was threatened with long confinement in prison should he refuse to cooperate, Lafayette replied: "Never! I am still Lafayette." History is replete with examples of courage, heroism, and determination on the part of men and women who were willing to give their lives for a cause. The framers of our declaration of independence were men of such character and determination. They knew that if they won the battle for freedom that the best they could expect would be years of hardship in a struggling nation. If they lost, the best they could look forward to was the end of a hangman's rope. But because of commitment and sheer determination for a cause they considered worth more than life itself, they engaged the battle, and won for our nation its desired freedom.

Such commitment is lacking in our society. Rare is the man or woman who can be depended upon to follow through with their promise. For example, a baseball player might make a "commitment" to honor a contract for some specified salary, only to "renegotiate" that contract after one year of service. Marriage ceremonies, in many instances, have removed the phrase "for better or for worse, till death do us part"

HOW WOULD GOD HAVE US BE?

1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
 2. Dear God, I have a problem, it's Me.
 3. Growing old is inevitable .. growing UP is optional.
 4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
 5. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
 6. Do the math-- count your blessings.
 7. Faith is the ability to not panic.
 8. Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.
 9. If you worry, you didn't pray . If you pray, don't worry.
 10. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.
 11. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.
 12. The most important things in your house are the people.
 13. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. *[God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.]*
 14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
 15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
- Have a great day!!! The SON is shining and he can certainly use you!

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Julie Agee
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Marie Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Dorothy Bailey
Bob Curtin
Robert Erickson
Lucille Erickson
Mary Ferguson (Terry's sister)
Minnie Fox (Washington)
Betty Gardner (Loomis)
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
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

EXPECTATIONS & HOPES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Philippians 2:12-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. ALL OF US have to MEET certain expectations as we go through life ~ and I'm referring to the expectations that OTHERS place upon us to fulfill. And, truth-be-told, we probably should *be fulfilling most!*
- B. We must also take into account that God has expectations of His people! This letter was written about some of those expectations.
- C. That church was in danger! Not from enemies without, but from a malady WITHIN.
- D. God EXPECTS OUR life to be like Jesus' life while we're claiming to follow Jesus!

I. THE HOPE & EXPECTATIONS IN OUR WORK AS CHRISTIANS ~ vs 12-13

- A. The Example In Our Work ~vs 12a
 - 1. We're pointed to Jesus, as the prime and perfect example of humility & obedience.
 - 2. If we want a **MODEL**, we need not look past God's Only Begotten Son.
- B. The Exhortation In Our Work ~ vs 12b
 - 1. First, look at the phrase "*your own salvation.*" What a great possession!
 - 2. Salvation became OURS' when we placed our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.
- C. The Enablement Of Our Work ~vs 13. God worked ON US with the gospel, Rom 1:16.
 - 1. Now that we are saved, God works IN US, Eph 3:20-21
 - 2. God reveals His will to us and we follow Him in obedience, Eph 2:10

II. OUR HOPE & EXPECTATIONS IN OUR WALK AS CHRISTIAN'S ~ vs 14-15

- A. GOD'S EXPECTATION FOR US is to Walk In Obedience TO HIM (vs 14)
 - 1. We are to carry out the will of God without "murmuring" and without "disputing".
 - 2. We're to obey the Lord! NO changing His mind or finding a way AROUND doing His will.
 - 3. Very simply put, we're to "trust and obey"! 1 Sam 15:22; Eph 6:6
- B. God also has an EXPECTATION for us To Be OPPOSED to worldly ways! ~vs 15a
 - 1. We are called to be "*blameless*" and "*Harmless*".
 - 2. People should look at us without seeing any hypocrisy or unruliness!
 - 3. The Christian, on the other hand, is to be straight and true at all times!

III. THERE'S HOPE & EXPECTATIONS IN OUR WITNESSING AS CHRISTIANS ~ vs 15b-16

- A. As Witnesses, God expects us To Shine the brilliance of His love to others ~ vs 15b
 - 1. We need to fill our roles as God's lighthouses ~ warning men of the dangers of sin!
 - 2. God expects us to be lighting the way for others. Matt 5:14-16; 2 Cor 3:2
- B. As a Witness, The Christian Is To Share vs 16.-
 - 1. That faith that saved us is to be SHARED WITH OTHERS!
 - 2. If you know God's forgiveness, you MUST BE a beacon for Him. Acts 1:8

IN SUMMARY:

- A. God saved you and me with the expectation that WE WOULD BE ~
 - 1. ~obedient to His voice, and...
 - 2. ~different in our lives, and
 - 3. ~thankful for His grace, and
 - 4. ~active in His work.
- B. How well are we all meeting the expectations of God in: Works, Walks and Witnessing?
- C. What are the expectations regarding OUR religious lives?
 - 1. GOD expects us to uphold & glorify Him and His WAY
 - 2. WE EXPECT GOD to give us opportunities and strength (*physically and spiritually*) to fulfill His expectations.