

# 2006 Proclaimer

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2*

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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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## **What's REALLY Right?**

*by David A. Sargent*

Two men had an argument. To settle the matter, they went to a judge for arbitration. The plaintiff made his case. He was very eloquent and persuasive in his reasoning. When he finished, the judge nodded in approval and said, ***"That's right, that's right."***

On hearing this, the defendant jumped up and said, "Wait a second, judge, you haven't even heard my side of the case yet." So the judge told the defendant to state his case. And he, too, was very persuasive and eloquent. When he finished, the judge said, ***"That's right, that's right."***

When the clerk of court heard this, he jumped up and said, "Judge, they both can't be right." The judge looked at the clerk of court and said, ***"That's right, that's right." \****

**So, what IS right?** Another way of stating the question is: **"What is TRUTH?"**

**Many in the world espouse "ethical relativism":** "Whatever is true for you is true for you and whatever is true for me is true for me. But no one should force his or her views on other people since.... **everything is relative.**"

**In stark contrast with this mindset stands the inspired Word of God:** *"ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for*

*correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17).*

**What is right? What is truth? God's Word is THE truth (John 17:17).**

**The TRUTH is...** *"the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" – Jeremiah 10:23. There is **A** way that SEEMS right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Prov 14:12). But God has revealed the way for us through His Word, a "lamp" to our feet and a light to our path (Psa 119:105).*

**The TRUTH is... man has a sin problem.** "For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). And, if not resolved, our sins will condemn us eternally (Rom 6:23).

**The TRUTH is..."For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

**The TRUTH is... Jesus is THE way, THE truth, and THE life,** and NO ONE comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

**The TRUTH is... one must:** believe in Him (Acts 16:30-31), repent of sin (Acts 17:30-31), confess Christ before men (Rom 10:9-10), and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).

**The TRUTH is... one must: CONTINUE to walk in the light of His**

**Word** in order for his sins to be continually cleansed (1 John 1:7).

**The TRUTH is... KNOWING the truth will NOT save us (Matt 7:21-27 and James 1:22) - unless we OBEY it!**

---David A. Sargent

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### **THERE ARE RULES FOR GETTING TO WHERE WE WANT TO GO!**

Richard Conniff reported in National Geographic that adventurer Steve Fossett climbed into the cock-pit of a hot-air balloon in St. Louis, Missouri, a few years ago, and rose into the sky with the ambition of being the first to circle the globe in a balloon. After three days he had crossed the Atlantic and was flying at 24,500 feet eastward over Africa.

The prevailing wind carried him on a direct course for the country of Libya, and that was a problem. Libya had refused him permission to fly in its air space, which meant he could be shot down. Of course, hot-air balloons cannot turn. When a change of direction is called for, what they must do is change altitude. At a higher or lower altitude a balloonist can usually find a crosswind blowing in a different direction.

Fossett vented helium, and the balloon dropped 6,300 feet, where it came under the control

of a wind blowing southeast. Fossett skirted safely south of Libya, then heated, the balloon rose almost 10,000 feet and caught an easterly wind, which carried him back on course.

Although Fossett got only as far as India, he set dual records for the longest distance and duration in balloon flight.

Bertrand Piccard, another man seeking to sail around the world in a balloon, sees a similarity between balloon flight and daily life. "In the balloon," says Piccard, "you are prisoners of the wind, and you go only in the direction of the wind. In life people think they are prisoners of circumstance. But in the balloon, as in life, you can change altitude, and when you change altitude, you change direction. You are not a prisoner anymore." **Remember, a person changes altitude by changing attitude.**

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**Forbidden fruits create many jams.**

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**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

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**God grades on the cross, not the curve.**

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**We don't change the message, the message changes us.**

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**God loves us all, but prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"**

## THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Julie Agee (she's better!!)  
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Jamie Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
Robert Erickson  
Lucille Erickson  
Helen Gray  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
Catherine Kay (Escalon)  
Jerica Lovett  
Jean McCarty  
Jeffry & Kaye Pennant  
Wendell Rapier  
Berniece Raven  
Sven Raven  
LaurieAnn Reagan  
Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)  
Liz Roadman  
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

# **"HIM DECLARE I UNTO YOU!"**

**Acts 17:16-31**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Athens was the most noted city of Greece, founded by Cecrops several hundred years before Christ, and was named for Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom.
- B. Athens was the home of the Parthenon, the Acropolis, the Lyceum where Aristotle taught, the academy where Plato taught, and the Aeropagus.
- C. Athens was noted as "the seat of world philosophy" because it was where men gathered and talked about anything NEW!
  - 1. There was a variety of different idols (gods) that lined their roadways.
  - 2. Petronius had said it was easier to find a statue than it to find a man.
- D. The foundation truth undergirding the message of the apostle Paul in the text is a simple proclamation: **THE GOD OF HEAVEN IS NOT AN IDOL!**

## **I. THE ARGUMENT FROM CAUSE AND EFFECT. Vs 24**

- A. THE FACT that the world exists demands that there was a "world-maker"! Rom 1:20
  - 1. Thus the creation of the world and the things within it bear testimony to the FACT of GOD, the Creator.
  - 2. Psa 19:1; Heb 11:3
- B. It is both LOGICAL as well as REASONABLE to believe in God!
  - 1. SOMETHING has always existed, either GOD or MATTER.
  - 2. The consistent orderliness of the universe demands the existence of God!

## **II. MAN, A PRODUCT OF GOD, DEMANDS AND VERIFIES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD. Vs 25; Psa 139:14**

- A. Hands: flexible, useable: paint/ play violin/ operate/ etc.
- B. Eyes: see both far and near; tell colors and appreciate designs.
- C. Bodies can resist or overcome injuries and illnesses.
- D. Can it really be reasonable to suppose that out of a whirlwind all the elements that make up the human body just came together – and here we are? Acts 17:28

## **III. THE BIBLE ~ THE INERRANT WORD OF GOD ~ SUBSTANTIATES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

- A. In 1806, in France, 80 theses presented giving reasons why Bible wasn't inspired.
  - 1. All 80 of them, since their presentation, have been proven false.
  - 2. They WEREN'T TRUE TO START WITH, and they certainly aren't true today.
- B. Genesis 15:5
  - 1. God told Abram he wouldn't be able to number the stars he could see in the heavens.
  - 2. Ptolemy said there were 1,022 stars. In 20<sup>th</sup> century the number was 400 million; now, we believe they're innumerable!
  - 3. Acts 17:26; Jeremiah 10:10

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. BELIEF IN GOD carries with it concurrent responsibilities:
  - 1. If God exists, then WE exist by His Divine Desire.
  - 2. If we exist by His Desire, then we have the responsibility to fulfilling His wishes in our allegiances and actions
- B. John 12:48-49
- C. So, WHAT DID JESUS SAY FOR MAN TO DO? Mark 16:15-16  
**Believe ~ Repent ~ Confess ~ Be Baptized ~ Be Faithful**