

# 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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September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## **A HEROIC SACRIFICE**

*by David A. Sargent*

One of the worst snowstorms to hit Washington, D.C. in decades buffeted the city on January 13, 1982. A considerable accumulation of snow brought automobile traffic to a halt, including a giant traffic jam on the **Arland D. Williams Jr. Memorial Bridge** complex. This bridge spans the Potomac River and connects the District of Columbia to Arlington County, Virginia.

The moderate to heavy snowfall temporarily closed the Washington National Airport, three-quarters of a mile away. Among the affected aircraft was a Boeing 737-222 bound for Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This was Air Florida Flight 90, comprised of 74 passengers including three infants and a crew of 5. About an hour and forty-five minutes after the scheduled departure time the plane took off from runway 36 at 3:59 p.m. The two-engine blue and green jetliner headed north and made a shallow left turn. The path of Air Florida Flight 90 presumed a 700-foot clearance over the bridge.

However, at 4:01 p.m., a mere two minutes after leaving the runway, and unable to stay aloft, with nose raised and tail down, the ill-fated 737 crashed into the bridge. The aircraft struck seven occupied vehicles, shearing the roof from one automobile and crushing four other cars. It also ripped out 180 feet of railing before plunging between the bridge spans, through the ice to the bottom of the river, 30 feet deep. The plane vanished except for the tail section, which had separated from the body of

the aircraft and floated. In an instant, four motorists were injured, four motorists were killed and all but six people on the plane were dead. Five passengers and one flight attendant climbed from beneath the icy waters on to the wreckage of the tail section.

Rescue was dependent on the gallant efforts of the crew of a National Park Service helicopter. They lowered a line with a ring on it to a balding man in his 50's with a mustache. Instead of seizing the lifeline for himself, he passed it to another survivor. This he did when the helicopter returned four more times. However, when the helicopter made its sixth trip to the wreckage, **Arland D. Williams, Jr.** was gone! He perished beneath the icy waters with the balance of passengers and crew at the bottom of the Potomac River, there at the base of the former "14th Street Bridge" - which today bears his name.\*

**Mr. Williams died so that *strangers* could live!**

**Another Man, approximately 2,000 years ago, gave His life so that *strangers – including YOU and ME* – could live. That sacrificing man was ---JESUS CHRIST.**

*"For when WE were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).*

**Life through Christ is available to those who: BELIEVE in Him (Acts 16:30-31), REPENT of sin (2 Cor**

**7:9-10), CONFESS Jesus before Him (Rom 10:9-10), and are BAPTIZED (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Having been BORN again, we are then to LIVE for Him (2 Corinthians 5:15).**

**Jesus DIED so that we might LIVE – a truly heroic Sacrifice!**

**In response to what He has done for you, will YOU not DIE to sin, be BURIED with Him in baptism, and RISE again to LIVE for Him?**

---David A. Sargent

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## Why Baptism?

By Keith Greer

- My Lord said it would save me. (Mark 16:16)
- The apostle Paul told me it is the only way to "put on" Christ. (Galatians 3:27)
- Jesus told Nicodemus that the one who would be in God's kingdom must be "born again." (John 3:1-5)
- It washes my sins away. (Acts 22:16)
- When the Jews asked "what must we do," Peter told them to repent and be baptized. (Acts 2:38)
- I want to rejoice as the Ethiopian eunuch did after his baptism.
- It is where spiritual circumcision (cutting away sin) occurs. (Colossians 2:11-13)
- The Apostle Peter told me it was a "like figure" that now saves us. (1 Peter 3:21)
- It is the only way to become a "new creature" in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- It is the only place I can contact Christ's death (His blood). (Romans 6:1-6)
- The book that teaches faith, repentance, and confession also tells me to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19)

Why is it that the plainest subject in the Bible seems to be the most difficult to accept. As a preacher, I've discussed the subject many times. One of the most common statements of people who believe it is not necessary is "I don't see how water changes my condition before God -- that would make it water salvation." The problem is that men try to use human reasoning and logic to understand what God requires. It is not the water that saves us; it is our obedience to His command. Mankind tries to see in baptism something that God never placed there. It reminds me of the story of Naaman. Do you remember what his servant said when Naaman refused to go to the river Jordan and dip seven times? *"My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, wash and be clean"* (2 Kings 5:13). The servant gave his master excellent advice, and thankfully, he took it.

Why not just trust God on this one? Since every converted person in Acts was baptized, Jesus was baptized *"to fulfill all righteousness,"* and the Bible tells us baptism is the only way to contact Christ's blood, let's just do what He told us to do! God has never led me to do the wrong thing.

<http://www.knollwoodchurch.org>

## **SPEAKER AT 5:00 P.M. TODAY**

### **Caleb Grimes**

#### **From Mack Road Congregation**

will be preaching for us at our evening service at 5:00 PM. He's currently working with Mike Mendez in furthering his desire to be a full time preacher. It's not just to be an encouragement to him we desire your attendance ~ Caleb is a quality young with valiant aspirations to serve the Lord as diligently as he can, and he's made great progress. You won't be disappointed in being here.

## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Logan & Julie Agee  
 Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)  
 Frank & Tina Ayers  
 Jamie Ayers  
 Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
 Karen Daly's dad (in Redding)  
 Robert Erickson  
 Lucille Erickson  
 Helen Gray  
 Margaret Holcomb  
 Chuck House  
 Catherine Kay (Escalon)  
 David & Jerica Lovett  
 Jean McCarty  
 Jeffry & Kaye Pennant  
 Wendell Rapier  
 Sven & Berniece Raven  
 LaurieAnn Reagan  
 Rosa Reagan (Bremerton)  
 Andy & Liz Roadman  
 Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
 Taylor Romine  
 Tom & Boots Royston (Folsom)  
 Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)  
 Bill & Rena Schultz  
 Geneva Shelton  
 Shawna Shuck  
 Connie Taylor  
 Ola Thornburg  
 Nancy Valine  
 Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)  
 Barbara & Semaj Williams  
 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

# **WHY DOES GOD DEMAND OBEDIENCE?**

**Ecc1 12:13**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Certainly, no astute Bible student would deny that the God in Heaven demands obedience of those who would be His people!
  - 1. There are too many plain passages of scripture that affirm this fact for any of us to successfully deny it!
  - 2. So the problem is NOT that we don't know of God's commandments for us, but that we just don't care what He demands, OR, ~ we feel like He's not including US in those demands!
- B. Though the Bible is PLAIN on the subject of obedience, many still remain in sinful and worldly lives. Rom 10:16-18
- C. MANY TODAY, it seems, rebel at obeying God's commandments because of a misunderstanding of God's purposes behind them.
  - 1. This lesson is to rehearse the answers to, WHY DOES GOD DEMAND OBEDIENCE OF THOSE WHO WOULD GO TO HEAVEN?
  - 2. When we understand why God wants obedience, perhaps our rebellion against Him will melt away.

## **I. FIRST ~ PLEASE CONSIDER GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF MAN ~ AND REALIZE GOD ALWAYS DESIRES THAT WHICH IS BEST FOR ATTAINING OUR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING.**

- A. God KNOWS man, because HE CREATED MAN! Genesis 1:27; Psalms 8:4-6
- B. God knows all of our needs, and provides legitimacy for obtaining them. John 2:24-25

## **II. SECOND ~ BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT OUR EFFORTS WILL PRODUCE**

- A. Proper obedience by US to the will of God will result in blessings to others, as well as bringing a blessing to ourselves! Eph 6:2-3
- B. When we comply with God's Will it will make us more spiritual!
  - 1. It will help us maintain proper objectivity toward God and men.
  - 2. It will help keep us focused on those things that will edify us as children of God!
  - 3. It will help us be more productive in keeping with our abilities.
  - 4. It will aid us in honoring our Creator to His glory and to our own spiritual growth.
- C. BUT, if we DISOBEY God it will bring evil into our lives! Deut 28:63

## **III. THIS "GOOD FOR MAN" REASON IS CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED IN GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.**

- A. God commands us to GIVE to Him as we have been prospered – for our own GOOD!
  - 1. There is an O.T. example and admonition about this in Mal 3:10
  - 2. N.T. examples and commands are an encouragement for OUR adherence, as in Acts 20:35; 2 Cor 9:6, 8, 10; Matt 6:33;
- B. God commands us to STUDY and LEARN His Word – for our own GOOD!
- C. God commands us to REGULARLY ASSEMBLE WITH HIS SAINTS – for our own GOOD!

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. Please understand, this lesson is not meant to detract from the POWER of God, nor to suggest that God is "unjust" for Him to DEMAND our obedience to His will.
- B. But God, by His Divine revelation, reveals that obedience is required for our own good – and for our eternal spiritual welfare.
- C. OBEDIENCE prepares God's people for a dwelling place on that heavenly shore – that's prepared by a loving God for those who love Him.