

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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November 19th, 2006

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM ME?

by Ed A. Brouillette

Sometimes this question is asked after an individual has suffered a tragedy in life and is about to mistakenly blame God for what has been his own doing (or, neglect). Other times it is asked sincerely as one is searching God's Word for direction in life and the hope it offers for the life hereafter. People have always needed to know what God wants from them.

God has revealed what He wants and expects from each of us. However, too often people have attempted life on their own terms. What "God wants" gets lost in the darkness of human wisdom and striving. Let us look at His Word and let Him tell us what He wants of us and then adjust our lives to His wants.

God wants our attention. In **Deuteronomy 8:11** the children of Israel were warned, "*Beware lest you forget Jehovah thy God...*" This is done by not obeying His laws. We are further told in the context that this usually happens after God has richly blessed us materially. Has it occurred to you that we are, perhaps, the most affluent nation on earth, and our living standard is much higher than most other nations? Yet – it seems to me – we are among the most materialistic people and are satisfied to give God the scraps of our lives. Perhaps we need to wake up and ask, "What does God want?"

We need to listen to God. *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* God gave us His Word by inspired writers, yet how often can it be said of us, *"making void the Word of God by your traditions..."* (Mark 7:13) Too many have stopped listening and attempt to justify their practice by tradition. They, also, need to ask, **"What does God want?"**

God wants a life of commitment. He does not desire an on-again-off-again kind of relationship. A sort of warm (nominal) relationship is not what He wants. He wants all of you. **(Rev 3:16).** He wants our service in His cause. He want the practice, the manner of life to conform to His pattern, His will. He wants unswerving commitment. **Galatians 2:20** – *"I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live but Christ liveth in me, and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me."* "30"
---via *Indio Informer*

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For your contemplation

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation is banging on the front door constantly!

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Don't gripe about different people in the congregation ~ if they were all perfect, you couldn't belong.

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Some minds are like concrete ~ thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

DO YOU BELIEVE GOD EXISTS?

This is one of the best explanations of why God allows pain and suffering that I have seen. It's an explanation other people will understand:

A lady went to a beauty shop to have her hair cut and her nails painted and trimmed.

As the lady began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the beautician said : "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked Sheryl who has MS. "Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

Then Sheryl thought for a moment, but didn't respond because she didn't want to start an argument. The beautician just finished her job and the customer left the shop. Just after she left the beauty shop, she saw a woman in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and not groomed at all. She looked dirty and unkempt.

Then Sheryl turned back and entered the beauty shop again and she said to

the beautician: "You know what?
Beauticians do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the
surprised beautician. "I am here, and
I am a beautician. And I just worked
on you!"

"No!" Sheryl exclaimed. "Beauticians
don't exist because if they did, there
would be no people with dirty long
hair and be very unkempt, like that
woman outside."

"Ah, but beauticians DO exist! What
happens is, people do not come to
me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed Sheryl. "That 's
the point! God, too, DOES exist!
What happens, is, people don't go to
Him and do not look for Him. That's
why there's so much pain and
suffering in the world." ??

"IT'S THE TRUTH!"

**In proportion to its size, the
tongue is the strongest muscle in
the body.** [And most apt to get you into
trouble!]

**Apples are more efficient than
caffeine at waking a person up in
the morning.**

**The average person will spend two
weeks of their life waiting for the
traffic light to change.**

**The average American will sleep a
total of 24 years.** [Some, perhaps, in
church services!]

**During your lifetime, you will eat
about 60,000 pounds of food.**

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
Doris Allsup (Irma's sister)
Jason & Marie Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Juanita Dickson
Robert Erickson
Jon Fox (Kirk's dad)
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Catherine Kay (Escalon)
Fern Key (Brentwood)
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)
Ray Rude (heart attack)
Billie Rush (Troy's grandmother)
Oliver & Terry Sasse
Rena Schultz
Geneva Shelton
Shawna Shuck
Ernie & Freda Sprinkel
Connie Taylor
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Donna Williams (Carol's Sis)
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

BALM IN GILEAD

Jer 8:21-22

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The people of Judah were in sin. Cf. **vss 5, 11, 17.**
- B. Josiah began his work of reforming the relationship of his people to God!
 - 1. As the temple was being repaired, he'd found the Book of the Law of the Lord.
 - 2. He then set his heart for getting his people back to serving the Lord.
- C. Jeremiah received the word of the Lord in the 13th year of Josiah's reign.
 - 1. Judah again goes off into idolatry under Jehoiakim, **son of Josiah.**
 - 2. Jehoiakim was put into chains by Necho, king of Egypt.
 - 3. Hence, we have the lamenting of the prophet in our text.

I. THE NATURE OF THE MALADY OF JUDAH.

- A. Disease can lie concealed in our blood before any visible manifestations!
 - 1. Often, by the time it shows any perceptible signs it is no longer curable!
 - 2. The **same is true of sins**; the **thots, desires, intentions, actions!**
- B. By the time many diseases are perceived, they've also become contagious.
 - 1. The plague of London (1665-1666) started with one, but killed 75,000!
 - 2. **Sin came to the total human population! Rom 5:12; 1 Cor 15:33; Eccl 9:18.**
- C. A fatal end is when a diseased victim dies – physical or spiritual! **Rom 6:23; Jas 1:14f**

II. THE MEANS OF CURE THAT HAS BEEN AVAILABLE TO GOD'S PEOPLE

- A. BALM OF GILEAD.
 - 1. Gum that exuded from the bark of a tree with medicinal properties.
 - 2. WE UNDERSTAND that a remedy must be **equal to** the disease, to cure!
- B. There're many proclaimed "cure-alls/panaceas" even in this age of medicine.
- C. The Balm of Gilead had many adherents that attested to its effectiveness!
 - 1. It is proclaimed to have cured a wound on Alexander the Great.
 - 2. Pompey and Titus are said to have taken it back to Rome with them.
- D. We have a proven and guaranteed cure for sin-sick souls! **Rom 1:16; 1 Pet 1:22-25**
 - 1. The Lord offers the **ONLY INFALLIBLE REMEDY** ~ so why are so many still unsaved?
 - 2. We're **are not healed**, because we haven't used that "Balm of Gilead!"

III. WHY WAS THEIR HEALTH NOT RECOVERED?

- A. The SAME THINGS THAT AFFECTED THE JEWS THEN, are affecting sinners in our time!
 - 1. Many know about SIN, but FEW will ever admit to PERSONAL CORRUPTION!
 - 2. Many feel no occasion for alarm, being truly, "at ease in Zion"! **Amos 6:1**
 - 3. A procrastinating attitude doesn't realize that **"Death waits not on our convenience!"**
- B. The necessity of self-examination has been recognized by many notables:
 - 1. The **Pythagoreans** once a day asked this question: **"What have I done this day?"**
 - 2. **Sextus** asked of his own heart, **"What evil hast thou this day amended?"**
 - 3. Thales, Milesian philosopher proclaimed: **"KNOW THYSELF!"**
- C. Soon after realizing spiritual needs, the opportunity often **rapidly disappears!** **Jer 8:20**
 - 1. There is an old saying that, "The mill can't grind with the water that is lost!"
 - 2. We must REDEEM THE TIME if we're going to be saved! **Col 4:2-6- Eph 5:15-17**

IN SUMMARY:

- A. The Jews needed the Balm of Gilead – and that's what's needed to heal us! **Isa 53:5**
- B. The BLOOD OF CHRIST can heal a sinner from his disease of sin. **1 John 1:7; "Rev 7:14**
- C. IF YOU ARE A SINNER ~ wouldn't you really want to be doing God's will?
- D. The GOSPEL OF SALVATION can guide you right into the arms of Jesus, The Savior.