

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

December 31st, 2006

"JUST AS I AM"

--from Wayne Walker

Isaiah 55:1- *"Ho, ever one that thirsteth come...without money and without price"*

A hymn which indicates a desire to come to the Lord is "Just As I Am" (#924 in our songbook). The text was written by Charlotte Elliot (1789-1871). Born in the London, England, suburb of Clapham, she was the daughter of an Anglican minister and became a writer of humorous verse. But at the age of 30 she was attacked by a serious illness which left her an invalid. At first bitter, she later improved in outlook and decided to devote her life to humanitarian interests. In 1834 her brother, with whom she lived, organized a bazaar to raise funds for a girls' school, and everyone in the family helped except Charlotte, who was too weak. Lying awake that night in great pain and feeling useless, she reached for pen and paper to write these words, intending to sell the poem to make a small contribution for the benefit of the school.

However, her sister-in-law, returning home late from the bazaar, found the paper and without Charlotte's knowledge sent it to a publisher who printed it anonymously on a leaflet in 1835. Later that year, when the family doctor came around for a visit, he gave Charlotte a new leaflet which he had purchased to cheer shut-ins. Charlotte immediately recognized her own words, and, in fact, the sale of the leaflet made far more money for the school than did the bazaar. The next year, she went on to publish a whole book of verses called "The Invalid's Handbook," which contained a number of her poems, including this one. The tune (Woodworth) was composed by a well-known American hymn-tune composer of the 19th century, William Batchelder

Bradbury (1816-1868). It first appeared in his 1849 collection, the "Third Book of Psalmody." This song speaks of the submission which we must have as we come to God for salvation.

I. Stanza #1 indicates that we must come to Christ

- A. "Without one plea" simply means that we have no inherent righteousness of our own upon which to plead our case for God's favor: **Titus 3:5**
- B. Rather, our only plea is that Christ's "blood was shed for" us: **Rom 5:8**
- C. Therefore, to be saved we must come to Christ, & He has promised that those who come to Him He will by no means cast out: **John 6:37**

II. Stanza 2 reminds us that the price for our sins has already been paid

- A. Therefore, because the price has been paid, we should not wait but come now: **2 Cor 6:2**
- B. And the reason that we need to come is to rid our souls of the dark spots that sin has caused on our souls: **2 Pet 3:14**
- C. Of course, the price that has been paid to accomplish this the blood of Jesus: **Matt 26:28**

III. Stanza 3 expresses the penitent feelings that must motivate us to come to Christ

- A. All of us are tossed about from time to time with conflicts and doubts in our souls: **Gal 5:17**
- B. But the fightings and fears within and without can and should lead us to genuine repentance: **2 Cor 7:10**
- C. Such were the feelings of David after confessing his sin to God: **Psa 51:1-2**

IV. Stanza 4 referst to the fact that we must truly believe in order to come to Christ

- A. Jesus has promised that He will receive us because He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: **John 1:29**
- B. And the reason that He came to welcome, pardon, cleanse, and relieve is because of the love of God: **John 3:16**
- C. Therefore, we must believe, and Christ has said that those who thus believe in Him will be provided for: **John 6:35**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Charlotte Elliot is regarded by many as the greatest English hymn writer of her day, and perhaps the greatest woman hymn writer of all England.
- B. To help her overcome her early bitterness after the loss of her health, a preacher friend told her to find Christ, and when she replied that she did not know how, said, "Come to Him just as you are."
- C. She replied, "I would come to God just as I am."
 - 1. Of course, coming to God just as we are does not mean that there are not any changes to make or that we can go on living as we used to.
 - 2. It means simply that we make the decision, wherever we are and whatever we are doing. to turn from all sin and obey God's will, letting Him mold and make us into whatever He wants us to be.
 - 3. And in coming to Christ, we also need to have the same attitude of faith and submissiveness that Miss Elliot evidently had when she wrote, "Just As I Am."

Wayne S. Walker ~ Dayton, OH

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
Jason & Marie Anderson
Allison Autrand
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
(He's in Mission Carmichael Conv.)
Robert Erickson
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
David & Jerica Lovett
Jean McCarty
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
Berniece Raven
Glenn Reagan
(Knee surgery Tuesday)
LaurieAnn Reagan
Andy & Liz Roadman
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Rena Schultz
Brad Shuck
Shawna Shuck
Ambrose & Virginia Taylor
(Brenda Bryant's parents)
Connie Taylor
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Bill & Sue Westphal
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Maxine Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Rick Rittenhouse
Aaron Robertson
David Lovett

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson

L O V E

His death on the cross of Calvary was the climax of His humiliation. His work as a redeemer is beyond finite conception. Only those who have died to self, whose lives are hid with Christ in God, can have any conception of the completeness of the offering the Father made to save this errant race.

Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another, these are the two great arms upon which hang all the law and the prophets. . . . The evidence of our love for Christ is the manifestation of love for one another. Unselfish love for those around us is placed among the brightest evidences of true religion. -- This Day With God, p. 287.

A Preacher's Wife...

"They say" that a preacher's wife is his number one critic.

An example of this comes one Sunday morning after the preacher had just finished his sermon.

He went to the back with his wife and she asked him how he thought the church service went.

The preacher shrugged and said, "The worship was excellent, and I think the prayer and communion times went quite well, but," he continued, "I just don't think the sermon ever got off the ground."

The wife looked over at him, and before she could stop herself, she said, "Well, it sure did taxi long enough!"

Ooops!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS!

1 Cor 10:31; Gal 5:15-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Most Americans work under authority that's controlled by others!
 - 1. Technical jobs require the expertise of qualified people!
 - 2. A company can't operate efficiently if positions are not filled with qualified people!
- B. We DO need factory workers, but also need those who **"want to be my own boss!"**
 - 1. God wants all of us to be **BOSS** of our own destiny ~ determining our own actions!
 - 2. **SO, HOW CAN WE BE OUR OWN BOSSES?** First, by being ~

I. DISCIPLINED IN OUR DEEDS

- A. The word of God says in **1 Cor 10:31** *"do all to the glory of God."*
 - 1. Who **SETS THE STANDARD** and WHO DETERMINES IF we **MEET THAT STANDARD?**
 - 2. God doesn't want us to be **CONTROLLED BY SIN and Satan,**
 - 3. He DOES want **US to be in control of our OWN LIVES,** under guidance of His love.
- B. SO, what's the big problem about this?
 - 1. **The devil** keeps **MANY PEOPLE** from being the boss of their own lives.
 - 2. Satan CANNOT SEDUCE US INTO SIN unless we YIELD to His TEMPTATIONS!!
- C. SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THIS PICTURE?
 - 1. The problem is that not all are equipped to be a BOSS.
 - 2. Employees are like human robots. The employer "hits a button" and we're to respond!
- D. Do we not understand that God could have made a bunch of robots just like that ~ and our SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST wouldn't have had to die on the cross for ROBOTS?
 - 1. GET THIS POINT: when we're "boss" no one else is there to push the buttons for us!
 - 2. When we are our own BOSS, we HAVE TO LIVE A DISCIPLINED and FOCUSED LIFE!
- E. WE have the control and the responsibility of **OUR OWN ACTIONS** and **DESTINY!**
 - 1. WE CAN BE OUR OWN BOSS! But it requires much discipline to live **SENSIBLY.**
 - 2. Discipline is what says, "I won't do anything that's not pleasing to God!"
- F. Paul was HIS OWN BOSS, and he knew the importance of self-discipline. **1 Cor. 9:24-27,**
 - 1. If we're going to be OUR OWN BOSS and successful in our serving God, **it's essential!**
 - 2. SELF-DISCIPLINE, specifically, is fulfilling the things we want to accomplish!
- G. We have to be the BOSS OF OUR LIVES and discipline ourselves to do right things.

II. WE MUST BE DISCIPLINED IN OUR DOUBTS

- A. How can people read something in the paper & believe it, but doubt God in the Bible?
 - 1. God wants us to learn to be disciplined when it comes to HIS WORD!
 - 2. Our faith should be so disciplined that our conviction is: "If God said it, that settles it!"
- B. WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO HAVE A DISCIPLINED FAITH?
 - 1. Because when God reveals His Truth, He wants THAT TO SETTLE spiritual issues!
 - 2. MANY have struggled with doubts regarding FAITH and CONSISTENCY in obedience!
- C. WHY DO WE HAVE DOUBTS? And, why did THOMAS have doubts? There were two things:
 - 1. FIRST, He is asked to believe something that he didn't understand.
 - 2. SECOND, He is asked to believe something he received "second-hand"!
- D. But what allows us to believe things we haven't seen?
 - 1. It is because we believe that this Bible is the inspired word of God, & that settles it!
 - 2. We've all had some bouts with doubts, haven't we?

III. DISCIPLINED IN OUR DESIRES Gal 5:16-17,

- A. Scripture says we have a nature that seeks to satisfy, or please, ourselves.
- B. Some people have no power to control **evil desires** when they cross their mind.

IN SUMMARY:

- A. God wants us to be the Boss of our Life, so we have to fulfill these disciplines:
 - 1. BOSS OF OUR LIFE IN OUR DEEDS
 - 2. BOSS OF OUR LIFE REGARDING OUR DOUBTS
 - 3. BOSS OF OUR LIFE REGARDING OUR DESIRES
- B. We take care of doing the first deeds when we render obedience to the Gospel of Christ:
- C. The ONLY THING that removes DOUBTS about God's truths is an INCREASED FAITH!
- D. Our DESIRES must definitely be under our DISCIPLINE! **1 Cor 10:6-10**