

2007 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.
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Good Days and Bad Days

by Dee Bowman

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven"
(Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Life's like that. Just about the time you think you have it all figured out, some new adventure disrupts your confidence and flies in the face of your conclusions. Nobody has life figured out.

I wrote in my journal recently: "I don't suppose it's possible to have any length of time where you are right with the world. I had 15 minutes one day where it just seemed everything was just right. Then the phone rang. Pfsst!. Right out the window. But then I've had times when everything was all messed up, tangled, distorted, and disheveled. And right in the middle of my pity party the mail comes and there's a nice note -- unexpected and joyful -- and for the next 15 minutes things are right with the world again. That is, until the phone rang. Pfsst! Oh well, the mail comes again tomorrow. Maybe..." Trying to figure life out is a futile enterprise, one destined for sure failure.

Here are some suggestions for making life -- all of it -- more pleasurable and more useable: **Don't run from trouble.** You can't go fast enough. Trouble will find you. Face it head-on and with determinate faith. There is no temptation bigger than you can bear if you put your confidence in God (**1 Cor. 10:13**). And there's no problem that can't be solved if you keep in touch with your spirituality. Even the fear of death is conquerable if you have sufficient trust in your Master (**Heb. 2:14-16, 1 Cor. 15:51-58**).

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Don't let discouragement rob you.

Discouragement is one of the Devil's most functional tools. It wrestles a man down by robbing him of his faith, and in doing so, saps his energy to keep on. It strikes every age, every spiritual level. It causes faith to flag and determination to become impotent. It's a power-grabber, discouragement is. But faith is still the answer. Trusting confidence in God will triumph over discouragement. But you have to engage it. You have to shove your faith in front of the discouragement before it can conquer it. Listen to what God said: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (**Heb. 13:5**). Do you believe it? Remember, down doesn't have to mean out. Just because you lose a battle now and then doesn't mean you've lost the war. Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and get back into the fracas again. There's work to be done, people to see, prayers to make, lessons to learn. Activity is the key to winning.

Don't every quit. Only the weak quit.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Paul, in **Phil. 3:13-14**). *"I press,"* said Paul. You must do so too, for he closes the admonition with *"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded."* Are you?

And remember, most of all, that you and God make a majority. There is no force on earth strong enough to separate you from His love and to keep you out of His kingdom. Not even death itself can do it. Certainly, we may boldly say, ***"...the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me."*** Paul said, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"*

...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through Him that loved us." Stay with God and you can't lose, folks. And finally, remember that Solomon said, *"In the day of prosperity rejoice; in the day of adversity consider, for God hath set the one over against the other..."* (**Eccles. 7:14**).

SO, Don't try to second-guess

Providence, or ask "why me?" Relax and let it happen. Don't ask, "why has God allowed this?" Rather, ask, **"What does He want me to do with this?"** Allow the good days to cause rejoicing. Allow the bad ones to increase your learning.

Life is happy for those who love God and are keeping His commandments, no matter what comes along. After all, life is constructed of two things: good days and bad days.



HIT THE DECK!

ON THE DOUBLE!

Is there anyone among us who doesn't understand this to mean ***"Hurry up!"***? It may not be the exact term you would use at your house, but how could you more effectively say, **"HASTEN"** or, **"GET ON THE MOVE"**? We all realize that the Lord didn't use the exact words that are in the title of this little article, **BUT DO ANY OF US NOT UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS WHAT HE EXPECTS OF US IN THE DOING OF HIS WILL?**

This is not so different from what **WE ALL EXPECT**, all around us, every day, ***IS IT?*** From wanting the driver

in front of us to "hurry up" to having the kids to do a chore "right now" to wanting the preacher to "get through" to wanting to be "first in line" – **at no matter what** – we're all in such a hurry, aren't we?

THAT IS, usually, until it comes OUR TURN to "get with the program!" The past year's over, a new year is upon us, we have new resolutions to fulfill and greater accomplishments to do for God's cause, because there are **THREE MILLION PEOPLE around us who remain UNSAVED!** *Just exactly what do you have PLANNED for reaching the unsaved this year?* We're not an un-concerned bunch of religious slobs! **We're a loving, caring God-fearing, Christianity enhanced, well-taught group who want the lost to be saved!**

So, then, "HIT THE DECK, ON THE DOUBLE!" ---clw...

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### **SUNDAY PM CLASSES START 1-14-07**

Beginning next Sunday evening at the 5:00 PM service we will begin a new set of lessons entitled ~

### **THE LIVING SACRIFICE**

It is a set of 13 lessons (with questions) that requires study at home and class participation. Any of the men who desire to teach any of the lessons may do so ~ pick what you want. I will teach all that aren't signed up for.

Vern Wilson ...

## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Logan & Julie Agee  
Jason & Marie Anderson  
Allison Autrand  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Edith Ayers  
Jamie Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
(He's in rehab @ Mission-Carmichael )  
Margie Buchanan  
Brenda Bryant  
Robert Erickson  
Helen Gray  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
David & Jerica Lovett  
Jean McCarty  
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant  
Wendell Rapier  
Berniece Raven  
Glenn Reagan (@ Home)  
LaurieAnn Reagan  
Andy & Liz Roadman  
Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
Taylor Romine  
Ray Rude  
Bill & Rena Schultz  
John Sequeira (Karen's dad)  
Brad & Shawna Shuck  
Virginia Taylor (Brenda's mom)  
Connie Taylor  
Ola Thornburg  
Nancy Valine  
Ellie Williams  
Gordon & Glenda Wilson  
Maxine Wilson

## **TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK**

Karen Daly  
Rick Rittenhouse  
Aaron Robertson  
David Lovett

## **IN THE MILITARY**

Jason Anderson  
David Lovett  
Aaron Robertson  
Trent Walsh

## **FOUR NEGLECTED IMPERATIVES OF CHRISTIANITY**

**Rom 12:9-15**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The text sets out *FOUR necessary characteristics* missing from many lives today!
  - 1. It isn't that we've set out to disregard/disobey the Will of God, but in the business of life we ***just allow*** some of the things that glorify God to escape us!
  - 2. We need to continually show that we're still pledged to HIM, and to HIS CAUSE!
- B. These items are indispensable to building an acceptable life and an example to others.
  - 1. Self-examination is NOT out of order, and should be our focus several times a day.
  - 2. These points of study will help and strengthen US, and be encouraging to others.
- C. KNOW this truth: *not every child of God has forsaken all of these things!*

### **I. "REJOICING IN HOPE"**

- A. What is this HOPE that we're to "rejoice" in?
  - 1. It is that DESIRE we have IN CHRIST ~ with EXPECTATION of fulfillment ~ to be of our greatest benefit and service to the CAUSE OF CHRIST.
  - 2. EACH of us must have both a desire and an expectation in order to hold onto HOPE
  - 3. We certainly can't be "*rejoicing in hope*" ~ if we're not in a right relationship with God.
- B. WHY? Because that HOPE is only extended to those who are IN THE LORD. Rom 8:24-25.
- C. In WHAT do we have HOPE?
  - 1. In His TEACHINGS: Matt 15:9; SALVATION: Acts 4:11-12 PROMISES: 2 Pet 1:4
- D. We have great reason to REJOICE IN THIS HOPE!
  - 1. Because our names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20
  - 2. Because we are partakers with Christ. 1 Pet 4:13
  - 3. It is essential to our holding firm to the end. Heb 3:6

### **II. "PATIENT IN TRIBULATION"**

- A. We can "*possess our souls*" only by our patience. Luke 21:19
- B. We must have patience in serving God and not be bothered by the evil about us! Psa 37:1
  - 1. The Hebrew children became impatient and Aaron made them a golden calf!!!
  - 2. Friends, BE NOT DECEIVED ~ *there are many golden calves TODAY!*
- C. Our HOPE is secured in patience. Rom 15:4; Psa 40:1
- D. SO, the big thing we NEED TO KNOW: How is patience cultivated? Jas 1:2-4

### **III. "CONTINUING IN PRAYER"**

- A. That simply means to keep on praying!!! 1 Thes 5:17; Col 4:2; Lk 18:1; Eph 6:18
- B. To CONTINUE IN PRAYER means to pray DAILY, REGULARLY, and IN FAITH!

### **IV. "DISTRIBUTING TO THE NECESSITY OF THE SAINTS"**

- A. Helping and assisting others is a defining work of *every Christian!* Gal 6:10; Jas 1:27
- B. N.T. says it's a proof of our love for CHRIST & the BRETHREN. 1 Jno 3:17; 2 Cor 8:24
  - 1. The churches of Macedonia are notable examples of this LOVE! 2 Cor 8:5
  - 2. Christians have the positive promise of God that He will not forget such WORK and FAITH on the part of His people! Heb 6:10

### **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. YOU and I, in order to be the FAITHFUL OF GOD, must be fulfilling EVERY precept of God's will that will keep us identified as His people and continuing recipients of His grace!
- B. Have you been LESS than you SHOULD BE in His Service?
- C. Are you ready to change any spiritual ineptness before you face the LORD in judgment?
- D. IF YOU HAVEN'T STARTED your journey with Christ, do it **TODAY, January 7, 2007**