

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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January 14th, 2007

DO NOT FRET BECAUSE OF EVIL MEN!

by G. E. Watkins

The Bible offers wise counsel under every kind of circumstance. We as Christians need to realize this as we stagger under the blows of what wicked men have done to innocent lives and families in Iraq, Afghanistan, across our nation, and various other parts of the world.

King David, in his old age, with inspired reflection, considered evil men and what happens to them. He offers to us the following advice and counsel in a Psalm: "*Do not fret because of evil men*" (Psa 37:1). To fret is to worry, to have heartburn, to fume, to agitate, to agonize, to get one's self into a troubled state. Before we get in such a troubled state, we should consider what the end is for evil men.

"For like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away" (Psalm 37:2). Again, in verse 9, David tells us they "*will be cut off*". In verse 10 he states, "*A little while, and the wicked will be no more, though you look for them, they will not be found.*" David further assures us that "*their power will be broken*" (vs. 17); "*their swords shall pierce their own hearts, and*

---Continued on page 2

their bows will be broken" (vs. 15). In the meantime, "the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming" (Psalm 37:13). So we need not fret concerning evil men.

"Trust in the LORD and do good" (Psalm 37:3). Faith cures fretting and so does doing good. Let us use our energy in constructive activities and causes. Let us be "trusting and doing".

"Delight yourself in the LORD" (Psalm 37:4). Let us make Him the source of our joy and strength.

"Commit your way to the LORD" (Psalm 37:5). Roll the whole burden of life upon Him with the firm determination to walk in His ways.

"Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes" (Psalm 37:7). Patient waiting is needed in the great trials of life (Psalm 37:34).

In this time of great wickedness, a careful and reverent reading of Psalm 37 will encourage and give peace to our souls. (2-19-05)

New Class at 5:00 PM

"The Living Sacrifice"

ALL urged to attend

INVENTORY

by Ron Adams

During the month of January many corporations and businesses take inventory. It's a matter necessity. The results reveal many things about the success or failure of the previous year's business. Taking inventory is also good for Christians. Looking back over the previous year: comparing where you were in January a year ago to where you are now. The inventory sheet needs to note the following:

- (1) Am I more spiritually mature now than in January of last year?
- (2) Is my knowledge of the Holy Scriptures more expansive than it was a year ago?
- (3) Have I gained greater insight as to how the teaching of Jesus are to be lived out in my daily life?
- (4) Has my love for the Lord remain constant, even growing?
- (5) Did the difficulties I experienced during the interim strengthen my faith?
- (6) Was I diligent in adding that which supports my faith: moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love? (2 Peter 1:5-6)

Growth and change are best determined by looking at the long term. The effects of minute changes made daily are made more readily visible be they progress or regression. Thus by taking inventory of our spiritual condition we are able to see a clear picture of just were we are spiritually.

Admonition for the WHOLE YEAR:
Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ~ 2 Peter 3:18

ARE WE "CUTTING" IT?

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)

Three military recruiters showed up to address high school seniors. Each recruiter, representing the Army, Navy, and Marines, was given fifteen minutes to speak. The Army and Navy recruiters got carried away, so when it came time for the Marine to speak, he had just two minutes. He walked up and stood silent for a full sixty seconds, half of his time. Then he said, "I doubt whether there are two or three of you in this room who could even cut it in the Marines, but I want to see those two or three immediately in the dining hall when we are dismissed." He then took his seat.

Later, when he arrived in the dining hall, he was greeted by a large number of students who were interested in becoming Marines. The recruiter knew that commitment comes from appealing to the heroic dimension in every heart. (By W. Frank Harrington)

Likewise, Jesus appeals to the heroic dimension in every heart. Let us deny ourselves, willingly take up our crosses, and follow Him.

---From David Riggs
"Brief Exhortations"

"On our way to HEAVEN in 2007"

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
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
(and baby **Samantha Erin**)
Jean McCarty
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant
Wendell Rapier
Glenn Reagan (improving!)
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

"SIN NO MORE"

John 5:1-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Wouldn't it be wonderful if sin didn't oppress us on every side?
 - 1. How wonderful if all the evil that causes trouble/ turmoil/ suffering were gone!
 - 2. Wouldn't this be a much more wonderful place to live if SIN didn't exist here?
 - 3. We can alter our spiritual surroundings ONLY as we alter our relationship with God!
- B. There MUST BE – and there WILL BE – a stopping-place for sin in our lives!
 - 1. EITHER, during our lifetimes because of our *increased LOVE FOR CHRIST ~ OR ...*
 - 2. At our death when time and opportunity are no longer ours to make such decisions!

I. ALL MEN NEED TO BE WELL ~ SPIRITUALLY!

- A. What a great example the Lord gives us here in this text: This man had looked for the right answer for 38 years – and NOW HE'S FOUND IT! Vs 5
 - 1. He had done what he could for himself for 38 years – to no avail!
 - 2. Have you *"lost your physical health"*? Do what you can to regain it. Jas 5:13-14
- B. We today, as the man in the text, also need a "spiritual wholeness" from the LORD!
 - 1. If someone here started having a heart attack ~ what advice would you give them?
 - 2. If our "spiritual advice nurse" told us we were weak and sickly ~ wouldn't we want to check it out immediately? Isn't this what Paul did in 1 Cor 11:30

II. THE DEMANDING ADVICE OF THE TEXT: SIN NO MORE!

- A. This is also an indictment against us, even today! SIN NO MORE!
 - 1. EVER SINCE EVE ~ ALL HAVE SINNED! Rom 5:12
 - 2. We'd think God's warnings through the ages would teach us a lasting lesson!
- B. The Lord is still spreading that urgent plea today: SIN NO MORE!
 - 1. All of us need to learn this lesson WELL! Rom 6:1-2, 12
 - 2. WE KNOW THIS: It's not an easy task to keep sin out of our lives. 2 Tim 2:21
- C. SO, how are we going to follow the Lord's advice? Rev 2:10; Phil 1:27; Eph 4:1.

III. BEWARE! THERE'S DANGER AHEAD! "lest a worse thing come.."

- A. Could ANYTHING be worse than our tormented flesh as we're being tempted, just like everyone else? CERTAINLY!
 - 1. Could anything be worse than what JOB suffered? Absolutely!
 - 2. To be afflicted for ALL ETERNITY is FAR WORSE than a 38 year affliction!!
- B. ETERNAL PUNISHMENT (the wages of sin) is FAR WORSE and MUCH LONGER! Rom 6:23
- C. May I interject a timely and prudent thought: The wages of sin will NOT BE FROZEN!
 - 1. The Wages of Sin is WORSE than any person has ever inflicted on another:
 - 2. The Wages of Sin is LONGER LASTING than any human malady in history. 2 Thess 1:9
 - 3. The Wages of Sin Indictment is ISSUED FROM HEAVEN, by the God who SAVES US!
- D. This "WORSE THING" is coming ~ **SOON!** Matt 25:41

IN SUMMARY:

- A. "SIN NO MORE!"
 - 1. But WHO can live a sinless, perfect life? NOT A ONE OF US DOES!
 - 2. But we CAN live a life that is not focused on, or dedicated to SIN!
- B. May I urge you to "redeem the time" right now?
- C. Take advantage of the opportunity we have this moment to set our course of action on the Side of God and His Son. We start by ~ ~
BELIEVE REPENT CONFESS BE BAPTIZED LIVE FAITHFULLY