

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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A Plea for Pure Christianity

by Jere E. Frost

WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE to be the inspired word of God, a perfect and sufficient guide for doing the Will of God. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. It does not incidentally contain some of the things we teach ~ it is the alpha and omega of our faith and practice, and we dare not go beyond that which God has authorized in its pages. **2 John 9-11**.

WE COME TO YOU with no denominational plan seeking your favor, but only in the name of Christ, desiring to help others find the truth of God, and anxious that you obey all of God's commandments. The obedient have a right to the tree of life (**Rev 22:14**). But those who merely cry, "Lord, Lord!" shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (**Matt 7:21**).

WE SUBMIT to the matchless authority of Christ, heeding the faultless message He and His inspired servants taught at the beginning of His Church (**Heb 2:3**). His word produces faith, and faith in Him as the son of God is the foundation of hope (**Heb 11:1; John 8:24**). Every person must repent; repentance being required of all and death being held forth as the wages of refusal (**Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3**). Confession of faith in Christ is unto salvation, and upon such a confession one may be baptized (**Rom 10:10; Acts 8:37**). Baptism was commanded by Christ Himself (**Mark 16:16**), puts one into Christ (**Gal 3:27**) where all spiritual blessings abound (**Eph 1:3**), and is for the remission of sins and the salvation of our souls (**Acts 2:38**;

1 Pet 3:21). Who dares refuse it? Faithfulness until life's end is promised a rich heavenly reward (**Rev 2:10**).

WE PRAY for unity among all professed believers, for Christ so prayed (**John 17:20-23**). Paul besought the Corinthians to be "*of the same mind*" and to "*speak the same things*" (**1 Cor 1:10**). Since human wisdom is the cause of (not the cure for) division, we must discard and abandon it in order to be true to any prayer for unity. A perfect and God-given platform for genuine unity is set forth in **Ephesians 4:3-6**. This is the basis for spiritual harmony and lasting peace with God. Consider: One God (unity in worship), one Lord, Jesus Christ (unity in authority), one Spirit (unity in life), one faith (unity in doctrine), one Body, the church (unity in organization), one Baptism (unity in practice), and one Hope (unity in desire and expectation).

WE REFUSE TO SECTARIANIZE OURSELVES by wearing man-made religious names; they are not only unauthorized, but actually foment division. We are to be Christians, nothing more and nothing less, being completely satisfied and humbly grateful to be honored with the privilege of wearing Christ's name, preferring none other, and thus the New Testament speaks of "THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST." (**Rom 16:16**)

WE ENDEAVOR TO SPEAK where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where it is silent where it is silent. Christians have no creed but Christ, are to uphold no name but the divine, and have no plea but the gospel. We should mutually seek to establish and maintain unity in essentials, liberty in opinions, and love in all things.

WE INVITE YOU, most sincerely, to come and study the Bible with us as often as you can, so you, too, can come to see that pure Christianity is wonderful! Embrace God's truths that are revealed in His Word. Be just a Christian. **—via The Old Path II (1996)**

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

You can read about it in the Bible. **Rom 16:16**

There's no creed but Christ and the members wear no names except the Divine! **Acts 11:26**

Members speak where the Bible speaks, and are silent where the Bible is. **1 Pet 1:22-23**

Christ is exalted as the only head of the Church. **Col 1:18**

Members plead for unity of all believers in Christ. **Jno 17:20-21**

The Church is not a denomination; it is simply the body of Christ. **Eph 4:4-5**

Jesus, Himself, is the founder of the church. **Matt 16:18**

The AIM of the church is the same as Christ's: save souls by preaching the gospel. **Rom 1:16; Gal 1:8-9**

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HOW CAN A SINNER BE SAVED?

HEAR the gospel

BELIEVE the gospel

REPENT of sins

CONFESS your faith in Christ

BE BAPTIZED for salvation

REMAIN FAITHFUL in you life

The Authority Of God's Word

by Ron Boatwright

The Bible is the authoritative word of God. **Hebrews 4:12** says, "*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.*" When God says something it is going to happen. Nothing can stop it. Not only is the word of God living and powerful, but it will last forever. **1 Peter 1:23** says, "*the word of God lives and abides forever.*" The word of God will follow us into eternity.

The Bible is God's instruction to us on what we must do so we can go to heaven. Jesus says in **John 8:32**, "*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" Only by knowing and following God's word can anyone be saved and go to heaven. If one doesn't know and obey God's word, he will spend eternity in the burning fires of hell. This will be a horrible place to be.

God's word is the authority or standard by which all people will be judged on Judgment Day. Jesus says in **John 12:48**, "*He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him, the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*" People may ignore God's word now, but on Judgment Day they will not be able to ignore it.

God does not intend for His authoritative word to be changed by man. We read in **Rev 22:18-19**, "*If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book, and if anyone takes from the word of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life.*" Either way he will be lost. People are not taking God seriously.

Even though the world may neglect it, we must not neglect to follow God's authoritative word if we want to go to heaven. **Heb 2:3** says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. There is no escape if one neglects to obey God's authoritative word. xxxxxxxxx

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie Agee
Jackson Agee
Allison Autrand
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Brenda Bryant
Larry Cain
Robert (Bob) Erickson
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Jean McCarty
Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
Rueben Pennant
Jahsmeen Pennant
Wendell and Irma Rapier
Rosa Reagan
Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
Andy & Liz Roadman
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Carl & Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Bill & Rena Schultz
Brad & Shawna Shuck
Chantalle Shuck
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Rick Rittenhouse
Aaron Robertson
David Lovett

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

THE PROSPERITY OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 2:29-36

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This was not a material prosperity, but a spiritual one. Isa 55:10-11
 - 1. In accomplishment. (Consider our equipment, communication tools, etc.)
 - 2. What if GOD were setting our budget here in Carmichael in all the things we esteem?
- B. WHY DID that church in the 1st Century prosper?
 - 1. How much did it glorify God in the way they had RESPONSES to that early preaching?
 - 2. What influence did God have on them? Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 4:13
- C. What caused their STRENGTH and PROGRESS and PROSPERITY in that 1st Century atmosphere?
 - 1. Can we expect that kind of spirituality & growth in this 21st Century? HOW?
 - 2. WHY DID THE EARLY CHURCH PROSPER SO MUCH?

I. BECAUSE IT WAS A SPIRITUAL CHURCH!

- A. They were "spiritual" because they were born into God's family! John 3:3,5; Acts 2:36-38.
- B. As such, they were a real family of God's! Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35.
- C. This "spiritual togetherness" wielded great influence for that Spiritual Family! Acts 4:13
 - 1. What would you say is our most identifiable spiritual asset?
 - 2. Where does it come from? (Specifically, "Is it from being w/Jesus?")
- D. This SPIRITUAL BODY was bearing the "fruits of the spirit," as in Gal 5:22-23

II. BECAUSE IT WAS A STEADFAST CHURCH. Ax.2:42

- A. Ambitiously TEACHING THE WORD. We have the same responsibility today.
- B. They were steadfast IN FELLOWSHIP. 1 Jno 1:7; 1 Cor.16:1-2.
- C. They were steadfast in the memorial of BREAKING BREAD together.
- D. They were steadfast IN PRAYER. Acts 12:5, 12

III. BECAUSE IT WAS A PERSECUTED CHURCH

- A. Its Founder (*The Head of the Church*) was crucified.
 - 1. His enemies failed when He was raised from the dead!
 - 2. Matt 16:18 is literally true.
- B. The apostles mostly went to an early grave in God's service! Acts 4:16-20; 2:28-29.
- C. It's membership was scattered and impoverished. i.e. Stephen. Acts 7:54-60; 8:1-4.

IV. BECAUSE IT WAS A UNITED CHURCH`

- A. This UNITY was based on being ONE in FAITH. Eph 1:3; Jude 3.
 - 1. We have: IN FAITH ~ UNITY; IN OPINIONS ~ LIBERTY; IN ALL THINGS ~ CHARITY.
 - 2. Personal faith was IN CHRIST, not some popular preacher.
- B. This UNITY was based on being ONE in PRACTICE. Phil 1:27
- C. This UNITY was based on being ONE in EFFORT.

V. BECAUSE IT FAITHFULLY PREACHED THE GOSPEL .

- A. Christ was the center of their message. Acts 2:36; 9:20; 1 Cor 1:23; 1 Cor 2:2.
- B. His authority was supreme with them & they commanded men by it.. Acts 2:38; 17:30.
- C. Standards of life were respected & discipline was rigid. Acts 5; Rom.16:17; 2 Thes-3:6.

IN SUMMARY:

- A. God's plan for His church must be followed if it is to prosper in today's world!
- B. What could the LORD'S PEOPLE do to startle this whole area with the Lord's Salvation?
- C. **MAY I ASK: ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART?**