

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. Carmichael, CA 95608

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April 15th, 2007

"There is no condemnation in Christ"

by Nick Secula

"There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit." (Roman 8: 1).

Paul pens beautiful words here in the first verse of the eighth chapter of the book of Romans. No longer a pronouncement of guilt, no longer condemned. The weight of such a thought or better yet the weight lifted by such a thought is exhorting and encouraging. Just to know God no longer condemns us as we are in Christ.

It would do us well to notice what Paul is saying in this verse on how to escape condemnation and how to remain out of it. **There are three points Paul makes:**

1. We must be "in Christ" for "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ." So the blessing of no condemnation is not found outside of Christ but is found inside of Christ. Well how do we get into Christ? Jesus told His disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:15-16**). Jesus tells us we must believe and we must be baptized. The text is quite clear on belief for if we don't believe we will be condemned; however many people seem to debate the role of baptism. Jesus said belief and baptism but many

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say belief and no baptism or that baptism is an optional piece. I would encourage you to remember that Paul said one must be in Christ to receive the blessing of no condemnation. How do we get into Christ? We are baptized into Christ. Notice with me, *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* (**Gal. 3:27**). Did you notice what Paul said? We were baptized into Christ. How do we get into Christ? By and through the waters of baptism.

2. Who do not walk according to the flesh." This blessing has been qualified now a second time. First the blessing is to those who are *"in Christ,"* and now we notice that it is to those, *"who do not walk according to the flesh."* Paul talks about the former walk, the walk after the flesh in the first few verse of the second chapter of Ephesians. We were sons of disobedience, walking according to the prince of the power of the air, after fleshly lusts and desires. Notice this blessing of no condemnation is to those who walk not after such things. That is to the person who has turned away from such living and such walking who has repented from the worldly lifestyle. When one repents (turns away) from the ways of walking after the flesh, they are now striving to walk according to the Spirit.

3. Walking according to the spirit. We are no longer condemned if we walk according to the Spirit. John said in **1 John 1:7**, *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have*

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Paul shares with us rich truth. He tells us we can live in a state of no longer being under the bonds of condemnation. He tells us what is involved and what is required on our part. We must get into Jesus Christ. We must believe (**Mark 16:15-16**). We must confess Jesus (**Rom 10:10**). We must repent (**Luke 13:13**). We must be baptized (**1 Pet 3:21**). When we have become baptized into Christ then we must we must walk in the light (**1 John 1:7**). Live a faithful life unto death (**Rev 2:10**) May God bless you as you seek his will in your life.

--- from Oak Hill Church of Christ

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NOT EVERYONE ...

Toward the end of the sermon on the mount Jesus warned of the subtlety of false teachers. He stated that they would come in sheep's clothing, and he challenged the faithful to tell the difference by their works. Then he warned: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven"* (**Mt. 7:21**). This verse indicates that many false teachers will not even know that they are going against the will of God.

Is it possible that some get so caught up in their own self-righteousness that they cannot imagine that they could be wrong? Jesus answers this question: *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many might works?"* (**Mt. 7:22**). Indeed, would they at-

tempt to argue with the almighty Judge if they did not believe that they had a case?

When we see how convincing the many false teachers are on the radio and TV, it seems quite clear that they are totally convinced that they are right. The apostle Paul described some of his countrymen who were like them: *"They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge"* (**Rom 10:2-3**).

But we dare not excuse their actions by ignorance. God's word can be understood (**Eph. 3:4**), and it is a message of simplicity and purity (**2 Cor. 11:3**). When a person becomes a teacher, his errors *"shall receive heavier judgment"* (**James 3:1**). No greater injustice can be done than to convince people that they are saved when, in fact, they are lost.

We must conclude that these wolves in sheep's clothing remain willfully ignorant (**2 Pet. 3:5**), since God's plan does not fit their desires. Or what is worse, exalting themselves to the place of God. Some seem to believe they **speak truth** into existence, and thus are in no way constrained.

We can certainly better understand the motivation of others by studying Jesus' words in **Matt 7:21-23**. The full impact of His words cannot be realized, however, unless we apply them to ourselves. For, to feel that we are immune from the faults of others is a sure invitation to disaster (**1 Cor. 10:12**). Let us beware lest we hear these words: *"depart from me, ye that work iniquity"* (**Mt. 7:23**).

---via Think On These Things

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

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LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

Matt 20:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is regarded as one of the most difficult parables of Jesus' ministry.
 - 1. It SEEMS to deal with future rewards, many aspects of which are vague.
 - 2. It SEEMS opposed to the parable of the pounds in Lk 19:11-27
- B. Consider some different applications of the parable:
 - 1. Some say the highest place in the kingdom should go to those who served the longest!
 - 2. Some suppose that the "11th hour Gentiles" will be blessed as much as Jews.
 - 3. The usual application is to different points in conversion:
- C. The KEY to the interpretation of the parable is the context of Matt 19:16-30, esp. vs 27
 - 1. But let's note some other lessons before coming to the main point of the parable.
 - 2. Some indisputable lessons of the text include:

I. IT TEACHES THE LESSON OF GOOD WILL TOWARD OTHERS.

- A. Consider the attitudes of the laborers toward their fellow-workers.
 - 1. Jealous/ envious of fellow laborers' good fortune.
 - 2. Murmured when they did not receive more!
- B. Christians must show maturity and generosity ~ especially to our brethren!
 - 1. Complainers are like the elder brother when the prodigal son returned in Luke 15.
 - 2. We mustn't fret, or be discouraged, at others good fortune! Rom 12:15; Phil 2:3-5

II. IT TEACHES THE LESSON OF TRUSTING GOD'S WORDS!

- A. God's will is absolute and not to be questioned nor arbitrated by man!
 - 1. Man must respect God's authority and not question His decisions.
 - 2. GOD'S WILL is not open for man's changes or arbitrations ~ THAT'S NOT OUR REALM!
- B. GOD'S WILL IS ALWAYS RIGHT regarding the WORK and the WORSHIP of His Church!
 - 1. He is the God of all wisdom/ and goodness/ and justice! 2 Tim 4:8
 - 2. As He deals with us, it is right and good ~ for that's His very Nature!

III. IT TEACHES THE LESSON OF WORKING FOR THE LORD IN HIS CHURCH

- A. We must be impressed that the Lord wants PEOPLE BUSY FOR HIM, in His kingdom.
 - 1. In the parable of our text we read that LABORERS were hired, NOT loafers, or bosses.
 - 2. Today, the need is still for workers in His vineyard! 1 Cor 15:58; Jno 9:4; Amos 6:1
- B. The PLACE and PURPOSE of our work is by the LORD'S designation ~ His church!
 - 1. IT TEACHES that the vineyard of the LJC is His ONE CHURCH! Col 1:18; Eph 4:4
 - 2. We're not working for the Lord if we're working in someone else's vineyard!
- C. It teaches us the true basis of God's reward for acceptable work!
 - 1. It's not measured just by amount of time spent: (cf. Jesus & Methuselah)
 - 2. It's NOT just the visible results that are seen.

IV. IT TEACHES WE'RE TO TAKE ACTION WHEN THE LORD CALLS US!

- A. This doesn't even remotely imply "death bed repentance!"
 - 1. The 11th hour workers responded when they were called!
 - 2. Sinners are "called" by the gospel. 2 Thes 2:13-14
- B. An 80 year old man explained his "late" conversion: "*I honestly never knew before!*"

IN SUMMARY:

- A. If you're not now laboring in the Lord's vineyard ~ you need to be sure to get INTO IT!
- B. If you're in His vineyard but not working, REPENT NOW ~ and renew your allegiance!