

# 2007 Proclaimer

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2*

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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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## **The Influence of Christians**

The Christian has two spheres of influence -- the people with whom he comes in daily contact, and the secular world in general. There is no doubt that the emphasis of Christ was on the first. Even a casual reading of the gospels shows that throughout His life here on this earth he spent very little time trying to influence either the political or religious leaders of His day.

Jesus' primary concern was for the soul of the individual. From the leader who visited him at night (Jn. 3) to the lowly woman at the well (Jn. 4), Jesus realized that He could do nothing for these individuals unless he could open their hearts to the point of the salvation of their souls. His only approach: the truth!

We need to study all aspects of Jesus' methods today in order to have the proper appreciation for the individual soul. But many mature Christians who understand these precepts perfectly *fail to understand the ultimate impact of these efforts have upon society in general.*

Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth" in the same context that he warned us not to hide our light under a bushel (Mt. 5: 13-16). As we see our world moving toward ever-greater degrees of sin (Rom. 1: 24-32), let us recognize that it only takes a little salt to preserve. -----**Cont'd. on page 2**

It might be a single word: *NO!* when confronted with temptation in the presence of others. It might be an isolated word of encouragement of a righteous act. It might be the simple explanation of why you did something which seemed strange to others: not because of some rationalized worldly motive but *just because it was the right thing to do.*

We do not know but that a single righteous act could save our nation, but it would not be the first time. For examples, read Hebrews 11: 32-39. But if a single righteous act could save a nation, the failure to act could cause its downfall (ref. Gen. 18: 32).

As we rightfully complain about the deteriorating spiritual condition of our world, it is time that we assess the role that we play in it. As insignificant as the devil wants to make you feel, you do make a difference. Make every decision like it is the last one you will ever make -- someday it will be!

---Via *Think on These Things*

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## WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I read a story recently about an American who did her nurse's training at a hospital in Liverpool, England. She and her fellow students had little money for meals, so they ate the (not-so-good) food provided at the hospital complex. When they took their breaks in the kitchen, sometimes kindly visitors would give them some of the treats they had brought for patients.

One night, a woman brought a pork pie to the kitchen and said to this nursing student, "Would you 'eat this up, love?" Delighted at the offer, she and another

student devoured every crumb. Soon the woman returned, however, and asked, "Is me 'usband's pie 'ot yet, dearie?"

Different people pronounce things differently. And that pronunciation can make a big difference. I'm reminded of the story in Judges 12 where pronunciation meant the difference between life and death. In that chapter Jephthah set out to kill all the men of Ephraim, and identified who they were by commanding them to pronounce the word "Shibboleth" (the Ephraimites couldn't do it -- they would all say "Sibboleth").

There is a similar test given to each and every one of us. Jesus said, *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."* (**Matt 10:32**).

No, it's not the way we pronounce it. We can do it with a Cockney accent, a Southern drawl, a Bostonian dialect, or a Texas "twang." What matters is that we do it out of a heart of faith that is committed to living out what it means to acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ. ---Via TFTD by Alan Smith

**Please attend 5:00 PM Class**

**Lesson # 12**  
In

***The Living Sacrifice***

(Just one more lesson, next week.)

**Bill Kizer will be teaching next series of lessons, entitled, "WITH GOD ~ MOTIVES MATTER"**

Dennis Prager, the Jewish social critic and scholar, says his favorite response to the question, "Does religion have a positive influence?" is a story.

Say you are walking down an alley at 11:00 p.m. in New York, Miami, or Los Angeles. The dim streetlights illumine your car 300 yards away. Suddenly, you see ten young men wearing leather jackets swaggering down the alley toward you.

Would you feel more comfortable if you knew that those young men had just come out of a Bible study? Every time Prager has asked that question the answer has been "yes."

**Moral:**

**Get as many as you can into a Bible study group ~ as often as you can!**

-----via Christian Voices

**I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?!**

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**A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.**

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**We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.**

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**If a church wants a better class of members, it needs to pray for and encourage the ones it has.**

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**God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead, so why should we?**

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**You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him. xxxx**

**THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

- Logan & Julie & Jackson Agee
- Jason & Marie Anderson
- Alison Autrand
- Frank & Tina Ayers
- Edith Ayers
- Jack & Dorothy Bailey
- Margie Buchanan
- Brenda Bryant
- Bill Cain (stroke – Red Bluff)
- Larry Cain
- Robert (Bob) Erickson
- Helen Gray
- Michael Hilburn (Patterson)
- Margaret Holcomb
- Chuck House
- David & Jerica & Samantha Lovett
- Jean McCarty
- Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
- Rueben Pennant
- Wendell and Irma Rapier
- Rosa Reagan
- Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
- Andy & Liz & Eli Roadman
- Caleb & Jacob Robertson
- Taylor Romine
- Ray Rude
- Bill & Rena Schultz
- Brad & Shawna Shuck
- Chantalle Shuck
- Bernie Shadman
- 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

# **ONE MORE NIGHT WITH THE FROGS!**

Exodus 8:1-7, 8-10

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The frogs were everywhere!
  - 1. Frogs in the bedroom, in the kitchen, in the parlor, in the ovens!
  - 2. God had said, "If thou refuse to let them go, ~ (Ref. to His people, the children of Israel) ~ behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs!" Exod 8:2
- B. NOW, we all know the Bible enough to know that GOD KEEPS HIS WORD!
  - 1. ALL OVER the land, including the palace, slimy, slick frogs!
  - 2. Finally Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, the servants of God. **8:8**
- C. Moses must have been overjoyed. At last Pharaoh had made up his mind.
  - 1. So Moses said in **vs.9**, "When shall I entreat for the frogs to go away?"
  - 2. **Verse 10-** "And Pharaoh said, "TOMORROW!""
- D. As Christians we KNOW that we belong to God, don't we? **1 Cor 6:20**
  - 1. So, **WE MAY PLAN** to get more ambitiously involved; **WE MAY INTEND** to break the ties the world has on us; **WE MAY MEAN** to become a soul winner – **TOMORROW!**
  - 2. We plead with backsliders to come back to God, and many will admit, "Well, I surely need to do just that ~ I've only had misery and grief since I went back on God.
  - 3. Jesus had an experience with three of these "tomorrow" men in **Luke 9:57-59**
  - 4. Now, I want us to know THREE REASONS why we should get rid of our "frogs" **now!**

## **I. "THE FROGS WON'T BE GONE IF WE WAIT TILL TOMORROW!"**

- A. The frogs are not always removed at our whims, you know.
- B. It looked like the rich young ruler was about to be saved. He seemed so near.
- C. ALSO, Jonah bought a ticket to Tarshish in order to FLEE from the presence of the Lord
  - 1. God said, "Go to Nineveh," but Jonah "went to sea"!
  - 2. God prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah, so he took a ride in a whale!

## **II. SOMETHING MUCH WORSE MAY REPLACE THE FROGS!**

- A. It was certainly true in the case of Pharaoh.
  - 1. Pride keeps many from surrendering to Christ, in spite of the frogs that plague us.
  - 2. But one day the judgment of God must fall upon sin. **Isa 2:11**
  - 3. BUT GOD STILL WARNS HIS PEOPLE ~ even as He did in **Jer 2:19**.
- B. BEN-HADAD — was the standing title of the Syrian kings, meaning "the son of Hadad."
  - 1. THE KING of Syria whom Asa, king of Judah, employed to invade Israel
  - 2. Another king of Syria was engaged in a long war against Israel and was murdered!

## **III. "TOMORROW MAY NEVER COME!"** Prov. 27:1; Heb 2:3

- A. America has become known as the land of sudden death!
  - 1. Did you know that between 400-500 in U.S. are killed a year by lightning?
  - 2. Tomorrow, for you or me, may never come!
- B. The great invitation from Jesus offers us His "REST."
  - 1. God sent His Son. The blood has been shed. The price has been paid. It's our move!
  - 2. OUR ACTION MUST BE to TRUST HIM TODAY. Jno 3:36. NOW'S the time!

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. God has not hesitated to provide FOR US the means of salvation through His Son.
- B. The apostle Paul gave urgency to just such a time as this by quoting **Isa 49:8**
- C. Then Paul adds, "*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*"
- D. That statement has never been more true than at this very instant!  
FAITH + REPENT + CONFESS + BAPTISM = SALVATION