

# 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

Homepages: [webs.lanset.com/carmichael](http://webs.lanset.com/carmichael) and [www.preachersnotes.com](http://www.preachersnotes.com)  
(916) 483-9318  
\*\*\*\*\*

## **ELDERS / EVANGELISTS**

Glenn H. Reagan - 721-9464; Ron Stewart - 771-2064; C. L. [Vern] Wilson - 961-6944  
<lareagan@yahoo.com> <rstewcrr@lanset.com> <elder@preachersnotes.com>

## **DEACONS:**

Frank Ayers, 966-4979; Bill Kizer, 745-1043; Carl Romine, 773-4402; Rick Rittenhouse, 728-5077;  
Bill Schultz, 543-0206; Brad Shuck, 530-677-9474

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **Can We Learn From History?**

*by Mike Cornwell*

We often read the Old Testament and shake our heads in amazement over the many apostasies of Israel. Theirs was one long up and down history of a people who could learn from their own mistakes. As we compare the people of God in the twenty-first century, do not we see the same thing happening? Israel of old thought they were the favored people of God under any and all circumstances. Even in their deepest ruts of apostasy, they considered themselves as deserving of the blessings of God. Too many Christians think the church to be safe and secure spiritually beyond all danger of apostasy.

Restoration, that concept of restoring ancient, New Testament Christianity assumes the fact of apostasy. Restoration is based upon a need: a need to be put back in its first position. If there is no need, the whole concept of restoration is invalid. Paul wrote of a falling away that was to come (**2 Thess 2:1-3**).

It is contradictory to speak of restoration while all the time thinking that we have finished the work of restoration. The work will never be finished in the strictest sense as long as mortals compose the membership of the church for which Jesus died. This is not to mean we haven't seen the church restored in its organization, work and worship. Rather, it is to argue that the mortal membership has a long history of apostasy. We have the right concept; we have seen the right effects produced. But, we must continue the work of restoring because no sooner have we

completed the work of today than the work of yesterday begins to be undermined and torn down. Every generation must deal with the results of the work of skeptics among us who are discontented with the simple way of the Lord: these skeptics will destroy. They strive on tearing down and someone must rebuild what they have torn down. This is the work restoration. To only reform that which has been damaged is to cover up that which is wrong!

So complacent have we become that in many areas reformation rather than restoration is the cry. (I have heard preachers say that "reformation is needed again") .. NO .. it is restoration! The church, upon failing to please God, has fallen away. A church fallen away must be restored, not reformed! It must be raised again to its former place. Reformation merely patches a work but it never completes it. Reformation is the sectarian concept and it never did work. Reformation is pluralistic in concept. It is the doctrine that two contradictory premises are both right at the same time. The denominational thinking is that everyone is a little right, none are all wrong. By compromising all can survive together in harmony. That is reformation! Restoring is fixing the problem so that it will not cause problems again, cutting out and discarding that which is wrong and replacing it with what was there in the first place.

The church is eternal in nature. Its' seed is the word of God (**Luke 8:11**). So long as the seed exists, the church will exist, at least in seed form. As Israel of old became so sinful, God brought the bondage of slavery upon the whole. Spiritual Israel may also

become sinful by failing to practice and teach God's truth. Apostasy of one congregation does not mean that all the other congregations of the Lord's people will fall with them.

When we see a brother err from the truth, do we want to reform him or restore him? Are we satisfied just to patch him up or do we want to turn him away from error and sin (**Ja 5:19-20**)? Should not this also be our disposition concerning congregations which depart from the truth? Restoration: the raising back to the first position should be our aim. Restoration should be an active work by every one who loves the Lord and desire his way to be exalted.

What the church needs are men who will stand boldly professing the truth of the gospel (**2 Tim 4:2**). The church needs elders, deacons, men and women who desire to be doers of the word and not hearers only (Jam 1:22). There are too many complacent congregations who are satisfied with the status quo with no desire to increase in spiritual knowledge in order to teach those, outside the church, the truth of the gospel.

Let's all be mindful of restoration and not settle for reformation

Mike Cornwell, Preacher, Bentonville, AR

~~~~~

## **The Only One Pulling!**

by G. E. Watkins

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Fortunately, a local farmer came to help with his strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer hollered, "Pull

Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

### **An Example Like Buddy**

We're a lot like Buddy. We don't like to do something if we think we're the only one pulling. Need an example? Ever said, *"Why should I put my time and effort into the work of the church? no one else seems to care!"* Or, *"Why should I put forth the extra effort to do a good job at work? No one else does, and it wouldn't be appreciated anyway!"* Or, *"Why should I be nice to him? He's certainly not going to make any effort to be nice to me!"*

See what I mean? Like Elijah in the cave (1 Kings 19:9), we say to God, "I, even I only, am left" (1 Kings 19:10). Nobody else is faithful. Nobody else is trying. but God told Elijah He had 7,000 in Israel on His side (1 Kings 19:18).

### **Conclusion**

Like Buddy and Elijah, we may be blind. Blind to what others are doing around us. But, even if we are the only one doing what is right, we need to continue! We need to "keep on keeping on"! There is work yet to be done (John 4:34-35; cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

### **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Logan & Julie & Jackson Agee  
Jason & Marie Anderson  
Alison Autrand  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Jamie Ayers  
Edith Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
Margie Buchanan  
Brenda Bryant  
Bill Cain (Red Bluff)  
Larry Cain  
Robert (Bob) Erickson  
Helen Gray  
Michael Hilburn (Patterson)  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
David & Jerica & Samantha Lovett  
Jean McCarty  
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant  
Rueben Pennant  
David and Susan Ramsey  
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

# **THE OLDEST CHURCH** **IN THE WORLD** by G. E. Watkins

Our Lord said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus promised to build a church — it was to be His church. In Mark 9:1, Christ said this kingdom (church) would come with power. After His resurrection, Jesus told his apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the power (Acts 1:4-8). The power came on the first Pentecost day following the resurrection of Christ and His church was established on that day, according to Acts 2. Jesus is both the founder and the foundation of the church one reads about in the New Testament. "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Any church established by any person other than Christ, in any place other than Jerusalem, at any time other than the first Pentecost after the Lord's resurrection, is not the New Testament church. The church of Christ is over 1900 years old!

The church Jesus built exists in the world today. It exists anywhere people abandon human opinions about religion and submit entirely and completely to the teaching of the New Testament. You can identify Christ's church in the world today! Read what the Bible says on the name we are to wear, the worship we are to offer God, the work of Christians, the organization

and government of the church, and compare Scriptural teaching to what men are doing in the religious world. Where you find people who are "Christians only," worshipping and working in exact conformity to the Word of God, without human creeds or catechisms, without additions, subtractions or substitutions to the teachings taught in the Scripture, you will have found the Lord's church. It is in the world today!

We encourage all people to come back to the Bible, back to Christ, back to His teachings as revealed in the New Testament, and back to Christ's church (Revelation 22:17).

xxxxx

## **NEW SUNDAY P.M. CLASSES**

Start next Sunday evening at 5:00  
on the topic:

### **"With God: Motives Count"**

The teacher will be  
**Bill Kizer**

## **Quotes of Notable Men ~**

**The welfare of the people is the ultimate law. - Cicero (106 BC - 43 AD)**

**When men are pure, laws are useless; when men are corrupt, laws are broken. - Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)**

**It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive. - Earl Warren (1891-1974)**

**Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work. - Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)**