

# 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 GIFT**

*by David A. Sargent*

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." **Ephesians 2:8-9***

**Salvation is the gift of God's grace.** Because of sin, man is separated from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (**Rom 5:8**). "For God so loved the world that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (**John 3:16**). On the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sin (**1 Pet 1:18-19**). Through Christ, the gift of God's grace, we may be saved from our sin. That's God's gift to us.

**We cannot earn our salvation.** It is "not of works, lest anyone should boast" (**Eph 2:9**). No man can ever do enough to earn his way to heaven. It is only by God's grace that we are saved.

**We must accept God's gift of salvation on His terms.** Note again the passage above: "For by grace you have been saved **through faith**." As we search the Scriptures we find that the kind of faith that God is seeking from us

is an "**active**" faith. A splendid example of the kind of faith that God desires is found in **Acts 2**. To those hearers who believed in Jesus and were convicted of their sin of crucifying the Son of God, Peter instructed them to put their faith into action: *"Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"* (**Acts 2:38**).

**What was their response?** *"Then those who gladly received his word [faith] were baptized [faith in action]; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them"* (**Acts 2:41**). God saved by His grace those who responded to the saving message of Jesus Christ with an obedient faith.

**God saves us by His grace when, by and through our faith, we obey the conditions of acceptance.**

**Meeting the conditions of God's salvation by grace does not make His gift any less a gift. Faith, repentance and baptism are the necessary responses to what God has done for us in Christ.** *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"* **2 Cor 9:15**.

Thanks be to God also for the opportunity to accept God's gift of salvation on His terms. **Is there anything that will keep you from accepting the Lord's Salvation?**

**David A. Sargent** *Mobile, Alabama*

## **Be Not Conformed To This World**

**By Ron Boatwright**

Paul tells us *"that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"* (**Rom 12:1-2**). Giving ourselves as "a living sacrifice" requires that we "do not be conformed to this world". If we conform to this world, the living sacrifice of ourselves becomes polluted and unacceptable to God. As Christians we are not to be conformed to the world in our speech (**Eph 4:29**), thoughts (**Matt 15:19**), dress (**1 Tim 2:9-10**), or actions. We are to be transformed or changed. We are to *"Put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man"* (**Col 3:9-10**).

Worldliness has no place in a Christian's conduct. Worldliness is a malignancy eating away at the very souls of people. Worldliness weakens and destroys our love and respect for God and sets us in opposition to His will. One becomes worldly when he loves the things the world does. Worldliness begins with wanting to fit in and to get along with the world. *"Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (**James 4:4**). John tells us *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever"* (**1 John 2:15-17**).

As members of the Lord's body, His church, we are not to have *"spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish"* (**Eph 5:27**). We must *"keep oneself unspotted from the*

world" (James 1:27) so we can go to Heaven.

We tend to become like those with whom we associate. *"Do not be deceived, evil company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor 15:33)*. We are not to participate in the sinful deeds of the world but, *"Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Cor 6:17)*. We must carefully choose those with whom we associate. *"I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts" (Psa 119:63)*. We cannot become a hermit even though we live in a world with sin all around us. But we must live in a way so, *"That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil 2:15)*. We are to *"have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Eph 5:11)*. It is not sufficient just to abstain from the evil practices But *"If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1 John 1:6)*. Put on righteousness is nothing but hypocrisy. The Lord had much to say against hypocrites in Matthew chapter 23. Many people's morality is the current and popular practice of others.

Even though we must provide for our families, many people in this materialistic world, equate individual success with the size of their cars, wardrobes, houses, and bank accounts. *"One's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15)*. We are to *"Set your mind on things above, and not on things of the earth" (Colossians 3:2)*. True success is pleasing God so we can go to Heaven. We are to be *"a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14)*. In not being conformed to this world, you will *"make your calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10)* and be assured of a home in Heaven.

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## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Logan & Julie & Jackson Agee  
Jason & Marie Anderson  
Alison Autrand  
Frank & Tina Ayers  
Jamie Ayers  
Edith Ayers  
Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
Margie Buchanan  
Bill Cain (doing better)  
Larry Cain  
Robert (Bob) Erickson  
Helen Gray  
Michael Hilburn (Patterson)  
Margaret Holcomb  
Chuck House  
David & Jerica & Samantha Lovett  
Jean McCarty  
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant  
Wendell and Irma Rapier  
Rosa Reagan  
Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan  
Andy & Liz & Eli Roadman  
Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
Taylor Romine  
Ray Rude  
The Rusk Family  
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Shirley Watkins  
Ellie Williams  
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## **TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK**

Karen Daly  
Rick Rittenhouse  
Aaron Robertson  
David Lovett

## **IN THE MILITARY**

Jason Anderson  
David Lovett  
Aaron Robertson  
Trent Walsh

# **ANOTHER GENERATION AROSE THAT DID NOT KNOW GOD**

## **Judges 2:10-12**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. Joshua had led Israel into Canaan and they occupied the territory that God had promised.
  - 1. They now have rest and the promise has been fulfilled. **Josh 21:43-45**
  - 2. But there was still much work to be done.
- B. Our text occurs after Joshua and his generation died. **Judg 2:7-8**

### **I. I BELIEVE IT STARTED WITH FAILURE OF THEIR FOREBEARERS!**

- A. They did not drive out all the Canaanites – They didn't secure the land! – **Judg 1:27-36**
  - 1. As a result, God was displeased – **Judg 2:1-3**.
  - 2. God made them responsible for teaching their children about HIM!
- B. There are three "generational" types of "saints." (types, or quality-standards)
  - 1. **FIRST GENERATION** – one hears the gospel and readily receives it.
  - 2. **SECOND GENERATION** – He is "raised in the church" and has gone all his life.
  - 3. **THIRD GENERATION** – They could see the inconsistencies of their parents.
- C. The problem put succinctly is simply, GOD HAS NO GRANDCHILDREN!
  - 1. Even in the first century, we read of apostates within the church.
  - 2. If respect for God's authority isn't instilled and kept, apostasy will be everywhere!
- D. Every time churches split today, there's an incentive for others to follow in kind!
  - 1. OUR CHALLENGE: To again instill faithful allegiance values in each other!
  - 2. *Even with such upbringing ~ will there be a church of Christ here in 30 years?*

### **II. WHO IS TO BLAME WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GO AWRY?**

- A. Why are churches splintering?
  - 1. Many congregations are dying, while some are just barely "hanging on!"
  - 2. *Who has the responsibility to plan and see there's a church in next generation?*
- B. Is the church itself to be blamed if it falters?
  - 1. Weak leaders, poor Bible classes, no vision or planning, *is sure death for a church!*
- C. IS SOCIETY TO BLAME? "Society" itself causes neither life nor death of a church!
  - 1. Certainly our society doesn't lend itself to sustaining God's PLAN on the earth!
  - 2. Many forces - peer pressure, temptations, evil companions – impress us with evil!
- D. How about us, as individuals? If we're lost, we're responsible for it! **Ezek 18:19-20**
- E. WHAT ABOUT FAMILIES IN THE CHURCH? *Most of the blame rests here!*
  - 1. We have responsibilities – **Eph 6:4**; **Col 3:21**; **Prov 22:6**
  - 2. We have to be GOOD examples – **Ezek 16:44**; **1 Kings 15:26**;

### **III. ARE WE SACRIFICING OUR CHILDREN?**

- A. Ezekiel speaks of Jerusalem's evils just before their captivity was over. **Ezek 16:20-21**
- B. Could we do such an abominable thing? To answer, we'd say "Absolutely NOT!" NEVER!
- C. BUT are we offering up our children to OTHER IDOLS
  - 1. What do our children SEE in us? Do we show a love for **THINGS** more than for God?
  - 2. Is our focus more on material things than the spiritual blessings that are from God?

### **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. Let it be understood, that much is on parents as to how our children turn out!
  - 1. If children rebel against God, let it be IN SPITE of your teaching, & not because of it!
  - 2. And it is the responsibility of the "whole community" of a local church to be involved!
- B. Turning back to our text, the results of Israel's sins are seen in **Judg 2:12-14**
  - 1. God gave them over to ungodly nations to punish them.
  - 2. If we fail our children, they'll be lost, and we could be right there beside them!