

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 and 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

June 17th, 2007

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**; compare **Matt 28:19-20**; **Mk 16:15-16**.

>>>>>>>>><<<<<<<<<<

A BROKEN SPIRIT

By Alan Smith
(Thought for the Day)

I have heard that there is a monastery in Greece perched high on a cliff, several hundred feet in the air. The only way to reach the monastery is to be suspended in a basket which is pulled to the top by several monks who pull and tug with all their strength. Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in that basket is terrifying.

One tourist got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed. With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope.

The monk thought for a moment and answered serenely: "Whenever it breaks."

We are shocked that someone would wait that long before changing the rope. It only makes sense that the rope ought to be changed long before reaching that point. But it dawned on me that God operates the same way in our lives. If we were to ask God when He will change our lives, His answer might well be, "Whenever you break!"

You see, our lives can only change once we have what the Bible refers to as a "broken spirit". As long as we remain arrogant and determined to do things our way, God can't shape us and mold us. Like a wild stallion, we remain useless until we are "broken".

"The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit." **Psa. 34:18**

"Father, I so often want to stubbornly do things my way. Help me as I strive to have a broken spirit, recognizing my shortcomings, humbly willing to listen to Your instruction."

In Jesus' name, amen.

+++++

DITCHES

by Mike Riley

This writer grew up on a country farm near Samnorwood, Texas back in the 40's. We didn't have many paved roads in those days. When it rained, we had to be very careful to keep out of ditches on both sides of the road. Often in trying to keep out of one ditch, it would be easy to oversteer and end up across the muddy road in the other ditch.

A valuable lesson can be learned from the above experiences. As Christians, we must realize that

there are "ditches" on both sides of the spiritual road. On side is the "ditch" of liberalism. John wrote, *"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 9). In our day, some in the Lord's church are heading toward, or are already in that "ditch" of liberalism, ignoring the plain teachings of God's word.

But the other "ditch" is just as dangerous. In keeping out of the "ditch" of liberalism, there are those in the church who have begun to bind where the Lord has not bound and look upon all with an unfavorable attitude who do not follow (or agree with) their ideas, opinions, or philosophies, even though they are not substantiated (or authorized) by God's Word. Some even pull off from faithful congregations and begin new congregations following their ideas, opinions, or philosophies.

How is a Christian to keep out of either "ditch"? One must strive to stay in the "center" of God's Will (Matt 7:21), ever studying His Word and praying for wisdom to follow it (2 Tim 2:15; Jas 1:5-6; cf. Prov 2:1-9), neither adding to nor taking from it. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deut 4:2). "30"

xxxxx

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Logan & Julie & Jackson Agee
 Jason & Marie Anderson
 Frank & Tina Ayers
 Edith Ayers
 Jack & Dorothy Bailey
 Margie Buchanan
 Bill Cain
 Larry Cain
 Robert (Bob) Erickson
 Helen Gray
 Margaret Holcomb
 Chuck House
 David & Jerica & Samantha Lovett
 Jean McCarty
 Jeffry & Kaye Pennant
 Berniece Raven
 Wendell and Irma Rapier
 Rosa Reagan
 Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
 Andy & Liz & Eli Roadman
 Caleb & Jacob Robertson
 Taylor Romine
 Ray Rude
 The Rusk Family
 Bill & Rena Schultz
 Brad & Shawna Shuck
 Chantalle Shuck
 Ola Thornburg
 Nancy Valine
 Shirley Watkins
 Bill & Sue Westphal
 Ellie Williams
 Gordon & Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
 Rick Rittenhouse
 Aaron Robertson
 David Lovett
 Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
 David Lovett
 Aaron Robertson
 Trent Walsh

HUMOROUS REPORTS

A Bible Class teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible ... **Psalm 23**. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the six verses. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of their parents, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "*The Lord is my shepherd ... and that's all I need to know!*"

.....
A 5 year old boy was sitting down to eat when his mother asked him to pray for his meal. He replied, "Mom, we don't have to. We prayed over this last night."

.....
Announcement given before taking up the Contribution: "I would like to remind you that what you are about to give is deductible, cannot be taken with you, and the love of which is considered in the Bible the root of all evil."

.....
A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

.....
A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?"

She nodded her head, "Yes." Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

.....
A minister was forced to stop by a traffic cop to pull over for speeding. As the cop was about to write the ticket, the minister said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." The cop handed the minister the ticket and said, "Go thou and sin no more."

.....
---Submitted by Jack Howell

IT REALLY HAPPENED

"The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."
(Psalm 145:18)

In a major address, before the assembly at Connecticut, Ezra Stiles praised the Lord for his help to the colonists. He said, "To Whom but the Ruler of the Winds shall we ascribe it that the British reinforcements, in the summer of 1777, were delayed on the ocean three months by contrary winds, until it was too late for General Clinton to help at Saratoga: a turning point of the war."

One of God's hard questions to Job was, "By what way is light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth?" **(Job 38:24)** God, by His many questions to Job, was showing that it was He, Himself, who has made and has control over all the world. God, who is indeed "the Ruler of the Winds" can aid us when we call upon Him in truth.

From "Brief Exhortations" by David Rigg