

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

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Tinkerin' with the Goods

by A. A. Neale

I'm a tinkerin' old dude. I may not know much about it, but I'll raise the hood, take apart the radio, and, even at my advanced age, peek inside the computer's innards. Maybe it's just plain curiosity, or maybe a secret desire lurks in the old ticker to fix the world, but give me a screwdriver and pliers and stand back, because I'm at it.

I can't tell if I've saved more money by tinkerin', but I've enjoyed it. Except when I have to call the repairman, and he gives me one of those "I-wish-you-hadn't-messed-with-this" kind of looks.

Not only do I tinker with my own appliances and purchases, but at the slightest hint I'll tear into my neighbor's little item as well. (I have two that will still talk to me.) I get itchy fingers when something isn't working just right.

Other people are tinkerers, too. Among them were the Corinthians. Except they started tinkerin' with something that wasn't theirs AND that never needed messing with to start with. --Cont'd. on page 2

The good old apostle Paul slapped them on the hand. *"For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"* (**1 Cor. 4:7**). He had just told them that they shouldn't tinker with the Sacred Text, not to *"go beyond the things which are written"* (**vs 6**). Why was that? One reason was because the gospel wasn't theirs, it didn't belong to them. They weren't any different from any other congregation and couldn't boast that what they had was original with them.

You just don't tinker with what isn't yours, especially when it doesn't need fixing. Now I'm still learning that lesson about appliances, but I hope I figured out that when it comes to the Perfect Plan the Lord sent down from heaven, we'd best leave it as is and do things just like he said to do them.

The Corinthians, to get back to our verse, had begun to glory in men and their "high-falutin" wisdom. And that led, as it always does, to some bad teaching as well. So they got immorality in the church, and abuses in the Lord's Supper, and legal cases in the courts, among other problems.

Before we shake our heads at them, we might take note that the modern church has done pretty much the same. We've got some big-name britches writing and speaking around the country and off in other countries. They look good, and sound good, and make us feel real good. Never mind they're not quite dead center with the gospel. Besides, we tell ourselves, who's got it 100% right anyway?

So Mr. Paul's words come back to slap our tinkerin' fingers. Who's gospel is this, anyway? Mine? Yours? Theirs? Then why have we taken spiritual screwdrivers to God's purchase to play at will with a perfect System? In some quarters, it's the Corinthian church all over again.

Now there are some folk who just refuse to walk around ogling at Personality Junction. They know that what they've got isn't theirs to tinker with. They have figured out that, no matter who we are, even if we're the great apostle Paul, we're no more than "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (**verse 1**), and that's how everybody ought to consider us. Another minor detail: the big requirement for a steward is to "be found faithful" (**verse 2**), not to be an original thinker, or a confounded tinkerer.

Some of those old fools are still around. And I'm thankful for that.

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A SMILE HERE

Becoming aware of my character defects leads me naturally to the next step of blaming my parents.

We did have to childproof our home about 3 years ago ... but somehow they still get in!

Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.

Grandchildren are God's reward for staying on good terms with your children.

Who are these kids and why are they calling me Mom?

Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your kids.

You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can never fool a Mom.

I love to give homemade gifts ... which one of my kids do you want?

A child's greatest period of growth is the month after you've purchased new school clothes.

One who says 'Easy as taking candy from a baby' has never tried it.

Children: You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and be quiet.

-----Selected

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Don Alexander
Jason & Marie Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Bill Cain
Larry Cain
The Collier's
Ben Copeland
Karen Daly
Robert (Bob) Erickson
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Jim Jones
Dale Lovelady
The Lovett Family
Jean McCarty
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant
Berniece Raven
Rosie Reagan
Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
The Roadman family
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
The Rudes
Bill & Rena Schultz
The Brad Shuck Family
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Ellie Williams
Gordon & Glenda Wilson
Bob Hauck & Jessica Perkins (new mem.)

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Aaron Robertson
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

THE POWER TO SEE IT THROUGH

2 Thess 3:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. 3,000 people obeyed the gospel when the apostles preached on Pentecost. Acts 2:41
 - 1. This was in keeping with the commission that Jesus had given the apostles.
 - 2. We're expected of us to remain faithful and consistent in our service to God!
- B. Demas illustrates one of the most familiar tragedies of human experience.
 - 1. He had a fine beginning in serving God, with good teachers. Phile 23-24; Col 4:14
 - 2. But many experiences we've had haven't produced our desires, have they?
 - 3. AND SO IT WAS WITH DEMAS, as we read in 2 Tim 4:10
- C. Most know that a good ending is much more important than a good beginning!
 - 1. The LIFE OF CHRIST exemplifies this, emphatically!
 - 2. His birth was not given near as much attention as His death on the Cross. John 18:37

I. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE CAUSE OF DEMAS' SPIRITUAL DESERTION?

- A. The inspired record makes a bold statement: "HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD!
- B. The text does not say that Demas was inherently evil!
 - 1. BUT IT COULD just be a form of pleasure, or business urgencies, or family needs ...
 - 2. The text doesn't say he was having an illicit relationship with some woman, nor that he was doing shady business deals, or that he was abusing a wife or children!
 - 3. BUT ANY of these would certainly classify us as "lovers of the world!"
- C. A LOVE FOR THE WORLD CAN OVERTAKE US from several different perspectives.
 - 1. If we love the WORLD in our hearts, the love of God is not in us! 1 John 2:15-17
 - 2. The seed that fell among thorns ~ encountered those thorns in our hearts. Lk 8:14
 - 3. If our focus is not upon God, it is upon fleshly things! Prov 23:7; Col 3:1-2
 - 4. We attain to spiritual maturity only by/thru the Word of God. Phil 3:15-20
- D. What's really a meaningful indication of our priorities? Matt 16:25-26

II. WHAT WILL ASSURE US OF LIVING OUR LIVES SUCCESSFULLY?

- A. FIRST, it'll always be necessary for us to maintain an Integrity of Conscience!
 - 1. One of the greatest assets of this quality is being honest with self! Acts 23:1; 24:16
 - 2. One honestly seeking the Lord's direction will find it! Matt 7:7
 - 3. The person who stifles his conscience is being dishonest with himself! 1 Tim 4:2
- B. Spiritual Staying Power is always associated with being captured by a Godly Cause!
 - 1. A worthy cause for God must be considered as being greater than our selfish goals!
 - 2. This is the spirit /attitude of which martyrs are made! Acts 21:13; Rev 2:13
- C. The Power SEE IT THROUGH makes necessary a GROWING FAITH!
 - 1. Resources for greater power in God's Service:
 - 2. Our expending efforts for God's Cause is included in His purpose.
 - 3. Faith will widen horizons, will lengthen vision, and will alter our view! 2 Cor 4:16-18

IN SUMMARY:

- A. 2 Tim 4:10
- B. Contrast the life of Demas with Paul's life, and the H.S. does that for us in one scriptural reference. 2 Tim 4:6-8