

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

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October 14th, 2007

Are You too Slow or too Hasty?

by Alan Smith

The story is told of five doctors went duck shooting one day. Included in the group were a GP, a pediatrician, a psychiatrist, a surgeon and a pathologist. After a time, a bird came flying overhead. The first to react was the GP who raised his shot-gun, but then hesitated. "I'm not quite sure it's a duck," he said. "I think that I will have to get a second opinion." And of course by that time, the bird was long gone.

Another bird appeared in the sky thereafter. This time the pediatrician drew a bead on it. He too, however, was unsure if it were really a duck in his sights and besides, it might have babies. "I'll have to do some more investigations," he muttered, as the creature made good its escape.

Next to spy a bird flying was the sharp-eyed psychiatrist. Shotgun shouldered, he was more certain of his intended prey's identity. "Now, I know it's a duck, but does IT know it's a duck?" The fortunate bird disappeared while the fellow wrestled with this dilemma.

Finally, a fourth fowl sped past and this time the surgeon's weapon pointed skywards. BOOM!! The surgeon lowered his smoking gun and turned

nonchalantly to the pathologist beside him: "Go see if that was a duck, will you?"

We've all been guilty at times of shooting first and asking questions later. That's why we have the proverb, "Look before you leap." Of course, we also have a proverb which tells us of the danger in delay: "He who hesitates is lost." So which is it? Which is the wiser advice?

If you look to God's Word for the answer, you may end up just as confused:

"How long will you lie there, you lazy person? When will you get up from sleeping?" (Prov 6:9, NCV)

"....Those who act too quickly become poor." (Prov 21:5b, NCV)

The truth is, there's danger in both extremes. It is necessary to look ahead and plan before taking action (Jesus called that "*counting the cost*"), but we have to be careful not to procrastinate so much that we never get anything accomplished. It is a wise man indeed who can find the proper balance.

Heavenly Father, I freely confess there have been many times in my life when I have been paralyzed by analyzing the situation, and have failed to step forward in faith as You would have me to. And I also recognize the many times I have wildly plunged ahead without giving much

thought to what I was doing, and later regretted my actions. Bless me with the wisdom to live with the proper balance in my life. In the name of Jesus Christ (who always knew what to do and when to do it), amen.

Alan Smith, White House, Tenn

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LOVE LIBERATES

We live in an age when both men and women are increasingly seeking to be liberated (*interpretation*: free from all obligations and commitments to others). This is a most enslaving attitude.

The misery and self-destruction of this attitude should be obvious merely from examining the fate of those who have dedicated themselves to hatred (**Matt. 26:52**). However, we can look to God's word to see the benefits of a loving attitude.

Jesus commanded: "*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*" (**Matt 5:44**). *What a revolutionary idea!* To the world this is the pathway to certain enslavement.

But Christians recognize that *hatred* is the real captor. When we hate someone we totally surrender control of our emotions and our behavior to them. When we maintain our love for them, we remain free from these evil corrupting emotions (**Eph 4:26**).

The Apostle Paul put it this way: "*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is]*

mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:19-21).

Who is in control and who is the victim? It should not be our desire to "heap coals of fire;" however, that is the way things will work out. This is not intuitive, *it is a matter of faith*

Mutual hate produces a totally hopeless deadlock of enslavement. Its end: spiritual and carnal warfare.

In no place is this more tragic than in the church. Jesus said: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34).

This teaches that our love for one another is totally within our control. Indeed, if we are expected to love our enemies, we surely have the capacity to love our fellow Christians. If not, we are in dire need of repentance.

Mutual love produces a totally evangelistic environment. Its ultimate end is the full realization of the power of the gospel (Rom 1:16). It is the beginning of our evangelistic effort, and without it this effort is doomed to failure from the start. Via TTT

**Gospel Meeting in the Vacaville
Church of Christ
Dee Bowman, preaching
Oct 21st -26th 2007
Mon-Fri at 7:30 PM**

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Don Alexander
Jason & Marie Anderson
Frank & Tina Ayers
Edith Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Bill Cain
Larry Cain
Ben Copeland
Karen Daly
Helen Gray
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Jim Jones
Dale Lovelady (Lucille's brother)
Jean McCarty
Jeffrey & Kaye Pennant
Berniece Raven
Rosie Reagan
Glenn & LaurieAnn Reagan
The Roadman family
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Bill & Rena Schultz
The Brad Shuck Family
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Ellie Williams
Kathy Wilson (Folsom)
Gordon & Glenda Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

Karen Daly
Aaron Robertson
Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

Jason Anderson
David Lovett
Aaron Robertson
Trent Walsh

FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

2 Pet 1:2-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Others before us have suffered to preserve for us The Bible, the word of God!
- B. What do you suppose would be the most effective way to keep others ignorant of Bible?
- C. Satan concluded that it's to keep people ignorant of God's Word.

I. THERE CAN BE NO SAVING FAITH AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE IF THEY'VE REJECTED HIS KNOWLEDGE-SUPPLYING FAITH! Matt 17:5

- A. Anyone who refuses to know CANNOT be saved! Rom 10:17. Hosea 4:6
 - 1. Any obedience we render to the Lord must come from an obedient heart. Matt 17:5
- B. The consequence is that without faith we cannot please God ~ Heb 11:6
 - 1. ALSO, except you believe that "I am he" you will "die in your sins!" Jno 8:24
 - 2. AND, if we die in our sins we cannot be justified. Rom 5:1
- C. God has offered salvation to all men. 2 Peter 3:9; Jno 3:16.
 - 1. Jesus, likewise, encouraged men to be saved! Matt 11:28-30
 - 2. We can't come to God without hearing the gospel and obeying it!
 - 3. THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO THE LORD is to come by faith. Matt 13:15

II. BECAUSE OF A "LACK OF KNOWLEDGE" = ACCEPTABLE "OBEDIENCE TO GOD" IS IMPOSSIBLE!

- A. Jesus Christ is God's savior to mankind, but only those who obey Him! Heb 5:8-9
 - 1. Effectual Obedience must originate in the heart of sinners. Rom 6:17
 - 2. Jesus stressed continuing obedience in Matt 28:19 "Do what apostles did!"
 - 3. There's no faith without knowledge, and no obedience without faith and knowledge!
- B. Disobedience not only keeps us from "SALVATION" ~ *but it also condemns us!*
 - 1. We must obey the Lord, and not man! Matt 7:21.
 - 2. And God's only saving power is still the gospel. Rom 1:16-17; 2 Thes 1:7-9.

III. "LACK OF KNOWLEDGE" ON OUR PART RESULTS IN A DEFICIENT OF OUR PRODUCTIVITY IN GOD'S BEHALF!

- A. Our obedience to that Gospel is the BEGINNING of our life in God's service.
 - 1. A lack of knowledge will nullify our obedience and usefulness in God's SERVICE!
 - 2. HOW TO ENGAGE IN GOOD WORKS is teaching needed by most of us today!
- B. People CAN and WILL DO better ONLY when we've been TAUGHT BETTER!
 - 1. But we surely can't be TAUGHT BETTER if we refuse the Lord's information!
 - 2. Hence, spiritual inactivity is OUR FAULT --- NOT GOD'S!
- C. A lack of spiritual Activity condemns us today just as it always has. Lk 6:46; 2 Pet 1:9
 - 1. It's as sinful to NOT USE our KNOWLEDGE as it is to NOT RECEIVE IT!
 - 2. It'll bring about a "dullness of hearing" in us! Heb 5:11.

IN SUMMARY:

- A. God's people have been both REJECTED AND DESTROYED for lack of knowledge.
- B. Not being ACTIVE in God's service is a deplorable condition:
 - 1. FIRST, because it results in our fearfulness ~ "Master, we perish!" Matt 8:26
 - 2. SECOND, because it also results in immorality ~ 1 Cor 5:1-5
- C. BUT, ABIDING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD inures to our spiritual benefit:
 - 1. Keeps us in a right relationship,
 - 2. Keeps us strong as able servants;
 - 3. It welds us onto that HOPE of being with God eternally! 2 Pet 1:2-4
- D. A PROPER KNOWLEDGE + A GODLY LOVE = obed: F + R + C + B = SAL