

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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THEY WILLFULLY FORGET!

by R. B. Rankin

"...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'where is the promise of the coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For they willfully forget that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Pet. 3:3b-7)

Peter wrote these words sometime before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, so the church is less than 40 years old, and already there are 'scoffers' in the body of Christ, who are questioning the second coming of the Lord. They have "willfully forgotten" their history. The word "willfully" includes, but does not limit, the idea of "desire" along with 'volition' or "exercising of the will". These people were not ignorant of the events that had previously happened to the physical world because they had not been told, nor were they uninformed on the subject, but chose to ignore the past.

It is a well known axiom that "history repeats itself". They were well aware of the flood, but what they willfully WANTED to forget was the very idea that God once again would bring destruction and woe upon the earth. So, they found a very simple solution... **"JUST FORGET ABOUT IT!"**

This is exactly how Satan has been able to keep so many people from obeying the gospel, by telling them that it has never happened, so it won't happen...just forget about it. God calls on man to "COME ---LET US REASON TOGETHER!" (**Isa. 1:18**), but if man stubbornly refuses to consider the facts, then his salvation is impossible. He is willfully forgetting these things to his own damnation!

One can rationalize that if he doesn't know, then he does not sin. But again, he is willfully forgetting, or ignoring, God's word, which says, "If you know to do good, and don't do it, to you it is sin." (**James 4:17**) Others forget or ignore **Hebrews 10:25**, to forsake not the assembling of yourselves together. The things that people will to forget, avoid or neglect, are the very things that would be of everlasting benefit to them.

When Peter said that these "scoffers" would deny the second coming of Jesus Christ, he introduced arguments that were contrary to their desires. The world had once perished by water...and God promised that it would not happen again... IN THAT WAY! But He also promised that it would perish, but for now was being held in reserve for fire, when it would be destroyed again...and thus confirms the judgment as the final step in this promise...with drastic results for the ungodly.

It may seem inconceivable that any person would willfully forget what God has revealed to us. But history shows that they have existed from the beginning of time, right down to this very day. They run the gamut from those who want to predict the second coming within the next few months, or at least in the present decade, to those who deny that there will even be a second coming.

And now, as in Paul's time, we have a specific group of people who are claiming that they judgment has already come. That it happened in AD 70, and the destruction of Jerusalem marked that event.

But, as we said, that's not new either! Paul told of some in Corinth who were willfully ignoring the future. Others were willfully forgetting the existence of God, as they do today; that Christ ever came the first time, that the Lord's church exists, and above all, that God provided us with a specific plan of salvation.

And Peter went on to show that these scoffers, while willfully forgetting the past, also refused to look at the future, when God would once more destroy the earth. But, he also says that God does not forget, and that man can still escape the consequences. God doesn't want any to perish, but He is "... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

If we permit ourselves to be deluded by these scoffers and false teachers, we may be able to blame them when we stand before God, but that will not excuse us. "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God, and give an answer for the deeds (WE HAVE) done in the flesh." "30"

A BRIEF EXHORTATION

David Riggs

"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, '*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*' says the Lord. Therefore '*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (**Rom 12:19-21**)

"In the days of the American Revolutionary War there lived at Ephrata, Pennsylvania, a Baptist pastor by the name of Peter Miller who enjoyed the friendship of General Washington. There also dwelt in that town one Michael Wittman, an evil-minded man who did all in his power to abuse and oppose this pastor. One day Michael Wittman was involved in treason and was arrested and sentenced to death. The old preacher started out on foot and walked the whole seventy miles to Philadelphia to plead for this man's life. He was admitted into Washington's presence and at once begged for the life of the traitor.

Washington said, "No, Peter, I cannot grant you the life of your friend."

The preacher exclaimed, "My friend? He is the bitterest enemy I have!"

Washington cried, "What? You've walked seventy miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. I will grant the pardon." And he did.

Peter Miller took Michael Wittman from the very shadow of death back to his own home in Ephrata -- no longer as an enemy, but as a friend."

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THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

LET US NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING

- Don Alexander
- Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson
- Frank & Tina Ayers
- Edith Ayers
- Jack & Dorothy Bailey
- Margie Buchanan
- Bill Cain (at home)
- Karen Daly
- Helen Gray
- Chris Heffelfinger
- (Christine's dad – heart surgery)
- Margaret Holcomb
- Chuck House
- Catherine Kay
- Darrel & Kristie Collier
- Dale Lovelady
- Vi Lyman family
- (At her passing last Tuesday)
- Jean McCarty
- R.B. & June Rankin
- Wendell & Irma Rapier
- Berniece Raven
- Rosie Reagan
- LaurieAnn Reagan
- The Roadman family
- Caleb & Jacob Robertson
- Taylor Romine
- Ray Rude
- Bill & Rena Schultz
- Troy Shadman
- The Brad Shuck Family
- Ola Thornburg
- Nancy Valine
- Shirley Watkins
- Ellie Williams
- Kathy Wilson (Folsom)
- Gordon Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

- Karen Daly
- Aaron Robertson
- Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

- Jason Anderson
- David Lovett
- Aaron Robertson
- Trent Walsh

Gal 6:7-9 (KJV)

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Weariness breeds sluggishness, and is often a consequence of distrust.
 - 1. "WELL-DOING" has its rewards, not all of which are RIGHT NOW! 1 Tim 4:8
 - 2. A cost for eternal life is a godly life, which is busily doing for God and His family.
- B. EVERY CHILD OF GOD is a commissioned soldier in God's Service. Tit 2:11-14
- C. Our text tells why/what/when/where/why & how about the admonition given in it.

I. THIS IS THE LORD'S ADMONITION TO "NOT BE WEARY!"

- A. Being weary is a lack of focus for God's children. Wake up, look around us! Phil 3:13-14
 - 1. Weariness will very often bring out attitudes of selfishness. Gal 2:20
 - 2. Doubts about what our actions cause spiritual and emotional exhaustion! Phil 4:13
- B. Some weary of doing righteousness are often anxious for worldly acclaim and honor!
 - 1. We may cherish earthly benefits more than heaven's blessings. Matt 7:13-14
 - 2. It seems we may fear the disdain of people more than we fear God!
 - 3. WHY? ~ because humans usually let us know immediately when we lose their favor!
Matt 10:28; 1 Pet 3:14-15;

II. KNOW THIS: GOD IS AWARE OF AMT. OF TIME & ENERGY WE EXPEND TO HARVEST SOULS FOR HIM!

- A. All the results we attain will be in direct proportion to WHAT & HOW we have sown! Gal 6:7; 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 8:1-2
 - 1. God's measure of us isn't by the number of sinners we've converted.
 - 2. But He DOES CONSIDER our diligence in SEEKING His lost ones.
 - 3. WHO/ WHAT determines our status and our acceptability with God?
- B. The reward in heavenly is reserved for *those* who stay busy and focused in His service!
 - 1. Faithful efforts will bring fruits to the cause of Christ during our time on earth.
 - 2. The greatest reward awaiting us is eternal in nature! 1 Pet 1:3-5; Heb 9:28
- C. God's Eternal Reward is for those who "LOVE" the Lord's appearing.
 - 1. This is a day of business for the Lord ~ OR ~ it's a day we'll meet Him in the air!
 - 2. SO, are we, REALLY and TRULY, ready for the Lord to COME? 2 Tim 4:8

III. OUR SALVATION IS CONDITIONED ON OUR FAITHFULNESS TO GOD

- A. Our faith should be strong enough so that we avoid spiritually weariness. 1 Cor 15:58
 - 1. When the apostle said to "not be weary" he said don't be weak, or faint, or be weary.
 - 2. Would the Lord OWN or DISOWN us because of our present efforts?
- B. We must, for the rest of our lives "fight the good fight of faith" as noted in 1 Tim 6:12.
 - 1. We've known some aggressive fighters for God, as well as some who were WEARY!
 - 2. We're must maintain our "good soldiers" status in the Lord's service.

IN SUMMARY:

- A. It IS possible to be WEARY IN WELL DOING!
 - 1. We FAIL the Lord's expectations if we're not consistent and steadfast in our efforts.
 - 2. When we grow weary, we fail in commitment, allegiance, well-doing, & soul-seeking.
- B. Our faithfulness in our spiritual calling is increasing our faith by His Word and OUR efforts.
 - 1. A bountiful harvest will follow strong commitments by His FAITHFUL SERVANTS!
 - 2. Rev 2:10
- C. Do you need to obey the LORD in order to reap the blessings as a child of God?