

# 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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## **GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS**

*By Dee Bowman*

*"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven"*  
**(Ecclesiastes 3:1).**

Life's like that. Just about the time you think you have it all figured out, some new adventure disrupts your confidence and flies in the face of your conclusions. Nobody has life figured out.

I wrote in my journal recently: "I don't suppose it's possible to have any length of time where you are right with the world. I had 15 minutes one day where it just seemed everything was just right. Then the phone rang. Pfsst!. Right out the window. But then I've had times when everything was all messed up, tangled, distorted, and disheveled. And right in the middle of my pity party the mail comes and there's a nice note -- unexpected and joyful -- and for the next 15 minutes things are right with the world again. That is, until the phone rang. Pfsst! Oh well, the mail comes again tomorrow. Maybe..." Trying to figure life out is a futile enterprise, one destined for sure failure.

Here are some suggestions for making life -- all of it -- more pleasurable and more useable:

Don't run from trouble. You can't go fast enough. Trouble will find you. Face it head-on and with determinate faith. There is no temptation bigger than you can bear if you put your confidence in God (**1 Cor 10:13**). And there's no problem that can't be solved if you keep in touch with your spirituality. Even the fear of death is conquerable if you have sufficient trust in your Master (**Heb 2:14-16, 1 Cor 15:51-58**).

Don't let discouragement rob you. Discouragement is one of the Devil's most functional tools. It wrestles a man down by robbing him of his faith, and in doing so, saps his energy to keep on. It strikes every age, every spiritual level. It causes faith to flag and determination to become impotent. It's a power-grabber, discouragement is. But faith is still the answer. Trusting confidence in God will triumph over discouragement. But you have to engage it. You have to shove your faith in front of the discouragement before it can conquer it. Listen to what God said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (**Heb 13:5**). Do you believe it?

Remember, down doesn't have to mean out. Just because you lose a battle now and then doesn't mean you've lost the war. Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and get back into the fracas again. There's work to be done, people to see, prayers to make, lessons to learn. Activity is the key to winning. Don't every quit. Only the weak quit. *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Paul, in **Phil. 3:13-14**). *"I press,"* said Paul. You must do so too, for he closes the admonition with **"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded."** Are you?

And remember, most of all, that you and God make a majority. There is no force on earth strong enough to separate you from His love and to keep you out of His kingdom. Not even death itself can do it. Certainly, we may boldly say, *"...the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do to me."* Paul said, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through Him that loved us."* Stay with God and you can't lose, folks.

And finally, remember that Solomon said, *"In the day of prosperity rejoice; in the day of adversity consider, for God hath set the one over against the other..."* (**Eccles. 7:14**). Don't try to second-guess Providence, or ask "why me?" Relax and let it happen. Don't ask, "why has God allowed this?" Rather, ask, "what does He want me to do with this?" Allow the good days to cause rejoicing. Allow the bad ones to increase your learning.

Life is happy for those who love God and are keeping His commandments, no matter what comes along. After all, life is constructed of two things: good days and bad days.

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## **His Wish**

By David Sargent

Mary Ann Bird was born with multiple birth defects. She suffered not only from her physical impairments but also with the emotional trauma of "being different" from others. Here is her story in her own words from her personal memoirs entitled, **The Whisper Test:**

I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I looked to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech.

When schoolmates asked, "What happened to your lip?" I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me.

There was, however, a teacher in the second grade whom we all adored -- Mrs. Leonard by name. She was short, round, happy -- a sparkling lady.

Annually we had a hearing test. Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years

that as we stood against the door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something, and we would have to repeat it back -- things like *"The sky is blue"* or *"Do you have new shoes?"* I waited there for those words that God must have put into her mouth, those seven words that changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, *"I wish you were MY little girl."*

**Because of our sin, YOU and I are in a dreadful condition** – not because we are different from others, for ALL of us share this common malady (**Rom 3:23**). The prophet Isaiah described our condition well: *"ALL of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags"* (**Isa 64:6**).

Yet because of His GREAT love for us, God says to you and me, *"I wish you were My child."* And, because of His GREAT love for us, He has provided a way for us to be cleansed from our sins and *"adopted"* into His family. This provision came at a terrible price: the death of His Son, Jesus, on a cruel cross. *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive... the adoption as sons"* (**Gal 4:4-5**).

**God redeems us and "adopts" us into His family when we:** by faith in Christ (**Acts 16:31**) turn from our sins in repentance (**2 Corinthians 7:9-10**), confess Jesus before men (**Rom 10:9-10**), and are baptized (immersed) for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**). **Then, as His "children"...** we are instructed to follow in the steps of Jesus for the rest of our lives (**1 Jno 1:7**).

It doesn't matter how badly you have messed up your life. God's wish – His desire – is for YOU to become His child. Your acceptance of His offer will change your life – forever! **(borrowed)**

## **THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS**

Don Alexander  
 Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson  
 Frank & Tina Ayers  
 Edith Ayers  
 Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
 Margie Buchanan  
**Bill Cain (Red Bluff)**  
 Karen Daly  
 Helen Gray  
 Chris Heffelfinger  
**(Christine's dad)**  
 Margaret Holcomb  
 Chuck House  
 Catherine Kay  
 Darrel & Kristie Collier  
 Dale Lovelady  
 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

***And all those traveling  
 this holiday season***

## **IN THE MILITARY**

Jason Anderson  
 David Lovett  
 Aaron Robertson  
 Trent Walsh

# THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

1 Pet 2:21-25

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. The last song, very familiar, was written by Mary B.C. Slade.
- B. Jesus left us an example for us to follow ~ with the instructions, "**COME, FOLLOW ME!**"
  - 1. Following Jesus is not just an approximation on our part, but we're to FOLLOW HIS STEPS!
  - 2. Our objective in this lesson is to focus attention WHERE these steps lead **so we can follow!**
  - 3. The obligation was the Lord's to present, ours to understand, plus have capacity to obey!

## I. THOSE FOOTSTEPS FIRST LED THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM.

- A. One of Jesus' first acts to go to be baptized by John who was baptizing in the Jordan ~
- B. Admittedly, this was exception to the rule of John's baptism, as we see in Matt 3:13-15
  - 1. Converts acknowledged or confessed their sinfulness ~ Matt 3:6
  - 2. John's converts were normally baptized for remission of sins, as we see in Luke 3:3
  - 3. Jesus was baptized by John, in order to fulfill all righteousness.
- C. Jesus disciples even now must be baptized to initiate their new relationship. Rom 6:3-4.
  - 1. WE, in our obedience, are baptized for the remission of our sins because Acts 2:38.
  - 2. We must know our guiltiness and remedy by obedience. Matt 7:21; Heb 5:8-9

## II. THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS TOOK HIM THROUGH THE TEMPTATIONS OF THAT WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

- A. *It's not just "chance"* that these temptations followed immediately after Jesus' baptism.
- B. Jesus successfully resisted each temptation of Satan's.
  - 1. First, because He DETERMINED to resist Satan and remain faithful to God!
  - 2. To do so, He skillfully applied the word of God as He resisted each temptation.
- C. Jesus' followers will also find themselves in the wilderness of temptation. Jas 1:13-14
  - 1. We know that Christ knows of our situations and will allow us to escape. 1 Cor 10:13.
  - 2. If we're not following Jesus, then who's on our side (or, whose side are WE ON)?

## III. OTHER PLACES WHERE JESUS' FOOTPRINTS LEAD HIS DISCIPLES:

- A. He'll lead us to the house of worship.
  - 1. Just as His custom was in His life on earth. Luke 4:16
  - 2. Jesus faithfully kept all the tenets of the Law of Moses. John 8:46
- B. His footprints lead us to the FIELDS OF SERVICE to have part in His Harvest!
  - 1. The briefest biography of Jesus is found in Acts 10:38
  - 2. Jesus went to sinners to save; to those sick to heal; & to the lost to rescue them!
- C. Jesus will lead us to the Mountain of Prayer, because talking with God was so important.
- D. Jesus will lead us into the Garden of Despair. A betrayal, disciples slept, a terrible Cross.
- E. Jesus will lead us to that Cross of His Suffering ~ greater than any we'll ever have!
- F. Jesus will lead us into the Valley of Death. Psa 23:4

## IV. FINALLY & ULTIMATELY, JESUS' STEPS WENT UP TO GOD'S THRONE.

- A. The footprints of Jesus didn't end in the dark valley, but in triumph in the GREAT BEYOND! Psa 24:7
- B. Those who follow His footprints will be JOINT HEIRS with Him, and invited to sit with Him on His Throne. Rev 3:21

## IN SUMMARY:

- A. What more is there to say?
- B. Each one of us wants to be with Jesus in Heaven, DON'T WE?
  - 1. The only way to get there is by following the footprints that Jesus left to guide us.
  - 2. What would hinder you from affirmatively answering Jesus' invitation in Matt 11:28?