

2008 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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January 13th, 2008

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

by David A. Sargent

A rich but miserable man once visited a rabbi seeking understanding of his life and how he might find peace. The rabbi led the man to a window and said, "What do you see?"

"I see men, women, and children," answered the rich man. The rabbi then took the man and stood him in front of a mirror. "Now what do you see?" he asked. "I see myself," the rich man replied.

"Yes," said the rabbi. "It is a strange thing, is it not? In the window there is a glass and in the mirror there is a glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver, and no sooner is the silver added than you cease to see others, and see only yourself."

Someone has well said: "Money is a good servant - but a poor master. The lure for silver and gold is stronger than the human will, and with many a man it stands between his SOUL and his GOD. **Someday it will be discovered that the bars that shut MANY out of the kingdom of heaven are forged of silver and gold!**"

The Scriptures warn: "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered

from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows" (1 Tim 6:9-10). **Unfortunately, many do not see God and His will for their lives because they have allowed their vision to become clouded by "a little silver."**

Their WINDOW has become a MIRROR!

Those who have an intense desire for money and the things that money can buy are often blinded to the fact that God loves them, and He wants them to become His children and inherit TRUE riches. Through faith in God and His Son (**Hebrews 11:6**), repentance (**2 Corinthians 7:10-11**), confession (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism (immersion) for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38**), God adopts us as His children. And if we are His children, then we are heirs - "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ" (**Romans 8:17**) -- **IF WE CONTINUE...** to walk according to our Father's instructions.

What do YOU see? Do you see a "*temporary reflection*" of **YOURSELF** in a glass containing silver? **Or, are you able to see THROUGH the glass -- beyond yourself - - to LIFE that beckons from the other side?**

---David A. Sargent
Mobile, Alabama

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**SERVICE TIMES:**

**SUNDAY:**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Bible Classes</b>    | <b>9:00 AM</b> |
| <b>Worship Services</b> | <b>9:55 AM</b> |
| <b>Evening Class</b>    |                |

**WEDNESDAY:**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Bible Classes</b> | <b>7:00 PM</b> |
|----------------------|----------------|

**PRIVATE CLASSES BY APPOINTMENT**  
**Call 916-961-6944 to set it up**

**REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR**

by Jason Moore

*"When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy" (**Psa 63:6-7**).*

Computers use a type of memory called ROM, or read-only memory. A CD-ROM is a compact disk that operates as a read-only memory. It stores information like programs, text, music or video to be read by a compact disk drive. Three things are significant about ROM as a type of memory. First, it contains permanently stored information. Second, the information it stores can be read quickly. Third, ROM can only be read--it is read-only--you cannot add to it or rewrite it.

Solomon, who lived long before the age of computers, wrote a piece of information for you to record in the read-only portion of your mind. He said, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth" (**Ecc1 12:1, NIV**). "God made you" is information which you should save in the front of your active memory. Like the data on a CD-ROM, it is information that you want to (1) retain permanently, (2) recall immediately, and (3) reserve from alteration. It is information to which you need instant access every day. "God made you" is a message which, in your youth, deserves reading, and re-reading, but never re-writing. In fact, it is information which is necessary to writing Your story.

Your story is the history of your life. Your story began, not with your birth, not even with your conception. Your story began, quite apart from you or your parents, with an idea in the mind of God--the idea of you. Having thought of you and brought the idea of you to life, God handed Your story over to your parents to be a chapter in Their story. They carried it along in Their story until the time was right for you to take up Your story for yourself. Your story, like Their story from which it branches off, like My story with which it may

connect in parts, like History from which Our story branches, begins with the words: "In the beginning God created . . . ." Remember that. Don't forget it. What comes next is up to you. If Your story is to be well-written, you must remember how it began--with the idea of you in the mind of God.

"God made you." That piece of read-only information written indelibly by the hand of God is especially important to remember as you, "in the days of your youth," write the early chapters of Your story. It is important for the middle-aged and old to remember too, but especially the young. Oddly enough, it is in the early part of Your story that you are the most likely to forget, or perhaps ignore, how it began. When you are old, you are near the part of your life where God takes up the pen again to write the ending, so you are naturally forced to think more of where God turned it over to you in the beginning and to reflect on what you have done with it since. When you are young, you tend not to think of how your life began, nor of how it will end, but of the middle where all the action is. You think of today, and can't wait for tomorrow. That is why Solomon told the young, "Remember." In the bustle of the present, think of the past. Think of yesterday--the day when God thought of you. That will help you today and get you ready for tomorrow. "Remember" today, "in the days of your youth," that "God made you."

What does that sort of thinking change? Only, everything. Every ordinary aspect of your person and situation in life takes on an extraordinary importance when you "remember God made you."

--From The Southside Reminder

## THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Don Alexander  
 Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson  
 Frank & Tina Ayers  
 Edith Ayers  
 Jack & Dorothy Bailey  
 Margie Buchanan  
Bill Cain  
 Karen Daly  
*Min Fox*  
*(Kirk's g-mother)*  
 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  
 Eli & the Roadman family  
 Caleb & Jacob Robertson  
 Taylor Romine  
 Ray Rude  
 Bill & Rena Schultz  
 Troy Shadman  
 The Brad Shuck Family  
 Ola Thornburg  
 June Meltzer  
 (Ola's daughter)  
 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

# **THE DANGERS OF DRIFTING**

**Heb 2:1-4**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. If you were asked to name one primary danger to every Christian, what would it be?
  - 1. If we asked a lot of people, we'd get different answers, but all would point to drifting!
  - 2. **Know This:** very few set out on a mission to "**drift away from God,**" by their sins!
- B. IT'S A REAL DANGER we face ~ and friends, none of us are exempt from this possibility!
  - 1. Jesus, praying in Gethsemane, returned to awaken and warn His sleeping disciples!
  - 2. We've been reborn, and have set our duty to God, so we're warned in 1 Cor 10:12.
- C. Horrible pitfalls could certainly be avoided if we see how others are falling away from God.

## **I. WHY WOULD ONE WHO HAS CONFESSED THE NAME OF CHRIST BE SO UNFOCUSSED/UNATTENTIVE AS TO DRIFT AWAY?**

- A. **NEGLECT** of Godly duties coupled with worldly habits causes many to DRIFT!
  - 1. Godly lives need the association and support of other citizens in the Lord's Heavenly Kingdom!
  - 2. Our private praying must not be forsaken with any expectation of safety.
  - 3. Daily doses of Spiritual food (Bible reading and study) must never be neglected!
- B. BUSINESS REVERSES ... have shorn many from God's safety & blessings!
- C. WORLDLY PROSPERITY ... leads many away from their dependency on the Lord Jesus.
  - 1. Money is deceitful, offering the promise of successes and accomplishes. 1 Tim 6:9-10 - "*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*"
  - 2. This is the real reason for Agur's prayer in Prov 30:7-9
- D. SORROWS OF THE WORLD ... often precipitate people's drifting away from God.
  - 1. Sorrow of the world expresses itself in different ways.
  - 2. Too many of us bring sorrows upon ourselves, then WE LEAVE GOD because of OUR SHORTCOMINGS. 2 Cor 4:17
- E. WRONG RELATIONSHIPS or EXPECTATIONS ~ can be the thrust in us abandoning God!
  - 1. We cannot be right with God and wrong toward our fellow citizens in the Kingdom of God. Psa 66:18
  - 2. Hatred in the heart blurs perceptions and poisons thinking, as in the expression: "*I was so mad I couldn't see straight!*"
  - 3. Any differences need to be settled on a brotherly basis, as between Abraham and Lot.

## **II. GOD ALSO GIVES WARNINGS TO NON-CHRISTIANS**

- A. Currents in the stream of life will cause us to KEEP DRIFTING ever farther away from God.
- B. Worldly temptations regarding physical wants will stifle even strong feelings of spirituality!
  - 1. How hard it is to pray in the atmospheres some of us must live in!
  - 2. We know it's the influences around it that causes a small boat to drift downstream!
  - 3. Many are overwhelmed with desire because of the temptations for earthly fulfillments!
- C. Our daily tasks of busyness challenge our focus for godly service and activities!
  - 1. A man's business can make him lose his focus on the pathway to heaven.
  - 2. Spiritual thorns will choke out the word of God and deter us from our safe course!

## **IN SUMMARY:**

- A. Is there anything wrong in your life that has separated you from God?
  - 1. All corrections you need to make must be done while you still have the power to do so!
  - 2. You can never get well spiritually if you're not aware of needed changes!
- B. DON'T WAIT TOO LONG TO QUIT DRIFTING AND SET YOUR LIFE ARIGHT WITH GOD!