

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

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

April 13th, 2008

A Standard You Can Trust

by Phil Ware

We live in a world where everything is relative. Most people in today's post-Christian culture don't believe in any absolutes. You don't have to cut corners or hedge the edge when there are no corners or edges. Morality is what I want or what the majority decides to enforce. Right now, the majority seems content to allow almost anything, except for someone with a set of absolute values.

So, the question must be asked, "What can I trust? Is anything dependable? Is there a standard?"

When people look to religion, what do they find?

Pretty much whatever they want to find. Even turning to what the world would call Christianity, a person can find almost anything he or she chooses to find. Because there are so many conflicting positions taken by those who claim Christ as Lord, they get to decide what is right by what seems best to them. In other words, rather than worshipping a Holy God who sets standards and defines character, we have made the Christian religion into a shopping mall that allows us to choose the store that demands little of us. We get to choose what seems best for us because there are no standards.

At entrance of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, a set of standards are permanently part of the wall. The first is the length of a yard. The second is a round circle for the standard size of a loaf of bread. Each of these two standards, one embedded and one carved, were placed there to assure the people of that day that they were not being cheated by others. These were standards they could use to check and compare. A yard meant a yard, and the standard was a steel rod embedded in the wall. A round loaf of bread had to be a certain size, or it wasn't a full loaf of

bread. If the street vendors and merchants didn't have standards, at least the Church would display standards that no one could dispute.

That principle works pretty well for measuring a yard and the minimum size of a loaf of bread. However, is there anything that we can take away from this example from the world of commerce and apply to our churches and ourselves?

Yes, I believe so. I believe that we have two standards as Christians that immutable and the starting point of any discussion of values, character, and absolutes. One is embedded in our hearts; I'm talking about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The other standard is carved into the fabric of our identity; I'm talking about the crucified and resurrected Christ. These are our starting points, our finishing points, and our standard of measurements.

Jesus is God's final Word (Hebrews 1:1-3), the Message of God made clear and plain in human flesh (John 1:1-18). He is our goal (Galatians 4:19; 2 Cor 3:18; Col 1:28-29; 1 John 2:6). Our conduct and character are determined by his life, his crucifixion, and his resurrection (Eph 4:17-32; 1 Cor 11:1). He is our example on how to treat people (Eph 4:32). He is our hero on how to serve (John 13:14-15; Phil 2:5-11). We find the basis for leaving sin behind in his crucifixion (Rom 6:1-14) and we find the power and motivation to live the new life in his resurrection power (Col 3:1-4).

Our other standard is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brought us God's Holy Scriptures (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21). Not only did the Spirit give us these Scriptures, but he gives us spiritual wisdom to understand them (1 Cor 2:10-15). He is our anointing (1 John 2:20-27) and helps us know the things of God and discern those that are false (1 John 4:1-3). The Holy Spirit leads us (Rom 8:14; Gal 5:18) and helps form God's character in us (Gal 5:22-25).

So how do we use these standards?

The more we know about Jesus, the more we can be like him and his standard shows up in our lives. That means that we are going to literally wear our Bibles out reading the Gospels. We are going to want to know what Jesus did so that we can be more like him! So if you want to place the standard of Christ in your life, make a commitment to read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) regularly.

The more we do the things that fill us with God's Spirit,* the more the Spirit influences our lives and guides our steps. So let's do the things that open our hearts to God's Spirit in our lives. Let's recognize that the Spirit will call us to holiness and the things of God, not away from the them. Even more, let's pray expecting God to more completely fill and empower us by his Spirit.

So let's make a commitment to place these two standards in our lives and do all that we can to make them real in how we live.

*Paul describes either the causes or the evidences of being filled with the Spirit in Eph 5:17-21: speaking to one another in song, singing, making music in our hearts to the Lord, giving thanks, and submitting to one another. (The are grammatically linked and either imperatival participles or explanatory participles.) In addition, he adds praying in the Spirit (Eph 6:18-19) and recognizing the Word of God releases the Spirit's power in our lives (6:17). Worship, Word, and sacrificial service clearly are Christ-like activities that release the power of God's Spirit in our lives to lead us.

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Gospel Meeting in Carmichael

August 3-7, 2008

Don Truex, preaching on

"Living 1st Century Faith in a 21st Century World"

Hear the **Gospel of Christ**
In the **Spirit of Christ**
At the **Church of Christ**

GOD OR MONEY:

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

"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. 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." (1 Tim 6:9-10)

Money often comes between men and God. Someone has said that you can take two small ten-cent pieces, just two dimes, and shut out the view of a panoramic landscape. Go to the mountains and just hold two coins closely in front of your eyes. The mountains are still there, but you cannot see them at all because there is a dime shutting out the vision in each eye. It doesn't take large quantities of money to come between us and God. Just a little placed in the wrong position, will effectively obscure our view.

---From A.W. Tozer

SINGING SCHOOL → FOLSOM

Praising God in Song

Lessons on Singing by Tim Stevens

Monday to Wednesday

April 14-16, 2008

7:30 PM = MON ~ TUE ~ WED

Come and Praise God in Song at the

Folsom Point church of Christ

900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA 95630

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson
Edith Ayers
Frank & Tina Ayers
Jamie Ayers
Jack & Dorothy Bailey
Margie Buchanan
Ed Brouillette
Bill Cain
Karen Daly
Robert Erickson
Min Fox
Helen Gray
Chris Heffelfinger
Margaret Holcomb
Chuck House
Donna Lee & Amber
Jean McCarty
Martha McCurdy
Kiley Pace
R.B. & June Rankin
Wendell & Irma Rapier
Berniece Raven & Sharon Collamore
Rosie Reagan
LaurieAnn Reagan
Eli & the Roadman family
Caleb & Jacob Robertson
Taylor Romine
Ray Rude
Bill & Rena Schultz
Troy Shadman
The Brad Shuck Family
Ron & Terry Stewart & Caleb
Ola Thornburg
Nancy Valine
Shirley Watkins
Clair & 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

ANCHORS IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

Hebrews 6:13-20

INTRODUCTION

- A. We would probably all agree that this world can be a really cruel place at times.
 - 1. Raise your hand if you have lived this life and never faced any real troubles?
 - 2. Most realize that as humans living on earth we will have ordeals and problems!
- B. None are exempted from these trials, & Christianity isn't "God's umbrella" so we won't have them.
 - 1. That God will protect us from all the unpleasantness of life is really a comforting thought!
 - 2. What's often the first idea when these trials come on us? *What have I done to deserve this?*
 - 3. The answer is simple: we live on this earth, and all have "bad days" as well as "good days."
- C. SO, What can we do in such times? TO WHOM/ TO WHAT do you turn in times of trouble?
 - 1. It has been said life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it!
 - 2. KNOW THIS: God hasn't left us without instructions on how to react to trials and troubles!
- D. **I want to speak about some of the "anchors" the Lord has provided for our safety!**

I. FIRST ANCHOR: THE WORD OF GOD –

- A. According to God's claim through Paul, His word is inspired – 2 Tim 3:16-17;
 - 1. Peter tells us in 2 Pet 1:20-21 – God is the author of this wonderful book, not man.
 - 2. Who could possibly know how to provide information for man's needs better than GOD?
- B. Who could surpass HIM WHO LOVES US as a better counselor for our guidance & needs?
Isa 46:9-10; Isa 55:8-11.
 - 1. *The scripture is God's discipline and it is given for our learning & our spiritual growth.*
 - 2. *Scriptures are Useful In Teaching* – a testimony of the truth of God regarding our duty!

II. SECOND ANCHOR: PRAYER –

- A. *Pray rather than worry* – Most of us are nearly experts at worry and anxiety, aren't we?
 - 1. *Worry is a lack of trust in God* – Do not worry" is a command from our Lord. Matt 6:25-27
 - 2. *How do we keep it?* Heb 13:5-6
 - 3. Turn it over to God he is our helper. 1 Pet 5:7
- B. *Prayer brings peace into our lives and enlists God to take care of our needs for us!* Phil 4:6-7
 - 1. *Do we remember to thank God when things are going RIGHT?* – 1 Thess 5:17-18
 - 2. Prayers change our attitudes and viewpoints; & praying shows our faith is in God!
 - 3. As God's children we have a lot to be thankful for. **Col 3:15**

III. THIRD ANCHOR: THE CHURCH OF THE LORD

- A. *The church belongs to Christ* – It is the most unique body of people on this earth!
 - 1. Matt 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph 1:19-23; Eph 5:23-28
 - 2. These verses show that Jesus is the builder, founder, and owner of His church.
- B. *And being part of the family of God can give us strength* –
 - 1. 1 Pet 1:22; Jno 13:34-35; 1 Jno 3:16-18; Heb 10:24;
 - 2. Who better knows the trials and tribulations Christians face everyday, like another Christian?
- C. *And our Heavenly Father allows us a HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE* –
 - 1. *Did Abraham ever receive all God's promises personally? Why was he faithful?* – Heb 11:10
 - 2. *You must lay hold on eternal life.* – Heb 6:18
 - 3. When all else fails, we have an anchor that holds fast, and that is Jesus Christ!

IN SUMMARY:

- A. Did God give us some anchors? YES! Are we WISE enough, or FAITHFUL enough to use them?
- B. We must never allow the things of this life keep us from the Anchors God gives to keep us safe!
- C. Life and its troubles CAN, AND WILL, come in many forms and fashions.
- D. By using the anchors God offers, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain!!!