

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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June 22nd, 2008

AN HOUR OF YOUR TIME

by Alan Smith

I have seen the following story in various places, but I do not know the original author:

"Daddy, how much do you make an hour?" With a timid voice and idolizing eyes, the little boy greeted his father as he returned from work.

Giving his boy a glaring look, the father said: "Look, Son, don't bother me now, I'm tired."

"But, Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour?" the boy insisted.

The father, finally giving up, replied: "Ten dollars an hour."

"Okay, Daddy. Could you loan me five dollars?" the boy asked.

Showing his restlessness and positively disturbed, the father yelled: "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!"

It was already dark and the father was meditating on what he said and was feeling guilty. Maybe, he thought, his son wanted to buy something. Finally, trying to ease his mind, the father went to his son's room. "Are you asleep, son?" asked the father.

"No, Daddy. Why?" replied the boy, partially asleep.

"Here's the money asked for earlier," the father said.

"Thanks, Daddy!" rejoiced the son, while putting his hand under his pillow and removing some money. "Now I have enough! Now I have ten dollars! Daddy, could you sell me one hour of your time?"

As a father, this story hits me hard. It is so easy to get involved in providing for the family and doing "good things" for others that my family ends up being neglected. We sometimes think that what will make our children happiest is to have more "things", when what they really want, what they desire more than anything else, is just a bit of our time.

"Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father." (Prov. 17:6)

Heavenly Father, as we stand aware of your constant presence, help us to learn from You to be the kind of fathers we should be to our children. Help us to never grow so "busy" that we fail to have time for those you have entrusted into our special care. In Jesus' name, amen.

OUR PURPOSE ON EARTH

By Vern Wilson

Many people are unaware of our real purpose here on the earth. Too often, modernistic trends are entertained in our minds by supposing that "*We just happened to be here,*" or, "*God predestined our lives for us and 'What is to be, will be!'*" We must be guided by God's word in all things and this subject is no exception!

We are NOT here just for a worldly pursuit of joy or happiness! By the attitude and activity of many one would think that our primary purpose on the earth is to "keep ahead of our neighbors". Others, who don't like to use their financial power, think they will fulfill their sole purpose in life if they will only amass a fortune for themselves while here. While there are many other invalid ideas about man's purpose on the earth, let us be mindful of the Bible teaching on this topic.

Our primary and fundamental purpose on earth is to prepare ourselves for a prepared place! And with all the doubt and uncertainty that might surround our lives, this one thing we can be sure of – we ARE preparing for eternity! In John 14:2 Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for His disciples. In Matthew 25:41, we read of the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels. We, too, are headed for a prepared place. **FOR WHICH PLACE ARE YOU PREPARING TO GO?**

Of course, we all think we **WANT** to go to heaven. It is a more blessed place than any human words can describe or thoughts can even conceive! But one

thing we note about heaven is this ~ NO SIN CAN ENTER THERE: Rev 21:27. So, in order for us to go to heaven we MUST GET RID OF SIN, and the only way to do that is through faith in Jesus Christ and washing our sins away in His blood. BUT, none can do this EXCEPT this faith is in Jesus as the Son of God – John 8:24; and except we repent – Luke 13:3; and are converted – Matt 18:3. We cannot be converted without being born again – John 3:3-5; and this takes place only when we are baptized – Acts 2:38

The ONLY way we can be saved in heaven eternally is by serving God while still here on earth. And the only way we can SERVE HIM acceptably is by being in His church. By this, we do not mean a denominational religious body or a religious sect, but the church for which Jesus died and shed His blood. The way to really and readily identify the Lord's church today is to look for the one that wears His name **[Church of Christ ~ Rom 16:16]**, and that began in the right place at the right time **[Jerusalem , A.D. 33, Acts 2]**, and a body of people who follow the doctrine of the Lord as revealed in the New Testament, without creed books, manuals, confessions of faith, or catechisms **[guided only by the New Testament, as in 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Tim 3:16-17]**.

Our purpose on earth is to prepare for eternity. ALL ARE DOING IT! But the big question is, WHERE ARE YOU PREPARING TO GO? V.W.

CLASS TODAY AT 5:00
 Lesson #
"The Importance of People to God"
 Seth Reagan teaching tonight

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

- Jason & Marie & Cayna Anderson
- Edith Ayers
- Frank & Tina 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
- Rosie Reagan
- LaurieAnn Reagan
- Eli & the Roadman family
- Caleb & Jacob Robertson
- Taylor Romine
- Carol and Ray Rude
- Bill & Rena Schultz
- Troy Shadman
- The Brad Shuck Family
- Ola Thornburg
- Nancy Valine
- Shirley Watkins
- Clair & Ellie Williams
- Kathy Wilson (**Folsom**)
- Gordon Wilson

TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

- Karen Daly
- Glenn Reagan
- Aaron Robertson
- Gordon Wilson

IN THE MILITARY

- David Lovett
- Aaron Robertson
- Trent Walsh

A card, a phone call or a personal visit
(in addition to praying)
Would help cheer up these ailing folks

JESUS CHRIST: THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, and FOREVER

Isaiah 53:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Isaiah 53 impresses us with the foreseen humiliation and suffering of Jesus
 - 1. The writer to the Hebrew converts mentions it again in the Hebrews letter.
 - 2. Heb 13:8-14- "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*"
- B. Our understanding of Science, and philosophy, and all forms of men's theologies are ALL CHANGEABLE!
 - 1. Every soul ultimately meets bitter disappointment when it turns to these!
 - 2. Doctrines of men are always in a state of change, being rejected & reclaimed, as attitudes change!
- C. Different opportunities are always on the rise, or the demise, but not the will of God nor the doctrine of the LJC.
 - 1. Jesus, when many had turned away from Him, asked His disciples, "Will you also go away?"
 - 2. Their answer to Jesus was, "*No, Lord! To whom would we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.*"
 - 3. Our obedience to God depends on the situation we're in, and how serious we are about it!

I. WHY IS JESUS CHRIST CONSISTENTLY THE SAME?

- A. BECAUSE SIN, that which He obliterates in us, is still controlling many of us!
 - 1. Every instance of SIN is still offensive to the Lord, Whom we must please! Gen 6:5-7
 - 2. Sin still has the same effects on the morals of men, both individually and socially.
 - 3. AS A RESULT, the final result of sinning is still the same: Rom 6:23.

Why is Jesus consistently the same?

- B. BECAUSE the HUMAN NATURE TO SIN is still the same!
 - 1. Weakness of the flesh is still susceptible to the enticements of temptations. Matt 26:41; Rom 7:19
 - 2. The flesh desires to live forever, as evidenced both in the O.T. and in the N.T.

Why is Jesus consistently the same?

- C. BECAUSE THE VALUE AND DURATION OF LIFE is still the same!
 - 1. FOR SURE, we must understand and face up to the reality that our life is brief! Job 14:1
 - 2. Although our life on earth is uncertain, death comes unexpectedly to most people. 1 Cor 10:12
 - 3. Your life is a REALITY!
 - 4. But life is certainly worthwhile, if rightly lived! Matt 6:25-29, 33
- D. And a most important thought: because the end of life is death ~ for every person!
 - 1. Although the death rate among humans is 100% ~ the time of death is often unexpected!
 - 2. Death is our enemy, is unwelcome and is followed by judgment. John 11:25-26
 - 3. Death cannot be escaped physically, but there shouldn't be any FEAR on our part ~ Matt 10:28

II. HOW/ WHEN IS JESUS THE SAME?

- A. Jesus is the SAME IN LOVE AND PURPOSE, just as when He was walking on earth! John 3:16.
 - 1. Jesus Christ is still the loving Savior, offering God's redemption for ANY who desire to be saved!
 - 2. And Jesus, the Son of God, wept over Jerusalem. Even from the cross, He petitioned God, Lk 23:34
- B. Jesus is the SAME IN AUTHORITY! Matt 28:18; 1 Pet 3:22
 - 1. We can appeal to no other authority in heaven or on earth besides Jesus. Matt 28:18-20. Jno 14:6; 5:22.
- C. And Jesus is still the SAME IN HIS POWER TO ACCOMPLISH THE FATHER'S WILL!
 - 1, HE HAS THE POWER to atone for our sins.
 - 2. HE HAS THE POWER to give us the strength to be led away from our sins.
 - 3. HE HAS THE POWER to help us keep from sinning. 1 Cor 10:13
 - 4. AND HE ALSO TAUGHT US to pray for the strength to help ourselves, in Matt 6:13

IN SUMMARY:

- A. The same Jesus who saved others is willing to SAVE US FROM OUR SINFUL WAYS!
- B. He can make us a CITIZEN in His Own Kingdom!
- C. He can lead us through the troubled areas of our earth journey.