

# REMINDER

Volume XV

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Number 34



## *The Sword in Your Hand*

*"In what ways do you experience divine wrath and mercy? I'm not asking for a sermon or a collection of Bible verses but rather a testimony of your experience."*

I have not experienced divine wrath, although the night of my conversion I was well aware of it. Think of a wanted criminal. He has committed multiple and serious crimes. One night, he is stealing in the dark of a moonless night. The darkness gives him a sense of security. Suddenly police spotlights flood the area. He is exposed. The darkness is no longer a cover for his unlawful activity. He hears a loud voice tell him that ten sharpshooters have his pounding heart in their sights. One wrong move and he is a dead man. At this point he has a choice. He can try and make a run for it and die, or he can lift his hands high in surrender and live.

Before I was a Christian, I was engaged in serious unlawful activity even though I hadn't violated man's law. I was unaware that God saw my thought-life and that I had violated His perfect Law--the Ten Commandments. The night of my conversion was when the light came like a flood. I was exposed for my many sins. The darkness was no longer my security. The loud voice of my conscience told me that those Ten Commandments, like ten great cannons, had my pounding heart in their sights. If I tried to run I knew that God's Law would justly send me to Hell. At that point I had a choice. I could run from the light, or I could lift my hands high and surrender. On the 25th of April, 1972 at 1:30 a.m., I surrendered.

Guilty though I was, I found that the Judge of the Universe was rich in mercy. He dismissed my case because Jesus Christ had paid my fine in His life's blood two thousand years ago, then He granted me the gift of everlasting life. If you have ever seen the movie Ben Hur, at the conclusion you will hear a wide-eyed Judah Ben Hur say, "I felt His words take the sword out of my hand." That's what happens the moment you surrender the weapons of your hostility.

### ***The Power Of A Tract***

We just concluded our 11th Academy here in California a couple weeks ago and the June Academy participants are now home hopefully continuing in all that they learned.

The day they left, just to end the weekend with a bang, some of the Academy Lady Mentors and Team Leaders joined up with a team of ten others to pass out tracts and engage in one-to-ones in Hollywood at that Sunday's Gay Pride Parade.

We met up at someone's church for a time prayer before going out, then caravanned to our destination. We

*(continued inside)*

parked on the same street, loaded our bags and backpacks with money tracts and a specially designed tracts just for this event.

One of the leaders put a tract together that was on simple pink card stock, with what looked like wedding bells on the front with a text that read: "GOT EQUALITY?"

On the back, it talks about our American constitutional rights and equality... then continues to talk about how we all will equally be judged according to God's holy standard, the Ten Commandments, followed, of course, by the gospel message.

Nothing on the tract said anything about homosexuality, gay marriage, or the like, but those tracts flew out of our hands and in to the hands of both male and female attendees living in homosexual living styles.

Arriving early before the parade started, we began where the parade would later end and made our way toward where the parade would begin. Many of those I handed these tracts to gladly received them, having not yet read the back. And at one point my friend and I ended up breaking off from the rest of our team and hitting up everyone setting up to watch the parade. We covered the entire parade route from where it was to end to where it began and back again.

It was like nothing I have ever experienced! I didn't really stick around long enough to hear what people had to say after they read the tracts, but my friend had a couple of friendly conversations with individuals out there.

When we later met up with one of our fellow evangelists, and the others that were out there with us at the end of the day, his eyes were blood shot, having been in tears over a conversation he had had with a young lady he'd given a tract to.

She had taken the Million Dollar tract and continued on her way, but ended up sometime later coming back to him later (he had been 75 yards down from where he handing her the tract), imploring him to take the tract back. Of course he said that he would not take it back and, "We care for you that's why we give them to you."

She said, "I read the back and you're just here to condemn my homosexuality."

He said, "No ma'am. No where on there does it talk about homosexuality, nor would I speak of it to you."

She told him that he had to take that tract back because she had become very convicted by reading it and explained that she was living in a lesbian life-style.

She said, "I read the back and it talks about lusting and things of that nature."

He said, "Ma'am, that is the moral law of God."

She said, "Sir, I am a Christian. I'm a back-slidden Christian. I'm aware of my homosexuality. I have read this and I am living in a back-slidden state, but I am a Christian."

He went on to say that she needed to heed God's conviction by repenting, trusting, and committing her life to Jesus Christ alone and that God would then deliver her from that lifestyle. He was able to go through the law and the gospel with her, and told her if she was truly born again that there were many lost people around her that she could give the tract to.

She even ended up thanking him for speaking with her that way and turned and walked away with the tract. Usually we try to engage people like this, my friend was just passing out as many tracts as he could at this event and this fish came "swimming" from 75 yards back to him to "jump in to the boat" so-to-speak! **THAT'S THE POWER OF A GOSPEL TRACT!**

There were estimated to be thousands of attendees there that day and even though there were others passing out all kinds of other flyers, which covered the ground in certain areas of the parade route, I didn't see even one tract on the ground, and my friend and I alone passed out thousands of tracts.

The parade, of course was quite obscene at times, at which points my friend and I had to warn each other not to look at it.

So God alone knows what impact that was made and we trust in Him that His Word will not return void!

May God be glorified!

- Ray Comfort - livingwaters.com



## **CHURCH- WIDE ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**

**TONIGHT  
FOLLOWING  
THE EVENING  
SERVICE!**



**Bring Your Favorite Ice Cream.  
Cupcakes provided.  
Yummmmm!**



# IN DEFENSE OF BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY

by Dr. Thomas Cassidy, Pastor  
First Baptist Church - Spring Valley, California  
(eight in a series)

## WHAT DID THE ANABAPTISTS BELIEVE?

The historian A. H. Newman in his church history (Volume II pages 153-156) enumerates the following beliefs, practices, and characteristics of the Anabaptists.

**(1) Christian Charity.** Content with what they had, Anabaptists believed in, and practiced, true brotherly love, willingly sharing their worldly goods with others.

**(2) Regenerate Church Membership.** They insisted that true New Testament churches be composed exclusively of born-again believers.

**(3) Baptism of Believers.** They rejected so-called 'infant baptism' and stood for the baptism of true believers only. Newman comments, "The earnestness and vigor of their protest against infant baptism constitutes one of the most marked features of the Anabaptist movement." An Anabaptist statement of faith, referred to as the Schleithem Confession of 1527 says: "Baptism should be given to all those who have learned repentance and change of life, and believe in truth that their sins have been taken away through Christ."

**(4) Separation of Church and State.** They regarded the State as an institution outside of and apart from the Gospel of Christ, whose authority was to be obeyed in all things lawful, but which had no right to interfere in matters of conscience.

**(5) Liberty of Conscience.** This was a fundamental tenet of the Anabaptists very similar to our doctrine of the priesthood of the believer.

**(6) Rejection of the Magistracy.** Anabaptists refused to serve as magistrates. This was because in their day, the magistracy was the civil arm of the 'church' which executed (literally) its decrees.

**(7) Rejection of Oath Taking.** They rejected this practice, yet distinguished between testimony regarding known facts and promises regarding future conduct.

**(8) Rejection of Military Service.** The reason most of our Baptist forebears refused to take up arms was because most wars prior to the 20th century were religious in nature, where force was used to coerce others to conform.

**(9) Rejection of Capital Punishment.** Since the kind of capital punishment most familiar to the Anabaptists was that carried out against 'heretics' - i.e. Anabaptists - we can well understand their objections.

**(10) The Millennial Return of Christ.** Anabaptists rejected Augustinian theology (Augustine, through his book, 'The City of God,' laid the foundations for the Church of Rome), so it was

natural for them to be *Premillennial*. As noted above, some of the pseudo-Anabaptist fanatics thought they could usher in the Millennium themselves. Biblical Anabaptists repudiated and abhorred their excesses.

**(11) The Free Will of Man.** Anabaptists believed a man must either choose or reject Christ as Saviour.

**(12) Salvation by Grace through Faith.** Anabaptists believed that grace, received through faith, was the great transforming agent whereby the sinner is not simply made to participate in Christ's merits, but enters into the completed union with Him. They also insisted upon good works as the fruit of salvation, not the cause of it. They would not baptize without seeing this fruit.

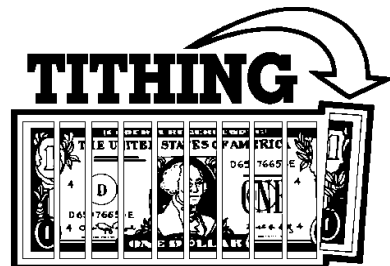
**(13) Christ-like living.** Compared to most Catholics and Protestants, the Baptists were 'ascetics'!! Newman notes: "*Great stress was laid on the imitation of Christ in his life of self-denying toil and suffering and the Anabaptists gloried in being counted worthy to suffer for and with Christ. The idea of earthly comfort and enjoyment most of them utterly renounced. Luxurious living, personal adornment, social amusements, the accumulation of wealth, nearly all of them regarded as inconsistent with the Christian profession ...*"

**(14) The Lord's Supper for Church Members Only.** They only admitted baptized believers to the Lord's Table, and then not before discipline was rigorously exercised upon the brethren. The Schleithem Confession, mentioned earlier, says: "*...that all who would drink one draught as a memorial of the poured blood of Christ should before hand be united to one body of Christ (i.e., the local church), to wit: by baptism...*"

**(15) Separation From Unbelief.** The Anabaptists refused to join hands with other religious parties, although to some degree at the beginning of the reformation, the liberty loving Anabaptists did offer their assistance to that movement - until it became patently evident that it was not going to be a return to pure Christianity. Several Anabaptist pastors debated with the reformers - until they were executed or exiled! Newman notes that they "*not only [refused] to join with others in religious acts, but utterly [repudiated] their right to be regarded as Christian.*"

**(16) Cooperation Among Churches.** When conditions made it possible, Anabaptist churches cooperated in their common cause for Christ. Like the Waldenses, the Anabaptists were characterized by their itinerant preachers.

(more next week)



**NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK**

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford  
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford  
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White  
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White  
 Cradle Roll 2: Merri Geroux

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

*Week of August 16, 2009*

Sunday School ----- 21  
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 36  
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 33  
 Wed. Eve. Service, 08/19/09 ----- 30

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

*Week of August 16, 2009*

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 644.00  
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 21.00  
 Parsonage Renovation Fund ----- \$ 2.00  
 New Piano Fund ----- \$ 2.00  
**Total Received for Week of 08/16/09: \$ 669.00**

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed  
 to operate the church  
 EACH WEEK,  
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00** 🙏

**FUND DRIVE REPORTS**

**NEW HYMNAL FUND**

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,580.00

**NEW PIANO FUND**

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 574.00

**PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND**

Total Received, To Date: \$ 449.00

**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



**Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!**

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - **OK?** Thank you.



**OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND READ IT EVERY DAY THIS WEEK - YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!**

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White ----- Pastor  
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist  
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian  
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers  
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,  
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach  
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

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