

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Militant Christianity

He was bold, argued with people over Biblical matters, frustrated those who opposed divine revelation, and even held debates (Acts 9:22, 29). He irritated people to the point of causing his enemies to want to murder him (Acts 9:23, 29, 14:19; II Cor. 11:23b). This man demanded, by use of aggressive language, a change of heart in those who strayed from truth (I Cor. 4:21; Gal. 5:12). This militant Christian was Saul and latter came to be known as the Apostle Paul. Paul's militant spirit was always tempered with loving words that illustrated not madness but rather an intense desire for the souls of men to be saved (see Rom. 10:1 etc.).

Militancy is a character trait identified by combative, aggressive, and a fighting disposition (see the American Heritage Dictionary pp. 796). Paul aggressively entered into combat with the enemies of the cross regularly. Those who taught false doctrines were identified as "ministers of Satan," "false prophets," and "deceitful workers" (II Cor. 11:13-15). To combat these accusations the false teachers of Paul's day accused him of being inconsistent in his preaching (II Cor. 1:17), preaching his own ideas (II Cor. 3:1; 4:5; 5:12 etc.), deranged, self deluded, and mad (II Cor. 5:13). These false teachers labeled Paul an idiot (II Cor. 11:5) and a coward (II Cor. 10:1, 10). *Argumentum ad hominem* (an argument directed at the man by attacking the person rather than the message) did nothing to change the militant disposition of Paul. Paul not only identified the erring doctrines of men (I Cor. 15:12) but also called out the names of false teachers (I Tim. 1:20; II Tim. 2:17-18; 3:8). Paul left no questions, in the minds of faithful Christians, as far as what their responsibility toward such enemies of the cross should be. To the Romans he said, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned: and turn away from them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Christ, but their own belly; and by their smooth and fair speech they beguile the hearts of the innocent*" (Rom. 16:17-18).

This militant man's whole life revolved around preaching Christ and saving souls (Phil. 1:20-21). Many Jews identified the militant

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Tom Witherspoon's proton treatments for prostate cancer began last week. Tom has had a treatment every day of last week and is currently resting over the weekend.

New Quarter Bible Studies:

With the New Year comes a new quarter for our Bible studies. Let us all purpose to be involved in not only our adult studies but also with our children's Bible work. The new Adult class for the first quarter is "Job" on Wednesday evenings. Sunday AM we will be continuing our study over the book of Acts and on Sunday PM we will begin a series of lessons over the book of Judges.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

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character of Paul and concluded that he was a "*pestilent fellow and a mover of insurrections among all the Jews throughout the world*" (Acts 24:5). What these men viewed as pestilent and insurrection Paul clearly identifies as the quintessence of love (II Cor. 1:6; 2:4; 4:15; 12:14-15). Paul's words and actions were divinely motivated (Gal. 1:11-12). Paul was so confident of this fact that he instructed all faithful Christians to emulate his life in word and deed (I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9).

What has happened to this vigorous Christian militant zeal among brethren today? The true disciple of Jesus Christ will do well to note that Paul's militant character was not peculiar to his own being. The prophets of old exposed and called out the names of false teachers (Jer. 27:10-16). Jeremiah called out the names of Hananiah, Pashhur, Ahab, Zedekiah, and Shemaiah as being false prophets. Micah called out the names of Balaam, Omri, and Ahab (Mic. 6:5, 12-16). We may also look to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus exposed and called out the names of false teachers (Matt. 5:20; 16:11-12). While the prophet Zechariah foretold of a NT day when false teachers would be made to feel ashamed of their teaching many today seem to have a better way of dealing with the enemies of the cross (Zech. 13:1-6). Christians today have grown too nice. Many older Christians, especially preachers, don't seem to have the ability to see that there are other problems among God's people than institutionalism. Still other preachers today are moving away from militancy to the tolerant unity and diversity plea of liberals in recent years. Some who militantly went after the erring on Romans 14 have now gone over to the "lets all get along" crowd. What happen to the spirit of, "*we gave place in the way of subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you*" (Gal. 2:5)? What happened to the, "*If any one comes unto you, and brings not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that gives him greeting partakes in his evil works*" (II Jn. 10-11)? What happened to the spirit of the apostle John who said, "*Therefore, If I come, I will bring to remembrance his works which he doeth, prating against us with wicked words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and them that would he forbids and cast them out of the church*" (III Jn. 10)? Have brethren's fear of God been so far removed that they lack the shame to speak out against His sovereign will (Numb. 12:9)? If we all continue to sweep our differences over subjects like Marriage, divorce, and remarriage under the rug of semantics and tolerance will God be pleased? God said there is one truth, not a multitude of truths (Eph. 4:1ff). I pray that you and I will be found on the right side of the

Calling upon the name of God

Introduction:

We live in an age where we have everything. Our stomachs are full. At the touch of a keyboard we may enter any country and know all there is to know about any given subject. We communicate with people miles away through mobile hand held devices. We sit in front of enormous screens and are entertained. Most of us never go without the necessities of life. With so much sustenance the world often forgets that their greatest need is to be forgiven of sins and saved from the awful eternal hell. Let us contemplate our need to be forgiven of sins this morning.

I. The Omniscience of God:

A. Omniscience = all knowing

B. There is nothing that escapes the eyes of the all seeing and all knowing God (see Gen. 3:9ff; Isa. 46:9-10; Jer. 23:23-24; Rev. 20:10-15).

C. God knows what is in our cell phones, computers, TV, i-pods, mp-3 players, minds, etc.

D. Word of God exposes sin in our lives (Jn. 16:7ff; Heb. 4:12-13).

II. Coming to understand one's need for God's Help:

A. Though the word of God tells us that God is there to help (see Heb. 2:13-18) many do not call upon Him for that help (Rom. 2:1-11).

B. Two "types" of people exists (see Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-13).

III. Will You Call Upon the Name of God?

A. The gospel message has the power to save (Rom. 1:16).

B. Those willing to be saved will call out to God for help (Acts 2:21; 22:16; Rom. 10:12ff)

C. Those who call out to God for help are identified as the saints of God (I Cor. 1:2).

Conclusion:

The author of the book of Hebrews writes, "*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation? Which having at the first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed unto us by them that heard*" (Heb. 2:3). The all knowing and all seeing God of all creation has delivered a law that man will be judged by (see Jn. 12:44ff; Rom. 4:15; Gal. 6:2). Hearts pricked by the gospel and call out to God for help will be rescued. Will you call upon the name of God for help?