

# ☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

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## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter

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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### The Minister's Musings

Bro. Archie Miller

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## MOVING FORWARD

I read an article by one of the biggie preachers. Much of what he had to say was helpful. But one thing he said left me in a contemplative mood. He said that Christians had to avoid bad situations, and that just might mean they had to seek other employment, another place to live, another church, or another place to work. Here's my reaction. Read on!

There is an old Marine Corps slogan which says "Hey diddle, diddle, Right up the Middle!" We have been called by God to be in the world, praying for wisdom to set examples of faith in action. So, the questions are: **(1)** Do we pray for God's wisdom to be the right person in that wrong place? **or,** **(2)** Do we retreat in the face of opposition?

Think of Christ, the Apostles, the early Christians, and reflect that society at that time was terrible; it was a terrible place to live. You could easily be killed! They chose to be the right person in the wrong place; and they held the line, praying for wisdom, continually setting examples of having a working faith. In fact, their willingness to be in the wrong place, while praying for wisdom to be there, began a transformational process which allows us to worship in the ease we now have.

I know **you are not retreating**. I see members of our congregation who are praying for wisdom to say the right thing and be the right kind of person in their every day world. I see members of our congregation who are reaching out to be supportive to people who are facing extremely taxing situations.

I thank God daily that we have such giving, loving, warm, supportive care-giving people. That kind of love is what brought about the changes in our civilization.

**Praise God!**

**Orcutt Christian Church is on the march!**

# Thoughts of The Elders

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-25 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body is not one member, but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be?

<sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup> and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, <sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another.

The church at Corinth was having troubles with some members thinking that what they did was more important than what others did--it is an easy trap for humans to fall into. Satan really loves it when he can "divide and conquer".

In 1 Corinthians 12:13-25, Paul tells the church that we are one body in Christ. No part of the body is any more or less important than any other part. He also talks about how each part has its own "talent"-- the ear and the foot cannot do each others work. It requires every member to function together for the body to perform as God intended. We are to do His work and the only way is to do it together.

It must be remembered that the context for Paul's statements that all members of the Body are to rejoice and suffer together is spiritual gifts. This means that if a church member does not have a prominent gift, he should not be looked down on, but accepted as a member of the Body. Similarly, no one is to think that being used for a special work makes him better in the church than another person.

It is so easy to forget that we are all equal in the eyes of God in regards to our giftedness. However, there is more to consider than giftedness. Think about our personal responsibility towards the congregation. Can you think of ways you need to assume more responsibility? Can you see any application from Paul's letter to Timothy regarding the Ephesian congregation?