

# ☆ 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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### Live the Way You Pray

#### Hebrews 13:15-16 (NASB)

**Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.**

I came across a poem that greatly affected me. It speaks to this very thought! So I want to share it with you.

I knelt to pray when day was done, And prayed: "Oh, Lord, bless everyone;  
Lift from each saddened heart the pain And let the sick be well again."  
And then I awoke another day And carelessly went on my way.  
The whole day long I did not try To wipe a tear from any eye;  
I did not try to share the load Of any brother on the road;  
I did not even go to see The sick man just next door to me.  
Yet once again when day was done, I prayed: "O, Lord, bless everyone."  
But as I prayed, into my ear There came a voice that whispered clear,  
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray; Whom have you tried to bless today?  
"God's sweetest blessings always go By hands that serve him here below."  
And then I hid my face and cried, "Forgive me, God, for I have lied;  
Let me but live another day, And I will live the way I pray."

Now, contrast that to the famous **Gestalt Prayer** of Dr. Fritz Perls:

I do my thing and you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations, And you are not in this world to live up to mine. You are you, and I am I, and if by chance we find each other, it's beautiful. If not, it can't be helped.  
Fritz Perls, "Gestalt Therapy Verbatim", 1969

1. What are your thoughts as you read "I knelt to pray?"
2. What are your thoughts as you read "I do my thing?"
3. Which is most Christ like?

## The Pastor Reflects



Rick Nelson was a star in the early days of rock-and-roll. His music career peaked in 1961 with “Hello, Mary Lou.” In October of 1971 he was part of a reunion show at Madison Square Garden with other early rock-and-roll stars. Nelson had shifted to country rock by then and mixed his new music with the old. The crowd started booing, and Nelson walked off the stage. (It was later reported that police were trying to break up a problem at the back of the hall while Nelson was singing, and some believe that the booing was actually directed at the police.) Out of that experience came a song that spoke autobiographically of the “Garden Party.” A key theme of the song was that “you can’t please everyone, so you got to please yourself.”

Paul reminds us that the Christian life is all about pleasing God, not ourselves:

Philippians 2:4 (NASB)

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

2 Corinthians 5:9 (NASB)

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Ephesians 5:8,10 (NASB)

8 you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light ... 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Elder Ed Saunders

## The Chair Cares

People commonly distinguish between the sacred and the secular, between things that have to do with God and things that are ordinary. Musicians distinguish between sacred and secular music. In times past some communities would force businesses to close on days that were deemed sacred. In certain sacred places special clothing may be expected.



However, there is a problem with this distinction if we think we can exclude God from anything that is “secular.” When we think we can divide our lives so that God’s part is set off from the rest, we may well keep God confined to that part alone. Faith is then just for special days, holy places, and religious observances. The Bible’s perspective is different. God made all of life, not just a few parts of it. God rules over every aspect of life, not just those we want to allow to him. In Jesus Christ, God entered the world as a human being, living every part of life just as you and I, showing us that the whole of life belongs to him.

Chairperson Marilyn Currier