

BITS & PIECES
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
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THE OLD CROSS AND THE NEW

“If I see aright, the cross of popular evangelicalism is not the cross of the New Testament. It is rather a new bright ornament of a self-assured and carnal Christianity. The old cross slew men; the new cross entertains them. The old cross condemned; the new cross amuses. The old cross destroyed confidence in the flesh, the new cross encourages it. The flesh, smiling and confident, preaches and sings about the cross; before that cross it bows and toward that cross it points with carefully staged histrionics/..but upon that cross it will not die, and the reproach of the cross it stubbornly refuses to bear.” -A.W.Tozer. The new cross “amuses” -- Muse means to think. In the Greek language, a word is turned into the negative by putting an “a” (alpha) in front of it. Amuse means “not to think.” Those who ply the new, flesh pleasing *gospel* are not thinking.

MODERN HOUSEHOLDS RUN BY JUVENILES

A missionary who just returned to the States after some years on the field was asked what changes he noticed. “One remarkable change,” he said, “was the way the parents obey the children.” One doesn’t have to be too observant to see that. Spurgeon said, “I would sooner be a cat on hot bricks or a toad under a harrow, than let my own children be my masters.” It is rare these days when one sees a man who is the head of his house as God ordained. The Bible says, “**Children obey your parents...**” *It also commands fathers “to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”*

GOD’S WORD IS THE LAST WORD!

Decisions in the U.S. Supreme Court are rendered on Monday mornings. The bailiff calls for order and the decisions are read. All anyone can do is listen. There is no appeal. No one is allowed to say anything. How much more so concerning God’s pronouncements in His Word. Habakkuk 2:20 says, “**The Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.**” You had better listen to God! In Romans 3:19 it says that the Law was given “**that every mouth may be stopped.**” While it is sad that the ungodly heed not His pronouncements, it is even more tragic that many Christians go on day after day ignoring His Word, even disobeying it.

A BIG DIFFERENCE

There is a big difference between the early Christians and we modern day believers in Jesus Christ. In spite of great persecution, here is how they prayed: “**Lord, behold their threatenings and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word... And when they had prayed...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and spake the word with boldness.**” It is commonly reported that not more than 5% of modern day Christians seriously try to win someone to Christ. I believe this is true; it may well be less. Two causes strike me: There is not sufficient love for Christ to motivate us (II Corinthians 5:14) and we do not have compassion on poor lost sinners like our Savior does. We need revival, but it will not come without repentance.