

BITS & PIECES

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

ROLLAND C. STARR, PASTOR

WWW.CORNERSTONEBAPTISTMETROBOSTON.ORG

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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.

MELTED SAINTS

It is related that during the reign of Oliver Cromwell the government ran out of silver coinage. Cromwell sent some of his men to a cathedral to see if they could find any silver. They reported to him that the only silver we could find is in the statues of the saints standing in the corners. “Good,” he replied, “We’ll melt down the saints and put them into circulation.” Today, too many of the saints are as cold as ice and need to be melted down and put into circulation winning the lost to Christ. Jesus said, “**I would thou wert cold or hot.**” Obviously, “hot” is what He wants. We need revival fire to move us in the great work of soul winning.

SONGS WE SING – BUT DON’T MEAN

We sing: “I Love to Tell the Story,” but rarely or never open our mouths to speak of the Savior.
We sing: “Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold...” but balk at giving a tithe.
We sing: “Burdens are lifted at Calvary,” and then make an appointment with the therapist.
We sing: “Have thine own way Lord,” but get all upset when we don’t have our own way.
We sing: “When we all get to Heaven,” but live as though we were going to be on earth forever.
We sing: “I’ll go where you want me to go dear Lord,” but do not go on visitation.
We sing: “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” but never spend an hour in prayer and skip Prayer Meeting.
We sing: “Onward Christian Soldiers,” but don’t have a clue about fighting the good fight of faith.

Does this sound amusing to you? Are you guilty in any of these areas? What would God say?

THE SCIENCE OF PRIORITIES

Someone has said that “The greatest of all sciences is the science of decision.” I would alter that just a bit and say, “The greatest of all sciences is having priorities.” The Duke of Wellington was a performer on the violin and after giving a great deal of time to it, he began to fear lest his liking for it would get the better of him. He realized that his primary calling was that of a soldier, and so, one day he decided to lay his instrument aside and never touch it again. Though he did not realize it, the issue was whether he would be a clever musician or the victor at the battle of Waterloo. I would say that most Christians do not have the proper priorities, that is they do not put first things first. They do not put God first! Lesser things come before God. “**Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...**” ~*Matthew 6:33*. How many Christians really seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? What about you?