

BITS & PIECES
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
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NOVEMBER 2014

THE CHURCH AND SEPARATION

A.W. Tozer said: "It is no more than a religious platitude to say that the trouble with us today is that we have tried to bridge the gulf between two opposites, the world and the church, and have performed an illicit marriage for which there is no biblical authority. Actually, no real union between the world and the Church is possible. When the Church joins up with the world it is the true Church no longer but only a pitiful hybrid thing, an object of smiling contempt to the world and an abomination to the Lord." We have too many "betweenites" today; those who try to walk with one foot in the world and one in the Church. Separation from the world for God's people is not optional, it's obligatory! To have it otherwise is sin! I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14-17; Ephesians 5:11

ONE THING WORTH KNOWING

J.C. Masee told of a friend who traveled a great distance for an interview with a distinguished scholar. When given the interview, the man said: "Doctor, I noticed the walls of your study are lined with books from the ceiling to the floor. No doubt you have read them all. I know you have written many yourself. What I would like to know is, what is the one thing above all else that is worth knowing?" Putting his hand on the guest's shoulder, he said with great emotion: "My dear Friend, of all the things that I have learned, only two are really worth knowing. The first is that I am a great sinner. The second is that Jesus Christ is a great Savior." That man knew what many of us need to learn. **"To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."**

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

A preacher remarked about a local newspaper that had a small boxed off section on one of its pages concerning some sarcastic comments by the irritated editor. They read: "If you find errors in this publication, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes." There is such a thing as constructive criticism - let's try that! Instead of criticizing and pulling down others, let us do what we can to encourage and uplift. Sad to say there is too much destructive criticism, of which many are guilty. **"Do all things without murmuring and disputings."**

EXAMINE YOURSELVES

Oswald Smith said quite a few years ago: "We are living in a day when people are getting converted without being regenerated, when they are making decisions for Christ without being 'born again.'" I believe it is far worse today. I have never seen so many "decisions for Christ" where there seems to be no apparent conviction of sin and little or no reality in Christian living. God says, **"Examine yourselves..."**