



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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A LONG STANDING PET PEEVE.

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This complaint has been with me almost as long as I have been saved. I will get right to my subject; it is jokes about the Bible, sacred songs, holy things, etc. I was well established in the business world when I was saved (through reading a KJV Bible) at the age of twenty-five and called to preach a year and a half later. In fundamental churches, then at Bible College and another Christian college I attended, I was constantly bombarded by jokes about the Bible, etc. I was so annoyed, I almost quit school after the first couple of months. How could Bible professors, pastors, other men of God, make light of God's Word and put unholy thoughts in the minds of God's people? Down through the years, I have continued to hear this from fundamental Bible believing preachers and even missionaries. I am sick of fundamental magazines, etc. with jokes about God's Word, etc. I do not believe I am morose or by nature a melancholy person. I can enjoy a good laugh. Many things in life are amusing and are acceptable as illustrations in a Bible message. If you want to tell good clean jokes, that is all right with me - just don't tell them about God's Holy Word which He has magnified above all His Name and don't tell your jokes in the pulpit. There is no more serious place in all the world than the pulpit of a true Church of God. I will tell you this, if you tell them in the pulpit where I have been called of God to minister, you will not be invited back! Tell me, do jokes glorify God or the clever preacher? After being saved for over forty-nine years, often when I am reading or studying my Bible, one of those lousy jokes will come into my mind. Sometimes when we are singing a hymn in Church, the twisted words and "funny" meaning I heard years ago, at the mouth of a no doubt sincere but misguided preacher or teacher, will come to mind and destroy the spiritual message I should be concentrating on. You may say that this is just nit-picking. I don't care what you call it; I would remind you we are dealing with a God who has placed His Word above His Holy Name!

I hear or read how the Bible reveals the humor of God. Can you prove that? Have you ever seen any humor in Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah? What about Peter or Paul, etc.? I read their writings quite often and have read through the Bible well over fifty times; I have read of their tears but not their fun and laughter. I cannot find where Jesus laughed, but I see that He often wept. In view of the multitudes of lost men and women all around us, we ought to be weeping, not laughing (Psalm 126:6). I marvel at the lack of discernment of preachers who justify using jokes to convey spiritual truth, by quoting **Psalm 2:4: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh..."** You had better read the rest of that verse: "The Lord shall have them in derision." That is not funny! What about **Proverbs 17:22: "A merry heart doeth good like medicine..."** Merry doesn't mean funny (a funny heart?!). It means a joyful heart, a rejoicing heart! There is a great deal of difference between rejoicing and joking. The Bible says much about rejoicing - you are supposed to do that even when things aren't "funny" or pleasant. I don't expect many to understand this, but I hope a few Fundamentalists will give it some serious thought. Jesus said we will give account of every "idle word." How much more jokes about the things of God?

YOUTH CORNER

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO EVOLUTION.

It's been suggested that perhaps some church people are related to lower forms of life. Some are stubborn as **mules** and others are sly as a **fox**. Not a few are busy as **bees** in spreading gossip and quiet as a **mouse** in getting out the Gospel. We've seen them with the eye of a **hawk** in seeing the mote in a brother's eye, and some are eager as a **beaver** for a social or food. There are those who are as lazy as a sleepy **dog** when work is to be done and mad as a **hornet** when things don't go their way. There those that are night **owls** on Saturday night and **bed bugs** on Sunday; slippery as **eels** Sunday night and scarce as **hen's** teeth at Prayer Meeting. Are you related to any of these? -Copied

HOT SUBJECTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES.

John Leo, Syndicated columnist described topics taught at many universities today. For instance, the University of Wisconsin has a course on soap operas. Purdue has one on "The Biology of ER." Colleges have courses on rock culture (Columbia), juggling (Duke), Star Trek (Calif. State), detective fiction (Georgetown), and vampires (Univ. of Penna.). Hot subjects on many campuses include witchcraft, magic and porn studies (watching porn movies for credit). Some film their own perverted scenes. Some classes in the humanities are taken over largely by feminists and gays. One is called "queer theory." Leo says, "These junk courses creep in because much of the professorate now believe that nothing can truly be known, so nothing truly matters"! - Copied

The "dumbing down" of education in America is an oft proven fact. In most cases, a college education simply means that the person passed through a so called institution of higher learning without learning very much, if anything at all. Repeatedly, in tests which include students from other nations, our young people come out poorly, ranking well below other nationals. I am afraid few people know how bad it really is. Few parents care as long as the kids get good report cards.

PARENTS TAKE NOTE! Even some of the unsaved are beginning to see the harmful effects of TV. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said children under two years should not look at TV and older children should not have TV sets in their rooms. They said that TV watching can affect the mental, social and physical health of young people. It is time for Christians to get serious about holiness and throw out the TV!

HE JUST WALKED WITH GOD!

The Bible tells the story 'bout a feller-
Enoch was his name.

Though there ain't a heap about him,
He's a big man just the same.

He never built a town I reckon,
Nor on the track of empire trod,
He never wrote a book, or nuthin -
He just walked with God!

Don't know that he was popular,
Don't imagine that he was.
It's pretty hard to please the world,
Walkin' like a good man does.
But whether people smiled at him
Or scorn upon him poured,
This Enoch that I'm speakin' of,
He just pleased the Lord.

But after all, I reckon,
It won't matter, Friends,
Whether we've been kicked or praised
When the long trail ends.
I guess Enoch didn't worry
When he was a leavin',
Ridin' in a special taxi,
Sent right down from Heaven.

He didn't ask for lights to twinkle
'Round about his name,
Didn't ask to be a big wig
In playin' life's strange game.
He just wanted when he finished,
And the trail of time was trod
Without too much ado to keep
A-walking on with God!

*And Enoch walked with God: and he was
not; for God took him.*

Genesis 5:24

*By faith Enoch was translated that he
should not see death; and was not found,
because God had translated him: for before
his translation he had this testimony,
that he pleased God.*

Hebrews 11:5

SORRY I CAN'T BE THERE...

Concerned because Christians had a double standard of faithfulness for Pastors compared with themselves, a certain Pastor prepared a large sign and leaned it against the pulpit. When the congregation arrived, no Pastor was in sight; a board member read the sign. It said: "Sorry, I can't be here today. I don't feel too good. Also, relatives may be coming. If they don't, I'm going to see them. Somebody just go ahead and preach a sermon, turn off the furnace and lights, lock the door and drive home the folks I usually take. You might visit the sick and discouraged, but don't get discouraged yourself. Come early tonight to see that the room temperature is just right and pray that everybody will show up. The way I feel just now, I don't want to commit myself. The weather's a little cold and it might rain. I'll just get a little religion on the TV. If I get to feeling better, I may go to hear a well known preacher at another church. Then, I've been thinking I need more time to myself; it's not right to expect somebody to be at every service. I am sure you will all understand because these are the excuses many of you have given me." When the Pastor showed up a little late and came in a side door, he found them praying for him; some were weeping. -Copied. Ed. I'd love to have a dollar for every preacher who ever thought of doing such a thing. But I'm afraid if it was tried, the result might not be as mentioned. They'd probably fire him and get another preacher though it is perfectly all right for many of them to act that way! (From 1994 *Challenge*)

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HEAVEN: HOW TO GET THERE

If you will go out and knock on doors awhile or witness on a consistent basis, and ask people "Why Should God Let You Into Heaven?" (title of our first gospel tract) the most common answers you will find are because I am good enough or because I am sincere. In their own judgment, they are good enough; they simply do not consider whether God thinks they are good enough or not. The truth is neither they, nor you and I, are good enough in God's eyes. He says, "**There is none righteous, no not one...there is none that doeth good, no not one.**" ~*Romans 3:10-12*. If you could be good enough to save yourself, why did Christ die? The Holy Bible, God's Word, says that "**All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.**" ~*Romans 3:23*. No matter how good you think you are, I assure you, you come short of what it takes to stand before God in glory. You will surely stand before him: "**It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.**" ~*Hebrews 9:27*. That's why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world, to die for your sins. "**Christ died for our sins.**" ~*I Corinthians 15:3*. Did you ever stop and ask directions from a "sincere" person only to find out that they gave you the wrong instructions. I have known many people who were sure a certain thing was true, but they were wrong - sincerely wrong. If you think that you, or anyone else, can make it to heaven on his own, you are wrong - sincere or not! There is one remedy for sin - only God has it! "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**" ~*Acts 16:31*.