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of:

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**TRASH THE TV!**

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I do not expect a lot of "Amen!" to this article, but that is not why we write this paper. It is called the **CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE!** Primarily, we are trying to be helpful in alerting and enlightening God's people. We hope to *challenge* them; we are not interested in "make everybody feel good" pabulum which is so prevalent today in Fundamental circles! Surely there is a great need for moving God's people away from the world and self. Even some worldly individuals agree that a great deal of TV is trash. Most of what is left is hardly necessary. I read of someone who, because TV programming is so bad, has started a campaign to get people to turn off TV for one month and let stations know that you are not listening so they will wake up. To my way of thinking, that is a waste of time, though no doubt well-intentioned. *I think I have a better solution - Trash the TV.* That will surely get you labeled as a fanatic, and probably a whole lot worse. I should say right here, we are not writing for the general public; we are writing for believers, Fundamental Bible believers. The unsaved don't know any better; they like garbage and have no appetite for wholesome food, for spiritual food. While my suggestion would also do them good, it is for true Bible believers. Sad thing is, few believers are ready to do this.

In the first place, TV is pure entertainment - most of it is bad, even wicked entertainment and the rest has little redeeming value. You say what about the News and Weather? I say, how much news do you need; three hours a day? Do you really need all those color charts, etc. to get the weather? Do you need the sensuous women who are sometimes used to give it to you? You can get the same news and weather on the radio, four or five day's worth every ten minutes. Do you need the commercials which often have bad language and sexual innuendoes? What about all the Christian sports fans? In the first place, God is not at all interested in sports! What about the violence that is evident in some sports? Most of the sports heroes are hardly someone you would want your son to emulate. Many of them boast about their illegitimate sexual escapades (one boasting he had slept with 2,000 women). What about the obscene gestures, half-naked cheerleaders, beer commercials, etc. Should a Christian look at this? I was visiting a Church and the pastor was illustrating something when he said, "I was looking at a football game and when the commercial came on I was so embarrassed by the way the women were dressed (undressed) I felt like putting my hands over my fourteen year old son's eyes." It never occurred to him that he shouldn't be sitting watching that worldliness and wickedness with his son. I ask you, would Jesus sit down with you and watch this stuff? Listen, only babies need to be entertained all the time. How can believers in Jesus Christ justify wasting hours on that which is at best of no value and at worst down-right harmful? What is TV doing to your children? I will tell you what it is doing, it is doing the same to them that it is doing to you, desensitizing them to worldliness, sensuality, wicked human reasoning. I have Christians who say they control the TV. That's right, you do and there is not one in a hundred that is doing a good job! Many Scriptures could be quoted but one will do here; Philippians 4:5: **"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."** We are not against all recreation, but there is too much recreation and not enough study and work today. Whatever happened to families doing things together? Your

children would be far better off without TV, make them attend all Church services, have family time each week, read more good books, etc. What about family devotions, prayer, Bible study, visit the unsaved, the elderly etc.? I read of one Dr. (not a Christian) who was fed up with TV and what it was doing to his family. He threw it out, had family times, etc. He said it dramatically changed his family and the children did much better in school! *Remember, you are going to reap just as you sow!* Galatians 6:7,8. Yes, there is life after TV! I say the best thing a Christian can do is *trash the TV*. While I am at it I might as well hit the internet too. Some may need it for business, but I think the number is rather small. Some believers are wasting more time - and looking at more garbage on the internet than they did on TV. What does God think of the hours you spend on these things and the minutes you spend in prayer, Bible reading, soul winning, etc.? Compare the hours you spend in Church and related things in a week with the hours you and your family spend on TV and the internet. Little wonder most Fundamental churches are struggling and there is so little spiritual power!

## YOUTH CORNER

**POKEMON IS A DANGEROUS GAME!** I am putting this article in the youth column because they need to hear this, but I am hoping that many parents will read it. *Pokemon* is short for POCKET MONSTER. One source writes: "The most popular Pokemon websites will be linked to a selection of occult games...(some) overtly evil." An ad for *Magic: The Gatherings* says this: "Magic: Gatherings is to the 1990's what Dungeons and Dragons was to the 1980's..." The website greets the young person with "Welcome to Pokemon...There are currently 150 species of Pokemon. Each has its own special fighting abilities. Some grow, or evolve, into even more powerful creatures...Carry your Pokemon with you, and you're ready for anything! You've got the power in your hands, so use it." The TV series encourages children to become Pokemon masters (with supernatural power) and it is drilled into them with clever ads, snappy slogans and "Pokemon rap" at the end of each episode: "*I will travel across the land/Searching far and wide/Each Pokemon to understand/The power that's inside/Gotta catch them all!*" The last line, the Pokemon mantra, fuels the craving for more occult cards, games, etc.

Just a week ago I read of a local school where the principal banned all Pokemon paraphernalia because it

was totally consuming the children and making teaching impossible. But that is the least of it! When you play with the occult, supernatural, etc. you are opening yourself up to the devil and demons. The *AFA Journal* told of one mother who refused to let her son get involved in this, but found a friend gave him a "magic" Pokemon card. It pictured spirits rising from the graves. Like all the other ghastly cards...it offered this morbid advice: "Sacrifice a white creature." The woman's son told her that during recess the children would summon the forces on the cards by raising sticks and saying, "Spirits enter me." A source I read said one TV show included several appearances (in seductive poses) of a beautiful ghost of a young woman who had died long ago.

Young people, we are not just trying to take away all your fun. Fooling around with this sort of thing is dangerous. Magic, witchcraft, necromancy (calling the spirits of the dead), etc. are condemned by the Word of God. There is a real spirit world and it is wicked. Satan almost always makes his wickedness appear good or innocent - even fun. But he is out to destroy you. You had better listen to God and to those who know a little more than you do. God says, "**Give no place to the devil.**" Pokemon is an example of what He means.

**THE ANSWER TO TEEN VIOLENCE!** At least that's what the advertisement suggested for a new "bible". It is called "*The Truth for Youth*." There was no mention as to what version is being used. Here is the reason this "bible" will do the trick: "Each '*Truth For Youth*' has ten comic stories that tell the truth to the youth on the *hot* issues facing them today. Something our young people are not hearing in the public schools. These comic stories include the truth about School violence and killing, Rock music, Drugs, Pornography, Safe sex, Abortion, Peer pressure, Drinking, Homosexuality and Evolution." The last thing we need is another "bible". The truth is, there is only one Bible and young people and adults have been reading and believing it for centuries in spite of all the arguments against it. It changes lives without comic book and other foolish incentives. This will no doubt offend some readers, but I will say it anyway; I personally think there are some modern (worldly) methods which are being used to promote God's message which are not appropriate. I do not think that God's Word should be reduced to the level of a comic book. Maybe you do, but I ask you to meditate a little while on the nature and character of God and see if that method fits Him and His high and holy character. Now I know what some will say, "People are getting saved with this sort of thing." That sounds to me like "the end justifies the means" and it is exactly where the New Evangelicals and a lot of Fundamentalists have gone wrong. Can't God save them the old fashioned way anymore? Poor God, He needs a lot of help these days and he has plenty of helpers, including quite a few Fundamentalists. "**Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**"

## WHAT IS SIN?

Man calls sin an accident, God calls it an abomination. Man calls sin a blunder, God calls it blindness. Man calls sin a chance, God calls it a choice. Man calls sin a defect, God calls it a disease. Man calls sin an error, God calls it enmity. Man calls sin a fascination, God calls it a fatality. Man calls sin an infirmity, God calls it iniquity. Man calls sin a luxury, God calls it lawlessness. Man calls sin a trifle, God calls it tragedy. Man calls sin a mistake, God calls it madness. Man calls sin a weakness, God calls it willfulness. It doesn't matter what you call it; what God calls it is all that's important. Man is good at giving nice or innocuous sounding names to that which is evil. He says abortion is choice; homosexuality is gay, etc. Sin is disobedience to God, whether you believe Him or His Word or not. Your unbelief doesn't annul the truth. Millions no longer believe in God's judgment or in hell. That doesn't change anything! God says, **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."** That includes little sins! God doesn't make any distinctions. There is but one cure for sin - **"Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish."** That means you have to humble yourself and acknowledge that you are wrong and God is right! Then, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** God's Word declares that **"Christ died for our sins."** Stop playing games with words...and with God. It is a game you cannot win! Acknowledge your sin and receive Christ as your Savior today.

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## THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

A.W.Tozer wrote the following about fifty years ago: **"And they continued stedfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship; and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."** ~Acts 2:42. Conversion for the early New Testament Christians was not a destination; it was the beginning of a journey. And right there is where the biblical emphasis differs from ours. Today, all is made to depend upon the initial act of believing. At a given moment a 'decision' is made for Christ, and after that everything is 'automatic.' We...are almost all guilty of this lopsided view of the Christian life. In our efforts to make converts we allow our hearers to absorb the idea that they can deal with their entire responsibility once and for all by an act of believing...In the Book of Acts, faith was for each believer a beginning, not an end; it was a journey, not a bed in which to lie while waiting for the day of our Lord's triumph." Conversion, salvation, results from a one time act of believing in Christ and His work on the cross. The saved person has been born again - one is born in an instant! But that is not the end...only the beginning. He is to grow up to be a responsible and useful servant of Christ. The Christian is not to merely enjoy himself, doing whatever he thinks is good or convenient, waiting for the Rapture. He's to study the Word of God, applying it to his everyday life in order to become a mature child of God and to perform service for God. It is sad but true, that a large percentage of Bible believers today are mere babes though many have been saved for years. The hour is late and God says, **"It is high time to wake out of sleep."** It is time to get on with the journey!