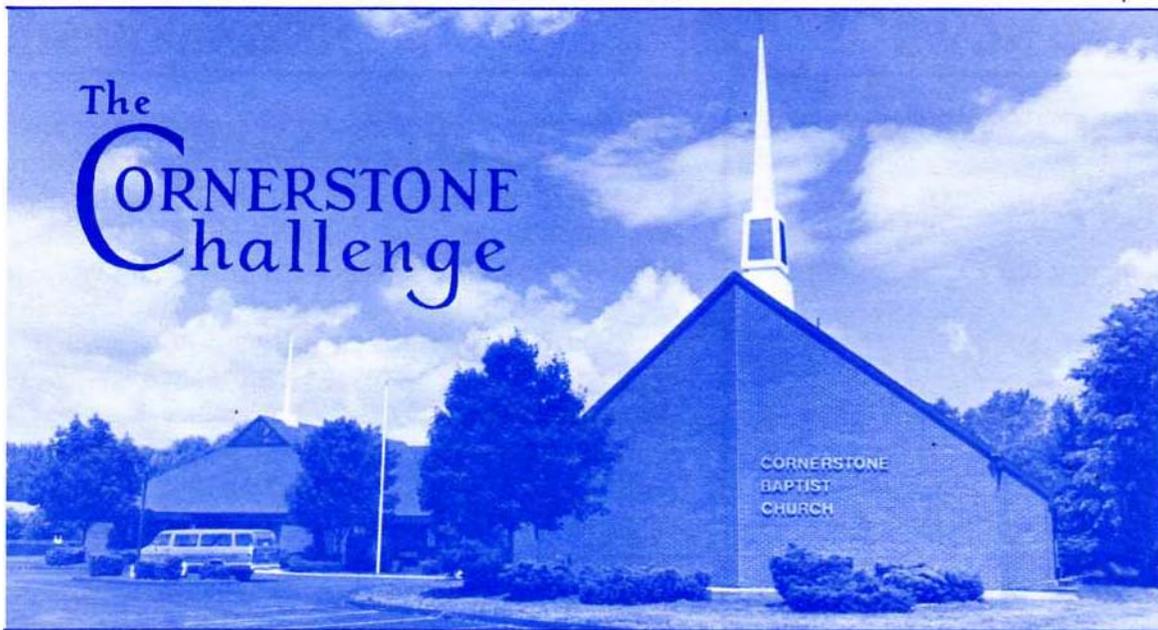


# The CORNERSTONE Challenge



A  
Ministry  
of:

## CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### **BE YE READY!**

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These are days when **“men’s hearts are failing them for fear.”** Yet few, even among God’s people, seem to grasp the significance of the events of September 11, etc. Few have taken this “wake up” call seriously. We believe the coming of Christ is imminent regardless of current events, and believer’s need to stop playing Church and get down to the business of holiness, prayer, soul winning, etc. One of the greatest themes in the New Testament is the second coming of Christ. Jesus Himself said, **“If I go away, I will come again...”** There are two sections related to it; Jesus will come and meet His Church in the air and 7 years later He will return with the saints to defeat the devil and set up his kingdom. Read **Luke 17:22-29.** There are two prominent aspects of both of these events, both comings will be sudden and unexpected - like September 11th!. Both of these former “days” were times of great wickedness, sexual perversion, much like our day although that is not what Jesus emphasized. His coming to earth; will be like the **“days of Noe (Noah)”** and the **“days of Lot.”** In Noah’s day, **“they did eat, they drank, they married wives...”** It was business as usual, perversion was normal, even as it is becoming in our day; the multitudes were not expecting the flood. They heard about it, but did not believe it nor look for it. II Peter 3:10 says, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...”** It was sudden; **“...until the day.”** *It was business as usual, then one day it was all over!* Some of the last words in the Bible warn us about His sudden return – Revelation 22:12, **“Behold I come quickly.”** In v.20, **“Surely I come quickly.”** There’ll be no time for last minute decisions which I have had people say they will make. Luke 17 says: **“the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank...”** Same thing! Business as usual; the fire and brimstone was not expected. I Thessalonians 5:1-2 says, **“But of the times and seasons brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly well that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”** The judgment in Lot’s day was sudden: **“the same day...”** In I Corinthians 15:52 we read that the return of Jesus Christ will be **“...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.”** You can’t get any faster than that. No time for last minute decisions!

Many Scriptures tell us to be ready for this great event. The only way to be ready is to be saved, to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. That’s the Gospel: **“...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he arose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”** If that is not truly your hope, you have no hope and you are in danger lest He come unexpectedly and you be taken by surprise. Jesus said, **“Remember Lot’s wife.”** Why do you suppose He said that? I think it might have been because she was *“almost saved.”* Now, we know that one is either saved or lost, but there are some who seem closer than others to salvation. Agrippa said, **“Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”** He was thinking about what Paul said, but he did not repent and receive the message. Lot’s wife was *almost* out of that place of judgment. We have many people in our Fundamental churches who are *“almost.”* They know the Gospel by heart, *profess* to know the Lord but have no fruit. They **“...profess that they know God but in works deny him...”** Jesus said, **“By their fruits ye shall know them.”** I have no doubt these words will fall on the eyes of some who are not saved. Maybe you have made a profession of faith but it is empty! Suppose you had been in the World Trade Center or on one of those planes on September 11? Where would you be now? Heaven or Hell? What will you do now, just hope for the best? Will you go on eating, and drinking, and be taken unawares for the judgment that is coming? Will you go to spend eternity with Lot’s wife and those from Sodom and the multitudes of Noah’s day? Or, will you humble yourself, repent and turn to the Savior before He comes? He’s coming as a thief in the night! Jesus said, **“Be ye ready.”**

# NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**LUNATICS ARE RUNNING THE ASYLUM.** The surgeon general's new sexual report, released in June, insists that homosexuality is unchangeable (*That has been proved a lie over and over again*), and that we need to respect "the diversity of sexual values within a community." Researchers for the report consulted with prostitutes, among others. A spokesman for Surgeon General David Satcher's office confirmed that prostitutes were interviewed on how to teach children about sex. Columnist Don Feder said, "The lunatics haven't just taken over the asylum, they're franchising the operation." -*What in the World*. This reminds me of the Kinsey Report many years ago which reported on sexuality in the U.S. It indicated that sexual promiscuity and perversion were far greater and more widely accepted than anyone dreamed. It was widely believed and accepted. It came out later, about 30 years later, that they largely interviewed prison inmates (homosexuality is rampant in prisons), prostitutes, etc. This country has had a degenerate sexual revolution in the past fifty years and it has been promoted by so called experts - psychologists. Freud himself was obsessed with sex and his whole theory is based upon an ancient Greek myth about perverted sex. I have often said I don't know who has done the greatest harm to this country - the psychologists (and psychiatrists) or the liberal judges. We have sown the wind and we are reaping the whirlwind! The worst thing about all this is things are just the same as they were in Israel when God said, "...**My people love to have it so.**" Besides the availability of pornography, sex (including much of the perverted kind) is the essence of most TV programs.

**PARENTS TAKE NOTE!** A May 4th program on *Good Morning America* showed that children as young as seven are aware of sexual content on television. A room full of boys and girls, ages 7 to 10, watched a selection of television programming while their parents looked on from another room. The children recognized sexual messages and even commented on the tight outfits worn by pop singer Britney Spears. Two boys said the singer wore clothes that made her look "sexy." -Copied. I never saw a time when Christian parents were so naive about their children. When it comes to their own children, parents believe they would never lie, deceive, or look at sensual TV or books. They are as pure as the angels in heaven. Many "Christian" parents believe their children over the word of a godly teacher and even their Pastor. This is a madness that has taken

hold of most parents in the last 25-30 years. The truth is such parents are deceived and are no doubt in for a lot of grief. It's high time Christian parents woke up!

**MORE NEW EVANGELICALISM.** A group from our Church goes to downtown Boston once a month to pass out tracts, witness and hold a street meeting. Recently, I was given a tract which had been given to one of our folks by someone. It is typical New Evangelicalism! It did have a couple of verses in it, but there was *no sin, no repentance, no blood, no cross...* It did not explain what it means to be saved nor how to be saved Biblically. It did not give the Gospel but concluded: "*Just pray, 'Lord Jesus I am turning to you. Save me so I can know you and experience this love and receive eternal life. Thank you for these gifts and this new relationship with you. I pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen' If you prayed this prayer, Christ has promised in the Bible that you are 'born again' or 'saved'.*" That is a lie; Christ never promised such a thing! You might as well pray the Rosary and expect to be saved! Even if one prays a prayer that is sound, there is no assurance that merely repeating it will save you. God says, "**If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**" We are not nit-picking, the Gospel is something very definite. See I Corinthians 15:3,4.

**GLOBAL NUMBERING SYSTEM!** The U.S. government has given its blessing to a proposal to create a worldwide numbering system. They are calling it *Enum*, short for e-numbers according to *The Times* of London. The aim of this global scheme is to simplify communication; everyone will have an 11-digit contact number through which he could be reached...The report notes that with the U.S. now on board, its chances of becoming reality have been greatly enhanced. -Copied. Ed: We had two articles on globalism in the *Challenge* this past year. If you understand the Bible, you realize this is the stuff of which the end times are made. The sad thing is so few Christians are ready - the great majority are so carnal, so worldly, so backslidden, they don't have a clue. It is time to wake up! The world is about to blow up, but God's people, Fundamental Baptists, are more interested in houses, cars, football, baseball, fishing, etc. than in rescuing souls from the hell that is to come - hell on earth and for eternity.

## YOUTH CORNER

**POP-CULTURE CONVERSIONS.** Beware the phony “conversion” of Hollywood types, rock stars, etc. that appear in the media every now and then. But rarely, if ever, does one read of anything that sounds like a faith based, Bible conversion. *Religion Today* writes of Barry McGuire’s seeming conversion. The article says he was one of the best known in secular circles as a wild child of the 1960s, whose No. 1 song, “Eve of Destruction,” has been called the top protest song of all time. But he had an “epiphany (*an appearance or awakening*) after his 15 minutes of fame,” and he said he has been singing Christian music ever since the 1970s. McGuire explained: “I had experimented with Eastern mysticism, then I found a modern translation of the life and times of Jesus. I couldn’t find anything wrong with his beliefs (*we’re so glad to have his endorsement of Jesus*) - He had no hidden agenda. Jesus teaches. ‘To love God above all else, and your neighbor as yourself.’ This is truth...Life started to take on depth, and a sense of well-being and fulfillment. I felt like I found something worth singing about. A drama and a joy comes back to your life.” There’s not one word there that resembles a New Testament conversion yet the New Evangelicals and Charismatics act as though such individuals are saved. It is a grand delusion! We have a lot of self reformation and “following Jesus” today which only makes one tenfold more a child of hell.

*Not every one that saith to me, Lord,  
Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of  
heaven; but he that doeth the will of my  
Father who is in heaven.*

*Many will say to me in that day, Lord,  
Lord, have we not prophesied in thy  
name? and in thy name have cast out  
demons? and in thy name done many  
wonderful works?*

*And then will I profess to them, I never  
knew you: depart from me, ye that work  
iniquity.*

*Matthew 7:21-23*

**MAGIC PRAYER FORMULA!** A book by Bruce Wilkinson, *The Prayer of Jabez* is sweeping the country with sales already reported at 4 million. You can read the prayer in I Chronicles 4:10. Wilkinson says anyone can claim anything if he repeats this prayer daily; he has done so for 30 years. On James Dobson's program he said anyone who repeats this prayer for two weeks will be transformed. The back of the book cover promises, “Discover how the remarkable prayer of a little known Bible hero can release God’s favor, power, and protection...” He goes so far as to say that this prayer allows one to be a bit “selfish” and to ask God for personal blessing and abundance. He says, “I want to show you that such a prayer is not the self-centered act it might appear, but a supremely spiritual one and exactly the kind of request our Father likes to hear.” He adds, it is “a daring prayer that God always answers...it contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God,” and is guaranteed to work. From *The Berean Call*. The prayer of Jabez was truly a good one, but it is not a magic formula. There are many other good prayers recorded in the Bible, why not take one of them. The whole thing sounds like the Catholic rosary and the health and wealth gospel all rolled up into one. Jesus condemned “Vain repetitions.”

*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not  
be as the hypocrites are: for they love to  
pray standing in the synagogues, and in  
the corners of the streets, that they may  
be seen by men. Verily, I say to you,  
they have their reward.*

*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into  
thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy  
door, pray to thy Father who is in  
secret, and thy Father who seeth in  
secret, will reward thee openly.*

*But when ye pray, use not vain  
repetitions, as the heathen do: for they  
think that they shall be heard for their  
much speaking.*

*Matthew 6:5-7*

## GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Don Feder is a syndicated columnist. I believe he is of the Jewish faith, but he makes more sense than many Fundamental Baptists. He wrote: "We've been evoking God's blessing but do we understand the implications of asking God's blessings? Does it recognize an obligation on our part to walk in His ways? For most of our history, Americans believed there was a correlation between our conduct as a people and our fate as a nation. George Washington said, 'The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained.' Thomas Jefferson said, 'I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is ever just: that His justice cannot sleep forever.' In those days, war and disaster were met by declarations of national days of fasting and repentance...We implore God to bless America...yet, when planes aren't crashing into buildings, as a nation we tend to ignore Him...Approximately 6,000 died in the World Trade Center. Roughly 4,000 die in abortion clinics every day...One state condones doctor assisted suicide. Several have legalized medical marijuana. Vermont (now Calif.) has put homosexual unions on the same plane as that honorable estate instituted of God. Some internet sites make Sodom seem wholesome...We've banished Him from classrooms, school commencements, even high school sports events. In public school, T-shirts with obscenities are OK, but the Ten Commandments are banished..." Ed: Now I surely want God to bless America - but why should He? Even His people are worldly, mostly concerned about themselves and little interested in souls going to hell every day! There are no signs of repentance, even among Bible believers! I know II Chronicles 7:14 refers directly to Israel, but there is a principle there which transcends that nation. **"If my people...shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven..."** *Will you notice four things God's people must do!* I don't see them!

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## HUMAN NATURE EVER THE SAME

John Chrysostom, called "Golden Mouthed" for his preaching ability was one of the very few fourth century Church fathers who remained true to the faith. He was a fearless preacher, being exiled several times by the emperor for his denunciation of the sins of the monarchy. He dared to call the empress Jezebel! Apparently he had the same problem that most preachers have today. He said, *"The majority of those who are under preachers' charge are not minded to behave toward them as toward teachers, but disdain the part of learners, they assume instead the attitude of those who sit and look on at the public games...for the public are accustomed to listen not for profit, but for pleasure, sitting like critics of tragedies and of musical entertainments."* That's the way it was in Ezekiel's day when God said: **"Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not."** ~Ezekiel 33:30-32. It's still the same! It appears many Christians come to Church as if they were going to an athletic event; they sit in the stands and cheer or boo as they see fit. Others seem to enjoy what they hear but it does not personally effect them. **"They hear my words but they do them not."**