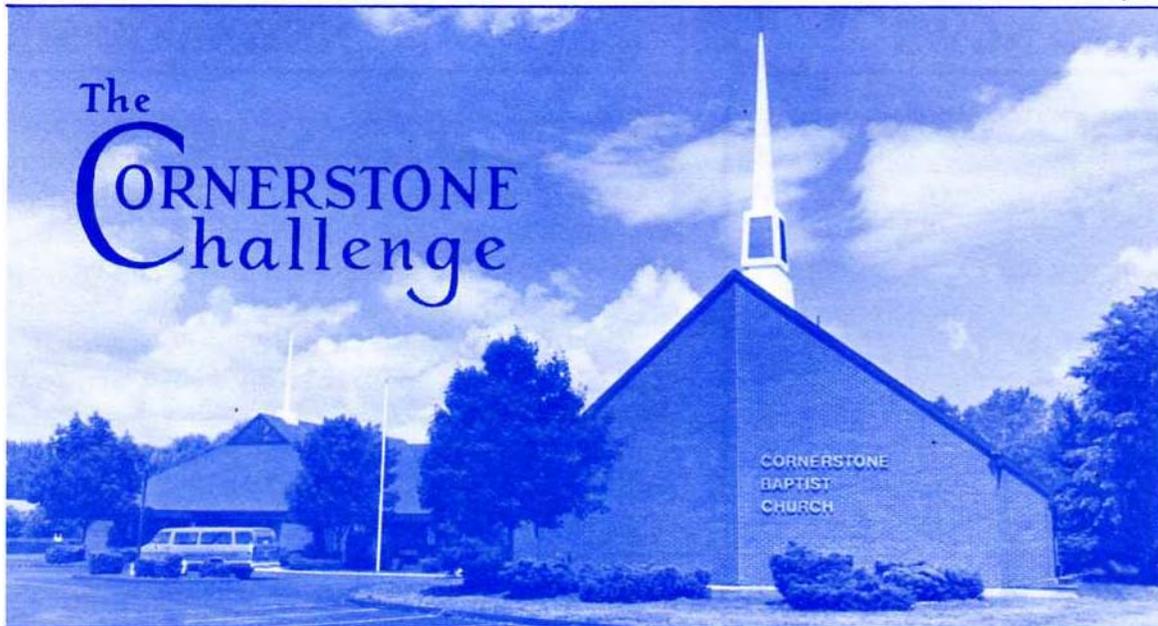


# The CORNERSTONE Challenge



A  
Ministry  
of:

## CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS!

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I believe what the world needs most is Christians who are truly living for Christ! Jesus said, **“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor...it is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and be trodden under foot of men.”** The average Christian today offers no rebuke to the world, either by life or by lip. How many act like the world, talk like the world, dress like the world, and seek the same things the world seeks. There are many fundamental Churches where people come to Church in shorts, T-shirts, sneakers; ladies with pants, slit skirts, tight skirts and sweaters, and revealing blouses, etc. There is no difference between them and the liberal church down the street. That may draw a crowd, but I tell you God is not happy when we mimic the world just to get a crowd! One of Israel’s great problems, and sins, was mixing and mimicking the world. Then multitudes have brought the filth of Hollywood right into their homes through TV. Jim Elliot who was a martyr for Christ in 1956 said a few years before that event: *“I went to my friend’s house last night and looked at TV. God convicted me with Psalm 119:37: ‘Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity.’ I sensed the powerful decentralizing effect of it on my mind and affections...Lord grant me a disciplined spirit and an obedient body henceforth.”* TV is one hundred times worse than it was then and many Christians, including many pastors, think nothing of spending several hours a day watching it. Over one hundred years ago D.L. Moody said: *“I firmly believe that the Church of God will have to confess her own sins before there can be any great work of grace. I sometimes think it is time to give up preaching to the ungodly and preach to those who profess to be Christians.”* He also said, *“If we had a high standard of life in the Church, there would be thousands more flocking into the kingdom.”* If we are ever going to be much use for God and a blessing to lost sinners, we are going to have to get closer to God – not the world. The need of this hour is Spirit filled Christians!

It is time to confess our lukewarmness to the things of God and stand up and be counted for Christ. Jesus said, **“Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”** ~Revelation 3:17. They are solemn words of the Lord Jesus Christ! He wants you cold or hot, but not lukewarm. No middle ground. Dr. Joseph Parker said of Spurgeon, *The only colors Mr. Spurgeon knew were black and white. In all things he was definite. You were either in or out, up or down, alive or dead.* Vance Havner told of a preacher who said to him, *“I used to take a stand about dancing, but I just made enemies. I’m going to go along with it.”* Praise God Luther didn’t say, *“Things are bad and souls are being damned, but I just can’t afford to stick my neck out.”* We talk about the final apostasy as though it were sometime in the distant future. The plain fact is we are in the midst of it, and what is needed is for those who are in the light to shine for Christ as never before. Christian, will you get before the Lord, confess your sins and ask God to fill you with His Spirit? **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God...And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed...”** ~Romans 12:1,2. (from Challenge – 6/95)

**D. L. MOODY SAID:** *“If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, you have more business on hand than God intended for you to have.”* What does God think of all the time you have for TV, the internet, the newspaper, magazines, pleasure? Yet you do not have time to read His Word and pray.

## YOUTH CORNER

**LEAVE OFF CONTENTION.** It's not always possible to avoid contention, strife. Some people are just plain "contentious." But often it is possible. God's Word says, "...leave off contention (strife) before it be meddled with." ~Proverbs 17:14. It is not necessarily a matter of cowardice to just walk away from some arguments. There is a legend that tells of Hercules encountering a small, strange animal on a narrow road. He struck it with his club and went on. Soon the animal overtook him and was now much larger than before. Hercules struck it fast and furiously, but the more he clubbed the beast the larger it grew. Then Pallas appeared to Hercules and warned him to stop. He said, "The monster's name is Strife. Let it alone and it will soon become as little as at first." God says, "...leave off contention..." How many small arguments or misunderstandings would soon disappear if we didn't pursue them and have to have the last word? Having the last word is just the old sinful nature desiring to have its own way. How much better to retain a friend than to win a worthless or insignificant argument and lose him?

**TELLING IT LIKE IT IS!** Most people today, young and old, do not like preaching that is bold and to the point – challenging and convicting. Yet, that is just the way the Word of God is. Too many preachers try to tone it down so people won't get upset! That is not only a great mistake, it is sin! It is God's Word, not ours, and He expects us to deliver it just the way He gave it! People need to get upset, made to feel guilty – sinners and saints alike. Rowland Hill was a great preacher in England around 200 years ago. It was said of him that no matter where you sat in his large Church, you could not hide, for he preached the Word in such a way that you knew what he meant and you knew it was meant for you. He preached so hard that many people said he was mad. To this he would reply: "While I was passing yon road, I saw a gravel pit cave in and bury three men alive. I hastened to the rescue and shouted for help until they heard me in town, almost a mile away. Nobody called me a madman then. But when I see destruction about to fall upon sinners and entomb them in an eternal mass of woe, and cry aloud, if perchance they may realize their danger and escape, they say I am beside myself. Perhaps I am, but oh, that all of God's children might be filled with a desire to save their fellows." Christians of all ages need to get right with God and seek lost souls while we have time. God says, "**Many have not the knowledge of God; I speak this to your shame!**" ~I Corinthians 15:34.

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**PUBLIC EDUCATION OR MISINFORMATION.** Twelve of the most popular science text books used in middle schools nationwide are riddled with errors. Researchers compiled *500 pages of errors*, (including) maps depicting the equator passing through the southern United States... None of the books has an acceptable level of accuracy said John Hubisz, a Univ. of North Carolina physics professor. He stated, "They get people to check for political correctness...they try to get in as much cultural diversity as possible. They just don't seem to understand what science is all about." ~Copied. Between non-education and misinformation, there is not much hope for the young people of our day. I don't believe it can be turned around, but Christian schools can give young people God's truth and tools they need.

**AWANA NOT IN THE FUNDAMENTAL CAMP!** Actually, it hasn't been for a long time. Like many other once fundamental organizations, the Awana youth program has moved far from its original purpose. *The Calvary Contender* Reports on a recent weakening of

their doctrinal statement. A Kansas Pastor wrote, "My problem is with the deceit of chartering American Baptist Churches (NCC/WCC) despite clear statements prohibiting it, and now removing key parts of the doctrinal statement that clearly speak against false doctrine and trends such as the charismatic movement..." An Awana official in an e-mail response noted specifically that the Assemblies of God and American Baptist Churches now would be free to use Awana. We have seen this over and over again, once sound ministries lowering their standards so they can reach more people (I think it is also so they can make more money). Of course, once you start to cater to the liberals and other sound works, you must soon give up more and more of the truth, for they will not but it if you are too Biblically oriented. This has happened over and over again where once Fundamental works (and Churches) have gone New Evangelical and even liberal, by watering down their ministries so they could reach a larger constituency. I believe in most cases, it also involved an opportunity for greater income.

## PRAY FOR THE PREACHER

Spurgeon said: "One plea more (for the prayers of his people)... Amongst the worst trials of the ministry are the discouragements of it. I do not now refer to the discouragements of the outside world - we expect opposition from that quarter, and are not discouraged by it. If the world hate us, we know that it hated our Lord before it hated us. But our saddest discouragements come from within the church congregation. There are those whom we had hoped to see converted, who have gone back to their old sins. There are those who we hope are right at heart, but who live inconsistently; for many walk so far from Jesus it pierces us with sorrow. Then, there are those who profess great things, unite themselves with the Church of God, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. They shame us; they make the world say, 'Is this your religion?' Oh, if you be called of the Lord to shepherd His flock, and if you bear in your bosom the church of God, and the cause of Christ, and live for it with all your heart and soul, you shall not live many days without many heart-breaking trials, and you will greatly need the supply of the Spirit in answer to the prayers of the people of God...Let me say next, the prayers that are wanted are the prayers of the entire Church. From some other labor some of you might be exempted, but from this service not one is excused...Some of you are our spiritual children...surely we need not take you by the hand and say, 'Children, pray for us.'"

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## A GREAT EVIL

Vance Havner said he read of a woman who went to see a psychiatrist wearing a strip of bacon over each ear and a fried egg on the top of her head. When the psychiatrist greeted her, she said to him that she had come to see him about her brother who was acting a little strange. That woman reminds me of a fair number of individuals that I have met and have had to deal with – I am speaking of professing Christians. They know what is wrong with everybody else, but they cannot see the huge flaws and sins in their own lives. Most everybody else can see them, but they are blind to their own idiosyncrasies and faults and sins. Now, to be sure, we are not to condone sin, and we are to judge whether something is right or wrong, but we are not to judge motives or make judgments on the basis of our own philosophies or prejudices. Neither do we have the right to go about as a talebearer reporting on the sins or shortcomings of others. Dr. M. R. DeHaan said, "*One of the greatest evils among professing Christians today is the readiness to pass judgment or take sides.*" My Christian friend, many years in the ministry has taught me that God's people do more harm to other believers and to the Church of Christ than all the enemies on the outside including the devil and his demons! **"And why beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye."** ~*Luke 6:41*. The Judgment Seat of Christ is going to be a very unhappy place for quite a few of God's people!