



A  
Ministry  
of:

**CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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**DO WE HAVE TO HAVE CONTROVERSY?**

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Seventy or more years ago Dr. Harry Ironside said, "Objection is often raised - even by some sound in the faith - regarding the exposing of error... The teaching of our Blessed Lord and the writings of the apostles are made up of this ministry - namely, showing the satanic origin and unsettling results of the propagation of erroneous systems....The apostle Paul predicted, **'That after my departing grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise...'** My own observation is that these 'grievous wolves' alone and in packs, are not sparing even the most favored flocks." Without a doubt, most of the problem today comes from those within the fold, as there is not that much trouble which comes from those outside the walls. I have lived to see many once strong Fundamental churches destroyed or reduced to feebleness and I cannot think of one that was so reduced from forces on the outside. We wonder what Dr. Ironside would say if he could see the condition within Fundamental churches today. As long as there is a devil, there will be the need to **"fight the good fight of faith."** Unfortunately, most of God's people seem to be getting along pretty good in this world and they do not want to be disturbed. It appears many are sleeping the sleep of death!

God said that the watchmen of Israel, the spiritual leaders, were blind; they could not see the enemy approaching. Also, they were like **"dumb dogs that cannot bark."** ~Isaiah 56:9,10. What good is a dumb dog when a thief is coming under the cover of darkness? Calvin said, "A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw God's truth attacked and yet remained silent without giving a sound." If there were no enemies, if no one was perverting God's message, if the enemy was not within the camp, we would not need to raise an alarm and warn the people of their danger. We are living in a day when the enemy has come in like a flood. God said when he does, I'll raise up a standard against him! *Isaiah 59:19*. The enemy is literally scaling the walls, in fact, he is already inside the city. Yet there are many who say let's not get excited, let's not get people all worked up. We must give everyone the benefit of the doubt. I tell you, God's people better get worked up before it's too late! The walls of separation are almost in total disrepair; the very foundation of our faith, the Word of God, is attacked and supplanted by counterfeits promoted by professed fundamentalists; worldliness abounds in the house of God. Yet, we have many who say, "Let's not be alarmists; maybe things will eventually straighten themselves out!" Whose side are these people on? God has said we must **"Earnestly contend for the faith."** If we don't, we are going to lose it! Then, it will be too late! Paul said, **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."** Not many Fundamentalists can say that today! Most of God's people act like they are on a cruise ship to the Caribbean rather than on a battleship heading into the fray. What about you? Will you fight the good fight? God says, **"And that, knowing it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer that when we believed."** ~Romans 13:11.

**CHURCH MEMBERS WE HAVE ENOUGH OF.**

A. J. Gordon once classified some obstreperous church members as "figureheads, soreheads, and deadheads." He might have added "Hotheads", of which there has always been an abundance. ~Vance Havner

## YOUTH CORNER

**BEWARE “HARMLESS” FUN.** Restless youth in France have found a new friend – the Barbary ape. The animals are being smuggled in from North Africa. Arrests are being made because apes can become very dangerous. “Sweet as babies, the apes rapidly grow into adults with murderous teeth and claws,” authorities say. The ape-loving young people had previously been a menace because of their attack dogs. Young people, there is a spiritual lesson here. A seeming harmless worldliness only leads to more and more ungodliness and will eventually destroy you. **“Be sure your sin will find you out.”** ~Numbers 32:23. There is no such thing as a “little sin” and many things that seem harmless often turn out to have great consequences, often consequences that cannot be reversed. There is an old saying: You can’t bring water back once it has gone over the dam. Also, when an egg is scrambled, you can’t unscramble it. You’d better stay away from TV, worldly (especially sensual – “sexy”) books and magazines, worldly friends, etc. Don’t let anyone talk you in to doing something wrong! **“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”** ~Galatians 6:7, 8.

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**CATASTROPHIC ATTACK ON U.S. LIKELY!** USA Today carried the report by the Commission on National Security/21<sup>st</sup> Century which stated that the national Guard should be retrained as the nation’s main protector against a “catastrophic attack” likely to hit the USA in the next 25 years as indicated by a congressionally commissioned panel. “Weapons proliferation and the persistence of international terrorism will end the relative invulnerability of the U.S. homeland.” It said that the National Guard should be given domestic security as a primary mission, and the Defense and State departments should be overhauled. The panel recommended that funding should be doubled over the next eight years. The fourteen member commission was chaired by former senators Warren Rudman, R-NH and Gary Hart, D-CO. Russia is rebuilding its armed forces, but I believe the greatest threat to our safety is China. For eight years our military has been severely cut back while we give them favored trade arrangements supplying billions for their military.

*(This edition went out a couple of weeks before 9/11/01)*  
**BILLY GRAHAM’S PITIFUL CONDITION.** The following is from a couple in New Zealand and was recorded in *The Berean Call* (4/01). “Last year and the year before, we listened to Billy Graham’s program over short-wave. We were surprised with what he came out with. We took notes: 9/5/99, that he could not understand the Bible; 9/19, that he could not understand parts of the bible; 9/26, that for many

### **THINGS WORTH THINKING ABOUT:**

I never read of a dying man who said, “I am sorry that I am a Christian.

If there is one thing worse than committing a sin, it is an effort to cover it up or excuse it.

*Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason so few engage in it.*

How busy one may be is not really important; it is what you are busy doing that matters.

*Nothing is opened more by mistake than the mouth!*

### **TRAGEDY OF TEEN WHO REJECTED CHRIST.**

Many years ago a sad, old man died on Staten Island. Aaron Burr had been America’s most brilliant lawyer and even became Vice President of the U.S. But he made a huge mistake when he was a teenager; when he was fifteen, a revival broke out in an institution where he was studying. Christ was offered to him and he was interested. But he played with his convictions and sought the advice of those who mocked. He adopted the liberal view of things and a life of failure, crime and misery followed. His duel with Hamilton, his trial for treason, his wanderings as an outcast resulted. If you’re not truly saved, God says, **“Now is the day of salvation.”** Ask God to forgive your sins and receive Christ as your Savior. *See Romans 10:9, 10.*

years he studied the Bible but most of it he did not understand; 10/30, that the lord Jesus Christ suffered in hell; 1/2, that God had not changed in a million years, promoting evolution; 1/23, that he could not understand how Satan had changed into a snake; 2/6, he did not know what hell was like; 2/3, he did not know when the flood of Noah was. Graham also said that Augustine, the worshipper of relics, was the greatest after the Apostle Paul. In June he said, when He was on earth, the Lord Jesus was sexually enticed by Mary Magdalene.” This couple went to Amsterdam for Graham’s great Conference for 15,000 evangelists last year. Outside the conference, they displayed banners warning Graham was a false teacher. They said, “On Sunday Graham had on his platform Cardinal Simonis from the Roman Catholic Church and called everyone his ‘brothers and sisters.’”

**ALCOHOL: MOST DAMAGING SUBSTANCE.** The director of the National institute on Alcohol abuse and Alcoholism calls alcohol “the most widespread and damaging substance we have in society.” The May 7 *U.S. News* has an 8-page article showing how alcohol alters brain chemistry. New science...shows how alcohol can rewire the circuitry of the brain, eroding its ability to feel pressure and act wisely, and replacing it with a locus for intense craving and destructive behavior. The article terms alcoholism as a disease (the Bible calls it sin, drunkenness) that interferes with home life, work, interpersonal relationships, and

eventually with health... It distorts judgment. "It severs the connection between behavior and consequence. It lays waste marriages, friendships and careers. It leaves children stranded." –CC. I believe there is no doubt that alcohol is responsible for more criminal behavior, broken homes, mental illness, etc., than all of the illegal drugs one hears about. I have read that prohibition didn't work. That is a lie of the devil and the liberal establishment. It certainly did work! I cannot recall the statistics now, but I read somewhere years ago the greater improvement per capita in the items above and other ailments during prohibition. There was a great decrease of people in hospitals and mental institutions due to alcohol related illnesses.

**SOMETHING WE KNEW ALL ALONG!** *World* magazine (5/19/01) carried an article showing that homosexuals can go back to being straight. Robert Spitzer, a psychiatry professor at Columbus university did a study on

200 men and women who shifted from homosexual to heterosexual attraction. He said he started the study as a skeptic but his work showed that "Contrary to conventional wisdom, some highly motivated individuals...can make substantial changes...of sexual orientation." Dr. Spitzer had been on the other side of the fence before, having helped lead a campaign in the 1970's to delete homosexuality from the American Psychological Association's list of mental disorders. He found that three-quarters of the men and half of the women had married after giving up the homosexual (it's not gay) lifestyle. Of course, all the homosexual fronts, like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, are disparaging him and his work. The plain truth is, homosexuality is not a genetic problem but a sin problem. It is almost illegal to say that nowadays, but it is true and needs to be said. God says, **"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."** ~*Leviticus 18:22.*

## THERE WAS A MAN...

A. W. Tozer said, "*John's (John the Baptist) greatness was this – 'He was a man sent from God.'*" ~*John 1:6...You cannot deny that much of the life and vitality of the Christian Church lies in the spiritual leadership of men anointed of God. I dare to tell you that there is a danger in too much democracy in the life of the Church...I do not believe that God expects the Church to thrive and mature and grow just on plain democratic principles.*" Of course, most Baptists think that is heresy; they think the Church is a democracy, but that is because they never bothered to study the Scriptures. You do not find anybody voting on anything in the New testament. Over and over again, God called a man and used him to accomplish His work. God sent a man, Noah...Abraham...Moses...Peter...Paul, etc. God never sent a board or committee. Well, what about Elders and Deacons? Do you mean that it is wrong to have these and other committees in the Church? Of course not, but it is pretty difficult to get much accomplished with a group of individuals, of which each has his own idea about what ought to be done. *Few realize that Elders and Deacons and other committees have been called to help the man God has called!* They are not to have their own agenda! Many times the problem is some on these boards are not content to follow...they think they must lead. In the local Church, God has called a man, a Pastor, and He gives others to help that man get the job done. He is not simply a dictator, but he is God's appointed man to lead the sheep! He's God's man who leads the way. Sheep are supposed to follow!

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## FACING THE MUSIC

You've heard that expression I am sure. Do you know where it comes from? I have read that it originated in Japan. There was one man in the imperial orchestra who could not play a note. He was a person of great wealth and influence and demanded that he be given a place because he wanted to "perform" before the emperor. Finally, the conductor agreed to let him sit in the second row even though he could not read music. He was given a flute, and when a concert would begin, he would pucker his lips, move his fingers without making a sound. This went on for some years until a new conductor was appointed. He required all orchestra members to personally audition before him. Appointments were made and one by one orchestra members performed in his presence. When it came the flutist's turn, he was frantic and pretended to be sick. However, after a while a doctor was called to examine him and he was found to be well. Shamefacedly, he had to confess that he was a fake. He was unable to "face the music." That reminds me of a good many in our churches (maybe you are one of them); they go through all the right motions, but they are faking it. The Bible says, **"Everyone of us must give an account of himself to God."** I assure you the Great Conductor already knows if you are faking it. Some day, maybe sooner than you think, you are going to have to "face the music." You may be lost in the "orchestra" right now, but one day you are going to have to stand all alone before God. Are you "playing" or "pretending."