



The CORNERSTONE Challenge

A
Ministry
of:

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!

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If you know anything about A.W. Tozer, you know he was a hard-hitting, tell it like it is (not like they want it) preacher. He died about 40 years ago and things are far worse in the world and in the church today. The following is from two of his messages: "The contemporary moral climate does not favor a faith as tough and fibrous as that taught by our Lord and His apostles. The delicate, brittle saints being produced in our religious hot-houses today are hardly to be compared with the committed, expendable believers who once gave their witness among men. And the fault lies with our leaders! They are too timid to tell the people all the truth. They are now asking men to give to God that which costs them nothing. Our churches these days are filled (or one-quarter filled) with a soft breed of Christian that must be fed on a diet of harmless fun to keep them interested. About theology they know little. Scarcely any of them read even one of the great Christian classics, but most of them are familiar with religious fiction and spine-tingling films. No wonder their moral and spiritual constitution is so frail. Such can only be called weak adherents of a faith they never really understood." - "I am having a hard time trying to comprehend what has happened to sound Bible teaching. What has happened to preaching on Christian discipleship and our daily deportment in the spiritual life? We are making an accommodation. We are offering a take-it-easy, Pollyanna type of approach that doesn't seem to have ever heard of total commitment to One who is our Lord and Savior. I regret that more and more Christians are being drawn into a hazy, fuzzy kind of teaching that assures everyone who has ever 'accepted Christ' that he or she has nothing more to be concerned about. He is OK and he will always be OK because Christ will be returning before things get too tough. Then, all of us will wear our crowns, and God will see to it that we have cities to rule over! If that concept is accurate, why did our Lord take the stern and unpopular position that Christian believers should be engaged in watching and praying?"

Today we have the notion among many (I believe most) "Christians" that you can be saved and still enjoy the "best" of this world and the next world also. *Please listen to me - you cannot have the best of both worlds!* They are opposites! You must make a choice for one or the other! God says, "**Love not the world...**" and "**the world is enmity with God...**" Salvation is not a smooth, easy ride to Heaven. Jesus said, "**If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me...**" In I John 3:13 it says, "**Marvel not my brethren, if the world hate you.**" It is impossible to love Christ and the world. If you live like a Christian should, the world, and I might add, worldly Christians, will not want to have anything to do with you. Many Christians spend most of their time trying to be liked by everyone; as Tozer said, accommodating themselves to everything and everybody! This is not the Christianity of the Bible! Do believers read the Book of Acts anymore? I think it would be appalling if we knew how few professing Christians spent 30 to 60 minutes a day reading their Bibles and praying. I pray that some, at least a few, will take this matter seriously. "**It is high time to wake out of sleep...**" God says, "**Be ye holy...**"

YOUTH CORNER

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Patrick Henry said, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; nor on religions but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ! For this very reason people of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity and freedom of worship here." (No wonder modern unbelievers want to rewrite history!) - Hugh Pyle. Young people, you need to ask God to give you a deep appreciation for this country. It is nothing like it once was, but it is still the best place on the face of God's earth. Having visited a few foreign lands, I can tell you America stands alone, far about the rest! That is the reason most of the world hates us. Many, if not most, young people today do not even know the true background of this land. Our great Christian heritage has been undermined by the liberals who now run the country and the educational institutions. I challenge you to be a serious Christian and to stand up for Christ and His Word in a day when it is not popular. You will be sorry if you don't!

GOOD OLD FASHIONED ADVICE

I am sure many of today's young people have not heard the following but it is very good advice. Here are some things my parents taught me while growing up.

They taught me -

LOGIC - "Because I said so, that's why."

STAMINA - "You will sit there until you finish your dinner."

SATIRE - "Keep crying and I will give you something to cry about."

BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION - "Act your age."

ISOLATION - "Go to your room and don't come down until I tell you to."

WEATHER - "Your room looks like a tornado went through it."

APPRECIATION - "There are millions of children in China who would love to have this supper."

INDEPENDENCE - "If you don't like the rules here, you'll have to provide your own home."

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

SENTENCE SERMONS:

Men and rivers are crooked for the same reason: they take the path of least resistance.

Putting your best foot forward does not mean kicking about everything.

Some people have a lot of ability, but they are terribly short on dependability.

Like an automobile, the person who's always knocking has something wrong inside.

You do not have to make any decision to go to hell.

PLEASE, DADDY, LET'S GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

A little girl with shining eyes ---
Her little face aglow,
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time
For Sunday School. Let's go.
They teach us there of Jesus' love
Of how He died for all,
To take to His home above
Those, who on Him will call."
"Oh, No!" said Daddy, "not today,
I've worked so hard all week
I think I am going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And the fishing's fine they say.
So, run along; don't bother me,
We'll go to Church some other day."
Months and years have since passed away,
But Daddy hears that plea no more;
"Let's go to Sunday School."
Those childish days are o'er.
And, now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through -
He finds some time to go to Church
But what does daughter do?
She says: "Oh, Daddy, not today ---
I stayed up almost all the night,
I've just got to get some sleep,
Besides, I just look a fright."
Then, Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears,
As again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.
He sees a small girl's shining face
Upturned with eyes aglow,
As she says, "It's time for Sunday School ---
Please, Daddy, won't you go."
-Author unknown



SO CLOSE TO HOME...BUT LOST!

Billy Sunday told the story of the ship the Royal Charter. Probably a hundred years or more ago, the Royal Charter left Liverpool, England for a trip around the world. After a number of months the ship came back to England and stopped in Queenstown to receive congratulations from various officials, before ending the voyage in Liverpool. The next evening it pulled out of the wharf for the relatively short trip to Liverpool and the end of the around-the-world trip. It was not long at sea, when a violent storm broke out and the Royal Charter was broken to pieces and only one man escaped. He managed to swim to shore and upon climbing the rocky shoreline; he told the story and asked that a messenger be sent to Liverpool. Word was sent to a Dr. Taylor, Pastor of the Church where Mrs. Smith, the Captain's wife was a member. He went to the home where all was in readiness for a family celebration. Mrs. Smith welcomed him and asked if he would not stay to eat with them when the captain arrived. In tears, he said, "Mrs. Smith, it pains me to tell you that the Captain will not be home - the Royal Charter went down last night in that storm." Falling to the floor and in tears she said, "O, Lord, so close to home but lost!" That reminds me of many who sit in our Fundamental Churches unsaved. They are close...but still lost! Maybe my reader is one of them! Close doesn't count - **"Ye must be born again!"** Receive Christ as your Savior. Do it today! **"...Behold, now it the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."**

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BACK SEATS

"Sometime ago I attended a meeting in a large auditorium where a very important subject was to be discussed, but the attendance was very small. My heartfelt sympathy went out to the speaker - not because the attendance was small but because the majority sat in the back rows. It really bothered me that these people were so discourteous and showed such lack of consideration for the speaker by sitting in the back when all the front rows were empty. What bothers me even more is that I find this very thing in every church I visit or preach in. The back seats are filled while the front ones are vacant to serve as an insult and discouragement to the preacher. Will someone tell me what is so attractive and appealing about the back seats (If you went to a ballgame, etc. you'd want the front seats). 'I think I ought to be able to sit where I want,' is an expression frequently heard from those who are dedicated to the back seats. That is true, but is not the problem evident from such a statement - the big 'I' gives it away. It is a matter of consideration and courtesy. Does being a Christian relieve one from being courteous and considerate? We should be the most considerate people in the world! Let us exercise these graces by helping to fill the auditorium from the front to the back every time we come to church."-Copied. Ed: We've often spoken of this but many of God's children simply are not concerned about others - only themselves. Individualism (the big "I") is the greatest problem in the church today!