

HOW LATE IS IT?

December 2003

The answer to the above question is, It is very late! Dr. J.H. Brookes was a strong Fundamentalist who preached about one hundred years ago. He was a man of great perception and penned the following around 1900: "It seems more and more evident that truth is not to win the field in our day; it will have a tremendous fight to hold it's own against the ever-increasing odds with which it has to contend. *If the battle were only with the world and the devil, there would be nothing to fear; but, unhappily, the fight must be carried on principally against professed friends. Insurrection rages within the citadel, and a man's foes are those of his own household. The church itself is traitorous and the worst enemy we have to dread.* Annihilation, restoration, evolution, a mixture of Herbert Spencer, Darwin, and Jesus Christ - such is the stuff certain popular preachers are giving their hearers...Alas! Nothing is more apparent to me, than that the professing body, with its false doctrines, its worldliness, its scarcely concealed iniquities, is on the rapids just above the Falls of Niagara, and the awful abyss is just below." Writing some years later Dr. Brookes said: "The conflict between truth and error is waxing hotter on this side of the sea (in America), as it is in the mother country. Higher criticism (fountain of all modern bible versions), a denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures, future probationism, annihilationism, contempt for the atonement, ridicule of our Lord's Second Coming, even in so called evangelical churches, are pushing forward with a bolder front every day; and those who are contending earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints, are few and disheartened. But why should we be surprised? We are plainly told by our Lord and the Holy Spirit in the inspired writings, that in the last days there shall be difficult times, and we ought to know that just what we see around us, must be witnessed before the end shall come."

That dear man of God certainly had his hand on the pulse of the times but what would he say if he were living today? Never mind the liberals, the cults, the Catholics, etc. Look what is going on among professing Fundamental Bible believers! Many, if not a majority of Fundamentalists do not believe they can hold the inspired Word of God in their hands - they assure us with great haughtiness that "only the originals are inspired." Worldliness is rampant among those who profess faith in the crucified Son of God. Carnal and even ungodly dress is tolerated. Many fundamental churches have dropped the Sunday Evening Service or the Wednesday Prayer Meeting and in some cases both. Then, rare indeed is the Fundamental church that has a door-to-door visitation ministry or preaches on the streets. While hell is still believed, it has been somewhat softened; it really doesn't matter for it is seldom if ever preached. When one looks at the world and the professing church, he sees exactly what the Word of God predicts for the last days; read II Tim. 3:1-5, etc. However, it is not the time to give up but to stand up and be counted for Christ. Let's "**Fight the good fight of faith!**" Let us stand on and for the Word of God (there's only One, you know what it is).

FEELING OR CALLING?

I have met many people over the years, including not a few Christians, who thought that because they felt like doing something, they should do it. I have especially met many Christians who thought they should preach, but it was obvious to others they were not called. I am reminded of the man who was asked: "Can your son play the violin?" His friend replied, "No, but that doesn't stop him." Of course, these people think preaching is the easiest thing in the world and that the world is just waiting to hear what they have to say.

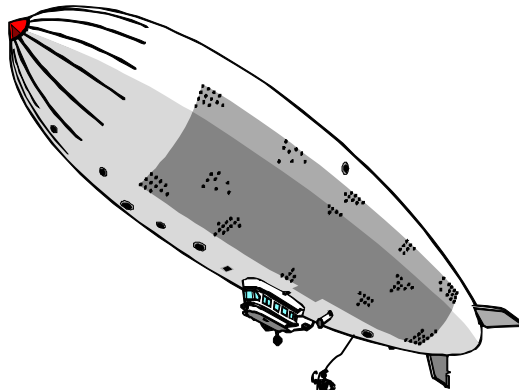
YOUTH CORNER

BETTER LET GO OF SOME THINGS!

Many years ago three men were accidentally carried aloft by the great airship Akron, as they clung to a ground-rope that should have been cast off. The thousands that witnessed the plight of these men were horrified as they watched them holding on in awful desperation while they were being carried higher and higher. The strength of one man failed and he went hurtling down to an instant death. Then, the second man also lost his hold as women shrieked and fainted. The third man was finally pulled up into the airship. The sad thing about all of this was that, had they let go when they were supposed to, all would have been well. Life is like that, how many are not saved because they are holding onto some sin. One only has to think of the rich, young Ruler. He just could not let go of his wealth and power. The truth is, he finally did have to let go of it and he will be paying for it for all eternity! Young person, nothing is worth going to hell over! If you are not saved, give up your sin, let go of your selfishness and trust Christ as your Savior today. God says, "**NOW is the accepted time...**"

*He that covereth his sins
shall not prosper: but whoso
confesseth and forsaketh
them shall have mercy.*

Proverbs 28:13



*I tell you, Nay: but,
except ye repent, ye shall
all likewise perish.*

Luke 13:3

ALARMING POLL CONCERNING TEENS!

Here are some frightful statistics from a Barna Poll via *TBC This Week* (9/26/03).

- 65% say the devil is not real but a symbol of evil.
- 61% agree that if a person does enough good during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven.
- 51% say Jesus committed sins while on earth.
- 30% of teens believe that all religions are really praying to the same God or just using different names for God.
- 83% say moral truth depends on circumstances - only 6% believe moral truth is absolute. Only 9% of "born again" teens believe there are moral absolutes.

This poll reveals the awful harvest of unbelief and New Age thinking that has enveloped the vast majority of young people in this land. Especially note the last item! The last two or three generations have been almost completely brainwashed in the schools and churches.

SENTENCE SERMONS!

Your Christianity isn't worth much if it hasn't straightened out your character.

Some people get lost in thought because it is strange territory to them.

The choices you make today will have a lot to do with where you will be tomorrow.

It's not that people don't understand the Bible, it's just that they don't want to.

Yesterday is gone; tomorrow is uncertain. All you have is today! Use it for God.

You had better plow the furrow straight, because you are going to have to walk in it.

If you need a lot of attention, remember, so does a baby!



STORY OF AN AVERAGE MAN

He was your average, sincere fellow. He wore his rubbers when it rained, brushed his teeth twice a day and the doctor examined him every year. He slept with the window open - got eight hours sleep every night, stuck to a prescribed diet. He golfed but never more than 18 holes. He didn't smoke, drink or lose his temper. He did his "daily dozen" and expected to live to be a hundred. But he died last night! He is survived by several doctors, three health specialists, two gymnasiums, and numerous makers of health foods. He was a good man but he made one big mistake - he forgot God! He lived as though this life would never end and now he is with those who say, "**The summer is ended, the harvest is past and we are not saved.**" He would never think of neglecting his family, his body or earthly obligations. He was a good man, but *he made one big mistake*; he did not take time to think about his soul. Could this be YOUR greatest mistake? You may be sincere, a nice person, but have you thought about your soul and where you will spend eternity? God says, "**How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?**" Don't be like that man - trust Christ as your Savior TODAY! There is no escape from judgment and eternal damnation apart from faith in Jesus Christ, the only Savior of sinners. The Bible says, "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name (Jesus) under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**" ~Acts 4:12.

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PREVENTING CHURCH SPLITS

This is a very serious problem among God's people and it is becoming more so with every passing day. The Word of God has the answer; the problem is many professed believers simply will not obey God. For starters listen to David: "**I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the works of them that turn aside; and it shall not cleave to me...Whoso slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off...He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight...**" ~Psalm 101:3-7. In the New Testament we read: "**Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them.**" ~Romans 16:17. It says MARK THEM AND AVOID THEM. If troublemakers were denied a following, there would be no Church splits - either they would repent or be isolated! Look at II Thessalonians 3:6: "**Now we command you brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly (*without subordination*), and not after the tradition which ye received of us.**" Note, it is A COMMAND...WITHDRAW YOURSELVES... In verse 14 it says, "**If any many obey not our word by this epistle, note that man and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.**" It says HAVE NO COMPANY with disobedient members! There would be no Church splits if God's people would just treat rebellious, self willed people as the Scriptures tell us.