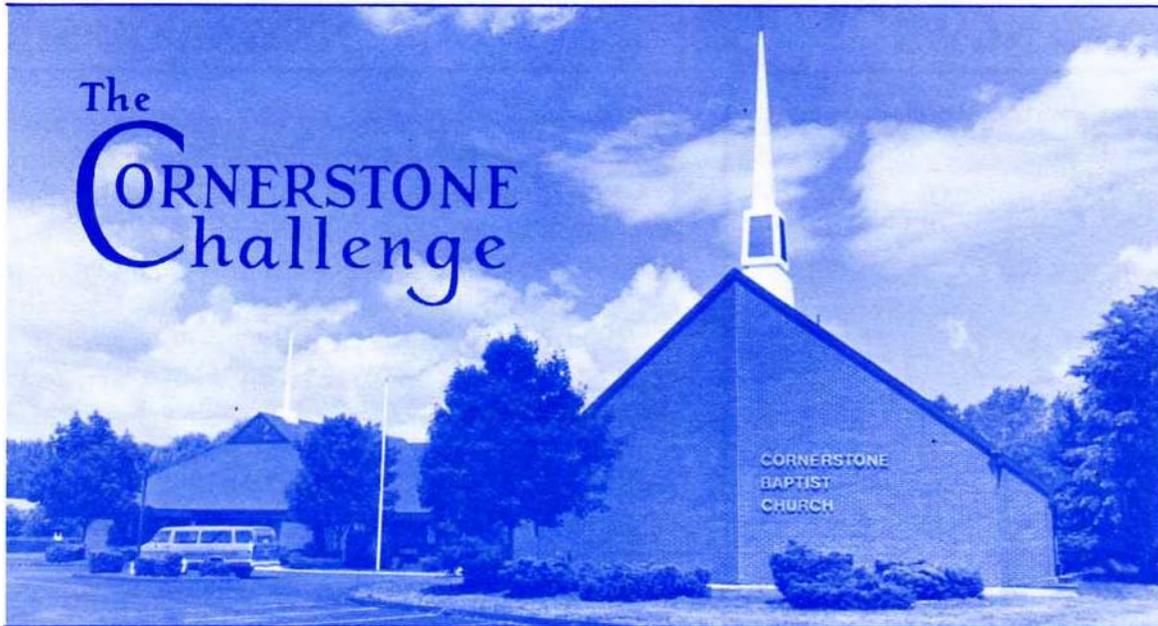


The CORNERSTONE Challenge



A
Ministry
of:

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

AN URGENT CALL TO PREACHERS.

June 2005

C.H. Spurgeon said, *"The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them. Providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. The need is Biblical doctrine, so understood and felt that it sets men afire."* We seldom see someone really on fire for God these days. I am afraid that if many believers saw such a one, they would declare that he was an extremist. The truth is that most Christians are pretty comfortable and they don't want anyone to wake them up spiritually or challenge them to a holy walk with God. I am reminded of a radio personality many years ago who always came on the air saying, "Is everybody happy?" I think it is pretty obvious that with few exceptions, God's people are interested in being happy, not holy. Not only do we have to get up programs which are amusing, but if you want a hearing from a good many, you'd better keep your sermons short and sprinkle them with plenty of jokes and witty sayings. I know this will be viewed as very negative and a little morbid! But I think it must grieve the heart of God to hear jokes on serious Biblical subjects; even on the Bible itself. A.W. Tozer said in his earlier days Christians believed that the amusements of this world were not for believers; *"So, it was understood that when you got converted and got filled with the Spirit you gave up the world's amusements. Then, there was a slow change, and in the name of fundamental Christianity, one by one, we met those amusements at the door and sprinkled them with holy water... We must have a new reformation. There must come a violent break with that irresponsible, amusement-mad, paganized, pseudo-religion which passes today for the faith of Christ and which is being spread all over the world by unspiritual men..."* I read several years ago of a faithful Russian pastor who had been in the underground church. He said the West (America) must stop sending them such spiritually weak and superficial men for they are spoiling their people and the truth for which many of their brethren have died. While it will bring the wrath of some upon you, what we need to do is to tell the carnal babies which predominate in our churches (and pulpits), that it is time to grow up. A word for Pastors; did you ever stop to think that while you are supplying sweetened pabulum for all the babies, that you are stunting the growth of those who may have a little maturity and desire for spiritual things? Here's a question for you: "What are you trying to accomplish with the people of God? Was your call to the ministry a call to keep everybody happy; entertain believers until Jesus comes? Were you called to be an entertainer or a holy man of God; like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul? Do you think God is pleased with shallow, carnal ministries which cater to the old nature of believers?" We have lost the concept of the majesty and holiness of God. Vance Havner said we ought to view God and the things of God with awe: *"But what you see in the average fundamental church today is not awe, it is just awful."* Tozer said, *"We do not have the art of worship and we are not producing saints."* Without a doubt, it is time for a revival, but I wonder if anyone knows what that is all about. It will take a lot of heart searching and repentance! To the Laodicean Church Jesus said, **"Repent!"** Ah, but we of the Laodicean age think we are doing just fine and **"have need of nothing."** Pastor, never forget it, God holds you accountable for how you lead His Church!

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE!**JULY 10-15, 2005****Living in the Last Days****Sunday****9:30, 10:45, 6:00****Monday — Friday****10:00, 11:00, 7:00****Special Speakers****Special Music****VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL****Monday — Friday, 10:00 — Noon****Children grades 1 — 6****(Absolutely Free)****Transportation: 616-489-2498**


CHECK IT OUT! **Mark 16:9-20** in the KJV and in modern versions. Basically, modern versions have removed 12 verses from the Word of God!

KJV: We don't have room to print it but most all Bible believers are familiar with this post-resurrection appearance of Christ and the Great Commission, etc.

NASV: Has it in text with **Footnote: Some of the oldest Mss. omit verse 9-20.** (Only 2 omit them, the corrupt Alexandrian Mss.)

NIV: After v.8 a **Footnote** says, **The most reliable early Mss. omit Mark 16:9-20.** They then print them, but they accept the philosophy of Westcott and Hort.

NKJV: Contains text. **Footnote: Verses 9-20 are bracketed. Not in NU-text; it considers them not original.** Same thinking as above!

RSV: **Verses 9-20 missing. Footnote: Other texts and versions add v.9-20.** At least the Liberals are consistent and simply remove them altogether.

It is only common sense! There can only be ONE Bible, make sure you have it - the KING JAMES VERSION!

YOUNG PERSON - BEWARE OF BOOZE! Dr. George J. Van Komen wrote: "As a physician, I'm flabbergasted at the enormous success the alcohol industry has had repackaging booze as health food. Nothing could be further from the truth. Several scientific studies over the past 20 years have suggested that moderate alcohol consumption can raise healthy cholesterol and may also reduce out-of-control clotting of the blood...But completely believing these studies is like using a howitzer to kill a rat that is raiding your garbage. You may rid yourself of the rodent, but what will it do to your house... A Wine Institute spokesperson, touting health studies that have caused half-hearted health officials to soften their stance on alcohol as health food, stated that he was 'full of joy' over these changes. As a doctor I must ask, 'How can anyone be joyous over the use of alcohol, a drug that causes so many adverse consequences to both health and safety.' There is no other drug, legal or illegal that does more personal harm than alcohol. The Center for Substance Abuse...states that more than one hundred thousand Americans died of the direct consequences of alcohol in 1994. Alcohol cost American society that year \$100.4 billion. Alcohol consumption negatively affects virtually every organ and system within the human body. So negative are the affects that it will... cut off fifteen years of life. It interrupts the lives of 17 million Americans today through misuse and dependency. Alcohol raises blood pressure, one of the leading causes of heart attacks. Alcohol is a poison you don't need. Stay away from it and avoid all the problems and health consequences suffered by thousands of drinkers." - *Sword of the Lord*. Ed. If you don't take that first drink you'll never be a problem drinker.

WHAT WE REALLY NEED

A man fell into a ditch:

A **Realist** came along and said, "I see you are in a ditch."

An **Optimist** said, "Things will have to get better."

A **Pessimist**: "Things will probably get worse."

A **Christian Scientist**: "You only think you're in a ditch."

Newspaper reporter: "I'll pay you for an exclusive story about your life in the ditch."

City Official: "Did you get a permit for that ditch?"

Mathematician: "I'll calculate the length and width and depth of the ditch."

Liberal Preacher: "You must learn to accept your ditch."

Psychologist: "The ditch is all in your mind."

Jesus: "Take My hand and I will lift you out of that ditch." -Copied.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

BORN AGAIN BUT NOT BORN AGAIN! A lot of people claim to be "born again" these days. For example, Jane Fonda claimed to be born again a few years ago. In an interview with Larry King she said, "I began to really study it (Christianity), and I thought uh-oh, I don't know. There are a lot of problems here with this Christianity. Maybe I made a mistake. I'm a feminist... King: "You're not born again?" Fonda: "I don't even know what that means anymore." Then, there is Norma McCorvey, the former "Jane Roe" of Roe vs. Wade who is supposed to be "born again." She said, "I would profess my adherence to all that the Catholic Church officially teaches... But the Blessed Virgin leads me, and all of us, to the truth of God. I have great dreams about the Mother of God, and have set up a prayer garden in my home. The Blessed Virgin is there, and I bring her my love every morning and evening." John Maxwell, head of Global Pastor's Network, claims to be born again. He has said, "No matter what your profession, possibility thinking (Robert Schuller) can help you to broaden your horizon and dream bigger dreams..." -From *TBC Today* (4/21/05). Ed. We have "born again" liberals, "born again" Catholics, "born again" ungodly movie stars and rock music stars, etc. It seems to me there are going to be a lot of "born agains" in hell - unless they really get "born again" the Bible way. Unfortunately, they don't want that way because it requires repentance and faith in the Christ of the Bible.

MORE ON RICK WARREN'S GOSPEL. The following is from Paul Proctor on Warren's article in *Ladies Home Journal* (3/05). Warren wrote: "To truly love yourself, you need to know the five truths that form the basis of a healthy self-image." 1. "Accept yourself. God accepts us unconditionally." 2. "Love yourself... We were born with an undying love for self." 3. "Be true to yourself. Consider your heart - what you love to do - as well as the strengths and weaknesses of your personality. Don't deny your weaknesses; be content with them." 4. "Forgive yourself - don't expect perfection." 5. Believe in yourself. The truth is God has created you with talents, abilities, personality and background in a constitution that is uniquely you." Note his conclusion: "It's your choice. You can believe in what others say about you, or you can believe in yourself as does God, who says you are truly acceptable, lovable, valuable and capable." Ed. This needs little comment. It should be labeled the "gospel of psychology." This nonsense is of the devil; that's why it is popular with the ungodly. God says, "**Be not deceived, God is not mocked...**" One is reminded of the words of Job: "**I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.**"

WHAT KIND OF CHRISTIANITY IS THIS? The 2004 National Pastor's Convention was sponsored by Youth Specialties (America's most influential evangelical organization for youth pastors and leaders) and Zondervan (publisher of *NIV-Message Parallel Bible*, and evangelical distributor for Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* DVD) began its daily program with contemplative prayer and 'Yoga and Stretching' exercises. Emerging church liturgies based upon Roman Catholic and Orthodox rituals and sacraments were introduced, including daily 'labyrinth prayer' opportunities. The latter is a meditative prayer walk around a circular, maze-like pattern copied from a floor design found in Chartres Cathedral. This mystical Catholic ritual dates back to the Middle Ages... (Actually, it goes back to paganism!) The Convention's evening programs included Christian comedy acts, The Jesus Painter (paints portraits of Christ in 20 minutes), Tribe Church Drumming Experience, Personal Emotional Health Discussion, an emergent Pub with Live Music, and Late Night Contemplative Prayer Services...One topic: 'A New Theology for a New World.' Speakers included Gordon MacDonald, Henry Cloud, Brennan Manning, Howard Hendricks, Tony Campolo and Rick Warren." -*TBC* (March 2005). Ed. Whatever it is, it is not the Christianity of the Bible! There seems to be something there for everyone - that is, everyone except a true child of God. One wonders if the Evangelicals understand anything. We even wonder about some Fundamentalists, for example, those who are buying into Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life* and similar programs which promote "another gospel."

ACTIVITIES AT FALWELL'S SCHOOL.

The following are events on the Spring calendar at Liberty University.

Apr. 1-April Fool's Coffeehouse
Apr. 4- NCCA Championship Party
Apr. 8-Audio Adrenaline, Toby Mac (formerly with DC Talk), Kutless, Hawk Nelson...in concert
Apr. 9-Movie Night - The Incredibles
Apr. 12-Late Night Dining
Apr. 13,14-Talent Art Expo.
Apr.18-Annual Washington DC Day Trip
Apr. 18-Rock Climbing Trip
Apr.20- Jazz Night...
Apr.24- Local Talent Band Night
Apr.28-Spring Fling // May 3-Movie Night
May 8-BBQ Pool Party. -*FBIS* 4/15/05.
Ed. Did somebody say that Falwell was a Fundamentalist? Maybe he was, but I can't believe that, what with the Moral Majority, etc. He does belong to the Baptist Bible Fellowship, but then he also belongs to the Southern Baptist Convention. See I John 2:15-17, etc.

CHRISTIANS AND THE LODGE

Over 100 years ago D.L. Moody wrote: "I do not see how any Christian can go into these secret lodges with unbelievers. They say they can have more influence for good, but I say they can have more influence for good by staying out of them, and reprovng their evil deeds. Abraham had more influence for good in Sodom than Lot had. If 25 Christians go into a secret lodge with 50 who are not Christian, the 50 can vote anything they please, and the 25 will be partakers of their sin. *They are unequally yoked together with unbelievers.* 'But Mr. Moody,' someone says, 'If you talk that way you will drive all the members of secret societies out of your churches.' But if I did, better men will take their places. Give them the truth anyway, and if they would rather leave their churches than their lodges, the sooner they get out the better. I would rather have 10 members who are separated from the world than 10,000 such members. Come out of the lodge. Better one with God than a thousand without Him. We must walk with God, and if only one or two go with us, it is all right. Do not let down the standard to suit men who love secret lodges or have some darling sin they will not give up." Ed. I have had many say the lodges are not religious. That is foolishness! I was a Master Mason when saved. They require you to believe in a Higher Power! They have chaplains, conduct funeral services and teach that there are many ways to get to heaven. They intermingle portions of the Bible with their fallacious teachings. Then, you have all of their wicked oaths and other false teachings.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

54 Brighton Street

P.O. Box 438

Belmont, MA 02478

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

DEPRECIATING GOD'S SERVANTS

Many times over the years I have heard the office of Pastor depreciated by some proud souls who themselves would like to have more say in the church. I write this not for myself, but to warn proud, unsubmitive souls and to exhort God's people to be careful about such wickedness. No doubt it has always been somewhat of a problem; here's what Spurgeon wrote over 100 years ago. "Every now and then there creeps up in the Church a sort of striving against God's ordained instrumentality... God getteth more glory through the use of instruments. He hath Himself selected the plan of instrumentality. We have this treasure in earthen vessels... He taketh men who are nothing in themselves and worketh by them His splendid victories. The outcry against a 'one-man ministry' cometh not of God, but of men of proud self-conceit, of men who are not content to learn although they have no power to teach... He says by the Spirit of God, 'Obey them that have the rule over you.' Brethren, I would warn you, there is a spirit abroad that would tear down the men whom God Himself has raised up... I know not a church in existence that has despised instrumentality, but that it has come to an end within a few years. God rejects them because they reject God's chosen way of working." A one man ministry! There never has been any other kind! Just think of Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Paul, etc. Human nature tends to run in extremes: One is to make too little of God's servants and the other is to make too much of them.