



A  
Ministry  
of:

**CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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Editor

**WHEN DID THE CHURCH BEGIN?**

**May 2005**

There is much confusion over this in Baptist circles. I believe the basic problem is that many are not dispensationalists; they do not see that God has dealt with man in different ways at different times.

**DID THE CHURCH BEGIN WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST?** I think not! Note the nature of John's baptism in Matt.3:2. It was "**Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" It was an Old Testament message for Israel. There was nothing in it (nor in Jesus' preaching) about going into all the world with a message of death and resurrection. Christian baptism is unto death and resurrection. I Cor. 12:3,4 and Rom. 6:3,4. John's baptism was not equated with Christian baptism. If it was, why did Paul rebaptize those 12 men at Ephesus who had already been baptized "**unto John's baptism?**" Acts 19:3. Note v.4 - John baptized saying "**that they should believe on the one that should come.**" Furthermore, we are told that the Church is a whole new body, not of Israel, but of Jew and Gentile in one body - the Church; Eph.2:14,15. Jesus had said, "**I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**" Now, it is go into all the world and a body made up of Jew and Gentile.

**THE CHURCH DID NOT START WHILE CHRIST WAS ON EARTH.** In His ministry before Calvary, Jesus never indicated that He had started the Church. Nor did the disciples, and in fact, they still went to the Temple to worship after His death. In Matt.16 Jesus said, "**I will build my Church,**" not I am building my Church. It was still future. In Luke 24:46,47, after His resurrection he said to two disciples, "**...it behoved Christ to suffer, and rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations...**" Among all nations! The new dispensation did not start until after the resurrection. Another proof of that is in John 7:38,39: "**He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**" It is clear that the Church, in which all now receive the Holy Spirit, did not begin till after the resurrection, Jesus' glorification. Then, if you will read Eph.1:20-23, you will see that Christ did not become head of the Church until after the resurrection and the ascension. Was the Church without a head for that time?

**ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY - THE CHURCH BEGAN AT PENTECOST.** Just about everyone agrees that the Church, believers in this age, all receive the Holy Spirit upon believing. That did not happen until the Day of Pentecost, Acts two. Acts 1:5 says the disciples will be baptized in the future - "**Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**" Acts 2 was clearly the time they were baptized with the Holy Ghost. In Acts 11, Peter is recounting his visit to Cornelius. In vs.15,16 "**And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the Word of the Lord, how that he**" (Continued p. 3)

## CORNERSTONE NEWS

### FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE!

JULY 10-15, 2005

Pastor Bryan Speroni — Pascoag, RI

Pastor Bobby Mitchell — Brunswick, ME

Pastor Joe Scarbo — W. Lebanon, NH

Pastor Rick Mosher — Bellingham, WA

### CHILDREN'S MEETINGS

Children grades 1 — 6

Monday — Friday, 10:00 — Noon



## SUMMER SERVICES

### \* SUNDAY \*

Sunday School — 9:30

Church Service — 10:45

Evening Service — 6:00

### \* WEDNESDAY \*

Prayer & Bible Study — 7:30

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**THINK ABOUT IT!** It is only common sense (which isn't too common) that God's inspired, infallible, Word cannot have errors in it. Look at John 7:8. Modern versions make Jesus a liar. He said, He was not going "yet." He did not say that He wasn't going. He intended to go. Modern versions indicate He was not going.

**KJV:** "...I go not up yet unto this feast."

**NASV:** "I do not go up to this feast." (*This makes Jesus a liar for He did go and intended to!*)

**NIV:** Includes the word yet but a Footnote says,

"Some early mss omit yet."

**NKJV:** "I am not yet going up..." Footnote: NU-Text omits yet. (NU = Nestle-Alland Text which is same as Westcott-Hort Text!)

**RSV:** "I am not going up to the feast..."

We are not nit-picking! We are talking about the Word of God - do we have an inerrant Bible or do we not? We urge you to get our book, "Is Your Bible Really The Word of God?" \$3.00 postpaid.

## YOUTH CORNER

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!** Around fifty years ago, A.W. Tozer wrote: "We have these conditions in the churches today. I am talking to some of you right now who have been reared in Christian homes. You have been brought up in S.S. Still, to this day, you are not right with God. Some of you have made a kind of halfway profession but you have never been able to delight yourself in the Lord... I caution you that there are many people among us who are not ever going to get right with God, and the reason is that *they will not humble themselves.*" I wonder if that does not apply to some reading these lines. Maybe YOU? You know the Gospel and maybe a fair amount of Scripture, but you are not saved. Perhaps you've made a profession of faith, but you have not truly humbled yourself before God, acknowledged your sin and worthlessness to Him and received Jesus Christ as your Savior. Oh, yes, in a matter of fact way, you acknowledge that you are a sinner - nobody's perfect. But you have not, deep down in your soul, come to grips with how bad you really are and living for Jesus is but a mechanical thing. God says to you: "**Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...**" Beware lest you wait until it is too late! "**Behold NOW is the accepted time; behold NOW is the day of salvation.**"

### SIX MINDS

1. Mind your tongue! Do not let it speak hasty, cruel, unkind or wicked words.
2. Mind your eyes! Do not permit them to look on wicked books, pictures or objects.
3. Mind you ears! Do not suffer them to listen to wicked speeches, songs, or words.
4. Mind your lips! Do not let strong drink pass them.
5. Mind your hands! Do not let them steal, fight, or write any evil words.
6. Mind your heart! Do not let the love of sin dwell in it. Do not give it to Satan, but ask Jesus Christ to make it His throne. -From *Scrapbook*

### SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing with God and man.

Some individuals are constantly criticizing others because it produces within their inferior minds a feeling of superiority.

When God takes the measure of a man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head.

It is a very comforting thought to know that God is never taken by surprise.

A broken home is the world's greatest wreck!

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

(From p.1) **said, John indeed baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.**" When could that be but Pentecost? Just about everything in the New Testament is typified in the Old. Lev.23:15,16 speaks of the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost means the 50th day. They were to count 7 Sabbaths (7's) or 49 days. The 50th day was Pentecost, a new beginning. On that day they were to offer a "**new meat (meal) offering.**" Interestingly, it was to be offered with leaven, v.17. This could not typify Christ for He had no sin. All the other offerings were without leaven. What could this be? Nothing but a picture of the Church, for it typifies the sinner (members of the Church) who indeed has sin, but it has been forgiven by the blood of the sinless One!

### **WHEN DOES ENROLLMENT IN THE CHURCH END?**

Clearly, it ends at the Rapture - I Thess. 4:13-18, etc. The seven-year Tribulation that follows (Daniel's 70th week) is obviously under the old dispensation of Law, when God will save Israel as He often promised. Then follows the Kingdom Age which is the Kingdom long promised to Israel. Neither the Old Testament saints nor the ones after the Rapture are a part of the Church. Dispensational truth is extremely important if we are going to fully understand the Word and plan of God. Though it is often ridiculed and has fallen into disuse in recent years, dispensational truth is one of the basic laws required for correct Bible interpretation. Of course, there are all kinds of dispensationalists - make sure you are "**rightly dividing the word of truth.**" We have a 16 page booklet on Dispensationalism which we will be happy to send you.

**GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE.** Several months ago four individuals were arrested in Philadelphia for protesting a large homosexual event. (*Challenge* 3/05) The protesters prayed in public, had signs with Bible verses on them and had a P.A. system for street preaching. Among other things, they were charged with riot (there was no riot) and faced up to 47 years in prison. In Feb., a judge dismissed all criminal charges against the Christian protesters. In a day when prejudice against Bible believing Christians is mounting, it is good to see a little sanity and a victory for public demonstration of the Bible and truth. No doubt the harassment will go on but Praise the Lord for one victory.

### **ROMAN CATHOLIC SCANDAL CONTINUES.**

A 2004 Report on the Implementation of the Charter

for the Protection of Children and Young People says at least 5,148 priests and deacons face more than 11,757 allegations (of sex abuse). Kathleen McChesney, head of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, admits that these numbers are low. Another comprehensive study says that priests in religious orders were not counted, leaving out one-third of those in religious orders. Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam magazine (Fall/Winter 2002) said about 90% of all cases involved homosexual priests preying on teenage boys. According to the publication, an estimated 100,000 victims are involved. -*FBIS* (2/25/05). Ed. We have said before, even such revealing figures only tell a part of the sordid story; I believe only a small part of the story. Yet, in knocking on doors here in a predominantly Catholic area, I have found only one man who said he was upset and not attending church, though he still remained a Catholic.

### **POWER OF PSYCHIATRISTS, ETC.**

Temple University in Philadelphia is being sued because school officials tried to have a Christian student involuntarily committed to a mental institution. The University sponsored the controversial and blasphemous play *Corpus Christi*, in which Christ is portrayed as a homosexual. Michael Marcavage, then a Christian student at the school, complained to the administrators. Temple officials eventually tried to have Marcavage committed to a mental institution because of his opposition to the play. The complaint filed alleges that two University officials "unlawfully and intentionally assaulted and forcibly restrained" Marcavage... and then unlawfully ordered police to handcuff and transport him to the University hospital where he was involuntarily committed for psychiatric evaluation. -*Religion Today* (3/8/05). For more on the ever-growing power of the psychologists, philosophers, etc. see the Feb. 2005 *Challenge*.

### **BJU AND THE KJV.**

In a recent visit to Bob Jones University Bookstore, David Cloud said, "I was interested to see how many volumes were available to tear down the King James Bible and its underlying Greek text and that attacks its defenders. There were at least ten books in this category..." BJU claims to love the KJV and boasts that it is the only Bible used in their chapel and public meetings. Yet in the "preacher boys" classes they tear it apart and say that the best bible is the NASV. Why would you use what you believe to be an inferior Bible in public meetings? Maybe you don't think that is hypocrisy, but I do.

## CHEAPENING THE WORK OF CHRIST

False hopes for salvation abound. At the time of WWI it was commonly taught in churches that if one died in the service of his country, he would be saved. John McNeill was a Scottish evangelist who went to France at that time to work in the YMCA. Upon arrival, the general in charge suggested to him that he should tell the men if they died in the line of duty, it would be all right for them in the next world. McNeill replied: "General, if one of your men were to win the Victoria Cross for valor, and I would belittle the deed whereby it was won, you would not like it. And I want to tell you, General, that you are cheapening my Lord's sacrifice." Your sincerity, church membership, baptism, good works, etc. all pale in significance to what Jesus Christ did on the cross to pay for your sins. The Bible says, "**Christ died for our sins...**" What can you do in comparison to that? "**All we like sheep have gone astray and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**" Isa.53:6. You are either trusting in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, or you have a false hope! I've had people say, "Well, I am happy with my religion." I want to tell you that God is not! There is only one thing He is satisfied with to remove the stain of your sins and that is the shedding of the precious blood of His Son, I Peter 1:18,19. You had better give up your false hopes and turn to Jesus Christ as your Savior. "**Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

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## DID ANYONE GET MAD?

D.L. Moody said that John Wesley used to ask his young men whom he had sent out to preach on trial two questions: "Has anyone been converted?" and "Did anyone get mad?" If the answer was "No," he told them he did not think that God had called them to preach the Gospel, and sent them about their business. When the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, people are either converted or they don't like it and get upset. I well remember my first Sunday as Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church. There was a young man present about twenty-five years of age, a Roman Catholic. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I suppose I mentioned something about Roman Catholicism and that it was all wrong and could not save anyone (it's about 75% Catholic here). He went out as mad as one could be. But he returned Sunday evening and was gloriously saved. He said, "I was so mad at you this morning all I could think of was spitting in your face!" That young man went on to Bible college and to serve the Lord. Praise God! I have seen many others get mad down through the years, though unfortunately, most of them did not get converted. After all, how does the Holy Spirit save people? He "**convicts men of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.**" We should not think it strange that people get upset when they hear God's truth. I'm afraid one of the biggest problems in many so called Fundamental churches one does not hear anything that will convict and unsettle him. But what's the use of softening the message; we can't save them.