



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR?

April 2006

A few years ago now, I remember giving an illustrated message for young people. I held up a broken watch which did not tell time and asked, "What is it good for." The reply, "Nothing." I showed them a flashlight with dead batteries - no light. I again asked, "What's it good for?" "Nothing." Then, I held up a knife that was so dull it would not cut hot butter. "What's it good for?" Again, "Nothing." In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said, **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is henceforth good for nothing..."** The main purpose of salt in Bible times was to preserve, to keep things from going bad. But if the saltiness was gone out of it, it was good for nothing. Jesus said such salt was cast out and trodden under the foot of men. That's what they did with unsalty salt; they threw it on the dirt roads to cut down the dust and harden them. Jesus was speaking to His disciples. Vance Havner said, "One could take this text and speak on "Good-for-nothing Christians." Real Bible Christianity rubs people the wrong way. To use another metaphor, Billy Sunday was preaching on the fashionable "Mainline" (wealthy district outside Philadelphia). He sure applied the salt of the Gospel. One of the sponsoring committee came to him and said, "Billy, some folks are upset; they think you are rubbing the fur the wrong way." Billy replied, "Then, let the cats turn around." Today we have the sad spectacle of God's people turning around. Many once Fundamental churches have adopted the seeker-friendly way of doing church. They have worldly music, worldly dress, short joke-filled sermons, carnival atmosphere, etc. But it is nothing more than giving in to the old cry of worldly people in Isaiah's day. They said to the seers, **"See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits."** -Isaiah 30:10.

We have in many places these days a type of Christianity that is not salty by any stretch of the imagination. Many professing Bible believing Christians and Bible believing churches (so called) have little or no power to retard the putrefaction that is all around us. We are not called to adapt to the people and the times, as many churches are doing. But we are sent forth to call upon the ungodly to adapt to the demands of a holy God and believe His Gospel. I tell you that God is not happy with those who speak in His name but give out their own "sugar-coated" gospel. He warned the prophets who did so that He would judge them. Jesus was not popular, God's message was never popular, and God's people were never popular. A popular gospel is a false gospel! You can't help anybody with a watered-down gospel! Vance Havner once said something like this: *"The worship of God is awesome! What you see in the average Fundamental church today is not awesome - it's just awful."* If you are a true born again child of God, it is high time to take a separated stand upon the Word of God, and preach the Word of God in all its purity and power. And I would add, get out of a worldly, unsalty church. You are wasting your life! We are not sent to rock the cradle of hell-bound sinners, but give them the saving message of God. He has told us to **"Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."** Does that sound like a soft, fun loving message? It goes on: **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..."** -II Tim.3:2, 3. God says, **"Having done all, to stand."** That's what we are trying to do. What about you?

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Sunday, April 16th – 6:30 am

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DOES ERROR NEED TO BE EXPOSED? The following was written in the early days of the Church by Irenaeus in *Against Heresies*: “Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity; lest being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced more true than the truth itself. One far superior to me has well said, ‘A clever imitation in glass casts contempt, as it were, on that precious jewel, the emerald (which is most highly esteemed by some) unless it come under the eye of one able to expose the counterfeit... Lest, therefore, through my neglect some should be carried off, even as sheep are by wolves, while they perceive not the true character of these men - because they are outwardly covered with sheep’s clothing (against whom the Lord has enjoined us to be on our guard), and because their language resembles ours, while their sentiments are very different.” There are many such warnings in the Word of God and yet some who claim to be children of God, find fault with us for warning God’s sheep against wolves in sheep’s clothing. Among the many warnings, you might look up the following: **Matthew 7:14, 15; 21-23; Acts 20:29-31; II Peter 2:1; I John 4:1; Jer.28:1-3; Isaiah 30:10; Jude 3, 4.** Luther said: “If we would accept this, and agree to that, he (the devil) would soon have a complete victory...But if you err in such a way that he robs you of this Word, you have lost everything, and have no counsel and help left; for the main thing is then gone, and without it no pious life and nothing that you will accomplish will avail before God.”

YOU NEED ALL THE INGREDIENTS! Many Christians are trying to live the Christian life without all the things that are required. If you are going to be a serious and fruitful Christian, there are certain ingredients which are necessary. You must take sufficient time to pray and read your Bible everyday. I don’t see how you can have a productive Christian life without spending time to memorize Scripture. **“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.”** Yes, it is necessary to go to Church - more than once or twice a week. God says, **“Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is...”** You will surely need to see the old nature crucified and have Christ’s life predominate through the indwelling Holy Spirit. All too many Christians are in reality just doing their own thing and there is little wonder why their lives don’t amount to much for God. They remind me of the little poem:

YOU MUST HAVE ALL THE INGREDIENTS

I didn't have potatoes – So I substituted rice;

I didn't have paprika – So I used another spice.

I didn't have tomato sauce – I used tomato paste;

Not a half a can - a whole can – I don't believe in waste.
A friend gave me a recipe – She said you couldn't beat it.
Must be something wrong with me—I couldn't even eat it.

ONE BOOK STANDS ALONE! Some years ago the late Dr. M.R. DeHaan said: “I have in my library a number of books on medicine, which were standard textbooks when I was a student in the University a half a century ago. Today, they are worthless and obsolete. So it is with the books men write. Few live more than a few years, and even the classics slowly sink into oblivion.” There is One Book which is the exception to this rule - the Bible, the Word of God. It has never needed updating, nor amending and it is going to stand forever. Of course, men are always meddling with it, adding or subtracting, like their modern versions but in reality, the pure Word of God cannot be changed. **“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in Heaven.”** Psalm 119:89. The Bible is God’s Holy Word and it is the last Word! You need to read it every day and you need to memorize portions of it if you are going to be a worthwhile and fruitful Christian.

DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF EARLY CHURCH.

The early Church, as seen in the Book of Acts, was marked by *Poverty, Persecution, Prayer and Power.* That is not what you see in most places these days. Today, the average church is more likely to be known for *Plenty, Popularity, Pleasure, and Pragmatism.* Sort of like Laodicea. What we need is an old fashioned revival! **“O, LORD, revive thy work...”** –Habakkuk 3:2.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO LOOK US UP:

www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobboston.org

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

CAN THIS BE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST? *Yahoo News* (9/30/2005) reported that a top Jesuit official has been contacting leaders of the Roman Catholic Church to protest a soon-to-be Vatican document which will reinforce the teaching that gays are not welcome in the priesthood. We wonder why so many are tolerated if they are not welcome. The article reported that estimates of the number of gays (they are not gay, they are homosexuals) in the priesthood to be between 25 and 50%. It said about one-third of the 42,500 U.S. priests are homosexual. Several years ago now, I read that the President of Notre Dame estimated that 50% of the priests were sodomites. Could such a church be the Church of Christ when His Word clearly denounces such conduct as evil? One of the saddest things about all of this is that, apart from those directly affected by pedophile priests, nobody seems to care. The Catholic Church goes on as if nothing was wrong and I do not find that people are really concerned.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY! Saddleback Church, where Rick Warren is the pastor, features nine different “worship venues.” There is a worship style to fit every taste. The Overdrive venue is for “those who like guitar-driven rock band worship in a concert-like setting that you can FEEL.” The Ohana venue comes “complete with hula and island-style music,” and on the first Saturday of the month you can take hula lessons during the potluck following the service. The Country venue features line dancing. This is right from Saddleback’s website. -*FBIS* (12/16/05). Ed. The title to the above article also applies here: Can this be the Church of Christ? Certainly not! It is nothing more than religious entertainment; there are plenty of people who like religion of this sort. You couldn’t even say it is the world mixed with the Gospel for you don’t even hear the true Gospel in that place; it is just plain worldly. We are appalled at Fundamental churches which have entered into this.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! The Florida State Guardianship Association chose Michael Shiavo as its “Distinguished Guardian of the Year” for 2005. You will remember him as the former husband of Terri Schiavo, the brain-injured woman whose life ended on March 31 because her life support was removed by court order, *upon his request*. He did all that he could to remove her food and water supply for several years and finally was successful, and he indeed was responsible for her death. He was already living with another woman and had at least two children by her. - from *Sword of the Lord*. Ed. To honor such a wicked individual is really beyond belief of a normal person. It is just another testimony to the depths of depravity of our society. **“Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil...”**

GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE! A while back a reader asked, “Why don’t you have more good news?” I replied that it is not easy to find - most of the religious news is bad news. But here is some good news for a change. In a return to judicial sanity, a unanimous panel of the 6th Circuit U. S. Court of Appeals issued an historic decision demanding that “the First Amendment does not demand a wall of separation between church and state.” In upholding a Kentucky county’s right to display the Ten Commandments, the panel called the American Civil Liberties Union’s repeated claims to the contrary “extra-constitutional” and “tiresome.” According to *Religion Today* (12/26/05), Judge Richard Suhrheinrich wrote: “The First Amendment does not demand a wall of separation of church and state. Our nation’s history is replete with government acknowledgment, and in some cases, accommodation of religion.” That is good news!

VATICAN SPOKESMAN REJECTS INTELLIGENT DESIGN. The Vatican’s chief astronomer has said that “intelligent design” isn’t science and doesn’t belong in the classrooms. The Rev. George Coyne, the Jesuit director of the Vatican Observatory, said, “Religious believers must move away from the notion that a dictator God, or a designer God, a Newtonian God who made the universe as a watch that ticks along regularly. Rather, he argued, God should be seen more as an encouraging parent. Pope Benedict waded indirectly into the evolution debate by saying the universe was an “intelligent project.” -*Religion Today* 11/25/05. Ed. One wonders just who does speak for Roman Catholicism. Knowing their pragmatic approach to such situations, I am sure they will find a way to harmonize the two contradictory statements.

THOSE DANGEROUS FUNDAMENTALISTS. The *Evangelical Methodist*: “Clergy and world-renowned authors, theologians, scientists, artists and spiritual leaders” met at an international theological conference “to dismantle what they define as religious weapons of mass destruction,” The group places “any individual or belief system that proclaims an exclusive path to God” as a weapon of mass destruction. They claim that fundamental Christians are “spiritually violent oppressors who stand in the way of world peace and religious unity if we believe there is but one Savior and one way to Heaven.” - H. Pyle.

NEWS UPDATE! In the Feb. *Challenge* we noted a very rude response by ABC to a man’s complaint of their program, “The Practice.” The report was correct, but a sequel to the story is that the man who responded had no authority to do so and an official apology was later sent. Still, ABC (and all networks) put out much wickedness.

HE LOVED THE CHURCH

A crowded gathering of distinguished scientists had been listening spellbound to the masterly expositions of Michael Faraday. For an hour he held his brilliant audience enthralled as he demonstrated the nature and properties of the magnet. He had brought his lecture to a close with an experiment so novel, so bewildering, so triumphant, that for sometime after he resumed his seat, the house rocked with enthusiastic applause. And then, the Prince of Wales - afterwards King Edward VII - rose to propose a motion of congratulation. The resolution, having been duly seconded, was carried with renewed thunderous applause. The assembly waited for Faraday's reply. But he did not appear. Only his most intimate friends knew what had become of him. He was an elder in a little church - a church that never boasted more than 20 members. The hour at which Faraday ended his lecture was the hour of the weekly prayer meeting. - Copied. What does the church and its services mean to you? Many "Christians" never attend prayer meeting. Some do not frequent the evening services or special meetings. Maybe you no longer attend at all. What does the Church mean to Jesus Christ? The Bible says, "**Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.**" Christ loves the Church. You say you love Christ. I don't see how that can be true if you do not love the things the Savior loves! If you joined this Church, you promised that you would attend *all* the services. What is so important that it keeps you from the services of Christ's Church? -*Hebrews 10:25*.

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FIGHTING OLD BATTLES

The great preacher, Henry Ward Beecher told about his little house dog that followed him as he went on a walk in the country. At a certain place on the road alongside a stone wall, the dog spotted a chipmunk. The dog barked and chased the chipmunk. After a little chase, the chipmunk darted through a hole in the wall. The dog stood there barking in the hole where his little prey had disappeared. The next day, Mr. Beecher and the dog went for the same stroll. The dog remembered, and although there was no chipmunk, the dog went and barked in the hole. Each day for a week, the same performance continued though there was no chipmunk. Mr. Beecher thought he would see how long this would go on. After six weeks, the dog still barked into that hole. It sort of reminds you of many folks, including not a few Christians, who spend a good deal of their time barking at old "holes." They have some old pet grievance, some perceived wrong done them, and they never seem to be able to put it aside and go on. Some are fighting old battles that weren't worth the time in the first place. Let's not get caught up in some old "bark" that's not worth the effort. God says, "**...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...**" -*Philippians 3:13*. We need to keep our eyes on the goal and "**fight the good fight of faith**" today. There are battles that need to be fought for God and His glory, let's concentrate on these and forget the old battles where nothing is accomplished for God. -Adapted