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A  
Ministry  
of:  
**CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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## THE TRAGEDY OF RELIGIOUS ENTERTAINMENT!

November 2006

I doubt if there ever has been a day when there was more empty Christian profession than today. It is far worse than fifty years ago when A.W. Tozer wrote the following: *“The religious boom of recent years has given us more Christianity, but it is worthless. Religion has become popular. Thousands of uninstructed persons have accepted Christ, but they have not the remotest idea of the true meaning of the cross. They are not penitent; they have no real fear of God; they have not separated from the world; their psychology is pagan, their ambitions are carnal, their lives are empty. They turned to Christianity because at the moment it was the popular thing to do. They innocently believed what they were told and did what they were urged to do; but tragically they accepted a christ that is no Christ, and a cross that is not the Cross of Christ.”* In the fifty years since Tozer penned that, things have traveled far and fast down the road of carnal worship (if you can call what is going on in many places worship). I received a magazine type publication called *Vision*. It is a forty-two page, full color promotion of the church(es) led by Andy Stanley (son of Charles Stanley). It looks exactly like what you would expect from a Hollywood show: multi-screens, mostly music (several bands), dancing, dress-down clothes (T-shirts and dungarees on men and women and worse). Pictures of a youth meeting look like a circus. It is little wonder these people get large crowds - it is nothing but pure entertainment. There is no Gospel, all is geared to please the carnal nature of man. This only mirrors what has been going on for years at Willow Creek and Saddleback, etc. This is what they call “seeker friendly” church. This sort of thing is successful, but successful at what? It doesn’t resemble true Bible worship of God and Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a fun thing; it is not a pleasure cruise to Heaven. Without the cross, preaching on sin, heartfelt repentance, there is no salvation. It’s a grand delusion! The Holy Spirit is not in this religious carnival! God says, **“Be not deceived...”**

One of the sad things is that more and more once fundamental churches are buying into this religious carnival. It only shows the low level in spiritual things today. In a way, we should not be surprised for the last days of the church are described in the Word of God: **“This know also that in the last days, perilous times shall come. For men shall be...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away.”** ~II Timothy 3:1-5. Please note that last phrase - God says, **“From such turn away.”** To see supposed churches of God carrying on such a worldly program, one would think that God’s command to love not the world has been rescinded. There is no real spiritual power in a worldly church - it is an utter impossibility, for it is not of the Holy Spirit. No matter how seemingly successful these people are, they are all wrong for God still says, **“Come out from among them and be ye separate!”** But they say we are getting the people in. For what? The movies, ball games, dances, carnivals get the people in also. Tozer also said, *“I’ve been told I’ve missed the boat, but I reply that I wasn’t trying to catch that boat.”* Neither are we!

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This is always one of the most inspiring services we have all year. *Join us and make it a real Thanksgiving to God.* After all, that's what it was in the beginning! Just how grateful are we to God for His salvation and multiplied blessings? The truth is most Americans are ungrateful to God for all His blessings. Let us **“give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.”**

**Thursday – November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 8:00 pm**

We will have a good **Gospel Song Service**, a time for **Testimonies** and a **Special Message**. If you're having guests in for dinner, invite them to come along.

**Let's put the Lord first!**



**LET YOUR MODERATION BE KNOWN...** Gen. Patton said, *“Never fight a battle where nothing is accomplished by victory.”* Most fights people have in life are not worth having, for nothing is accomplished by the victory. Most Church fights are trivial. The one who wins loses the fellowship of the other and often the Church also. I once read this bit of wisdom: *“A bulldog can lick a skunk any day, but it's just not worth it.”* It is unfortunate, but most Church squabbles are not worth it, yet some people insist on doing battle anyway. The truth is, they are exercises in carnality. They are losers, God's people are losers and the testimony of the Lord is often lost. Philippians 4:5 says, **“Let your moderation be known unto all men.”** Moderation means *reasonableness or ability to yield*. We cannot give up truth. But there are times to yield. Two women at Philippi evidently were not getting along. Paul didn't think their disagreement was worth it. **“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”** ~Romans 12:18. This takes a little humility (Yes, a lot), but Christians should be known for humility, not strife.

[www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org](http://www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org)

We are continually posting new articles: Earlier copies of the Cornerstone Challenge and each month there is *“News You Should Know About”* that does not appear in the regular edition of our paper. Be sure to tell your friends about us. Also, we'd appreciate your comments.

**SCHOOL ANSWERING MACHINE.** This is the message that the Pacific Palisades High School (CA) staff voted unanimously to record on their school telephone answering machine. This is the actual message. This came about because they implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework. The school and teachers are being sued by parents who want their children's failing grades changed to passing grades - even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough schoolwork to pass their classes. The outgoing message: **“Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting to the right staff member, please listen to all the options before making your selection:**

- \* To lie about why your child was not in school - Press 1
- \* To make excuses why your child did not do his work - Press 2
- \* To complain about what we do - Press 3
- \* To swear at staff members - Press 4
- \* To ask why you didn't get the information that was already enclosed in your Newsletter and flyers - Press 5
- \* If you want us to raise your child - Press 6
- \* If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone - Press 7
- \* To request another teacher for the third time this year - Press 9
- \* To complain about school lunches - Press 0
- \* If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable for his/her behavior, etc. Hang up and have a nice day!”
- \* If you can read this, thank a teacher.
- \* If you are reading it in English - thank a veteran!

**SALVATION IS LIKE THIS.** Two teenagers were in a boat on Long Island Sound when a storm came up and the boat capsized. One was a good swimmer, the other could not swim. The swimmer immediately went to help his buddy, but he was thrashing around trying to save himself. The other said, **“I can't help you until you stop kicking and thrashing around. Just trust me and let me save you, otherwise you will drown.”** The boy did as he was told and was saved. That's the way it is with salvation. You cannot save yourself. Cease from your own efforts and trust Christ! **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us...”** ~Titus 3:5. **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...”** ~Acts 16:31. There's no other way! **“Neither is there salvation in any other...”** ~Acts 4:12.

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**WHERE IS THE JUSTICE IN THIS?** The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) is seeking to have Pres. Bush reopen the case against two Border Patrol officers who face 20 years in jail for shooting a suspected drug-smuggler who was trying to evade capture earlier this year. A Texas jury found the agents guilty of assault with a deadly weapon, and violating the civil rights of the smuggler. Rick Oltman of FAIR said, "It is politically motivated, obviously to chill enforcement efforts along the southern border." He added, "It is just a case where two Border Agents are being prosecuted for doing their job." As bad as that is, the smuggler went free! The smuggling suspect was given immunity from prosecution for testifying against the officers. -*Agape Press* (8/31/06).

**FRAUDULENT MEDICINE.** This from *Health and Healing* (Sept. 2006) by Dr. Julian Whitaker, internationally known health specialist: "Psychiatry is a fraud, a complete, provable, and obvious fraud. Psychiatry is *supposed* to be a medical science. But there is nothing scientific about it. Every year, psychiatrists from around the globe gather at a convention. A select group isolates themselves in a room and conjures up new psychiatric diseases...After some discussion, they take a vote on whether or not these behaviors qualify as 'psychiatric disease.' Let me repeat, they create diseases by nothing more than a show of hands! It is downright silly and would be laughable were it not so devastating. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a prime example... There is no diagnostic test and certainly no cure for this 'disease.' Being rambunctious is not a disease, but when it is morphed into an illness, it virtually dictates the use of some of the most powerful drugs humans have ever been exposed to. Despite warnings, these drugs cause suicide, violence, psychosis, mania, and sudden death. These drugs are prescribed to more than 17 million American children annually... Psychiatry parades around under the...banner of mental health. But psychiatrists themselves confess that there are no medial tests that can prove anyone has a 'mental illness.' They openly admit that they cannot cure any of their patients... Worldwide, this pseudo science ratchets up an astounding \$76 billion a year in psychiatric drug sales. *In the US alone...\$69 billion...*" Ed. Why do we write about this so often? Because it's a very serious problem! Christian, trust God, not drugs!

**GUILTY OF PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME.** A military jury has found Navy chaplain Lieutenant Gordon James Klingenschmitt guilty of disobeying an order by appearing in uniform during a March 30 news conference outside the White House. The military court martial jury agreed with the Navy's argument that Klingenschmitt disobeyed an order from a superior officer, telling him that he could only appear in uniform at media appearances if conducting a bona fide worship service. According to an *Associated Press* story, however, the lieutenant believes he has been wrongly convicted. "I am going to appeal this all the way to the United States Supreme Court," Klingenschmitt contends. "I have not yet begun to fight. I will continue to pray in Jesus' name; I will continue to do so in uniform," he says the jury disagreed with the chaplain's argument that his actions fell under the rubric of worship when he appeared at a March news conference held by former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore in protest of a Navy policy requiring non-sectarian prayers outside of religious services. Klingenschmitt insists that all he did was pray at the event, and therefore, his part in the news conference constituted "bona fide" worship. -*Agape Press* 9/15/06

**HOW TO KEEP INFORMED!** Search for a courageous, truth-oriented pastor. We are losing our country because our pulpits are silent! And the reason our pulpits are silent has a whole lot more to do with the people sitting in the pews than it does with the Internal Revenue Service! I hear people constantly saying that the reason today's preachers refuse to preach strong, trenchant sermons is because they are afraid of losing their tax-exempt status. There may be an element of validity to that accusation, but that is not the primary problem. The problem is, today's pastors are thoroughly intimidated by their own congregations! They are "success" driven. And Christians have made it painfully obvious that they will not support (with either their attendance or their offerings) those pastors who preach "too hard." The problem is not the IRS. The problem is carnal, "I-don't-want-to-hear-the-truth" Christians! (See Isa.30:10, etc). So, if your pastor is not willing to stand on his own hind legs and preach the truth, find one who will! Chuck Baldwin (7/28/06).

**GOSPEL TRACTS.** We have 39 Gospel tracts. Most are on salvation. Call, write or email (rcstarrkjv.aol.com) for an Order Form. Sample packet - \$1.00.

## FOR THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Here is the favorite text of a man who lived 200 years ago: "...the love of Christ which passeth knowledge." ~*Ephesians 3:19*. He had been a brilliant young skeptic, but on the sudden death of a companion whom he looked up to, he was stunned. Shortly thereafter, he surrendered to Christ and one passion consumed him: - "**The love of Christ!**" The world and its needs became his only concern. He must needs go to the heathen who have never heard. But how? There was no mission board? No sending agency. That did not stop him and in 1812 he and his new bride sailed for the Far East. He was forbidden to settle in India and soon went to Burma. What a reception! He was forced to live next to the city dump. He was imprisoned for more than two years in the foulest of prisons. His execution date was actually set, but God enabled him to escape. Returning to his home months later, his wife not knowing if he was alive, he found her and his child in a pitiful condition. He buried two wives and several children in that hostile land. In all that time he never doubted "**The love of Christ,**" according to the letters he wrote home. It was six years before his first convert and twenty before he baptized his one hundredth convert. He would tell all of them: "*Think much on the love of Christ.*" He translated the Bible into the native language and wrote a dictionary. Only after 30 years did Adoniram Judson return to his native New England. Going back to Burma he lived but a few years and was buried at sea, but by then there were thousands of converts to Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, but this makes me ashamed of the little I have done for Christ!

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## UNITARIAN: HOPELESS CASE

The following is from a Unitarian Church bulletin: "Our religion is a search for the truth based on reason, experience and knowledge. Like our forefathers we continue to trust people to follow the truth of life wherever it leads. Creeds and dogma are foreign to our religious fellowship." The first thing wrong with this is they are still searching for truth with their own minds. But God says, "**For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...**" ~*I Corinthians 1:21*. We have found the truth, or we should say it found us, for no man by human reason or experience can find God. The Bible asks, "**Can thou by searching find out God?**" ~*Job 11:7*. The answer is obvious! Unless God has provided us with a Revelation of Himself and His nature, there is no way of knowing what to believe. John 17:17 says, "...**Thy word is truth.**" It is impossible for man to reason his way to God. Again, God says, "**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them...**" ~*I Corinthians 2:14*. These people have no time for the Bible. If you have no time for creeds and dogma, you'll reject the Bible out of hand because it is full of creeds (doctrines) and dogma (authoritative statements). If there is one thing few people will accept today, it is dogmatic, authoritative teaching. Today, relativism has become the basic philosophy. Until a person repents, changes his mind, and believes God's Word and His Gospel, he can never know the truth nor have eternal life. "**This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.**"

~*John 17:3.*