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A  
Ministry  
of:

**CORNERSTONE  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

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**FALSE DOCTRINE OF PRAGMATISM.**

**March 2008**

The late Paris Reidhead was a missionary in Africa for some years and continued his ministry in the States pastoring and preaching. Though he was in the Evangelical camp, like Tozer, he was a cut above the great majority of them. The following excerpt comes from his sermon "Ten Shekels and a Shirt" (from Judges 17 & 18) and sounds as fresh and pertinent today as when it was preached back in the mid 1960s.

Would I be out of line if I were to talk to you for a little while about utilitarian religion and expedient Christianity? And a youthful God? I would like to call attention to the fact that our day is a day which the ruling philosophy is pragmatism. You understand what I mean by pragmatism, pragmatism means if it works it's true. If it succeeds it's good. And the test of all practices, all principles, all truth, so called, all teaching, is do they work? Now, according to pragmatism, the greatest failures of the ages have been some of the men God honored most.

For instance, whereas Noah was a mighty good ship builder, his main occupation wasn't ship building, it was preaching. He was a terrible failure as a preacher. His wife and three children and their wives are all he had. Seven converts in 120 years, you wouldn't call that particularly effective. And then we come down across the years to another man by the name of Jeremiah. He was a mighty effective preacher, but ineffective as far as results were concerned. If you were to measure statistically how successful Jeremiah was, he would probably get a large cipher. For we find that he lost out with the people, he lost out with royalty, even the ministerial association voted against him and wouldn't have anything to do with him. He had everything fail. The only one he seemed able to please was.... God, but otherwise he was a distinct failure. And then we come to another well known person, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was a failure from judging all the standards. He never succeeded in organizing a church or denomination. He wasn't able to build a school. He didn't succeed in getting a mission board established. He never had a book printed.

The question comes then to this, "what is the standard of success and by what are we going to judge our lives and our ministry?" And the question that you are going to ask yourself, "Is God an end or is He a means?" Our generation is prepared to honor successful choices. As long as a person can get things done or get the job done then our generation is prepared to say well done. And so we've got to ask ourselves at the very outset of our ministry, and our pilgrimage, and our walk, "Are we going to be Levites who serve God for ten shekels and a shirt?" (Judges 17:7-11), serve men, perhaps in the name of God, rather than God. For though he was a Levite and performed religious activities, he was looking for a place, which would give him recognition, a place which would give him acceptance, a place which would give him security, a place where he could shine in terms of those values which were important to him. His whole business was serving in religious activities, so it had to be a religious job. He was very happy when he found that Micah had an opening. But he had decided that he was worth ten shekels and a shirt, and he was prepared to sell himself to anyone that would give that much. (page 2)

## SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAR. 23 - 6:30 am.

EASTER MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

FULL BREAKFAST

(Free for attendees)

BRING THE FAMILY

Sunday School - 9:30 + Church - 10:45 and 6:30.



**PRAGMATISM.** (From p. 1). If somebody came along and gave more, he would sell himself to them (Judges 18:18-20). But he put a value upon himself and he figured then his religious service and his activities were just a means to an end, and by the same token, God was a means to an end. Let's be done once for all with utilitarian Christianity that makes God a means, instead of the glorious END that He is. Let's resign; let's tell Micah we're through. We're no longer going to be his priests serving for ten shekels and a shirt. Let's come and cast ourselves at the feet of the nail pierced Son of God and tell Him we're going to obey Him, and serve Him as long as we live because HE IS WORTHY.-TBC Today (04/26/07)

Ed. I heard Paris Reidhead speak in Chicago in 1961. I still have copies of the two sermons he preached. They were good sermons on missions and dedication. He was in the Christian Missionary Alliance (as was A. W. Tozer) which has like so many others gone down the road of New Evangelical pragmatism. Too bad many of them did not listen to men like Reidhead and Tozer. It is also too bad that these two did not leave the New Evangelical camp and lead others with them. If there ever was a group that believes in pragmatism, it is the (New) Evangelicals. Another sad fact, most of Fundamentalism is going down the same road! And most Fundamentalists are well down the road. God's people never seem to learn that a little compromise leads to more. It is either repent, go back to the "old paths" or total apostasy! It seems we just cannot learn from the mistakes of others. Someone said something like this: "Only a foolish man makes all the mistakes himself, and does not learn from others."

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

We have a monthly column with two pages of "News You Should Know About" and a thought provoking item called "Bits and Pieces."

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

**YOUNG PERSON - PLEASE LISTEN!** Please read seriously the poem below. It has a lot of truth in it. But even more important, listen to the Word of God before it becomes too late. God says, "**Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.**" Proverbs 27:1. Then read Proverbs 29:1: "**He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy.**" Young person, you are going to get old before you know it. Not only that, you might meet God before you get old. You have no guarantee that you will live to an old age. Young people die every day! NOW is the time to get saved-not tomorrow! Ask Jesus to save you right now!

**TOMORROW!**

"Tomorrow," he promised his conscience;  
tomorrow I mean to believe;  
Tomorrow I'll think as I ought to;  
tomorrow my Savior receive;  
Tomorrow I'll conquer the habits that  
hold one from Heaven away."  
But ever is conscience repeated one word,  
and only one: "Today."  
Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow - thus  
day after day it went on;  
Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow -- till  
youth like a vision was gone:  
Till age and his passions had written  
the message of fate on his brow;  
And forth from the shadows came Death,  
with the pitiless syllable, "Now!"

**YOU START THE CAR!** At a busy intersection, when the light turned green, a woman driver's car stalled and she could not get it to start. The man in the car behind her was quite impatient, so he began honking his horn again and again. Finally, the woman got out of her car and went back to him and politely said: "Sir, if you will go up there and start my car, I will sit back here and honk your horn." Ezekiel said, "I sat where they sat." It is easy to criticize, and we all tend to do some of it. There are times when it may be needed, but often it is not needed nor is it good. Before we start to we criticize, it might help if we tried to sit where the other person sits. For example, it is easier to sit and honk the horn and complain against the Church and the preacher than it is to try to help get things moving in the right way. -Copied.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON SAID:

**"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RIGHTLY GOVERN THE WORLD WITHOUT GOD AND THE BIBLE."**

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

### **PSYCHIATRISTS NEED A PSYCHIATRIST.**

Disorders plague court psychiatrists, judge concludes: 'Name-calling' racks 'dysfunctional' office! Name calling, factions and conspiracies are common in the "dysfunctional" office of more than a dozen psychiatrists who analyze criminals for the courts, an Edmonton judge has found. In a 55-page decision released Friday, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Erik Lefsrud ruled that allegations of defamation in the department were unfounded, but the department was plagued by infighting and lack of leadership. "What emerged is a picture of a very dysfunctional working environment in which name calling, finger-pointing, intransigence and conspiratorial workings have thwarted the best intentions of all the psychiatrists involved," he wrote. "How such a group of obviously intelligent professionals could work themselves into such a state is beyond comprehension." In testimony and letters doctors told of "politics of intimidation," "gossip and innuendo," as well as "personal attacks" and power struggles. *TBC* (11/7/07). Ed. Folks, you don't need a psychiatrist; what you need is Jesus Christ and His Word! See Isaiah 2:22.

### **FAMOUS ATHEIST BELIEVES IN A CREATOR.**

Following is from "Former Atheist Darwinian Philosopher Explains His 'Conversion,'" *Lifesite.net*, 11/2/07: "Former Darwinian atheist philosopher Antony Flew has published a new book, 'There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind,' to explain his move from being one of the world's leading exponents of the pure materialist Darwinian philosophy to belief in the existence of a personal deity who created the universe. Flew, an Oxford educated philosopher described by some as 'legendary,' first announced his discovery of 'a god' in 2004. Flew had been one of the 20th century's leading proponents of the pure atheistic Darwinian doctrines that categorically reject any possibility of a creative divine being. His ideas paved the way for thinkers such as Richard Dawkins, the UK's most virulent opponent of religious belief. 'It was empirical evidence,' he told an interviewer, 'the evidence uncovered by the sciences. But it was a philosophical inference drawn from the evidence.' Flew told Dr. Benjamin Wiker that two factors in 'were decisive.' 'One was my growing empathy with the insight of Einstein and other noted scientists that there had to be an Intelligence behind the integrated complexity of the physical Universe. The second was my own insight that the integrated complexity of life itself -- which is far more complex than the physical Universe -- can only be explained in terms of an Intelligent Source.' He told Wiker, 'I believe the origin of life and reproduction

simply cannot be explained from a biological standpoint despite numerous efforts to do so. With every passing year, the more that was discovered about the richness and inherent intelligence of life, the less it seemed likely that a chemical soup could magically generate the genetic code.' Emphasizing he remains a Deist, not a Christian, he told Wiker he does not 'accept any claim of divine revelation' but is continuing to study them, particularly those of Christianity."-*FBIS* (11/9/07). Ed. One wonders if a few other scientists will wake up.

### **EXPERT DEBUNKS GLOBAL WARMING!**

A prominent meteorologist with more than 54 years of experience is calling global warming an "outrageous scam" and a "manufactured crisis." John Coleman has been a television meteorologist since 1953. His credentials include being the first weather forecaster for the television show Good Morning America and founder of The Weather Channel. About six or seven years ago Coleman says he began to hear about "global warming" and decided to dig deeper into the subject. He said, "I am not talking about reading media accounts but getting down to basic research papers...It became very clear that it was a manufactured crisis." He said the science that favors global warming "has been manipulated and much of the data has been manufactured." His blog states that natural cycles in weather are more responsible for any climate change. -*One News Now*. (11/14/07)

### **FIGURE THIS ONE IF YOU CAN.**

According to *WorldNetDaily*, all 31 states in Mexico require a valid visa in order to get at a driver's license. In the U.S. 8 States now give driver's licenses without any proof they are legal residents and there is pressure to extend that to all our States. Alejandro Ruiz, director of education of the Mexican Automobile Association said, "We are a little more strict here." Ed. The number of Americans that want to take up residence in Mexico is miniscule compared to Mexicans who want to live here - millions of them illegally.

### **EVANGELICALS AND MORMONS TOGETHER!**

A "National Student Dialogue Conference" was held (10/19-20/07) in Salt Lake City to facilitate communication between evangelicals and Mormons. Students and teachers from Biola, Wheaton College, Denver Seminary, Fuller Seminary, and other deeply compromised "evangelical" institutions participated. Jerry Root, a professor at Wheaton College, said, "... truth is not reality, but truth is what I think about reality. I must not be afraid of honest doubt that accompanies debate and discussion." -*FBIS* (11/23/07). Ed. Truth is not reality? It is what I think about reality! As we have said before the Evangelicals are almost totally apostate.

## SUPPOSE YOU ARE MISTAKEN?

Today, many have the idea that one may believe whatever his wants to about God and eternity and still land in Heaven. But suppose you are mistaken! Seventy-five to one hundred years ago many dare-devil stunts were allowed and even promoted, like going over Niagara Falls in a barrel. I think it was Dr. Ironside that told of a man who called himself the "Human Fly." He'd go to a city and announce that on a certain day he would scale the outside of the tallest building. He came to Los Angeles and at the appointed time a huge crowd gathered. He was extremely deft at finding some small protrusion, some brick or stone slightly out of line. As he got to a great height, he could find nothing to grasp. Then he seemed to see a little something just out of his reach. After a few moments, he gave himself a push up to reach it and plunged to his death before the horrified crowd. When they examined his body they found the problem. In his right hand was a spider's web. In the sunlight, it evidently looked like a protruding brick. He thought it would carry him; but he was mistaken! I speak to many who say, "I have my religion. I'm all set." Maybe you are like that. But suppose you are wrong! The Bible says, **"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death."** ~Proverbs 14:12, 16:25. My friend, There is only one way to be saved and reach Heaven. It is to come to God as a poor lost sinner and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. God says, **"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."** Do not wait until it's too late. Trust Christ today! **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** ~Acts 16:31

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## TIPPING AND TITHING

Now it came to pass on a certain day at noon, this editor was guest of a certain rich man. The lunch was enjoyed at a popular restaurant and the food was good. Now, when the end of the meal was at hand, the waiter brought unto the host the check. The host examined it and left a certain amount under the edge of the plate. The waiter, who stood nearby, smiled happily when he saw what was left for him. Thus I thought the tip was satisfactory. Now with such customs we are all familiar. But as I meditated on the money that was left for tips throughout the country, I began to think about the matter of tips and tithes. For the proverbial tip should be at least a tithe (fifteen percent today) lest the waiter or waitress think ill of you. And as I continued to think on these things, it dawned upon me that few people who go to church treat their God as well as they treat their waiter. For they give unto the waiter a tithe, but unto God they give whatever they think will get them by. Verily, doth man fear the waiter more than he feareth God? Doth he love God less than he loveth the waiter? Truly a man and his money are beyond understanding! - Copied. I think I have heard all the excuses for Christians not tithing, but that is all they are - excuses. I don't see how God could be happy if the Bible believing Christian will not acknowledge God's Lordship by tithing. God asks: **"Will a man rob God?"** Certainly not a wise man nor a man who loves God. The Lord says, if you will not freely give it, I will get it some other way; but I will get it!