



# 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

### WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS! (From a 1995 Challenge)

October 2009

I believe God's people need revival! I believe what the world needs most is Christians who are truly living for Christ! Jesus said, **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savour...it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and be trodden under foot of men."** The average Christian today offers no rebuke to the world, either by life or by lip. How many act like the world, talk like the world, dress like the world, and seek the same things world seeks. One fundamental (?) church (and I am sure it is not alone), every once in a while has "dress down" Sunday (now it's every Sunday). You come dressed any way you want to; the people were invited to come and see the Pastor dressed in shorts. That may draw a crowd, but I tell you God is not happy when we mimic the world just to get a crowd! Multitudes of believers have brought the filth of Hollywood right into their homes through TV (and the Internet). Jim Eliot who was a martyr for Christ in 1956 said a few years before that event: *"I went to my friend's house last night and looked at TV. God convicted me with **Psalm 119:37: 'Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity.'** I sensed the powerful decentralizing effect of it on my mind and affections...Lord grant me a disciplined spirit and an obedient body henceforth."* TV is ten times worse than it was then and many Christians think nothing of spending several hours a day watching it. Over one hundred years ago D. L. Moody said: *"I firmly believe that the Church of God will have to confess her own sins before there can be any great work of grace. I sometimes think it is time to give up preaching to the ungodly and preach to those who profess to be Christians."* He also said, *"If we had a high standard of life in the Church, there would be thousands more flocking into the kingdom."* If we are ever going to be of much use to God and a blessing to lost sinners, we are going to have to get closer to God - not the world. The need of this hour is Revival of God's people - Spirit filled Christians!

It is time to confess our lukewarmness (our sins) to the things of God and stand up and be counted for Christ. Jesus said, **"...because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."** **~Revelation 3:16.** Those are solemn words of the Lord Jesus Christ! He wants you cold or hot - not lukewarm. No middle ground. Dr. Joseph Parker said of Spurgeon, *"The only colors Mr. Spurgeon knew were black and white. In all things he was definite. You were either in or out, up or down, alive or dead."* Vance Havner told of a preacher who said, *"I used to take a stand about dancing, but I just made enemies. I'm going to go along with it."* Praise God Luther didn't say, *"Things are bad and souls are being damned, but I just can't afford to stick my neck out."* We talk about the final apostasy as though it were somewhere in the distant future. The plain fact is we are in the midst of it, and what is needed is for those who are in the light to shine for Christ as never before. Christian, will you get before the Lord, confess your sins and ask God to fill you with His Spirit? **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed..." ~Romans 12:1,2.** (From 1995 Challenge - We need revival more than ever! I am afraid few Bible believers really want it!)

## CORNERSTONE NEWS

### MISSIONS CONFERENCE

**OCTOBER 7 - 11, 2009**

SEVERAL MISSIONARIES

FLAGS MANY NATIONS

DISPLAYS - SPECIAL MUSIC



WED.-FRI.-7:00 + SAT.- 3:30, 4:30 (Buffet), 6:00  
SUNDAY - 9:30, 10:45, 5:30, 6:30

Further Information - 617 - 489-2498

+ + + + + + + +

### GOD AND COUNTRY RALLY

**SAT. OCT. 24 - 2:00 pm**

GREAT PREACHING

PRAYER: CHURCH &  
NATION

FELLOWSHIP AND  
REFRESHMENTS



*Righteousness exalteth a nation:  
but sin is a reproach to any people.*

~ Proverbs 14:34

+ + + + + + + +

#### HEARTENING WORDS ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

*We received the encouraging words about the Challenge from Evangelist Don Edwards, editor of The Flaming Torch. Dear Brother Starr: Your little paper came. Very Good. Praise God we are on the last lap. Isn't it amazing how the Word of God is coming true before our very eyes, but few even seem to know. May God help me to keep on walking the old Paths. I still preach the same as I did when I was doing 50 meetings a year but now only get two or three places to preach in a year. Who has changed? Not me! May God bless you in every way. - Evangelist Don Edwards.*

Perhaps some of your friends might benefit from a subscription to the Challenge. Only \$3.00 - in the U.S.

## YOUTH CORNER

### ONE SMALL WORD TEENS NEED TO USE!

Want to be a successful Christian? Want to avoid a great deal of misery and heartache? Want to have victory over sin? Then, you must learn to say **NO!** Over one hundred years ago, Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, "Learn to say **NO!** It will be of more value to you than learning Latin." And that was a day when Latin was of greater value than today. Say **NO** (and mean it) to worldly friends, alcohol, smoking and all things that are contrary to good Christian conduct. Young ladies, say **NO** to advances that will ruin your womanhood! It is a good word. It is a short word. It is easy to pronounce. It needs no explanation. All you need is the courage to say it and mean it. You cannot please Christ without saying **NO** to some things. Learn to say **NO!**

### THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
At late or early hour.  
Now is the only time you own,  
Give, love, toil with a will,  
Place no faith in tomorrow,  
For the clock may then be still.

### THE SPIRIT WORLD. Astrology and Fortune

telling are very big today. God warned Israel about both of these evils. **Deuteronomy 18:10: "There shall not be found among you...an observer of times."** Also in **Exodus 22:18** Israel was warned: **"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."** Since God used such strong words to denounce these sins, as Christians we must have nothing to do with the sins of Fortune telling, Astrology, and Witchcraft (Harry Potter, etc.). **"As (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he:" ~Proverbs 23:7.** You cannot put evil things in your mind and escape the consequences! We should think on the things of God that our minds may be pure. Remember, **"To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey."** ~Romans 6:16. In reality, everybody is serving someone! Whose servant are you?

### DO YOUR FRIENDS A FAVOR!

Do you benefit from the *Cornerstone Challenge*? Why not give some of your friends a gift subscription? Only \$3.00 for one full year in U.S! (U.S. \$)

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

**NEA BACKS HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE.** The National Education Association has thrown its full support behind homosexual “marriage.” The NEA recently held its annual convention in San Diego, California, where members voted on two issues of importance to those involved in the culture war. One of those issues was whether the union would support same-gender marriage. According to Jeralee Smith, co-founder of the Conservative Educators Caucus, the resolution passed by roughly a two-thirds majority. “There are quite a few items where the NEA absolutely puts its political muscle behind taking down any legislation in any state that they consider to be discriminatory to homosexuals,” says Smith. “And some of the language in the resolution also hints that the NEA will try to take down the Defense of Marriage Act [DOMA] on the federal level.” Smith told *Baptist Press* that when a representative of the Conservative Caucus spoke against the resolution and mentioned the words “marriage is between a man and a woman,” the speaker was booed. A resolution for the NEA to take no stand on abortion was voted down 61 to 39. -*OneNewsNow* (7/15/09). Ed. The NEA is the country’s largest and most influential teacher’s union.

### **COURT OVERRULES THE CONSCIENCE.**

Conscientious pharmacists must sell ‘Plan B’. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against pharmacists exercising their conscience. The lawsuit was filed to block the state of Washington from enforcing a law requiring pharmacists to dispense medication in violation of their religious beliefs. That is especially related to Plan B, otherwise known as the “morning-after” pill -- which some medical professionals believe induces abortion. Brad Dacus heads the Pacific Justice Institute. “This is a clear affront and a violation of the fundamental religious convictions of the owners of pharmacies,” he contends. “No pharmacist owner should ever have to choose between saving a human life and keeping their shop and business.” Many consider the Ninth Circuit to be the most liberal court in the U.S. “This radical decision by the Ninth Circuit gives the green light to liberal state legislators and regulators to be able to clamp down on medical and other professionals with sincere religious convictions against supporting abortions,” Dacus adds. -*TBC* (7/17/09). Ed. So much for religious freedom!

*We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29*

**WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST COEXIST?** Have you seen this “coexist” bumper sticker? I saw it for the first time several weeks ago. I am sure that it sounds good to many, probably the majority. But it is one more error that “**seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**” ~*Proverbs 14:12, 16:25.*



Notice how Islam is first and Christianity is last! Islam doesn’t believe in coexistence except when they are in the minority. The Koran says, “O ye who believe! Take not Jews and Christians for friends...” -*Surah 5:51*. “Then when the sacred months have passed, slay the idolaters wherever ye find them...” -*Surah 9:29*. Islam’s coexistence means become a Muslim or perish! This philosophy of syncretism, let’s forget our differences and meld into one, is indeed becoming more popular. We know there will yet be a worldwide ecumenism. The most common belief I meet going door-to-door, etc. is that everybody is going to get to heaven. No matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere, you will be accepted by God. This indeed sounds good to sinful man, but it is one of the most soul-damning doctrines the devil has ever suggested to the mind of man. We who believe the Bible cannot adopt such a philosophy. If we do, the truth will be lost. God says, “**Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate...**” ~*II Corinthians 6:17*, etc. If there is one ideology that the modern mind set will not accept, it is that of dogmatism. You are not supposed to be dogmatic about anything - especially religion. But no one was more dogmatic than Jesus Christ. He said, “**I am the way, the truth and the life: NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER, BUT BY ME.**” ~*John 14:6*. **The Bible says in Acts 4:12, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN given among men, whereby we must be saved.”** We read in I Timothy 2:5: “**For there is...ONE MEDIATOR between God and men, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.**” This is not a popular belief, even among many who call themselves Christian, though they have never been “born again” as the Word of God requires. I believe we may be going to see some difficult times in this land for true followers of Jesus.

## LOST IN THE “WOULDS”

There are multitudes who are lost in the “woulds”. That’s right! Not in the “woods” but they are lost in the “woulds.” I have met many who “would” receive Jesus Christ, BUT- They have some excuse, no matter how lame it might be. They think that God will accept it! But they are sadly mistaken. One man told me some years ago that he “would” trust the Lord when he got his home paid for. (Don’t ask me what that had to do with it). That probably “would” give him quite a few years. When I reminded him that God said, **“BOAST NOT THYSELF OF TO MORROW; FOR THOU KNOWEST NOT WHAT A DAY MAY BRING FORTH,”** he said he “would” think about it. I doubt if he ever did – he’s probably still lost. Sad to say, he may be in hell. Jesus said, **“How oft would I have gathered you...but ye would not.”** When invited to His “feast,” men implied that they “would” like to come but they had other things to do. The truth is, such people are eternally LOST! I am afraid many professing Christians are also lost in the “woulds”. Many enjoy the ministry and blessing of the Church, and they “would” become members if it wasn’t for this thing or that. Others say they “would” tithe, but--- Some have indicated they “would” work in the Church, but they had so many other things to do. All “would” like to win others to Christ; but there’s no time to visit, they can’t speak well, etc. My Friend, I wonder if you may be lost in the “woulds.” If so, better find yourself before it is too late!

**Cornerstone Baptist Church**

**54 Brighton Street**

**P.O. Box 438**

**Belmont, MA 02478**

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

## WHEN CHRISTIANS DO MISCHIEF

C. H. Spurgeon told this story: “I’ll tell you, many of you Christians do a deal of mischief by what you say going home. A man once said that when he was a lad he heard a sermon by a minister, and felt deeply impressed by it. Tears stole down his cheeks, and he thought within himself, ‘I’ll go home and pray.’ On the way home he fell into the company of two members of the church. One of them began saying, ‘I do not think the preacher was quite sound on such a point.’ The other said, ‘Well, I thought he was rather off his guard’ or something of that sort; and one pulled one part of the sermon to pieces and another the other, until said the young man, ‘I had not gone many yards, when I forgot all about it. All the good I thought I had received was swept away by these two men...they were just pulling to pieces that which would have brought me to my knees.’” Sad to say, this sort of thing is all too common among God’s people. How often do parents while going home from church or at supper or in some other manner before their children or friends run down the sermon, the preacher, or the church. These same people wonder why their children are not interested in the things of God. Some professing Christians seem to think God made them judge in all that is good! How much better it would be if we spoke and acted in a way that would build up the Church rather than tear it down. I tell you that it is not going to go well with believers who are always finding fault with the Church and its ministry. **“...Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it.”** ~*Ephesians 5:25*. If we love the Lord Jesus Christ, we will do the same!