



## The CORNERSTONE Challenge

A  
Ministry  
of:

### CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Editor

### WORKING WITH COMMUNISTS!

May 2010

The *Christian Post* reports that 10,000 people packed a Chinese church to hear American evangelist Franklin Graham on Sunday. The sermon at Bethel Church of Baoding, located about 120 miles south of Beijing, was Graham's second to the Chinese people in two years. "I'm here today to tell you that not only does God know who you are, He loves you," the evangelist said. (In case you didn't know it, "God loves you," is not the Gospel. While that is a wonderful truth, it is not the saving message of God!). Graham's grandfather, Nelson Bell, worked in China as a medical doctor for 25 years, and his mother, the late Ruth Bell Graham, was born there. While house churches and unapproved denominations often face discrimination and (great) persecution from Chinese authorities, the church where Graham preached is affiliated with the government-approved Three-Self Patriotic Movement and the China Christian Council. -*Religion Today* (10/20/09). Ed. This is but another example of how far the (New) Evangelicals have gone from the truth. The Three-Self Church in China is a "church" invented and controlled by the Chinese Communist government. The government provides their own bible version, invented and printed by the Communist authorities. Believe me, there will be no true Gospel preached in such churches.

Of course, this has been the course of the New Evangelicals for the last sixty years - compromise, confusion and disobedience to God's Word are the rule. Not a few Fundamentalists have followed this course (to a lesser degree perhaps). They **"...put no difference between the holy and the profane..."** ~*Ezekiel 22:26*. An incident in the life of Spurgeon has much wisdom. P. T. Barnum of circus fame invited the great preacher to come to the United States. Barnum would set up a special tent in his traveling circus where Spurgeon would speak, and do so without restrictions. Any help he needed would be provided and all expense would be paid by P. T. Barnum. Spurgeon would preach as long as he liked and would be paid \$1,000 per message (quite a sum in those days). No doubt some Christians of that day, and many, many more in our day, would say: "What a splendid opportunity this would be to preach the Gospel, save souls, and at the same time reap a great sum for the Lord's work." This sort of thing would no doubt be accepted by many Evangelicals and yes, some Fundamentalists. But Spurgeon did not see it that way, and he did not come to America under the auspices of the worldly Mr. Barnum. Mr. Spurgeon sent this very simple reply to Barnum's invitation: "Dear Mr. Barnum, you will find your answer in Acts 13:10. Very sincerely yours. Charles Haddon Spurgeon." If Mr. Barnum turned to that passage of Scripture, which I am sure he did, this is what he would have read: **"O, full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt not thou cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"** I don't think many Fundamental Baptist preachers would respond quite like that today! "The end justifies the means" seems to be a way of life for many. Whatever it takes is all right as long as you reach your desired goal. God says, **"Touch not the unclean thing!"** *Touch not means touch not!* If we are truly going to accomplish the Lord's work, we are going to have to do it God's way. God's way is not the way of compromise and confusion. God hates mixture of the godly and ungodly. God's way is separation from the world: **"Come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord..."**

## CORNERSTONE NEWS

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## YOUTH CORNER

### PROCRASTINATION IS DANGEROUS - IF NOT DEADLY!

A true story is told that happened quite a few years ago. A young mechanic said to the Pastor after an evangelistic meeting, "I would like to be saved but I have decided to wait until after the fair." He said that he and three friends had made plans to spend a week in Glasgow, and if he was converted right then, it might spoil his plans. He said that he would return later and trust Christ as his Savior. On Friday of the following week he was accidentally drowned and his body was laid in the grave. But where was his soul? God's Word says, "**Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.**" ~Proverbs 27:1. No matter what your age - young or old - the best time to trust Christ to be your Savior is right now. Do not delay! There will never be a better time. I have often said, "there is nothing worth going to hell over!"

### SOMETHINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

Some Christians are all head and no heart; then, there are some who are all heart and no head.

It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

There are many things we can do after we pray, but there is nothing we can do before we pray.

It is well to remember: God is going to have the last word!

Difficult experiences of life can make you bitter or they can make you better.

Those who are eager to give you a piece of their mind are usually the ones who can least afford it.

**A DIFFICULT LESSON.** A famous Harvard professor was asked by a student, "Is there anything I can do to learn the art of conversation?" Prof. Copeland replied, "Yes, there is one thing and if you listen, I will tell you." For several moments there was silence. Then, the student said, "I'm listening, Professor." "You see," said Copeland, "You are learning already." God's Word says, "**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**" ~James 1:19. Personally, I think that we all like to speak a whole lot more than we like to listen. It just seems to be a part of human nature. Remember, when you are talking, you are not learning.

### RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD

Why are there so many different interpretations of the Bible? Like anything else, there are right ways and wrong ways. This book will help you get the truth from God's Word.

\$2 each plus \$1.50 postage. 5 for \$10 pp. (U.S. \$)

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

### **FEDERAL APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS “UNDER GOD” IN PLEDGE.**

The Washington Post reports that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against a Sacramento atheist who challenged the Pledge of Allegiance inclusion of the phrase “under God.” This is the second challenge Michael Newdow had brought before the court; he won the first case in 2002, but Supreme Court later struck down that ruling, saying Newdow did not have standing based on his arguments. The most recent lawsuit is identical to the first case, except Newdow filed on behalf of other parents who object to the pledge in schools. He brought his first suit in his daughter’s name, though he did not have custody of her. Writing the majority opinion in Thursday’s 2-1 ruling, Judge Carlos Bea said, “The Pledge of Allegiance serves to unite our vast nation through the proud recitation of some of the ideals upon which our Republic was founded.” Students are not required to recite the pledge in schools. –*Religion Today* (3/15/10)

### **MUSLIMS ANGRY OVER ISRAEL’S HIGHLIGHTING ANCIENT LINK.**

A decision by the Israeli government to include a location with an almost 4,000 year-old link to the origins of Judaism in a list of 150 national heritage sites has sparked an uproar among Muslims - and drawn the disapproval of the Obama administration. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu insisted Thursday that the decision to include the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron on the list would not in any way change the status quo at the site, which has long been shared by Jews and Muslims. He called accusations being made by Palestinians and others “an artificial attempt to distort reality and sow discord.” Two days after Palestinian Authority (P.A.) chairman Mahmoud Abbas warned during a visit to Brussels that it could ignite a “religious war,” Palestinians clashed Thursday with Israeli soldiers in Hebron. The radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad has called for a “day of anger” on [February 26, 2010].

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the administration regarded the move as “provocative,” and that U.S. diplomats had conveyed that message to Israeli officials. On [February 25, 2010] the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) weighed in, demanding that the United Nations act against “this Israeli unilateral aggression.” Earlier, a spokesman for U.N. secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said he raised with visiting Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak his concerns about “the inclusion of holy sites in the occupied West Bank on an Israeli heritage list. It is the site in Hebron, about 20 miles south of Jerusalem that is causing the most unhappiness. Although a predominantly Arab city today, Hebron’s importance to Jews goes back to the foundation of their faith. According to the Old Testament (Genesis 49), Abraham bought a cave known as Machpela at the site to bury his wife, Sarah and was himself also buried there,

along with Isaac and Jacob, as well as Isaac’s wife Rebecca, and Jacob’s first wife, Leah. The Old Testament also records that Hebron was the capital of the kingdom of Israel for seven years before King David moved to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 5). Rabbis consider the Cave of the Patriarchs the second holiest site in Judaism, after the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Hebron as a city is also one of Judaism’s four holy cities... Historians say Hebron had a small, almost continuous Jewish presence for thousands of years until 1929, when it ended abruptly after 67 members of the then 800-strong Jewish community were killed during three days of Arab riots. –*TBC* (3/19/10). Ed. Among other things that stand out in this incident, is the changed attitude toward Israel in Washington. It’s been obvious since the new administration.

### **TWO CHRISTIANS MURDERED FOR WITNESSING.**

According to Boynton Beach (FL) police, simply for sharing the Word of God on the street is what brought two ministers to the man who killed them (Feb.5). Tite Sutra and Stephen Ocean were shot and killed after meeting Jeriah Woods. They had witnessed to Woody, for fifteen minutes when he got a phone call and said he had to go. As they walked away Woody started walking toward them. Sutra walked up to greet him and was killed with a shot-gun at blank range. When Ocean ran, he was shot in the back. After he fell, he was shot in the back of the head execution style. Gary Cass of the Christian Anti-Defense League said, “As of today, there are no national news organizations reporting this vicious murder of two innocent Christian men. “Why,” said Cass. “I’ll ask this: If two Muslims, or two feminists, or two homosexuals were murdered, wouldn’t the media be all over it? These were two fine young men...Christian men shot...for their Christian faith, yet the media does not seem to care,” Cass continued: “It is an ominous sign of our times that Christians are being shot on our streets and in our churches.” (Several cases were mentioned.) –*Christian Newswire via Sword of the Lord*

### **WORD FOR FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST PREACHERS.**

TESTIMONY OF JOHN NEWTON: “The Bible is the grand repository of truths which it will be my pleasure to set before you. It is the complete system of Divine truth to which nothing can be added and from which nothing can be taken away. Every attempt to disguise or soften any branch of this truth in order to accommodate it to the prevailing taste around us, either to avoid the displeasure or to court the favor of our fellow mortals, must be an affront to the majesty of God and an act of treachery to men. My conscience bears me record that I mean to speak the truth among you. May the grace of God enable me to do it.” Ed. It is a said day when professed Bible believers, Fundamentalists, try to make the Word of God palatable to everyone. Such tampering with God’s Word (remember, It is GOD’S WORD) is dangerous to say the least!

## BELIEVERS AND DISCIPLES

Jesus said, **“Go ye into all the world and teach all nations...”** The word teach is the word for *“disciple.”* In the New Testament, a believer is a disciple, one who learns of Christ and His ways. Vance Havner said: *“It is evident that we are to make disciples, not just believers. In the early Church, there were no distinctions; a believer was a disciple and a witness. There was no taking Christ as Saviour now and Lord later - maybe never! But today churches are filled with ‘believers’ who have never been made disciples. Some of them perform perfunctory religious duties, but they have never denied self, taken up the cross and followed Christ. They’ve not been taught to observe all things commanded. The early Christians believed, became disciples, and that sent them out to be witnesses and make disciples of others. We need to the Great Commission all over again.”* This is a day of “easy believism.” Now, it is easy, or we might say a simple matter to become a Christian. But the Bible word for believe means to place confidence in or to completely trust. Scripture says we must **“believe in thine heart”** the Gospel; that Christ died for our sins and rose again. That means with the whole being. That is not the same as a vote for Jesus or signing up for heaven. Many have “signed up for heaven” by making some kind of a decision for some reason or other, but they have never been born again. Jesus said, **“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** One who is born again is not a person who has made some hasty decision but remains the same old individual. God says, **“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away and behold all things are become new.”**

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## DO IT NOW!

A man from another country wrote: “I take a religious newspaper from America, and the last copy had the following words at the end in large type, printed in the practical, business-like American way: ‘If you do not want this paper, discontinue NOW. If you would like to have it for the year 1875, send your subscription NOW! If you have any complaint against it, send it NOW! If you have moved, send your new address NOW!’ There was a big NOW at the end of every sentence. That is good common sense. I would say to you if you want to forsake your sins, forsake them NOW! If you would have mercy from God through Jesus Christ, believe on Him NOW! In that very paper I read where Messrs. Moody and Sankey told of their meetings in Edinburgh. A man was very interested in the Gospel message. But during a pause in the service he and a friend began to leave, but he turned back though his friend urged him to go. He said, “I came here to get good for my soul, I must go back.” He returned to his seat and the Lord blessed him. He was wonderfully converted. The very next day he went to his job in a mine. A massive rock fell upon him. As they carried him out, he was conscious, but it was obvious that he could not recover. He said to the man who was carrying him out: “Oh, Andrew, I am so glad it was settled last night! It was all settled last night.” What about you, my friend. If you’re not saved, hell will be your portion. The Bible says, **“Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”** God says NOW is the time to turn to Christ as your Savior. God says, **“...NOW is the accepted time; behold NOW is the day of salvation.”** ~II Corinthians 6:2. Two of the saddest words are: “TOO LATE!”