



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
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CHURCH**

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A MUCH NEEDED CHALLENGE!

November 2010

C. H. Spurgeon said, *"The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them. Providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. The need is Biblical doctrine, so understood and felt that it sets men afire."* We seldom see someone really on fire for God these days. I am afraid if many believers saw such a one, they would declare that he was a fanatic. The truth is that most Christians are pretty comfortable and they don't want anyone to wake them up spiritually or challenge them to a holy walk with God. I am reminded of a radio personality back in the 1930's who always came on the air saying, "Is everybody happy?" I think that it is pretty obvious that, with few exceptions, God's people are interested in being happy rather than holy. Not only do we have to get up programs that are amusing, but if you want a hearing from a good many, you had better sprinkle your sermon with plenty of jokes and witty sayings. Now, I know that all of this will be viewed as very negative and maybe a little morbid. But I think that it must grieve the heart of God to hear jokes on serious Bible subjects, even jokes on the Bible itself. A. W. Tozer said that in the early days Christians believed that the amusements of this world were not for believers. *"So, it was understood that when you got converted and got filled with the Spirit you gave up the world's amusements. Then, there was a slow change, and in the name of fundamental Christianity, one by one, we met those amusements at the door and sprinkled them with holy water... We must have a new reformation. There must be a violent break with that irresponsible, amusement-mad, paganized, pseudo-religion which passes today for the faith of Christ and which is being spread all over the world by unspiritual men."* I read a couple of years ago of a faithful underground Russian pastor who said, the West (America) must stop sending them such spiritually weak and superficial men for we are spoiling their people and the truth for which many of their brethren died. While it will upset the majority, what we need to do is tell the carnal babies that predominate in our Fundamental churches (and pulpits), that is time to grow up. A word for Pastors. Did you ever stop to think that while you are supplying sweetened pabulum for all the babies, that you are stunting the growth of those who would like to have more spiritual things. Here is a question for you, Pastor: What is it you are trying to accomplish with the people of God? Was your call to the ministry a call to keep everybody happy by entertaining them until Jesus comes? Were you called to be an entertainer or a holy man of God like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul? Do you think that God is pleased with shallow, carnal ministries which cater to the old nature of believers? We have lost the concept of the majesty and holiness of God! Vance Havner said that we ought to view God and the things of God with awe. *"But what you see in the average fundamental church today is not awe, it is just awful!"* Tozer said, *"We do not have the art of worship and we are not producing saints."* Without a doubt, it is time for revival! But I wonder if anyone really wants it or knows what it is all about? Oh, that we might have a heart for a true spiritual awakening. God invites us. **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** ~II Chronicles 7:14. The problem is, we don't think that worldliness and carnality are sinful. The Laodicean Church was a worldly, carnal Church and God was obviously not happy with those people. He said to them – **"Repent!"** I think He is saying the same to us. Will we obey? (From 1998 Challenge)

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? **"Be ye thankful."** The truth is few Americans are grateful to God for all His blessings. How sad to see even Christians who think more of a ballgame than they do of God! Let us **"Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good."**

THURSDAY, NOV. 25TH - 8 P.M.

Gospel Song Service, a time for **Testimonies** and a **Special Message**. Having guests for dinner? Invite them to come along. **Let's put the Lord first!**



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THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION IN 1623:

Gov. Bradford: To All ye Pilgrims: Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the raids of the savages, and has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with ye wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on the hill between the hours of 9 and 12 in the daytime, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render Thanksgiving to God for all His blessings.

WHAT IS THANKSGIVING ALL ABOUT?

In the beginning, it was about God! It was Thanksgiving to God for His provision and blessing for His people. When I was first saved, many years ago, most Fundamental churches had a Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Day. Not so today! Even among Bible believing Baptists, food and football take center stage. Try to imagine what God thinks of this! If you live nearby, we invite you to join us in Thanksgiving to God.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS! Indeed the Bible does speak to those who will hear it. William Hone (1780-1842) the noted parodist of sacred words, was riding in the country on a hot summer's day and stopped at the gates of a cottage garden to ask for some water to drink. A little girl was intently reading a Book. Wondering what he could do to gain her attention, he asked what book she was reading. "It is the Bible, sir," was the reply. "The Bible?" "Yes, because I love it, sir." "I supposed you were learning your lesson for school." "No, sir." He asked, "Why do you leave your play on such a beautiful day as this to read the Bible?" "Because I love it, sir," was the simple answer. Hone rode on, but the child's words seemed to have let a flood of light into his soul. "She reads the Bible because she loves it. There must be something in it that I have never seen. I will go home and read it carefully once through, that I may learn what that child can find in it to love it." That reading was blessed of God to the conversion of William Hone. He became a humble and devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever."** ~1 Peter 1:23.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

The hymnwriter wrote: "It is well with my soul." Can you say that is true of you?

Some people are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Don't blame God for a poor harvest, if all you ever sow is weeds.

If you want to be like Christ, you must be occupied with Him.

Every saved person this side of Heaven should be interested in every lost soul this side of Hell!

When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head.

It's better to be alone than to be in bad company. -MRD

WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES. While getting gas the driver asked to have his windshield cleaned. After it was washed, the man said, "It's still dirty. Wash it again." It was washed again but was still dirty. As he was about to complain, the man's wife said, "The problem is the dirt is on the inside." Few Christians will admit it, but, the problem is most often on the inside. **"I know that in me...dwelleth no good thing..."** ~Romans 7:18

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NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

FAMED EVOLUTIONIST'S WORK FLAWED.

By Nicholas Wade (New York Times online, Education, August 11, 2010) Marc Hauser, a Harvard academic who gained prominence with the publication of a book on the origin of morality, has gone on leave after an investigation by the university into problems with his research. Dr. Hauser, whose field is the comparison of human and animal minds, is the author of "Moral Minds: How Nature Designed Our Universal Sense of Right and Wrong." A Harvard press officer, Jeff Neal, at first refused to confirm that Dr. Hauser was on leave or that Harvard had conducted any investigation. But a message on Dr. Hauser's laboratory phone says he will be on leave until the fall of 2011, and at least two scientific journals are acknowledging problems in Dr. Hauser's articles that were brought to light by an internal Harvard inquiry. The journal *Cognition* published an article by Dr. Hauser and others in 2002 saying that tamarin monkeys could learn certain rules much as human infants do. The journal is about to run a retraction saying that an internal examination by Harvard "found that the data do not support the reported findings."

Harvard's silence about the nature of the problem in Dr. Hauser's laboratory has stirred concern among other researchers who fear their field will be discredited unless the full facts are made known. "I think that Harvard has to make public what they found," said Herbert Terrace, a professor of psychology at Columbia University. "They say they have to protect Harvard and Hauser, but how about protecting the field?" Dr. Hauser is one of Harvard's most visible academics, being frequently quoted in articles about language, animals' cognitive abilities and the biological basis of morality. He is widely regarded as a star in his field. Dr. Hauser is a fluent and persuasive writer, and his undoing seems to have been his experiments, many of which depended on videotaping cotton-topped tamarin monkeys and noting their responses. It is easy for human observers to see the response they want and so to be fooled by the monkeys. Dr. Terrace said there had been problems for some time with Dr. Hauser's work.

Ed. My immediate comment is that there is no universal sense of right and wrong in this world. Even some religions teach it is all right to lie under certain circumstances. Then, 150 years after Darwin, with untold numbers of "scholars" pursuing it, they are as far away as ever on the origin of the material world and life. The truth is they are not going to find it!

PALESTINIANS WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

President Obama wants Israel to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority, but the PA's senior negotiator says they will not recognize Israel as a Jewish State. At a press conference on September 8, Nabil Shaath rejected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request to discuss the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. This is not a new position, of course, and it is impossible to effectively negotiate with people who have vowed to destroy you. Israel has been living under Gentile domination since the Babylonian Captivity, and this will not end until Christ returns. –Copied. Ed. The Palestinians, who never were a state till Arafat declared them so, will not acknowledge Israel's statehood. What do they hope to accomplish by holding meetings to discuss territorial rights, etc.

DRESS CODE IN THE COURTROOM. More and more judges are cracking down on "attire that's just plain inappropriate," according to an article in the *Wilmington, DE News Journal* and carried in *USA Today*. If you dress in skimpy, sloppy or otherwise inappropriate attire, you can be cited for contempt and pay a fine. According to the report, the dress codes help to maintain "order in the courtroom" and establish "the appropriate respect and dignity (the courtroom) should deserve." Obviously these judges haven't got the message that contemporary church-growth gurus are preaching! Is it possible that the narrow-mined fundamental Baptists (there aren't very many of these) who haven't ditched their standards could actually have a point. –*Sword of the Lord* (9/17/10).

Ed. If we are to show proper respect for a judge or his courtroom, what's wrong in showing respect for God. We have seen prisons with dress codes for visitors, restaurants with dress codes, etc. God commands women to be "modest" in their dress. The word means "appropriately." (Men should dress appropriately also but the implications are not as great as for the women). It is not "appropriate" to dress sensually nor sloppily when one goes to Church to worship God. Besides, God says, "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" ~*I Cor. 10:31*. It is rare when visitors come to our Church (I mean Christians, no doubt sincere in most cases) who are dressed appropriately. In recent years, we've lost more people over the dress code issue than we have from all other reasons combined. God's people should be "dressing up" not "dressing down" to be like the world! Christian, think about this: "**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.**"

~*Titus 2:11,12.*

BE YE THANKFUL!

Ingratitude is one of the great flaws (and sins) in the nature of man. I dare say most individuals are given to it. One of the most pitiful scenes in the Bible is where Jesus healed ten lepers and only one man came back to give Him thanks for his great deliverance. Many years ago, I am quite sure it was in the great depression, a certain radio personality had a program which he called "The Job Center of the Air." The program helped over 2,500 people find employment in very difficult times. He later reported that of that great number, only ten individuals ever took the time to give him thanks. Similarly, a man remembered a school teacher who had been very helpful to him in his school years, now long past. He sent her a letter expressing his gratitude for her helpfulness. She was now in her eighties and living all alone. Upon receiving his encouraging letter, she sat down and penned a reply. She said, "I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me. You will be interested to know that I spent 50 years teaching school, and yours is the first note of appreciation that I have received. It came on a blue, cold morning and it filled me with tears." If our ingratitude to man is bad, what about ingratitude to God. That not only involves the unsaved, but what about all of the Christians who are ungrateful to God for His goodness. For many Christians, football will be more important than God on Thanksgiving Day! There will be plenty to eat, hours of football, but no time to attend a Thanksgiving Service. How sad! The Bible says, "**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**" ~*Psalms 103:2*. The Christian ought to overflow with thanksgiving – not just one day a year, but every day! "**Be ye thankful.**" ~*Colossians 3:15*.

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BURNING YOUR SHIPS

We have all heard of burning your bridges behind you, but what of burning your ships behind you? When Cortez and his followers landed in the New World, they burned their ships and so eliminated all means of their return to the homeland. The Bible says, "**Forgetting those things which are behind...**" Christian when you were saved, everything changed. There are two sides in this world – God and the devil. You changed sides. The old relationships are no longer the same. While we care about our old friends and want to win them for Christ, the Bible says we are not to have close relationships with them. They will bring you down. God says, "**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.**" They are in the dark – you are in the light! You may say, I want to bring them into the light. Good, but you must do it God's way – separation -- lest you fall into sin. Then, there is our relationship to the world in general. The world is under the devil's control. God says it is sinful and calls it "**...this present evil world.**" ~*Galatians 1:4*. The Lord says, "**Love not the world neither the things that are in the world...For all that is of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world.**" ~*I John 2:15,16*. Then, do you know your worst enemy? It is you, Yourself! It is your old Self life; your old nature. It was bad and it still is bad. You need to walk in the Spirit (walk according to the Word of God). Yes, you need to burn your ships (or bridges). Put away the old things and live in the new. Listen to God: "**Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.**" ~*II Corinthians 5:17*.