



The CORNERSTONE Challenge

A
Ministry
of:

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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AN AMAZING PREDICTION!

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About one hundred years ago, William Booth was ministering in the slums of London when he made some startling predictions concerning Christianity in the next one hundred years. It is amazing, the insight which he obviously had, for his observations have certainly come to pass. Of course, in his day, there were some signs of the great apostasy that would surely come. Here are the things he said, *“The chief danger of the 20th century will be a religion without the Holy Spirit...Christianity without Christ...forgiveness without repentance...politics without God... Heaven without Hell.”* The insight which this man had was amazing! Let’s look at these statements. **Religion without the Holy Spirit:** Of course, the Holy Spirit is not in any false religion or perverted Christianity, cult, etc. But where do you find the true work of the Spirit of God today? Even among Bible believers there is little evidence of the Holy Spirit of God. Yes, even Fundamental Baptists with their worldly programs, contemporary music, modern bible versions, etc.? God is not in all the worldly, carnal programs that are being promoted in Fundamental circles today. Certainly, God is not in the “smile God loves you” or the “self esteem” gospels that are being promoted on a wide scale. **Christianity without Christ:** It’s everywhere! Some have a Christ, but it is a false Christ! The Christ of the liberals, Roman Catholics, Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, etc., is not the Christ you find in the Bible. Jesus said, **“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is Heaven, Many will come say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”** ~Matthew 7:21-23. **Forgiveness without repentance:** There is precious little repentance preached or practiced even in Fundamental circles. But it is not possible to be saved from your sin without repentance. Jesus said, **“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”** And repentance is not penance! It is not doing something to make up for your sin, which is impossible! The Bible, the very word of God says, **“Who can forgive sins, but God alone?”** ~Luke 5:21. Repentance is a true change of mind about your sin, about God and how to be forgiven. Salvation is **“not of works, lest any man should boast.”** It is by trusting Christ as your Savior from sin! **Politics without God:** God has just about been ruled out of public life, and who is promoting the removal of God from the public scene more strongly than the politicians? **Heaven without Hell:** Just about everyone believes in a literal place called Heaven. But who preaches a literal, fiery hell today? Yes, there are a few brave souls, but for the most part Hell is a non-issue. Some who do believe in it, speak of it, not as a real literal place but as a state of mind – a thirst for God. We take no pleasure in preaching it, but it is a reality! The Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Son of God believed in hell, preached hell, and died on the cross so you won’t have to spend eternity in hell. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus revealed very clearly what hell is like by showing us a man in hell. It says, **“In hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments.”** He said, **“I am tormented in this flame.”** Then, he asked that someone go tell his five living brothers... **“lest they also come into this place of torment.”** Though he doesn’t want to hear it, man’s problem is SIN! You need a Savior! You need to repent, change your mind, about your sin and how to be saved. William Booth was right! My Friend, where do you stand? Are you saved from the penalty of your sins? If not, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”** Do you have true Bible Christianity? You cannot be saved by anything you may do; only by God’s grace, through trusting in Jesus Christ who paid for your sins on Calvary. Ephesians 2:8,9 says, **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”** We plead with you to repent of your sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Do it today! You could wait until it’s too late!

CORNERSTONE NEWS

SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 24TH - 6:30

EASTER MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

FULL BREAKFAST
(Free! For attendees)

BRING THE FAMILY

Sunday School - 9:30 + Church-10:45 & 6:30

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MOTHER - DAUGHTER LUNCHEON

SAT., APRIL 30, 2011

GREAT FOOD

GOOD FELLOWSHIP

SPECIAL MUSIC

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ALL LADIES AND GIRLS INVITED

Reservations call 617-489-2498

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YOUTH CORNER

THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH. Go and ask believers now, and I think many will tell you: "Oh that I could live my young days over again!" He will most likely say, "Oh that I had spent the beginning of my life in a better way! Oh that I had not laid the foundation of evil habits so strongly in the springtime of my journey!" Young men, I want to save you all this sorrow, if I can. Hell itself is truth known too late. Be wise in time. What youth sows, old age must reap. Do not give the most precious season of your life to that which will not comfort you in the latter days of your life. Sow to yourselves rather in righteousness: break up your hard ground, don't sow among thorns. -- J.C. Ryle

THE GREATEST THING! The greatest thing anyone can do for God or man is to pray. IT IS NOT THE ONLY THING BUT IT IS THE CHIEF THING. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who say they believe in prayer. I mean those people who take time to pray. They do not have the time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important, very important and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer. --A. J. Gordon

BILLY SUNDAY AND THE CHURCH. Billy Sunday said the following: "You say, I'll be a Christian and go to Heaven without joining a Church. Yes, and you can go to Europe without getting on board a ship or airplane. The swimming is good, but the sharks are laying for fellows who take that route. If a man is truly saved, he should hunt for a good Bible-believing church right away." Some Christians have all kinds of excuses for not joining a church. None of them are any good. The church (a truly Fundamental, separated church) is ordained of God. **"Despise ye the church of God?"** The Scriptures say, **"Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it."** What does God think of your attitude toward the Church?

THINK ABOUT IT! A professor said that in taking an examination the students should sit a seat apart to avoid all appearance of evil, as the Good Book says. One smart aleck raised his hand and said, "What if you don't believe in the Good Book?" The professor replied, "Then you will put two seats between you."

Messages by Pastor Starr are available in MP3 format. Also, see the Challenge Xtra section for extra news and topics. Browse "Topics of Interest" for pertinent articles of concern to Christians as well as the Cornerstone Challenge, News You Should Know About, and Bits and Pieces archives.

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

UK BILL TO FORCE GAY MARRIAGES IN CHURCHES.

Christian Today reports that churches in Great Britain worry they may soon be forced to allow same-sex ceremonies in their buildings. The plans are being championed by the Liberal Democrats, who are also pursuing full “marriage” rights for same-sex couples, and would allow civil partnership ceremonies in churches, synagogues and other places of worship. Dr. John Sentamu told BBC One’s Andrew Marr show, “I live in a liberal democracy and I want equality for everybody. I cannot say the Quakers shouldn’t do it... Nor do I want somebody to tell me the Church of England must do it or the Roman Catholic Church must do it because actually that is not what equality is about.” The legislation, if passed, is expected to allow religious groups to decide individually if they want to host the ceremonies. However, some Christians worry such legislation in any form could compromise religious freedom. Ed. Yes, with the homosexual crowd, and some others, it is always one step at a time until they get all that they want. If one looks back just a few years, it is amazing the strides that the homosexuals have made. Then, few realize that there is further and further infringement on religious freedom!

RICK WARREN TO HOST TONY BLAIR.

Dr. Rick Warren and Saddleback Church will host former British Prime Minister Tony Blair at its upcoming forum on “Peace in a Globalized Economy.” Warren and Blair will talk about efforts to alleviate the five global giants Warren has identified in his PEACE Plan, including pandemic diseases, extreme poverty, illiteracy, self-centered leaders and spiritual emptiness. Warren’s PEACE Plan seeks to mobilize millions of Christians around the world to Promote reconciliation, Equip servant leaders, Assist the poor, Care for the sick and Educate the next generation. Their discussion on March 6 will also focus on the unfolding situation in the Middle East and its impact worldwide. “I hope that this Forum will enlighten American people on Mr. Blair’s work in partnering and bringing about this process of change,” Warren said in a press release. *Religion Today* (3/2/11). Ed. Tony Blair converted to Roman Catholicism a few years ago. He has established a Foundation whose alleged purpose is to bring together the world’s great religions. Rick Warren is a board member of that Foundation. As for the Forum’s efforts to enlighten Americans, since it is contrary to God’s Word, it can only bring darkness and greater deception. If at all successful, it will certainly bring change, but not the change that we need. God help America!

U.S IN SHARP REVERSAL ON ISRAEL POLICY.

Foreign Policy Magazine, 2/17/2011: In sharp reversal, U.S. agrees to rebuke Israel in Security Council [Excerpts]--The U.S. informed Arab governments Tuesday that it will support a U.N. Security Council statement reaffirming that the 15-nation body “does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlement activity,” a move aimed at avoiding the prospect of having to veto a stronger Palestinian resolution calling the settlements illegal. In exchange for scuttling the Palestinian resolution, the United States would support the council statement, consider supporting a U.N. Security Council visit to the Middle East, the first since 1979, and commit to supporting strong language criticizing Israel’s settlement policies in a future statement by the Middle East Quartet. Ed. There has been a continued sharp reversal of U.S. policy toward Israel under the current administration.

ATHEIST TO PRESENT BBC’S NEW BIBLE SERIES.

Christian Today reports that BBC has tapped Dr. Francesca Stavrakopoulou, an atheist, to host its new series, “In The Bible’s Buried Secrets.” The series will focus on recent archaeological discoveries that may impact people’s understanding of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. In an interview with the Radio Times, Stavrakopoulou said she did not think the Bible could be used as a reliable historical source and said that as an academic “you leave your faith at the door.” Even as an atheist, however, she said the Bible is still important. “The Bible is a work of religious and social literature that has a huge impact on Western culture, and for that reason it’s important that programs like these are made.” –*Religion Today*-3/9/11. Ed. So what else is new?

WHEN WE MUST PART COMPANY!

A.W.Tozer said: “I must confess as a pastor and minister that I have had to say ‘Goodbye’ to people in some instances when they have said, ‘We cannot worship here. You are too strict. Your standards are too strict for this day and age. Your message is too strict...’ We cannot afford to let down our Christian standards just to hold the interest of people who want to go to hell and still belong to a church.” Ed. It is amazing to me how many *Fundamental Baptists*, who, after visiting our website and seeing what we stand for, attend our Church but do not return because we have Biblical standards of dress. God help “Christians” who are more interested in going to Church sloppily or sensually dressed, than they are in correct doctrine or godly living. Is it right to “dress down” rather than “dress up” to go to worship God? We also find that some of these *Fundamental Baptists* also have a problem with our stand on the King James Bible.

THE GREAT GOD ENTERTAINMENT

A.W. Tozer wrote the following over fifty years ago. He said: “There are millions who cannot live without entertainment... For centuries the Church stood solidly against every form of worldly entertainment. But of late...she appears to have decided if she cannot conquer the great god entertainment she may as well join forces with him and make what use she can of his powers. So today we have the spectacle of millions of dollars being poured into the unholy job of providing earthly entertainment for the so called sons of Heaven. Many churches these days have become little more than poor theatres where fifth-rate ‘producers’ peddle their shoddy wares with the full approval of Evangelical (and many Fundamental) leaders... And hardly a man dares raise his voice against it.” What would Tozer say today if he could see what is going on in so called Bible believing churches? Now, I am talking about supposedly Fundamental churches. In many of them, what goes on is mostly religious entertainment. They have their big screens, worldly music, little choruses instead of “psalms, hymn and spiritual songs,” contemporary music. Imagine “Fundamental” churches showing the carnal stuff of Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, etc. Then, what sermons there are, they are filled with stories and jokes. One person told me they were recently in a Fundamental Baptist Church where the message was one joke after another. Vance Havner said, “We worship an awesome God, but what you see in the average Fundamental Baptist Church is not awesome; it is just awful.” One does not have to wonder what God thinks of all of this, it is all based on the flesh and **“They that are in the flesh cannot please God.”**

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SHORT SIGHTED OR FAR SIGHTED

In I Peter it speaks about Christians who add to their faith, **“...virtue and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness charity... But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off.”** Now, we are talking about saved people. Look at Abraham. In spite of a couple lapses of faith, he was a man who was far-sighted. He followed God and kept his eyes on that **“City which hath foundations whose Builder and Maker is God.”** It was far off, but it was real to him and that’s what he wanted. Moses was far sighted. He forsook Egypt **“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with he people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season...”** Then, there was Lot. We are told in Scripture that he was saved – a justified man. But sad to say, Lot was near-sighted. He was not living for eternity like Abraham and Moses. No, he was a believer living for this world. He couldn’t possibly have chosen a worse place than Sodom. He had a lot of sheep and they needed water. That was uppermost in his mind. On top of that he became an elder, leader in that wicked place. He did well for a while, but lost all including his family. I think of another short-sighted believer – Demas. Paul said, **“Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world..”** D. L. Moody spoke of believers who were far-sighted, others short-sighted, and some who were far-sighted and long-sighted. He said, “I think the Church is full of this kind of people. They have one eye on the world and the other on the kingdom of God. Therefore everything is blurred. Fellow Christian what kind of sight do you have?”