



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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CHANGES IN THE MINISTRY.

December 2011

I was recently asked by a young missionary, in view of my many years in the pastorate, what are some of the changes I have seen. In more than fifty years preaching, I have seen quite a few changes, and sad to say most of them have not been good. I will briefly outline a few of them here:

1. One of the most serious differences between the old days and the new is the way preachers have abdicated their place of leadership and allow the congregation to run the Church. It is not necessarily an overt take over, but the Pastors give the people what they want to keep them happy! If they want short sermons, given them short sermons. If they want sermons with plenty of stories and jokes, give it to them. If they want state-of-the-art television screens, etc. – give it to them. See Isaiah 30:10
2. Then, many Fundamental Baptist Churches have dropped the Evening Service and/or the Prayer Meeting. Not too many years ago, that would not even be thought of. Only the liberals had just Sunday morning meetings. Of course, the average Christian is so worldly today that he can't stand three or four services per week. He wants Sunday afternoon and evening for pleasure: ball games, picnics, television and the like.
3. Probably the most damaging change, as I see it, is the use of modern versions. In my early days of preaching, I didn't know one Fundamental Baptist preacher who used anything but the King James Version. Now, for one to stand entirely on the KJV, he is considered part of a cult by many. There are many Fundamental Baptists who only use the KJV in the pulpit, but they have little regard for it. Every time there is a difference between it and their favorite modern version, they correct the KJV by saying, "A better rendering is..." Or they say, "The most ancient manuscripts read..." This is not preaching the KJV – it is a sham! It undermines the KJV!
4. One very disturbing change is the manner in which many Fundamentalists come dressed to Church. Twenty-five or thirty years ago, even the Liberals, Catholics, etc., did not come to Church in sloppy dress, work clothes and I have seen in Fundamental churches T-shirts and shorts. Think of this, people don't go to weddings or funerals looking like slobs, but they go to Church that way, even Fundamentalists. And what is worse, very few Churches have dress standards and many of the ladies wear sensual clothing (which is not "modest" as God requires).
5. Worldly music is another area where there have been changes for the worse. CCM music is gaining ground among those who are saved. We are told by the "experts" that it is the words that matter, not the music. That is ridiculous; you don't see people bouncing around to the words! Then again, this modern light fare is not conducive to worship like the old hymns of worship and praise. Do we know anything about worship?

This is not all, but it does reveal that very definite changes have been made and not for the better. We need to return to the "old paths." Jeremiah 6:16: **"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths wherein is the good way and walk therein...But they said, we will not walk therein."** One last word: Most of the blame for this spiritual downgrade has to be laid at the feet of the preachers, they allow it. See I Timothy 4:16.

CORNERSTONE NEWS

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 - SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LESSON.

**CHURCH SERVICE: 10:45
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

**EVENING SERVICE: 6:30
CAROLS AND MESSAGE**

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NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Saturday, Dec. 31 — 5:00 — 8:00

*A Great Family Night!
Invite a Friend!*

5:00 - GOSPEL FILM

6:00 - BUFFET SUPPER

**7:00 – TESTIMONIES
PRAYERTIME
LORD'S SUPPER**



No better way to end the Old year and start the New!

WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 2 - 5, 2012

**Monday-Tuesday-Thursday
7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

“IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER”

Bring the Family!

YOUTH CORNER

HISTORY DOES REPEAT ITSELF! The President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, once said, “I believe in God, the Almighty ruler of nations. I believe in His eternal truth and justice. I recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven in all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. America was founded and developed upon this sacred concept. The present devilish drive to remove recognition of God from the American way of life and to establish a ‘sliding rule for morals and truth’ can only lead to anarchy and chaos. Men who will not have God determine the truth for them, and who refuse to accept the Word of God as the standard of truth, are faced with a deliberate choice: ‘Christ or Caesar.’ All men must make the choice whether they want to or not. Expediency can never determine what is truth. **‘The nation that forgets God shall be turned into hell.’**” And hell is just as real as the Bible’s Heaven. What Abraham Lincoln described is exactly what is happening in America today! Expediency and a man centered morality is the predominate philosophy. What we need today is a return to the former days – the old paths. **“Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye will find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”** ~*Jeremiah 6:16*. But sadly, very few really want the old ways, God’s ways. **God says, “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.”**

YES, HELL IS REAL! The famous infidel, Voltaire, was more honest than a lot of liberal and other preachers. I read some years ago of the following statement. When he received a letter from a man who said that he had “succeeded in getting rid of the idea of hell.” Voltaire simply replied: “Congratulations! I wish I could.” Convincing yourself that it is not real does not do away with it. Jesus spoke often of hell and the reality of the fire and torment. Read Luke 16:19-31. The man in hell cried out: **“I am tormented in this flame.”** To deny hell is a real place with real fire is to contradict the Son of God. Thank God He came to save us from it. If you are not saved, trust Christ now. **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”**

TRUTH ABOUT BIBLE VERSIONS

All bibles are not the inspired Word of God! Pastor Starr’s book: “Is Your Bible Really The Word Of God?” will help you understand the truth. \$3.00 each plus 1.50 postage. Three for \$9.00 pp. (U.S. \$)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

THOU SHALT NOT POST THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week refused to hear the appeal of an Ohio judge wanting to display a poster of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. WORLD News Service reports. Richland County judge James DeWeese, who had the poster covered with a drape and the word “Censored” since a federal judge ordered him to remove it in 2009. He expressed disappointment but knew his effort to get the Supreme Court to hear the case was a long shot. The poster had been hanging in his courtroom since 2006, when the Supreme Court let stand lower-court rulings that another Ten Commandments poster he hung in 2000 violated separation between church and state. The appeals judges rejected DeWeese’s contention that the poster was private religious expression. Ed. Of course, knowing the make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court, this ruling is not at all surprising. It is another case of removing God and His Word from public life. For most of our history, this was not thought of by thinking people until the last twenty or thirty years. –*Religion Today*. 10/10/11.

2000 PLUS CHAPLAINS SAY ‘NO’ TO PENTAGON.

Despite a recent Pentagon directive, a coalition of chaplain endorsers that represents more than 2,000 military ministers has pledged not to perform same-sex “wedding” ceremonies under any circumstances. Members of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty are concerned about the memorandum issued by the Pentagon September 30 that authorizes military chaplains to perform same-sex “marriage” ceremonies and military chapel facilities to be used for “any private ceremony.” Col. Ron Crews (USA-Ret.), who served as a chaplain for 28 years, is executive director of the Alliance. He says his coalition is joining the Catholic Archdiocese for Military Services to say “no” to the directive. “They made a very strong statement saying that no Catholic chaplains serving in the military will participate in any same-sex ceremonies at any chapels. We appreciate that strong stand,” he shares. “So we just wanted to let the Department of Defense know that it’s not only the Catholic chaplains, but that some 2,000 chaplains who come from evangelical backgrounds are saying our chaplains will not participate in same-sex ceremonies in the military.” Crews says the Alliance is once again calling on Congress to enact a right of conscience clause in the revised code to ensure that no American service members are forced to deny what the Bible says about homosexuality. [Last week](#) a spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese for Military Services said “no Catholic chaplain is authorized to perform a same-sex wedding under any circumstances,” and pointed out that the Pentagon’s new policy “appears to ignore the Defense of Marriage Act, which was signed into law 15 years ago and

remains in effect.” There are approximately 300 Roman Catholic priests certified for active-duty military service. *OneNewsNow* - 10/10/2011. Ed. We are happy to hear of this development. We’ll wait to see where things go from here.

NEW LIBYA TO BE RULED BY SHARIA LAW.

Islamic sharia law will prevail in Libya and any existing laws that contradict it will be abolished, National Transitional Council leader Mustafa Abdel-Jalil said Monday, four days after revolutionary fighters killed former dictator Moammar Gadhafi and one day after Libya’s new rulers declared national liberation. “As an Islamic country, we have adopted sharia as the principal law,” Abdel-Jalil said, adding that any existing laws contradicting the teachings of Islam would be nullified. He outlined several changes to align with Islamic law, such as banning banks from paying interest and lifting restrictions on the number of wives men can have -- under Gadhafi, polygamy was banned, but the Quran allows men up to four wives. Libyan leaders have said they will form a new interim government within a month and hold elections for a constitutional assembly within eight months. –*Religion Today* (10/25/11). Ed. It didn’t take a genius to see that since the coup was engineered by Islamic extremists. And the President and the official U.S. is behind it. Wrong again! Just like Cuba and many other places. Christian, don’t look for man to straighten out things here – he can’t! Look up! Jesus is coming!

HOUSE VOTES TO AFFIRM ‘IN GOD WE TRUST’ MOTTO.

In a 396-9 vote... the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan resolution reaffirming “In God We Trust” as the official motto of the United States, Fox News reports. The resolution...not only affirms the motto but also encourages its display in public and gov’t buildings. Forbes said the motto had been under attack during the past three years, citing specifically an instance in which President Obama misstated the motto as “E pluribus unum” and refused to correct himself even after 42 members of Congress sent him a letter, as well as the fact that the White House website has the incorrect motto. “There are a very small number of people, but unfortunately very vocal people, who really want to attack faith in every element of the nation,” Forbes said. “But we’re not going to go quietly into the night.” Lawmakers who voted against the resolution were Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), Rep. Justin Amash (R-Mich.), Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.), Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.), Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.), Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and Rep. Pete Stark (D-Calif.). –*Religion Today* (11/3/11)

IS THERE A UNIVERSAL CHURCH?

I recently read a good article in response to the question: “*Is There A Universal, Invisible Church?*” The Pastor said: “The Biblical truth of the matter is the Church of Jesus Christ is neither universal nor an invisible assembly in order to meet the requirements spelled out in such passages as Ephesians 4:11-16 and I Corinthians 12:12-27. A so-called *universal church* cannot meet the basics of being a body “...*fitly joined together and compacted...*” It cannot fill the mandate “...*that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members have the same care one for the other.*” To be a member of the Body of Christ, as the Scriptures have shown, requires that you are assembling yourself as an “*active*” member of such a church. To say you are a member of the true church, or the universal, invisible Body of Christ, is to say you belong to nothing. Let’s take the Bible as our authority and act in obedience to it.” The Bible knows only the local Church: **To all that be in Rome, beloved of God; the Church of God which is at Corinth; the Churches of Galatia;** etc. I have heard many excuses for believing in a universal, invisible church. Some have been disappointed in one church after another and say, I’m not joining another church. Then, many Christians just don’t want the responsibility; they don’t want to be tied down. They want to be free to come and go as they please. They don’t want to tithe, etc. But they do want the convenience of a local Church to attend when it suits them. But they don’t want to be obligated. Others are just plain lazy. They are simply carnal; disobedient to God! There are all too many who claim to believe the Bible, but who really only believe what suits them. What kind of love for Christ and His Church is this?

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BECAUSE HE SAID HE WOULD

A certain church was having evangelistic meetings and there were meetings just for boys and girls. After one of the sessions, a little girl by the name of Helen went home and said to her father, “Daddy, I am a Christian.” “Well, I am glad to hear that; when did you become a Christian?” “This afternoon,” was the reply. Then, he asked what had happened. “Oh.” She said, “The evangelist said that Jesus was right there in the room, and that if we would receive Him, He would come in and live in our lives and make us His own; that He would receive us.” Her father said, “Well, go on; tell me what happened.” “Why,” she said, “I received Him and Jesus took me in. I became a Christian.” Her Daddy responded, “Well, that all sounds very interesting, but how do you know that you really received Jesus as your Savior, and that Jesus did take you in?” Her father said that he never would forget the look on the face of his little girl as she drew herself up, and answered: “Why, Daddy, because He said He would!” Yes, indeed, we have Jesus’ Word for it! We need no more than this. He said, “**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**” ~*Matthew 11:28*. Not only that, he has told us that if we come to Him, He will never put us out for He also promised, “**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.**” ~*John 6:37*. My Friend, have you ever come as a sinner to Jesus and asked Him to save you? If not, do it NOW! God’s Word says, “**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**”

~*John 1:12.*