



AN ADMONITION FOR AVERAGE CHRISTIANS.

December 2013

One of the very real problems of our day is many professions of faith in Christ are not genuine. I am not saying these people are insincere, but the plain truth is quite obvious; many who claim to be saved show no interest in the things of God and one looks in vain for any evidence of a changed life. Dear Reader, I urge you to **“Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith.”** as God admonishes you. You may have made a “decision” but are you truly saved? Do you have a serious interest in the things of God? Are you a new creature in Christ Jesus or have you just signed on the dotted line, so to speak, so that you won’t wind up in hell? Another problem is many who are *“average Christians,”* they are saved but have only a casual interest in Bible reading, prayer and soul winning, etc. It is a sick Christian who can receive the grace of God and then live for this present evil world. The world is going to hell at a rapid rate and you are asleep. God warns you that He **“chastens every son whom He receiveth.”**

Spiritual growth and fruit bearing are no accident. They do not automatically follow just because one has received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. Here are a few basics and they should be engaged in just as soon as one is saved. If you have been saved for sometime but are floundering in your Christian experience, then go back and begin again. We see these things on the very day the Church was founded: **“Then they that gladly received His word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”** ~Acts 2:41,42. Those who received the Word were saved. The first thing they did was to be **BAPTIZED!** They were immersed; a statement that they believed in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is important; it is the first step of obedience. Then, they **JOINED THE CHURCH.** They were *added* unto the people of God. They **CONTINUED** in the fellowship of believers. They didn’t quit and run to a church across town the first time they heard something they didn’t agree with. They did not **“forsake the assembling of themselves together”** with God’s people! Then, they continued stedfastly in the **APOSTLES DOCTRINE.** They studied the Bible! You need to study it and you need to memorize it! They continued in **FELLOWSHIP** with God’s people. They continued in **BREAKING OF BREAD** - they remembered Christ at the Lord’s table. They also **PRAYED;** they continued in *prayers!* Prayer is probably the most neglected Christian privilege and duty. You cannot be used of God without frequent and earnest prayer. It is God’s appointed way of accomplishing His work. Then, these new converts **WITNESSED.** **“They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they (all) spake the word of God with boldness.”** If you are saved, how can you keep the “Good News” from needy, hell-bound souls? I find it hard to believe that one can be saved and not care that his loved ones, friends, everyone he meets is lost in sin and headed for hell. I’d say they were serious Christians! There is one more thing - those early Christians **GAVE** of their substance. They gave out of their poverty and gave liberally, II Corinthians 8:1-5. Regardless of what you may say, God expects at least a tithe. You’ll never go anywhere with God until you learn to give. Want God to use you? Get right with God today; it’s called Repentance! Obey His Word! How does your Christian experience line up with these early Christians?

CORNERSTONE NEWS

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, 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!*

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WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 6 - 9, 2014

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

"IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER"

Bring the Family!

WHAT IS THE CHURCH TO YOU?

If there is one thing that pierces the Savior's heart with unutterable grief, it is not the world's iniquity, but the Church's indifference. – F.B. Meyer

People do not miss Church services because they live too far from the building, they miss Church because they live too far from God.

Billy Sunday said: "You say, I'll be a Christian and go to Heaven without 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 waiting for those who take that route. If a man is saved, he should look for a good Bible believing Church right away!"

YOUTH CORNER

THE ATTRIBUTE OF OBEDIENCE. If there is one thing a Christian ought to be it is obedient to God and His Word. It will save you a lot of grief and may save your life. I read the story of a little girl sitting in a field in front of her house. The father was preparing to go hunting, when he looked at his daughter and saw a poisonous snake coiled and ready to strike. If his daughter moved the snake would surely attack. He said, "Mary, don't move!" At the same time, he leveled his gun, took careful aim and cut it down before it could do its deadly damage. The child was spared because she gave strict obedience to her father. That is what we are supposed to do - give strict obedience to our Heavenly Father by simply obeying His Word! After all, He alone knows what is best. The hymn writer put it this way: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

CHRISTIAN: IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK!

If you have a work to do --- Do it NOW!

If you have a witness to give -- Do it NOW!

If you have a soul to win -- Win him NOW!

If you have an obligation to discharge -- Do it NOW!

If you have a debt to pay -- Pay it NOW!

If you have a wrong to right -- Right it NOW!

If you have a confession to make -- Make it NOW!

If you have a preparation to make -- Make it NOW!

If you have children to train -- Train them NOW!

"The night cometh when no man can work." -Anon.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

"Don't approach a goat from the front; a horse from the rear or a fool from any side." -See Proverbs 26:4,5.

Some people are like a wheelbarrow: No good unless pushed and easily upset.

Honesty is still the best policy, but sad to say, many are satisfied with less than the best.

Better never to have been born at all than never to have been born again!

"Statistics show that 10,000 people are killed by liquor where only one is killed by a mad dog. Yet we shoot the dog and license the liquor dealer. What sense is this?"

Blessed is the man who has nothing worth saying and who is able to refrain from saying it.

The closer you get to God, the further you will get from this present evil world.

TWO HELPFUL BOOKLETS

"Rightly Dividing The Word..." - \$2 Each

"Revelation of Jesus Christ" - \$2 Each

Postage - 15% or \$1.00 minimum

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

ATHEISTS LOSE EFFORT TO REMOVE CROSS AT GROUND ZERO. They lost. But they won't give up. Angry atheists claim the mere existence of the Ground Zero Cross is giving them "depression, headaches, anxiety, and mental pain and anguish." As ridiculous as it sounds, they are taking this argument to a federal appeals court. We are preparing a critical amicus brief, due in a matter of weeks, to defend the Cross. As the trial court correctly noted, these intersecting steel beams found in the rubble of the 9/11 terrorist attack are a historical artifact, not a constitutional violation. They really meant something to thousands of Americans whether the atheists like it or not. We must make it clear: the Constitution is not an atheist manifesto. –ACLJ

AP MISLEADING REPORT ON "ATHEIST" MEGA-CHURCHES. An Associated Press report dated Nov.10, 2013, titled "Atheist 'Mega-Churches' Take Root across US, World," has been republished widely, but it is grossly misleading. First, there are only dozens of these atheist gatherings, and the largest have attracted one-time crowds in the hundreds. Thus they aren't "mega" by any standard. For a church to be called a "megachurch" it must have 2,000 or more in average weekly attendance. (There are 1,300 of mega-churches in the U.S.) No regular atheist gathering comes close to that. And there is no evidence that these "atheist churches" will prove to be viable over any significant period of time. The "atheist church" movement, founded by two British comedians, is attempting to attract atheists to religious-like services to sing pop songs, laugh at stand-up comedy routines, and listen to "inspirational talks." It sounds like the emerging church, except atheists sing hymns to no one and preach a gospel of nothingness. –FBIS (11/16/13)

IT IS A SIN TO OPPOSE HOMOSEXUALITY. The dean of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. claimed during his weekly address on Sunday (October 6) that it is a sin to oppose homosexuality. The message was part of a weekend tribute to the homosexual youth at the National Cathedral, and the commemoration of the death of Matthew Shephard, whose slaying sparked the passage of the "federal hate crime" bill signed into law by Barack Obama in 2009. During his speech, Gary Hall blamed churches across the country for influencing beliefs about homosexuality. "...Homophobia is a sin. Heterosexism is a sin," Hall asserted. "Only when our churches say that clearly and boldly and courageously will our LGBT youth be able to grow up in a culture that totally embraces them fully as they are." ...The

National Cathedral pealed its bells this past June for nearly an hour in celebration of the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a key section of the Defense Of Marriage Act. (DOMA) – *Sword of the Lord* (11/8/133) Ed. God says, "**Woe unto them that call evil good...**"

BELGIUM MOVES CLOSER TO CHILD EUTHANASIA. A joint meeting of the chamber's committees of social affairs and justice on Wednesday approved the proposal, 13-4. The bill, which has aroused intense debate in Belgium, must be examined next by the full Senate. If finally approved by the legislature, children in Belgium suffering unbearable physical pain and in the terminal phases of a disease could request euthanasia, provided their parents consented. A psychologist would have to certify that the child was aware of the consequences of the decision, and the child would have to be under medical care. OneNewsNow (11/27/13) Ed. It is obvious from this and other incidents in this day that there is "No fear of God before their eyes." Taking a life may be a very small matter to modern man but it is no small matter to God!

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT! There is a lot of "News You Should Know About" but we can only include a small portion in the Challenge. However, if you will look on our website you will find two whole pages every month: www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org. If you do not have internet, we will be happy to send it to you if you will send a self addressed, stamped envelope.

WHY WE HAVE "NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT." We are not of the persuasion that the Church is in the world to change the world. There have been times in human history when God's people have had a positive effect, but we are not called to change the world. We believe Christians should be aware of the nature of the times. Ignorance may be bliss, but it also may be disastrous! David's mighty men were: "**...men that had understanding of the times and knew what Israel ought to do.**" About a hundred years ago a well-known Baptist preacher, I. M. Haldeman, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of New York City said, "*The general concept of the Church in the world is that it is here to make the world better... On the contrary, it is here to testify that the world cannot be made better. The Church is here to warn men of the hell that awaits every soul outside of Christ.*" God says to His people: "**Awake unto righteousness and sin not: for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.**" ~I Corinthians 15:34. One of the sad things is that so many of God's people are worldly and asleep!

PROPER DRESS

I am going to give you a verse that will not be popular with many of you (Deut. 22:5 which speaks of women wearing men's clothes and vice versa). God emphatically declares that He wants the distinction of the sexes sacredly maintained... May I speak plainly? God meant that a woman's body, and a man's, too, be covered. God made the first clothing for man and they are specifically called "coats", a word which signifies that they covered the body from the shoulders down as well as the rest. The modern dress on our women on the beaches, on the streets, and even in our business places (*and now in our churches*) is an invitation to moral decay, social collapse and the judgment of the Lord. Shorts, my friend, are nothing else than undergarments... This applies to men as well. To see men, even preachers, running about in public with only a pair of shorts is a disgrace to civilization, a return to the jungle and an abomination to the Lord... The woman is never to be seen in man's dress no matter how stylish... In I Timothy 2:9 we read: **"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel..."** Oh, Christian men and women, DARE TO BE DIFFERENT." I do not mean that you must wear peculiar dress but that while you dress neatly and beautifully, you do it modestly because of Him, who when you were naked clothed you from head to foot with garments of salvation and His own precious righteousness. -The above was written by M.R. DeHaan in 1943. What would he say today, especially concerning dress in Fundamental churches? Of course, Christians who dress immodestly have their own explanation, but that will not satisfy God.

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A WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT

Many think if one does his best, if he does more good than bad, he'll get to Heaven. If he's a *good person on the whole* he'll make it. This is the belief of many. There was a farmer to whom that seemed right. He said, "I try to do good, I pay my debts, etc. Sometimes I may swear or get angry but *I am doing pretty well on the whole.*" One day he hired a Christian carpenter, whom he knew, to build a fence around his pasture. "Build the fence securely, perfectly," he instructed. Upon completion of the job the farmer asked, "Is the fence good and strong; totally secure?" The man replied, "I cannot say that it is perfectly secure all around, but it is a good average fence *on the whole*. I may have left a little gap here and there, but I made up for that by strengthening other parts. I would say that *it is a good fence on the whole.*" The farmer cried: "Do you mean to tell me you built a fence with little gaps here and there? That fence must have no weak places or my cattle will get out! That fence must be perfect or it is worthless." The Christian replied, "I used to think so too, but I heard you talk so much about averaging things out with the Lord, and being *pretty good on the whole*, I thought if it was good enough for your soul it would be good enough for a fence." The Bible says, **"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."** ~Proverbs 14:12. It doesn't matter what you think! It may sound reasonable to you, but God requires perfection! That is why He sent His sinless, perfect Son, Jesus Christ to die for your sins. You must put your confidence in Him - not yourself. **"Believe of the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** ~Acts 16:31.