



## A MUCH NEEDED CHALLENGE.

May 2015

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 entertainment 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 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 most Christians are pretty comfortable and they don't want anyone to wake them up spiritually or to challenge them to a holy walk with God. I am reminded of a radio personality many years ago who always came on the air saying, “Is everybody happy?” I think it is pretty obvious, that with few exceptions, God's people are interested in being happy, not holy. Not only do we have to get up programs which are amusing, but if you want a hearing from a good many, you had better sprinkle your sermons with some jokes and witty sayings. Now, I know that all of this will sound very boring and a little negative, but I believe that it must grieve the heart of God to hear jokes on serious Bible subjects and even on the Bible itself. A.W. Tozer said that in the early days of his being a Christian, the world's amusements were not for Christians. He said, “So, it was understood when you got converted and got filled with the Holy 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 world by spiritual men...” I read some years ago of a faithful Russian pastor who had been in the underground Church. He 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 have died. While some may treat you with disdain, we need to tell the carnal babies that predominate in many of our churches that it 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, you are stunting the growth of those who may have a desire for a little maturity and spiritual growth? Here is a question for you. What are you trying to accomplish with the people of God? Were you called to be an entertainer and keep everybody happy; entertain believers until Jesus comes? Were you called to entertain the sheep or be a holy man of God like Isaiah, Jeremiah or Paul? Do you think that God is happy with shallow, carnal ministries which cater to the old nature? We have lost the concept of the majesty and holiness of God. Vance Havner said we ought to view God and the things of God with awe. **“But what you see in the average fundamental Church of 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 a revival! But I wonder how many of God's people really want a revival? 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...”** ~II Chronicles 7:14. To the Laodiceans God said, **“Repent.”**

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

JULY 12 - 17, 2015

- SEVERAL SPEAKERS
MORNING & EVENING
FELLOWSHIP TIME
SPECIAL MUSIC



Sunday: 9:30, 10:45 & 6:00

Mon.-Fri: 10:00, 11:00, 7:00

Refreshments under the tent - 10:45

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THEME:

IT IS HIGH TIME TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP!

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The Gift: Testimony Catholic priest Charles Chiniquy..2.00
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New Evangelicalism/Deadliest Ism-Important info..1.50
What The Bible Says About Separation..... 1.50
Cornerstone Clippings - Items from Challenges..... 2.00
Creation vs. Evolution - Young People need this... 1.00
The (New) Evangelical Experiment..... 3.00
God's Word To Roman Catholics.....1.00
What In the World Is God Doing? (Dispensations)..1.00
Revelation of Jesus Christ. (An overview with.....2.00
keys to understanding this great prophecy)
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SPECIAL: One each for \$18.00 pp. Ten or more of any one book - 25% off.f. Postage: 15%, \$1.50 min.

HOW TO RAISE WORLDLY YOUNG PEOPLE!

I once received a flyer for a so called Christian meeting. The title says: "Heaven 'n Hell Skate Blowout Party." It will be held at a local skating rink. For \$8 you get skate rentals, pizza & drinks, loads of candy, Christian music (we wonder), local rappers, cool giveaways and more. PLUS - a short drama "To Hell and Back." Another flyer which came with it announced basically the same program (for Halloween night), without the skates, to be held at a local church. Now, I have heard of hell and of people going there, but I never heard of anyone coming back! How in the world can this be to the glory of God? Can you imagine what kind of Bible teaching you get in churches which promote this sort of thing? No wonder our youth are confused and no wonder there are so many false professions of faith in Christ. Do you think that this is the sort of thing where you would have found serious Christian young people like David Livingstone, Hudson Taylor, etc. Young people must choose between the carnal and the spiritual, between that which pleases the flesh and that which pleases Jesus! Which kind of teenager are you?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

True Faith is not a victory for you but a victory in or through you.

The Christian must be willing to forfeit human companionship in order to have God's fellowship.

If you want to know who your human friends are, just make a mistake or disagree with them.

One fool can ask more questions than ten wise men can answer. ~M.R.D.

We must be saved from dependence upon people and walk alone with Jesus. ~J. Hudson Taylor

If you don't believe in the devil's existence, try resisting him a while. ~Charles Finney.

Answer not a fool according to his folly... Answer a fool according to his folly..." ~Proverbs 26:4,5.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom..." ~Colossians 3:15,16.

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

**KEEP YOUR FAITH AT HOME!** Over the past couple of years, the agenda of the ACLU and the Obama Administration has become clear. More and more we are being told: Keep your faith at home – behind closed doors – or pay the penalty... For many years one of the greatest threats to your religious freedom was the American Civil Liberties Union, commonly known as the ACLU. Since it was founded in 1920, few other entities have done more to undermine America's Judeo-Christian foundation. They use lawsuits and threat of lawsuits to bully schools, colleges, local government, businesses and individuals to comply with their view of America... And make no mistake – the ACLU continues to relentlessly wage its campaign to force faith and religious expression behind closed doors. And now with the Obama Administration supporting many of its positions, the ACLU has a powerful ally. Since the Obama Administration came into power, we are seeing wave after wave of attacks against our religious freedom. Never before in the history of our nation has our own Federal government taken such a blatant and aggressive role in attacking the values you and I hold dear...The ACLU has an affiliate in all 50 States...500,000 card-carrying members...a staff of nearly 200 attorneys... nearly 700 million dollars in assets... The ACLU has systematically weakened America's religious foundations and has fostered an anti-Christian culture...-Alan E. Sears, CEO Alliance Defending Freedom news letter. (April 2015)

**EPISCOPAL BISHOP DRUNK TWO DAYS BEFORE ORDINATION.** Two days before she was ordained as the first ordained female bishop in Maryland and three months before she was involved in a fatal hit-and-run incident, Bishop Heather Cook was suspected of being drunk at a private party by head of the Maryland diocese, Eugene Taylor Sutton; and he warned the Episcopal church's national leader, Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schoei about it... Despite indications that Cook appeared to have an issue with alcohol, Episcopal leaders waved her on to the second-highest ranking position in the Maryland diocese anyhow. –Sword of the Lord, (3/27/15)

**SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JUSTIFIES A VOTE FOR GAY MARRIAGE.** Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts may have grounds to justify a vote in support of same-sex marriage as the high court mulls the issues in advance of a much-anticipated ruling, [the Daily Caller reports](#). Roberts in early comments leaned into the idea that the case was more about sexual discrimination

or gender bias than simply same-sex marriage, the Daily Caller noted “I’m not sure it’s necessary to get into sexual orientation to resolve this case,” Roberts said in discussions Tuesday, [The New York Times reported](#). “I mean, if Sue loves Joe and Tom loves Joe, Sue can marry him and Tom can’t. And the difference is based upon their different sex,” Roberts noted. “Why isn’t that a straightforward question of sexual discrimination?” Both Roberts as well as Anthony Kennedy are expected to hold the key to the case, CNN reported in an interview with Steve Vladeck, a constitutional law professor at American University, who cautioned against too much guessing in advance of the ruling. “It’s going to be close, it’s going to be divisive and it’s going to come down to [Justice Anthony] Kennedy and Roberts,” Vladeck **told CNN** as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in [Obergefell vs Hodges](#) this week –[NewsMax \(4/29/15\)](#). Ed. That reasoning just avoids the real issue: What is marriage? Marriage is the union of two people of the opposite sex!. It has always been that until very recently. From what I read, I believe Roberts is supposed to be a conservative Roman Catholic.

**THE MURDER OF MILLIONS OF BABY GIRLS CREATES “MARRIAGE SQUEEZE” IN CHINA, INDIA.** The rapidly growing “marriage squeeze” in China and India is due to a lack of brides, and the reason is the murder of millions upon millions of baby girls, either by abortion or infanticide. The squeeze in China is caused by the Communist state’s “one-child policy,” which has motivated parents to seek a boy as their only child. In India, the squeeze is largely caused by the Hindu culture’s preference for boys. Prenatal screening results in sex-selective abortions (even though it is technically illegal). There are 20 million more men than women in China, and 37 million more men than women in India (“The ‘marriage squeeze,’” [Business Insider](#), Apr. 23, 2015). “If births rates were normal, China would have 66 million more girls born in 2010. For India, it would have been 43 million.” The problem is increasing dramatically. It is estimated that by 2050, India will have 130 single men for every 100 single women, and China will have 186 single men for every 100 single women. –FBIS (5/1/15)

**IT IS HIGH TIME TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP!** Of course, the world is asleep but the sad fact is, so are many of God’s people. Truly the hour late! Vance Havner said. “The times are desperate but the saints are not.” Let’s be about our Father’s business.



## THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

A.W. Tozer wrote the following about fifty years ago: “**And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**’ ~Acts 2:42. Conversion for the early New Testament Christians was not a destination; it was the beginning of a journey. And right there is where the biblical emphasis differs from ours. Today, all is made to depend upon the initial act of believing. At a given moment a ‘decision’ is made for Christ, and after that everything is ‘automatic.’ We...are almost all guilty of this lopsided view of the Christian life. In our efforts to make converts we allow our hearers to absorb the idea that they can deal with their entire responsibility once and for all by an act of believing...In the Book of Acts, faith was for each believer a beginning, not an end; it was a journey, not a bed in which to lie while waiting for the day of our Lord’s triumph.” Conversion, salvation, results from a one time act of believing in Christ and His work on the cross. The saved person has been born again - one is born in an instant! But that is not the end...only the beginning. He is to grow up to be a responsible and useful servant of Christ. The Christian is not to merely enjoy himself, doing whatever he thinks is good or convenient, waiting for the Rapture. He’s to study the Word of God, applying it to his everyday life in order to become a mature child of God and to perform service for God. It is sad but true, that a large percentage of Bible believers today are mere babes though many have been saved for years. The hour is late and God says, “**It is high time to wake out of sleep.**” It is time to get on with the journey!

**Cornerstone Baptist Church**

**54 Brighton Street**

**P.O. Box 438**

**Belmont, MA 02478**

[www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org](http://www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org)

## ONE THING WE NEED

We often hear and read of the need for revival. We need it, but I am afraid that not many of God’s children really want it. *You will never have revival unless you want it!* God’s Word says, “**If my people, which are called by my name, will 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.**” Notice, we are to take the initiative! You must humble yourself, you must pray (few are serious about prayer), you must turn from your sin (we think we are OK). We are more like those at Laodicea: “**Rich...in need of nothing.**” We will not acknowledge our sin and lack of power. You will never have revival without the filling of the Holy Spirit. What is revival but death to self and the filling of the Spirit. God commands: “**Be ye filled with the Spirit.**” Someone said if the Holy Spirit was secretly taken from the Church, very few people would know the difference. I believe that is true. You can’t be filled with the Spirit and be filled with yourself and your own ways. Tozer said, “*We would like to be filled with the Spirit and yet go on doing as we please.*” Now, people don’t get filled with the Holy Spirit as a group. It is each one for himself. If the Church is to be revived, Spirit filled, it will be one at a time. What about you? Do you want revival? Will you pay the price? Moody said when he was in California he saw two fields, one full of vegetation and the other all dried up. His guide said the difference is one is irrigated and one is not. Moody said the problem with many Christians is they are all dried up. The water of the Spirit is missing.