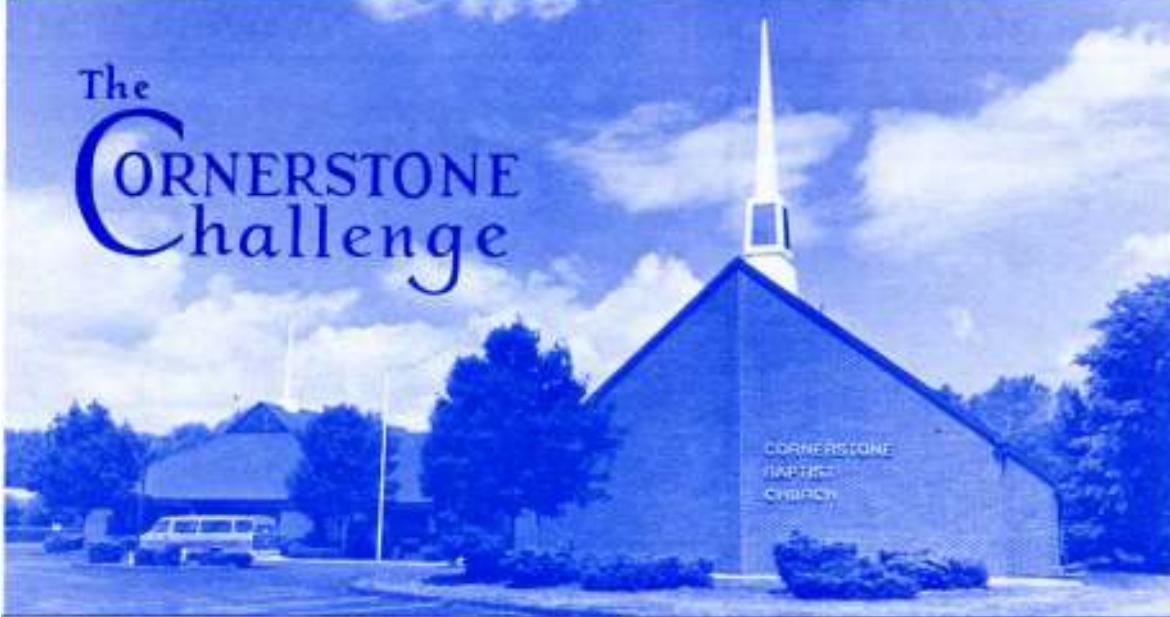


The CORNERSTONE Challenge



A
Ministry
of:

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Editor

OUR GREATEST ENEMY.

June 2015

It seems to me that greatest enemy of the child of God is not the devil; it is not the world. Our greatest enemy is SELF! Now, this foe takes many different forms and sad to say many believers do not seem to recognize the danger. One of the more subtle ways of the old nature is SELF SATISFACTION. Perhaps we have made some progress in the Christian life, but we have settled upon the notion that we are all that we need to be, and that we are doing all that can be done. There is no stretching out for more or better things. The widow of the great artist Opie said of him: "I never saw him satisfied with one of his productions, and often, very often, have I seen him enter my sitting-room, and throwing himself in an agony of despondence on the sofa, exclaim, 'I never, never shall be a painter as long as I live!'" Now, that was a noble form of despair which is totally unknown to the *average* would-be painters or artists. Beloved Christian, I challenge you to ask God to help you come to grips with that kind of attitude and dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ and His work! And never waver from it until you are perfectly holy (which of course you never will be in this life) and you have accomplished all that He has for you to do. There is always more ground to be possessed even as Joshua challenged the Israelites of his day.

One curse of the Church is that many believers are content to be *average* and not a few do not mind being a little below *average*. You attend church a little, give a little, witness a little (maybe), pray a little and so on. God is looking for, and the lateness of the hour demands, that every Christian be completely sold out to God. *Average* Christians never did get the job done and they never will! Over and over again we read in God's Word that He expects us to be sold out, totally committed, completely surrendered to Christ. The Apostle Paul was no *average* Christian. Listen to the words he penned under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: "**Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**" ~*Philippians 3:13,14*. That doesn't sound like *average*. That doesn't sound like very many Christians in our day. Too many are living in the past, remembering their former days of spiritual growth or victory; but they have had little or nothing for some time now. Not many are reaching forth...straining to accomplish more in the name of and for Jesus Christ. Never have so many lived for ease and pleasure as the present generation in America. And many Christians have caught this deadly virus. There is a good deal of talk about revival, but where do we see people who are willing to pay the price of revival. Where are those who will empty themselves of SELF that they might be filled with the Holy Spirit? How many Christians do you know of whom you can say, "I believe he is filled with the Holy Spirit?" Child of God, Jesus is calling and He is saying, "**Take up your cross and follow Me.**" Will you take up the challenge; obey His command? Will you give up SELF; surrender to Jesus who went to Calvary for you? Will you say, "**Here am I Lord, send me!**"

CORNERSTONE NEWS

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

JULY 12 – 17, 2015

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

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

Refreshments under the tent - 10:45

THEME:

"IT IS HIGH TIME TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP"

SEVERAL SPEAKERS * SPECIAL MUSIC

FELLOWSHIP TIME * REFRESHMENTS

* * * * *

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE!

A preacher told of an old country store that had this sign over the door: "*There is no place anywhere near this place like this place so this must be the place.*" He suggested it ought to be placed on the Church. The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. If we stop to think about it, we would probably not want to trade places with anyone else. One man became dissatisfied with his house and put it up for sale. Then, he began to look for another house. He saw one advertised which was the house of his dreams. How shocked he was to find it was his old house. Let's all take the attitude, "*There's no place like this place...It's not perfect, still, there's no place like this place*"

YOUTH CORNER

THE FAITH WAY IS GOD'S WAY. It is God's way to have your sins forgiven – have faith in Christ and His death on the cross for your sins. It is the way to live the Christian life. God says, "**Without faith it is impossible to please Him.**" ~*Hebrews 11:6*. A school teacher gave three bright students a difficult problem. He said, "You will find it very hard, but I promise you there is a way to solve the problem." After several attempts without success, one of them gave up saying, "There is no way!" A little later, the second pupil also gave up. He said, "I think it can be done but I do not know how." The third student worked on for some time and though he was somewhat worn out, labored on saying, "I know there is a way because the Master has said it." We believe and act upon the Word of God because it is the work of the Master. If the Master, the Lord Jesus has said it, it must be so! One of the simplest definitions of faith I know is "taking God at His Word." It has been said: "God said it, I believe it; that settles it!" I think a better statement is, "God said it; that settles it!" The Bible says concerning the Christian: "**For we walk by faith and not by sight.**" ~*II Corinthians 5:7*. I John 5:4 says: "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." C.T. Studd said: "Yes, let us ever see the impossible, Yes, the utterly impossible, and then go to God and ask Him to do it. This glorifies Him, magnifies Him, or gives Him a chance to magnify Himself – which is best of all."

ONE SMALL WORD TEENS (AND OTHERS) NEED TO USE! Want to be a faithful Christian? Do you want to avoid a great deal of misery and heartache? Would you like to have victory over sin? Do you really want to live for God? Then, you must learn to say NO! A little but most necessary word. Over 100 years ago Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, "Learn to say NO! It will be of more value to you than to learn Latin." And that was a day when Latin was far more useful than our day. Christian, you need to say NO to worldly friends, to such things as alcohol, smoking, carnal pleasures, television and whatever is contrary to good Christian conduct. Young ladies, say NO to advances that will ruin your womanhood! It is a very short word. It is a good word. It is a most needed word. It is easy to pronounce. It needs no explanation. Ask God for the courage to say NO and mean it. You cannot please Christ without saying NO to some things. Just learn to say NO when you are tempted to sin. There are some who will not like to hear it, but one thing is certain; they will surely understand it! Just learn to say NO! It won't make you popular but it will save you a lot of grief!

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

VATICAN RECOGNIZES STATE OF PALESTINE.

The Vatican officially recognized the state of Palestine in a new treaty finalized Wednesday, immediately sparking Israeli ire and accusations that the move hurt peace prospects. The treaty, which concerns the activities of the Catholic Church in Palestinian territory, makes clear that the Holy See has switched its diplomatic recognition from the Palestine Liberation Organization to the state of Palestine. The Vatican had welcomed the decision by the U.N. General Assembly in 2012 to recognize a Palestinian state. But the treaty is the first legal document negotiated between the Holy See and the Palestinian state and constitutes official diplomatic recognition. "Yes, it's a recognition that the state exists," said the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi. The Israeli foreign ministry said it was "disappointed" by the development. "This move does not promote the peace process and distances the Palestinian leadership from returning to direct and bilateral negotiations," the ministry said in a text message. "Israel will study the agreement and will consider its steps accordingly." The treaty was finalized days before Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visits Pope Francis at the Vatican. Abbas is heading to Rome to attend Francis' canonization Sunday of two new saints from the Holy Land. The Vatican has been referring unofficially to the state of Palestine for at least a year. During Pope Francis' 2014 visit to the Holy Land, the Vatican's official program referred to Abbas as the president of the "state of Palestine." In the Vatican's latest yearbook, the Palestinian ambassador to the Holy See is listed as representing "Palestine (state of)." —*NewsMax* (5/13/15). Ed. Pope Francis is certainly making his presence felt in the world!

GIRL SCOUTS NO ACCEPT BOYS WHO CLAIM

TO BE BOYS. A new Girl Scouts of America (GSA) policy states it will extend membership to boys who identify as girls. The group says on its [website](#), "If the child is recognized by the family and school/community as a girl and lives culturally as a girl, then Girl Scouts is an organization that can serve her in a setting that is both emotionally and physically safe." This means girls in the organization will be forced to recognize and accept transgenderism as a normal lifestyle. Boys in skirts, boys in make-up and boys in tents will become a part of the program. This change will put young innocent girls at risk. Adults are willing to experiment on our kids - both the boys who are confused and the girls who will wonder why a boy in a dress is in the bathroom with them. The

Girl Scouts of America has lost its moral compass and needs your encouragement to rescind this new policy. Since 2003, bad policies like this have resulted in GSA's enrollment dropping by over one million girls, almost 27% of its membership. —*AFA* (5/15/15). Ed. This is just one more indication that this country has lost any sense of morality. For a boy say he is a girl (or for a girl to say she is a boy) is ludicrous and for his parents and other adults to agree with him (or her) is madness.

MUSLIM POPULATION TO EQUAL CHRISTIANS BY 2050.

{Christian here stands for all kinds}. Muslims will come close to equaling Christians world wide by 2050 while Christians in the United States will decline to two-thirds of the population, a major study by the Pew Research Center has found. A number of studies, including a survey released in March by the Barna Group, found that Christians in the U.S. are indeed on the decline at the expense of the growing numbers of "nones." The Barna study found that one in four adults in the United States now identifies as atheist or agnostic... Pew's detailed report published online and coming in at 245 pages, found that in 2010, Christians made up 31 percent of the world's population, with 2.2 billion adherents. Islam was identified as the second largest religion with 1.6 billion followers. Projections show, however by 2050 Muslims are expected to increase in numbers by 73 percent. If the trend stays true Muslims will make up 2.8 billion or 30 percent of the world's population while Christianity will have 2.9 billion followers or 31 percent of the total. In terms of fertility rates, Muslims have the highest at 3.1 children per woman while Christians see 2.7 children per woman. —*Sword of the Lord* (5/8/15)

AMERICA RATHER HAVE "GAY" PRESIDENT THAT AN EVANGELICAL ONE.

According to the Wall Street Journal/NBC poll 52% of Americans would be comfortable or enthusiastic with an evangelical Christian president – up from 41% in 2006. However the percentage of Americans that would be comfortable or enthusiastic with a homosexual president shot up 18% from 43 % to 61% now. Dr. Alex McFarland, co-host of American Family Radio's Exploring the World program ... said, "Christianity – and even America itself – is dependent on there being moral values. The "gay" agenda is dependent upon there being no moral values" McFarland contends that the moral fabric of America has been torn – a reality that has been experienced in our schools, media, entertainment industry and the White House... —*OneNewsNow* (5/21/15)

A PREDICTION COME TRUE

About 100 years ago William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army said, "The chief danger of the 20th century will be: RELIGION WITHOUT THE HOLY GHOST, FORGIVENESS WITHOUT REPENTANCE, SALVATION WITHOUT REGENERATION, AND HEAVEN WITHOUT HELL. Now, I am sure that Booth was no prophet but his prediction has certainly come to pass. RELIGION WITHOUT THE HOLY GHOST: Christianity without the Holy Ghost abounds everywhere! Many a professing Christian has nothing more than "**A form of godliness but denying the power thereof.**" These days we mostly see what men can do - not what God can do. FORGIVENESS WITHOUT REPENTANCE: We see few repentant sinners today and fewer repentant saints! Someone said the three hardest words to pronounce in the English language are "I was wrong." Repentance is more than being sorry for your sins but I would like to see some who were sorry. SALVATION WITHOUT REGENERATION: We have professions of faith , but few changed lives. There are decisions but it is hard to believe that many are genuine for few evidence any real change (II Corinthians 5:17). HEAVEN WITHOUT HELL: Everybody believes in heaven...very few in hell. I had a man laugh right in my face for preaching such a thing on the streets of Boston. Even in some fundamental circles, belief in hell is professed but it is not preached. Many act as if they don't believe in a thing it's not true. God says: "**PREACH THE WORD... IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON.**"

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SIGHTS I CAN NEVER FORGET

Sir James V. Simpson, M.D. (the Discoverer of Chloroform) said: "When I was a boy I saw a sight I can never forget - a man tied to a cart and dragged, before the people's eyes, through the streets of my native town, his back torn and bleeding from the lash. It was a shameful punishment. For many offences? No, for one offense. Did any of the townsmen offer to divide the lashes with him? No, he who committed the offense bore the penalty all alone. It was the penalty of human law. When I was a student at university I saw another sight I never can forget - a man brought out to die. His arms were pinioned, his face was already as pale as death - thousands of eager eyes were upon him as he came from jail. Did any man ask to die in his room? Did any friend come and loose the rope, and say, 'Put it around my neck, I will die instead?' No, he underwent the sentence of the law. For many offences? No, for one offense. He had stolen a money parcel from a stagecoach. He broke the law at one point and he died for it. I saw another sight - myself a sinner standing on the brink of ruin, deserving naught but hell. For one sin? No, for many, many sins committed against the unchanging laws of God. But again I looked, and saw Jesus, my Substitute scourged in my stead, and dying on the cross for me. I looked, and cried, and was forgiven." "**For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**" Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin? Why not do it right now?