

AN URGENT CALL TO PREACHERS.

August 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 amusement 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 really on fire for God these days. I am afraid that if many believers saw such a one, they would declare that he was an extremist. The truth is that most Christians are pretty comfortable and they don’t want anyone to wake them up spiritually or 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’d better keep your sermons short and sprinkle them with plenty of jokes and witty sayings. I know this will be viewed as very negative and a little morbid! But I think it must grieve the heart of God to hear jokes on serious Biblical subjects; even on the Bible itself. A.W. Tozer said in his earlier days Christians believed that the amusements of this world were not for believers; *“So, it was understood that when you got converted and got filled with the 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 come a violent break with that irresponsible, amusement-mad, paganized, pseudo-religion which passes today for the faith of Christ and which is being spread all over the world by unspiritual men...”* I read several 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 they are spoiling their people and the truth for which many of their brethren have died. While it will bring the wrath of some upon you, what we need to do is to tell the carnal babies which predominate in our churches (and pulpits), 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, that you are stunting the growth of those who may have a little maturity and desire for spiritual things? Here’s a question for you: “What are you trying to accomplish with the people of God? Was your call to the ministry a call to keep everybody happy; entertain believers until Jesus comes? Were you called to be an entertainer or a holy man of God; like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul? Do you think God is pleased with shallow, carnal ministries which cater to the old nature of believers?” 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 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 if anyone knows what that is all about. It will take a lot of heart searching and repentance! To the Laodicean Church Jesus said, **“Repent!”** Ah, but we of the Laodicean age think we are doing just fine and **“have need of nothing.”** Pastor, never forget it, God holds you accountable for how you lead His Church!
- Challenge Repeat!

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER ON IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's leader says an "aggressive and confrontational speech" by Iran's supreme leader shows that any expectations a nuclear deal would soften the militancy of the Islamic Republic were misguided. On Saturday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the agreement won't change Iran's approach to the United States and it would continue supporting the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas and Palestinian militant groups. Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Iran doesn't "even try to hide the fact" that it will use a looming lifting of sanctions to further arm regional militant groups and to oppose American and Israeli interests around the Middle East. Netanyahu has been among the fiercest critics of the nuclear agreement reached with Iran last week.

PROPOSED HOMOSEXUAL LEGISLATION HAS OMINUS SIGNS FOR BIBLE BELIEVERS!

LGBT groups and their allies in Congress are pushing for a sweeping piece of legislation that if enacted would, according to critics, limit religious freedom in the United States. Known as the Equality Act, the bill would add the classifications of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as well as expand the level of businesses that must adhere to the Act. Congressman David N. Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat who is an openly gay member of Congress, introduced the anti-discrimination legislation last Thursday. "In most states, you can get married on Saturday, post your wedding photos to Facebook on Sunday, and then get fired on Monday just because of who you are. This is completely wrong," [stated Rep. Cicilline](#). "Fairness and equality are core American values. No American citizen should ever have to live their lives in fear of discrimination." Joining Cicilline are over 160 House cosponsors, including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and Congressman John Lewis. Despite the Democratic support, it is not expected to pass, or even voted on in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. The legislation does indicate, however, what Democrats might seek to accomplish if they do gain control of Congress. The proposed legislation has the backing of liberal groups like the Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBT rights group in the nation... Christian Post (7/28/15) Ed. What it means is that sincere religious beliefs will have to be subjected to homosexual or other ideologies. Mrs. Clinton has already said the religion will have to learn to learn to adapt.

MORMON CHURCH, LARGEST SPONSOR OF BOY SCOUTS TO RECONSIDER.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has said it will be re-evaluating its long-standing participation in the Boy Scouts of America, following the latter's decision to end its blanket ban on openly gay adult leaders. "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is deeply troubled by today's vote by the Boy Scouts of America National Executive Board. In spite of a request to delay the vote, it was scheduled at a time in July when members of the Church's governing councils are out of their offices and do not meet. When the leadership of the Church resumes its regular schedule of meetings in August, the century-long association with scouting will need to be examined," the Mormon church [said](#) on Monday. – Copied

THE RUSSIAN THREAT! The nation is fiercely debating the Iran nuclear deal and the significance of the Ayatollah's "death to America" tweets when the real problem is Iran's sponsor, Russia, and its lunatic ruler, Vladimir Putin. By controlling the media, killing off the opposition, and smearing Ukrainian freedom fighters as Nazis, the former KGB colonel has his country worked into a collective frenzy over a concocted Western threat. Some experts believe Russia is preparing for nuclear war on a global scale. If Putin carries out his threats, America is no more. In this case, the U.S. is facing not only a nuclear weapons program, which is the case with Iran, but what our top generals are calling an "existential threat" to our survival as a nation... military doctrine that anticipates using nuclear weapons, and the regime has embarked on "a massive strategic modernization program to deploy new nuclear weapons and delivery systems missile defense to use against us. Geopolitical analyst Jeff Nyquist tells Accuracy in Media, "The Russians became angry and threatening when NATO tried to build a very modest missile defense system to stop an Iranian missile. Yet Russia has over 10,000 dual purpose SAM/ABMs for defense against our missiles and will be deploying a new ABM prototype next year." He adds, "Russia has potential war winning advantages over the U.S. and NATO—not necessarily in the number of nuclear weapons but in the number of its ABM batteries, and the upgrading of these batteries with a new generation of interceptor rockets while the American side makes no effort in this direction..." Russia can obliterate the United States, a fact that has been highlighted recently by no less than three top American generals. The term, "existential threat," ...means the Russians can destroy the United States as a nation.

YOUTH CORNER

Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, nominated to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said, "If you want to talk about a nation that could pose an existential threat to the United States, I'd have to point to Russia." -NewsMax (7/28/15)

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.

WILL IT BE "I WON'T OR I WILL?" Quite a few years ago now, the warden in Sing Sing Prison in New York said that it made him tremble when he heard a boy say, "I won't," to his parents. He said it seemed to him that boy had already started down the road to the penitentiary. The spirit of rebellion was beginning to be the master of that boy's mind and heart. It is very serious for one to speak to his parents like this. Then, think how dreadful it must be to say "I won't" to Almighty God. Yet, this is what everyone is saying who refuses to repent and trust Jesus Christ as his Savior. If you are not saved, bow your head now and say, "Yes," to God. Trust Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin! You will be eternally sorry if you say No!

CORNERSTONE NEWS

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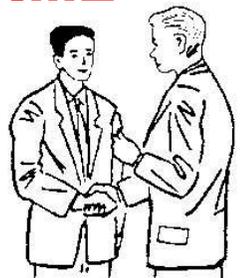
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**"THERE IS A FRIEND THAT STICKETH
CLOSER THAN A BROTHER." Prov. 18:24**

FACING THE MUSIC

You've heard that expression I am sure. Do you know where it comes from? I have read that it originated in Japan. There was one man in the imperial orchestra who could not play a note. He was a person of great wealth and influence and demanded that he be given a place because he wanted to "perform" before the emperor. Finally, the conductor agreed to let him sit in the second row even though he could not read music. He was given a flute, and when a concert would begin, he would pucker his lips, move his fingers without making a sound. This went on for some years until a new conductor was appointed. He required all orchestra members to personally audition before him. Appointments were made and one by one orchestra members performed in his presence. When it came the flutist's turn, he was frantic and pretended to be sick. However, after a while a doctor was called to examine him and he was found to be well. Shamefacedly, he had to confess that he was a fake. He was unable to "face the music." That reminds me of a good many in our churches (maybe you are one of them); they go through all the right motions, but they are faking it. The Bible says, **"Everyone of us must give an account of himself to God."** I assure you the Great Conductor already knows if you are faking it. Some day, maybe sooner than you think, you are going to have to "face the music." You may be lost in the "orchestra" right now, but one day you are going to have to stand all alone before God. Are you "playing" or "pretending."

Cornerstone Baptist Church
54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

A MAN SENT FROM GOD

A. W. Tozer said, "John's (John the Baptist) greatness was this - **'He was a man sent from God.'** ~**John 1:6**...You cannot deny that the life and vitality of the Christian Church lie in the spiritual leadership of men anointed of the Holy Ghost. I dare to tell you that there is a danger in too much democracy in the life of the Church... I do not believe that God expects the Church to thrive and mature and grow just on plain democratic principles." Of course, most Baptists think that the Church is a democracy, but that is because they never bothered to study the Scriptures. Search the New Testament epistles and see if you can find any congregational voting! Over and over again, God has called a man and used him to accomplish His work. God sent a man, Noah...Abraham...Moses...Peter...Paul, etc. God never sent a board or committee. Well, what about Elders and Deacons? Do you mean that it is wrong to have these or other committees in the Church? No, but it is pretty difficult to get much accomplished with a group of individuals, especially if each has his own idea about what ought to be done. Few realize that Elders, Deacons and other committees have been called to help the man God has called! Sometimes the problem on these boards is some are not content to follow...they think they must lead. In the local Church, God has called a man, a Pastor, and He gives others to help that man get the job done. He's God's man who leads the way! He is not simply a dictator, but he is God's appointed man to lead the sheep! Sheep need a shepherd, not a committee. Three times in Hebrews 13 it says in effect: **"Obey them that have the rule over you."** Let's do it God's way and have God's blessing!