



## NOT IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS.

November 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 a fanatic. 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 had better sprinkle your sermon with plenty of jokes and witty sayings. Now, I know all 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 a couple of 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 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. **“If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways...”** To the Laodicean Church Jesus said, **“Repent!”**

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This is always one of the most inspiring services we have all year. *Join us and make it a real Thanksgiving to God.* After all, that's what it was in the beginning! Just how grateful are we to God for His salvation and multiplied blessings? **"Be ye thankful."** The truth is few Americans are grateful to God for all His blessings. How sad to see even Christians who think more of a ballgame than they do of God! Let us **"Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good."**

**THURSDAY, NOV. 26<sup>TH</sup> - 8 P.M.**

**Gospel Song Service,** a time for **Testimonies** and a **Special Message.** Having guests for dinner? Invite them to come along. **Let's put the Lord first!**



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### HE LOVED THE CHURCH

A large gathering of distinguished scientists had been listening spellbound to the masterly expositions of Michael Faraday. For an hour he held his brilliant audience enthralled as he demonstrated the nature and properties of the magnet. He had brought his lecture to a close with an experiment so novel, so bewildering, so triumphant, that for sometime after he resumed his seat, the house rocked with enthusiastic applause. And then, the Prince of Wales - afterwards King Edward VII - rose to propose a motion of congratulation. The resolution, having been duly seconded, was carried with renewed thunderous applause. The assembly waited for Faraday's reply. But he did not appear. Only his most intimate friends knew what had become of him. He was an elder in a little church - a church that never boasted more than 20 members. The hour at which Faraday ended his lecture was the hour of the weekly prayer meeting. *What does the Church mean to you?*

It is sad to see many Fundamental Baptist Churches closing their doors on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Shame on the Pastors who do this, largely I believe because the people don't want to come. They have other things to do. So what is the Pastor to do? It is clear - be faithful and keep the doors open!

**DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR SOUL!** Some years ago I read this story. An evangelist was preaching in a Church. During the invitation, he said, "Don't gamble with your soul, trust Christ as your savior right now." In the front row of the balcony, was a young couple. As they were singing the closing song, the young man wrote a note and gave it to the young lady. She left it in the hymnbook. They did not respond to the invitation. Later than night there was a terrible accident where the couple died. The Pastor was called to visit the parents, and he went along with the evangelist. On the way back the evangelist asked if they could go by the Church. He said that he would like to read what was in that note. When they found the hymnbook and the note, they read the following: "I'll gamble with my soul if you will gamble with yours." They gambled and lost! Young person, do not gamble with your soul. Many gamble that they will be able to do it later, when it is more convenient. I plead with you to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin today. Jesus said, **"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."** ~*Mark 8:36.* God also has said in His Word, **"Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."** ~*Proverbs 27:1.* You have no guarantee of tomorrow! **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."** ~*Acts 16:31.* Do it today! God says, **"NOW is the day of salvation..."**

**DON'T WORRY!** God's Word says, **"Take therefore, no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself."** ~*Matthew 6:34.* M. R. DeHaan told of his first trip upon the great bridge over the Mackinac Straits. He said at a distance it looked as though it went straight up and could not possibly be negotiated by a car. However, as one got closer, it seemed to drop off into a long gentle incline. It was a matter of perspective. So it is with our days and our problems. As we look ahead they seem so foreboding, but when faced, they are often not near as difficult as we had imagined. Furthermore, we have the help of the Lord! No matter how big our problems may look -- remember that God is bigger! **"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart..."** ~*Proverbs 3:5,6*

### 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

### **SEATTLE MAYOR PROPOSES SHARIA APPROVED LOANS FOR MUSLIMS.**

The mayor of Seattle and his housing committee have unveiled a plan to increase housing in the city, with a portion of the plan proposing the offering of Sharia Law compliant loans for Muslim residents. Among the number of ideas offered to make housing more affordable for Seattle residents is a segment that addresses Muslim beliefs, as Sharia Law forbids usury for its adherents. For our low -- and moderate income Muslim neighbors who follow Sharia Law which prohibits interest or fees for loans of money --- there are limited options for financing a home. The proposed plan reads, "Some Muslims are unable to use conventional mortgage products due to religious convictions. The city will convene leaders, housing non-profits and community leaders to explore the best options for increasing access to Sharia-compliant loan products to help these residents become home owners in Seattle." it says. -TBC (Sept. 2015). Ed. This is amazing, but apparently true!

### **CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR SIGNS RIGHT TO DIE LAW.**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) -- Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation Monday making California the fifth state in the nation to recognize a right to die for terminally ill patients, saying the emotionally charged bill forced him to consider "what I would want in the face of my own death." Brown, a lifelong Catholic and former Jesuit seminarian, said he acted after discussing the issue with many people, including a Catholic bishop and two of his own doctors. "I do not know what I would do if I were dying in prolonged and excruciating pain. I am certain, however, that it would be a comfort to be able to consider the options afforded by this bill," the governor wrote in a signing statement that accompanied his signature. -AOL News

### **FRANCE'S TOP WEATHERMAN SUSPENDED FOR QUESTIONING GLOBAL WARMING.**

The following is excerpted "France's top weatherman sparks storm," *The Telegraph*, London, Oct. 15, 2015: "Every night, France's chief weatherman has told the nation how much wind, sun or rain they can expect the following day. Now Philippe Verdier, a household name for his nightly forecasts on France 2, has been taken off the air after a more controversial announcement--criticizing the world's top climate change experts. Mr. Verdier claims in the book *Climate Investigation* that leading climatologists and political leaders have 'taken the world hostage' with misleading data. In a promotional video, Mr. Verdier said: 'Every night I address five million

French people to talk to you about the wind, the clouds and the sun. And yet there is something important, very important that I haven't been able to tell you, because it's neither the time nor the place to do so.' He added, 'We are hostage to a planetary scandal over climate change--a war machine whose aim is to keep us in fear.' His outspoken views led France 2 to take him off the air starting this Monday. 'I received a letter telling me not to come. I'm in shock,' he told RTL radio. 'This is a direct extension of what I say in my book, namely that any contrary views must be eliminated.' ... FBIS (10/23/15)

### **IRS PROMISE TO CHRISTIANS NO GUARANTEE**

The Internal Revenue Service will not revoke the tax-exempt status of religious organizations that object to same-sex marriage. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen has promised at least twice in recent weeks... But some tax experts say the commissioner's commitments are not a guarantee of tax shelter for organizations with religious objections to the Supreme Court's nationwide legalization of homosexual marriage...Michael Batts, a CPA who specializes in nonprofit organizations told Baptist Press that some types of exemption may be in jeopardy. "... The commissioner's comments on federal tax exempt status for religious organizations do not establish legal authority on the matter and they are not the end of the story." Batts, managing partner of a national CPA firm that exclusively serves nonprofits, said in a written comment. "... Federal, state, and local officials administering other areas of law are not bound by the comments of the IRS commissioner or for the most part by federal tax law. -Baptist Press

### **CORRUPTION AT THE VATICAN - NOTHING NEW!**

VATICAN CITY (AP) -- The Vatican is bracing for more allegations of financial wrongdoing and mismanagement with the publication next week of two books that underscore the challenges Pope Francis is facing to reform the Holy See. Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi's "Merchants in the Temple" follows his blockbuster 2012 book, "His Holiness," based on confidential papal correspondence detailing corruption and political intrigue in the Vatican. The so-called Vatileaks scandal that ensued resulted in the conviction of Pope Benedict XVI's butler for leaking the documents, and some say, to Benedict's historic resignation. Italian journalist Emiliano Fittipaldi is releasing "Avarice: Documents Revealing Wealth, Scandals and Secrets of Francis' Church." Fittipaldi writes for L'Espresso newsweekly, which has published some of the most damaging leaks of Francis' papacy, including most recently the letter by 13 cardinals warning Francis about his family synod. AOL News (10/29/15)

## ENTHUSIASM NEEDED

A well meaning woman wrote to Gypsy Smith asking him to come to London to preach. In the letter she said, "I have a meeting I want you to come and address. It is only a small gathering and **it will take nothing out of you!**" Gypsy Smith made the following reply: "I am sorry, Madam, I cannot come, and if I did come it would be of no use to you if I did come, **for if it takes nothing out of me, it will not do anybody any good.**" How true! We need a baptism of holy enthusiasm these days. Most Christians are about half dead when it comes the things of God though they may be very much alive when it comes to making money or doing other things. You probably do not like the statement, but the reason is no doubt because it is true! The useful Christian is a man of faith, but he is also a man of works...Did you ever see one to the contrary? God's admonition to us all is: "**Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...**" It is simply contrary to the nature of God to use lazy or indifferent people. Service that costs you little or nothing is worth just that - nothing! The world is going to hell - most of it untold about the Gospel right here in America. C. H. Spurgeon said, "Impossibilities will disappear when zeal is fervent." Men who became great servants of God, like William Carey, David Livingstone, Hudson Taylor, etc., disavowed any special intellect or ability but simply put everything into their service for Christ. I CHALLENGE you (that's what this paper is all about) to put your best, your all into the work of Christ! He's worthy of no less!

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## RESPONSE TO PREACHING

**I Timothy 4:1-3: "I charge thee therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom; preach the word: be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..."** *"Everyone who has come to the years of responsibility seems to have gone on the defensive. Even some of you who have known me for years are surely on the defensive - you have your guard up all the time! I know that you are not afraid of me, but you are afraid, nevertheless, of what I am going to say. Probably every faithful preacher today is fencing with masters as he faces his congregation. The guard is always up. The quick parry is always ready. It is very hard for me to accept the fact that it is now very rare for anyone to come into the house of God with his guard completely down, head bowed and with silent confession 'Dear Lord, I am ready and willing to hear whatever You will speak to my heart today.' We have become so learned and so worldly and so sophisticated and so blasé and so bored and so religiously tired that the clouds of glory seem to have gone from us."*-A.W. Tozer. I wholeheartedly agree! I once heard a preacher say, Christians today are virtually immovable for they have read all the books, heard all the preachers, got all the answers and believe themselves to be in need of nothing. Most Christians are in a rut; they either do not realize it or will not acknowledge it! When you preach on revival, they act as though you have a nerve speaking on the subject. We need some broken hearts and some broken heads (spiritually speaking)! Laodiceanism has settled in on Fundamentalism. God says, "**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.**" ~Revelation 3:19. Will we do it?