

The PROJECTOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

DR. DAYTON HOBBS, Editor

P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572

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THE PERFORMANCE OF LOVE

I Corinthians 13:4-7

by Randall Douglas, Missionary

We learn what love is by knowing and observing what love does. In verses 1-3, love was absent in the exercise of gifts. Now, in verses 4-7, love is present in the expression of grace. There is no mention of spiritual gifts in this section.

I. LOVE'S FIGURES

Paul depicted love in four ways.

A. Love is a Person

Love is personified. That is, Paul gives love human characteristics. In verses 1-3, he magnified love. Why? His motive was to transform, not simply inform, the Corinthians. Paul is not analyzing love. He is admonishing the Corinthian believers. Each characteristic of love was a checklist by which they could compare their lives. Paul wanted them to see love in its acts and attitudes and change their habits to conform to

love's ways. They were to apply divine principles, not merely appreciate them. The Corinthians were to become persons of love. Whatever love did, they were to do. Whatever love did not do, they were to refrain from doing. Even though love is never perfect in human life, it ought to be present.

Paul, as it were, clothes an intangible concept, love, with flesh and breathes life into it and it becomes a living entity. This world takes this concept of love and does the same but it becomes a strange mutation of sin, a horrible monster of lust and lunacy. But Paul, by God's grace, creates love, not in the image of man, but in the image of God, for God is love.

B. Love is a Portrait

The Apostle is painting a portrait. The Lord Jesus Christ is posing for that portrait. He is the model, Master, miracle, and manifestation of love. Each description of love is a brush-stroke on the canvas, highlighting the life, ministry, and character of our blessed Saviour. Jesus Christ is the Person love portrays.

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come
down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.*

See Love, page 4

What's Inside

Stars of the Morning	3
<i>That Dog Spot</i>	
Gospel Projects Press Order Form	5
Teaching Tips	7
<i>Astronomer's Club</i>	
Focus on Religion.....	7

THE APOSTASY OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH

Part Seven

Jeremiah 23:9-31

by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Every time I read through the book of Jeremiah I get stuck in the 23rd chapter. It is one of my favorite chapters because it tells us a great deal about the last days. In verse 20 of chapter 23, it says, "In the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly:", or, you shall understand it clearly. Some of the things spoken would be understood more clearly in the latter days.

Latter Days

Now the latter days of Israel and the latter days of the Church are different in some respects; however, they blend together in the end time. Apostasy is apostasy. There are certain characteristics that identify apostasy, whether it is Israel or whether it is the

See Apostasy, page 9

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EDITOR'S DESK

"Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16b). These words of instruction and advice given by Jesus to His disciples as He sent them out to minister as "sheep in the midst of wolves" in their generation offer good instruction for those of us who desire to be good disciples of Christ in the twentieth century as we attempt to minister to our own untoward generation.

How do we best do that when all hell seems to have broken loose in our beloved United States of America? First, let us be wise enough to go to the Word of God for our marching orders and ask ourselves three questions: (1). What is the responsibility of the Church? (2). What is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit? And (3). What is the responsibility of the individual believer in the dispensation of Grace?

(1). The responsibility of the Church is spelled out for us in Acts 15:14 "Simeon (Peter) hath declared how God at the first (for the first time) did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for (worthy of) His name." This is in harmony with Ephesians (the Church epistle) 4:11,12, where we are given to understand that God gave men with certain gifts to the Church "for the perfecting of the saints, for (unto) the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ". Evangelism and Teaching; "calling out" and "perfecting" a people worthy of bearing His name is the divine purpose of the Church in this age.

(2). The work of the Holy Spirit, as I understand the Scriptures, seems to be primarily two fold: a. Teaching and bringing unto our remembrance the things Christ has said (John 14:26) as well as testifying of Christ (John 15:26) and; b. Hindering or restraining lawlessness. (II Thess. 2:7,8)

(3). The work of the individual believer is, of course, tied to the calling of the Church and the work of the Holy Spirit, for the individual believer is a member of His body and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We as individuals are to be involved in the work of evangelism, and we also have a responsibility to be "salt" and "light". (Ephesians 5:1-13). We are to reprove the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11); however, the reproof, according to verse 13, is to be done by the light. This light is primarily the Word of God which is shed abroad in our hearts, and our own personal testimony which is to be above reproach.

Conclusion: (1). The work of the Church is evangelism and instruction in the Word, not protesting, demonstrating, marching or confronting immorality. If individuals choose to become involved in those things, that is their business. I don't believe it is the proper course of action for individuals, but that is just my judgment in the matter. However, let's not get the local church involved. (2). The work of the Holy Spirit, Who obviously does His work through individual believers, testifies of Christ and restrains lawlessness. This restraint is primarily by the faithful preaching of the Word of God by preachers and the demonstration in the lives of individual believers of the light produced by the faithful preaching of the Word of God, whose lives and personal testimony also restrain lawlessness. This lawlessness (iniquity) is not the breaking of man's laws but total disregard for the laws of God. Jeremiah 23:22, "But if they (the prophets) had stood in my counsel (not that of psychologists), and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way (singular), and from the evil of their doings (plural)."

LETTERS

Dear folks,

We were so delighted to receive *The Projector*. Thank you so much for sending this. It is a source of excellent reading material and valuable information... In these days of compromise and weak stands, it is a blessing to be associated with you folks who are taking a strong posture against the flood of toleration, infiltration and acceptance.

Because of Calvary,
D.T.
S.C.

Dear Dr. Hobbs,

Thank you so much for placing us on your mailing list for "The Projector." It is a wonderful outreach.

We appreciated all of the material in the two issues you sent but especially the articles on Apostasy, which seems to be all that is left of the old-line denominations of which we *were* once a part.

We appreciated your comment that "Nothing in the Bible says you are supposed to walk an aisle, etc." This cut-and-dried formula has always bothered us since "walking down the aisle" and the rest seem to be equated with being "born again." It seems to us that popular evangelists divorce the "born again" of John 3:7, from John 3:8: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, *but canst not tell* whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

We have enclosed a small gift.

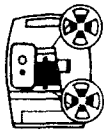
Sincerely in our Lord,
W.W.
N.Y.

Dear Dr. Hobbs,

I thank God for your excellent magazine.

In His Service,
P.C.
FL

The PROJECTOR



EDITOR
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

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Stars of the Morning
By "Aunt Carolyn"

THAT DOG SPOT

Pete was all of six years old before he got a brother, and he thought the idea was just great! He would help care for him, teach him how to play ball, share his ice cream and all that, but when Mom came home from the hospital with that wriggling, wailing bundle of arms and legs, it was almost too much. He tried to help as a big brother should, but he didn't know how to help, and the baby seemed to take up all of Mother's time. What was a fellow to do?

Several days passed. Pete was trying to get adjusted to this new turn in his life when Dad came home one evening with something stuffed under his coat. It was probably something for the new baby. Everything seemed to be for "Little Joey" these days.

"Hi, there, Pete!" called Dad as he entered the kitchen. "How's my boy? I brought you something today!"

Pete didn't answer. He didn't even get up when Dad came into the room.

"Come, look here. I've brought something!"

Still there was no move from Pete.

"Well, Son, I've brought something you have been wanting for a long time. Don't you want to see what it is?"

Pete got up slowly. He had wanted a brother for a long time, and now that he had one, he wasn't so sure it was so great. Whatever Dad had might be an even worse disaster. Then Dad reached under his coat and pulled out...he pulled out...oh, it was, it was a real doggie! It wasn't exactly the kind Pete had dreamed about. He surely wasn't a little cute, fluffy, cuddly ball of fur. No, indeed, he was a thin, scrawny, straggly-looking little spotted hound with huge feet, droopy ears, and a feeble tail. Pete could not tell just what color

he was, because he was so dirty! One sight of the pup though, and Pete's eyes grew as big as saucers. Suddenly, Pete came to life! He took the pup from his Dad's arms and held him close. "A dog!" he thought. "A real dog!" And it was love at first sight! He put it on the floor and knelt beside it. The little fellow wobbled, hardly strong enough to stand.

"Be gentle with him, Son. I expect he is about starved down. You will have to feed him easy stuff for a while until he gains strength. I found him in a ditch on the way home. The poor little fellow was probably abandoned and left to die. I thought perhaps you could look out for him."

"Look out for him?" Pete exclaimed. "Oh, yes, sir! I will! I surely will!"

As Dad went to wash up, Mother came into the kitchen. "Young man!" she demanded. "What have you there?" It was perfectly obvious what Pete had, but in her surprise Mother had to say something!

"A pup, Mom, a pup!" Pete exclaimed in excitement. "Isn't he great?"

"Great? That skinny, scraggly, pitiful sight? What do you think...?" Just then Dad caught her eye with a wink, and Mother's voice became calm and quiet. "Well, what do you think?" she said.

"Oh, I think he's great, Mom. I think he's great! We can keep him, can't we? Huh, can't we, Mom?"

Mother cast a look over to Dad and slowly replied, "Well, I suppose we could make room for one more around here. But you will have to take care of him! With the new baby, I don't have time to do any more than I am doing right now. That critter surely must have a bath, and soon!"

"Yes, Ma'am!" Pete never had bathed a dog before, but he knew how to scrub himself when he had to, so he supposed a dog would be about the same.

Dad said, "He doesn't look like much right now, but he might be a real Dalmatian. If so, that's the stuff heroes are made of."

"Heroes!" Mom chided. "He doesn't look like much of a hero to me!

He looks more like a HOBO than a HERO!"

Mom helped Pete fix a little warm cereal. Oatmeal seemed like a strange thing for supper, but Mom said the little fellow would not be able to tolerate any strong food right now. This would warm his stomach and give him strength.

"What are you going to name him?" she asked.

"Spot!" Pete answered without hesitating.

"Oh, not Spot!" said Mother. "That is such a...such a common name. What about Titan, or Cicero, or..." Then she looked down at the pup again, paused, and laughed out loud. "I suppose with all those spots, he could not be called anything else! All right, Spot it shall be!" And the name stuck.

Pete allowed time for Spot's supper to settle, then he ran nice warm water in the bathtub and gently lifted the pup into the tub. Spot trembled and shook, sputtered and sneezed, but Pete soon had him soaped from tip to tip. At last Mother came in to see how the bath was going. "Pete!" she cried, "Don't drown the poor fellow!"

"I'm not! I'm not!" he replied. "I'm just trying to get the spots off!"

"Oh, Pete, do be careful!" Mother warned. "You can scrub off the dirt, but you cannot wash off the spots! Those spots are made from the inside. He was born with them!"

That night Spot slept at the foot of Pete's bed. In fact, he did every night until a few nights later when Pete slipped him under the covers with him. The two soon became inseparable except when Pete was at school.

And so they grew. Soon little Joey was no longer a baby, he became a little boy of three. Pete was a big boy of nine, and Spot was a full grown dog. What fun they had together! Spot chased them, and they chased Spot. There were tugs-of-war, cap wars, frisbee throws, and all kinds of games. There was summer in the tall grass and winter in the deep snow. Now that was a funny sight -- a field of beautiful, bright, white snow and that white phantom and blur of spots running around all over it.

(Continued next issue)

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Love, from page 1

C. Love is a Prism

When a ray of light is passed through a crystal prism, that light is separated into its component colors. Just so, when the Light of God's divine love shines into our hearts and out of our lives it is divided into its fifteen component parts, or characteristics.

D. Love is a Photograph

Christ is the original. Each believer is to be a reprint of His life of love. The love Paul describes is always acting in believers with relation to others. In fact, Jesus Christ can be substituted for charity, or love, without harming the intent of these verses. As a Person, love is resident in Christ. As a portrait, love is revealed in Christ. As a prism, love is reflected in Christ.

II. LOVE'S FEATURES

Love is important. Verses 1-3 establishes this fact. These verses raised the issue of exactly what love is and does. Rather than define love, Paul describes love. He lists the properties, characteristics, ingredients, and components of love. Each of these fifteen descriptions is a verb, an action word. Love is active, not passive.

A. Love is Patient

See v.4a. The phrase "suffereth long" is formed from makros, which

means "large or long," and thumos, a word often used of man's anger and rage. Basically, reference is to one who takes a long time to come to anger. He doesn't anger easily.

The Apostle doesn't suggest that love is never angry. God is love and is also angry when circumstances demand anger. God is also long-suffering. However, Paul does suggest that frequent outbursts of temper show a serious lack, or a severe limitation, of love. Law can restrain us from giving vent to our anger. However, only love can make it difficult for us to become angry except for a righteous cause.

Note how patience is distinguished. Tolerance and endurance are inherent in patience. This can be seen in the two Greek words, makrothemia and hupomane, and in Scripture where these words occur together. See Colossians 1.11; 2 Corinthians 6.4, 6; 2 Timothy 3.10; James 5.10, 11. Tolerance is patience directed toward persons. Endurance is patience directed toward things. In the latter, we may have no choice but to bear the trouble or trial caused by ourself or others. In the former, we do have a choice.

Note also, how patience is displayed. Believers manifest endurance toward the unsaved. However, tolerance, a Godlike quality, is to be shown toward the saved. The Corinthians certainly needed this quality of spirituality. Their relationship with one another left much to be desired. They provoked each other to riotous and chaotic outbursts of anger and vindictiveness. Some even took brothers to court. They blazed away at each other in the services. Love does not behave in such a way even when it has the power and ability to do so.

Finally, note how patience is disdained. What Paul wrote about love was ridiculed by the Greeks. Patience was foreign to their culture. In fact, Aristotle, a famed Greek philosopher, taught that the refusal to tolerate insult or injury and to strike back for the slightest offense was true virtue. Vengeance was a virtue and the one who fought back was a hero. The Christian emphasis is in stark contrast. See

Romans 12.17; Matthew 5.39; 18.22; Ephesians 4.2; Galatians 5.22; Acts 7.60; 2 Peter 3.9; Luke 23.34.

B. Love is Kind

Kindness is the other side of patience. Love is not necessarily love because it suffers long. Love is love when, in its suffering, it is kind, cheerful, and sweet. Patience endures anything from others. Kindness extends anything to others. One may suffer insult and injury in silence and become bitter and filled with self-pity. That is not love. Only a believer controlled by the Holy Spirit can endure with kind words, gentle spirit, and cheerful behavior.

Note some rich meanings of kindness. "Kind" translates chrestenomai and is found only in this verse in this form. Other forms of the word are translated "good" (Romans 3.12), "kindness" (Titus 3.4), "gentleness" (Galatians 5.22), and "easy" (Matthew 11.30). Trench suggests that kindness is character rather than an occasional act of goodness.

The root word for kindness means "useful." Therefore, kindness is beneficial deeds to others. Others benefit from our kind acts. See Matthew 5.44. Since the environment in which we live is harsh and hard and people are lonely and longing, there is more than ample opportunity to show kindness and patience to others.

Note some role models of kindness. God is the supreme example of kindness. See Titus 3.4-6; Romans 2.4; 1 Peter 3.9. The kindness of God is channeled into useful deeds resulting in the salvation of men.

Christ is a model of kindness and goodness. See Acts 10.38. Tertullian is reported to have said that goodness and kindness so marked the life and ministry of Christ that even His enemies altered Christus ("anointed") to Chrestus. Even His followers became Chrestiani rather than Christiani.

In ancient times in the East a common practice among tribes at war was to fill up each other's wells. Every well thus filled became useless and, thus, a public blessing was destroyed. When the wells of kindness are stopped

See Love, page 8

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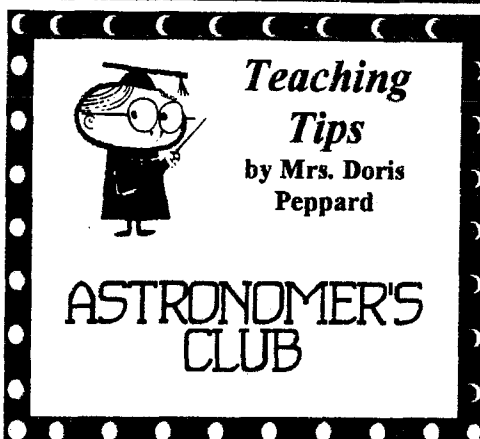
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You can start an Astronomer's Club in your classroom. All children who can talk are interested in the moon, stars, planets, etc. One of the first words children learn is "moon". The study of the heavens intrigues almost everyone, and there is such a depth of learning that even those in the upper secondary grades can continue learning new things.

King David said in Psalms 8:3-4, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Children of the 90's are so "humanistic" and "self-centered" that directing their

attention away from themselves is an important goal. A student cannot "consider" the heavens and dwell upon himself at the same time. This study makes one sense his own smallness and insignificance compared to the might and power of God. Such a study brings glory to our Creator.

The first step is to gear your "club" to the particular age group. There is no way to run out of curriculum! Our universe is too vast. Little children will enjoy studying the moon. Middle elementary grades are fascinated by the sun, stars, and planets. Junior High students can follow shuttle launches and even build a model of a rocket. Senior High young people can continue in rocketry and begin to understand the vastness of space.

Most communities have access to a planetarium. A field trip to such an installation can be truly educational if you teach the basics of constellations and prepare students before the trip. A note of caution: you may need to warn your class that the planetarium guide might be an evolutionist.

There are several "kits" available for studying the stars, solar system, moon, etc. Usually they can be made by

hand. Books are also available for all age groups from *Goodnight Moon!* by Margaret Wise Brown to *The Stars Speak* by Dr. Stewart Custer.

One thing I failed to mention—before you begin a club, you have to get enthusiastic and interested yourself. Enthusiasm is contagious! Watch Out! Did you catch it from me?

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FOCUS ON RELIGION

by Tod Brainard

FACCS FEATURES NEW- EVANGELICAL TIM LEE

The Voice Of Christian Education, the official paper of the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, announced in a recent issue that Dr. Tim Lee would be the opening guest speaker at this year's Silver Anniversary Convention. Although Dr. Tim Lee is a nationally-recognized war hero, his ties with the Southern Baptist Convention Churches run deep. Tim Lee has refused to hearken to the cries of Fundamentalists to "come out from among them and be ye separate". The editors of the *Voice* announced that "As the Christian school movement grows and changes, we will continue to stand firm on the fundamentals and yet, adjust to the new needs and demands of those

we serve." Separation from disobedient brethren is one of God's means of combating apostasy in the visible Church and bringing about genuine repentance in erring brothers and sisters in Christ; however, separation from disobedient brethren is still considered by many to be an unessential fundamental doctrine. (II Thess. 3:6,14-15) TB

APOSTASY: IS IT IN THE FUTURE?

In recent months, an article concerning "apostasy" crossed my desk containing varying points as to apostasy's future danger to the Church. But is "apostasy" yet future? Paul declared in II Thess. 2:7 "...the mystery of iniquity doth already work..." This "mystery of iniquity" or better yet "lawlessness"

against the Word of God refers back to Paul's warning in II Thess. 2:3, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (that is the Day of the Lord) *except there come a falling away first* (apostasy), and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...." Apostasy is a genuine "falling away", that is in the heart, not in word but in deed and in truth. In Israel's apostasy in Amos' day, religion was on the rise and sacrifices to God were abundant; however, it was outward and not from the heart. "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men." (Isaiah 29:13). Dear Christian friend, the apostasy was in seed form in the early Church as witnessed by Paul. Has it not grown into fruition in our present day? The Apostasy is not coming; it is here! - DH

See Focus, page 11

Love, from page 4

up in our lives, we can no longer be the blessing God wants us to be to others.

C. Love is not Envious

See v.4c. The first two properties of love are positive. The next eight are negative. The last five are positive. Envy is jealousy. Shakespeare called envy "the green sickness." Solomon called it "rotteness of the bones" (Proverbs 14.30). Bacon said envy is "the vilest affection and the most depraved." Others have said envy is "the enemy of honor," and "the sorrow of fools." See Psalm 13.2, 3, 16, 17.

Note how envy is distinguished. Envy translates zeloo. The root means "to seethe or boil." One Bible translation reads, "Love never boils with jealousy." The word is also used to denote a different motivation. For example, God is jealous. See Exodus 20.5; 34.14; 2 Corinthians 11.2. We must distinguish between good and bad envy. The context of Scripture will determine which is meant.

Good envy is warmth, or ardor, toward others or a zeal for good works. See Romans 10.2; John 2.17. Bad envy is directed toward what others are and have and is motivated by a covetous attitude. See Acts 5.17; Romans 13.13; Galatians 5.20; James 3.14. The determining factor is motivation. A person moved by envy or jealousy may aspire to transcend another's ability. He does not scorn the object of his envy. He only strives to equal or exceed the other. However, there is an envy that declares, "I want what you have." This is the longing level of envy. Then, envy may also say, "I wish you didn't have it." This is the lowest level of envy. Jealousy at its lowest level not only wishes for what others have, it wishes they didn't have it. This is not love. Love is not jealous. Love is not envious.

Note how envy is displayed. All believers are capable of displaying envy. See Psalm 73.2, 3, 16, 17. Jealousy is shown by hatred and hostility. Cain's jealousy for his brother, Abel, prompted his act of murder. See Genesis 4.5-8; 1 John 3.12. Joseph's brothers hated him. They sold him into slavery, pocketed the

money, and allowed their aged and grieving father to believe a lie.

Keep in mind that Paul lists these elements of love in an effort to correct the chaotic situation in the church at Corinth. This prompts the question, "How did the Corinthians display envy and jealousy?" They were certainly envious. See 1 Corinthians 3.3.

Their envy centered around spiritual gifts. See 1 Corinthians 12.31. The Greek word for "covet" in this verse is the same for "envy" in 13.4. This has led some to conclude Paul was not commending them for their zealous desire for spiritual gifts. He was only making a statement of fact. They were zealous for gifts. They were covetous, envious, and desirous, or zealous, of spiritual gifts, especially those gifts that were thought to be more spectacular and spiritual than others. Such an attitude betrayed a lack of love and created the chaotic and heretic conditions in the church.

Now, note how envy is discredited. See Proverbs 14.30. While envy is directed against another or others, it really works against the one who has and harbors it. Envy is rottenness that decays and destroys from the inside. See Proverbs 27.4.

Read James 3.14-16. Jealousy can't be justified. An envious person may often be clever and successful but his wisdom is not from God. Such wisdom is demonic and chaotic. James adequately described the situation in

Corinth. The Holy Spirit was not in control. Another spirit prevailed. Order was non-existent. Confusion reigned. Selfish ambition, fed by envy concerning gifts, created the condition.

D. Love is not Conceited

See v.4d. This fourth property of love is stated in the negative. "Vaunteth not" translates perpereuomai. Basically, this word means "to talk conceitedly." The root meaning is "braggart, windbag." Just as kindness is the other side of patience, conceit, or boasting, is the other side of envy and jealousy. Envy displays our attitude toward others. We may be envious or jealous of what they are or have. However, boasting shows our attitude toward ourself. It is an effort to make others jealous of what we are and have. Envy and jealousy put others down, while bragging builds us up. We try to make ourself look better by trying to make others look bad.

Note who boasting ornaments. Clement of Alexandria said that perperea is "ornamenting oneself with the emphasis on the extraneous and useless." Boasting is self-centered and betrays the selfish desire to be center stage in order to be seen, heard, and applauded. See Matthew 23.12; 1 Corinthians 14.26. Boasting is tooting your own horn. When a believer does this he is confessing he is empty of love. Love does not boast.

See Love, page 11

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Apostasy, from page 1

visible Church of our day. The two great apostasies in the Bible are the apostasy of Israel and Judah and the visible Church of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, much of the Bible is written around those two apostasies; therefore, it is important that we, as Bible believing Christians, have a good understanding of Israel's apostasy, which will help us understand the times of apostasy in which we live.

There are a few basic things that we have to understand when studying prophesy. There is Israel in the Old Testament and the Church, the body of Christ, in the New Testament. The Bible is not a complicated book. God wants us to know and to understand His Word; however, the Bible is not an open book to the casual reader. We will never understand it until we first of all desire to understand it.

The Condition of the Land

I am quoting from Jeremiah 23 beginning with verse 9: "Mine heart within is broken because of the prophets." Now this is Jeremiah speaking, and he is expressing the heart of God as well. "Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets." I believe God's heart is broken today because of the preachers. You are going to see in this passage that prophets were the problem in Israel just as I believe preachers are in the Church today. "All my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the Lord, and because of the words of his holiness."

Spiritual Adultery

Verse 10, "For the land is full of adulterers." Now he is not talking about physical adultery, although that very likely was true, too, but spiritual adultery. Spiritual adultery is unfaithfulness to God; to profess your love to Him, yet devote your time and attention to the world and the flesh. That is what disturbed Paul when he was in Athens. He saw the whole city given to idolatry, which is spiritual adultery. We have one heart, and that one heart ought to be true to God: the true God, the living God. If our heart is not true to the true God, the living God, we are spiritual adulterers. It is spiritual adultery to be worldly, to love the world

and the things of the world. "The land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right."

A Bad Influence

This word "force" could be translated "influence". The prophets' influence was not for good. They were not using the office they held for right. Verse 11: "For both prophet and priest are profane." "Profane", according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, means irreverent to anything sacred, contempt for sacred things, to pollute or debase, to put to wrong use. In other words, they were anything but spiritual. They were worldly; they were wicked. "Yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord." Verse 12, "Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the Lord." They are not going to get by with it. They are going to be punished; however, they will do untold damage in the process. Verse 13, "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err." The prophets caused God's people to err in the northern kingdom. Verse 14, "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem (the southern kingdom) an horrible thing: they commit adultery." Here again, some could have been committing physical adultery as well. There certainly is a lot of that amongst false teachers and false prophets; however, the adultery God speaks of here is spiritual, of the heart. They "walk in lies: they strengthen the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness." They are not getting any repentance. Why? They are not preaching for repentance. They are not preaching to get people to turn from their sin. "They are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah." Verse 15, "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets: Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall (poison water): for *from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness*

gone forth into all the land." There you have it. "From the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land." The wickedness and the adultery came primarily, because they would not preach God's Word.

Self-Image Gurus

They preached the imaginations of their own heart but they would not preach God's Word. Maybe they preached *about* God's Word, but they did not preach God's Word. Verse 16, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord. They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you." They were the original "self-image" gurus. All you need is a good self-image, and you will be all right. "For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord?" That is the question. This is the place where preachers need to stand. Verse 18, "Who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? Who hath marked his word, and heard it? Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked."

Seed Corn

Verse 20, "The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: *in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.*" Now, what is it that we are to understand perfectly? Let's go back to verse 8, "The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel." This is seed corn, the seed to plant for next year. In time of apostasy God always has a seed, a remnant. And so the seed of the house of Israel are the ones who are going to read this passage, consider it, and understand it perfectly

See Apostasy, page 10

Focus, from page 7

TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

Lou Shelton, a former pastor living in Anaheim, CA, has formed the Traditional Values Coalition to fight moral issues such as abortion, pornography, family, religious liberties, and homosexuality. This former pastor, with a professional lobbying office in Washington and several staff members, hopes they will be able to resist and/or stop the gay/lesbian agenda. Could TVC be another "Moral Majority" effort? It is certainly cause for concern. When the pulpit and fearless preaching of the Word of God is exchanged for a desk and office in Washington can the nation be better helped? Though noble as the cause may be, and as wicked and perverted as the gay/lesbian agenda remains, we must never conclude that our resistance to evil and decadence is most effective by lobbying efforts. TB

PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"We looked for peace...and a time of health..."(Jeremiah 8:15). This is the cry of the nation of Israel in the last days. That is why September 13, 1993 is a day that will be long remembered by Jew and Palestinian alike. "No more blood and tears" was Prime Minister Itzak Rabin's words to the crowd gathered on the South Lawn of the White House and to millions watching by television.

The rapid pace of this peace accord illustrates how quickly the antichrist will be able to establish his diplomatic credentials and his resulting kingdom.(Daniel 8:23-25). The pledged security of Israel's borders is a part of the treaty that antichrist will make with Israel. Israel believes that this covenant will secure the peace for which they long. (Daniel 9:27). Could this recent treaty be the forerunner of that great covenant of peace that antichrist will make with Israel? "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20). TB

ECUMENICAL & EVANGELICAL "INFECTION" IN OUR SACRED MUSIC

The following is an excerpt from a study series by Pastor John C. Helgerson entitled *Studies In Search Of Music That Pleases the Lord*. He lists many of the Ecumenical and Evangelical "infections" in our sacred music:

1. Amillennial, Unitarian, Liberal, etc. theologies such as confusing Israel and the Church, social implications, utopian ideals.
2. Roman Catholic/ Sacramental/ Liturgical Concepts.
3. Pneumatology: confusion regarding the Holy Spirit.
4. Sentimental/ Romantic/ Exper-

iential/ Imaginary themes.

5. Danger: Wrong or hypocritical profession of salvation or Christian experience.

6. Dispensational truth often absent!

Note: **Beautiful music** can give the impression that words have a meaning different and/or more profound than their normal definition!

If you would like to order copies of this 31 page study series on sacred music, write to:

Pastor John C. Helgerson
The Church of the Open Bible
Winn & Wyman Streets
Burlington, MA 01803



Love, from page 8

Our Lord Jesus Christ, of all men, had every reason to glory. Instead, He chose to humble Himself. See Philippians 2.6-8.

Note where boasting originates. Bragging and boastful conceit begin in the pride of self. Conceit has been called "the utmost evil" because pride is at the heart of bragging.

Finally, note what boasting overlooks. Boasting ignores, and even denies, the truth that we are nothing but sinners saved by grace. See 1 Corinthians 15.10. We have nothing in ourselves in which we can make our boast. However, we do, as believers, have much that is good and proper in which we can boast. See Psalm 34.2; 44.6; 1 Corinthians 1.31; 2 Corinthians 10.17; Galatians 6.14; Romans 5.3; 2 Corinthians 12.9.

*Naught have I gotten but what I
received,
Grace hath bestowed it since I
have believed;
Boasting excluded, pride I
abase,
I'm only a sinner saved by
grace.*

*Only a sinner saved by grace!
Only a sinner saved by grace!
This is my story, to God be the
glory,
I'm only a sinner saved by grace.*

E. Love is not Arrogant

See v.4e. The phrase, "is not puffed up," translates phusioutai, a Greek verb, which means "to blow." The picture is of one who is inflated with self-worth.

Note where arrogance followed. Boastful conceit is followed by, and is akin to, being "puffed up," or inflated with self-worth. In fact, all these three negative properties of love are akin and actually produce each other.

Note where arrogance focused. Paul has charged the Corinthians for their arrogance on several occasions and for several reasons. First, their puffed up attitude focused on their knowledge (4.18). Some in the church felt they knew all they needed to know and Paul's intended visit to the church was unnecessary. Second, they were puffed up about their supposed spiritual growth (4.6ff). They thought they had reached a level of spiritual growth and perfection through their own efforts that was superior to that of other believers. Then, they were puffed up because of sexual immorality (5.1, 2). Some felt they were so spiritual they could tolerate immorality in their midst.

Finally, note where arrogance failed. When they should have been repentant, they were arrogant. When they should have mourned, they were boastful and proud. They should have heeded the Scriptures that condemn conceit and arrogance. See Proverbs 8.13; 11.2; 13.10; 16.18; 29.23.

Apostasy, from page 10

whom we learn the truth about apostasy. The same thing is true of the visible Church. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." (II Tim.3:5). The Scriptures are for our faith and our practice. When we go from faith and practice to a recited faith without practice we have, in fact, apostatized. It is not that they deny God or say that they are not saved. They say they are saved; they say they are born again. They may be faithful in church attendance, in tithing, serving on church boards or committees, but their heart is far from Him. Here is the problem, the heart. All the rest of it is just so much chaff. If the heart is not right, nothing else matters, for out of the heart are the issues of life. (Prov. 4:23).

The Effect of Prophets

The influence these apostate prophets had upon Israel is described by Jeremiah according to Jeremiah 23. (1) Their force (influence) was not for right. (2) They were profane (showed contempt for sacred things). (3) They strengthened the hands of evil doers, telling them they would have peace and that no evil would befall them. The sad thing in all of this is that if they had faithfully preached the Word of God they would have been successful in turning Israel from the evil of their doings. (Vs.22) (4) The prophets' profaneness caused profaneness to go out into all the land.

Preachers Can Make a Difference

Preachers can make a difference in a nation if they will faithfully preach the Word of God. Forget the seminars, the work shops, the counseling room, the "find yourself" retreats, the "I'm hurting" sessions, the "people oriented" services. "Preach the Word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (the act of teaching)." (II Tim. 4:2). This may not bring the crowds or help you reach your church growth goals, but it will build up "the saints for the work of the ministry." (Eph.4:12).

What has happened in America?

What has happened in America?
We used to have the Word of God. This

country was founded on the principles of the Word of God. No one would have dared to do the things that have been done in the last few years in this country a hundred years ago. They would have figured that God would smite them down and kill them right there on the spot. The Word of God has been stolen from us. *Who stole it?* You say, "Well, the colleges and universities." Yes, they have helped, but do you know who has really stolen it? *The pulpits, the preachers!* They are the ones that have stolen the Word of God. Most of the schools that have apostatized were led by preachers as well. It is the pulpits of America that are to blame. The only way you are going to help anyone or anything is by the preaching of the Word of God! We think we have to entertain the youth in order to reach them; so we have to have all kinds of programs and all kinds of fun things. It is all right to do fun things with young folks, but listen, if the Word of God won't reach your young people they cannot be reached. You can have all the fun games, you can have all the parties, but that in itself will not reach them for Christ! I'm afraid I do not have a whole lot of use for all these emotional services that they have at youth rallies trying to twist their arms to get them to come forward, telling tearful stories, having them come forward and put a stick or log on the fire. Some young folks have put so many embers on the fire there is enough of them to make a bonfire that you could see half way around the world, and they are not a bit more spiritual than they were. Now what is the problem? What is wrong? I believe many of these camps do not really preach the Word to youth; they preach what will get them to make a decision. Decisions are the things that impress others, and decisions will almost always get an evangelist a return invitation. I'm afraid that is the way it works. The pointed preaching of the Word of God will get the job done; however, it may not be spectacular. It will produce quality. The quantity may not always be there, but there will be quality, and that's what our responsibility is, isn't it? Some will say that you can have both. Well, I vote for that; however, from the

results of the past few years, that has not generally been the case. Ask the average pastor how many of his young people are preparing for servanthood for Christ and how many are preparing for the good paying jobs of the world.

Irreverence

Last of all, these prophets caused irreverence for the things of God by their lies and their lightness and, of course, their profanities. This word, profaneness, means irreverence of sacred things, particularly the use of language which implies irreverence for God. The appetite for the shallow music and weak sermons of our day shows us the fruit of a church generation raised on lightness and irreverence for things sacred. So many have no appetite for the meat of the Word of God. They have eaten chaff till chaff tastes like the real thing. The preachers are stealing the Word of God from people; they are also taking it away from the young folks. Our people are bankrupt, our children are bankrupt. Our nation is ripe for God's judgment, and I believe the blame can be laid squarely at the feet of the preachers of America. It is entirely possible, and I believe it is true, that if the pulpits of America had "stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings." (Jeremiah 23:22).

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