Fall 2009





Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR

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

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The Need for Christian Educators Pastor Bob Archer

Navarre Chapel and Academy Navarre, Florida

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to speak to the staff and teachers of Santa Rosa Christian School as you will soon be embarking on a new school year. First, come with me as I journey into the past. Many of you were not on the scene and others were still in diapers, and not pampers I might add. In just a few minutes we will land back into the present and be updated as to where we stand, then we will catapult into the future and see the great challenge that lies before us.

In 1963, there were no Christian schools in our area in Michigan where we ministered at the time. The "hippy movement" was in the forefront and there was a sense of rebellion and anarchy in the younger generation. Flourishing on every hand was nudity, long hair, drugs and every sort of loose living imaginable. "Try it, you' ll like it" Revival, Awakening or Repentance?

By Pastor Tod Brainard

Let me begin by saying that I know that I will generate some hate mail with what I am about to say. I know that I will be accused of not wanting a "special work of God" done in the hearts of those in our churches today, which is not at all true. However, I believe what I am about to share needs to be said. The word "revival" or the phrase "revival theology" is much written about and talked about these days by preachers and evangelists. We have heard much about "revival" now for 100 years. Listen to this quotation by David Smithers, a neo-evangelical revivalist: "God has huge plans for the world today! He is not content to merely establish a handful of struggling churches among each tongue, tribe and nation. Even now He is preparing and empowering His Church to carry the seeds of revival to the uttermost ends of the earth." Is this actually God's plan? What about I Timothy 4:1 and II Timothy 3:1 - 7 and 13? Paul the apostle warns us in those passages that the last days will increase with evil men and impostors and that their presence in the local church will grow worse and worse, and that their deception will increase with the days. That does not sound like revival to me. In addition, there are many who are promoting the study of past "revivals" in order that we might learn "God's plan" for revival in the future. Should we not study the Scriptures to find out what God has said, rather than the study of the experiences which certain men have called "revivals"? Please think with me now. God has not called these events "revivals"; men have called these events "revivals." Could these men

GUEST EDITOR'S DESK OUT OF OR IN CONTROL? Pastor Don Howard, Retired DandMHoward@aol.com

Some time ago I was having breakfast with two preacher friends. During our conversation I made a controversial, but factual remark. Afterward I grudgingly and halfway apologized. The youngest of the three of us responded to my remarks by saying, "You don't have to apologize. When people get your age, they can say what they please. Nobody will take you seriously or pay any attention to what you say anyway".

I did make my debut April 15, 1923. My living through the "Great Depression" has provided me with some valuable experiences that I have been able to draw on these eighty plus years. I have been told that I know a lot about human nature. I have not been able to figure out whether this is a compliment or an indictment. I have been saved some 64 years and have done battle (believe me) with my old nature all these years. Jer. 17:9 tells us: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" God's people need to be very much aware of the fact we are engaged in a conflict. Eph. 6:12-13 reminds us, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Interestingly enough, there are enough letters in the word "flesh" to spell self and have one letter left over. With this in mind I would like to address something that too often we think of and treat as "respectable sins". Some things need to be said about this, and I will share with you my thoughts. Be offended at me if you wish, but please do not disrespect the Word of God.

None of us is without sin! Salvation does place us in the family of God and provides us with the indwelling (Continued on page 10)



Dr. Dayton Hobbs, (1924-2006) Founding Publisher and Editor Pastor Tod Brainard — Publisher and Editor Mrs. Carolyn Hobbs, Mr. Ludwig Opager, Mrs. Doris Peppard Contributing Editors Layout-Mrs. Brenda Whitney Published Quarterly by Grace Bible Church (Continued from page 1 - The Need for Christian Educators) was the attitude producing a generation of ungodliness. "God is Dead!" was the mantra being promoted on every hand.

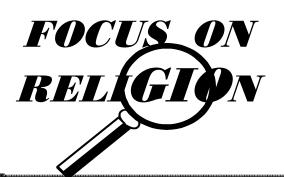
My wife and I were in our second pastorate. We were active in children's ministry, winning boys and girls to Christ. Our church sponsored and led Five-Day Clubs, Bible Clubs in schools, and VBS during the summers. My desire was to establish a Christian school. A double story addition was built on our church and years later a Christian school was established. In the beginning, to become better acquainted with the children and families in our community. I obtained the position of Playground Supervisor at the local elementary school. The principal was a dedicated Christian. In spite of all of her help and dedication, I realized the great need for Christian schools founded on Biblical principles. I was faced with the decline of family life and values, the downgrading of marriage, and immorality on every hand. God was being expelled from public schools as was discipline and responsibility. Good was evil, and evil was good.

Now to the present. Last month I was awakened once again as I was invited by the superintendent of Santa Rosa Public Schools to a meeting of administrative school personnel and local pastors for the purpose of finding some common ground and understanding between Christianity and the school district. The ACLU had brought legal action against two high schools in the district and many were concerned about the fallout. The First Amendment Specialist representative presented a very informative and precise explanation of the constitutional grounds and first amendment rights concerning education. He assured us that every public school if it followed our founding fathers'

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to "project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day." It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.



Already Gone

by Ken Ham & Britt Beemer A review by Curtis Sluss

Christians and non-Christians alike are aware that in spite of the 'Mega church' movement, church growth seminars, 'Soul winning' seminars, Seeker sensitive services, Praise bands, etc.; church attendance in America is still declining. Pollster George Barna documented this exodus and showed that those who were leaving were the young people who were raised in Church.¹ Ken Ham enlisted the services of Britt Beemer, a market research analyst, to determine who was leaving, why they were leaving, and what could be done about it. Britt selected a sample of people between 20 and 30 years old that attended church every week when they were growing up, but stopped attending as adults. After 20,000 phone calls the data was analyzed. The results of the data are surprising, compelling and troubling.

The reasons given for leaving were varied and not very helpful in answering 'why'²: Boring, legalism, hypocrisy, too political, etc. No big reason 'why' was found. As the title of the book suggests, they are 'gone' sooner than we think. They make their departure mentally while still coming physically. Also, 89 percent left in middle school and high school. Only 11 percent left during college.³

One troubling truth revealed was the negative effect Sunday school has on these who left. Youth programs, clubs, and classes abound in churches and are thought to have a positive impact on young people. Such is not the case.

Surprisingly, compared to those raised in church that <u>did not</u> attend Sunday school, those raised in church that regularly <u>did</u> attend Sunday school are more likely to:

Not to believe the Bible is true Doubt the Bible because men wrote it Doubt the Bible because of translation errors Defend abortion Defend premarital sex Accept gay marriage Believe in evolution View the church as hypocritical Become anti-church⁵

The book goes on to look at how belief drives behavior. Believing in Biblical creation is a key area of doubt. Ken Ham sees praise and worship music, guitars and drums as an attempt to make the church relevant, but the data shows music is not a factor in young adults' choosing to leave or stay at a church. He is frustrated by what he calls the 'placebo effect' of music; no lasting spiritual benefit, it just makes you 'cool'.⁶ "...music is not really feeding the souls and protecting the minds of the congregation."⁷

He proposes to "Rediscover Church"⁸ and reclaim Biblical relevance by rebuilding the foundation of Biblical authority, teaching Biblical apologetics and young earth creation at an early age, thus establishing Biblical relevance.⁹

Also he contends:

- (1) The "Church" has become an institution that no longer reflects the characteristics and priorities described in the Word of God.¹⁰
- (2) People within the Church are not living authentically Christian lives based on the Word of God.¹¹

He also mentions sermons of "the same old stuff – shallow, relational, and sentimental stuff that doesn't have meat and substance and doesn't really connect them to reality."¹²

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 2 - The Need for Christian Educators)

leadership could include God and Christian principles in the school. However, what we <u>should have</u> and what<u>we do</u> <u>have</u> are two very different things. As I left the meeting, I was made aware, once again, of the need of Christian education. There is no choice. We must continue to establish and promote Christian education that stands upon the firm foundation of God's Word.

II Timothy 2:15-16 informs us as to some areas God anticipates from us concerning Bible education and in that we can include Christian education. The school, the administrators and the teachers must be approved of God. You have a great responsibility for the lives of those you teach. We must portray a genuine love for our school, our students, our church, our God and always display a vibrant testimony before the world

As educators, we must instruct in the truth. Truth sets free. Anything other than truth is not approved of God. You must be approved of God, teach the truth and live the truth. To be approved educators and schools we must shun, stay away from profane and vain babblings. We must be anchored to a sure foundation. We must embrace the Rock of Truth, Jesus Christ!

At last, always depart from iniquity. Lay aside the weight of hindrances and besetting sins. To have a Godly school, the staff must be approved of God. In order to mold the lives of others, we must first allow our Lord to mold ours. We are not here to simply fill a position, but as Christians, we are here to make a difference. Accept the challenge, count on the Lord to be your help and guide. When grace is needed, go to the throne of grace.

Now to the future! God has placed you here. You are on the potter's bench, your foot is on the wheel. You can mold vessels unto honor in the lives that you teach. Put your hands to the task and your foot to the pedal. You might not have the best of clay but you can dig out those little blemishes and mold that vessel unto honor. God never made man from gold, silver or precious stone. He fashioned him for the rich red clay loam of the earth. How much better to be a clay vessel used of God than a shiny nugget still laying dormant in the earth. Use this year not only for educating others, but more than that a learning, growing opportunity to increase your faith.

I conclude with four principle truths to guide you this year should the Lord allow us to continue into the future. These truths God has taught me over 50 years in ministry and I am ever learning and preparing for the future so listen carefully:

1. When you are facing the impossible walls of Jericho, remember that nothing is impossible with God.

- 2. When Goliath looms as large as a mountain before you, remember that you have everything that you need in Christ.
- 3. When sea billows roll that threaten your safety and soul and you can't understand why, God has promised that His grace is sufficient.
- 4. When the enemy comes in like a flood, and the battle seems almost lost, the victory is found in Jesus Christ!

This year, as Christian educators in God's appointed place, be a force and an impact in the task that God has called you to do. Then one day you will look at your students and stand amazed at all that God has accomplished through your teaching and example. Ω

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Paul said, "Be ye thankful."

Proverbs 13:8, The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.

I suppose the most famous kidnapping in America was of the twenty-month-old son of Charles Lindbergh that took place in 1932. Unfortunately this kidnapping resulted in the murder of a helpless child. It was the crime of the century, catching the attention of all America. After a most sensational trial, the perpetrator was convicted of the crime and executed.

Charles Lindbergh, an American hero, was the first man to fly solo from continent to continent. Capturing the world's imagination, he was revered and entered into the power structure of the world. He enjoyed great success which brought him great riches, but riches did not shield him from the problems of the rich and famous. Had Lindbergh remained a simple unknown man, no one would consider kidnapping and murdering his son. His son's death certainly was directly connected with his fame and fortune.

This proverb reminds us that many things accompany riches that are never a concern to the poor. With riches come a whole new set of problems. Riches do not shield problems for in this world problems are the norm, and whether rich or poor you will have them. The problems being the constant, the type of problem the variation.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Ah! if the rich were rich as the poor fancy riches!" Rich men's houses are broken into by thieves, but thieves pay little attention to the house of the poor man. Rich men are stopped and their money is demanded, while the poor man with little or nothing may travel without incident. Rich men are subject to false accusations, slander and extortion, but the poor man is not worth slandering. Rich men's properties are coveted and often lost, but the poor man has no such properties to covet or lose. The rich make every effort to invest their riches properly in order to maintain the standard of living to which they have become accustomed, but the poor man has little property or high standard of living to maintain. His time is not spent worrying about caring for his possessions.

Prov. 18:23, tells us that riches at times bring bad manners: **The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.** The poor cannot afford to run uncontrolled over people. Humility may come easier to the poor whereas humility is difficult to the rich.

And Prov. 14:20, reminds us that: "the **rich** hath many friends," but are these friends purchased? Perhaps the poor have more honest relationships than the rich. Perhaps the friends of the rich tend to be friends on the basis of their riches. A poor man's friends may more often be a true friend for riches are not in the equation. Benjamin Franklin said in his Almanac, "Now I've a

sheep and a cow, everybody bids me good-morrow."

And the rich are subject to being kidnapped for ransom. They will gladly forfeit all of their riches if it will save their life, but what kidnapper would seek ransom for the poor? The Lord tells us that a rich man can hardly enter into the kingdom of God. He does not say this about a poor man. And lastly, perhaps because of each man's state of mind, it has been said that rich men never whistle, poor men always do!

This proverb tells us: **But the poor heareth not rebuke!** They apparently are not worthy of the notice of the powerful. They are background people escaping many dangers which ensnare their richer neighbors. The rich man sees his wealth as his strong tower, but the poor man's poverty is often his refuge. The lack of wealth on the part of the poor is a shield behind which the poor are protected from those who wish to cause them harm.

The world is a place where men and women strive to leave the ranks of the poor hoping to join the ranks of the rich, but Prov. 22:2 reminds us: **The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.**

We ought not to desire to be rich, nor ought we desire to be poor. God

(Continued from page 1 - Revival, Awakening, or Repentance?)

be misdirected in their assessments of what took place? In my opinion, these terms and phrases are overused, overstated, and stretched beyond the bounds of Scripture. Let me explain.

I read recently where one author proposed that "revival is when God touches a community of faith and an awakening is when the wider society is impacted." Sounds good, except is that what the Scriptures say? Some weeks ago I sat down to consider these words "revival" and "awake" in the Scriptures. I found that the word "revival" does not appear in the Scriptures. Shocking! The word "revive," however, does appear a total of 13 times in the Scriptures. In all but four of the Old Testament references. "revive" refers to reviving from fainting, reviving from near death, or resurrection of life; (Genesis 45:17; Judges 15:19, I Kings 17:22; II Kings 13:21; Neh. 4:2; Hos. 6:2; 14:7; Romans 7:9; 14:9). There are **four** passages in the Old Testament that use the word "revive" (Psalm 85:6; Psalm 138:7; Isaiah 57:15 and Habakkuk 3:2) with the concept of *reviving* spiritually or really beginning to live after great distress. We in no way minimize the cries of David, Isaiah, and Habakkuk in their unique situations. However, and this is important, these were indeed cries of the heart, not a plan or strategy of "revival" as some propose. The word "revive" only appears twice in the New Testament and is never used in the context of "revival" in the sense

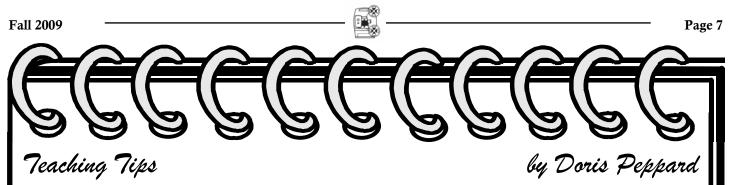
that you hear it today from preachers and evangelists. Interesting! If our Lord intended there to be a "theology of revival" would He not have shared that in greater detail in the New Testament?

I looked up the word "awake" and found that it appears 34 times in the Scriptures. In general the majority of the usage of the word awake in the Scriptures relates to arousal from physical sleep. However, the word "awake" appears three times in the epistles of Paul and each time relates to the context of the church being called to awake out of spiritual lethargy (Romans 13:11; I Corinthians 15:34; Ephesians 5:14), not the wider societal conversion as some claim. Here the word "awake" is an important message to the Church, namely, Sleeping is dangerous! "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (I Cor. "Wherefore he saith. 15:34). Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead (katheudo to sleep, to be asleep – not dead as KJV translates), and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14). "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11). This warning is certainly needed in our period of church history!

I understand the usage of the word "awakening" to describe what happened during the colonial days of our country and I have no problem with that. How-

ever, what is passed off on the church today as "Revival Theology" is lacking as to its Biblical foundation. In my opinion, a key message from the pulpit should be **Repentance!** (The word "repentance" is used 26 times in the Bible and 25 of those times in the New Testament. With the words "repent" and "repented" the usage grows to over 100 times in the Scriptures.) In my opinion we need to get back to what God emphasizes and that is old fashioned repentance. We have long made the assumption that people in the churches are for the most part saved, just in need of revival. The reality is that the need of the people in the church today is genuine salvation that transforms the heart and life, and therefore, the need of the hour is repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus *Christ* (Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20). There is so much more said about the need for repentance in regard to the un-believer and the believer than the call for "revival." Are preachers and evangelists preaching repentance? I do not think so, for as I read the plethora of writings on the subject of revival I find very little writing and preaching on the need of real, genuine, soul-wrenching repentance. That to me is alarming and cause for great concern. The voices of those who say that repentance is not a requirement for salvation is growing.² God help us to throw out man-made theologies and return to the Word of God and let it set our pulpit and ministry agenda.

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PLAYING CATCH-UP

When students transfer to a Christian School they are often behind academically. Here is a list of suggestions to help them get "caught up." We must look at it this way: God handpicks each child who comes to our school when we pray and ask Him to send us students.

Every child He sent is here for a reason known to God, and we must seek to understand "why"

He chose that particular child to come to this Christian school when there are so many others

who do not have this wonderful opportunity. Our attitude needs to be: If God sends him, I will

do my best to educate him for the time I have with him. I will take him where he is and build

from there.

General Principles to help students get caught up:

- 1) Teach your students to **recognize their abilities and limitations**. When students have a learning disability, they need to learn to compensate; however, when students are behind academically, they need to learn how to get caught up.
- 2) Instruct students how to read their textbooks to find important information Bold print words, paragraph headings, titles, picture text, etc.
- 3) Read, read, re-read! The third time is the charm!
- 4) Write, type, or highlight important terms.
- 5) Daily review is better than cramming.
- 6) Teach the student to ask the Lord for help in understanding new material.
- 7) Stress the importance of rest the night before any test.
- 8) The longer a student gets behind, the longer it will take to get caught up. Students need to learn to not allow themselves the opportunity to become discouraged. Patience is necessary and they will need to learn contentment with small victories in their school work.
- 9) Do not allow grades to discourage students special considerations are allowable for students in elementary and middle school. When students are in high school and working for credits, they must get caught up as soon as possible so that their grades do not suffer.
- 10) Students above fifth grade level must understand that they are behind and that it will take time, diligent work, and the grace of God to get caught up. Most students will work so long as they know you have not "given up" on them. Teachers must often become "cheerleaders" in order to help these students. Ω

PRACTICING SEPARATION PRACTICALLY

by Pastor John Ashbrook

This is part of a continuing series on Biblical separation from the booklet, AXIOMS OF SEPARA-TION, available at www.hereistand.com or www.childrensbibleclub.com.

There are many different abilities and attitudes you need to serve the Lord. One of them, which is much unheralded, is the ability to say, "No!" You need it many times. The early new evangelicals opined that the fundamentalists said "No" to the modernists with unnecessary harshness. Let me point out that, when Scriptural obedience is concerned, it is far better to say "No! with ruffles and flourishes, than it is to disobey God by saying "Yes."

ECUMENISM IN THE AIR

We are living in what the Bible calls "the last days." Satan is building the one-world church, which will be revealed in all of its ugliness during the days of the great tribulation. It is the aim of our enemy to attach every church to the ecumenical monstrosity. He has the National Council of Churches. He has the World Council of Churches. The Roman Catholic Church is now being tied in. The charismatic churches are being attached with the cement of experience. He is now using the ploy of praying for peace to amalgamate the heathen religions into the grand scheme. The pressure is on, and he wants to make connections with your church and mine. This pressure will increase every day until Christ takes His bride home.

The only thing which will keep your church from being swept into the Satanic counterfeit is the ability to say "no." I would like to set forth four practical axioms on that subject.

AXIOM #7: DO NOT AFFILIATE YOUR CHURCH WITH ANY CHURCH. MISSION. MOVEMENT OR EVANGELISTIC EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT FULLY BE-LIEVE THE WORD OF GOD. There will always be movements, which will want your church to join to support good causes. There will be movements like the American Family Association which opposes pornography, fights abortion and takes a stand against television filth. These are good causes with which you probably agree; but the hodge-podge of belief brought together to fight the "good cause" will join you with priest and bishops from apostate Methodists to charismatic Catholics. There will be movements like the John Birch Society, which will seek your church to join the fight against communism. That is a good cause, but you will find that such groups want your support without your gospel. There will be political movements to elect a good man. You may work for and vote for that man; but the good man of the world will always betray you. These movements have Christians in them. They will approach you through these Christians; but if the group is not fully Bible-believing, you will be burned.

THE GOOD CAUSE SYNDROME

In II Chronicles 18 godless Ahab trapped godly Jehoshaphat with the "good cause" syndrome. The Syrians held the border town of Ramoth-gilead. For the safety of both Israel and Judah, that town needed to be secured. On the basis of that good cause Jehoshaphat

joined with Ahab. Jehoshaphat's faith was compromised as he listened to Ahab's false prophets. With a believer's discernment he saw that they were not men of God. A true prophet, Micaiah, was summoned to the scene and spoke the truth; but, by that time, Jehoshaphat was so enmeshed with his compromise that he stood with Ahab instead of Micaiah. Compromise ties your tongue so that you cannot rebuke evil. As Charles Spurgeon said, "Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against God, in His grace, delivered it." Jehoshaphat. However, when King Jehoshaphat arrived home at Jerusalem, God sent Jehu the prophet to meet him as a reception committee with the words: shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? Therefore is wrath upon thee from the Lord" (II Chron. 19:2).

Jehoshaphat's kingdom was never the same after that. I think he would have denied loving Ahab. He might have said that he could hardly stand him. But, he said "Yes" when he should have said "No." Ω

(To Be Continued)

"No movement is of God that does not lead men to the Word of God." Dr. Dayton Hobbs ¹ Southern Seminary, *The Theology of Revival*, www.sbts.edu/ theologyofrevival

² C.H. Spurgeon once made the statement: "Brethren, we shall not adjust our Bible to the age, but the age to the Bible."

"We are living in a day and age where man is taught to think good thoughts, high thoughts, wonderful thoughts about himself. Within the last 20 years or so there has been a covert invasion in Christianity in America without hardly a whimper of protest. This invasion can best be described as 'Christian' psychology, which is nothing more than watered-down humanism. While there are millions of people searching for answers to their complicated problems created by their increasingly complex lives, psychology comes along and attempts to answer and solve man's sin problems and its consequences through the building up and restoration of man's selfesteem and self-image. We are told today to get in touch with our inner self and ask the question: 'How do you feel about yourself?' The bottom line is, it doesn't amount to a hill of beans what we think or feel about ourselves, but what does the Bible say and teach?

This matrimony between psychology and Christianity has created an unholy alliance which is producing some strange children that are permitting, promoting, and preaching deceiving, dangerous, and damnable false doctrines. This diabolical psychobabble of selflove is sweeping through churches today among self-seeking men in a self-centered society whose greatest problem is a desire to worship at the altar of self. The apostle Paul warned us that one of the characteristics of the last days would be that 'men shall be lovers of their own selves' (2 Tim. 3:2). I'm afraid many so-called fundamental/evangelical churches and preachers have fallen into the trap of teaching this mushy self-worth propaganda that seeks to camouflage itself in robes of charity and tolerance. Churches and preachers alike are abandoning their Godcalled purpose of holding up the mirror of God's Word and graphically revealing to man what he really looks like in the sight of a holy God. The missing message in modern-day preaching is the Biblical doctrine of repentance, where a sinner is convinced and convicted of his exceeding sinfulness and lost condition." AMEN! As quoted from Biblical Discernment Ministries website. Ω

(Continued from page 5 - Proverbs Practicals) made the rich and the poor for His purposes. He does not engage in a war on poverty having said that the poor you will have with you always. There is a reason for that in the mind of God. He has given me so much and He has given you so much. You may have more and I may have less, but God is the One who has placed both of us in the circumstances in which we find ourselves!

We are told in this proverb that the rich have problems that the poor don't understand and that the poor have benefits also. It is not all glory to have money, and we are not to covet money if we do not have it. It is not all misery to be poor either. Our duty is to be content with what God gives us and remember as the writer of Hebrews said:

Heb 13:5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Ω



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(Continued from page 2 - Editor's Desk) Holy Spirit who enables us to have victory when facing temptation. All of us have that "besetting sin" that haunts us. That sin differs with each and every individual. I have my problems and you have yours. All of us need to remind ourselves that God saves souls, not flesh! I will never forget the comments of a dear old black lady illustrating this truth to me. She pulled the skin away from her bony arm and said, "I have been saved but this stuff hasn't." One usually gets in trouble when he or she gives into or accommodates the flesh. We are told to, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh. to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:14). The flesh must be suppressed! Self control and the control of the flesh are one and the same. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

Moderation is a wonderful virtue. We are admonished in Phil. 4:5 to "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." We in this nation of plenty, and many times a nation of too much, are guilty of the sin of excessiveness. We lack discipline, moderation, and self control. We are too often controlled by things rather than our controlling things. I am somewhat "taken back" with what I am hearing and seeing in the "weight loss industry." The media bombards us daily with weight control programs. I can

not understand why all the "hoopla". It is quite simple, but for some of us it is not all that easy. When one eats more food than the body needs, the body begins to store it in the form of fat. If one wishes to control one's weight, the intake must be controlled.

The custodianship of our bodies is both serious and sacred. "What? Know ve not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Cor. 6:19). Our Lord is gracious, forgiving and long suffering. He forgives when we sin against Him. When one sins against one's body, the body is not nearly as forgiving. Substance abuse, including food, is a serious problem among us. It has been my good fortune to have been married to a nutritionist for all these years. She says, "Moderation in eating is the key; and be sure to exercise and stay physically active! Do not be a mindless eater. Eat like a king for breakfast, a queen for lunch, and a pauper for dinner. In our society, this is usually reversed."

The subject we are considering here is referred to numerous times in the Scriptures. Please note the content of the following verse in Proverbs 23:21, "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man rags." THIS with IS SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

Ω

(Continued from page 3 - Already Gone)

He points out that in both traditional and Willow Creek seeker-sensitive type churches, most of what we do is man's tradition not God's design.¹³ Because of this; home churches, virtual (internet) churches, and Para-church organizations have seen a significant resurgence.¹⁴

Ken and Britt "pray that committed believers will have the freedom to leave (church), if necessary, to find a group of individuals that prioritizes the sharing of the Word of God, teaching how to defend the Christian faith and uphold the authority of the Word"¹⁵ "Evaluate your church...to make a decision to either stay...or leave and join a church that already shares your stand"¹⁶

This telling critique of church in A merica by a well-known Evangelical is clear in its evaluation of Sunday school, sermons, and church members. I suspect most are equally applicable to Fundamental churches. It contains a clear call not to cling to tradition, but to return to a Word based pattern of church, committed to defending the entire Bible. Ω

1	www.barna.org/barna-update/
article/16-teensnext-gen/147	
2	Almost Gone page 29
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6	page 110
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Fall 2009 *****

Stars of the Morning ***************

You may remember that the tribes tof Gad, Rueben, and half the tribe of Manasseh got Joshua's $\hat{\star}$ permission to live on the east side of the Jordan River. The land was good, but it made them close neighbors to the Ammonites, forever enemies of Israel. The Ammonites had a treacherous king, who decided to war against Jabesh-Gilead and wipe out the The people were tittle town. terrified when they saw his huge army marching relentlessly They were no toward them. match against such a tyrant! Certain death lay ahead!

In anguish, they sent messengers to King Nahash to plead for their "Have mercy!" they ¥ lives! begged. "Please do not kill all our people. If you will only spare our lives, we promise to serve vou, to be your obedient servants."

What more could the king ask than this full surrender? He would have their land, property and an army of slaves! But that was not enough for Nahash! His cruelty was relentless. "Oh, you want to live, do you? I'll make you a bargain - you surrender and tet me thrust out your right eyes! Otherwise, we will wipe you out, and it will all be over!"

What a shock! How could this king even devise such a wicked act? How could soldiers wield swords or hot irons and violently poke out every person's right eye? What pain! What agony! What screaming! How many would die from the bleeding and torture? And any who survived would be forever scarred and shamed! Nahash would glory in conquering and disgracing Israel!

☆★★★★★★★

What a horrible fate, yet the people were helpless against this fierce king. They were in the jaws of death. After much anguish, they appealed for time. "Let us have seven days delay to send messengers to our brethren for help. If no one will come to our aid, then we will surrender and you can do as you wish." The king agreed, smugly assured of victory, for who would dare come to defend these pitiful people at the risk of fighting the great Nahash?

The messengers ran full speed to Gibeah where their new king lived. The awful news spread like wildfire! Everyone in the city began to weep and wail! When Saul came from the field with his herd, he heard the awful noise and crying and instantly asked what was wrong. When he heard of the brutal plan of King Nahash, Saul was furious! Suddenly he was no longer the timid new king! The Spirit of God came upon him! He immediately killed a voke of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers to every tribe of Israel with a burning message: "Do you see

this hunk of meat? If you don't 🛣 come to fight with Saul and Samuel, your oxen will be hacked up just like this!"

A BRUTAL BARGAIN by "Aunt Carolyn"

Well, the fear of God fell on them and the people came! Soon Saul had an army of three hundred $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ thirty thousand men ready for battle! He sent the messengers from Jabesh Gilead back home with wonderful news! "Help is 🛣 on the way! We'll be there by the time the sun is hot tomorrow!" (As in, "Never fear; Saul is here!)

The men of Jabesh were overjoyed, but they didn't let Nahash know it. They sent word that they would come out and surrender when the sun was hot the next morning. Then he could do as he wished. Under the cover of darkness, Saul divided his men $\overline{*}$ into three companies. At the crack of dawn, Saul's army caught the Ammonites off-guard, stormed their camp and killed the enemy right and left. The battle was so fierce that the few Ammonites, who weren't killed, fled for their lives, scattered, every man for himself!

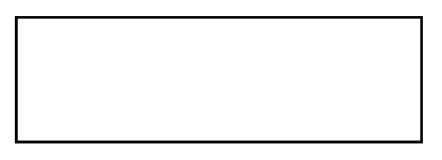
What a glorious victory! Jabesh Gilead was saved, and the people $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ still had two good eyes! They could see, and they were free! Saul had come to their rescue, and all Israel was jubilant in their new king! They remembered a few

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(Continued from page 11 - A Brutal Bargain) men who had murmured against Saul becoming king. They demanded that those men be killed, but when Saul heard of such talk, he declared, "No! God has given us this great victory, and no one will be put to death today!"

Then in all the celebration, Samuel stepped to the front. "God has blessed us this day. Let us go up to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there! Follow me!"

So, although Samuel had earlier anointed and announced Saul to the people, he now led a public ceremony with many sacrifices of peace-offerings before the Lord, and Saul was formally appointed as king. He was now officially "King Saul"?! The people were jubilant! It seemed that their demand for a king was turning out just fine, in spite of all Samuel's warnings.

Isaiah said, "...We have turned every one to his own way "(Isa. 53:6). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Choosing our way instead of God's way has drastic consequences even though it may seem good and acceptable for a time, as Israel would soon find out. Only by following and obeying God's Word will our path come out right - for our good and God's glory! Ω (A True Story from I Samuel 11:1-15)

Pray for the ministry of The PROJECTOR!

Recipe for Ecumenical Stew

- Chop the gospel thoroughly and add water to dilute its effect.
- Mix in some tolerance to suppress unpopular taste of doctrine.
- Add enough self esteem to neutralize the bitterness of sin.
- Heat the mixture until it becomes lukewarm and is in need of nothing else.

-Mike Gendron

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