



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, Florida 32570

VOL. 8, NO. 10

NOVEMBER, 1979

United States and Canada — 1 Year \$4.00
Foreign — 1 Year \$6.00

DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE RANKS

BY PETER J. FOXX

A disquieting unrest and discouragement plagues fundamentalism today. It is not discussed publicly; as with an embarrassing family secret ...there seems to be a conspiracy of silence.

With these startling words, Dr. Truman Dollar opened a Pandora's Box of faults and failures of the fundamentalist movement in recent years. Dr. Dollar's article appeared in the October 12th issue of the BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE. Dollar, who pastors the large Kansas City Baptist Temple, is to be commended for an open and honest assessment of the grave conditions that exist

in Bible-believing churches and for voicing the discontent and discouragement felt by the pastors of these churches. Such an article could only have been written from a heart of genuine grief and with a sincere desire to see fundamentalism rise from her nadir of ineffectiveness.

The importance of the issues raised by Dr. Dollar and the forthright manner in which he deals with such a sensitive subject both deserves and demands a candid evaluation on our part. Listed below are several of the causes given by Dr. Dollar for the current discontent and discouragement of funda-

mentalist pastors. Each cause is substantiated by representative quotes.

1. Numbers As The Only Measure of Success

And we must honestly confess that much of our bus promotion brought in hundreds of children whom we counted, carefully separated from the rest of the crowd, and then sent home full of hot dogs but little else of spiritual value....The bus ministry with increased energy costs and overextended budgets has taken a dramatic nosedive, and Sunday school

See p. 2

THE POPE COMES TO AMERICA

BY DAVE JOHNSON

Last month, our newspapers, radio, and TV stations were filled with news of the Pope's visit to America. As a result of this unprecedented visit, the religious community of the United States undoubtedly felt compelled to comment on the Pope's "exhilarating American odyssey." As expected, the liberal apostate denominations within protestantism spoke in glowing terms of the wonderful love of humanity displayed by the Pontiff's visit. Some more conservative leaders, and even many professing fundamentalists, expressed their areas of agreement with the Pope on the social issues of the day. And, unfortunately, there were some fundamentalist leaders who even speculated as to whether or not the "Holy Father" was actually a saved man.

There was indeed great significance in the visit of the Pope to America and great significance in his visit to the White House. That significance has not been expressed by many who, for some reason, have

not chosen to do so. Perhaps in a day of big budgets in our churches, some are afraid to offend the untaught members in pseudo-fundamentalist churches who have never been told who the "mother of harlots" is.

ONLY TWO

To understand the significance of the Pope's visit to America, one must understand that there are only two religions in existence in the world today. This has always been true and will be true until Satan's final defeat. Man worships either the Creator or he worships creation. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator... (Romans 1:25). Both secular and biblical history attest this fact.

When man began to worship creation instead of the Creator, he chose to worship the mystery of life. In his religious panoply, the sun represented the male principle which was the giver of life to the earth (female). Eventually,

this sun worship became known as Baal worship and deteriorated to the actual worship of the phallus instead of the sun. Thus, we refer to these pagan religions as fertility cults, but they are all the same "Baal Worship" of the Bible.

When Abraham was called out of the land of the Chaldeans, a separation was made in behalf of God's chosen people. The sign of circumcision was given, among other reasons, so that God's people could not participate in the vile worship of Baal.

Later, when the people of God were entering the promised land, God gave them instructions in Deut. 4:16, "Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female." This verse is a warning against the most base form of Baal worship. Later in verse 19, they are warned concerning the sun, moon, stars, and all the host of heaven, "lest thou

See p. 3

Editor's Desk

Due to the fact that Mrs. Hobbs and I have been on the road for most of the month of October, my article concerning Individualized Instruction will be continued next month.

We have had a very good response to the new format of The PROJECTOR. Several took the time to write or personally give me their comments as I met them at Christian School Conventions in different areas. Below are some of the letters that we've received.

Dear Dr. Hobbs,

Received a copy of your paper last week from a friend. Would like to begin to receive The PROJECTOR. It is a blessing to receive a paper like this one that is straight forth in its messages.

Rev. W. G.
Lutz, FL

Dear Dr. Hobbs:

Thank you for The PROJECTOR. I find it valuable in keeping current on issues in the church of today.

I also enjoyed and benefited from your lectures given at Camp Peniel during the Men's Retreat of the Ohio Bible Fellowship.

Because of Christ,
C. R.
Wabash, IN

Dear Dayton & Carolyn,

We have just received your August issue of The PROJECTOR with renewal notice, and hope that you will never cease sending us the paper. Sometimes we are a little late with funds, but thanks for continuing to supply us with current "battlefront news back home" in the meantime.

God bless you both!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. B. K.
Hokkaido, Japan

From p. 1

DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE RANKS

promotion is not having the same affect. The much publicized dramatic growth of fundamental Sunday schools of the early 70s has peaked, and many of those pastors who led the movement are full of self-doubt and discouragement.

2. Discipleship Is Not a Priority in Most Fundamental Churches

There is a completely new congregation every ten years in the average independent church. The turnover is a disgrace....People who have been saved for years don't even know the basics....New Christians flounder around, and if they make it on to maturity, it is miraculous and certainly not by design....There is a growing awakening that while we pushed for attendance and offerings, we neglected the spiritual growth of our people.

3. The Failure of Legalism

Now there is a growing trend among the more "enlightened fundamentalists" to drink socially and attend x-rated movies while away from their own cities and in general do whatever they please....I made a disturbing survey. It revealed that over 75 percent of the young people in fundamental churches attended movies, almost as many attended dances, and most had experimented with cigarettes and alcohol.

4. Fighting Fundamentalists

It discourages me when my heroes fight eternally....I am convinced that Bob Jones, John R. Rice, and Jerry Falwell are all fundamentalists....I even love and respect Rodney Bell and Dayton Hobbs....The honest truth is that the issues that separate these men are not essentially doctrinal....There is not a

single substantive cardinal doctrine involved.

As Dr. Dollar concludes his article he writes, "We need measured and unemotional response to the issues I have raised. I would be disappointed if I were not challenged." While the spirit of my response to Dr. Dollar is seasoned with appreciation for articulating such important problems, certain statements and conclusions of Dr. Dollar do necessitate challenge. I will comment briefly on the previously identified causes of discontent and discouragement for fundamentalist pastors.

1. Numbers As The Only Measure of Success

Using numbers as a means of measuring success and indicating the blessing of God has been a blight on fundamentalism for years. It is carnal and pragmatic. Our churches and our people will be far better off when numbers neurosis and circus gimmickery are finally laid to rest. Guilt feelings and frustration are natural fruits of compromise evangelism. Sooner or later one either runs out of novelties or victims for such perpetration.

2. Discipleship Is Not a Priority in Most Fundamental Churches

When the chief concern of pastors is "how big," there is obviously going to be precious little concern for "how pure." Without evangelism there will be no people to train for Christian service. Without sound expository preaching there will be no mature believers to stabilize our churches and spiritually reproduce themselves. Pastors who fail to equip the saints to carry out the work of the ministry, in effect, sign the death warrants for their own churches.

3. The Failure of Legalism

Here is where Dr. Dollar and I take different forks in the road, if by legalism he means standards. The reason our young people are wild and worldly is because we, as pastors and parents, permit it. The only definition of a spiritual teenager is an obedient teenager — obedient to his parents, his pastor, and his teachers. The only definition of a spiritual adult is an obedient adult — obedient to the commandments and attitudes of the Word of God.

Standards are not to blame for the worldliness and carnality of our

Dear Brother Hobbs,

Upon receiving your latest PROJECTOR, I must let you know that it is a job well done. You are to be commended for the excellent material and the printing procedures on this copy.

Keep up the good work, and we will be praying that the Lord will provide all your needs.

All Because of
Jesus,
E. L. R.
Walterboro, SC

P.S. Tell Dave Johnson I am praising the Lord for his article "The Underground Church."

See p. 8

The PROJECTOR

<p>EDITOR <i>Dr. Dayton Hobbs</i></p>	<p>MANAGING EDITOR <i>Dave Johnson</i></p>	
<p>ASSOCIATE EDITORS</p>		
<p><i>Carlton Hobbs</i></p>	<p><i>Patrice Papp</i></p>	

The PROJECTOR is published monthly except July and December by Gospel Projects, Inc., Post Office Box 641, 611 Chestnut Street, Milton, Florida 32570, U.S.A. Subscription rate is \$4.00 per year (10 issues). Copyright 1980 by Gospel Projects, Inc.

From p. 1

THE POPE COMES TO AMERICA

...shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD they God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven."

BULL WORSHIP

When the kingdom was divided after the death of Solomon, Jeroboam violated Deut. 4:16-19 by making two bulls (fertility symbols of the male) and placing them in two prominent cities of Israel. When Ahab married Jezebel in later years and introduced Baal worship to the people of Israel, they readily accepted it. Why? Because they were already involved in Baal worship under the name of Jehovah worship. This was an evil thing in God's eyes and all future kings were judged good or evil on the basis of whether or not they followed in the footsteps of Jeroboam.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

By now, you are asking, "What does all this have to do with the Pope's visit to America?" I submit to you that the Roman Catholic Church is nothing more than Baal worship under the name of Christianity. If our fundamentalist leaders are not preaching this, something is wrong!

Can you just imagine Elijah coming on the radio or TV discussing whether or not Ahab and Jezebel and the prophets of Baal are truly born again? Can you hear the old prophet of God commending the priest of Baal for taking the right stand on the social issues which are preeminent in the thinking of the church leaders?

Is Romanism actually Baal worship? Yes! This article certainly does not afford the space to document the statement. However, it is well documented in the book, "The Two Babylons," by the late Rev. Alexander Hislop, as well as in the book, "The Master's Carpet," by Edmund Ronayne. To those who understand the symbols of Baal worship, documentation can be found in any secular library.

For example, in the December 1971 issue of *National Geographic*, there is an article beginning on page 865 entitled, "St. Peter's." Beside the large bronze statue of Peter with the sunburst behind his head and the emphasis on the shafts of sunlight which pierce the basilica's dome, an aerial view of St. Peter's Square is pictured. The

caption reads, "Reaching forth in the 'maternal gesture,' twin colonnades embrace all who enter St. Peter's Square." In the center of this maternal gesture is a large obelisk which is recognized as a symbol of the male to all Baal worshippers.

It is interesting to note that when President Carter and Pope John Paul met at the White House, they were photographed on the south lawn, "The Washington Monument in silhouette behind them." The Washington Monument, of course, is a large obelisk. This Associated Press photo appeared in newspapers throughout the world as an esoteric message to the leaders of the "other religion." Baal worship is alive and well in the land of the "Pilgrim's Pride."

The attitude toward Romanism has certainly changed in the last several years among professing fundamentalists. Have they forgotten what the commentators of old taught concerning Rome? Adam Clark, whom C. H. Spurgeon called the "Prince of Commentators," states in his comment on Rev. 17:3, "It is well known that the nations, in support of the Romish Church, have abounded in blasphemous appellations...She affects the style and title of our Holy Mother, the church; but she is, in truth, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth."

The Scofield Reference Bible on page 1332 states, "Thyatira is the Papacy, developed out of the Pergamous state...As Jezebel brought idolatry into Israel, so Romanism weds Christian doctrine to pagan ceremonies." How can fundamentalists have kind words for the leader of this ungodly, anti-christ religion?

FOLLOW ME

Why did the Pope come to America? In his homily on the Boston Common he said, "The reason for my mission, for my journey, through the United States is to tell you, to tell every one — young and old alike — to say to everyone in the name of Christ: Come and follow me! ... This is why I have come to America."

In Yankee Stadium the Pope said, "Christ demands openness to our brothers and sisters in need — openness from the rich, the affluent, the economically advanced; openness to the poor, the under-

developed, and the disadvantaged. ...as a citizen of the world community."

In Shea stadium John Paul said, "Love for each other must be the hallmark of your lives...so that nobody will ever feel alone or unwanted, much less, rejected, despised, or hated."

At Grant Park the Pontiff said, "Let love then build the bridges across our differences and, at times, our contrasting positions."

And at the White House, President Carter said, "You can be sure that the people of America return your love...May God be praised."

The Pope went on to ask the United States to take the lead in "the establishing of a world order that will create the necessary economic and trade conditions for a more just relationship between all the nations of the world...even if it involves a notable change in the attitudes and lifestyles of those blessed with a larger share of the world's goods."

The coming of the Pope to America was a test of the character and backbone of American Christianity. America is at an all time low spiritually, despite claims of revival across the nation. The so-called revival in America amounts to no more than going to the groves and high places in the name of Jehovah, as the children of Israel did in the reign of Jeroboam.

The church victorious will not exist unless the church militant exists first!

NEW PLAY AVAILABLE

CONVICTIONS

ON TRIAL

by Dave Johnson

\$1.00 per copy
(10 needed for production)
Ideal for Christian School
or Church

Dialogue taken from actual court cases where parents were tried for sending children to Christian Schools!



The Other Side

with Dave Johnson

FALSE PROPHETS of the Underground Church

Beloved believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. I John 4:1

Last month I discussed the fact that a flourishing underground church in communist countries, such as Soviet Russia and Red China, is not only a practical impossibility, but also an unscriptural tenet. If there are Christians in these countries, they are either in prison or they are denying the Christ who saved them. If one of the above is not true, that country has a very weak form of communism indeed.

But what of the glowing reports that we hear and read about, which lead us to believe that large, independent, fundamental groups of Bible-believers exist in practically every communist country, and especially the Soviet Union? It is the source of these reports — the false prophets of the underground church — which I shall discuss this month.

ANTI-CHRIST

The kingdom of Anti-Christ, we are told in Revelation 13, will be an international, political, economic, and religious structure. It will be an economic dictatorship, in which the beast controls the right to buy and sell, and thus coerces all men to worship him. Today, the forerunner of this kingdom can be seen in what we call socialism or Marxism. When professing Christians promote the same socialist line of propaganda which the communists promote, we can begin to suspect that we have a false prophet in our midst.

The leaders of the so-called underground church profess to be anti-communist; however, many of these leaders decry communism, while at the same time they subtly promote socialism.

ANTI-COMMUNISM

In the past several years, I have learned that there are two kinds of opposition to the evils of this world. There is that opposition which is acceptable and respectable. This opposition is very ineffective. There is also an opposition which is tantamount to throwing salt into an open wound. When it comes to anti-communism, this latter type of opposition is not tolerated by communist leaders.

In last month's column, I mentioned an NKVD agent named Anatoli Granovsky. He was instructed to defect to the West and then by his condemnation of communism, to gain the ascendancy in anti-communist organizations. Once there, his instructions were as follows:

Most foreign anti-Soviet publications attack us for the alleged poverty of some of our people, for our prisons, concentration camps and Cheka, of which they know very little. This sort of attack is not in the least dangerous to our cause — in every country there are poor people, jails and police. Furthermore, Communist sympathizers are convinced that, being loyal to the doctrine, they themselves would never be sent to jail under a Soviet government except for a specific crime. They are quite prepared to believe that our Cheka, concentration camps and restrictions exist because they have to exist, and many feel that similar things should exist in their own countries, too. If a man is in any way inclined towards the Communist doctrine, he will not be in the least deterred by being reminded of the harder and severer aspects of Soviet government.

"When you talk publicly against the Soviet Union," I was told, "follow the same harmless line as fanatically as possible. Talk of purges, prisons and the Cheka. But do not draw political conclusions opposed to the Marxist-Leninist philosophy. If you do that you are finished, finished for good."

The prophets of the underground church are vocal concerning the acceptable, respectable anti-communism, but strangely silent concerning Marxism. While decrying the brutality of their alleged torturers, they often affirm their ideology. From Wurmbrand's "Tortured For Christ" to Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago," they follow the same harmless line in a most convincing manner.

WURMBRAND AND MARX

Richard Wurmbrand, the patri-

arch of the underground church, is a prolific writer. His books are available from Logos International in Plainfield, New Jersey. This in itself, if one is familiar with publishing houses, speaks volumes about Richard Wurmbrand.

Wurmbrand is a perfect example of a false prophet of the underground church. In his book, "Christ On The Jewish Road," beginning on page 170, he draws political conclusions which sound more like those of a Trotskyite than a Christian. For example, concerning private property, Wurmbrand says on page 177, "Property is theft"...as God has arranged things we are not meant to have property. All good things must be enjoyed in fellowship; individual ownership is an abomination.

As Wurmbrand gives his opinions as to what our attitude toward communism should be, he states the following:

We could come to an understanding with many Communists, because not only did we preach the individual salvation of the soul through the Blood of Jesus...but we were also interested in social problems (page 171).

We do not consider that sanctification is merely a personal matter; it is also a social vocation. ...but the social body must be glorified, by creating the kingdom of God on earth (pages 171-172).

The conditions necessary for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth are now present;...The advances of modern technology have made it possible for all people to have food and clothing. ...With mutual understanding between nations, humanity could receive vigorous international and interdenominational impulses (page 173).

We must make sure that everybody has food. ...The satanic powers have transferred their attack from the individual to an offensive on a large social front. The power of good must do the same (page 172).

We do not reproach the Communists for their revolutionism, but for the fact that it has not gone far enough. ...We are permitted no other gods apart from the God who makes it His task to liberate mankind from every sort of serfdom (page 174).

God commanded Moses not to treat the poor unjustly... If the capitalist countries would respect this principle everywhere, they would have no need to fear the Communist threat (page 175).

"If a man does not work, he shall not eat," the fundamental principle in the legislation of

See p. 6

Stars of the Morning

By "Aunt Carolyn"

Going To Church With The Pilgrims



Thanksgiving Day is a special day! It is the only holiday that is strictly American, one that is like no other one in any other country. No other country had such a beginning as ours. God providentially guided in the founding of our country, yet it was at great price and sacrifice that our Pilgrim forefathers battled and died for our liberty.

Perhaps you would like a tiny glimpse of Pilgrim life. In our day of comforts and luxuries, it is difficult to imagine what our land was like when the Pilgrims first set foot at Plymouth in 1620. Desolate, cold, barren land lay before them. It would become a battleground of men against the elements. Yet, in that desolate place, God's hand had wonderfully provided for the Pilgrims; for they later learned that the place they settled had earlier been occupied by a great tribe of Indians. But three or four winters before, a plague, or epidemic had swept through the tribe and all had died. Of course, the Pilgrims were sorry for the distress and fate of the Indians, but they were thankful for the way God had led them to this particular spot to settle where no one lived and there would be no one to argue or contest their claim to the land.

The first winter was a terrible one with death, disaster, and sorrow stalking them daily; but at last Spring came, a crop was put in, and the Pilgrims worked hard to put provisions away for the next winter.

By Fall, they had seven dwelling houses up and four public buildings. One of these was used for worship; for you see, in all their travail, no matter how good or how bad their situation was, the Pilgrims were faithful to the Lord, both in their private devotions and in their public worship. They were faithful not to forsake the assembling of themselves

The Pilgrims



4 cassette TAPE ALBUM \$15.95

80 Page TEACHER'S HANDBOOK \$2.95

Order from: GOSPEL PROJECTS PRESS, P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32570

together.

Their church building hardly looked like what you would expect a church to look like. It wasn't exactly the serene picture of a beautiful white building with a steep roof and a beautiful steeple that beckons one and all to worship. No, it was a large square building made of roughhewn planks, and looked more like a fort than a church. It had a flat roof, with a battlement all around and six cannons mounted on top, where guards were posted on duty at all times. A trap door led from the roof to the room below.

The lower part inside was used for church. The people were called to worship, not by carillon bells or chimes or strains of majestic organ music, but by the beat of a drum. The people assembled outside and marched in in order. The straight wooden benches were divided into two sections, with an aisle down the middle. The women sat on one side of the aisle, and the men sat on the other side — each man with his musket at his side, constantly on guard. They sang and prayed and praised God. They had had enough of man's writings in England. They wanted their worship and singing to stick to the Scriptures. Even their hymnal was called a Psalm Book. It did not have full music printed as our hymnals today, but rather the Psalms were printed in poem form so they could be sung to the tune. There was no organ or piano, and there were not enough books for everyone to have a copy of the words, so the song leader was a precentor, that is, he sang one line of the song so that the people could hear the tune and words, and then they sang it after him. If you had been in a Pilgrim service, you might have heard a song like

this:

*Make yee a joyfull sounding noyse
Unto Jehovah, all the earth:
Serve yee Jehovah with gladness:
Before His presence come with mirth.
Know that Jehovah He is God
Who hath us form-ed it is Hee,
And not ourselves: His owne people
And sheepe of His pasture are wee.*

So the Pilgrims preached the Word and trusted God. Their testimony was as Job's, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." And God sustained them to do a great work for Him.

Times have certainly changed since Pilgrim days. Today we have many beautiful church buildings — some even have carpet, cushioned seats, electronic organs, and grand pianos — but it is not the building or furnishings or outward trappings that are important. It's whether we are genuinely humble before the Lord in our hearts. "They that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

To worship God, we must first know Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Then, as a Christian, ask God to make you a stalwart Christian like the Pilgrims — one who will stand for Bible convictions, one who will not yield to pressure to do wrong to gain favor or please friends, one who will do right and stand for Jesus Christ at all cost.

The Pilgrims fought and died for our liberty. They have gone on to their reward, but the cause of Christ is just as real and important today as it was then. It is up to Christian young people today to pick up the banner and carry it by God's grace and for His glory.

From p. 4

FALSE PROPHETS

Socialist states, is copied, almost word for word, from the Apostle Paul... (page 176).

MARXIST THEOLOGY

In addition to his attitude toward communism, it is the strange theology of Richard Wurmbrand which labels him as a false prophet of the underground church. No doubt, it is his theology which is responsible for the political conclusions which have been listed above.

The theology of Wurmbrand is set forth in a book entitled "Stronger Than Prison Walls." In all fairness to Wurmbrand, I must admit that he states in his book, "With many of the thoughts expressed in these sermons I no longer agree myself any more." However, he does not say which thoughts come under this category. Also in the preface, he says concerning solitary confinement, "It may lead to madness. There may already be madness in these sermons of mine." With this I wholeheartedly concur. The following excerpts, with page numbers, give us some insight into the theology

of Richard Wurmbrand:

No law can be righteous, even if it is divine, because every law fixes equal standards for men of unequal abilities, who are put in unequal situations (page 16).

Even you, God, could not avoid injustice once you started to make laws (page 18).

I have several times experienced what is called extra-sensory perception (page 25).

Conscience...does not acknowledge the obvious fact that my action was the unavoidable result of my character, shaped by my whole past life (page 26).

Mary, the mother of God, gave everything for Jesus and never received anything from him, not even good words (page 36).

Jesus is more than truth and love. Myths belong to him as much as the truth. So they have a powerful meaning for me (page 45).

Nobody can be a leader in the Underground church without re-evaluating the notion of truth (page 49).

Sin is every second of my life spent on something other than the destruction of what opposed the triumph of love. There are not certain deeds which are sinful under all circumstances, and other deeds which are always good. The mud with which we are all smeared contains in its mixture many com-

passionate actions (page 51).

"Stronger Than Prison Walls" contains 188 pages, and space does not permit further evidence of Wurmbrand's strange theology. His book is filled with situation ethics, much of which is based on the Talmud and Kabbala, which he quotes with equal authority with the Bible.

There is a "credibility gap" between separatist Christianity and the false prophet of the underground church. The claims which are made concerning the number of Christians in the Soviet Union, their infiltration into the KGB, their secret meetings, etc., are not only unscriptural, but illogical.

We are involved in a spiritual warfare against Satan. Joining artificial anti-communist organizations to fight Satan is not the answer. Joining with liberal protestant anti-communist groups to fight Satan is not the answer. Obedience to God's Word is what is required of God's people.

The church at Ephesus was commended for having "tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars" (Rev. 2:2).

Let us, likewise, be found faithful in the matter of discernment and "try the spirits whether they are of God."

CRITICISM

by Homer Massey

There are several related words which, studied briefly together with "criticize," should give us a good idea of what proper criticism really is. From the dictionary:

Criticism - "the art of making informed and discriminating judgments."

Critical - "exhibiting careful, precise judgments and evaluations; analytical."

Criticize - "to pass judgment on the merits or faults of anything by some standard of criterion."

From the above definitions we might formulate a good overall statement regarding responsible criticism: "the practice of carefully analyzing and examining a thing on its merits by use of a reliable standard or rule, thus making an informed and discriminating evaluation or judgment concerning it."

The big question is, "According to what rule or standard must these evaluations be made?" Obviously the proper criterion for the fundamentalist is not his own valued opinion, nor is it the collective consensus of many leading Christians, neither

is it what might appear to be successful; our criterion is the Word of God.

The best Scriptural use of this general topic of "criticism" is found in Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." The word "discerner" is a translation of the Greek word "kritikos," from which we get our English word "critic."

In other words, criticism is discernment based on the Word of God. We are using the Word of God properly if we use it to discern whether or not a leader, movement, school, periodical, etc., is in line with Biblical principles. It is one of the responsibilities we have in handling the Word.

(Taken from The Fundamental Baptist Crusader, August 1979)

WHAT IS ARGUMENT AD HOMINEM?

This is a method of argument many Christians use which seeks to discredit by appealing to the emotions of an individual rather than looking at the clear teaching of the Word of God.

This method is sometimes used by a defense lawyer who, when he is at a loss for arguments, attacks the attorney for the plaintiff. (Name-calling.)

Appeals to sentimentalism, "everybody's for it," or "if it works it must be right," is not how the Christian is to determine right from wrong. We have only one standard for judgment, God's Holy Word -- forever settled in Heaven.

by Bob Bradberry, Pastor

From THE CALVARY WITNESS

PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SWITCHES TO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Editor's note: The testimony that follows is convincing. It is written by a public school superintendent who is serving one more year in public schools. Therefore his statement is written anonymously. He is currently taking graduate courses in Christian school administration in a north-central state, preparing to serve God as a Christian school principal next year.

I am a born again Christian. I embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Redeemer in February 1976. I have been successful as a public school administrator, having held excellent positions in fine school districts. In seven years I have risen from teacher to superintendent at age 34. Since my conversion the Lord Jesus Christ has been graciously guiding me to my present decision — to resign my present position in the public school sector to enter into fulltime service for Him as a Christian School Administrator.

This decision was not a hasty one, having come over a three year period and taken me through several stages of personal conviction. Initially, my personal pride and concern for worldly gains caused me to resist even the concept of the need for Christian education. Then, I could see the need "for some people", but certainly not for my children or for me. Eventually, I realized that Christian families are not capable, in the few hours available to them, to provide their children with enough spiritual training to combat over thirty hours per week of secular exposure in the humanistic public schools. Recognizing this, I have accepted God's calling for me to place my children in a Christian school, to set aside my worldly motivations for financial gain, and to enter into a fulltime work as a Christian school educator. I am waiting on the Lord as to when and where He would have me begin service.

Although my decision is the result of accepting God's calling, I believe that sharing my concerns for today's public schools is important for two reasons:

- I believe that these concerns were instrumental in my recognizing the need and reaching conviction on the question of Christian education.
- These same concerns are the reasons that, in my mind, Christian parents must accept God's commandments (Deuteronomy 6 and Proverbs 22:6) to be responsible for the training of their children by removing them from

secular education and placing them in Christian schools.

The following personal observations are shared for your consideration and are based on my own experiences in the public schools.

1. The impact of John Dewey's ("father of progressive education") religion of Humanism has, during the twentieth century, permeated education throughout the United States. American schools have, since their beginning, moved from Church sponsorship with Christian teachers to a state where not only is spiritual instruction denied, but Christ Himself as well. Today's teachers were themselves educated under the influence of Humanism and are undoubtedly personally unaware of the philosophy and impact of "modern" education. Schools are no longer neutral as directed by laws, but essentially anti-Christian in their philosophical approaches to education.
2. Legislators, often under pressure from the powerful teachers' organizations, continue to pass laws which restrict and remove local control. Local boards of education and their administrators grow even more frustrated with restrictions which deny them the right to do the job with which they are charged.
3. Society's growing obsession with worldly distractions, smoking, drinking, immoral behavior, swearing, drugs and etc. is more prevalent in our public schools each year. Peer group pressures and ridicule supported by declining parental values and non-Christian teachers, result in unbearable pressures for adolescent students, Christian students included. As a result of this lack of parental concern, coupled with the mushrooming power of teachers' unions, school boards and their administrators can have very little real impact on the humanistic public schools.
4. It is my opinion that nothing has had as much negative impact on public education as the unionism of teachers, the subsequent provision for teacher tenure, and recent union political power gained through funds contributed by most teachers. Recent articles by union leaders illustrate the

depth and danger of this recently purchased political clout.

5. Not only is Christ not the center of public school education, children are not either. Through the efforts and pressures of state and regional leaders, one might conclude that teachers perceive that public schools were established primarily for the purpose of creating public employment rather than for educating our children. Professional teacher ethics appear to have been compromised by teachers in order to gain more money for working less time with fewer responsibilities or accountabilities for work performance. Illegal strikes are commonplace and teachers ban together to protect even the weakest instructor, without regard for their teaching inadequacies or the harm they are doing.
6. The removal of Christ and prayer from our educational programs has been followed by the gradual removal of our American patriotic traditions. The Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem and other American songs and traditions are seldom heard in most public schools today. Few teachers, let alone children, even know the words to patriotic songs. Even the unsaved parents of our American cities, many of them former soldiers themselves, should be alarmed — but they are not.

The religion of Humanism has replaced Christianity in our public schools. Academic accomplishments and moral standards are deteriorating and there is little that parents, administrators and boards of education can or will do to stop the trend.

Parents today have no real concept of
See p. 8

Itinerary

Dr. & Mrs. Hobbs are together except where indicated separately.

- Nov. 8 : Roger Voegtlin, Pres.
Fairhaven College
Chesterton, IN
- Nov. 8,9 : Mid-West Association
of Christian Schools
Chicago, IL

From p. 7

PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SWITCHES TO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

the environment into which they send their children each school day. The schools "of their day" no longer exist. However, many parents would rather close their eyes to the truth than face the small "worldly" sacrifices needed to support Christian education for their children and others.

Many people, saved and unsaved, will question the worldly wisdom of my decision, but even those who cannot understand the impact of accepting God's calling to Christian school education would understand my leaving public education if they were more involved and aware of the conditions as they exist today. Education in the public schools is being destroyed more rapidly than it can be improved.

Today's families who have become aware of the negative, damaging direc-

tion public education is taking also realize that they do not begin to have the organizational base to control the damaging direction of the highly organized, wealthy, politically powerful teachers' unions. Recognizing this, they

are, in ever increasing numbers, removing their children from public schools to place them in locally operated and controlled Christian schools. As a new Christian educator, I not only support them, but join them in their effort! □

From p. 2

DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE RANKS

congregations. Blame the superficial evangelism that puts white clothing on billy goats. Blame our disregard for early Christian education with its emphasis on strong discipline in our homes and churches. Biblical standards do not produce sinfulness. Toleration and refusal to enforce those standards produce sinfulness. I say again, we get what we are willing to settle for. Furthermore, pastors are willing to settle for large worldly congregations if the alternative is small disciplined congregations.

4. Fighting Fundamentalists.

Truman Dollar is dead wrong when he states there is no doctrinal difference among such men as Bob Jones, John R. Rice, and Jerry Falwell. They differ drastically on the cardinal doctrine of separation. The specific issue is the Scriptural demand to separate from brothers in Christ who walk disorderly. Bob Jones obeys this commandment. John R. Rice and Jerry Falwell do not. The unholy alliances of John R. Rice and Jerry Falwell are major reasons for the failures and frustrations of fundamentalism. God's blessing is based squarely on full obedience to the doctrine of separation. When God's blessing and approval are

lost, everything is lost. Every problem fundamentalism has can be traced back to a basic violation of the Biblical principle of separation. When we stopped being a peculiar people, we stopped being of value to God and man.

When Dr. Dollar says he "even" loves Rodney Bell and Dayton Hobbs, the inference is that these men are troublemakers and are unloving. This is not true. I suggest that the disorderly and compromising brethren are those lacking in love and are indeed the real troublemakers, not those expressing their sinfulness.

No fundamentalist pastor stays discouraged who faithfully concerns himself with his own responsibilities rather than God's responsibilities. He preaches the Gospel; God saves the souls. He exposites the Scriptures; God produces fruit in the believers. He judges those that are within; God judges those that are without.

There is nothing wrong with fundamentalism that a good dose of godliness and obedience to Scripture would not cure. Fundamentalism is too fat. There is a great need to thin our ranks of the dross, take our losses, and begin again. It is not time to bury the hatchet; it is time to use it.

YOUR NAME

The Indians used to give their babies only temporary names. They waited until the boys and girls grew older and had earned some kind of name. Thus, some good girl was named Bluebird, Snowflower, Spring Wind, Sunshine, or something else which showed how people felt about her. Some boys when they grew old enough to join in the hunt, were named Brown Bear, Running Wolf, Black Eagle, or Thunder Stone.

Suppose boys and girls were left nameless today until they grew at least to junior age and had earned some name for themselves. There are some boys who might be called Helping Hand, Brave Lad, Great Heart, Faithful, or Mouth of Truth. There are girls who might be called Sunny Smile, Blue Flower, or Hope.

There are, however, a few boys and girls who might not have such delightful names. There are some who might have to be called Scowler, Shirk, Unreliable, or Cheat. What would be your name?

— Sunshine Magazine

