

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

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

A PREACHING AGENDA

I CORINTHIANS 1:17-31

by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Theology & Ethic of Ecology; The Biblical Perspective of War & Peace; Proper Ministerial Ethics; Institutional Ethics."

QUESTIONS

Before we look at the Apostle Paul's agenda as given us in the first chapter of I Corinthians, it might be beneficial to ask ourselves some questions:

- (1) Why has it taken so long for Fundamentalism to recognize the need to speak to social issues?
- (2) Were the Fundamentalists of the past unaware of discrimination, racism, and the needs of the poor?
- (3) Are the men of the N.L.C., who are undertaking to deal with these issues, more compassionate, more loving,

continued next page

IN THE FALL, 1996, issue of *The PROJECTOR*, I wrote an article entitled, "A Social Agenda," speaking to my concern for a segment of today's Fundamentalism which, in my view, is leaning toward the old Neo-Evangelical viewpoint of desiring to be recognized for their scholarship and attempting to speak

to the social ills of the day. This "Social Agenda" is well-defined in the stated program of the National Leadership Conference held in February of 1997 in Lansdale, PA. The issues to be addressed were: "Dealing With Minorities; Racism & Discrimination; The Poor; The Role of Women; Medical Issues; A Proper

Resurrection Truth and Christian Responsibility

by Rev. Tod Brainard

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

most Christian circles. Mostly lost is the understanding that resurrection truth transforms not only the life but is also to transform the thinking of the believer in Christ. A new heavenly mind-set is to be the rule for the believer as opposed to the old earthly mind-set. However, as our passage implies, this mind-set must be maintained with vigilance and kept right in accordance to the Word of God, or it may be misdirected and weakened.

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ILLUMINATING ISSUES

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RESURRECTION TRUTH and the understanding of resurrection truth has fallen on hard times in

more knowledgeable of the Scriptures, more dedicated to the cause of Christ than the giants of Fundamentalism's past?

- (4) Is there new light that these men have received which instructs us as to the failures of past generations?
- (5) Is it possible that too many have been preaching a watered down and anemic gospel, which has little power to miraculously change lives, correct attitudes, and make one right with God and with his fellow man and, therefore, have had to resort to man's faulty methods of attempting to correct the ills of society by seminars and workshops designed to give preachers and laymen guilt trips for their assumed failures?

THE PURPOSE OF PREACHING

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (I Cor. 1:21).

The tendency in men seems to be that they are ever being drawn to methods of ministry that are not found in the Scriptures. Man somehow has the idea that he can improve upon God's methods—that the old-fashioned, hell-fire and

damnation preaching of generations past is not effective in today's modern society with all of its new problems.

We seem to forget that man's sin and lawlessness is first and foremost against a holy and righteous God, and that Biblical preaching—not the kind generally heard in the average Fundamentalist pulpit today—is God's ordained method of bringing sinners to Himself. It is my contention that the right kind of preaching will be used of God to change a

Man somehow has the idea that he can improve upon God's methods.

man from his ways to God's ways, and that and that alone will make the man the proper person in his relationships in society. Man's problem is a heart problem, not a head problem. It is not more education that he needs, but more of the grace and power of God. You will never give this to him with workshops, seminars, and leadership conferences; it will only come through the clear and uncomplicated preaching of the Word of God.

CONFRONTATIONAL PREACHING

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they

heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (II Tim. 4:2-4).

Biblical preaching is confrontational preaching, first of all. The word *reprove* has the idea of reproof one from the mouth in a face-to-face manner with conviction. To *rebuke* "implies a sharp, severe rebuke, with, possibly, a suggestion in some cases of impending penalty; charge in pain of ... [in this case] future judgment" (Vincent). To *exhort* means to "admonish, exhort, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct [always prospective, looking to the future]" (Vine). When Jesus spoke to the Chief Priests and Pharisees "they perceived that he spake of them" (Matt. 21:45). The Apostle Paul, after telling Titus what the grace of God teaches us (Titus 2:11,12), then instructs Titus as follows in verse 15, "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." We really have not preached the Word of God if there is not exhortation and rebuke with authority.

I ask you, does this sound like the kind of preaching heard in the average "Fundamentalist" church today? I think not, and I think I know some of the reasons for the weak, anemic, stale preaching that is the norm today. A large percent of today's crop of preachers simply do not have the courage to preach in the manner Paul describes in II Timothy chapter four. That statement will possibly upset some who read this, however, I believe it to be true. Let me list some of the reasons that I believe stop preachers, young and old, from preaching in a clearly Biblical manner.

(1) AFRAID OF THEIR FACES

They have the same problem Jeremiah had and that I have certainly had to struggle with, especially in the early years of my ministry: they are afraid of their faces. *Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them* (Jer. 1:17). Young men should study seriously the first chapter of Jeremiah. I would also suggest to them that if they cannot, in spite of their fear, stand up in the strength of the Lord, face their

Thanks to all who responded to "Letter Month"—to those who wrote words of encouragement, who sent new addresses, and who gave donations to help support this printed ministry. We count it a privilege to be co-laborers with you in the Gospel and in standing for the truth. Look for some of your notes throughout this issue of *The PROJECTOR*.

Perhaps some have misplaced or way-laid your printed address/response slips and return envelopes. Please let us hear from you anyway. Send your address list, comments, and/or gift. It's not too late.

Thank you,

The PROJECTOR Staff

continued next page

congregations, and preach the whole counsel of God, the body of Christ would be better served if they found some other vocation.

(2) DECLINING MEMBERSHIP

They are afraid of losing members, and perhaps of losing their church. I remember a statement a well-known preacher in the Fundamentalist ranks made to me many years ago. I disagreed with it then, and I disagree with it even more now. He said that it was all right for a church to be small as long as it did not remain small. I'm afraid that, to a very large degree, it is the "large" churches, or at least their leaders, that are causing a great deal of the confusion and problems we face in Fundamentalism today. I hear from a great many pastors who are deeply concerned about the trends in Fundamentalism today, and, for the most part, they pastor what many would call small, insignificant churches. I believe they are the backbone of our movement. This is not to say that all large churches are weak and that all small churches are

strong; however, I believe that far too many of the larger churches are weak in their pulpit preaching.



(3) PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure is a very great hindrance in many Fundamentalist circles. It is the reason I do not get too involved in fellowships of churches. This is simply my feeling about this matter, and I have arrived at that conclusion because of my experiences over the years and what I have observed in others. You get tied to certain men or groups and then you find yourself in the position of either having to defend them or withdraw from them. I have had to separate from some of these movements, educational and otherwise, some of which I was instrumental in helping get started. They all seem to eventually turn into mini-denominations, and I end up not desiring to wear their brand. Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., used to warn us preacher boys that if we were all in one organization, the devil would only have to swallow once, but if we stayed free of alliances, the devil would have to swallow

many times to get us. The older I get (73 in December) the better that advice sounds.

THE GOSPEL'S POWER

The Gospel is the *POWER OF GOD*: it replaces hate with love; lawlessness with righteousness; rebellion with obedience; and selfishness with compassion. If this is not the fruit you are seeing produced in your church, then it lacks Biblical preaching. Don't fret over size. Remember: *quality* is our responsibility; *quantity* is God's responsibility. Ω

 We need to be informed and keep informed. This paper has helped. It is not caustic or harsh but straightforward and honest. Thank you for the time put in for the Lord's people.  MI

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*continued from cover*DOCTRINE DETERMINES ATTITUDES
AND PRACTICE

Dr. J. Vernon McGee wrote years ago, "As believers we are more vitally related to the life of Christ *after* his resurrection than *before* His resurrection. There is a misplaced emphasis today in highlighting the first thirty-three years at the expense of the post-resurrection ministry of those forty days. As a result, we find liberalism talking about the Man of Galilee, the Carpenter of Nazareth, and over-emphasizing His humanity." We see this taking place in

Fundamentalism today. In my opinion, there is an over-emphasis upon the humanity of Christ and His life before the cross. Little doctrinal preaching concerning the deity

of Christ, the resurrection message, and dispensational truth has resulted in an emphasis upon Christians having a greater influence and role to play upon the earth. To use the language of those who think this way, "a more comprehensive world-life view" is needed in our day. This brings us to an important point: doctrine determines attitudes and practice. The system of doctrine (either covenant or dispensational) to which a person is committed makes a difference in one's world-life view. In light of this, it is important that every Christian examine the Word of God to determine whether it is Covenant Theology or Dispensational Theology which is presenting the biblical view. There are good men who claim to be dispensational in their doctrinal approach to the Word of God who are practicing covenant thinkers. Such inconsistency is confusing to the body of Christ. It is our position that the dispensational approach to the Word of God is God's way and is the only means whereby we can "rightly divide the Word of Truth."

Set your affections [lit. mind-thinking] on things above, not on things on the earth. This verse implies that it is possible for Christians to have an *earthly* mind-set directed to matters of the earth and that they are to change their minds and set them on things above.

A POST-RESURRECTION EXAMPLE

It is interesting to note in Luke 24:13-35 that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus were discussing the missing body of Christ and their disappointment in the crucifixion of Christ. They had hoped that this man, the promised one, would free Israel from Gentile domination (Luke 24:21). Their hopes of a social, political overcomer were dashed. A spiritual redemption by a sacrificial death was an idea which their minds could not take in, much less a resurrection from the

dead. In other words, their world and life views were mis-directed and faulty. Christ's response to their statements was, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have

BACK TO THE BASICS

spoken" (Luke 24:25). Their error was lack of faith in "all that the prophets" had spoken—that is, the Word of God. They had believed *some* of what the prophets had said, maybe they believed in *most* of what the prophets had said, but none had believed *all* the prophets had said. They had come with their own perspectives upon what should happen rather than letting the Word of God show them what their perspective of events should be and why.

We here the cry today that our educational institutions need to get back to the basics of "readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic." Such pleas indicate that a shift was made at a particular point in time away from the teaching of the basics to some other program that has failed in its purpose to educate.

In the early church the emphasis was on the preaching of the resurrection. This was the point at which the devil focused his attacks, and Peter and Paul emphasized this truth in their preaching as is testified in the book of Acts. (Acts 2:24,30-31; 4:2,10; 5:30; 10:40-41; 13:30-37; 17:3,31-32; 25:19; 26:23-24)

I believe that this basic area of Christian doctrine, the preaching of the resurrection and its implications, is desperately needed today.

A DISPENSATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Why did Paul write, "Set your affection on things above and not on things on the earth"? There were some within the church at Colosse who were trying to appropriate Israel's earthly promises to the New Testament Church. The New Testament Church was not and is not the Israel of the Old Testament (I Cor. 10:32). Judaistic thinkers in the Colossian church saw little distinction between Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church. They wanted to mix Israel's promises of an earthly dynasty with the teachings of Paul thus making a religious hodgepodge of erroneous thinking. This error had weakened the church at Colosse and drawn some into an *earthly* manner of life and thinking rather than a *heavenly* manner of life and thinking. Dr. C.I. Scofield exposes this problem in his booklet *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*:

It may safely be said that the Judaizing of the Church has done more to hinder her progress, pervert her mission, and destroy her spiritually, than all other causes combined. Instead of pursuing her appointed path of separation from the world and following the Lord in her heavenly calling, she has used Jewish Scriptures to justify herself in lowering her purpose to the *civilization* of the world, the acquisition of wealth, the use of an imposing ritual, the erection of magnificent churches, invocation of God's blessing upon the conflicts of armies, and the division of an equal brotherhood into "clergy" and "laity."

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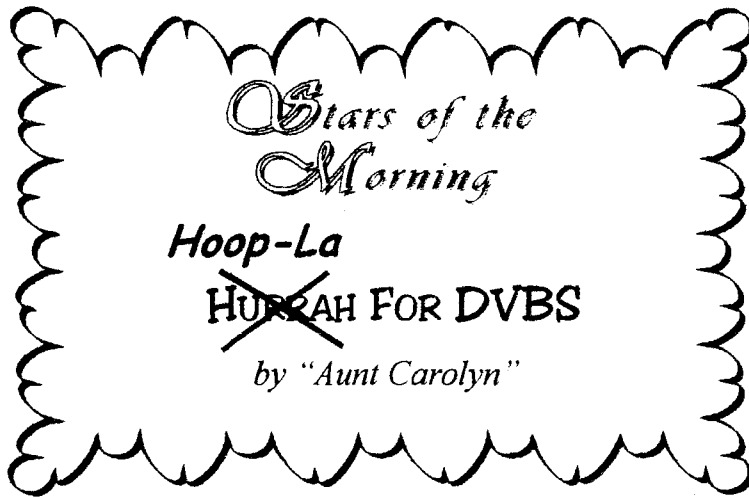
Thank you for *The PROJECTOR*.

The articles and comments help me understand why the Holy Bible is the foundation and standard for a world confused by sin. Jesus Christ and his Word is the only lasting hope we have. ...

Again, thank you, and may the Lord continue to bless you as you battle for truth and righteousness.

GA





Or what about this DVBS curriculum, which "features great Bible stories for and about kids ('Miriam and Moses,' 'David Serves Saul,' 'Jesus in the Temple,' ...)." Whoa! Wait a minute! How dare we call the Lord Jesus Christ "a kid" or put our Savior on the same level as any other human being, Bible character or otherwise? How would a teacher ever teach a holy reverence for "that name which is above every Name" or teach respect for Christ's authority if He is "a kid" just like the rest of the "kids" in the class? How would a teacher ever expect to teach the fear of God?

SUMMER IS A-COMIN'! Having included some warnings concerning children's materials in workshops at various Christian Educators Conventions and church and Sunday School teacher classes, it was suggested that I put some of these thoughts in writing for "Stars of the Morning." So if my precious younger reader-friends will let me off the hook for a story this issue, I will share some concerns with my older reader-friends and co-laborers in the Gospel.

These are subjects of concern at all seasons, but with plans now being made for summer ministries (Daily Vacation Bible School, Five-Day Clubs, camps, and other youth ministries), I believe this is an appropriate time to hoist some warning flags as teachers are being bombarded by an avalanche of fliers, brochures, and other mail-out promotionals for curricula and programs "sure to please, exciting, thrilling, impacting, dynamic, fantastic," etc.!

BEWARE OF UNSCRIPTURAL TEACHING
(UNBIBLICAL; CONTRARY TO THE BIBLE)

Although there are solid, Biblical materials available, the Biblical teacher must examine them well, for under the bright, "funzy" surface of some programs lies treacherous teaching and philosophy. In some cases, it may seem to be only a "smattering" of error, but remember, only a drop of poison in a whole cup of Kool-Aid is fatal. For instance:

ST. BERNIE


What could be more appealing to children than a big, old, lippy, lovable dog? That's Bernie! And in this "recommended" course, children can study "The Gospel According to St. Bernard." Now, I've heard of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, but *St. Bernard*? But that's "Bernie," a "warm and friendly, humorous and wise" dog who helps children "realize God's truths"; a St. Bernard whose "first heavenly assignment was to come back to earth as ... an angel ... whose mission is to help guide the lives" of two children. Again, I find no Bible basis for "The Gospel According to St. Bernard" nor a Bible basis for a "dog angel," yet this series is purported to present "Biblical Truths for the Everyday Lives of Children" in a "natural, realistic format." Give me a break! The series, however many "Christian solutions" it may contain, is not "Biblical" or "realistic." Beware!

EASY PEDAGOGY

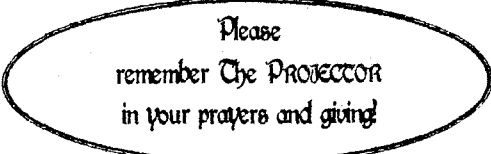
Another current promo declares "children ... make no-mess crafts" (they must be teaching on another planet), "and munch on snacks prepared by other children." (I hope the State Health Department or HRS doesn't get wind of what's going on in the kitchen of the church that uses this program!) Keep reading. This program also is attractive because "fewer teachers are needed and each teacher prepares only one lesson." View with a leery eye any program that makes it "easy" for the teacher. The depth and value will be missing for the students. But this will be the decision clincher for some churches to purchase this VBS curriculum: "As an option, you can enter all children and one volunteer in the publisher's drawing for an all-expense paid family trip to Silver Dollar City theme park in Branson, Missouri." What a worldly carrot to offer as an incentive! Why profess to provide Bible School if the music of the far country and the husks of the swine fields of the world are considered a desirable reward?

Sad to say, there are other curricula offered with unscriptural programs, but these give the idea of the kinds of things for which to watch. Let's move on.

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 Thank you so much for your help in keeping us "on course" and pure in our doctrine. Though we may sense a fallacy is being taught at times, like the *Promise Keepers*, often it is hard to expose the depth of the lie being taught. Your wisdom is invaluable as you apply God's Word and guide us to the right Scripture.

CA



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RISEN WITH CHRIST

The Amplified Bible paraphrases our passage in Colossians 3:1-2, "If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. And set your minds and keep them set on what is above—the higher things—not on the things that are on the earth."

In light of resurrection truth what is our responsibility in this life?

Firstly, "Seek those things which are above" (vs. 1). W.E. Vine translates this word seek as "having an urgency and a desire and an ambition; to strive after, to go ye about after." An excellent illustration of this word is the compass needle. Its needle always points to the North Pole. When the compass is turned, spun, or gyrated, it always seeks the pole—due north! This word seek is in the present tense and indicates habitual or continual action. The child of God is to continuously and habitually seek those things which are of "the heavenly world."² You will only experience the blessedness of newness of life in Christ in direct proportion to your seeking of those things which are above.

Secondly, "Set your affection [mind] on things above, not on things on the earth" (vs. 2). The Greek word *phroneo* can be translated "thinking that is locked in and is kept locked in." Notice! Upon what is our thinking to be locked in and kept locked in—things above, not on things on the earth. As was our previous word seek, this word set is in the present active tense and reflects habitual or continuous action. This indicates an inner disposition rather than a practical pursuit.

Here is where many a believer gets sidetracked. Whenever a man begins to shift his emphasis away from thinking that is locked in on things above and begins to lock his thinking on things of this earth, he has left the Biblical plane of resurrection truth and settled upon the lower plane of an earthly disposition. Remember, in the New Testament the believer is identified with the resurrected Lord, not the earthly Jesus of Galilee, the Carpenter of Nazareth. Our identification is always with the risen Lord, Who is at the right hand of the Father.

A FINAL QUESTION

Why must I seek after and set my mind on those things which are above and not on things of the earth?

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory (Col. 3:3-4).

One, because I have died, I am crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Two, because I am identified with the risen Christ. Three, because when Christ who is my life shall appear, we will appear with Him in glory. This earth is not my home; heaven where Christ dwells is my home. My world-life view is determined for me as a Christian. It is given to me in the Word of God. As with all matters of the Christian life, the Word of God tells me how I am to think and how I am to live. It gives to me the statement of my need and the answer to my need. Let us not come to the Bible with our own perspectives, but let us let the Word tell us what our perspective should be. Ω

¹ McGee, J. Vernon, "The Man in the Glory," *Thru the Bible Radio Newsletter*, March 1997.

² Rienecker, Fritz, *Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1980, p. 577.

✉ Dear Friends,
Unless I am mistaken, I recall reading an article in segments in your paper about church training young children. I really appreciated it because it strengthened what we already believed and were trying to do with our children. ...

[One recent acquaintance] asked me how she could get her children to sit better in church. I explained a few things to her, and then promised I'd send her a copy of the article.

Well I can't find it now. I would really appreciate it if you could send me a copy of it to give her. It may have been as much as 2 or 3 years ago.

Keep up the good work with the paper. We get it, read it, appreciate it and try to pass out as much information as possible.

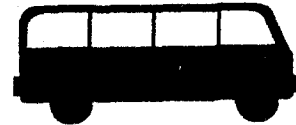
Sincerely,
Jb



ON THE BUSES

"Dr. Pete Cowling, of the Hyles Anderson College, gives the following advice to keep children amused on the church buses on [the] 'way home' from church. 'Have bubble gum or balloon blowing contests, ugly face contests, big mouth singing contests, and burping contests.' What an irreverent conclusion to the preaching of God's holy Word!"

source. Canadian Revivalist



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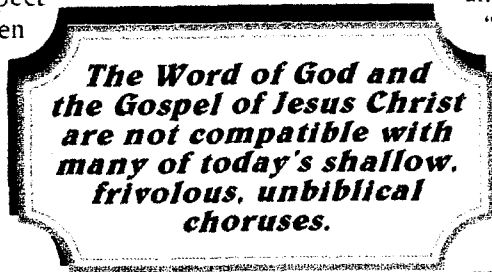
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BEWARE OF IRREVERENT TEACHING

This is prevalent in written curricula and also in other areas, especially in items offered for awards and promotions, such as stickers, pencils, tee shirts, buttons, etc.

WITNESS?

Under the guise of "witnessing," a fearful disrespect for God is often flaunted, and youth become walking signboards for unscriptural, irreverent expressions. Suppliers highly promote tee shirts and such items with "Christian" slogans, perhaps meant to arrest attention, but I fear they do not rightly represent a holy, righteous God.



The Design: A happy, little, white bunny rabbit being lifted into the air by brightly colored balloons. Caption: "HEAVEN BOUND." May I say it takes a lot more than balloons to lift a sinner out of the sin and rebellion of his own heart and of this world and put him on the way to Heaven! The sacrificial death of the only begotten Son of God is not to be compared to or degraded by giving a child any idea that anything less than His precious blood will suffice to enter Heaven.

The Design: A winsome cartoon drawing of three big smiling dinosaurs with a little one happily hatching out of its shell. Caption: "I may be little, but to God I'm BIG STUFF." When Jesus said, "Except ye become as little children," He was referring to child-like humility, trust, and obedience; not to pride, ego-mania, or self-centered "Big Stuff"! Where would poor John the Baptist fit declaring, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30)?

The Design: A big, bold pair of dice. Caption: "FCWC—Fat Chance Without Christ." Is Christ's name

exalted or glorified when associated with Vegas, Reno, and hot casinos of the world?

The Design: Cartoons of frogs, speed cars, dogs, baseball bats, pizza, etc. Caption: A poem entitled, "Some of My Favorite Stuff," listing the above items and with the last line reading, "And most of all ... JESUS. He's the best!" No! Jesus Christ is not one among many—a frog, a dog, or even a friend next door! He is holy, high, and lifted up (Isa. 6:1).

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (Phil. 2:9). "That in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

The Design: A grossly pictured cross. Caption: "Jesus beat the devil with a big stick." No! Jesus Christ defeated the devil by His death, burial, and resurrection! Others: "Hell Ain't Cool," "Budwiseup," "Holy Spirit University," and the lists go on and on. What irreverence! What depravity! What blasphemy!

BEWARE OF UNSCRIPTURAL SONGS

Space will not permit (and maybe you're glad) to unmask these same ungodly, unbiblical teachings prevalent in so-called children's and youth music. The Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ are not compatible with many of today's shallow, frivolous, unbiblical choruses, let alone with Contemporary, Rock, or Rap, no matter who tries to "Christianize" it! Guard your children and youth from this trap of the devil.

Now remember, I am no sourpuss, kill-joy, or Grandma Grouch. I enjoy and believe in having fun with kids! The Christian life is one of genuine joy, not facade. In my 45 years plus of teaching and working with children and youth, I have had my share (and maybe more) of honchoing youth parties, picnics, camp-outs, slumber parties, bus trips, and the rest of it, but it is a sin against youth and a sin before God to annul the Gospel and disparage its seriousness by putting it in a mod, unscrupulous context whether in speaking, writing, music, art work, or other means. I am fearful that many young people today, directed by

well-meaning adults, are confidently marching forward believing they are "Heaven Bound," as the cute tee shirt asserts, when they are, in truth, forging headlong down the broad road to destruction.

TAKE STOCK

Let us take stock. Is our youth group getting Scriptural, God-fearing, realistic, heart-stabilizing teaching? Are we "Bound by the Book," so our youth understand that if they are Christians, they, too, must be bound by the Book in word and actions? If the boundaries of the Word of God are not absolute, then any person's idea, philosophy, or supposition has as much weight as another's, and our youth can pick and choose whatever way or belief suits them.

Being a children's or youth leader is a high but serious calling. May God give us grace not to desire the largest or most hyped-up youth group, but to have young people prepared to stand without compromise in their generation, ready to meet Christ at His appearing.

Well, there lies the concern of my heart. "What thinkest thou?" Ω



Thank you for continuance of The PROJECTOR. It has been appreciated over the years and continues to be as the 20th Century winds down.

IL

As a busy pastor, it's refreshing to have a paper that stands on the Truth and encourages me in the faith.

IA

**God Bless You!
Stand Tall!
Preach Hard!
Look Up!**

CT





Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

*The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and
a good man shall be satisfied from himself*
(Prov. 14:14).

THE WORD *BACKSLIDER* carries the same idea as our English word *flinch* which means to shrink, to withdraw from suffering, pain or danger. *Flinch* means to fail in going on, or of performing anything. It means to go back, to retreat, to apostatize. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines *backslider* as "an apostate, one who falls from the faith and practice of religion, one who neglects his vows of obedience and falls into sin."

Backslider and backsliding are Old Testament words, not appearing in the New Testament. However, Jesus talked about a backslider in Luke 9:62 when he said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

This proverb tells about a genuine backslider—a backslider in heart. His backsliding comes from the will, the center of his being. Whatever front he maintains on the outside, he is a backslider on the inside. He may put on a good show as being a dedicated Christian, but in the heart he is a backslider. As a pillar of the church he may look as if he is moving forward for God, but in his heart he is sliding backward.

God gives us wisdom to know the characteristics of a backslider in heart. We are told he is filled with his own ways, which are not God's ways. He sets out to establish his own way of servanthood, a way that satisfies and enhances himself, a way that in his reasoning should satisfy and please God. Good ways, practical ways, ways like the way of Balaam or Cain, "fruit of the ground" ways that result from his own works. He reasons that God will certainly be satisfied with all the clever ways he has devised. We are told in this proverb that not doing God's business in God's way reveals the backslider.

The last part of this proverb says, "and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." Who is this good man?

Proverbs 12:2 says, "A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD"; a good man has connection with the Lord.

Matt. 12:35, "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things"; a good man has good treasure in his heart put there by God.

Acts 11:24, "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord"; a good man is indwelt by the Holy Spirit; he is a saved man.

And finally Psalm 37:23 tells us, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way"; a good man follows the will of the Lord in his walk.

Therefore a good man is good because he has a good God. God is good and if a man may be called good it is because he walks with God.

In the man himself (that is, in his flesh) dwelleth no good thing. What is it that causes a good man to be satisfied from himself? Whatever satisfaction he has springs from God. He examines himself whether he be in the faith and is satisfied with what Jesus Christ has done for him. He rests in God and looks for no other helper. He is content with the working of God in his life. He is confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in him shall continue to perform it all of this life and throughout eternity.

He knows that his good works will not earn him standing before God, but he knows that through Christ they will be accepted of God and graciously rewarded. A backslider never has the satisfaction of the good man, because the *good man* out of the good treasure of the heart is able to bring forth good things—good things that please God and satisfy himself. A backslider has no such deposit from which to withdraw!



the
ditor's Desk
 Guest Article

THE PERIL WE FACE

BY THE LATE DR. BOB JONES, SR. EXCERPT FROM "WORD OF TRUTH"

The peril we are facing today fundamentally is not communism; the peril we are facing today is not socialism; the peril we are facing today is not ... war. The greatest peril we are facing today is the tendency to accommodate the Word of God and Christianity to unregenerate human nature without calling for conversion and the transforming power of God's grace. We are going along a dangerous road today. For instance, nearly every convention you read about in the paper—just watch the headlines—always deals with some social problem as if that were the big thing, some educational problem. They never put their finger on a certain problem that is responsible for all the other problems. What's that? We have repudiated the Word of God in this country. That is what is happening to us, and when we repudiate the Word of God then the Commandments of God lose their power If you repudiate the Word of God, you don't understand his majesty, the devil. If you repudiate the Word of God, you do not understand the necessity of the new birth. If you repudiate the Word of God, you send folks out from your ... schools in America without knowing God to carry on the nefarious work of leading people astray. ... Paul never did adapt himself in his preaching to conditions. He said, "I am all things to all men that by all means I might win some of them," but he was never all things to all men doctrinally. In other words, he adapted himself to the customs of a community. If he was with a Roman, he understood Roman culture, Roman history. He understood that. He didn't rub the cultural fur the wrong way. He was an educated man; he was a gentleman. But Paul never compromised his doctrine, never diluted it, or never fixed it up so ... they would [accept it], and it would have a special [appeal to human nature].

Wait a minute, what this world needs today—and the only thing that is going to do anything for us—is to get God's message to the people, and God's message to the people must be taken to the people in God's way. "[But] we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness." He said, "We don't

bow down to them. We have a message from another world." ... The note we need today is the Bible note, ... the authoritative, God-Breathed Book! ...

Paul deliberately chose to take God's message and go across the current of his age ... without flinching, without trimming, and held up the Word of God forever settled in Heaven ... without any compromise. ... What for? He said, "The power of God is in here. My business is to get people saved." Now what happened when that man did that? ... Why, he went out and shook the foundation of the Roman Empire and turned the current of history! He turned the world upside down, that's what he did! They didn't have any big organization and big machinery. They didn't have any steeple on their churches; they didn't have any big parade and big throngs of people—just a voice of a man crying out like John the Baptist did there in the wilderness, crying out, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand" [Matt. 3:2]. The power of God is in that sort of thing, see? The power of God! Influence may be in the other things. The church has more influence today than it ever has had, [but it] has less power than it ever has had. There is less power today than we have ever had in the churches, and more influence than the churches have ever had in the history of this nation. ...

Listen, just a minute. You've got to get back to an authoritative Bible; then you will have an authoritative Christ; then you will have an authoritative Gospel—"Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" [I Cor. 15:3]. Now, the peril we are facing today is not some social peril, because the world has always faced social peril. The peril that we are facing today is the peril of tramping on the Word of God that is forever settled in Heaven, the Bible that our forefathers believed in. ... When you meet Jesus Christ you know you have met God, and you get salvation in His name, nowhere else. There is salvation in no other name but His name, and "the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" [I Cor. 1:18].

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CO



The date signifies spring and that is what your publication conveys. "New Life in Christ" I have been told I'm old fashioned because I do not enjoy or support a watered down or false Gospel. I enjoy The PROJECTOR ...

PA



Sure do enjoy your paper very much. You print the truth, keep it up. The Lord bless you daily is our prayer.

TX



I am distressed to see that so many men, who in the past, have been a blessing to me by their writings; are today showing their compromise by the ecumenical move back to Rome. "How are the mighty fallen?" I am glad there are a few who haven't sold out. Keep up your good work of encouraging pastors that are watching people leave their cross-bearing for this "happy, feely, touchy" way. May God help us.

KS



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TEACHING TIPS

Doris Peppard

'THE END'

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning... (Eccl. 7:8),

Remember the first week of Pre-planning? Remember all those "plans of attack" you made: teach your students to sit properly, walk in lines, raise their hands, stand when answering, speak clearly, etc.? Remember the first week of school? Remember the amount of time you gave to getting the class started off right?

Well, now that it is getting near the end of the year, we should have a check-up. All the best laid plans suffer from a natural process of degeneration. This process affects all aspects of our daily lives: trees rot, buildings crumble, people die, institutions compromise, and students get away with everything they can. It is not that teachers do not like to follow plans; it is just that slipping into careless practices is a strong force to have to resist. The teachers whom students will remember forever are the ones who kept their feet to the fire and required that they rise to meet the challenge. Christian school teachers should evaluate their teaching effectiveness often.

Children will always find and follow the easiest path. They will give aid to the degeneration forces in the classroom. We must constantly remind, exhort, correct, and enforce our standards to ward off degeneration. We must follow through on high standards we set at the beginning of the year. Our students will learn valuable "real-life" lessons of consistency, perseverance, finishing the job, and loyalty. For the Lord's sake and for their sakes, we must strive to keep things right in our classrooms.

Here is a partial check-list which each teacher should individualize for his/her own classroom and school environment:

Classroom:

1. Desks kept arranged in straight, orderly rows.
2. No papers or books placed on floor under desks.
3. "A place for everything and everything in its place."
4. Students sit with feet on the floor facing the front—never sit on feet.
5. Students raise hands to answer—never blurting out answers.
6. Students clean off desks each time they leave the classroom.

Lines:

1. Noses and toes all face the front.
2. Space kept between each student.
3. Do not touch any other person or the walls.
4. Hands kept by your own side.
5. Mouths closed. (Teachers as well as students should never talk in the hallways unless an emergency arises. A look, a teacher's move beside an offender, or a whisper in the ear should handle every situation in the hall. This should include teachers not talking to each other if they are with their classes.)

Lunchroom:

1. Students spaced comfortably at tables.
2. Eat first, then whisper quietly when finished.
3. Follow proper eating habits and table manners.
4. Throw away your own trash and pack up your lunchbox.
5. Clean up your own area.

Plans are easy to make, but difficult to maintain. Quality control is our responsibility. Our students will have a good "ending" to their school year only if we are consistent, firm, and fair from beginning to end. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

THE END

Laodecean Leaven

by
Dr. Fiddle, D.D.

(To Be Read With Tongue in Cheek)



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Consider the following texts from the *TRIPE* Version:

"God commandeth all men everywhere to *vote*."

"Except ye *recycle* ye shall likewise perish."

"If the *ozone* be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

"Where there is *discrimination* the people perish."

"Be ye therefore *ethical*, even as your Father, which is in heaven is *ethical*."

"For whosoever shall be a *good parent* shall be saved."

"If any man be in Christ, he is a *conservative*."

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-Charles Wesley

OLD GAELIC BLESSING

May those who love us, love us,
And those who don't love us
May God turn their hearts;
And if God doesn't turn their hearts
May he turn their ankles
So we'll know them by their limping.



The PROJECTOR

EDITOR
Dr. Dayton Hobbs

The PROJECTOR is published quarterly by Gospel Projects, Inc., P.O. Box 643, 8331 Chestnut St., Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A. Third Class Permit at Milton, Florida.

The PROJECTOR is sent without charge to those who desire it. It is supported by the gifts of those who, voluntarily, desire to be a part of this ministry.

Postmaster send change of address to The PROJECTOR, P.O. Box 643, Milton, FL 32572, U.S.A.