



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day
of the LORD cometh, for it is
nigh at hand;" Joel 2:1*

May 2013

Let us take it Personally

*What a difference it makes
when we humans cease
being general and become
pointed and personal in our
approach to God!*

*We then come to see that all
that God did was for each of
us.*

*It was for me that holy men
spoke as they were moved by
the Holy Spirit.*

*For me Christ died-and when
He arose on the third day it
was for me.*

*When the promised Holy Spirit
came it was to continue in
me the work He had been
doing for me, since the
morning of the Creation!*

*So, I have every right to claim
all of the riches of the
Godhead in mercy given.*

*What a blessed thought-that
an infinite God can give all of
Himself to each of His
children!*

*He does not distribute Himself
that each may have a part,
but to each one He gives all
of Himself as fully as if there
were no others.*

*All that He is and all that He
has done is for us and for all
who share the common
salvation.*

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Sound the Trumpet

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

Israel Under Continuing Pressure

Just when it seemed things were settling down for Israel the pressure jumps up again.

Members of the opposition and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's own coalition are pressing the Israeli leader to accept a new Arab peace proposal as a basis for renewed negotiations with the Palestinians.

This Arab peace proposal is basically the Saudi proposal rejected in 2002. The recent call for renewed negotiations has a nebulous reference to minor land swaps. But the demand that Israel give up most of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and open its borders to millions of so-called "Palestinian refugees" is still in the proposal. If accepted it would mean the end of the Jewish State of Israel. The amazing thing is that Israeli politicians, both opposition members and government members are pressuring Netanyahu to jump on board the negotiations.

Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, who is in charge of negotiations with the Palestinians, called Al Thani's remarks a real step forward to finding a peaceful conclusion to the conflict. It seems that Tzipi Livni and a significant number of Israeli leaders and politicians have a death wish for the state of Israel. They totally fail to understand that giving away portions of the Promised Land is a direct act of disobedience to Israel's God. The troubling thing is that Netanyahu appointed Livni to the position of negotiator with the Palestinians, knowing full well that Livni has always been willing to sell-out to the Palestinians.

Netanyahu stated that **the issue is not land** but Israel's existence. There is no doubt that the Arab end game is to eliminate Israel, but **the issue is land**, the Promised Land. Netanyahu is a mystery, he seems to understand the real issues but sometimes seems to be unable to pull the trigger and do the right thing. It seems that he is under pressure to not alienate Israel's only ally, America.

America and Europe are bound and determined to drive Israel off the Promised Land in order to appease the Arab nations and keep the oil flowing. This is perhaps just an excuse for deep rooted anti-Semitism.

A sizeable number of Jewish people both in Israel and in America are opposed to a Jewish State based on the promises of God given in scriptures. They desire a secular state similar to the socialist states in Europe.

Almost all of Israel's politicians are in favour of giving up much of the Promised Land to Israel's enemies in the vain hope for peace with Islam. They have no vision of the restoration of the kingdom promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The following news commentary sums up this situation; "Over the past decade, left-leaning Israeli liberals - those who reject the biblical mandate of their nation - have come to see Christian Zionists as more dangerous than the Muslim fanatics threatening Israel with physical destruction." In the present situation these Jews are actually on the side of the Palestinians. They are just as estranged from God as many of their predecessors were; they are the real enemies of Israel.

A Second Referendum on the Land

The Israeli government is committed to give up land for peace. Netanyahu has just announced that a referendum will be conducted before the nation agrees to give up land for peace.

The first Israeli referendum was conducted at Kadesh-Barnea 3500 years ago. The Lord said in effect, "Go into the Promised Land and I will give it to you. Just trust me and obey me." Ten of Israel's leaders said, "No, we can't trust

the Word of God, we can't trust God's promises." At that point Israel had its first referendum and the people voted not to believe God and possess the land.

Instead of trusting God and obeying Him, they refused to go into the land and turned away from God's promise. The result was God's severe chastening. Every Jewish person twenty years and older died in the wilderness, before the next generation obeyed God and

entered the land by faith. Approximately two thirds of the nation died as judgment upon them for failure to trust and obey God.

Israeli is now poised to make the exact same mistake. We are told in Zechariah that the same judgment will fall upon them for this unbelief and disobedience. We read in Zechariah 13:8-9, that the rebels in Israel will ultimately be destroyed before she recognizes her Messiah and turns to Him.

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” That will be the fulfillment of God’s purposes for His chosen people.

Down over the long centuries, Israel's primary problem has been disobedience and unbelief, for which they have endured the chastening of God. It appears that the unbelief of Israel is now coming to a climax, the

final act of disobedience that will bring down the final great chastening of God upon them. The final chastening will be followed by their restoration to the land and an end to Israel's unbelief and disobedience forever.

Israel is a badly divided nation. At times it seems almost like a civil war in Judea and Samaria as the IDF, at the urging of liberals, set about to destroy the homes of those Jews who have a vision of occupying the Promised Land. Until the problem of unbelief is solved they will continue to flounder and not gain the peace they seek.

Much of Israel's press is controlled by the liberal sector of society which is opposed to the idea that Israeli's are the people of God. Israel's weakness is at the very core of her being. It is this unbelief and rebellion against their Messiah and His long promised kingdom that is preventing God from bringing them the ultimate peace and blessing.

God has been at work, and will continue to work to restore His people to Himself. He has blessed His people and given them miraculous victories. He is saying to Israel, by His actions, “Obey Me and trust me” and I will bless

you. That shines out in the three great wars of Israel since 1948. Each time God has blessed and each time Israel has failed to get the message to turn back to God in repentance and faith.

Until that day, God will continue to work to draw Israel to Himself. He will allow Israel to stumble from one crisis to another, intervening to preserve her and attempting to prove Himself to her. God loves the nation of Israel, in spite of her unbelief and disobedience. God will fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, through which He will glorify His name in a demonstration of His grace, mercy and love.

The bright side of the picture is that some Jews are turning their eyes upward to Jehovah and beginning to believe the promises of God. They are claiming the Promised Land as their inheritance from God. They still await redemption, but their eyes are opening up to the promises of God. It is not hard to see a real cleavage continuing to develop in the nation. We seem to be standing ever closer to the coming redemption of Israel, but not until they are severely chastened. Art Sadlier

Israel Under Continuing Pressure - Part 2

Obama has been running a publicity campaign to convince Israel that he is has her back, meaning that Israel can count on America in a crisis situation. However, of late that has all come unraveled.

Obama has been claiming that he will keep Syrian chemical weapons and long range missiles from reaching Hezbollah. He has been talking up a storm about bringing down Assad and clipping Iran's wings in Syria. He said the use of Chemical weapons by Assad was a red line that would bring American intervention. Now he has backed off and left Israel to hang out to dry on her northern border.

Russia has moved in to fill the vacuum in Syria and is re-committed to Assad. Russia has now committed to arm Hezbollah. Iran now has boots on the ground on Israel's Lebanon border. Israel's trust in Obama has left Israel in a more difficult position.

The same type of situation has developed as far as Iran is concerned. Obama has vowed over and over again, that if Israel will just cool her heels and

let him handle the situation, Iran will not be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. Obama has used every possible means to keep Iran safe from an Israeli attack, and he is still doing it. Now Iran is, without question, on the verge of becoming a nuclear power.

Obama has just committed to a ten billion dollar weapons deal for Israel. However the truth comes out that these weapons will not be delivered for several years and that they will not help Israel to attack Iran's nuclear program, as bunker buster bombs are not included in the deal.

Now word comes that according to informed Middle Eastern security officials, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivered a strongly worded message to Israel – do not attack Iran.

The officials told WND that Hagel informed the Israeli government the Obama administration will not accept any unilateral Israeli attack against Iran and that Israel must not strike Tehran without coordination with the U.S. (US permission).

Hagel further told Israel that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cannot decide alone whether Iran has crossed the nuclear threshold, or the so-called red Line previously outlined by the Israeli leader.

This comes after a former International Atomic Energy Agency senior nuclear inspector warned that Iran has discovered a way to circumvent Israel's red line and that the red line may have already been passed. Heinonen also warned that Iran may be able to convert the uranium without risk of detection.

Caroline Glick, a highly respected Jewish Journalist has written, (quote) Due to American pressure on Israel not to act, and due to the White House's rejection of clear-cut reports about Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, Iran has crossed the threshold. Iran will be a nuclear power unless its uranium enrichment installations and other nuclear sites are destroyed or crippled - Now!”

She went on to say, “Iran has threatened to use its nuclear arsenal to

destroy Israel. Have we now placed our survival in the hands of Tinkerbell? And yet, rather than acknowledge what Iran has done, Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon carry on with the tired act of talking about the need for a credible military option but saying that there is still time for sanctions and other non-military means to block Iran's quest for the bomb."

"Perhaps our leaders are repeating these lies because they want to present a unified US-Israel front to the world. But the effect is just the opposite."

"What their statements really demonstrate is that Israel has been brought to its knees by its superpower patron that has implemented a policy that has enabled Iran to become a nuclear power. (Unquote)

Now Obama is pushing a new Arab peace initiative that will result in Israel's destruction if adopted. The same Obama has worked feverishly to replace all of the moderate Arab governments around Israel with radical

Islamic fundamentalists who are totally committed to destroying Israel.

There are some questions on the minds of those who are friends of Israel. Will Iran get the bomb? Will Iran use it against Israel? Will Israel attack Iran? There are some clear indications in scripture that supply answers to some of these questions.

Iran will not use the bomb against Israel. Iran will not attack Israel until after the war of Psalm 83. Iran will attack Israel early in the tribulation period, in the war of Ezekiel 38-39. That attack will be with primitive or basic weapons. This attack will come after the peace treaty of Antichrist which will involve the entire world in a great disarmament program.

How Iran will be restrained from nuking Israel, at this point, only the Lord knows. Perhaps the war of Psalm 83 will come first. It could be that Israel will attack and destroy Iran's nuclear program?

That represents a lot of answers with no exposition. It would take several

hours of exposition to lay out why we believe what we have just summed up. It has all been covered at some point in our newsletters.

What we do know is that this prophetic scenario has been unfolding for some time and is headed for an inevitable climax. The situation cannot be reversed, it must play out.

One of the things to watch for is the movement of Jordan into the anti-Israel, Islamic Fundamentalist camp. Jordan is listed as one of the countries that come against Israel in the war of Psalm 83. The Syrian rebels have made it clear that when Al- Assad falls, Jordan and Israel are next on their list. The Muslim Brotherhood is also seeking the demise of Jordanian King.

The only explanation for Israel's survival up to the present hour is God. The only explanation for Israel's survival in the days that lie ahead is God, and it is all laid out in the Word of God.

Art Sadlier

THE GREAT APOSTACY

There has always been apostasy in the church. Paul said to the Ephesians in Acts 20:29-30, *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."*

I agree with those who claim that when Paul used the term "latter times" he was referring to the entire church age. However; when Paul used the term "last days" he was referring to the last days of the church age.

When the church is raptured, there will be left behind a totally apostate organized church. Apostasy has been growing all down through the church age but it will reach a climax at the end of this age. We are now witnessing that exploding apostasy within that which is called the Evangelical Church. The ground work is now being laid for that totally apostate organized church to appear.

The Evangelical/Laodicean Church was born in compromise. The Evangelical/Laodicean Church of the present day is unrecognizable from the

Fundamentalist/Philadelphian church it came out of in the 1940's. I have come to believe that the words evangelical and new evangelical are synonymous. New Evangelicalism was founded on the basis that they would abandon separation from both theological liberalism and from the world. That was apostasy, and it has grown from that day to this present hour.

I think it is the very nature of apostasy to expand until it reaches a tipping point, then it explodes. We are at that point now.

Up until now the apostasy has involved things like, abandoning the Biblical mandate and the Biblical pattern of the church. The methods, the message and the music have changed. Due to these changes the unsaved have flooded into many of the churches causing the candlestick of those churches to be removed, even though those churches still have their doors open and may have great crowds.

I believe the church has now embarked on the final stages of the apostasy which will result in its incorporation into



the harlot church when the rapture takes place.

It is that apostasy that I will now attempt to expose.

There is a great and growing divergence of theology and doctrine within the evangelical movement, even though doctrine and theology are now of little importance. Regardless of differences, there is one common thread rising among evangelicals and it is bringing them together.

They have a common goal to influence and bring all of Christendom, and all of the religions of the world together to establish a better world. This is a religious Trojan horse within the church which is making way for the coming world church.

I see a number of avenues along which this program is moving. I will name them and then deal with their program.

- ❖ **The Emergent Church**
- ❖ **The New Religious Right**
- ❖ **The New Apostolic Reformation**
- ❖ **The Word of Faith Movement**
- ❖ **The New Reform Movement**
- ❖ **The Purpose Driven Movement**
- ❖ **The Church of Rome.**

There is a common thread running through all of these movements, it is called:

***Dominionism-Kingdom Now- Replacement Theology ***

Whatever term each of these may or may not use, they all share the same goal, to establish the kingdom of God on earth. Some, perhaps, do not even realize what they are involved in.

These groups are functioning as change agents committed to reshape the church to enable it to bring about a union of all religions for the creation of a better world. The scripture could not be clearer; this is the program of the harlot church of Revelation 17.

The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), believe the primary purpose of the Church is to take back dominion of the earth from Satan and to build and establish a physical Kingdom of God on earth.

Listen to the words of David Rockefeller; although he is not a member of NAR, he expresses their agenda, in fact he expresses the agenda of all of these errant groups. *"Would that I had the power to bring to your minds the vision as it unfolds before me! I see all denominational emphasis set aside....I see the church molding the thought of the world as it has never done before, leading in all great movements as it should. I see it literally establishing the Kingdom of God on earth."* No clearer vision of the harlot church could be stated.

The New Apostolic Reformation is committed to a communitarian philosophy that seeks to bring the Church, the government, and corporations into an equal partnership in solving world problems and bringing about global peace and stability.

This is the exact same program promoted by the **Purpose Driven Movement** led by Rick Warren. Listen to the announcement of Rick Warren's Peace Plan, made several years ago.

*"The P.E.A.C.E. coalition is an international alliance of churches, businesses, ministries, universities, and other institutions who will work together to address five 'Global Giants' that affect billions of people worldwide: **spiritual emptiness, lack of servant leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic diseases, and illiteracy.**"*

Warren proposes to mobilize a billion people, including people of all religions and people with no religion to accomplish his purpose of fashioning a utopian world. Only one who has been blinded can fail to see that these groups are involved in building the one world church that is soon to come.

Understand, Warren claims on his website that he has 500,000 churches that are plugged into what he is doing. His books have sold millions of copies. He appears regularly on national TV and he travels the globe holding conferences and speaking. Warren is one of the great change agents of our time and he is filling the church with change agents. He has led the charge to complete the transition from the Philadelphian era to the Laodicean era.

The New Religious Right is a wide group of evangelicals who are dedicated to fighting a culture war to rescue religious freedom and morality. They are attempting to stop the radical transformation of society which has been going on for some time now. They may not all use the term Kingdom Theology but that is their goal.

Understand, Obama has so threatened religious freedom and morality that he has literally scared evangelicals into the arms of Rome. Evangelicals are uniting with any and every group to fight a cultural war to rescue the declining culture. The net result is an ecumenical thrust that is a setup for the harlot church.

Evangelicals can never win a culture war because our society has been given over to reprobation. The process of reprobation is described in Romans chapter 1, and our society is now at the end of that process.

The Emergent Church is committed to the very same program, a program that will transform the church into the image of the world. The Emergent Church is marked by every imaginable apostasy, but the desire to penetrate the world and bring a utopian unity is its major thrust. They state plainly that are seeking to tear down the church as it now is and replace it with a church that can bring unity to the world. They are unknowingly facilitating the creation of the coming world church.

The Word of Faith movement is a highly visible group that are promoting the idea that we can become gods. They share a new age concept, that when enough people recognize their divinity, (reach a higher consciousness) the world will be transformed and united (spiritual evolution will take place).

They teach the error that Christ came into the world as a man and became a God, and he is our example. They teach that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was insufficient and that he had to go to hell to suffer further at the hand of the devil to atone for sin. They teach this in spite of the fact that the dying words of our Lord on the cross were, "It is finished."

The Word of Faith teachers have a perverted gospel but their real message is the gospel of the kingdom. The kingdom they are proclaiming, perhaps unknown to them, is the kingdom of Antichrist.

Both NAR and WOF preachers are dominating religious TV and are subtly leading evangelicals into apostasy.

Some of the young pastors in the **Reform Movement** are deeply and radically committed to promoting Dominion Theology. They are also impacting the Evangelical Church.

This apostasy is sweeping through the evangelical church and perverting almost every area of evangelicalism, perverting its goals, ministry and theology and inviting the judgment of God upon it. It is facilitating the coming of the harlot church and the program of Antichrist.

Is it possible that all of Christendom could be on its way back to the **Church of Rome**? I recently viewed a video in which many denominational leaders were introduced to the Pope at

an ecumenical prayer gathering, some bowed and some kissed his ring. The following is a list of some of these groups.

Evangelical Lutherans – United Methodists – Reformed Church in America – General Association of Presbyterians – National Baptist Convention – International Pentecostal Holiness Church – Leith Anderson of the National Association of Evangelicals – Evangelical Church of Germany.

Christendom is already on its way back to Rome.

There is a second area in which apostasy is sweeping over the evangelical church. This is a move away from the truth of God's Word to a mystical form of Christianity which has infiltrated nearly all evangelical denominations, Bible schools and Seminaries.

We are referring to the new **emerging Christianity**, which is a repackaging of the eastern mysticism of Hinduism. This is a system through which mystic's commune with demon spirits who guide them and influence and control them.

Contemplative advocates propose that there has been something vital and important missing from the church for centuries. The insinuation is that Christians have been lacking something necessary for their spiritual vitality; but that would mean the Holy Spirit has not been fully effective for hundreds of years and only now the secret key has been found that unlocks God's full power to know Him. These proponents believe that Christianity has been seriously crippled without this extra ingredient.

Many terms are used for this new spirituality, **Contemplative Meditation, Spiritual Formation, Centering Prayer, Eastern Mysticism, Altered State of Consciousness, New Emerging Christianity**, etc. Whatever you call this new spirituality, it involves an encounter with demons who pose as a god within you. The purpose behind it all is to bring the whole world together with a sense of oneness, with the same spirits speaking the same message to all. The lie is that we are all a part of god and therefore we are all one. Again, I say that this is a movement

toward the unification of the world under Antichrist.

This new meditation is not Biblical meditation. In Biblical meditation the thoughts are focused on God's Word and communion with God in prayer. Joshua 1:8, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

This new meditation calls for the total emptying or blanking of the mind and the soul through various methods. This allows demon spirits to move in and influence and ultimately control and lead individuals into Satan's program. Matthew 12:43-45, *"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."*

The Hindu, the Catholic, the Liberal Protestant, the Evangelical, the secular person involved in Yoga or Transcendental Meditation and the New Ager along with all others, can be involved in this seemingly wonderful new spirituality which brings unity, a unity inspired by the doctrine of devils. We see that our world is rapidly heading toward this incredible unity which will be harnessed by the coming Antichrist.

If Christians are not serious about the Bible they will be seriously deluded by the blanket of deception that is falling over the world. Only the Word of God, believed and obeyed, can prevent you

from being deceived by an experience that is not from God.

Like an avalanche this apostasy has swept over evangelicalism. It has infiltrated into almost all Bible Schools, Seminaries and Para-church ministries. It has crept into many churches with multitudes of Christians not realizing what is happening.

One of the deceptive twisting's of scripture used to promote ecumenical unity is the John 17:21 where Jesus prays to the Father for His disciples, *"That they all may be one..."*

Evangelicals, Catholics and Liberals all use this verse to justify and call for a coming together in unity. They claim that it is God's will for all His people to come together as one.

The problem is that these groups are not all the children of God. Catholics have a different Jesus and a different gospel. They have a Jesus and a gospel that cannot save. The Jesus of Catholicism is a Jesus who must be sacrificed every week afresh in the mass. This is not the Jesus of the scripture. Even after the continual sacrificing of Christ in the mass, the Catholic has no assurance that his sins are forgiven. He must add good works to the work of Christ and even then his expectation is that he must spend time in purgatory to burn off some of his sins.

Those who hold to such a denial of the work of Christ are not saved and not the children of God. We are forbidden to have fellowship with them.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 9-11). Add to that Hebrews 10:12, *"But this man, after he had offered one*

When an avalanche roars down a mountain it gains size and momentum and speed before it hits the bottom of the mountain. At this moment the Avalanche of Apostasy is roaring down over evangelicalism.

sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God."

Ephesians 2:8-9 is sufficient alone to prove the Catholic gospel is a false gospel. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

Rome has a different Jesus. The NAR and the WOF along with the Mormons all have a different Jesus and a different gospel. The NRR have abandoned the gospel to save the culture.

I believe that Paul spoke directly about this new contemplative spirituality in 1 Timothy 4:1, *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."*

As I said previously, I agree with those who believe that when Paul used the term "last days" he was referring to the entire church age. But when Paul uses the term "latter times" in 1 Timothy 4:1 he is referring to the last days of the church age.

Paul says, *"...some shall depart from the faith..."* I believe to be involved in this new spirituality is to depart from the faith.

Paul says, *"...giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines (teachings) of devils."* That is exactly what is involved in contemplative meditation. The soul is opened up to influence and to input from the world of demons. We are seeing a fulfillment of Paul's prophecy before our very eyes in this present hour.

When an avalanche roars down a mountain it gains size and momentum and speed before it hits the bottom of the mountain. At this moment the Avalanche of Apostasy is roaring down over evangelicalism. The Laodicean church is ready to be spewed out of the Lord's mouth.

In Revelation 1:1, John in speaking about the unfolding of the events of the tribulation period. He said, *"...things which must shortly come to pass..."* The word **shortly** used here means quickly or suddenly, it means they will unfold rapidly. I believe that

after decades of creeping apostasy in the Laodicean church we are now seeing an avalanche of apostasy carrying Laodicea away. I suspect that we may be shocked at that which lies on the near horizon for Laodicean church; that is if we are around to see it.

I believe that a deceived Laodicean-Evangelical church will actually receive Antichrist as the person of Christ, after the rapture. *"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11).*

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus".

Art Sadlier

The True Church

In the midst of the growing and spreading apostasy we want to think of the marks of a true church.

The single most significant issue in identifying a church of Jesus Christ is the way in which it handles the Word of God. How does the Bible affect their lives, their teaching and preaching? Do they tremble at the warnings of the Word of God; do they believe the Word of God and obey it?

Christ has promised to build His church and if it is faithful to His Word it cannot fail. God will accomplish His purpose through His Word.

It isn't a question of failed strategy. It is not a question of failing to impress the world or to be accepted by the world. It is not a failure to fill the pews. If the church fails to be Biblical it is a failure. The whole life of the church is to be under the authority of the Bible. The church belongs to Christ and He rules the church. His purposes for the church and His instructions to the church are

found in the Word of God. There is absolutely nothing the church is to do, be it evangelism, preaching, teaching, discipleship, missionary endeavour or whatever other ministry, it is to find its' authority and instruction in the Word of God. To be a pastor, leader or a Christian puts an individual immediately under the authority of Christ and His Word.

Every redeemed individual in the world today is a part of the church which is the body of Christ; Christ has ordained that His body should find expression in the local assembly, which functions independently, as a unit within the body. It is within the local expression of the church that the believer finds his life and ministry, his fellowship and service.

The goal of the church is to bring the people of God into conformity with the Word of God and that is accomplished by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. The church is an

assembly of people who live under the authority of the Word of God.

.....
1 - The true church is a group of people who make a great confession.
.....

Peter confessed, "Thou art the Christ the son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Thomas confessed, "My Lord and my God" John confessed that, "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name."

Christ is the focus and center of every aspect of the true church. The focus is not the program or entertainment or music or efforts to fill the auditorium with the unsaved. The focus is the confession of Christ. It is a confession which is in conformity with what the Word of God teaches about Christ and not another Jesus of man's imaginations.

.....
2 – The true church is a group of people who have received a great communication.
.....

The church has a communication from God as found in the Word of God. The Word of God has been sent down from heaven. It is our one source of revelation from God. It is our only rule of faith and practice. It is the only source of our message to the world. As long as we operate in harmony with the Word of God we can speak with authority to the world, and we will be successful as God accomplishes His purposes through His Word.

.....
3 – The true church is a group of people who are a great contrast to the world.
.....

We are a part of another system, we are a spiritual kingdom. We operate counter to the world system around us. We are running against the grain of society. We have no role to play in the temporal realm. We are a supernatural fellowship in the midst of a natural world. We are strangers and pilgrims, aliens in this world who confront the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We offend sinners with our gospel message of sin and judgment, with the message of hell and with the message of the end of the age. We offend when we tell men and women that politics, economics and social structure do not matter, that eternal things are all that really matters. That is not what the world wants to hear, but that is the message of the true church of Jesus Christ.

A true church is a group of people who understand the great contrast between the church and the world.

.....
4 – The true church understands the nature of a great conquest.
.....

The cross and the resurrection is our message. The true believer is a crucified individual, crucified with Christ, a dead man on furlough. Our lives are lived as those crucified with Christ. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." When you go to the cross you talk about judgment, sin, death and hell and you talk about love, mercy and grace. When you go to the cross, pride goes out the window and meekness and humility takes its' place.

That runs counter to the world and the worldly counterfeit church. We conquer through dying to our own desires and our own ambitions and that runs counter to the world.

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5 – The true church understands the great conflict.
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In Matthew 16:22-23 we read, "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

Peter was actually saying to Christ in so many words, "Lord I forbid you to go to the cross." We understand that anyone in the church that says or does anything that is contrary to the will of God or the Word of God is taking sides with Satan against Christ.

God's people can take up Satan's cause. Peter had identified with Satan's purposes, hindering the work of Christ.

The true church must confront everything that works against the purpose and plan of God as found in the Bible. New Testament scriptures are filled with examples of God's people contending for the truth of the Word of God. Wrong doctrine, sin and false teaching and wrong practice must be confronted. Jude 3, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

When a group of people no longer contend for the Word of God, they are no longer a true church. They are compromisers playing church.

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6 – A true church recognizes great contradictions.
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Not only is there error to be confronted within the church, but there are false teachers abounding outside the local church. There are for example, those who tell us that God wants us wealthy and healthy. That is contradicted in Matthew 16:24-25, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it:

and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." False teachers contradict the Word of God and a true church will expose false teachers.

There are those who tell us we are to build the literal, physical Kingdom of God on the earth in the here and now, and this crowd is growing rapidly. Though these are outside the local assembly, yet false teaching which contradicts the Word of God must be confronted for the sake of the members of the body.

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7 – A true church will focus on the great consummation.
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Matthew 16:27, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." A true church is a church that is looking for the coming of Christ.

Paul described the Thessalonians as such a church in 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." That means more than just getting excited about the signs of the Lord's soon coming. It means to live and witness and serve the Lord in anticipation of that soon coming. Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

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8 – A true church will focus on the Great commission.
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We are to preach the gospel to the whole world. Not everyone has the gift of evangelism but we are all called to witness. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

A true church is one in which all are involved in witnessing, we are to witness and let God give the increase, whatever it may be.

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Conclusion
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The danger is that a true church may fail to submit to the authority of God's Word and have its' candlestick removed and no longer be a true

church. Revelation 2:5, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Those believers within such a group of people are still members of the body of Christ, but they are not members of a true local assembly of the body of Christ.

The decline in every area of our world is not the fault of the true church. It never was the purpose of the church to change the world. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). Moral decline is the result of hardened hearts that have turned away from God as revealed in Romans chapter one.

We see the steps that the world has taken to counter the church of Jesus Christ.

1. Eliminate the Bible and its' authority.
2. Reverse morality.
3. Demand tolerance.
4. Show intolerance toward those who are not tolerant of sin.
5. Persecution.

The first four steps are now fulfilled in our society; you can see that we stand on the threshold of persecution.

There are those who say the church has failed and it needs to change its' strategy. The church that is true to the Word of God can never fail. The church that changes from the strategy given in God's Word cannot succeed. It will only become like the world it seeks to win, as it joins in the program of Satan.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's a great transition was made in the church. The Evangelical/Laodicean Church came out of the Fundamental/Philadelphian Church. The Philadelphian Church is still in the world, but it is a remnant that is below the world's radar screen. The Laodicean Church is now in the ascendancy in the world. The contrast between these two groups could not be greater. The difference is in their attitude to the Word of God.

To the Philadelphians the Lord said, "(Thou) hast kept my word." In contrast the Lord said to the Laodicean Church, "Thou art lukewarm (toward me and my word)."

The following article in the Wall Street Journal, back in 1928 when the great depression began highlights what the church once was.

"What America needs today is not Government controls, industrial expansion, or a bumper crop; America needs return to the day when grandpa took the team out of the field in the early afternoon on Wednesday in order to hitch them to the old spring wagon into which grandma put all of the children after she washed their faces shining clean; and they drove off to prayer meeting in the little white church at the crossroads under the oak trees, where everyone believed the Bible, trusted Christ, and loved one another."

What changed? The church gave-up the pre-eminence and authority of God's Word for something else, and the apostasy began. Today that apostasy has swept the Laodicean Church into the dustbin, from which it will never return. It waits to be spewed out of the Lord's mouth.

The Laodicean Church of the present hour has absolutely no influence on the world because it has lost its candlestick.

Our Lord said, "I will build my church," but He will only build it in accordance with His Word.

Art Sadlier

COMMENTARY ON THE NEWS

TENSIONS ARE RISING IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, LEBANON AND SYRIA

Israeli military activity is reported in Syria and Lebanon on Saturday and Sunday May 4-5. An Israeli official has confirmed an Israeli Air Force strike on Syria early Saturday and Sunday which targeted a shipment of advanced weapons, specifically "long-range ground-to-ground missiles."

Israeli leaders have vowed to do everything necessary to prevent advanced weapons including anti-air S-17 and Scuds, or unconventional weapons such as chemicals being sent out of Syria to the Lebanese Hezbollah.

It has been also reported, but unconfirmed, that Israeli forces have moved some 5-7 kilometers into Lebanon and reached the Shebaa Farms area. This is in response to Iran moving 6,000- 8,000 Iranian Basij Militiamen up to the Israeli border. If this is confirmed it is a very significant development.

Obama has just made it clear that no US troops will be sent to Syria. Israel is forced to confront this move by Iran to place an army on Israel's northern border.

It has also been noted that Russia has moved to come to Syria's aid against the rebels. Russia has also pledged arms to build up Hezbollah.

These are very significant developments. Though neither Iran nor Russia is involved in the war of Psalm 83, this could be the further stage setting for this war. The whole Mideast scenario has been, for some time now, heading toward a climactic war with Israel. Art Sadlier