

REMINDER

Volume XVI

February 21, 2010

Number 8



The Late Dr. Vance Havner

Pattern for Perilous Times

by the late Dr. Vance Havner

Paul, the veteran apostle, is nearing the end of his race. He has run it with patience, and now he is about to pass the torch to his son in the Gospel, Timothy. It is a fine thing when a minister has a son of his own who is also a son in the Gospel, but if he has no son in the flesh he may have one in the faith.

Paul is helping Timothy to get his bearings. He tells Timothy that the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine. He was under no illusions about the future. He had told the elders of Ephesus that after his departing, grievous wolves would enter in, not sparing the flock, and that within the church false leaders would arise (Acts 20:29-30). Some preachers today would never think of warning against false doctrine. They say it is the wrong approach, is not psychologically correct, that we should be optimistic about the future. If such procedure is wrong, then the New Testament is wrong in a lot of places.

Paul said the time would come "when they can't take it," and that time has arrived. The Gospel message is foolishness to this world, of course, and, incidentally, if the message be foolishness what can the messengers expect but to be called fools? But the time has come when the church cannot endure sound doctrine, not the liberals alone, but plenty of fundamentalists. Alexander Whyte spoke of those who *"will be thankful to you for telling them the particular times when the Gospels were writ or for explaining the meaning of Euroclydon or anathema maranatha. They will be glad,"* said he, *"for such useless instruction. But if you touch upon such subjects as try the state and way of their lives, these religious people cannot bear to be thus instructed."*

In such a time what is the preacher to do? ***"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*** He is to be a "gospelizer" and if the people won't endure it, preach it anyway! Such was the charge given to Isaiah and Jeremiah. Read the second chapter of Ezekiel. The prophet was to face an impudent, stiff-hearted and rebellious people and not be afraid of them, but ***"whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear,"*** he was to speak God's words until they should know that a prophet had been among them.

I have already mentioned Alexander Whyte. One would think that after eighty a minister would face no more crisis in his ministry. But in his old age Dr. Whyte wrestled with the question whether he should for the remainder of his ministry preach more on the gentler and more hopeful aspects of Christian truth and less on sin and its fruits. He says:

What seemed to me to be a Divine Voice spoke with all commanding power in my conscience, and said to me as clear as could be: ***"No! Go on, and flinch not! Go back and boldly finish the work that has been given you to do. Speak out and fear not. Make them at any cost to see themselves in God's holy Law as in a glass. Do that, for no one else will do it. No one else will so risk his life and his reputation as to do it. And you have not much of either left to risk. Go home and spend what is left of your life in your appointed task of showing my people their sin and their need of my salvation."***

It is not easy to keep a charge like that in a day like this. We have heard of an army officer in the thick of a battle who called to his superior and said, "The flag has been carried 'way ahead of the regiment. Shall we bring it back?" His superior thundered back, "No! Make the regiment catch up with the flag!" The tendency today is to bring our flag back to our faltering battle lines. We need to bring the regiment up with the flag. If we are to be faithful in such a time let us remember that there is a price to pay. "Endure afflictions," is Paul's word to Timothy. He was to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Paul knew from experience. He had suffered the loss of all things, had endured hardship and suffering..

It costs us nothing to be saved. Eternal life is the gift of God. It cost God aplenty. It cost our Saviour His life, but it is free to us. But if we are to be soldiers of the cross and followers of the Lamb, it will cost us everything we have and we shall be in for plenty

(continued inside on Page 3)



Pastor's Corner

Todd M. White

Why I Am Convinced That The Confusion Over Bible Versions Is Part Of Satan's Master Plan - Part 2

For the past few weeks, I have been sharing with you some things that God has laid on my heart about the current condition of Christendom, the condition the church will be in immediately prior to the Rapture, and how Satan is preparing mankind for his one-world religion under the Antichrist as found in the Book of The Revelation.

We have covered several things regarding how that I am convinced that one of the biggest, if not THE biggest, ways in which the devil is preparing mankind for the one-world religion of the Antichrist is by an upcoming attack on the veracity of the Bible on a massive scale. In short, I believe that the confusion over Bible versions is part of that Master Plan, and, when the timing is just right, it is your pastor's conviction that Satan will use the secular media to present what they will call "conclusive proof" that the Bible is a man-made book.

When that happens, I believe, the remaining legs of the table that holds up society will be knocked out, and the effectiveness of Christians who have an uncorrupted Bible will be dealt a severe blow with regard to evangelism, church growth, and even keeping hold of those in their churches that are on the fringe. As Bible-based Christianity, which is already fading and having a very difficult time even maintaining (have you seen our attendance and giving numbers lately, for example?), goes into a tailspin, chaos and anarchy will ensure, forcing the "people of faith" - the ones who had their corrupted "bible" shown for what it really is - will have to resort to all kinds of gimmicks to keep people and recruit new members.

Now, while the type of religions hype and hucksterism that many of us decry and deplore is already taking over modern Christianity through things like the Emergent Church Movement, the modern neo-Pentecostal (aka "Charismatic") Movement, the Seeker Sensitive Movement, and all the rest, what's going to happen after the "Big Announcement" regarding the Bible's origins will make what people like Joel Osteen, Bennie Hinn, Rick Warren, Ronnie Floyd, and all the rest of the charlatans in Christendom today look like stoic orthodoxy by comparison.

I also mentioned how that the people will need to be primed properly in order to get them to accept the Antichrist and his demonic henchmen, and how this is being rapidly accomplished through the continued and ever-increasing manipulation and brainwashing of the masses through all kinds of means, including the following:

- *The Incredible Number of Occultic and Occult-based Cartoons, TV Programs, Movies, & Games for Children Available Today.*
- *The Rapid Increase In "Fantasy" Motion Pictures That Have Characters That Are Part Human, or Not Human At All.*

□ *The Acceptance Of Experience Over And Above All Else In Matters Of Faith*

□ *The Rapid Rise And Acceptance Of The "Emergent Church" Movement Among Churches Today.*

and -

□ *The Numerous "Historical Fiction" Novels, TV Shows, and Movies.*

In other words, beloved, the devil has to turn this matter of faith away from the infallible, inspired, inerrant Word of God into something that focuses on the visceral level - on how people *feel*, on their experience, and on the mystical, even occultic, side of spirituality. And, without the bedrock of Scripture to rest on, religious faith and practice will readily accept any form of reliability, or permanence, and that will come in the form of a man - the Antichrist.

Without the Bible as the foundation of Truth, mankind, which is designed by God to need to be grounded in Himself and His Word, will reach out for ANYTHING that even looks real, and steady, and promises hope.

Don't believe me? Take a look at the last election for President of the United States - the masses elected, albeit barely, a man that they knew *nothing* about - a man who had NO governing experience, NO training, and wouldn't even be able to get a security clearance if he wasn't President - all because he *looked* good, he *sounded* good, and promised them all the things that they felt they needed. Has he come through on any of those touchy-feely promises? No, but his supporters, still blinded by their feelings, which come from their fallen fleshly natures, are unable (not unwilling) to admit it. They will follow him right off the proverbial cliff, if he chooses to lead them over it.

This is how the Antichrist will take over - when mankind has what they think is no other choice, when they think that there is no true faith because the Bible has been debunked as a myth and an assembly of fairy tales, when they've lost all hope - THIS MAN will come on the scene offering HOPE and CHANGE, and this time, mankind, having fallen for it before in America, will fall for it WORLDWIDE...

Let us heed well the inspired words of the Apostle Paul:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God...

...For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (the Holy Spirit) will let (hinder the Antichrist), until he (the Spirit of God) be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 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 (that the AC is THE Christ): that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness"

- II Thessalonians 2:3-12

Pattern For Perilous Times (continued from Page 1) -

of trouble.

The preacher who stands for God and righteousness and exposes sin thereby "sticks his neck out," and becomes the target of all the subtle and sinister attacks of the Adversary. Sometimes we dodge the issue by deciding to specialize in a ministry of comfort. Dr. John Watson felt in his late years that if he had his life to live over, he would give himself more to such a ministry.

But John Henry Newman said, "*Those who make comfort the great subject of their preaching seem to mistake the end of their ministry. Holiness is the great end, comfort is a cordial, but no one drinks cordials from morning to night.*" It is easier to comfort the afflicted than to afflict the comfortable, but there is need for both.

Noah had no converts and perhaps it was because he was "a preacher of righteousness." People do not like to be called to holiness and righteousness and will not flock to the prophet who calls to a straight and narrow way. It costs to do that kind of preaching. It costs in popularity. There is a mistaken notion that the world will honor the man who stands for God. It will break his neck if it can. Jesus said they hated Him and would hate us. Our Lord had a crowd at the beginning of His ministry. They came to Him from every quarter, and His disciples said, "All men seek for thee." But there came a day when even His disciples forsook Him and fled.

Sometimes it costs at home. A man's foes may be those of his own household. When Sam Jones entered the ministry his wife told him she had married a lawyer, not a preacher, and would never be a Methodist minister's wife. Sam told her he would preach the Gospel if he had to travel as a grass widower. The night before he left for Conference she was taken violently ill. She had said that if Sam became a preacher she would have to be removed first. It looked as if she were going to be removed. She promised God then and there that if He would save her life she would be the best preacher's wife she knew how to be. She recovered and kept her promise. God mightily used Sam Jones all over America because he was ready to pay the price.

There is a price to pay in loneliness. Look at Paul in the fourth chapter of Second Timothy. He calls the roll of his friends, and most of them are conspicuous for their absence. Demas had forsaken him, having loved this present world. Crescens had gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Tychicus had been sent to Ephesus. Paul needs his cloak and parchments. Alexander the coppersmith

has done him much evil. "At my first answer no man stood with me," he says. Does not that remind you of Another of whom we read "And all his disciples forsook him and fled"? But Paul does not end here: "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened me." There is not only a price to pay, there is a promise to plead.

God has said, "**I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,**" and so precious is that word that it shows up in Genesis and Deuteronomy and Joshua and the Psalms and Isaiah and Hebrews. Our Lord has said, "**Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.**" If we pay the price, we can plead the promise.

I started out ten years ago to travel over this land in an itinerant ministry under no particular auspices or sponsorship. The devil said, "You mean well, but the religious world is so organized today that you will have to pull a few wires and get under somebody's wing in order to keep going. If you preach plainly they won't receive it and you'll starve." Well, I may look as if I am starving but I am not. I have had three meals every day, and God has gone before and opened doors I couldn't have entered with a crowbar. I turned my reputation, my calls, my future over to the Lord, and He has never left me nor forsaken me.

*Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you cannot tunnel through?
God specializes in things thought impossible;
And He will do what no man can ever do.*

"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." One thinks of the old lady whose pastor tried to explain that the verse could really mean, "I'll never, never, never forsake thee." She replied, "The Lord may have to say it three times to get you Greek scholars to believe it, but once is enough for me."

Not only is there a price to pay and a promise to plead, there is a prize to possess. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." We are to so run that we may obtain. I don't want the booby prize when I get to heaven. There is for us the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, and we are to let nothing take our crown. Discouragement can do it: Elijah almost lost his under a juniper. Success can do it: David almost lost his in a king's palace. The wrong kind of books can do it. Eating and drinking can do it. We can be so busy even with the good that we miss the best in a round of glorified piddling. The fear of man can do it. Ecclesiastical pressure can do it. The wrong school can do it. "Look to yourself, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

Some of the saints seem so smug in positional truth that it doesn't matter to them whether they receive a reward or not. Indeed, we do not work to get to heaven, but rewards will be handed out at the judgment seat of Christ, and I don't want to miss anything God has for me, nor do I want to let the devil cheat me out of my crown.

Paul wanted to finish his course with joy (Acts 20:24). We are never safe in that respect until the last step. Some who started

gloriously ran well until within sight of the goal, only to finish miserably. It may have been money or morals or modernism. What fools we can be on the home stretch! No wonder a dear old saint prayed, "Lord, keep me from being a wicked old man!"

Paul ran well, but he kept his body under subjection, lest, having preached to others, he himself should be a castaway. He ran with patience, looking unto Jesus, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. He won His prize! Let us consider Him, lest we be weary and faint in our minds. And considering Him, let us pay the price and plead the promise and possess the prize. ■

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Merri Geroux

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 14, 2010

Sunday School ----- 22
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 38
 Evening Service ----- 32
 Wed. Eve. Service, 02/17/10 ----- 27

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of February 14, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,014.00
 Total Received for Week of 02/14/10: \$ 1,014.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church

EACH WEEK,
as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00 🙌

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

We Are Suspending Our Specific Fund Drives Until Our Regular Weekly Offerings Come Back Up To Where They Need To Be. Please Give As Much As You Can To Help Us Catch Up After The Extremely Low Giving We Experienced This Summer And Fall.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Geroux family ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White