

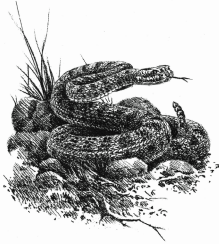
REMINDER

Volume XV

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Number 16

HOW TO SPOT



The Emergent Church

by Eric Barger - Take A Stand Ministries, Rockwall, Texas

THE LIBERAL ROOTS OF THE EMERGENT CHURCH

Over a century ago spiritual liberalism swept through the once-sound mainline denominations, wreaking theological havoc on anyone in its path. Once solid and fundamentally-based seminaries became infested with the liberal teachings of the so-called "German Enlightenment" and before long heretical intellectualism, which doubted the authority of the Bible, quickly spread to the leaders of the denominations, into the pulpits and finally to those in the pews.

Today, one doesn't have to look far to see the spiritual disrepair that liberalism has left the denominations in. Because of the longstanding apostasy of the spiritual liberals, untold millions have already entered eternity without Jesus Christ-having previously believed that those entrusted with teaching them the Christian faith were doing so faithfully and authentically.

Using much the same *modus operandi*, Satan is now out to destroy the Evangelicals of our times. It worked well 100-150 years ago in the mainline denominations and it's working again now. So, with

the predicted falling away of the end-times in full swing (see II Thess. 2:3), every truth-seeking Christian needs to be aware of the "new" liberalism - *The Emergent Church*.

WHAT IS "THE EMERGENT CHURCH?"

This short piece is not meant to fully educate on Emergent error. Nor will I go into the secondary issues of Rick Warren's "*Purpose Driven*" philosophy or the "*Seeker Sensitive*" ideas of Bill Hybels and Willow Creek. There are many fine resources from trustworthy apologetics ministries and others that are shedding light on these troubling teachings as well as on Emergent thought. The DVD our ministry produced called *The Errors of the Emergent Church* is one such tool. (Click [here](#)) However, for the sake of those who may have never heard the term "Emergent," let me offer a quick definition.

The *Emergent Church Movement* takes its name from the idea that the culture has changed, and a new church should *emerge* in response. It apparently grew out of discussion groups inside the Young Leadership Network in the 1990's.

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Pastor's Corner

Todd W. White

Studying To Show Ourselves Approved

Our revival services with Malcom Ellis are now past, and it hardly seems possible. The music was wonderful - Kent Buttram is always such a joy to have lead the singing and sing for us, and the preaching was challenging and a real blessing to all who attended. Our next scheduled meeting with Malcom Ellis will be in 2010 on Sunday, January 31 through Wednesday, February 3. Please begin praying for these services now, and do so every day until the appointed time.

Bro. Malcom Ellis mentioned in his messages several times how bothered he is about the trends towards world-like-ness he sees in modern Christianity. His messages reminded us all of the importance of staying true to the Word of God, even if the rest of Christendom does not.

All of the messages Bro. Malcom brought are available on the church's website - just go to the following page to find them: www.southheightsbaptist.com/MalcomEllis_index.html

You can download or listen to them through streaming audio directly from the website on your computer.

The main article in this week's **REMINDER** is about **The Emergent Church** - the movement that is rapidly taking hold in most churches and denominations, and is preparing the masses of professing Christians for the day when there will be a one-word religion under the control of the antichrist during the time of the Tribulation. If you are interested in what the Bible says about end-time events, you would do well to study about it from our website.

The two books in the Bible that are the most important when talking about Bible prophecy are **DANIEL** and **THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION**. These two are companion books, and, if you study them one right after the other, give a full picture of what has and will come to pass in this world.

You can listen to all of the verse-by-verse studies taught by your pastor on the church website. For **The Book Of DANIEL**, go here: www.southheightsbaptist.com/Daniel_index.html

For **The Book Of The REVELATION**, go here:

www.southheightsbaptist.com/Revelation_index.html

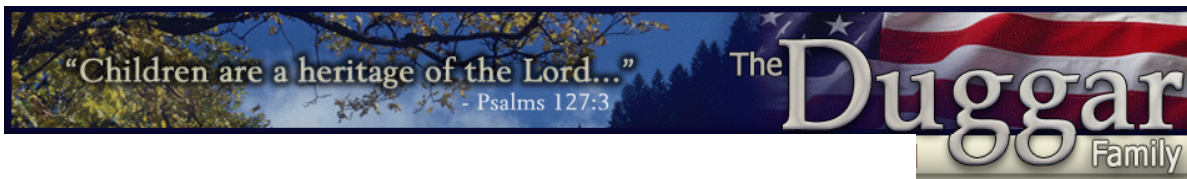
Other Bible book studies currently available are:

* Amos * Romans * I Corinthians * II Corinthians
* Ephesians * Colossians * James

We also have several excellent messages from some of the greatest preachers, as well, so be sure and check them out here:

www.southheightsbaptist.com/mediaministry.html

BE PLANNING NOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO HEAR -



Sunday Morning June 28, 2009

- ❑ *Duggar-family Musicians Will Play and Sing For Our Service!*
- ❑ *Jim Bob Duggar Will Be Speaking In The Morning Service!*
- ❑ *Michelle Duggar To Give Devotional At Rebekah White's Baby Shower At 1:30 p.m.*

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

SPOTTING THE EMERGENT CHURCH (cont'd from P. 1) -

To *Emergents*, Christianity should be:

- * *Experience over Reason*
- * *Spirituality over Doctrine and Absolutes*
- * *Images over Words*
- * *Feelings over Truth*
- * *Earthy Justice over Salvation*
- * *Social Action over Eternity*

To put it bluntly, the *Emergent Church Movement* is a complete **redefinition** of Christianity. It is unquestionably the new Liberalism. However, don't wait for Emergent teachers to use the term "Emergent." Learn how to spot it for yourself.

HOW TO SPOT THE EMERGENT CHURCH MOVEMENT IN YOUR CHURCH

Here is a short list of authors, teachers and areas of concern that may indicate that the leadership of your church is being influenced to varying extents by Emergent Church philosophy.

☐ Check for books and/or videos by teachers such as *Brian McLaren, Rob Bell, Doug Pagitt* and *Tony Jones*. Are any of these being recommended or used in your classes, home groups or church services? These men began by simply questioning the authority of the Bible and the orthodox nature of Christian doctrine and have now redefined what they call Christianity into a completely cultic, yet loosely defined and identified, religion. It is a genuine oxymoron that the wildly unorthodox ideas taught by these men could be as readily accepted as they are in supposedly "Evangelical" churches, seminaries and even entire denominations.

☐ Have biblical doctrines such as *salvation by grace, repentance, and the reality of a literal Hell* been marginalized or abandoned in your church? Is there a constant insistence that the Church must abandon history and orthodox teaching and change our methods in order to be relevant to the postmodern world?

It is a completely flawed concept to believe that postmoderns are somehow "different" than all the generations that came before them and that, if we are to reach them, then the church - and it's message - must change. *Sin in the hearts of men is still the problem and the Cross is still the antidote!* God has entrusted us with the ONLY message that can cure the sickness of sin. Who are we to change that message?

We must lovingly and accurately deliver the *whole* Gospel, regardless of how it may be accepted, remembering that it is the Holy Spirit's task to draw men to Jesus - *not ours*. To edit the Gospel - regardless of how well-intentioned - is to thwart the Holy Spirit's work and merely assures the eternal damnation of those we seek to reach (see Romans 1:16).

☐ Is *Contemplative Prayer/Spirituality* being introduced and practiced in your church? Is there talk of "**Spiritual Formation,**" centering prayer and something called "**lectio divina**" which, in a nutshell, is leading Evangelicals directly into the mystical and sometimes occult-based practices of the Roman Church?

Have you heard the term "*labyrinth*"? It is an usually intricate maze to meditate in, with basis in Greek, Egyptian and Cretan Mythology and used in Tantric Buddhism. Mystics contend that utilizing a labyrinth will supposedly bring a relaxed mental attitude and end the search for life's meaning! In reality, this road leads to New Age mysticism and even the occult, as does the popular Emergent practice of Yoga.

A few popular contemplative adherents are *Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Leonard Sweet, Thomas Keating, Richard Foster* and *Frank Viola*.

☐ Have buzzword phrases like "*Missional Christianity,*" "*Incarnational Christianity,*" "*Conversational Christianity*" and "*Relational Christianity*" been attached to the identity of your church? Do you hear the Pastor or others use them?

☐ Have the teachings of *Open Source, Open Theism* or *Process Theology* been embraced in your church or by it's leaders? Open Theism teaches that God knows the past and lives in the present but has no idea of what the future holds. Obviously, this destroys every prophetic passage in the Bible - including the blessed hope of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

☐ *Is there a new, uncanny identification with saving planet Earth in your church?* Has environmentalism become common pulpit rhetoric? Emergent author, Brian McLaren contends that it is *Earth* - and not unregenerate humans - that Christ came to save.

☐ *Perhaps the most important question to ask is about the authority of the Scriptures.* In your church, is the Bible held in utmost regard by those in leadership? Is the inerrancy of the Bible preached faithfully? Is there a complete and unapologetic dependence on God's Word by those in leadership? The growth of liberalism and Emergent ideas is directly proportionate to the value placed on the Scriptures by individuals and church leaders. Without an unwavering accountability to the Word of God, every individual Christian, as well as every local church and national denomination, will soon find themselves in jeopardy.

WHAT TO DO IF EMERGENT IS IN YOUR CHURCH

- * Prayer (conduct Spiritual Warfare!)
- * Dialog (ask questions)
- * Confront (Matthew 18)
- * Warn Others!
- * Flee! (when all else fails)

What we see happening in the Church today is no shock to those who study prophecy. The Scriptures are replete with warnings about false teaching and false teachers. Jesus alone warns of this an amazing 14 times; Paul and Peter, too.

A great end-time apostasy is indeed going to sweep through the Church preceding the return of the Lord. I believe that before the spirit of Antichrist is finished, error will be the norm in allegedly "Christian" circles and orthodoxy will be the oddity. But as overwhelming as it may seem, I guarantee that you are not alone!

If you are alarmed at even the subtle Emergent influences at

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NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarth
 Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey Moreno
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Kristi Hooper

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of April 12, 2009

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 50
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Mon. Eve. Service, 04/13/09 ----- 25
 Wed. Eve. Service, 04/14/09 ----- 21
 Wed. Eve. Service, 04/15/09 ----- 27

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of April 12, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,067.00
 Love Off'g, Malcome Ellis ----- \$ 128.00
 Love Off'g, Kent Buttram ----- \$ 141.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 04/12/09: \$ 1,346.00

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church
 EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00** 🗳️

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,240.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 570.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 324.00

EMERGENT CHURCH (cont'd from Page 3) -

work in your church, so are many others who are battling for the very life of their local churches and even their denominations. Many biblical Christians are making the same stands that you are faced with making. God will indeed lead you as you hold faithfully to His Word, as you witness and as you pray. Great is the reward for those who walk with Jesus and follow the command to contend for the authentic faith (Jude 3).

Don't quit! ■

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,
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach
 Jamie Davis ----- Sound Technician