

GOD'S WORD
 “WITH THE UNLEAVENED BREAD OF
 SINCERITY AND TRUTH”

Preach Jesus, not Ourselves!

Glen C. Robertson

A ‘NEW AGE’ has reached North America. The age has passed in which the Church was a major influence upon the societies of Canada and the United States. No longer are Christian teachings and example given much attention or credibility. The influence of the Church upon society is limited now largely to what can be forced through political activism. And any such influence can only be upon the actions, and not the hearts of those touched.

Gone are the days in which the minister, peering down from the pulpit, could be quite confident that both his words and the Bible he preached from were given respect and honour in the hearts and lives of those to whom he spoke, not only from the pulpit, but also on the street. Come are the days in which neither the Bible nor the pulpit is given much credence in peoples' hearts, lives, or even in the church. Even the faithful in our assemblies are inundated and influenced inordinately by *sin*, *unbelief*, and *secular humanism*. Television in every home portrays its secular, humanistic, and anti-Christian philosophies and life-styles as normal and desirable. Because television is such a part of the lives of us all, what it portrays similarly becomes a part of us, and what we therefore subconsciously suppose to be common and normal thought and philosophy. Even if the pastor is not cut from the same mold of secular influence (although many are) he is nevertheless faced with the same hurdles affected by the members of the congregation who are attacked by that influence. These: *sin*, *unbelief*, and *secular humanism* permeate our churches now to such an extent that one or more of them generally forms one or some of the most influential forces in the local church body. The pastor, rather than, as old, being besieged by mere new denominational and doctrinal influences, now finds himself combatting sin, Christian immaturity, and worldly thinking as the greatest challenges and sources of conflict in his very congregation. And thinking, perhaps, that Scriptural faith and practice are hopeless ideals. But that is only if he looks to the world or to his people for his Spiritual direction. And unfortunately, having lost their influence *over* society, many of our ministers now allow themselves rather to be influenced *by* society.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Matt.24:11-13 The BIBLE

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

Luke 18: 8 The BIBLE

Iniquity is indeed abounding in anticipation of the return of the Son of Man. The love of many certainly is waxing cold. It is a mark of, and indeed, a shame upon the church of today, that iniquity is increasing and influencing our men behind the pulpit. Whereas in yesteryear our pastors would bewail "those wretched souls, those teachers, children of the Devil," they find themselves, often unwittingly, guilty of betraying the Word of Him Who commissioned and sent them, and all for the price of a piece of bread. Leavened bread.

While in Bible College the author was the most outspoken of his classmates on the fact that Christ would not return in a 'secret rapture.' Although this writer was the most outspoken, he was not the only one to admit and declare the truth of the Scripture on the matter; in fact, he was but one of a great number of people. When it came time, however, to apply upon graduation to the denomination for ministerial license, in the light of the fellowship's concrete requirement that its ministers subscribe to such a doctrine (the author consequently did not apply) all disparate opinion from the other students seemed to miraculously disappear. We had been coached by a delegation from head office to ignore our beliefs on the subject and to sign that we did indeed subscribe to the Denominational position on this matter, in order to be accepted into ministry. Many young men were added to the role of licensed ministers in that denomination with an understanding of the truth in Scripture but with a signed, solemn affirmation otherwise!

Regardless of the importance or otherwise of the doctrine that they lied about, the integrity of a Preacher of the Truth and his willingness to preach what he did not believe was what was in question. (And the priorities of concern in a denomination.)

7 For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth:
for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

8 But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have
corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied
Him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil *is* good in the sight of the LORD, and He
delighteth in them; or, Where *is* the God of judgment?

Mal. 2:7-8, 17 The BIBLE

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be **false
teachers among you**, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the
Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall
be evil spoken of.

3 And through **covetousness** shall they with **feigned words make merchandise of you**:
whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

II Pet. 2:1-3 The BIBLE

10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the
circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which
they ought not, **for filthy lucre's sake**.

Tit. 1:10-11 The BIBLE

Many young men thus gained a good possibility of a steady job in their chosen, "profession," in their intended means of earning an income. But even before being granted a position of responsibility in a church, they simultaneously ceased to be men of God. Although they still loved the Lord they abandoned what had been characteristic of their zeal for God in their younger, 'innocent,' days and in the idyllic, sequestered setting of Bible College and adopted what in the world beyond College would be a means of earning an income. It has been said that, "A man has many ideals until there comes the matter of money," and, "Every man has his price," and, "Only the young die good." These young men, now pastoring with the Denomination, proved that they were no different, and consequently will accept and preach what their congregations wish them to preach, even just by toning down their Sunday messages a little or by doing whatever it takes - simply to guarantee the pay cheque. Once the first, introductory compromise (for any reason) is made there is nothing but repentance and rededication which can stem the flood down the slippery slope which usually follows. What began as willingness to ignore Scripture and to lie under solemn affirmation and signature, for a seemingly insignificant doctrine, becomes a similar willingness regarding other, 'more important,' doctrines, morals and practices.

The story is told of the gleaming young White Knight who sets out to destroy the evil Black Knight, a scoundrel plundering the countryside and ravishing its women. For years he searches, never looking back to the place from which he started out, never finding the object of his quest, occasionally accepting the kind gifts of an obviously nervous but honored innkeeper or townsman, or receiving a night's warm hospitality from a sympathetic and awestruck young lady. One day, far from home, he rounds a curve in the path and is confronted by another gleaming, young white Knight, who, with an air of moral superiority, challenges him, the, "evil Black Knight," to a fight to the death! The original White Knight looks down at himself, to find that his once-glistening, white armour is now a dull, tarnished... black.

1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Gal. 6:1 The BIBLE

Our ministers are willing to attack the sin of the sinners (hopefully with or without the permission of their congregations) but are they willing to recognize that perhaps Scripture refers to them also? There are indeed terrible, sinful, heretical men in the world, and so there is always someone compared to whom we will appear far, far better. But are our ministers able to recognize, nay, to admit that perhaps some or part of some verses of warning and rebuke refer to themselves?

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

I Tim. 1:5 - 7 The BIBLE

But it is natural that some will be unable to recognize this. They have been **hired** expressly for the fact that they are able to officiate and to preach without conscience or thought, and without differentiating between truth and sin. They work for the highest bidder, and having the biggest church is their goal.

In the Old Testament a man by the name of Micah (*not Micaiah*) decided that he would concoct his own, household religion, and that he would therefore need a priest. He knew that genuine priests in the

service of the real God could be taken from only the Tribe of Levi; he would have to begin by buying one of those. Furthermore, he would need a man who would play along with him for a price, doing whatever he was told; so he would have to find a Levite that could be bought. He found one. (But discovered, eventually, that that lack of integrity in his priest made him similarly fickle to the whims of other men also).

10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.

11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.

12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

19 And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?

20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the **graven image, and went in the midst of the people.**

Jud. 17:10 - 13, 16: 4, 19 - 20 The BIBLE

Because he is a minister the ignorant do not question what he says; because he is a minister, they feel, they will be blessed by God in the minister's presence and the church will be blessed under his ministry. Unmarried couples living together; homosexuals; couples divorcing for reasons other than adultery, and then, even worse, finding new spouses; and others who have allowed themselves to be perverted by the present sinful age (12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. Matt. 24) all find peaceful refuge under the, 'kind, understanding, loving Christian ministry,' of such men, as do numerous 'easy' doctrines, compared to more difficult 'difficult' practices that would require one to take a stand, such as holiness, the woman's place in the home and church, the need of the Bible in determining one's actions, etc.

3 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;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

II Tim. 4:3 - 4 The BIBLE

19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:19 The BIBLE

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Matt. 15:9 The BIBLE

17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.

18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Eze. 3:17 - 21; Ch. 33 The BIBLE

It is time that the man of God stood up to be a man of God, not a man of the people. Democracy is not of the Lord. The time has come for men of God to preach, in season and out of season, regardless of what man says. The call and commission of the man of God is from God, not from man. One's paycheque, no matter whose hands it passes through, is from the Lord, and HE is the Only One Who justifies it. God will use anyone and anything to bring Himself glory; indeed, He said that the very rocks, lacking anything else, would cry out and glorify Him. So God's using us or glorifying Himself through us in no way justifies what we do or are.ⁱ Whether we ourselves are willing to be honest with our congregation is dependent upon whether we are willing to be honest with ourselves and whether we are willing to be honest with God.

ⁱ <http://www.Micaiah.com/blessing.htm>