

Why are there Baptist, Methodist, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Catholics, Pentecostal and many others branches in Christianity? Why are there churches within walking distance of each other and the Pastors and congregations do not even know each other? Why do some Churches seem to grow, grow, grow while the church next to them shrink, shrink, shrink? Is there a common thread that explains this division? What does Christ say about His Church? What does the Bible say about the Church in the days just before Christ's Return? How should we as Believers (Christians) respond to the Relativism? Should Christians even care? It is not the intent of this paper to slander anyone but to only shine the Light on the Moral Decline we all see in the Church at large. That is unless you are Lukewarm or worse yet, Apostate! If you are a Christian that is self focused you will not consider the truths presented. You will simply dismiss what is written without any conviction or self examination. However if you are a Christ loving, bible believing Christian you will self examine and pray about what is being discussed.

Let us begin by hearing the Words of Jesus who, by the way, is the Head of the Church. *Mt 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

This statement from the Son of the Living God sets the foundation of the Church. Can we say this together and mean it from our hearts? It's not my church, it's not your church, it's Christ's church! He bought it and He paid for it, with His own Blood! The gates of Hell cannot overwhelm it or destroy it! Jesus said He will build His Church. So why do we as Christians think we have the power to build the Church of Christ? Yes, Jesus does use His followers to work the field (world) looking for whom might be saved. But, Jesus will do the saving and building, not us! Listen to Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; *1Co 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe-- as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the*

seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

You see the True Church of Jesus Christ cannot and will not ever fail! However, the church of the worldlings will fail because they are focused on themselves and not on Christ the Solid Rock. Would it be too harsh to say a good many of the Churches we see in America are Self-consumed? Across America you will find thousands of courageous ministers and priests who regularly stand strong for moral, biblical positions against the tide of public opinion. These folks take a stand for biblically-based truths on moral issues no matter the cost. I admire both their courage and their integrity.

At the same time, however, it is appropriate to confront the thousands of pastors and priests across the nation who, by their silence, refuse to address the moral issues of our times issues like pornography, abortion, and homosexuality. So many today in the Christian Church want to hear only about the benefits of Christ and most do not want to hear about the consequence of refusing to repent and Trust in Him. Telling themselves and their congregations, God Loves us and would never send a good person to Hell. They only preach on sunshine and lollipops so people will continue to come to Church. God tells us the definition of righteousness and it has nothing to do with being a good person because we are only made righteous through the blood of Christ, through His death, burial and resurrection and it is preposterous to think it could ever be defined through self-judgment-God has given us THE Law, and what WE define as good in our own sinful ignorance condemns us surely in doing so! Instead, tell me how good I am. Tell me how to feel better about myself. Tell me how I can know myself better. Tell me how to boost my self-esteem. Tell me how to love myself more. Don't tell me I have to deny myself. I want to hear about Health, wealth and safety! These are the Sermons most Churches preach in America today. For the Bible does say that the Church will be self centered in the Last days.

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

So many today think that they have and know the Truth. What is Truth? Is it objective or subjective? Absolute or relative? Do you consider yourself to be wise and intelligent? I must say dear reader that the Truth does not depend upon you! Man is incapable of understanding Truth without Guidance from the Author of Truth. Where did Truth come from? Did it just appear randomly? Did it have an

Origin? What good is much discussion of involved and obscure matters when our ignorance of them will not be held against us on Judgment Day? Neglect of things which are profitable and necessary and undue concern with those which are irrelevant and harmful, are great folly. We have eyes and do not see. What, therefore, have we to do with questions of philosophy?

He to whom the Eternal Word speaks is free from theorizing.

For from this Word are all things and of Him all things speak the Beginning Who also speaks to us. Without this Word no man understands or judges aright. He to whom it becomes everything, who traces all things to it and who sees all things in it, may ease his heart and remain at peace with God.

1Co 1:18-21 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

If you are interested in finding the Truth, it will be revealed. The only stipulation to finding Truth is honesty, if that is even possible, for man must seek the Truth for Truth sake not for his own sake! Whether you believe in Jesus or not listen to His statement; ***John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*** How many are they who perish because of vain worldly knowledge and too little care for serving God. They became vain in their own conceits because they chose to be great rather than humble. He is truly great who has great charity. He is truly great who is little in his own eyes and makes nothing of the highest honor. He is truly wise who looks upon all earthly things as folly that he may gain Christ. He who does God's will and renounces his own is truly very learned. My fellow Truth seeker, the Truth is here but it may not be your truth because of self-seeking. Only seek the Truth and you will find!

One of the most massive and widespread occurrences of identity theft has happened, and it is not even attracting the attention of local, state or national leaders. This particularly insidious method targets a minority group, stealing their most precious possession, and yet even more compelling is that the perpetrator assumes nearly permanent residency in the victim's identity. The mastermind behind this worldwide ring has cells in every city and town in America including operatives in many unsuspecting homes. The evidence of this outrage is right before our eyes, but we have simply chosen to ignore its existence, pretending that the consequences will

be insignificant. The victim is biblical Christianity, and the operatives of this fraud are millions of Americans, both clergy and laity, who are walking around using that identity with no right to do so! Why have today's churches become largely irrelevant? They have abandoned core beliefs to satisfy their seeker friendly, political correct, feel good membership!

As George Barna points out in a recent survey, six out of 10 Christians surveyed believe that Satan is not a living being but is a symbol of evil. In addition, only 25 percent strongly disagree that God the Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's power or presence but is not a living entity. The coup de grace of this snapshot of anarchy is that less than one-half of Christians strongly disagreed that Jesus Christ sinned when He lived on earth. The first of those beliefs reflects either complete ignorance or rejection of Scriptural truth, while the second and third are clear heresy against orthodox Christian doctrines of the Holy Trinity and the sinless nature and life of Jesus Christ. Many insist that we all have the right to practice Christianity as our conscience dictates. NOT!

We have the privilege of living out a faith based on absolute truth as given to us by the Author and Finisher of that faith without error or omission in His written word. If people want to worship their concept of god(which is Idolatry) they have the freedom to do so in America, but that is an enemy of Biblical Christianity. Biblical Christianity teaches that we sinners can come into a personal relationship with the Living Holy God through repentance and believing in the work of Jesus Christ. His Death, burial and Resurrection are the foundational Doctrines of True Biblical Christianity. The nation that has produced the greatest good for the greatest number is teetering on the precipice of civil tyranny and moral anarchy because, foremost, we have rejected the only Source of freedom, His sovereignty of all of His creation and the absolute truth revealed in His Son and written word. A British scholar, Harry Blamire wrote *The Christian Mind*, in which he asserts: For the secularist, God and theology are playthings of the mind. For the Christian, God is real, and Christian theology describes his truth revealed to us. For the secular mind, religion is essentially a matter of theory; for the Christian mind, Christianity is a matter of acts and facts. The acts and facts which are the basis of our faith are recorded in the Bible. They have been interpreted and illuminated in the long history of the church. So I ask you dear reader; are you a feel good, politically correct, seeker to worship god whom you recreated in your own image or are you a True Biblical Christian?

Jesus said If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. The choice is yours! Christian by name only or Christian in action and Truth!

Sound judgmental to you? You may be Luke warm! Don't judge me! The Bible says we are not to judge! He who is without sin cast the first stone! These statements are Lies! Yes, I said Lies! Many who call themselves Christian have and do continue to believe lies. How, you may ask, do I know this?

Because the Bible does not say these things, unless you take the Bible out of context. Read the Bible in context! Here are the examples:

Mt 7:1 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Jesus does say that and most Christians stop there. But now listen to the context.

Mt 7:3 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

4 How can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Context changes everything does it not? Sure it does! The Bible judges when taken in context. Now we know we are to judge ourselves first by recognizing our own sins and shortcomings, then we can help our brother or sister with theirs. Do not judge self-righteously!

Romans 2:3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

Next, look at this next scripture which is also commonly used to detour judgment.

John 8:3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Jesus did say that, right? Here is the context. John 8:8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?

11 No one, sir, she said. Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared. Go now and leave your life of sin.

Makes a big difference when you finish the context! Most do not like when Jesus says leave your life of sin! . However, if we call ourselves Christian we need to read the Bible in context and then obey what it truly says and not twist the words to justify ourselves!

The Bible judges us. Listen to this. ***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

So the next time you find yourself or someone else speaking lies like; Don't judge me , the Bible says we are not to judge , he who is without sin cast the first stone , you or they really need to deal with your or their walk with the Lord Jesus!

Does this offend you? Do these statements make you want to laugh and say, that is not me ? Do you feel uncomfortable?

Here are some Scriptures that describe the Church of the Last days:

2Ti 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that

was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Re 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

1Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

Is this what Christ wants for His Church? Absolutely not!! Jesus revealed what He wants to do with His Church.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

We are the Bride of Christ! The Lukewarm Christian sees not his folly. They are so self consumed and self righteous that they do not know they are about to be vomited out of Christ mouth!

Wow what a wake up call for people having one foot in Heaven and one foot in

Hell! There is a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him as Savior and Lord! LISTEN

Hebrews 10:26-31 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Do you want to trample on the blood of Jesus Christ? Do you really want to insult the Spirit of Grace? Stop living in sin. Am I too harsh for worldlings?

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

I would rather be hated and rejected by men than insult my Jesus who died for me!!! If you made it to this point reading this then I think this next Scripture might help.

1Peter 4:1-5 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Now what do you think? To difficult? To harsh? To abrasive? I think not! Just Repent of your sins. Turn your back on them. Great Day! If we Christians would obey Jesus and be Thankful as much as we complain about our situations, this World would be changed for the better! Constant complaint is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy. If we would stop and think for a moment of how many blessings we have, we would break out and sing Showers of Blessings . I must tell you that one of the most overlooked sins in the Bible is ingratitude or un-thank-fullness . If we complain more than we thank God we need to repent!

Listen to ***Romans 1:21" For although they knew God, they neither glorified him***

as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. If we fail to be Thankful we rob God of His Glory.

Now to the self righteous, self absorbed, liberal, complacent and spiritually blind Last days church. From what has been discussed thus far we can gather that Christians can back-slide to the point of abandoning the One True Gospel and turn to another. What is the One True Gospel? 1Co 15:1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. Simply put it is salvation to all sinners who would repent and believe in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the central message the True Church will proclaim without compromise. If a church decides to leave the message of the True Gospel and turn to another, this is a stern warning from the Apostle Paul. Galatians 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-- 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! 10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. 11 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

America's Churches for the most part seem to have forgotten the True Gospel and has turned to a false Gospel which will lead to eternal damnation! The name of the new gospel? Social salvation, social justice or social gospel! The battle over the True Gospel seems to be raging in the media. Agree or disagree, it is profoundly evident we are in the Last Days! Listen to Albert Mohler discussing this very debate: Fox News broadcaster Glenn Beck is famous for launching verbal grenades, and he did so again in recent days, calling upon church members to flee congregations that promote social justice. His comments incited an immediate controversy, where far more heat than light has yet been evident. As expected, there is more to this story than meets the eye -- or may reach the ear via the public

conversation.

During his March 2, 2010 radio broadcast, Beck said this:

I beg you, look for the words "social justice" or "economic justice" on your church Web site. If you find it, run as fast as you can. Social justice and economic justice, they are code words. Now, am I advising people to leave their church? Yes! If I'm going to Jeremiah's Wright's church? Yes! Leave your church. Social justice and economic justice. They are code words. If you have a priest that is pushing social justice, go find another parish. Go alert your bishop and tell them, "Excuse me are you down with this whole social justice thing?" I don't care what the church is. If it's my church, I'm alerting the church authorities: "Excuse me, what's this social justice thing?" And if they say, "Yeah, we're all in that social justice thing," I'm in the wrong place.

Almost immediately, reaction statements emerged with furor, found in press releases and public statements made by figures like Sojourner's editor Jim Wallis and various social justice advocacy groups. Like Captain Renault in Casablanca, various media outlets rounded up the "usual suspects." The resultant public conversation has not been very substantial, but it has offered media magnetism.

Some of those outraged by Beck's statements immediately insisted that social justice is the very heart of the Gospel, while others insisted with equal force that Beck had offered a courageous call for Christians to flee liberal churches that had abandoned the Gospel.

As anyone familiar with incendiary public debates should have expected, though the truth is a bit harder to determine, the issue is indeed worth whatever hard thinking a clarification of the issue requires.

Is Glenn Beck right? That is the question most in the media were asking, along with a good number of Christians who were aware of the debate. With just a few words, Beck, a convert to Mormonism, set the world of American religion into a frenzy of discourse. At first glance, Beck's statements are hard to defend. How can justice, social or private, be anything other than a biblical mandate? A quick look at the Bible will reveal that justice is, above all, an attribute of God himself. God is perfectly just, and the Bible is filled with God's condemnation of injustice in any form. The prophets thundered God's denunciation of social injustice and the call for God's people to live justly, to uphold justice, and to refrain from any perversion of justice. The one who pleases the Lord is he who will "keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice" (Gen. 18:19). Israel is told to "do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness

you shall judge your neighbor" (Lev. 19:15). God "has established his throne for justice" (Psalm 9:7) and "loves righteousness and justice" (Psalm 33:5). Princes are to "rule in justice" (Is. 32:1) even as the Lord "will fill Zion with justice and righteousness" (Is. 33:5). In the face of injustice, the prophet Amos thundered: "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:18). In a classic statement, Micah reminded Israel: "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8).

To assert that a call for social justice is reason for faithful Christians to flee their churches is nonsense, given the Bible's overwhelming affirmation that justice is one of God's own foremost concerns.

But, there is more going on here. Glenn Beck's statements lacked nuance, fair consideration, and context. It was reckless to use a national media platform to rail against social justice in such a manner, leaving Beck with little defense against a tidal wave of biblical mandates.

A closer look at his statements reveals a political context. He made a specific reference to Rev. Jeremiah Wright and to other priests or preachers who would use "social justice" and "economic justice" as "code words." Is there anything to this? Of course there is. Regrettably, there is no shortage of preachers who have traded the Gospel for a platform of political and economic change, most often packaged as a call for social justice.

The immediate roots of this phenomenon go back to the mid-nineteenth century, when figures like Washington Gladden, a Columbus, Ohio pastor, promoted what they called a new "social gospel." Gladden was morally offended by the idea of a God who would offer his own Son as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinful humanity and, as one of the founders of liberal theology in America, offered the social gospel as an alternative message, complete with a political agenda. It was not social reform that made the social gospel liberal, it was its theological message. As Gary Dorrien, the preeminent historian of liberal theology, asserts, the distinctive mark of the social gospel was "its theology of social salvation."

Even more famously, the social gospel would be identified with Walter Rauschenbusch, a liberal figure of the early twentieth century. Rauschenbusch made his arguments most classically in his books, *Christianity and the Social Crisis* (1907) and *Theology for the Social Gospel* (1917). In a 1904 essay, "The New Evangelism," Rauschenbusch called for a departure from "the old evangelism" which was all about salvation from sin through faith in Christ, and for the embrace of a "new evangelism" which was about salvation from social ills and injustice in

order to realize, at least partially, the Kingdom of God on earth. He called for Christian missions to be redirected in order to "Christianize international politics."

The last century has seen many churches and denominations embrace the social gospel in some form, trading the Gospel of Christ for a liberal vision of social change, revolution, economic liberation, and, yes, social justice. Liberal Protestantism has largely embraced this agenda as its central message.

The urgency for any faithful Christian is this -- flee any church that for any reason or in any form has abandoned the Gospel of Christ for any other gospel.

As I read the statements of Glenn Beck, it seems that his primary concern is political. Speaking to a national audience, he warned of "code words" that betray a leftist political agenda of big government, liberal social action, economic redistribution, and the confiscation of wealth. In that context, his loyal audience almost surely understood his point.

My concern is very different. As an evangelical Christian, my concern is the primacy of the Gospel of Christ -- the Gospel that reveals the power of God in the salvation of sinners through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church's main message must be that Gospel. The New Testament is stunningly silent on any plan for governmental or social action. The apostles launched no social reform movement. Instead, they preached the Gospel of Christ and planted Gospel churches. Our task is to follow Christ's command and the example of the apostles.

There is more to that story, however. The church is not to adopt a social reform platform as its message, but the faithful church, wherever it is found, is itself a social reform movement precisely because it is populated by redeemed sinners who are called to faithfulness in following Christ. The Gospel is not a message of social salvation, but it does have social implications.

Faithful Christians can debate the proper and most effective means of organizing the political structure and the economic markets. Bringing all these things into submission to Christ is no easy task, and the Gospel must not be tied to any political system, regime, or platform. Justice is our concern because it is God's concern, but it is no easy task to know how best to seek justice in this fallen world.

And that brings us to the fact that the Bible is absolutely clear that injustice will not exist forever. There is a perfect social order coming, but it is not of this world. The coming of the Kingdom of Christ in its fullness spells the end of injustice and every cause and consequence of human sin. We have much work to do in this world, but true justice will be achieved only by the consummation of God's purposes and the

perfection of God's own judgment.

Until then, the church must preach the Gospel, and Christians must live out its implications. We must resist and reject every false gospel and tell sinners of salvation in Christ. And, knowing that God's judgment is coming, we must strive to be on the right side of justice.

Glenn Beck's statements about social justice demonstrate the limits of our public discourse. The issues raised by his comments and the resultant controversy are worthy of our most careful thinking and most earnest struggle. Yet, the media, including Mr. Beck, will have moved on to any number of other flash points before the ink has dried on this kerfuffle. Serious-minded Christians cannot move on from this issue so quickly.

Remember the Luke-warm church did not realize they were about to be vomited out of the mouth of Jesus because of their self centeredness, self righteousness and their lack of the True Christ centered mission of the Church. Does this sound like your church? Does your Church focus on the Person and Works of Jesus Christ? Is their always discussions about how to attract people to your Church? Christ never said He wanted His Church to be attractive, seeker friendly, comfortable, contemporary, old fashioned, people focused or modern. He gave this command for the Mission of His Church. Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Luke 24:46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." Ac 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

After the Church received the Holy Spirit to empower them to fulfil His Mission, the

book of Acts records the Purpose of the Church. Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Now with the clear Mission and Purpose of the Church clearly manifested by these Scriptures, ask yourself with prayer and honesty; does the Church I go to seek to obey Christ, without compromise, or does it only seem to do its own thing? If your Church is seeking obedience to Christ through its teaching and Preaching, then follow Christ through that local congregation. If not, run as fast as you can away from that church because you may find yourself vomited out of the mouth of Jesus-the Head of the Church! It does not sound good to be vomited out of Christ body, does it?

Need more evidence?

I ran across this article and found it put words in my mouth.

Listen to Jim Fletcher: I recently attended a funeral at a small country church.

Sister Joyce had gone on to be with the Lord, and incredibly, her husband, Brother Bill, preached her funeral. The family owns a sawmill and as I looked at the rafters, with the wooden planks, my other senses were heightened. I heard shouts and claps as Brother Bill talked lovingly of a woman so godly that she had affected an entire community. Somewhere, the scent of honeysuckle drifted in through open windows. These people were happy. They knew what they believed, or, to put it more accurately, they knew whom they believed. I've never attended a funeral in which people stood outside because there wasn't enough seating. There were hundreds of people at this small community church. Grown men were crying. Brother Bill and Sister Joyce were married in 1969; he was being shipped-out to Vietnam, and they made the decision to become man and wife. They had been happy all these years, even through her struggle with breast cancer. Now, let me contrast this scene with one I remember from a few years ago. I attended the Crystal Cathedral while on a business trip to Southern California. I am naming this ministry in order for people to better understand my point. After all, if Robert Schuller has written that sin is the loss of self-esteem, then he can defend his philosophy as he sees fit, and I can contrast his message and vision with that of Brother Bill and Sister Joyce. Theirs was that old-time religion, which featured plenty of talk about sin, holy living, and the saving grace of Jesus Christ. The

atmosphere at CC was extraordinary: lush plants, soft seats, an ocean breeze coming in from the corner of the building, which opened up! Schuller interviewed celebrity Kathy Ireland, who plugged her line of clothing. I found the scene to be surreal. Paul preached. Spurgeon preached. Schuller chats with television personalities. I sat there and reflected on my grandparents' church, a country church pastored by Ronald Shoemsmith and his wife, Cora. These were old-line, Bible-believing Christians. A similar setup as that of Brother Bill and Sister Joyce. Countryside Bible Church, pastored by Bro. Shoemsmith, had a cement floor, hard pews, hymnals, an organ, and gallons of refreshing Bible preaching every Sunday. I've since been to many sophisticated gatherings and chatted with intellectuals and sophisticates, many of whom are leaders in ministries in the United States. Frankly, much of what passes today for ministry reminds me of a rotting, bloated whale washed up on a beach. J. Vernon McGhee thought decades ago that the church in America had lost its power, and may I say, beloved, that the situation is a good deal worse today. In August, Bill Hybel's Willow Creek Church, in Chicago, will host a leadership conference. Among the speakers will be Tony Blair, David Gergen, and Bono. I certainly don't know the spiritual condition of those men, but I do wonder how they view that seminal verse in the Bible, John 14:6. I'm not sure at all what qualifies Bono, the U2 lead singer, to speak at this event. This of course can be interpreted as a mean-spirited, fundamentalist attack on well-meaning Christians. I'm not responsible for that characterization; I'm simply explaining that the simplicity and freedom found in preaching Christ crucified and risen is missing from American pulpits today, in general. These country, non-sophisticated folks were free, I must tell you. In those places, in those times, people who attended were free in a way that our culture today is not. For we live in an age of Tony Robbins motivational seminars, seeker-friendly Bibles (pastel covers, metal covers, textured covers, interior text doctored by relativistic translators, etc.), and life coaches who were formerly known as pastors. Our spiritual forefathers knew this day was coming. They pointed to it. Paul predicted it, and so did Peter. Spurgeon knew it was coming and in fact saw the first stages of apostasy. He railed against it and one could speculate that the rigors of the fight took his life, at 58, in 1892. I thought about all these things as Brother Bill finished his emotional farewell to his wife. It was like my thoughts were sucked back into a wormhole and I was back in the present. This was one of those home-goings, for even though Brother Bill ended his day hugging an emotional group of friends and family, he already knew that he will be reunited with Joyce one day, and one day soon, in my opinion. This is because God has promised us that He will bring history to its conclusion man will not save himself, as is preached today and He alone will welcome home His children. That wisdom has nothing at all in common with the wisdom of our

world today.

Consider this passage of Scripture. Hebrews 12:14" Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Sounds very important, does it not? The fact is that we are not today producing saints. We are making converts to an effete type of Christianity that bears little resemblance to that of the New Testament! The average so-called Bible Christian in our times is but a wretched parody of true sainthood. Yet we put millions of dollars behind movements to perpetuate this degenerate form of religion and attack the man who dares to challenge the wisdom of it. Clearly we must begin to produce better Christians. We must insist on New Testament sainthood for ourselves and for our converts, nothing less; and we must lead them into a state of heart purity, fiery love, separation from the world and poured-out devotion to the Person of Christ. Only in this way can the low level of spirituality be raised again to where it should be in the light of the Scriptures and of Eternal values. It is well to remember that a new heart is one thing and a pure heart is another. They are not synonymous. Any man can have a new heart which loves God and yet not possess a pure heart from which self, man-fear, love of praise and other like things are banished. Tozer

A new heart is given when a sinner repents and believes in the Death, burial and Resurrection of Christ Jesus. A pure heart is produced when the new heart rids itself of self. Purity of heart comes from denying the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Purity comes from taking up your cross and following Jesus. We need this type of Christian today. A new heart that is not only converted to Christ but is sold out as well. Christian s like Paul the Apostle, Peter, John, James, Barnabas, Timothy, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Finney, D.L.Moody etc. One of my pastor friend s was weeping over today s Christianity. His conclusion: Where is Holiness and who sets the standard for us to live by? Have we become content with living just to get by from day to day?

Here's something to chew on. "Most church members live so far below the standards, you would have to backslide to be in fellowship. We are so subnormal that if we were to become normal, people would think we were abnormal."

Listen to a holy saint of old: ***Php 3:8-11 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his***

resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

We need new hearts yes, but we need pure hearts more!

We need Holy men of God to lead their families today! We live in a sinful and wicked world. Everything in the world, lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life, continually distract us from Holy living in Christ Jesus our Lord. Men, WAKE UP from your slumber and start leading your family in Spiritual matters! Listen to Holy Scripture and obey! You know men, the greatest thing you can do for your children is to love their mother. Love her as Christ loves us. Hear is where to start.

1. Commit yourself to living a Holy life in Jesus. Stop saying your too busy and don't have time for Spiritual things. If you are too busy for Jesus and use providing for your family as an excuse for not getting involved in their Spiritual livelihood, then you are too busy. Consecrate yourself to Jesus and obey His Word. This is the way to Holiness.
2. Take them to a Bible believing fellowship. There are many available if you just pray about it and look for them.
3. Have prayer time with your wife and kids. Quit making excuses why you can't pray with your family.

O Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit to the men reading this, that they may see their God giving responsibility for their family. Help them to Love their wives as your Son Jesus loved the Church. Give them a Spirit filled Holy desire to live a Holy Consecrated life for the sake of their families and for Christ Sake Amen!