

**WHAT PRICE WILL YOU
PAY FOR REVIVAL?**

CRY ALOUD

**SPARE NOT-
LIFT UP
YOUR VOICE
AS A
TRUMPET
AND SHOW
MY PEOPLE
THEIR SIN**

ISAIAH 58:1

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

BEWARE THE LEAVEN

Jesus Christ cautioned His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and in **Luke 12:1** He defined that leaven as *hypocrisy*. In **Matthew 16:12**, the disciples understood that the leaven that Jesus referred to was the *doctrine* of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Both the hypocrisy and the doctrines of the religious leaders of that time walked hand in hand, as they do today in the lives of many who are in Christian leadership.

The source of hypocrisy and false doctrine has the same root... **PRIDE**. Friend, whether you are a pastor, a teacher, a prophet, an apostle, or an evangelist, or even if you have not yet realized your calling, I encourage you to sincerely examine yourself to determine whether any leaven has crept into your walk with Jesus Christ.

The question put before you is this: *Are you really in the faith, or has your walk been tainted with the leaven of the scribes and Pharisees? Are you willing to sincerely examine yourself in the light of the Scriptures in order to determine whether or not you are IN the faith? Your immediate response might be to think "Of course I am in the faith! I have been in ministry for 20 years"! Or "I prayed to ask Jesus Christ to be the Lord of my life 15 years ago! Of course I am in the Faith! This must not apply to me."*

But the answer to that question can't be determined by what you say you believe, the size of your congregation, or the seeming "success" of your ministry. It doesn't even matter if you have a lot of respect and admiration from the people in the community. These are not true measures as to whether you are in the Faith or not.

The Pharisees said they believed in God, and prayed to Him several times in a day. Yet Jesus said they had become tainted with leaven. The Pharisees had large congregations in the synagogues, but Jesus rebuked them in the strongest tones for the leavening influence they had on followers of Judaism. By the world's standards, their ministries would have been seen to be huge successes by all the wealth that was accumulated through the tithes and offerings they received from their followers. Yet Jesus warned against the leaven of these leaders who were respected and admired by many.

You may be a leader in the Church or you may be a faithful tithing member of a congregation. Whichever the case may be, this booklet is an appeal to the professing Christian to examine yourself to see whether or not you **ARE** in the Faith or if you have been tainted by the leaven that Jesus warned us about.

Whether you are open to receive this or not, the truth of the matter is that the leaven that has permeated the Christian Church in America is leading to the “great falling away” or apostasy foretold in *2 Thessalonians 2:3*, and unless we sincerely search our hearts, we will find that we have contributed to that great falling away, and have actually been instruments used to bring it about. God’s Word is not to be taken lightly:

2Ch 7:13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 is a living and wonderful promise to the people of God. It is a promise of hope and tremendous possibilities in the light of seemingly impossible circumstances. But the promise requires true humility on the part of the People of God and an earnest desire to conform to the Will of God for your life regardless of the cost. “*If my people*” refers to a collective body.

If the leaven of Pharisaical doctrine and hypocrisy has crept into your church or into your life as an individual, you will be incapable of obtaining that promise. Most Christians desire to see a mighty move of God that will transform our cities and our nations. But we can’t serve two masters. . . **Either Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, or you are.** Are you willing to humble yourself and examine your walk before God? I would encourage you, dear reader to pray to the Lord for insight as you read this and have a willing heart to get rid of the leaven that is in *your* house.

The Leaven Of The Hireling

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

Many Christians pray for the Lord to call them into ministry, but too often their motivation for ministry is employment as a source of income. Many (not all) enroll in seminaries to get a paying position as a pastor. After they graduate, they “candidate” from church to church in order to get the job.

After they get their job, many times they negotiate with the “Church board” for more wages. They attempt to justify their ways by quoting **Luke 10:7** where Jesus said **“the laborer is worthy of his hire”**, which is true, but when these words were spoken by Jesus, he was instructing the disciples that He sent out into the cities **to remain in the household where they were received and to eat whatever was set before them.**

In no way did Jesus tell them to negotiate for terms for their ministry (***“If I am going to stay in your house, I want steak instead of hamburgers! If you are not going to serve me steak, then I have to find another household!”***)!

As a matter of fact, in **1 Tim 3:3,8** and **Titus 1:7** those who are called to be overseers of the church and ministers (deacons) in the church are admonished that they are not to be greedy of “filthy lucre”, nor are they to be covetous. “Filthy lucre” is better translated as “Base gain”, and according to the *Expositor’s Greek Testament*, we read this definition: ***“The rendering ‘not greedy of filthy lucre’ is unnecessarily strong; the word consists, not in the source whence the gain comes, but on the setting of gain before one as an object in entering the ministry. ‘Not greedy of gain’ expresses the writer’s meaning.”*** The word translated “not covetous” means not being fond of money or loving money, not desirous of worldly substance and riches (Gill, Vincent, Barnes, et al.). It is obvious that in the Church in America today, a great number of Christian ministers are in ministry for wages, which is a violation of the instruction which is found in **1 Timothy** and **Titus**.

The minister who is in the employ of a church for a negotiated wage is guilty of having embraced the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. I am aware that there are some who would scoff at this, but you can be sure that Jesus spoke of that very thing when He said a person cannot serve God and mammon.

Luk 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

It's not wrong to receive offerings from those you minister to, but if you negotiate for wages, you have lost sight of the true meaning of what it is to be a minister of the gospel, and have become a hireling, rather than a servant of God.

The hireling who reads this may protest, and say "This man is crazy! How does he expect a pastor to live and support his family without a steady income?" My answer is **Faith**. God is faithful, and He will provide for those who He calls in Service to Him. Do you preach about faith? Then you should live by faith. Not by faith in your ability to convince people to sow into your ministry, but faith in God Who will provide all of your needs (not greeds) according to His Riches in Glory! How can you preach about faith toward God if you rely on men and their substance to be your help? If you are in ministry, you have probably quoted Psalm 37:25 numerous times.

Psa 37:25 I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

My question to you is do you BELIEVE the Word of God? Are you willing to really step out in Faith and trust Him alone for your provision? Or are you holding on to the doctrinal leaven that tells you to put your trust in man, and to rely on a steady income for your service to others?

Most so called "Faith ministries" would fold in fear and anxiety if they thought they had to rely solely on God for their sustenance.

**Mat 23:1 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
2 Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.**

Friend, you may scoff at this, but the Pharisees also derided Jesus because they were covetous (Lk 16:13-14), yet it didn't change who they were. As you examine yourself, can you honestly say with utmost conviction that you are not

a hireling? Have you embraced the leaven of the Pharisees? *Are you in the ministry for the money?*

A good way to determine whether you are or not is to ask yourself if you hold office hours, receive a negotiated salary for your time, and have a private home number.

If you answer yes to these, the chances are very good that you are a hireling, and **you need to repent or get out of ministry**, because you are making a mockery of God when you call yourself a minister of the Gospel while you build your own kingdom and line your pockets with filthy lucre. I realize that's a little harsh, but it's the truth.

If you are a hireling, the truth is that your leaven of hypocrisy is hindering a true move of God in your church. ***Don't confuse successful programs and orchestrated meetings with revival.*** These are only substitutes for the Presence of the Holy Spirit in your religious affairs. Shake yourself from the leaven and let God be glorified! If you are in the ministry to further the Kingdom of God you will be freely available to minister to anyone at any time of day or night, and your home phone number should also freely be available to anybody so they can call you at anytime if they need help. This "hireling" leaven will eventually spread and will give birth to other forms of leaven:

THE LEAVEN OF EXTORTION

Considering what I have just written, let us look at what Jesus said regarding the religious leaders of His day:

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which* is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

In far too many Church services, ministers practice a subtle form of extortion to convince the believers that they need to "sow 'good' seed into the ministry". They quote Malachi 3:8, 9 to convince the people that they are robbing God if they won't give of their tithes and offerings. They give mini sermons to convince the people how wrong they are if they don't give. Some churches take two or three offerings while playing on the people's guilt or sense of greed ("If you sow into this ministry you will receive a hundred fold more!") in order to get them to give. ***It's all extortion, and it is leaven that has crept in and defiled the Church.***

As I mentioned earlier, there are a multitude of ministries in America that profess to be "Faith Based" ministries, but their faith is really in their ability to

drum up support from people they “minister” to. The hireling preaches about faith and trusting God, but he doesn’t even understand what faith is. He brags about what he does for the Kingdom and then tells others they can be a part of his ministry by “sowing into good ground.” Even that phrase is taken out of context. When Jesus mentioned the seed landing on good ground, He was talking about the Word of God, and how various people respond to it. *He wasn’t saying that the seed was money to finance someone’s ministry!* Yet so many who profess to be men and women of God twist the scripture to get the gullible sheep to give.

Dependence on man instead of God for provision for your ministry is leaven that has corrupted the church in America, and the unsaved see it for what it is, and blaspheme the Name of Jesus Christ because of the focus on money that so many professing ministers of the gospel have. The perception of the man on the street is that Christianity is only about money because of the television programs and the churches that profess to preach the gospel, while they manipulate their hearers to “sow into the ministry”. Jesus declared that the children of this world are wiser than the children of Light. You can continue to practice Christianized extortion, but one day Jesus will say to you “you had your reward!”

Dear reader, you who are in ministry, let me ask you: Where is your faith? Is it truly in God, or upon honestly examining yourself, do you have to admit that your faith is really in your ability to give persuasive speeches to convince people to “sow into your ministry?” This leads to:

THE LEAVEN OF COVETOUSNESS

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

It’s becoming a common practice among larger ministries to convince their followers to will their estate to the ministry upon their death. Many of the people who will their estates to these ministries are widows. Have you bought into this leaven?

Again, if someone hears from the Lord and chooses to put a ministry into their will, that’s one thing. But there is a growing trend for churches to put brochures out in the foyer soliciting this practice. This is another example of the leaven of covetousness that is spreading through the church.

There are ministers who conduct services and ask for rings and cars and other material possessions to be donated to their ministry for their own selfish gain. It doesn’t matter how they might justify their covetousness; covetousness is what it is, and covetousness is idolatry.

Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience

If you are a wolf in sheep's clothing this scripture won't mean anything to you, because you have no fear of God anyway, and you will continue to fleece the flock of God. You've had your reward here on earth, and on the Day of Judgment, you will cry for Mercy, but there will be none.

But if you are a true man or woman of God who has bought into this leaven, you need to repent. You are not immune from the chastening of God. And now that you have received this word, you will be held accountable. You may have received mercy because you did these things in ignorance and unbelief, but now you are without excuse.

You might want to toss this book away now, because you don't want to know about any more leaven you may be made aware of. But it's too late now. If you have a heart for God, you might as well continue reading, because once the leaven has been exposed, you will realize how far you have gone from your first Love, and you'll be able to return.

Their covetous behavior flies in the face of scripture where Paul declares that He had learned to be content in whatever state he was. He acknowledged that He had been supported by the church at Philippi, but was careful to tell them that his focus wasn't on receiving from them. Covetous preachers never learn to be content. They are always looking for more, and if they lose what they have, their lives crumble.

Phi 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Again, Paul writes these words to Timothy:

1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

You might declare that you don't love money, but do your deeds line up with your words? If, in the pursuit of expanding your ministry, you have become covetous, then you have erred from the faith. Covetousness and extortion from the pulpit will undoubtedly result in the growth of your "ministry", which will give rise to another type of leaven:

THE LEAVEN OF PRESTIGE AND HONOR

There are many in ministry who love the titles that precede their names and the honor and "social perks" that accompany those titles. Many carry calling cards or introduce themselves as "Bishop", "Prophet", "Pastor", "Evangelist", "Apostle", "Deacon", "Elder", even "Minister".

Some people may use a title to refer to a man or woman of God out of honor to the gift that resides in him or her. But when the "man or woman of God" insists on being called by their titles, it is evidence of the Pharisaical leaven that Jesus had warned us to beware of.

Mat 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

6 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

7 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

8 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren.

9 And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ.

One may say, "But Paul and Peter prefaced their epistles by identifying themselves as apostles!" There is a difference between saying that you are an apostle and insisting on being called apostle. Paul did not write "Apostle Paul to the churches..." He wrote "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle," "Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God," "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God" "Paul, an apostle" "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God" "Paul and

Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ” “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,” “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour...” In a few of his epistles he left off the designation of apostle, and referred to himself simply as a servant. The same applies to Peter, James and Jude.

John referred to himself as “the elder” but never as “Elder John”. Humility was the hall mark of these men of God, and all who profess to be men or women of God need to be as humble.

But this leaven isn’t only about titles. Those who have a penchant for recognition by men also have a tendency to “Lord it over the flock”, and desire to be known as the “man of God for the moment”. They jealously guard their pulpits, and become a one man church celebrity. They may acknowledge the existence of the five fold ministry, but the other four have no viable part in the congregation, and the flock is reduced to a congregation of spectators who faithfully attend services to hear the pastor’s oration and contribute their money to his ministry.

Yet **Ephesians 4:11-16** tells us that the five fold ministry (**apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers**) is to be in operation so they can each participate in the perfecting of the saints, in order to equip the children of God for the work of the ministry.

The goal of the five fold ministry is that each member of the body of Christ can be built up into a perfect man into the unity of the Faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, walking in the fullness of Christ.

This scripture is plainly telling us that true Christianity is NOT about the hierarchal system that we find in most congregations. The whole purpose of the five fold ministry is to train the rest of the congregation to minister as effectively as ourselves. *The clergy-laity division is simply leaven that has carried over from the Pharisees and the Sadducees, who love to be recognized for “who they are!”*

You who desire to be addressed with a title by your flock, consider these words of instruction:

1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

These words written by Peter go well with the Words of Christ in His discourse concerning how Christian ministry should and should not be:

Mat 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

The leaven of Prestige walks hand in hand with:

THE LEAVEN OF EXCLUSIVISM

Mat 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12 But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13 But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Another term for exclusivist behavior is a "clique mentality", which is prevalent in the Church. Somehow the attitude of those who have been saved suddenly turns into a "us and them" mindset. Instead of going out and trying to bring others into the Kingdom of God, a great number of Christians in America behave as if the church they belong to is a social club with exclusive membership requirements. Actually this type of leaven fosters the attitude of the Pharisee that Jesus spoke about:

Luk 18:9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

In many churches members are generally encouraged to invite their neighbors to come to the church, *but there are very few pastors who encourage their congregation to go out into the highways and the byways to invite skid row bums, drug addicts and prostitutes to their church*. The sad truth is that there is an element on the streets that not many Christians want to deal with. The neighbors of the church members are generally more productive and carry fewer problems than someone they may encounter on the city streets.

Someone may protest and say, “But that is what the downtown missions or the recovery programs are for! They are better equipped to deal with those kinds of people”. That attitude is the very problem that is permeated by this type of leaven. **Friend, read the Bible and find where Jesus designated special programs for “special needs” people.** There is no such place.

Jesus sat at meat with the sinners and the publicans, with the harlots and the lepers. If you are a minister of the gospel, I entreat you to examine yourself and ask yourself if you are making Jesus your model of ministry. Honestly...when is the last time you sat at meat with the likes of these? If it’s been a while, or if you never have, you have allowed that leaven of exclusivity to creep in, and I would encourage you to humble yourself and repent. Even if you don’t yet operate in a “designated ministry”, and just consider yourself to be a “layman”, you need to understand that this admonishment applies to you as well. God never intended for any of us to remain in the pews. Even though your pastor may not want you to realize this, you need to understand that the same Holy Spirit that is in the Pastor is in you, if you have been Born Again. That being the case, Acts 1:8 applies to *all* who profess Jesus Christ as Lord.

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

What has happened? There are so many church meetings and so called revivals across this nation that are called “Holy Ghost” meetings. There are so many denominations that profess to be “Holy Ghost filled”.

Every Christian church in some way or another professes to believe in the Presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. Yet because of this exclusivist leaven, very few members in the church are taught or encouraged to be witnesses for Jesus. Despite the fact that Jesus commissioned those who believe in Him to “go into all the world and preach the gospel”, the Church in America has opted to embrace a clique mentality and to isolate itself from those who are of the world, unless the sinners come to them.

The leaven of exclusiveness isn’t only limited to the separation of Christians and non-Christians. It also applies to the “Clergy – laity” split...many pastors have luncheons with fellow members of the “clergy”, but rarely with the “laity”. They

have corporate functions they call "pastor's prayer meetings" in a show of unity, but rarely are there any who freely share one another's pulpits! One might say: "Well, you have to be careful, brother! I don't want false doctrine being preached from my pulpit!" So there is no unity. Only a show of unity. You can't have unity with someone if you don't trust them. That's hypocrisy.

It was when the disciples were in one accord that the Holy Ghost fell upon them at Pentecost. The pastors bestow pretended honor on one another at these meetings, and give each other positive strokes, esteeming their position more honorable than that of the "common folk". **Not all ministers are like this.** But if your heart is bearing witness to this truth in you, you need to repent of this ungodly leaven. Pastor's prayer meetings are good, if they are held without pretense, but corporate prayer meetings where everyone is welcome to pray are even better.

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

The other side of the coin is the denominations and the fellowships that forsake interacting with other Christians, because they are not part of their denominational clique.

Mar 9:38 And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.

40 For he that is not against us is on our part.

The bottom line is the Word of God, which declares:

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

It was when the people of God were seeking God in one accord that the Holy Spirit fell on the Day of Pentecost. The Power of God is always manifested when the Body of Christ (not just your church, or people of your denomination) comes together in

unity with the desire to see the Kingdom of God established. Jesus' final prayer was this:

Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

THE LEAVEN OF LEGALISM

Mat 12:1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.

2 But when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

3 But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;

4 How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?

5 Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?

6 But I say unto you, That in this place is *one* greater than the temple.

7 But if ye had known what *this* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.

8 For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.

The Mercy of God is this: He gave His Law to His people not so He could condemn them to Hell if they didn't obey...His Law was given so His people would prosper, so they would acquire wisdom, understanding, and so their lives would be successful and their days would be long upon the earth.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Transgression of His Laws, Statutes, Precepts, and Commandments would result in poverty, folly and failure. Read the entire chapter of Deuteronomy 28 for a clear Word on this. God wants to bless His people, but those blessings can only come through following the instructions of the Creator. His Precepts are true...Obedience to His Word begets blessings.

Joh 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

Keeping His Word is a prescription for the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of the child of God. In His mercy, He has taught us how to keep healthy. Those who are caught up in legalism don't understand this...they preach "do this, don't do that, or you'll wind up in Hell!" God the Father sent His Son because He knew we all like sheep have gone astray, and because He knew that we are prone to sin. He made a Way for us to obey Him, not through our own ability or our own works, but through the Presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He has *enabled* us to obey Him. Now we are to choose to remain IN HIM, so we can experience His blessings and the victory He has for us.

1Jo 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Psa 119:97 MEM. O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation.

100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.

102 I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

105 NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

The motive for our obedience to the gospel should be nothing less than the fact that we obey the Word of God out of our love for God and our desire for His Will to be done in our lives. Too often those who are in leadership stress

“obedience to the letter of the Law or burn in Hell”. There are many ministers of the gospel who don’t understand what the Mercy of God is, so they allow the leaven of legalism to creep in, which spawns a critical and judgmental demeanor in their behavior toward others, and those they disciple reflect that same leavening influence:

Mat 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Legalism generally spawns more commandments and traditions that the church embraces which are not of God:

THE LEAVEN OF TRADITION

Mat 15:1 Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

2 Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is a gift*, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

7 *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,*

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

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

The preacher strongly infers you are not saved or you don’t care about God if you don’t give honor to God in the way you dress. Many preachers preach entire sermons a few times a year on the importance of dressing your best for God. Dressing modestly is one thing. But many congregations look so much like fashion shows that the person who doesn’t have any “good clothes” doesn’t feel comfortable going to that church. It does accomplish one thing: If you can afford to “dress up for God” you can probably afford to give considerable amounts into the church’s coffers! **The dress code custom is a good way to weed out the haves from the have-nots.** James is a good example of how man-made tradition (dressing your best for Jesus) makes the commandment of God (love thy neighbor as thy self) of none effect:

Jam 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.*

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

It's not wrong to dress nice...but if it's being preached from the pulpit, you have allowed some bad leaven to creep in.

There are other traditions that men observe that have nothing to do with the Word of God, such as paying homage to dead saints of God, while the Word of God condemns necromancy (Deut 18:11); waiting for people to come into the congregations to "evangelize" them, rather than going into the world (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8); having a fellowship where only pastors and deacons or church boards comprise the ministry, instead of the five fold ministry working intimately with one another to train the members to become fellow ministers (Eph 4:11-17); having a once a week 2 hour service consisting of some songs, a collection plate, and an oration by the star speaker, in contrast to what a Biblical service would look like according to 1 Cor 14:26.

While 1 Corinthians 12 -14 are wonderful chapters as to how the Church is supposed to function, most "church services" are so far removed from these instructions, that the tradition of the 2 hour meeting has made the Word of God in these chapters of none effect. The pastor may reply: "We live in a busy world, and something like that might take all day, and most people won't want to stay for that!" See how far the leaven has taken us? The believers used to go from house to house daily! They couldn't get enough of the Word. Pastor, you are called to obedience and to feed the flock of God in the Way they should go.

Saul was afraid of what the people might do, so he violated God's commandments in favor of the people. **This may offend you, but most ministries in America operate in a Saul anointing where they fear the people, and compromise the word of God.** As a result, most Christians have been conditioned to believe that the things of God are NOT as important as the roast in the oven or the Sunday afternoon football game, and they have grown apathetic and do not seek the Kingdom of God first.

God doesn't change. There was a tent set up in New Orleans for over a year and a half after hurricane Katrina devastated the city. Every single night 7 days a week there was a service under the tent. Different ministries took part in the services, and the people that came were hungry for the Truth of God. That was more than **574** consecutive days of services at night, not to mention the Sunday

morning service and the 6 Days a week that there was a devotional in the morning. That's more than **1148** services held under that tent in 16 months.

To put that in perspective, most churches in America normally hold 156 services a year, (figuring 2 services on Sunday, and a mid-week service), and if you factor in a few weeks of "special meetings" you might be able to find some that hold 200 services a year. Most large churches that hold multiple services still just technically have just one service that is repeated a couple of times. So the typical church in America only holds approximately 300 2 hour services in a 16 month period out of approximately 11,520 hours because of the religious mindset that the leaven of tradition has fostered!

Where does God really rank in your life? The pastor of the tent was available 24/7 for ministry to anyone who needed ministered to. Many times he was up until 3:00 in the morning counseling individuals who needed help. He never had any overly large congregations, because most people are given to being comfortable with Air Conditioning or heat in the winter. But those who came were hungry for the Word, and they were consistent in their coming.

For the first four months of the tent, Christians came from all over the United States to minister and to seek God's face. For ten days in a row, there was 20 hours of ministry a day going on under the tent in the form of prayer, worship, the prophetic, and evangelism. There were many more days when ministry exceeded 12 hours. *All of this was possible because the BODY of Christ participated, and it was never a one man show.* Many souls were saved and disciplined. All who were regular attendees of the services became able ministers of the gospel, were encouraged to share testimonies, songs, revelations and whatever else the Lord gave them from the pulpit, and were actively engaged in leading others to the Lord.

The only motivation for the pastor to do this was because he understood the call of the Lord in his life. It wasn't done for wages, or for recognition. No collections were taken under the tent, but there were unsolicited offerings given that enabled the work to continue. So for those of you who say that the 1 Corinthians 12-14 and the Ephesians 4:11-16 models of church services are unrealistic in this day and age, the truth is that it can be done with wonderful results. **You can get rid of your tradition.** Just think what you could do with air conditioning and heat, and a staff!

What would happen to your city if the leaders got serious with God and got rid of the leaven that has lulled them into vain religious works and traditions? At the time of this writing (May 1, 2007) the tent is still up, the services are still being conducted, souls are still being saved and baptized, but it may be taken down soon either at the request of the leadership of the church the pastor is working with, or by the Will of God, whichever comes first!

Another tradition in the church is the “altar call” where the attendees are told to bow their head, close their eyes, and not to look around, as the call is made for those who want to give their heart to Jesus to surreptitiously raise their hands so they won’t be embarrassed by their decision. This tradition teaches new converts right from the outset that they can hide their faith.

Mar 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

God desires pastors with a David anointing...men after His own heart who will not compromise His Word to amass huge followings, who’ll forsake their personal comfort for His sheep regardless of the cost.

Some of the traditions of men lead to even worse consequences:

THE LEAVEN OF BLASPHEMY

Mat 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard *it*, they said, This *fellow* doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

25 And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

26 And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

27 And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast *them* out? therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

Although the majority of Christians and those in ministry in particular will declare that they believe in the infallible inerrant Word of God, there are many who contradict themselves and who say that the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been done away with, with an emphasis on tongues, prophecy and healing.

Those who have embraced this leaven will say that tongues are of the devil, as well as the healing and the manifestation of the prophetic word that takes place today in Charismatic or Pentecostal circles. They scoff at spiritual deliverance and call it demonic.

While there are many abuses of the spiritual gifts, and even a lot of charlatans that make a mockery of God through their abuse of the Gifts, we need to take care not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. God is the same today as He was yesterday. He never changes, and His Word will not pass away. **Those who deny that the gifts are for today are those who have a form of godliness, but deny the Power thereof.** If you have bought into the blasphemous leaven of the Pharisees, you are buying into the devils' devices, and you need to repent of teaching others to quench and blaspheme the Spirit of God.

On the other end of the spectrum is the leaven that encourages Christians to go out seeking signs.

SEEKING SIGNS

Mat 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Christians today are constantly on the watch for where the next "move of God" or where the next "anointed man" or "woman of God" will appear. They want to have the man of God give them a personal word, or a personal prophecy. They want to watch people get healed, see the dead raised to life, and demons cast out. Christians follow after the spectacular like spectators at an entertainment event. They pursue after signs like the adulterous generation that Jesus was speaking about, although Jesus said that those signs would follow anyone who believes.

The signs are supposed to follow us; not vice versa (Mark 16:15 -18)!

The reason why they aren't walking in the Power of God like the "man of God" up there on the stage is because they don't want to yield themselves to the Will of God, but prefer to embrace the things of the world rather than the things of God.. This is a wicked and adulterous mentality, and needs to be repented of. Just because a person operates in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit isn't a sign of God's approval of his ministry. That can be seen from Matthew 7:21-23:

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

This penchant for chasing after the miraculous by going from one meeting to the next can also expose the Christian to being deceived, because not everyone who comes in the Name of Jesus Christ are true servants of God

Mat 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

It's the leaven that we give place to that leads to our being deceived.

THE LEAVEN OF HYPOCRISY

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.

As you examine yourself, can you honestly say that you live your life to serve those who God has entrusted to your care? Or do you prefer to be served? Have you bought into the leaven of self exaltation? Don't deceive yourself. You may go for a while receiving honor and esteem from men, and you may even accumulate quite a degree of what some would deem to be success. But if that is your pursuit, you *will* be abased, and you will be humbled under the mighty Hand of God.

It doesn't matter if you belong to a ministerial association and all your peers conduct themselves in ministry in the same way...that is how it was in Jesus' day. It doesn't make you right, and the Judgment of God will one day come upon you in your arrogance.

Pro 16:5 Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*

A week after hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, I responded to a call by a church to help set up a hurricane relief center. Within the first month, I believe the Lord gave me a verse as to why the Hurricane hit. Most Christians will have a problem with this word, but I believe it is true.

Many were saying that the hurricane devastated New Orleans because of the blatant sin that was so prevalent in the city, and at first I thought that might have been true as well. But as I began to see the effects of the storm and the results that it brought forth, I realized that it wasn't because of the heathens that were in the city...sin will always be here until Jesus returns. The Word of God tells us that God isn't willing that any one should perish but that all would come to repentance.

**Mar 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.
7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.**

Prior to the storm, the churches in New Orleans and the surrounding area had their own religious agendas. There were pastors who were intent on building their own kingdoms, hirelings who held office hours and who were adept at the art of extorting money from the people in the Name of Jesus. They had their church hallelujah parties, and their exclusive attitudes. They had their meetings where the speakers would fleece the flock of their money by appealing to their covetousness: "Sow into my ministry and you'll get a hundred fold return." The city was full of so-called "men of God" who insisted on being called by the titles of prestige and honor.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

All the while these ministries flourished in the "name of Jesus", the crime rate soared, and ungodliness increased, because the Christians were into their "feel good" gospel, rather than laying their lives down and going out into the crime infested areas to preach the gospel in order to see souls brought into the Kingdom of God.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

During Mardi Gras, there would be a mass exodus of Christians who would flee from the wickedness while there would be about 1500 – 2000 Christians who would come into the city to lift up the Name of Jesus Christ and pull some out of the pit of Hell. Those who would come into the city were those who understood what Jesus meant when He said to “go” into all the world and make disciples. Most of the Christians in New Orleans never understood the urgency. But God knows how to get His Children’s attention.

1Pe 4:17 For the time *is* come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

With Katrina, the walls of the churches that insulated the Christians from the rest of the world were literally broken down. Now it was up to His people to do something about the city.

What an awesome move of God it was! Christians from every denomination worked together to minister to the hurting and to give hope to the hopeless. The report in those early days was wonderful to hear: “Fema couldn’t help us, the Red Cross couldn’t help us, but the Christians are making a difference in New Orleans!” What a glorious opportunity! The first six months saw an unprecedented receptiveness in all the people to the preaching of the Gospel.

But then the reality of what was taking place started to manifest itself. While there were many area churches who were part of a coalition called PRC, the truth of the matter was that the bulk of the volunteers came from everywhere else BUT New Orleans. You might protest and say that isn’t fair, because the Christians had to rebuild their homes before they could get out and help others. That’s true to a degree, but a year after the storm in the relief center that I was working at, we still saw very few local volunteers. Now a year and a half later, the story is the same. Most of the work done here to further the Kingdom of God and to rebuild the city has come from Christians from other states.

The walls of the churches that insulated the Christians from the rest of the world are being rebuilt. The crime rate is increasing as very few local congregations go out to make a difference in the community that God has entrusted to them. Pastors and ministers still love their titles. There was still a mass exodus or indifference among the local Christians when Mardi Gras came. There are still a lot of feel good hallelujah parties, “pastor appreciation” gatherings that are full of pastors who are intent on building their personal kingdoms, while saying they want to see the city transformed for the Kingdom of God.

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men’s* bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

I have seen men of God become pitch men for rebuilding their ministries at the expense of their integrity, and competing for recognition by news reporters and scrambling for photo-ops of “ministry in action” when in truth they themselves did very little hands-on work in the relief effort, but yet were quick to take the credit for all that was being done.

I have met Pastors who say they have a heart for souls yet turn away from those who would require more than a couple of hours of help.

But I also have met those men and women of God who truly live their lives to see the city transformed for God. I have met Pastors and ministers who were on the front lines, getting their hands dirty and working alongside the volunteers to minister to the hurting. I have met pastors and ministers who actually consistently pray for the city, not just at official scheduled weekly or monthly prayer meetings. I have met pastors and ministers who aren’t jealous of their pulpit; men of God whose interest is only in furthering the kingdom of God.

But the men of God I have just mentioned are few and far between; would to God all the ministers in New Orleans would look to these men and women of God as examples, and shake themselves from the leaven that has polluted them.

There was a grace period in 2006 as far as hurricanes hitting the coast of America. Unless the Church shakes off the leavening influences that have taken root in its doctrine, I fear for what the judgment of God will be like again.

But I am not only speaking of New Orleans...that city is just a case in point. Unless the people of God humble themselves and pray, and sincerely seek His

face, and turn from the wicked leaven of vain religion in their lives, there will be even more and greater catastrophes that will visit our cities and our nation as our Father tries to get the attention of His children.

2nd Timothy 3:1-7 isn’t speaking about unbelievers. It is speaking about the condition of those who profess to be Christians in the last days (note verse 5):

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,
7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Christian, minister, Pastor...Please don't allow your heart to be so hardened that you ignore this appeal. Know and understand that God will not be mocked. You *will* reap what you sow. Our Father will chastise His children so He will be able to teach them how to return to their first love. If you really want to see a move of God, sweep the leaven out of your houses.

During the feast of Passover, the entire household is to search (or examine) the entire house to make sure there is no leaven in the house. After the family searches, the head of the household is to perform a final inspection. The whole purpose is to remind the people of God that the angel of death passed over the Israelites in Mercy when the Judgment of God fell on Egypt that held them in bondage.

The Israelites kept the first feast of Passover with their sandals on and had no time to bake their bread, because they had to leave in haste. We need to be just as hasty to leave the worldly influence that has invaded the Church.

Christ is our Passover. Our lives are to be reflections of Christ. We are to have our feet shod with the preparation of the uncorrupted Gospel.

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

This booklet is not written to condemn anyone. In case you don't yet realize it, there is a real urgency for those who are in leadership (of which I am one) to set our houses in order, and see the Mighty Move of God that we say we desire. Much more could be written about other forms of leaven that we have allowed to creep into the Church, but I have only been called to "PRIME THE PUMP."

If you are a pastor you probably have said that we need to pray for revival. Are you praying for revival to come on your own terms, or are you truly surrendered to God?

With every true move of God, form and fashion and programs were thrown out the door before God would allow His Holy Spirit to sweep through the land. How much are you willing to pay for revival? How much are you dependant on your own devices rather than God's Hand in your ministry?

My prayer is that this booklet will land in the hands of pastors who are willing to pursue the Move of God at any cost.

The only reason for including my name and address is if you want to contact me regarding the contents of this booklet.

**Lance Rowe
417 Co Rd 446
Dutton,AL 35744**

CROSSCOUNTRY4JESUS@JUNO.COM
CROSSCOUNTRY4JESUS.COM
CALL ME ANY TIME
504 722 5404