**Are We Losing the West? (Continued)**

**Chapter 18**

Charles Darwin AD 1809-1882

Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

In the Christian worldview God is the ultimate Judge of the earth as well as the standard of all morality. His judgment is based on morals and not, like Kevin Swanson brings out, on “some cold, necessity in a naturalistic-materialistic world.”

Charles Darwin entered Cambridge University in 1828 with the intent of preparing for the ministry. Darwin wrote that he “did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word of the Bible.” But, a radical change came into his mind, because later on he labored as hard as he could to eliminate every element of the Christian faith from his thinking. He then said that the Bible is “no more to be trusted than the beliefs of a barbarian.”

After 28 years of research, on November 24**th**, 1859 Darwin published his now famous book called The Origin of Species in which the first print sold out in one day. It was as if the world at that time was waiting for an intellectual aspect of our ‘being’ other than what the Bible gives us in Genesis 1. It would seem that Darwin met a market need that the modern world was looking for to take us away from the Christian faith and the biblical God. Though he could not disprove the existence of God he could provide another reason for our being.

Jesus gave us a maxim in Matthew 7:15-18 that we can use in testing all things said and done.  "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”

What was Charles Darwin like, who is still considered the most influential person in the world?From his own writings to friends he was a “twisted” individual and by his own testimony a sadist that took great pleasure in killing animals. It is said that he especially loved to kill birds by pounding on their heads with a hammer.

God says: “A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.” Proverbs 12:10

Darwin’s shares his testimony that his problems began at age 16 and by the time he was 28 he was almost incapacitated by his mental illnesses. Kevin Swanson in his book called APOSTATE said about Darwin that: “He suffered from depression, agoraphobia, insomnia, vision alterations, hallucinations, malaise, vertigo, shaking, tachycardia, fainting spells, shortness of breath, trembling, nausea, vomiting, dizziness. Muscle twitches, spasms, tremors, cramps and colics, bloating and nocturnal flatulence, headaches, nervous exhaustion, dyspnea, skin blisters, tinnitus, and sensations of loss of consciousness, and impending death.”

Dr. Jerry Bergman believes there was a strong connection between Darwin’s religious apostasy and his psychosis. Bergman writes, “His nagging, gnawing fear about murdering God caused a cold shudder to run through him because of his fear that he had devoted his life to a fantasy… an illusion, and a dangerous one at that.”

Yet, when we think of the considerable influence of this person in the modern world with all of his psychosis it does not say much about the modern world.

**A good tree produces good fruit and bad tree bad fruit**.

What is the fruit that this tortured man produced?

Regrettably, this man’s fruit has touched every person and nation as well as educational, cultural, religious, and political institutions that affect our lives.

The Descent of Man, a book that he wrote in 1871, opened the door to eugenics and the selective breeding to eliminate supposedly genetic weaknesses. This gave a reason for Hitler in the 20**th** century to try to produce “the super race.”

For Darwin, man is an animal with mental faculties that do not differ in kind although immensely in degree.

The biblical view of man in Psalm 8 would greatly disagree. “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:  all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.” Psalms 8:4-8

Another aspect of the fruit that this man produced (and there were many) was the open door to ‘genocide,’ where we would eventually have the extermination of races, the handicapped and the inferior so to have the strongest living, so to speak.

We have entered a brave new world that fails to respect human life created in the image of God. We, as God’s people, should be concerned about the change in the worldview of the Western world. It is estimated that out of the 110 Christian universities, about half still teach creation by God and oppose evolutionary by Darwin. Why not all of them?

In all of the public and private universities only about 1% maintains a God-centered belief system. In Europe it is about the same, if not worse.

At one time Western Europe and America had the majority of Christians, but not today. Although we see an ebbing with Christianity in Europe, America, Australia and Canada, God is moving in a great way in Latin America, Africa and Asia. I believe that we have a temporary setback in the West, but God is on the move.

***Charles Darwin*, just like some other philosophers that have gone before,** **picked a fight with God and lost.**

**Chapter 19**

Friedrich Nietzsche AD 1844-1900

Daniel 4:28-32 “All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty? The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Friedrich’s father, Karl Ludwig used Luke 1:66 for his baptismal verse: “Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, ‘What then is this child going to be?’” Friedrich was aspiring to follow in the steps of his father and grandfather and go into the pastorate. At the age of 17 he read Ludwig Feuerbach’s skeptical book on Christianity and it began to pave the way for unbelief to enter Friedrich. This was also during the time when German higher criticism and humanistic relativism began to affect the Lutheran church.

He began to dismantle the Judeo/Christian worldview in the west. In his own testimony he pronounced to the world that “the old god is abolished and I myself will henceforth rule the world,” and that he would be “the most terrible opponent to Christianity.” He later identified himself as the Anti-Christ in a book published with the same title in 1888. Three months after he made the statement about being the anti-Christ he lost his mind and for the last 11 years of his life he was certifiably insane. At the end he said: “I am dead because I am stupid… I am stupid because I am dead.”

Not only did Nietzsche speak about the death of God, but also about the death of traditional religion. Some would say that he embraced “nihilism” (rejection of all religious and moral principles). Instead of realizing that we are made in the image and likeness of God his plan for becoming ‘what one is’ was based upon instincts through his/her various faculties. “Through psychological struggle one must craft who they are through ‘self-realization’ (we see this idea of self-realization being taught in our public schools today) without any outside help - like God.”  His tortured type of reasoning would be that we are to affirm that there is no God, and we pretend that there is one.

In doing research on these men I am amazed how much influence men like Nietzsche had and still have today on society, especially in modern philosophy and psychology in our universities. What an irony that a man who, for eleven years was certifiably insane, would bear the title of ‘humanist psychologist.’

It would seem that Nietzsche could not deny the existence of God or Christ, but he showed a very real hatred towards Christianity. He said: “Christianity was from the beginning, essentially and fundamentally, life's nausea and disgust with life, merely concealed behind, masked by, dressed up as, faith in ‘another’ or ‘better’ life.”

It was Nietzsche who said: “There are no facts, only interpretations.” Isn’t this the philosophy that we have in our post-modern political, economic world today, facts do not count, only the interpretations. When talking to Pilate Jesus said: “For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37) Truth for Nietzsche was: “Illusions about which one has forgotten that is what they are; metaphors which are worn out and without sensuous power; coins which have lost their pictures and now matter only as metal, no longer as coins.”

For us who are Christians and adhere to some of our main doctrines of Sovereignty of God, universal sinfulness, election by divine grace and heaven and hell for Nietzsche “would be a sign of weak-mindedness and lack of character *not* to become a priest, apostle or hermit and, in fear and trembling, to work solely on one's own salvation; it would be senseless to lose sight of one’s eternal advantage for the sake of temporal comfort. If we may assume that these things are at any rate *believed* true, then the everyday Christian cuts a miserable figure; he is a man who really cannot count to three, and who precisely on account of his spiritual imbecility does not deserve to be punished so harshly as Christianity promises to punish him.”

The stronghold that these men have built over the centuries demands believers in Christ to know what we believe and to be able to give a reason for the hope that is in us.

**Chapter 20**

                                      John Dewey AD 1859-1952

Proverbs 16:9 “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

John Dewy was like so many of our Christian young people who grow up in Christian homes and are sent away to one of our prestigious universities to earn an education that will help them through their life, but come away losing the faith that they once had.

At the time John Dewey started his higher education he joined one of the largest groups on campus called Student Christian Association. One of his first speeches was on ‘THE OBLIGATION TO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.’ In that speech he acknowledged that belief is “not a privilege, but a duty.” While at Michigan State University he taught a Bible class on ‘The Life of Christ.’ However, John’s faith, like so many of our young people today, was too little to survive.

In his first publication ‘Psychology’ he argued that logic proved God to be a necessity, but G. Stanley Hall his former instructor at John Hopkins University and William James criticized it and made him re-examine his thinking and moved him towards ‘pragmatism’- a naturalistic approach that viewed knowledge as arising from an active adaptation of the human organism to its environment. In other words, pragmatism is gaining knowledge through human reasoning and experience. Somewhere between 1884 and 1900 Dewey abandoned the Christian faith. He counted himself a “religious humanist.” Perhaps Apostle Paul’s description of man who is “ever learning, and never coming to the knowledge of the truth,” fits John Dewey. (2 Timothy 3:7)

In the end John Dewey, like so many other philosophers, admits that we cannot know anything for certain. Why? Because when we deny the most basic truth of all - the existence of God and His Truth - we cannot come to the knowledge of truth. What a difference with the Lord Himself when He says: “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” (John 3:3) Jesus was certain!!!

John Dewey had - and still does exert - tremendous influence on our educational system. For him education was to enable a person to fit into the social fabric of the state. Karl Marx, in the Communist Manifesto, wanted to replace home education with the state's education. Dewey would be in agreement with that. For Dewey, “All educational content is subservient to the social element - training the young person to belong to the social unit and pursue the objectives of the social unit.”  No matter how unwise, ungodly, and unintelligent the social unit may be. In other words, everything else - academics, character formation and training, fear of God, etc. takes a back seat. So like Kevin Swanson says: “Education becomes the play-ground for faceless planners whose objective is to mold future society in public schools and universities.” This type of system leads to the centralization of our education to the State and the goal is to make sure that the child is in tune with the ‘social consciousness.’

What I thought was interesting about this system is that human individuality is lost. Dewey goes on to say: “The deepest moral training is precisely that which one gets through having to enter into proper relations with others in a unity of work and thought.” We are taught to move in ‘herds.’ I have seen this in some of the countries that I have ministered in and have had people to actually tell me that the populace moves and acts like a ‘herd.’ I wonder where that came from???

We see this in our entertainment. My wife and I went and saw the film called ‘Divergent’ and saw how in this futuristic scene society is fitted into units (herds) so that there might be peace instead of war, but like so many of our philosophers they do not recognize the ‘fallenness of man.’

When there are no absolutes the pragmatist (out of his own human reasoning) admits that it can never know what is the highest good or what might produce it. So to overcome the problem the social and political leaders choose what they think is the highest good or the goal in what man must seek.

What is interesting is that once the social leaders choose the goal they can then bring in the scientists to explain how they will achieve this goal. Take for example the goal today of “global warming.” The goal is to correct global warming and now the scientists are trying to convince us of the steps that we must take.

When Darwin’s theory of evolution took God as the ultimate Judge of the Universe out of the equation then man has been relieved of all meaning, purpose and absolutes. So, Dr. Will Provine of Cornell University argues that “if evolution is true then there can be no life after death, no transcendent purpose, no morality, and no free will.” He speaks of his own suicide.

What these academic leaders are recognizing is that suicide feels like freedom. When there is no purpose or meaning to life then the logical conclusion of their worldview is suicide. When God fades, truth fades, ethics fade, reality fades and what is man or society left with? Nothing but emptiness, and so post-modern man and his societies commit suicide.

This is where we are moving in the 21st century and the church (the holder of the truth) in the days ahead will have a tremendous opportunity for a great harvest.

Will the church be ready?

**Chapter 21**

Jean-Paul Sartre AD 1905-1980

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

Doing research on these men and seeing how idea upon idea was being laid down to construct the stronghold that we have today in our Western Hemisphere we see how the above verse is the outcome of their philosophy. Shooting in schools, disrespect for teachers and parents alike, severe drug addiction and a host of other things can be traced back to the overall philosophy or worldview, especially in our higher education that has been espoused - now working itself out in our streets.

Kevin Swanson in his book called Apostate brings out that Jean-Paul Sartre not only defined the 20th century man, but was also the guide and philosopher for millions of youth from the 1940’s to 1960s. His paternal and maternal grandparents raised him. His grandfather on his father’s side was an atheist who had a number of extramarital affairs that affected Jean-Paul in his overall outlook on life. His teen-age years were lived out in rebellion and following a pattern of stealing, lying, etc.

The movie screen brought this teen-age rebellion to light with the movie Rebel Without A Cause played by James Dean in 1955 and helped bring in the rebellious 60s. I found the Lord in 1961, but I still had a rebellious spirit that was directed against the so-called establishment. If it was not for the Lord reaching down and saving me I would probably have been one of those ‘hippies’ making my journey from Kabul, Afghanistan to Kathmandu, Nepal  to Goa, and India. However, I still made the trip, but with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Like so many before him, Jean-Paul Sartre’s ideas were formed in college as he read the works of other philosopher’s especially Friedrich Nietzsche. Sartre’s life was filled with debauchery with alcohol, drugs sexual encounters. Some of his best works, according to his biographers, were written while under the influence of alcohol. He was certainly the best example for the sexual revolution of the 60s. He was a heavy smoker consuming two or three packs of cigarettes a day. Perhaps this is what caused his death with *edema of the lung* in 1980.

Jean-Paul was an atheist. He was an “existentialist man.” Do not let the word, existentialist, scare you. Kevin Swanson says: “Existentialism is the deification of self; or to put all of this deep philosophical jargon into language that a two-year old can understand, existentialism is selfishness.”

Does this sound familiar?  “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

For God to be God - He must be the source of all reality, of truth and existence. Basically, what Jean-Paul Sartre and other humanist philosophers have done is to try and replace God with themselves. According to Sartre “each human being is seen as absolute master of his own soul, if he chooses to follow his path of action and courage.” Have you ever heard people say, “I am the master of my soul,” and wonder where the saying came from? Now we know. With Sartre’s type of existentialism he (man) determines his own opinions, ethics, actions and own morality. In other words, he has made himself God.

In Sartre’s writing he often talks about being free. Being free for him is to be alone. For Sartre “hell is other people.” This would seem to be one of the reasons why we have such loneness in the Western world today. We have what we call the “alienation of 20th century man.”

Quote from his book called The Nausea:  “I live alone, entirely alone. I never speak to anyone, never; I receive nothing, I give nothing… When you live alone you no longer know what it is to tell something: the plausible disappears at the same time as the fiends. You let events flow past; suddenly you see people pop up who speak and who go away, you plunge into stories without beginning or end: you make a terrible *witness. But*in compensation, one misses *nothing, no*improbability or, story too tall to be believed in cafes.”

This philosophy of loneness makes sense when it is carried to its logical conclusion. When you are your own god you do not want competition from others who are trying to achieve godhead. You do not want any interference or competition. We see this in our culture today, but more so in Europe than the USA, but we are close behind. The outworking of Sartre’s philosophy is seen in the increase of divorce rates, deterioration of family units, abortions, and the break-up of relationships, etc.

God has created us for community and without community we will dry up and wither away. What a responsibility the church (God’s chosen people, not frozen people as someone once said) has for combating this ideology with the weapons that He has given us in tearing down this stronghold. “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

 **Chapter 22**

                    What Can We Do? Part 1

Ephesians 2:2  "In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Looking at some of these men that I have been writing about, the one common denominator that comes out is how the demonic is prevalent in their writings and in their lives.

Paul was writing to the Ephesians to tell what they were like before they came to Christ, and what the world is like without Christ today. According to this passage of Scripture many people are being manipulated by a very deceptive unseen power that is causing people to do things that are nothing but downright evil.  Shootings are taking place. For example, one that took two years ago in Sandy Hook where a young man came in and gunned down 20 children, ages 5-10 years old. There have been random shootings in many schools, in work places, etc., and there have been terrorist bombings, road rage on our highways, disputes where family members kill one another, civil wars breaking out, like in Syria where hundreds of thousands were killed and millions displaced, communal riots, like ones that break out in India leaving thousands dead. One could go on and on, but we get the point. So the question is: How do we explain all of this? The only answer is that it is the demonic taking over more and more.

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 Paul tells us: "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete."

We, as God's people, must come to realize what and who the real enemy is. I believe that Satan has gotten us off track into thinking that the real culprit is flesh and blood, the ones that we see making decisions affecting so many, especially in the political and economic realm. We fall into the trap thinking that we need the right men/women in the right place. In one sense this is true that we need men/women of character in places of authority, but we cannot lose sight that the real culprit that we are fighting is demonic.

One of the things that I have been praying for and that I feel is essential, is to see an army of intercessors raised up who will begin to deal with these unseen, but very real entities. We are in a spiritual warfare and with the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and knowing that their time is coming to an end, these demons are doing all the damage they possibly can before they wind up in the lake of fire reserved for Satan and his co-laborers.

We need to see God raise up spiritual warfare intercessors in every community throughout our countries who have been in the battle and can train others in spiritual warfare. Can this be done? Yes! But first we must see the necessity and the urgency of the situation we are faced with.

What a challenge lies with the church!  It would be great if each church could identify who are the ones called to intercessory prayer and want to be trained and set them aside for the work that God has called them to.

Acts 13:1-3 "Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

The Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” With the Antioch church we have an example that needs to be followed today; that of the church leaders setting time aside to worship, to minister to the Lord. So often we want God to minister to us, but there are times when we need to minister to the Lord. This is what they were doing in Antioch, and in that setting God told them what to do:  “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

I believe in this type of setting God will speak and show who can be set aside as well as get trained in this ministry of intercessory prayer. We know from Ephesians 2 that the answer to what we are faced with today lies in the Gospel. **"But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"  (Ephesians2:5-8)

One of the first tasks of the intercessor is to prepare the ground so the blinders that are on the minds of unbelievers can be removed to be able to accept this great gift from God. When redemption has taken place then the work of sanctification and discipleship takes over and these people who are and will be in different places within our community will begin to radiate the Kingdom of God for an impact to be made on society.

**Chapter 23**

What Can We Do? Part 2

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

We have seen how another method of gaining knowledge, other than the revealed knowledge that comes from God, crept in through Thomas Aquinas and over the centuries was built upon by other following philosophers until we now have come to the place in the 21st century to where we call good evil and evil good.

The question that begs for an answer is: What can we do? First, we need to recognize that this is a battle for the mind. One of the greatest needs is what the Apostle Paul spoke about here in Romans 12:**“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**.”

In 2001, researcher George Barna gave a speech and said that historians would look back and say that this year of 2001 was about the time when moral and spiritual anarchy began. He went on to say: “Of all the changes likely to occur in the next few years, moral chaos will have the most devastating impact on American culture.” Looking at the moral breakdown that has come with lightning speed in the last decade alone, one would agree with his assessment.

In the past I have written about the need for a Biblical mindset - having a Biblical worldview. A worldview is the screening of everything that comes our way and how we interpret things in everyday life. Because of the men that have been presented over the past few weeks we see that much of our interpretation of things that come our way is not Biblical, but secular; not God’s perspective, but man's, and like I said before: Man makes a bad god.

In Barna’s book BOILING POINT, he says that while most Americans claim to be Christians, commitment is becoming less and less meaningful. He brings out the following statistics. Consider this: “85 percent of all adults claim that religious faith is very important in their lives. Also, 85 percent claim to be Christians. More than four out of five adults claim to know the basic teachings of the Bible and nine of ten own at least one Bible -- good. Yet, just one in four adults and only one teenager in ten believe in absolute moral truth. In fact, less than half of those who call themselves "born-again" Christians believe that anything is ‘absolutely true.’”

The question comes: Why the disconnect when there are so many that believe the value of the Bible’s content and believe that Jesus is *The Truth*? Barna suggests that it is because of changing values, or rather, evolving values. These men that have been mentioned in previous weekly letters brought this change of values when our Western culture embraced relativism and abandoned traditional values like loyalty, morality, accountability, and sacrifice.

Now we find values that best go along with relativism like independence, personal happiness, tolerance, comfort, instant gratification, the right to make one’s own choices -- all of which center on the individual. Christ said long ago: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) Because God is not the center of our lives, *self* has become the center, and because of this *self* interest - spiritual and moral anarchy follow.

We are told in 2 Corinthians 5:15: “And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” Christ died and rose again that He might deliver us from public enemy number one: SELF. We also read that Christ died and rose again that He might be Lord over all. “For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.” Romans 14:9

Unless we, God’s people, come back to our foundation, our society will have enormous difficulties in coping with the changes that are coming.

In his book BOILING POINT Barna goes on to say: “Most distressing, the church sometimes seems right in line with today's evolving values, and also note that people's church preferences often align precisely with their relativistic approach to life.”

Instead of looking for a church with doctrinal purity Americans seem to attend churches based on how far they have to drive, or the worship that is taking place and whether or not they can get an emotional boost from the sermon, etc. Not that these are bad things in themselves, but convenience, comfort and emotion tend to be the values that drive today's spirituality.

Paul said that we should not only be transformed by the renewing of our mind, but also not to be conformed to the patterns of this world. The research that Barna conducted in 1999 among sixty-five common values and traits - did reveal that the values of born again Christians were not substantially different.

When leading the Children of Israel in the desert Moses said to the Lord: “How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

In closing Barna went on to say: “Can such a church expect to change the world? If we have any hope of renewing the culture, we'll need to rediscover what Jesus meant when He called us to be in the world but not of it.”

**Chapter 24**

What Can We Do? Part 3

Numbers 4:4 “This is the work of the Kohathites at the tent of meeting: the care of the most holy things."

1 Peter 4:17 “For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

In this spiritual warfare we need to realize that the church is the holder of truth and because of this we must proclaim the truth with vigor, faithfulness and purity. We must learn to speak the truth with boldness and love. It is the truth that will set us free.

Secondly, we must put our own house in order since God is a God of order. What do I mean? God has given us all work to do. Paul said that he would not go outside the sphere that God gave him: "We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand," (2 Corinthians 10:13-15)

In the Body of Christ we all have been given a sphere, a work to do and it is imperative that we know what it is and stay within the sphere that God has called us to. And when we step outside of it we move into someone else’s sphere which then brings in confusion, chaos and moving in the flesh.

Reading through Scripture we see how God is a God of order. For example, Nehemiah was building the wall with each one doing his part, and the Levites were working with order on the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

What speaks to me is the unity in the work, with no duplicating, each one knowing what needs to be done and eagerly doing their working. What is the result? In fifty some days - the wall is built.

We see the order of God in the universe where everything is moving like clockwork. I read a book by Richard Swenson called: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: FASCINATING GLIMPSE OF GOD'S POWER AND DESIGN.

Describing the human body, when we see the different functions of the human body and the working together of each part, we must agree with the Psalmist that we too are wonderfully made. What comes out though is if one part begins to work outside of its sphere - sickness and death follow. This is true in the Body of Christ as well.

What order has God put into the Body of Christ? We see the spiritual body and physical body having the same order for strength and power. Paul tells us: “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

My question is: Are all these offices operating in the church today? If they are not, then we will find chaos and confusion, not having the strength of unity that is necessary to get the job done.

In John 17 we read that Jesus operated in the sphere that God gave Him: "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." (vs. 4)

Jesus said in John 4:34 “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” At the end He went to the cross and His last words were: “It is finished.”

In John 17 Jesus was not praying for the world, but for His people that they might be sanctified. This is a problem we have today; we get saved, but we do not move on into sanctification and discipleship for the unity of the body. “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (vs. 21)

The two things that Jesus prayed for was sanctification (purity) and unity (power). What are two main things in the church hurting the Body of Christ today? Immorality and disunity. What do we find in the Corinthian church which seems to be so prevalent in the church today? "For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged." 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

We are living in exciting times and many doors are being opened to us. Might we, the Body of Christ, be ready!

**Chapter 25**

What Can We Do? Part 4

Colossians 2:2-5 "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is."

In the previous weeklies we saw how God's revelation was superseded by man's reasoning when it came to knowledge and understanding of nature and the nature of God. We saw where in the 21st century man's reasoning has taken us where we are calling good evil and evil good.

Where do we find wisdom and knowledge? Paul tells us that “in Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Jesus is the answer. It is with this thought in mind that I found the following very interesting.

Mr. Bilal Hafeez serves as the Managing Director and Analyst at Deutsche Bank AG - Research Division and has been its Global Head of Foreign Exchange Strategy since September 2004. He joined Deutsche Bank AG - Research Division in 2002 as a Senior Foreign Exchange Strategist. Mr. Hafeez is responsible for formulating the bank's view on currencies. He manages and contributes to the firm's flagship publications: FX Strategy Weekly, FX Blueprint, and Exchange Rate Perspectives.

Bilal Hafeez said in a speech: "Who else has entered the terrible teens? The Euro-Area! It was born in 1999 and so is currently fourteen years old. It has all the hallmarks of teenage angst. It is ridden with internal conflicts, it is groping around for structure, and it is suspicious of authority."  "So who can be a positive role model for the Euro-Area?" he asks. "Well, it cannot be the 'fathers '—Germany or France. It has to be an external figure that all Europeans respect and whose motives and character are beyond dispute. That rules out anyone living, as even the most competent person will make missteps or have something from their past dredged up to undermine them. That leaves us with historical figures whose lives have been laid bare by history. I can only think of one figure that is respected by most Europeans and has never sinned," he concludes. "Jesus!"  Incredibly, Hafeez goes onto suggest that if everyone lived by the injunction to not be the "first to cast stones unless they were without sin" then the "constant accusations would stop."

One of the things that I see coming out of our city, state and federal governments is that our so-called leaders seem to not know what to do. Poll after poll shows that the public does not trust them in what they say (result of our post-modern worldview) and we find that they are making decisions that will have dastardly consequences later on for future generations.

What is the answer? I think it is what Hafeez said and what we read in the following verses: "Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens." (Psalms 148:11-13)

What is interesting to me that comes out in Hafeez’s article is that man and his reasoning does not have an answer to some of the most complex problems we have today in the area of finance and international relations. Jesus is the answer; Jesus is the solution. My prayer is that God will raise up godly men/women of **influence** next to men/women of **power** who can influence those in power in the way they should go and in the way they make decisions.

We need to insert Biblical values back into our society.

**Chapter 26**

What Can We Do? Part 5

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

Over these past few chapters we have seen the stronghold that has been built that has led us to the place where we are in our Western society. The question that comes up and begs for an answer is: What are we going to do? What steps can we take?

We all go through a transformation, or perhaps a better word would be that we go through a revolution in our thinking or theology. For a long time my theology was that everything is going to burn up and so we need to save as many as possible. I still believe that we need to save as many as possible, but now I have come to see that culture needs to be redeemed as well. I know that we will not reach that goal until Jesus comes and reigns, but that is the goal we should be working towards. That is what the Father is working towards and like Jesus, ‘whatever the Father does the Son also does.’ (John 5:19)

In these past chapters we have seen what human reasoning that is based on experience has brought us to which is the stronghold that we now face here in our Western world. What steps should we be taking?

I think of the admonition given to us in 2 Chronicles: “If my people, who are called by my name, will 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

We all know that verse and probably have quoted it quite often, but do we realize what it is saying? God does not say that if the government, or politicians, business people, the entertainment crowd or if the media outlet would get on board then we would see our land healed.

In the Old Testament “my people” refers to the Children of Israel, but in the New Testament this is referring to the Church - **those who have been born again.** Peter brings this out: “But you are a **chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,** that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

God gives us the solution which is at once quite easy, but seems hard to put into practice. If we, His people, will do our part: “humble ourselves and pray and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways” then God will do His part: “I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” We see that the burden lies with His people and His people only.

What will God do? We know that when it is the darkest in the land God’s light shines the brightest. History gives us a glimpse of what God has done in the past and shows us what can be done in the days ahead.

Five students from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts met in a grove of trees near the Hoosic River to talk and debate about the theology of missionary service. A thunderstorm interrupted their discussion and time of prayer so they took shelter under a haystack until the sky cleared. That prayer meeting now known as the “Haystack Prayer Meeting” sparked a new interest in missions that sent out missionaries all over the world.

D.L. Moody the greatest evangelist in the 19th century gathered together university students to hear different speakers speak about the need of missions around the world. That meeting sparked what is now known as the “Student Volunteer Missions” and spread to other universities around the States and the world where thousands of students dedicated their lives to missions. Under the watchword of “THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD IN THIS GENERATION” came the most successful missionary recruiting challenges of all time.

Through the years 1904-1905 the Welsh revival had a profound effect upon the West. What happened? The church did what 2 Chronicles 7:14 said to do and when they did their part they found God doing His part; that of forgiving sins and healing the land. God tells us in Zechariah 4:10: “Do not despise these small beginnings.”

In 1906 in the living room of a small house on Bonnie Brae Street in Los Angeles one of the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit came upon a small group of people that included William Seymour. Word spread and soon thousands gathered, and small groups were gathering in living rooms all across America and rapidly spread throughout the world. The Azusa Street Revival was born and the Pentecostal movement spread throughout the world and swept millions into the Kingdom.

We could go back and look at the Great Awakening with Jonathan Edwards that shook America out of its apathy at the time or John Wesley, George Whitfield who shook Great Britain. It is stated by historians that what kept Great Britain from following the blood path of the French Revolution was the preaching of these two men.

Moving into the 21st century things look bleak spiritually, but is God limited, can His hand not move, or not bare His arm and bring about another great revival? He can and just like the examples above He is looking for a faithful man through which to work. That is always His method. At the first coming of Christ we read: “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” (John 1:6) At the second coming of Christ perhaps we will see the same thing: **There was a man sent from God and his name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

God is on the throne and we need to remember that God’s method of doing anything is through men and women sold out to Him.

**Chapter 27**

What Can We Do?  Part 6

Daniel 9:2-3“In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.”

In our previous chapter we learned how God told us to pray and seek His face, but what does that mean in reality? Perhaps this is where Daniel can help us. We see that as Daniel was seeking God he saw that God had intended that the Israelites would spend 70 years in captivity.  It was now 70 years, but they were still in captivity and so Daniel turned to prayer to see God's will being done. Jesus told His disciples that they should pray for His kingdom come and His will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. This is why it is important for us to understand, from Scripture, just what does God want to do (how is He working) so that we can work and pray towards that end.

We read in Habakkuk 2:14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Just like God said that the Children of Israel will be held in captivity for 70 years, so He also says that the “earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

So like Daniel, we work and intercede towards that goal. God placed Daniel in a very important place where he could influence those who were making decisions that would affect the lives of many. Like Daniel we all have our places of influence and we too need to be faithful in our working and praying for God’s purpose to be carried out.

It is important to see what the problem that we face really is. We are fighting many battles: broken marriage/family, abortions, gay marriage rights, progressive ideas (result of man’s reasoning over the centuries); all that run contrary to the Word of God. Over these past weeklies we have seen that the underlining battle is, whether man’s reasoning based on human experience supersedes the knowledge from the Holy One. Man has become god and through the centuries and especially the 20th century we have learned that man makes a very ‘bad god.’

We know that the world will not change until people change. This is why humanitarian works and evangelism go together like a hand and glove. We have had many humanitarian endeavors without seeing the heart of man change and the endeavors have come to nothing. This is why I say that one of the greatest humanitarian efforts is to see the Gospel go out because it is **“the news I'm most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else!” (**Romans 1:16 The Message translation)

Just like God placed Daniel and his three friends in a place where He could use them to bring about change, so He does with each one of us. This is why our work matters to God and it should matter to us as well. Those around us are the circle of people that God wants us to influence.

Daniel and his three friends were determined to live for God in that foreign, pagan environment. Because of their testimony and lives we find this statement from the known ruler then of the world Nebuchadnezzar:  “Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”Daniel 3:29

Rather drastic, to say the least, but the word went out all over the known world that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s God was God. The Church (the Body of Christ: those who have been born again and have the same Spirit and Father) have a tremendous responsibility today. We have the truth, we have the answers for today’s problems, and we cannot remain silent.

Paul said: “**I believe therefore I speak,”**so it must be with us as well.

**Chapter 28**

What Can We Do? Part 7

John 8:32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

We (the church) need to shake the system. Looking back over the history of my own country (USA) we see how God’s people helped to bring about some of the greatest reform movements in American history such as abolition of slavery and guaranteeing of civil rights.

One of the problems we face in the west is that our evangelical faith became separated from public affairs. This in turn allowed the social gospel led by liberal Christians to take over, as we retreated into the four walls of our churches believing that the world was going to burn up and we would be removed.

I would say from 1980 on there has been a renewed interest among God’s people to see change taking place in our societies and cultures. Back in the 80’s I was speaking often in South America, mainly in Brazil about the need to see a change in our culture, but my theology, at the time, would allow me to go only so far because I still hung on to the thought that I would be taken out and everything was going to burn up anyway, so why bother changing the culture; just let us rescue as many as possible.

I still believe that we should rescue as many as possible, but through a transformation taking place in my own mind, going back to the cultural mandate that the Lord gave, I realize that God was working not only towards the redemption of man, but also the redemption of the earth. I slowly began to realize that God is concerned about the world that we live in. I always had that thought in the back of my mind, but figured God would put all things right when He comes to judge and rule. But what got me to thinking is that if I am to work as my Father is working then I need to be working towards redemption both of man and the earth.

To understand redemption we need to understand what was lost when man fell and sin entered into God’s good creation. What did we lose? Man lost his soul, he lost his body and he lost dominion of the earth. So we are to work towards conversion, the saving of the soul. This is why we are commanded to go and preach the Gospel to all. At the resurrection we will have the redemption of the body and at the second coming of Christ we will have the redemption of the earth. But we do not go into our little shells and hide, rather we are to be working towards these goals which will be completed at the return of Christ.

So what do we do? We already saw that we need to pray. Along with prayer is TRUTH. It was truth that launched American anti-slavery. The truth was simple. Slavery was sin.

Truth has power to move people. This is one of the reasons why the Name of Jesus is so hated, because He is the truth. We need to be able to articulate the truth in an understandable way in the circle where God has placed us to be an influence.

What is the truth about abortions, women’s rights, family, marriage issues, etc. Part of my reading of Scripture is reading through Leviticus. In Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 respectively we read: “Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.”

In a Salon article written by Adam Hamilton he states that these prohibitions are about the story of Sodom (Genesis 19) that are not loving, committed relationships and are outside the bounds of marriage. So the argument goes that if the relationship between the two consenting people is ‘loving and committed’ then there is no prohibition. Satan is very good in twisting Scripture, but to know the truth we need to know God’s Word. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16)

We will find that the forces working against us will be strong and well-defended. We will see that most people do not want the truth. If the truth is to set a society free to live the way we were created to live then it will only be through the crucible of suffering. If the One who is the truth went to the cross then we will find as well that freedom will only come by way of the same cross.

We have what is known as the ‘fallenness of humanity’ and people will act from their own selfish interests. This is why the human heart must be changed, and that can only be brought about by the Gospel. Change in a society starts with a change in the human heart. The truth will set you free.

 **Chapter 29**

What Can We do? Part 8

Isaiah 59:15 “Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.”

In Tim Stafford’s book SHAKING THE SYSTEM he does a study on some of the great reform movements here in the States (prohibition, abolition and civil rights movement) and presents some interesting thoughts on what we can do.

Things will not change until people change. To me one of the most important things is to be able to present the gospel to 21st century man so that it is understood in such a way that he can make a choice on whether to accept or reject it, because that is his choice to make. So often we leave it up to the pastor to bring the gospel to people that we want to see changed instead of realizing that we have a circle of friends and co-workers that need the gospel and that this is our congregation.

Some of the great movements here in America have come about by evangelical Christians working under Christian principles. However, it would seem that from 1930 to about 1980 our evangelical faith became separate from public affairs and we developed what Francis Schaefer called the upper and lower story with the upper story being our religious life and the lower story our secular life - and there are no stairs in between. With that type of mentality we will never shake the system. We will have to see that our religious life affects everything we do, decisions we make, etc. We cannot withdraw from society, but must be involved in the place where God has placed us in our society.

We start with truth about abortion, family, marriage, society, the environment and above all, man’s reasoning versus God’s revelation in the pursuit of gaining knowledge.

However, we need to realize that there will be resistance especially when we stick to principle and not sentiment. We will find that people will resist and do not want the truth. One of the things that will happen (and we see this today) is that when we present the truth people will begin to resist in a way that will be similar to a school-yard bully. They do not have any recourse to what is being presented so they resort to the only thing that they can do and that is to “bully.” We must be ready for that and expect it.

The prophet got a glimpse of our day when he said: “So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.” Isaiah 59:14-15

Tim Stafford said in his book SHAKING THE SYSTEM that he insists on public debate. I know that most of us will not be in a position for public debate, but there are some who will be. One thing that we can do is stand with those people and let them know that they are not alone. We will be with people in our circle or sphere where we can calmly present the facts. Because of the bullying tactics of the enemy we cannot allow the ‘spiral of silence’ to take over. This is what the enemy wants. The bullying tactics of the Pharisees and religious leaders of Jesus time did not stop the blind man who was healed. His knowledge might not have been great, but like he said “this one thing I know, once I was blind, but now I see.” We too can do the same thing. This one thing I know……

We know that truth will set us free, but it is only through the crucible of suffering. Freedom may come, but not without the cross. We live in what the theologians call the “fallenness of humanity” and the direction of man is downward, not upward, but God in His great grace can change the downward plunge of a fallen man.

We realize that there are things like ‘institutional sins’ that consist of laws, habits, customs, etc. that make it difficult for us to break free. Satan has built little kingdoms that hold the prisoners, not in bars of steel, but through the basic human needs of being accepted and to belong, because no one wants to be rejected, but accepted.

On some of these institutions there may be the need for what Tim Stafford calls “pressure tactics” which might consist of boycotting some of these institutions with strikes and protests. The plagues of Egypt were a protest and used to set free a nation within a nation. Plagues of Egypt were a direct protest from God, but usually God uses secondary means: His people. In other words, the struggle against sin involves confrontation.

Most churches have their people broken up into cells that meet weekly for fellowship, Bible study and holding one another accountable. What would happen if these cells or little groups were taught to take on some of the issues that we face in our society today like abortions, sex trafficking, gangs, etc.? They could begin to pray, do research, and see how they could be involved in seeing something done to bring a needed change.

By being in a small group they already have the support of one another, which is important. In the small group they could work out the tactics of what could be done and more importantly they could have focus in breaking through the culture barrier into society as a whole. It is also one way to get the small groups involved in something more than just meeting together once a week. They would have involvement which helps their own spiritual growth.

One thing is certain. We live in a world that is changing rapidly and we the church must learn to adapt in order to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We have some great days ahead of us, but we need to be ready.

 **Chapter 30**

 What Can We Do? Part 9

Revelation 13:16-17 “He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

We see from the above passage that a time is coming when there will be strict government control on all that we do in buying and selling, as well as in so many others things. Even today in most of our countries in the West we find that a lot of our life is under government control through many government regulations. One thing that we have in the West is religious freedom, but we can see that this too is being infringed upon and we are in danger of losing it.

I was talking with a brother and he mentioned how the mark of the Beast is already in play here in our society. He was referring to America and this reference as to the tax exemption that churches have. He went on to mention how many churches are afraid to speak out on certain issues, especially political issues in fear of losing their tax exemption status. Was he right? I think he might have a valid point, because of the tax exemption status given to us by the government and through political correctness we find that the government is controlling a lot of what we say or preach from the pulpit.

It would seem that the “upper and lower story” that Francis Schaefer brought out might be in operation more in our preaching than we might like to think. Like I wrote about in my series “Biblical Worldview,” our Biblical worldview affects everything in life: marriage, family, politics, government, economics, entertainment, media, education, etc. In a Biblical worldview there is no such thing as an upper story (our spiritual life) and lower story (our secular life). There is only one floor and our spiritual life, or lack of it, affects our physical life. Our spiritual life affects absolutely everything.

Wallbuilders David Barton brings out some important points regarding the founding of America during the revolutionary period and how the Lord used what was known as the “Black-Robed Brigade.” This was a name given by the British to pastors who in their preaching used rhetoric to bring out Biblical principles in which to guide the congregation in building a just and righteous civilization. They preached the Word of God without fear or favor. They boldly proclaimed the Word of God to everything that pertained to life whether spiritual or temporal. There was no upper and lower room in their preaching. They fearlessly preached and brought the Word of God to bear upon the main issues of the day.

Today we live in times of great deception and there is a need for great discernment in moving through all of the subtle, but real and deadly traps the enemy has placed in front of us seeking to stop and hinder us.

Why are we, here in the 21st century, in a situation where we have started to call evil good and good evil? Isn’t it because man’s reasoning has superseded God’s wisdom as a basis for gaining knowledge?  When I look back over my writings regarding the men who built upon the ideas or philosophy of previous men – so that we have the stronghold we have today - I need to ask myself where was the church; ‘the holder of truth?’ Are we MIA (missing in action)?

We need men of God in our pulpits today that are truly called by God. What do I mean? Some years ago when I was the director of our (Operation Mobilization) ship the DOULOS we had Stephen Olford (a well-known English Bible teacher) to come on board and preach to the ship personnel.

In a private conversation he told me about a survey done by a major denomination to find out why so many pastors were leaving the pastorate. They came up with four reasons:

1.   The pastorate was a profession and not a calling

2.   Immorality

3.   Love for material things

4.   Biblical illiteracy

This last one was the great surprise for me. They did not know the Word of God. I was dumfounded by this. These were men who had their doctorate degrees in theology. They had studied books about the Bible, but they did not know the Word of God.

Might God in our generation raise up men and women of God who are filled with the Words of Christ, who “while musing the fire burned and then spoke with their tongues.”

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.  And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:16-17