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FROM THE AGE OF THE PASTOR TO THE AGE OF THE TEACHER

TROUBLE IN TRANSITION



AS THE CHURCH PASSES FROM AN ERA OF PASTORS TO AN ERA OF TEACHERS MANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS OCCUR...HOPEFULLY THEY MAY BE AVOIDED..

There has been a running debate among theologians concerning God's ways and whether He is taking us back to the former glory of the early church, restoring the five fold ministry, or if He is taking us on into things we can't as yet imagine.

It is not God's nature to go backwards. His general plan in history has been to take his people forward into new and unexplored territory. He called Abraham out of his homeland to settle in a land he knew nothing about. When the Israelites left Egypt for the promised land God gave them a whole new set of directives to live by. He is now calling us to a new heaven and a new earth, to the New Jerusalem.

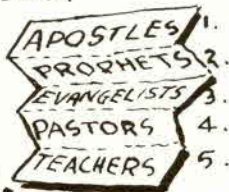
We are moving ahead into a new age. It calls for new understanding and insight. We want to stay in step with the Holy Spirit.



"God has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come into the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the son of God; unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Eph. 4:11-15).



We're expecting God to take us straight forward not in a circle, back to previous ways. He did give apostles to the early church: Peter, John, Thomas.... twelve of them in all. After the apostles many prophets arose: Ignatius, Polycarp, Origen are a few. After a longer period evangelists came forth: Luther, Knox, Wesley.... they spread their newly restored doctrines of faith, sanctification and more. After the evangelists there came an era in church history of great pastors, men like Moody and Ironsides. These men built great works around established truths.



The church is now passing from an era of pastors to an era of teachers. This is not to say there are no longer prophets or evangelists or that there is no need for pastors, but rather that now the great cry from all areas of Christianity seems to be for teachers, for men who can prepare us for the final glorious age of the church.

We are in a time of transition and, of course there is much confusion. The church has been under pastors, and the pastoring atmosphere has been good to a point but now teachers are needed to take us on to that final step, into the fullness of Christ, to that time when the Bible says 'no man will need to say to his neighbor, "know the Lord," for all men will know Him (Jer. 31:34).



Because we are in a transition period many people are confused about the role their particular church is playing in God's plan. A movement started some years ago urging Christians to leave their denominational churches. Many did and many faltered, not knowing what to do or where to go. Churches were labeled evil or corrupt and much misunderstanding arose.

We are not mad at churches but we do believe pastors must begin to see the important role they have and learn what is happening in their congregations.

A pastor has a duty to protect his flock, much as a mother protects her children from the harm of the world. A pastor lays foundations and drills his people in the basics of the faith. We all need this. A mother also disciplines her children and teaches them the fundamentals of life.



But, unlike many pastors, every good mother knows that her child is going to grow up one day and move out on his or her own. They need freedom to explore the world and start their own home. If they are not afforded this freedom and taught the responsibilities that go with it they will, for the most part, be most miserable.

Pastors must begin to see it is not their duty to hang on to people forever and ever, keeping them confined in one church or Christian society. It is absurd to expect people to sit week after week and hear the same basics preached over and over again. No one can grow under these conditions.

Rather than doing this, the job of the pastor is to bring those who have been entrusted to him to a point where they can hear any teaching and not be shattered in their faith, or caused to stumble and fall. They have to learn to eat the grapes and spit out the seeds.



It is a sad thing when a mother, through ignorance or jealousy, holds onto her children, ruling their lives into adulthood or even after they have left home, using fear or threats or acting hurt whenever the offspring doesn't do things her way. This makes for a very unhealthy situation and will probably ultimately cause the child to break completely with the mother, wanting to have nothing to do with her.



Many pastors act just this way. They cannot see beyond the confines of their structure or denomination themselves and therefore can't help or even understand the mem-

TROUBLE IN TRANSITION

bers of their flock who are growing out of those confines.

Like the sun clothed woman of Revelation 12:1, it is the destiny of the church to give birth to the sons of God. It is a great and delicate responsibility, one that cannot be dispensed with. The church is needed and should not be looked down on or despised.

When a child does mature enough to leave home he doesn't try to do away with his mother. The mother has other children to take care of, she is still needed. Even if there are no more children the mother should be honored and respected by the adult child.

IF YOU HAVE LEFT A CHURCH DON'T TRY TO HARM IT IN ANY WAY.



Likewise, if you have left a church you should not despise that which gave you birth or nourished you for a time.

Separation from a church can be a healthy thing, but we realize that most of the time the separation is terribly misunderstood. Usually, neither the pastor nor the one leaving knows what is going on.

The pastor, in most cases, tries desperately to hold on to the victim. The victim needs just as desperately the freedom to follow the spirit inside that is aching and groaning for fulfillment. In many cases the separation is such a negative thing that the people leaving want nothing to do with anything that smacks of church ever again.

Unfortunately, in this time of transition from an era of pastors to an era of teachers many pastors have become our enemy simply because they do not understand their mission.

SOME PASTORS HAVE MADE THEMSELVES OUR ENEMY.



Even though this is so, we should in no way attempt to harm any church. As we see in Revelation 12, God has prepared a place in the wilderness for the church. There it will be protected by the earth.

Traveling around the country we see there are many pastors who have a teaching spirit, this is good. These men and women realize it is not their job to build a stockade with one door leading in and no way out.

JESUS SAYS...

I AM THE DOOR...
YOU CAN COME IN
AND GO OUT
AND FIND
PASTURE
(JOHN 10:9)



MANY PASTORS SAY...

WHEN YOU JOIN OUR
CHURCH YOU FIND
PASTURE HERE
ONLY.



Jesus, as the Chief Shepherd, said He was the door and that those who enter through Him can go in and out and find pasture (John 10:9). Many underhirlings say "Kuh-uh, here's the door in, but there's no straying out again. Our church is it, we have all you'll ever need.

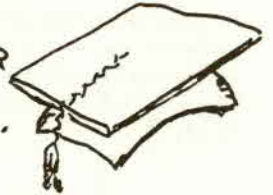
Those with a teaching spirit are realizing people are tired of being sheep. They want understanding. They want to grow up. They want to be useful. The teacher realizes he is processing people, equipping them to go out into the world and develop in their own way with God. The life pattern they develop may be quite different from the church they came from but the basics will remain the same.

CHRISTIANS ARE TIRED OF BEING SHEEP.



We do not know of any denomination that has moved as a whole into new realms of the Spirit. There has always been a separation. When new life springs up in a denominational church, the hierarchy always ends up trying to suppress it or find some way to expel it. This is the story of Church history.

THE NEED NOW IS FOR TEACHERS.



The church must keep giving birth to new moves of God. In this final day let's honor our mother (CHURCH) and Father (GOD). Let's come forth with understanding and compassion.

Hopefully this message will help some of you who are having or have had trouble in an organized Christian group. Maybe now you will understand what is happening to you, and you will not have to suffer the heart ache and pain many of us have in our search for truth. □

IT HAPPENED IN JESUS DAY AND IT'S HAPPENING NOW

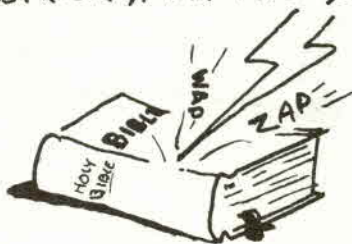
BEING "SCRIPTURALLY CORRECT" CAN CAUSE YOU TO MISS THE BOAT



Jesus knew whether or not people were really seeking truth. There were times He could have clarified a point to make it easier for those questioning Him to understand. But in many cases He just let the truth of the matter go and allowed people to think whatever they wanted.

Jesus didn't make light of studying the scriptures. He often told the religious people of His day that they goofed up because they didn't know the scriptures or the power of God well enough. (Matt 22:29 & Mark 12:24). The two go hand in hand.

WE NEED TO KNOW THE SCRIPTURES AND THE POWER OF GOD.



Simply being able to recite scripture is no guarantee we will have understanding. It is possible to memorize whole books of the Bible without comprehending what it is saying. In fact we have found at least one example (John 7:41) where **KNOWING THE SCRIPTURE CAUSED MANY NOT TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.**

Here's the story.... Jesus had just made a public appearance and of course it caused division among the crowds.

Some, because of what they heard and saw, said "This must be the Christ." But others, thinking they were more up on the scriptures, said "shall Christ come out of Galilee?"



CAN'T TELL ME HE'S THE CHRIST... I KNOW MY BIBLE - I KNOW BETTER!

SOME, BECAUSE THEY KNEW THE SCRIPTURES REFUSED TO BELIEVE JESUS WAS THE CHRIST.

They had a legitimate question and they had the scripturally correct answer, NO. According to the Bible Christ would not come unto a corner of truth, afraid to let go, scared from Galilee. But they did not know the surrounding circumstances. They thought Jesus was born and raised in Galilee.

They said, "Hath not the scripture said that Christ cometh out of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" (John 7:42).

There was a division over a perfectly correct and proper point in scripture. But those who were correct scripturally missed the boat because they didn't know all the details of Jesus' life. **AND JESUS NEVER BOTHERED TO TELL THEM.** HE knew their hearts. He knew He had presented enough evidence, by the works He had done, to convince anyone He was the Christ.

THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS BORN IN GALILEE AND HE LET THEM THINK IT.

NO GOOD WILL COME OUT OF GALILEE.



If they had understood the power of God and the spirit of Jesus' words, they would have searched earnestly to find the whole truth. But they were satisfied to say "Well, the scriptures say" and never check it any further.

They were hard, settled, opinionated, sure.... **THEY WERE SCRIPTURALLY CORRECT BUT THEY WERE WRONG. THEY MISSED THE MESSIAH.** Their point was correct. Jesus was supposed to come from Bethlehem. But they didn't take time to check beyond their limited knowledge of Jesus' life to find that indeed He was born in Bethlehem.

THEY WERE REALLY RIGHT BUT THEY WERE REALLY WRONG!



It is very easy for us to become settled in our thinking, secure in our position. It is a constant challenge to look beyond a narrow definition of truth and truly change our ways because of a new understanding we may have gained.

Many people have gained certain scriptural truth. They have guarded it, protected it, preached it and proclaimed it. They have hung onto a corner of truth, afraid to let go, scared to death to ever challenge it, to add to it, to rounding circumstances. They thought Jesus was question it in any way. They have found comfort only in knowing they are scripturally correct,

TRouble IN TRANSITION

but have been afraid to think there might be something more.

They've been taught to stifle that cry swelling up from within, that cry for real true understanding. **THIS IS QUENCHING THE SPIRIT.** They've been taught not to shake the boat.

Good men have spent their lives perpetuating a little piece of truth, defying any who would question it. Men and women have given their lives for scraps of truth, which if they had just let go of them, held them out at arms length, examined them, turned them over, they'd have seen there was much, much more to be had.

The promise to those who are seeking for true understanding is "Seek, and you shall find, ask, and it shall be given unto you, knock, and it shall be opened." You can trust God, the promise continues "What man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?" (Matt. 7:7).

When you ask from your heart God will answer you just as Jesus answered the questions of His disciples. But, if you're convinced you already have all understanding, God will let you go your own way just as Jesus let those go who were convinced they were scripturally correct.



QUENCHING THE SPIRIT.

We are not belittling in any way anyone's faith or belief. We just don't want you to miss the fullness of God. Our constant prayer is "God give us eyes to see and ears to hear, increase our understanding, don't let us be so afraid of making a mistake that we'll never go beyond the point we're at today."

We're entering a new age, a new era of understanding. Don't allow limited understanding of scripture or surrounding circumstances to hold you back. It is your inheritance to share the very throne of God (Rev. 3:21). Learn to recognize the power of God and to answer to the Holy Spirit within that is crying for fulfillment.

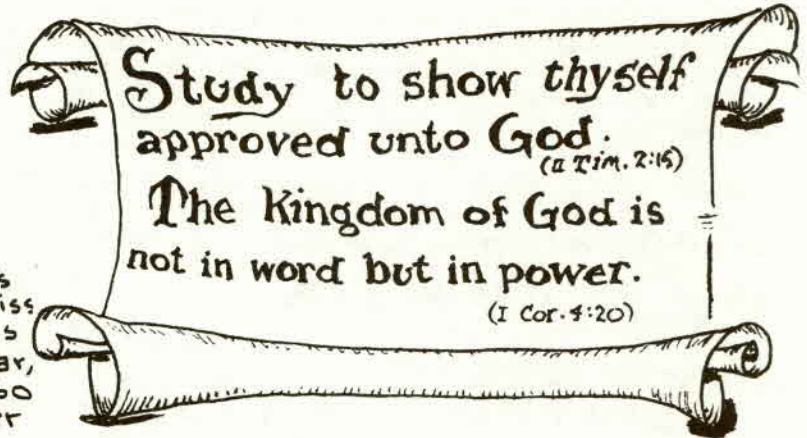
We've thrown many new ideas and concepts your way in the year and a half we've been publishing the Monarch. Some people have been offended because of them. We're sorry for that. Many more of our readers have written us letters telling us how they rejoiced as their eyes were opened and their spirit began to soar to new heights as a result of what they read in these pages.



THE LORD PROMISES THAT IF WE'LL KNOCK HE'LL ANSWER.

(SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA KNOCK LONG
AND HARD.)

Remember, thinking you know it all can cause you to stumble. It happened in Jesus' day and it has been happening ever since. Don't be too proud to let go of traditional interpretations of the Bible.



Study to show thyself
approved unto God.
(2 Tim. 2:15)

The Kingdom of God is
not in word but in power.

(1 Cor. 4:20)

TRouble IN TRANSITION METAMORPHOSIS

HOW DO YOU CHANGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY?

SIT BY ME HERE AND I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY.

REMEMBER THE CATERPILLAR, YOUNG, FRESH AND GREEN?

HOW HE BUILDS A COCOON AND GOES IN TO DREAM?

HE DREAMS OF A CHANGE, HOW BEAUTIFUL HE'LL BE!

A BIG GLORIOUS BUTTERFLY, AND THEN HE IS FREE!

SO EVERY TIME YOU THINK OF BEAUTY AND FREEDOM;
OF LIVING WITH GOD IN HIS EXPANSIVE KINGDOM,
PICK UP A BUTTERFLY NECKLACE OR PIN.

AND WHENEVER YOU WEAR IT SAY WITH A GRIN,

I'M YOUNG AND I'M GREEN, BUT SEE HOW I'M CHANGING!

MY WHOLE LIFE GOD IS REARRANGING...

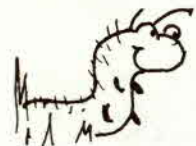
FIRST, A GREEN CRAWLY CATERPILLAR,

THEN INTO A COCOON,

THEN OUT COMES A BUTTERFLY HIS LIFE RENEWED!

SO BY WEARING THIS BUTTERFLY I'M CONSTANTLY ASKING.

PLEASE, FATHER, PLEASE... CHANGE ME TOO!



M

MARCELLENE EBAUGH O'BRIEN

BUT WE ALL WITH UNVEILED FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR
THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED (GR. METAMORPHOSIS)
INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS FROM
THE LORD, THE SPIRIT.

II CORINTHIANS 3:18

