

PREVENTATIVES Continued from page 1

men in the position of elders attempt to justify such a false view by teaching that unless the congregation is having trouble with such things there is no use to mention them much less preach against them. Such a position has no Biblical foundation and is directly opposed to the Biblical idea of being forewarned is to be forearmed. This false view itself must also be exposed and refuted.

If people of this stripe had the same attitude about physical vaccinations as they do about spiritual ones it would be a ridiculous and sorry world indeed. I am thankful that my parents did not have that attitude when it came to the polio vaccine.

Over a century ago brother Moses E. Lard gave this timely warning that will never be outdated:

The prudent man, who has the care of a family, watches well the first symptoms of disease. He does not wait till his wife is helpless, and his children prostrated. He has learned that early cures are easy cures, while late ones often fail. On this experience he resolutely acts, and the world applauds his wisdom. Why should not this same judicious policy be acted upon in the weighty matters of religion (Moses E. Lard, "The Work of the Past - The Symptoms of the Future", *Lards Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 3 (April, 1865), pp. 251-262. As quoted in *The Search for the Ancient Order*, Earl West, Vol. 11, 1950, Cushing-Mallory, Ann Arbor)?

Then, as now, many brethren refused to see the importance of the Biblical sentiments of Lard, and the church of that day suffered greatly for it. Today the Lord's church is in the tight grip of a terrible apostasy that has been going on for years and shows no sign of abating. More and more churches are turning back to the beggarly elements of human denominational religion and worldliness. Much of this digression could have been prevented if forty years ago brethren would have received the spiritual vaccinations of those who boldly sounded out the first symptoms of the spiritual errors that greatly infect the body of Christ today. But, sadly, it was not to be. Thus, we must reform and regroup the remaining remnant of faithful saints and press on. The victory is ours, but would it not be wonderful if more of our brethren were as spiritually prudent in the care of God's family as at least some of them are in the care of their own bodies and those of their physical families?

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Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
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PREVENTATIVES

The title of this article is a derivation of prevent. Webster defines the word *prevent* to mean "to be in readiness for (as an occasion): to meet or satisfy in advance: to get ahead of: to arrive before: to deprive of power or hope of acting or succeeding: to keep from happening or existing: to hold or keep back: hinder, stop: to interpose an obstacle" (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary).

The study of polio, mumps, measles, influenza, etc. vaccinations would be classified in the area of preventive medicine. Vaccinations, therefore, are for the purpose of depriving the germ or virus of the power to succeed in infecting its host.

As surely as there is preventive medicine for the physical body, there is preventive medicine for the spiritual being. The Great Physician spent much of His earthly ministry vaccinating the disciples against persecution, false teachers, hypocrites, etc. (Mat. 5:11, 12; 7:15-20; 6:16). The apostles who had been vaccinated spent much of their time, blood, sweat, heartache and tears in vaccinating the church against infectious error (Acts 20:28-31; Phi. 3:2; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:3-5). We would do well to receive these vaccinations of love lest we find ourselves unprepared to deal with Satan's efforts to infect us with sin when they appear (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:13; 1 The. 5:22).

There will always be those spiritually weak, insipid, unwise and short-sighted brethren who believe that one should not preach against the errors of such things as denominationalism, women exercising dominion over men, the divided worship assembly, the error of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of the church, turning the worship of the church into a three ring circus to entertain the assembly, and a host of other errors infecting the church today. To this present hour unqualified

Continued on page 4

“GREAT COMMUNION”

In the November 2009 issue of *Christian Chronicle* there is an article entitled: “Restoration Movement branches observe Great Communion.” It tells of an event that took place on October 4, 2009 at about 35 sites across the nation and at least two International venues, according to the article. The article states: “...some members of three faith groups with roots in the American Restoration Movement – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Church/Churches of Christ (Instrumental) and a capella Churches of Christ – met together for Great Communion Sunday. Patrick Mead from the Rochester, MI Church of Christ stated: “About 450 people attended the Great Communion service with an elder from each fellowship presiding over the Lord’s Supper.” Stan Helton from the Tammany Oaks church in Mandeville, LA stated: “Everyone was uncomfortable with something in the service but there was a warm spirit of hope and fellowship – and you could just feel the desire for greater unity in the air.” How does one “feel” a “desire for greater unity.” Is that some “warm and fuzzy feeling”? It is certainly not what the Scriptures teach.

What is wrong with this picture. First, where do they get the idea of a “Great Communion”? The Bible speaks of Christians meeting together upon the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). Paul refers to the breaking of bread as being a communion (I Corinthians 10:16) but nowhere do the Scriptures speak of a “Great Communion” as a special event, as noted in this report.

One of the meanings of communion is fellowship. Thus, what we have here is three religious groups coming together in fellowship. Is God pleased with this? Well, when we look at the three groups mentioned, there is a lot of difference in doctrine. Many in the Christian Church (Disciples) no longer accept the verbal inspiration of Scripture, they accept the unimmersed as members and they regard themselves as a full-fledged denomination. The Christian Church/Churches of Christ (Instrumental) as the name implies uses instrumental music in the worship, many now accept the false doctrine of premillennialism and many accept into membership those who have been immersed by denominations that teach one is saved before baptism. Yet some, who claim to be Churches of Christ consider it acceptable to have fellowship with these two groups. Does God approve of His people being in fellowship with those who teach different doctrines? The answer from Scripture is a resounding, “No.”

Faithful Christians are not to fellowship the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11), We are to mark them and withdraw ourselves from fellowship with them (Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:16). Also John teaches: “ *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*” (II John 9-11).

How sad when brethren apostatize from the truth and then fellowship those who do not teach the truth. They might as well go ahead and fellowship all the denominations with their desire for “unity in diversity” or unity in error.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

The Morgan County, Georgia church is having a lectureship on Saturday December 12, 2009 with the general theme: “Behold The Pattern of God.” See details on the bulletin board. Ken Chumbley has been asked to speak on the topic: “The Pattern – The Preaching That Pleases God.”

Myrtle Grimsley continues to recuperate at her daughter’s. She thanks everyone for their prayers.

Lanny Niver is still having serious back problems and would appreciate prayers.

The Cross Was His Own

They borrowed a bed to lay his head,
When Christ my Lord came down;
They borrowed an ass from the mountain pass
For him to ride to town.
But the crown that he wore and the cross that
He bore were his own;
The cross was his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd he fed,
On the grassy mountain side;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which he was satisfied.
But the crown that he wore and the cross that
He bore were his own.
The cross was his own.

He borrowed a ship in which he sat
To teach the multitudes;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest,
He had never a home so rude.
He borrowed a room on his way to the tomb,
The Passover lamb to eat.
They borrowed a cave for him a grave,
They borrowed a winding sheet.
But the crown that he wore and the cross that
He bore were his own;
The cross was his own.

Author Unknown