

Beware of Change Agents, continued from page 1.

- Abandoning biblical designations of ownership of the Lord's church, e.g. church of Christ (Rom. 16:16), and replacing it with a non-biblical name, such as "Community Church."
- Calling for laying aside issues (not repentance) that have divided the church, and work together in gospel meeting and other activities.
- Accepting into membership those in the denominational world as long as they are "satisfied" with their baptism.
- Having the Holy Spirit work outside of His word in a direct Manner on the Christian.
- Elders and preachers incorporating the philosophy of being non-confrontational.
- Emphasizing God's grace will cover doctrinal and moral sins without any repentance. Working as terrorists in cells, carefully selecting the young and innocent, as well as any disgruntled members for some home "Bible Studies."
- Using the NIV and other perverted translations, soon replacing the tried and true KIV and the ASV 1901.
- Seldom if ever discussing denominational errors from the pulpit/or classroom. As brother Gary McDade stated: "In some churches of Christ children have already grown up never hearing a sermon on the sin of sectarianism, marriage-divorce-and-remarriage, the sinfulness of instrumental music in worship, or the current change movement which now poses a very serious threat to the church" (The Spiritual Sword, 34:1, October 2002, "What Is Happening to the Church?" p.4).
- Emphasizing what God "might do" at the day of judgment to save those who have never obeyed the gospel instead of teaching the truth as revealed in God's Word.
- Never encourage brethren to attend any gospel meeting or lectureship that would be in opposition to their philosophy, nor subscribe to any magazine that puts the "spotlight" of truth on their errors.
- To accelerate their movement change agents call for a New Hermeneutic of interpreting scripture, thus removing the need for "proving all things" (I Thessalonians 5:21) by either a direct command, biblical example or necessary inference.
- Take control of as many Christian colleges and major publications as possible to use as a beachhead in sending out disciples of change.
- Remove and replace elders and preachers that will not go along with the change agents.
- Of course, by labeling anyone (elders, preachers, congregations) who opposes their efforts as judgmental, legalist, Pharisees, harsh, arrogant and very unloving.

Brethren, it brings tears to the eyes of those who truly love Christ and His glorious church to see what is happening to the church of our Lord. As it is right and necessary for a physician to warn of a dangerous disease, so it is right and necessary to warn the faithful of those who are

Continued on page 3

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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(Greater Augusta, GA area)

BEWARE OF CHANGE AGENTS

Warning after warning is given in scripture regarding false teachers, Acts 20:28-31; I Timothy 4:1 if; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-2 ff.; I John 2:18; I John 4:1, etc. Brethren, if one were to remove every warning concerning false teachers, and their doctrines from the pages of Holy Writ, there would be little left of the Bible! This fact alone clearly sets forth the importance of taking heed to false teachers!

Whenever preachers and elders refuse to warn of false teachers, and their doctrines, not only have they abandoned the charge given them (Acts 20:28-31; 2 Timothy 4:1-5), they have opened the door to apostasy! There is NEVER an exception to this rule!

Those who are attempting to completely reconstruct the Lord's church, have been correctly labeled change agents. Those of this agenda are meticulously and insidiously working to make the church of Christ a denomination among denominations. To accomplish this desired goal, everything that distinguishes the Lord's church is-being attacked: The inspiration of the Bible, New Testament worship, doctrinal preaching, role of women, essentiality of baptism, refusal to fellowship denominations, scriptural designations of the Lord's church, the sacredness of marriage, organization, and mission of the church. That those of this agenda have made great strides cannot be successfully denied. Many are perplexed as to how this has been accomplished. One needs to bear in mind this did not happen overnight. As pieces of a large puzzle are put in place, so change agents orchestrate their efforts by the following agenda:

- Re-evaluating and redefining terms such as adultery and repentance e.g. the false charge that scripture does not speak of "living in adultery."
- Refusing to believe and teach what Jesus said in Matthew 19:9.
- Affirming that instrumental music in New Testament worship is a "non fellowship" issue.
- Advocating that culture, not scripture, determines the role of women in the church; therefore, women may become preachers, elders, deacons, song directors, wait on the Lord's table, etc.

Continued on page 4

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
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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**Daily Battle for the Christian:
Reminding Ourselves of Often Unguarded Things**

How does it feel to constantly be in a fight? The Christian soldier fights battles on a daily basis. While the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but spiritual (2 Cor. 10:4), we must still keep an eye open on all avenues through which Satan would seek to take advantage of us through his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). If we leave any approach unguarded, Satan will surely use that to devour us (1 Pet. 5:8). What are some of these unguarded approaches that Satan may use? Here are a few ideas for consideration.

One often unguarded approach utilized by Satan is the television set. Hollywood loves to influence the nation toward its liberal philosophy by means of broadcast media. Television allows the liberal media to control the information that American households receive, thus being able to influence them toward the desired perspective. Homosexuality has made favorable inroads into the American consciousness largely through television programs that desensitize the subject through humor and sympathetic characters. Television has also undermined the place and authority of the husband and father in the home by casting husbands and fathers as ridiculous and unnecessary relics of the past. Television also has a great effect upon our personal speech; those who are numbingly spellbound by the mesmerizing tube often imitate what is said on television. Satan has slowly and insidiously flanked us through this unguarded approach.

Another often unguarded approach is personal modesty. When the warming sun comes out in the summer, the temptation for many is to disregard decency and reveal as much of one's body as possible by exposing breasts, buttocks, and bellies for the world to gawk over. Is it any wonder that our country has problems with unwanted pregnancy, venereal disease, and unwed mothers given our lost sense of modesty? According to some recent studies, the average age for a girl losing her virginity is 14.9 years old. And if you ask the average teenage boy what is most attractive to him in a girl, he is likely going to mention some protruding body part. Again, Satan has outwitted many of our youth (and allowing parents) through this unguarded approach.

Finally, how many of us are so consumed with managing the details of our own personal lives that we never find the time to do any work for the Lord? We wake up, eat a quick breakfast and then are off to work. We get home, eat dinner, plop down in front of the television and the day is over before we have even had a chance to read our Bibles, spend some time in prayer, or talk to a friend about the Lord. This process repeats itself for many of us six days out of the week until Sunday when we have to take the day off because we do not have any time "for self."

Satan expects to conquer us through these unguarded approaches. So remember to arm ourselves with the whole armor of God (Eph. 6), being aware of the wiles of Satan.

*Johnnie Oxendine
San Mateo, CA*

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer and her step Father's brother who has been moved to a hospice in Greenwood, SC, Maomi Aaron' sister who has been having health problems.

Ron Wilson's mother continues to do well at home.

Please keep the Chumbleys in your prayers. Linda has several procedures and tests over the holidays. Ken's surgery has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

Rachel Fitzpatrick invites all to attend a holiday "get-together" at her home following the evening services. See information posted on the bulletin board.

Beware of Change Agents, continued from page 4.

attempting to destroy the precious body of Jesus Christ! Remember, to attack the Lord's church is to attack Christ Himself (Acts 9:6)! Change agents need to be reminded of this fact, and that God will destroy them (I Corinthians 3:17)!

What should be done if and when change agents come into a faithful congregation of the Lord's, church? 1) An attempt should be made to convince the gainsayer of his error (Titus 1-9:13), 2) If there is no repentance forthcoming they should be marked (Romans 16:17), and fellowship withdrawn (2 Thessalonians 3:6). Otherwise, the wolf in "sheep's clothing" (Matthew 7:15) will not spare the flock (Acts 20:28-31)!

Beloved, have we reached the point where we are "past feeling" as to what is taking place in the church of Christ? Is there no "righteous indignation" among the saints? Are we "stirred" enough to speak in defense of Christ and His glorious church? Or, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by" (Lamentations 1:12)?

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