

“Delinquent Preachers!”

Edited Transcription of a Radio Message
By Maurice M. Johnson

Toward the close of His earthly ministry, “He Who spoke as never man spake,” said “All the works of the Scribes and Pharisees they do to be seen of men” (Matt. 23:2-5). Then He delivered eight scathing “woes” to those distinguished clergyman, closing with one infinitely sad “O.” Eight “woes” delivered by the Lord Jesus Christ directly to the religious big-wigs of His day, closing with that one sad “O.” To all humble Bible students it is not at all surprising that the present day great-great grandsons of those personally indicted men of the cloth, who cannot actually crucify Jesus Christ again, are formally declaring, “He is dead!”

But listen again to that soul-stirring “O” uttered by Him before He voluntarily died, “the just for the unjust, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;” before He died for their sins and ours, “according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (I Cor. 15:1-5). Matthew 23:37—“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”

THE CLERICAL NUDIST COLONY

My subject today is Delinquent Preachers. The negative part could well be named “*The Clerical Nudist Colony.*” Oh, yes, I know you formally trained and carnally honored preachers and Bible teachers wish to be described as “men of the cloth.” And what do I mean by referring to you as the “Clerical Nudist Colony?” I quote from the inspired letter written through John to the unchristian assembly at Laodicea, “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, *and naked:*” A nudest colony in God’s sight. “I counsel thee,” Christ continued, “to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and *white raiment* that thou mayest be *clothed*, and that the shame of thy *nakedness* do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:14-20).

DANGEROUS DILLUSIONS

The uncertain, irresponsible and increasingly rebellious youth of today, most obviously infidel and flagrant in our colleges and universities, are but the natural and inevitable fruitage from delinquent fathers, delinquent preachers and delinquent schoolteachers. Probably delinquent preachers are the most dangerous, and the guiltiest of these youth leaders and youth corrupters of today. All disorder comes from the ignoring and violating of God's order, whether it be as to physical food and drink, social or the spiritual order. Every single one of you denominational, sectarian preachers is guilty of violating God's home order and God's church order. The resulting confusion, dissatisfaction, disillusionment, and frustration, so dangerously manifest in today's youth, all stem from unbiblical churches and the resulting mixture of church and state. "God is not the author of confusion" we are told in I Cor. 14:33.

Not one of you denominational preachers or Bible teachers can consistently and confidently teach God's truth about marriage and the home, for the simple and stubborn reason that the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, the one and only true teacher of all spiritual truth, links the teaching concerning marriage and the home with His teaching concerning Christ and His Church, the church which is Christ's body. Read Ephesians 5:23, where we are told, "The husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and the wife is to be subject to her husband, even as the church is subject to Christ." What does that mean to today's organizational, institutionalized denominational preacher, religious workers and joiners? It is dead history or dogma to such, but it is God's living Word to humble, God-fearing, blood-bought, twice-born, Spirit-indwelt, heaven-bound pilgrims.

Your man-made churches have been and are being fed largely by and through your Sunday Schools and other youth-centered inventions, while those *fungus growths*, those *mistletoe growths* have fed your man-made churches, they have *bled* God-planned homes and the church which is Christ's body. I bring some of that out in my printed message of several years ago, "*Civilization and Company, Home Wreckers.*"

DIVINE DIVISIONS

Preachers, when you and I study God's Word as we should, we become thrilled with the simplicity, and the sufficiency of God's planned homes and the one and only God-planned church. As we humbly, prayerfully and boldly preach and contend for those heaven-born institutions, we are doing work that will never contribute to juvenile delinquency, nor will it ever belittle the God-given places of fathers and mothers, and evangelists, pastors and teachers, and the elders and deacons in the true church.

In 1927 I repudiated every form and phase of institutionalized religion, including Sunday Schools. I also repudiated all forms and phases of human calls to the Christian ministry, and human promises as to salaries and church joining. That was just before the big depression—the economic depression. I was physically poor, but spiritually rich and free. Did my wife and children suffer as a result of our hearing and obeying the divine call to come out from all the mixtures in religion, "and be separate saith the Lord, touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:17,18)? No!

I heeded that Divine call, and my wife did too, and I have some joyous appreciation now as a result of years of experience since 1927 of this wonderful statement, inspired and given by Paul in the next verse: “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, (that for all those of us who will hear the call of our Lord to come out from Man-made unequal yokes) let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness (separation) in the fear of God’ (II Cor. 7:1).

Oh, thank God for those glorious, glorious realities! Just listen to II Timothy 2:15, given to the young preacher, Timothy. Timothy, “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.” Then, in the next chapter, (3:15-17)—Timothy, “from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works’ (II Tim. 3:15-17).

DIFFERENT IN DEGREE

All denominational preachers—whether so-called fundamentalists or modernists, conservatives or liberals, ritualists or Quakers, Pentecostals, Seventh day Adventists, Herbert Armstrong’s new sect, Mormons, Protestants or Papists—I say all clergymen in organized religious institutions are different one from another only in degree and not in kind. The truth of this radical statement is very simple. No builder or joiner of any one of these denominational sects in Christendom was supernaturally made a member of the institution by his personal belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord does add daily to the church such as should be saved, but He never adds to a sect, or segment, or organized *mutiny* in religion. The ugly type and fixed pattern of all such unbiblical affiliations, such artificial joining came only as a result of the deliberate, heady, high-minded choice of the joiners. By divine inspiration the apostle Paul indicts the early sect-starters at Corinth by saying “are ye not carnal (fleshly) and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?” Another (trying to make the name of Christ a party name) said, “I am of Christ.” See I Cor. 1:12 and 3:3-4. “Are ye not carnal and walk as men?”

DIVINE DESIGN

All of you who have been truly born again, who have been made a new creature in Christ Jesus know, or certainly can and should know, that the new creature in Christ cannot walk outside of Christ. “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, even so walk ye in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith” (Col. 2:6,7). That passage gives a Divine design, I say, of and for every member of the church which is Christ’s body. Therefore, it is only when the new creature in Christ walks as a man, as they did at Corinth, back in his old Adamic nature, that he can be a builder of, or a joiner of, and a supporter of anything in organized religion no matter how much beautiful Bible doctrine the organizers and supporters artificially hang on that sectarian tree—that dead tree of denominational institutions. Only the creator makes trees that are good and that can bear good fruit.

DENOMINATIONAL DELINQUENT

Every single one of you denominational preachers and Bible teachers is a DD—a *denominational delinquent*. You who have personally received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior had to deny Him as your Lord and “Head over all things to the church which is His body” before you could ever dream that a man-made organization called a church, or fellowship or fraternity, started by men and ended by death, could better clothe and equip you to worship and serve your Savior. As a joiner of your temporal religious organization, you impudently and carnally think you are better *clothed* for the Christian life than you were when you were born again—born of the Spirit, made accepted in the Beloved, *clothed* in the garments of salvation. All such flesh-walk, whether of the saved, such as they were at Corinth, or like the unsaved at Laodicea, actually places you in that ugly nudist colony, divinely classified and described in Revelation 3:14-19. Let me give a part of that again: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

When God clothed the penitent Adam and Eve, they were clothed sufficiently for their Creator-Redeemer; just so penitent believers today are clothed with the garments of salvation and are supernaturally made accepted in the beloved. See Isaiah 61:10 and Ephesians the first chapter.

DENOMINATIONAL DRAPERY

Not one of you Christian men who are preaching in and under any sort of denominational church, pseudo-fellowship or artificially made fraternity can honestly rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ as your All in All. Your sectarian supplements, your denominational additives, only confuse the youth of today, and others. They offer false fronts and false hopes, soon frustrated and blighted. None of you formally trained clergymen—whether you have earned degrees, such as AB, MA, BD, STD, PhD, ad infinitum ad nauseum—none of you who have received your typical caps and gowns, can by that accomplishment have added one jot or tittle or one spiritual inch to the Alpha and Omega, Who of God is made to every believer in Him the righteousness of God and the wisdom of God (I Cor. 1:30). God has made Jesus Christ to be to all believers “wisdom, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

That splendid young soldier of Jesus Christ; that God-called, I mean really God-called, and God-trained and God-sent evangelist, pastor and teacher, Timothy, was told exactly how to grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ by his supernaturally-trained teacher, the Apostle Paul, as I quoted awhile ago—II Tim. 2:15 and II Tim. 3:14-17.

DEVIOUS DEVICES

Your clerical forefathers in the days of Christ’s earthly sojourn compassed land and sea to make one proselyte while our spiritual forefathers, though wickedly persecuted and forbidden to preach Jesus Christ, when scattered abroad went everywhere making

new creatures in Christ by preaching the gospel of Christ. You most sensuously successful hirelings, you most carnally gifted of the Babel-builders who have rejected Jesus Christ as the great and eternal Cornerstone, you who have sought great things for yourselves, and have forged to the front of lifeless Christendom's institutionalized religion, are now being confronted with such world turmoil and satanically organized atheistic Communism and anti-religious materialism that your inverted pyramids of sickening confusion—your segmented, disorganized, Babylonish organizations are admittedly endangered as never before. However your carnality still blinds you to the oft repeated Bible prophecies as to your inevitable and now rapidly approaching doom.

Instead of repenting in sackcloth and ashes, you are blowing bigger bubbles of fool-optimism than your Babel-building brethren of old did on the plain of Shinar when they said, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach into heaven. Let us make us a name" (Gen. 11:4).

DISMALLY DOOMED

Your boasted ecumenical movement is a ghoulish farce. You hope to take the dead sects out of their small caskets and bury them together in the anti-christ mausoleum. According to the inspired prophecies concerning your serpentine schemes, there will be a gigantic image who will be given life—fake, diabolical and divinely doomed to dismal failure and eternal death, along with its vicar (head), the Devil's Christ. You had vicar churches, denominations, and now you want a big vicar—one church vicar, or vice, not the real. Preachers, read II Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13, and quit even trying to believe that those amazing descriptions of today's Babel towers are ignorant guesses and stupid dreams of ancient liars. They are veritable miracles of unbelief if they are not divinely inspired revelations of things that must shortly come to pass. Your segmented, divided, denominational institutional churches cannot be united, made one grand and glorious living ecumenical church. It would be just as sensible and just as successful were some nurses and surgeons to go out in the fields on the site of desolation after an A-bomb had blown thousands of soldiers to pieces and start to gather up all the fragmented heads and feet and legs and torsos and start to make one great big improved living man. This is your pseudo "one church." God's people in this present dispensation are never told to *make* a unity. Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, next to the God-man, Jesus Christ, said, "I have searched and this only have I found, God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (Ecc. 7:29).

In the 106th Psalm we read of Israel going "a-whoring with their inventions." God's people today are told in words divinely inspired to and through Paul, who said writing physically from the Roman jail, "I, the prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ beseech you that you walk worthy of the calling wherewith you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to *keep* the *unity of the Spirit*," (not to make a counterfeit ecumenical church) "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit..." How? By our "W-A-L-K."

DELUDED by the DEVIL

You know, you fundamentalists, you men who profess to believe, and probably in many cases you really do believe in the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, in the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ as it is clearly taught in the Word of God, and in His

essential, perfect Deity, in His perfect law-fulfilling life, and in His wonderful solitary, substitutionary death, burial and resurrection for sinners; you who believe in His bodily resurrection; you who believe in His bodily return to earth; you who believe in salvation by grace through faith while at the same time refusing to supplement any of the finished work of Christ for salvation, have been deluded by the Devil into believing you can do more good for your Savior by supplementing the finished, perfect, complete Word of God. Let me quote again: “Timothy (and beyond Timothy, of course, Paul is writing to us), all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” What Scripture furnishes your new so-called “Bible Church” organizers and supporters for your church? None! What Scripture furnishes you Roman Catholics for your church? None! What Scripture furnishes you Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Seventh-Day Adventists, Herbert W. Armstrongites, to your church? None! But the Scriptures do truly furnish the man of God to all good works, which in the final analysis are for “the church which is Christ’s body” (Eph. 1:22,23)—and none other!

THE END