

THE LEVITE

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What the World Needs
But it Hates



The American Dream
Or American Nightmare



Balancing the Scale
What's causing the scale to tip?

Decision Time

*"...perilous times
shall come."
(2 Timothy 3:1)*

 **HODGENVILLE
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
Pentecostal by Experience - Holiness by Choice



IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE

Brother David Webb
Senior Pastor - Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve"



Joshua 24:15 - *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

One woman said – "I can accept anything, except what seems to be the easiest for most people: the half-way, the almost, the just-about, the in-between."

An officer once came to Grant's headquarters and called his attention to the vast expenditure of money involved in an order he had given, and asked him if he was sure he was right. "No," said Grant, "I am not; but in war anything is better than indecision. We must decide. If I am wrong, we shall soon find it out, and can do the other thing. But not to decide wastes both time and money, and may ruin everything."

The cry of this backslidden generation is this ...

- Don't label sin. It's offensive!
- Don't name things!!!
- Don't paint it black and white & wrong and right. ... just let us be.

"Don't judge me" is a statement made by someone who is trying to make someone feel guilty for standing up for the truth!

Our society is stooped in error and with twisted minds utter phrases like...

- Don't you know absolutes are situational?
- Don't you know it's ok to lie if it doesn't hurt anyone else.
- We know it's ok to sin a little. Everybody sins a little every day!

The church must get a backbone and call sin for what it is! Silence is not always golden --sometimes it is just plain yellow! It may be true that there are two sides to every question, but it is also true that there are two sides to a sheet of flypaper, and it makes a big difference to the fly which side he chooses.

The man who refuses to judge, who neither agrees nor disagrees, who declares that there are no absolutes and believes that he escapes responsibility, is the man re-

sponsible for all the blood that is now spilled in the world. The man who won't stand for something will fall for anything!

Ayn Rand said, "There are two sides to every issue: one side is right and the other is wrong, but the middle is always evil..."

The man who is wrong still retains some respect for truth, if only by accepting the responsibility of choice. But the man in the middle is the knave who blanks out the truth in order to pretend that no choice or values exist, who is willing to sit out the course of any battle, willing to cash in on the blood of the innocent or to crawl on his belly to the guilty, who dispenses justice by condemning both the robber and the robbed to jail... who solves conflicts by ordering the thinker and the fool to meet each other halfway."

Listen, your thinking too much! It's impossible to figure out sin!

- In any compromise between food and poison, it is only death that can win.
- In any compromise between good and evil, it is only evil that can profit.
- In that transfusion of blood which drains the good to feed the evil, the compromise is the transmit.

Listen ... by refusing to make a decision you are ... by default ... making a decision.

Napoleon said "Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide."

1st John 1:6 - *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

1st John 2:21 - *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.*

The words of Eleanor Roosevelt ring true: One's philosophy is not best expressed in words. It is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.





THE WORLD NEEDS WHAT IT HATES

Pastor Douglas Meadow
Bristow Holiness Church—Bristow, OK

The very thing that the world says it hates is the very thing it needs. If you would listen to the media, the very church the world says it hates is the very church we need to be. The world in

which we live is becoming increasingly anti-Christ. It should come as no surprise because we are marching ever so closely to the arrival of the one whom the Bible describes as the son of perdition, the Anti-Christ. I marvel at what has become of this world. Christian values, Christian thoughts, Christian perspectives are becoming more and more foreign to our culture. As Bible believing, conservative Christians, we are becoming more and more alone in our day.

Large religious groups have embraced immorality. The majority of our day is completely anti-Christ. Our courts have advanced agendas which are anti-Christ. We've sanctioned a new definition of marriage which is anti-Christ. We have approved and funded the slaughter of babies and the sale of their body parts for profit which is anti-Christ. Then we wonder at the state of our country

I can explain it to you in one verse. Proverbs 14:34...*Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.* That's where we are. This world is anti-Christ.

This world hates our Christ; therefore, it should be no shock that they hate His Word, His principles, and His people. Christians and Christianity are under assault. We are the only religious group that you are allowed to speak evil of in this country. We have witnessed the horror in the middle east where ISIS has butchered Christians who do not convert to Islam. It's not just happening thousands of miles across the sea; it is now happening here in America.

High school cross country runner, John Green, was disqualified from a state championship meet because there was a Bible verse embroidered on his headband. A few months ago a crazed shooter walked into a college in Oregon and asked the students if they were Christians. If they said yes, they were executed. You can say it was an isolated instance, that it will never happen here, and I am not saying you're going to be confronted with a "deny Christ or be executed tomorrow" situation. However, I am saying that I am seeing things that I never dreamed I would see. The old time preachers would tell us about things to come that I thought we would never see happen, but they are happening. All because this world hates Christ. And yet, this world that hates Christ needs Christ. This world that hates the church needs the church. This world that hates the Gospel has only one hope and that is

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the message of the Gospel. There is no hope for our world but Jesus!!

Romans 5:20...*But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*

I know it's dark in America, and I know we are living in a messed up culture, but Christ is still the answer. There are people all around us that are desperate for an answer to their dilemma. I know they say they don't want anything to do with Christ. They took him out of schools, state buildings, the capitol, and even Washington D.C. Yet, while they say they hate him, while they curse His name, while they do things contrary to His Word, they still need Him!!

If the Muslims and ISIS are telling this world they need Allah, then we as Christians need to tell this world they need Christ. Tell the atheist, the agnostic, the Muslim, the bound, the bruised, the battered—you need what you hate. You need Christ!!!

This world needs to get a vision like Isaiah got. A vision of the Lord high and lifted up. A lot of people are turning their vision toward Washington, but Washington doesn't have the answers. They are turning their vision toward Politicians, but politicians don't have solutions. A lot of people put their trust in our economy, but the economy will let you down. Many people are getting sidetracked in these last days because they've got their eyes fixed on people or problems that's around them. The only way this world is going to get out of the mess that it's in is to get their vision fixed upon Someone who is higher than their problems.

It is vital in these least days that we stop looking at everything that's going on around us and start looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. I understand that we can't live with our head in the sand and ignore the problems in our nation, but if you'll have a different attitude, a different outlook, and a different perspective, you've got to get your eyes on JESUS!!

This world doesn't need casual church. It can't be business as usual. This world needs a Revival. We are in the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. When Jesus spoke of end time prophecy, the thing that He talked about over and

over is deception. He would kept saying, "Be not deceived." One of the greatest sins in America today is the sin of spiritual deception. More people will be lost thinking they are saved. Jesus said that there are going to be many who say, Lord we did this, Lord we went here; and Jesus is going to answer, "Depart from me. I never knew you."

Why do people hate the church? Because it points out their sin. It would be better for people not to go to church than to go to a church that doesn't point out their sin. The Compromising Church deceives people that are lost into thinking that they are saved. They live any way they want, and they are deceived into thinking that they are still saved. Those are the hardest people to reach. However, when they are at the bottom, spending their paychecks on booze and drugs, losing everything they have worked for that week down at the casino, and their life is broken and twisted, they don't need somebody that will tell them that it's ok and that God understands their sins. They need somebody that will point them to Calvary. They need somebody that will tell them there is a way out. They need somebody that will tell them that there is a God that can deliver them. They don't need a pat on the back; they need a push to the altar. They need to know that there is power in the Blood. They need a preacher that will tell them the truth

The world hates that. This world hates to hear preaching about the Blood. They hate the message of repentance. They don't want to hear about the supernatural power of God that can drive the devil out of their life. They don't want to talk about the conviction and power of the Holy Ghost. That's exactly what they need though! They need a church that believes in the Blood and in the moving of the Holy Ghost; a church that believes in divine healing; a church that believes that if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus died and rose from the dead you shall be saved. They may not want to hear it, but that's exactly what this world needs!!

They don't want to hear anything about the horrors of hell. They don't want to hear that there is a Judgment day coming, but that's what they need to hear!!

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In these wicked last days when a lot of preachers and churches are presenting a watered down Gospel, I want to point people to the Power of God. I want to point them to the Power of the Gospel. I want to point them to the truth of His Word.

I want to have a church where truth is proclaimed and where Jesus is worshipped. I want to preach to every sinner that Jesus can take you out of sin, change your life, and make you a new Creature. I want to proclaim that the blood of Jesus can deliver you from not just one sin, but the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from ALL sin.

Too many folks are playing church. They want a nice comfortable church to go to on Sundays so they can ease their conscience and make themselves feel good. They don't really want church—they just want to be entertained. That's not what they need. They don't need to just have just a good time, and they certainly don't need to just be entertained. They need to be changed! What the world needs is a church on fire, burning with the power of the Holy Ghost! They need to see Old Time Pentecost. I think we do our communities and cities a disservice when we are not the Pentecostal church that was described in the book of Acts. I want to challenge all who read this article—Let's be that church. The world may say they don't like it, but it's exactly what they need!



WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR HANDS?

Brother David Whelan
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

I originally wrote this while in the midst of a spiritual valley. I was not backslidden, but was in one of those ruts that we all find ourselves in, looking for some problem for which to blame my own shortcomings and brooding over my lack of present joy. During these times, it is tempting to me to find fault elsewhere instead of looking to myself. Interesting that I would find problems among my brethren and write about the very thing I was doing myself. Honestly, the chief editor, my pastor, read the original draft of this piece and turned it down. He told me that the spirit it was offered in was wrong. He was right, and I knew it.

During my first year in the Holiness church, I remember when it came time for the pastor to recognize all the folks that had completed the Bible calendar that year (reading of the Old Testament once, New Testament twice, Proverbs 12 times, and Psalms twice). He asked for a show of hands so he would be prepared to recognize them at a subsequent service. Honestly, there were about 25 people out of about a hundred in attendance that raised their hands, including some kids and teenagers. I remember thinking...what a bunch of liars! In my

previous church world, I only knew of a few people that had read the Bible all the way through, let alone this method. Well, it turns out they were telling the truth! I remember having a certain pride of knowing and associating with "Christian Marines". I remember thinking how spiritually "tough" these folks must be. I remember developing pride (as in "holier than thou") in my pastor and the preaching and teaching we heard from him and others who occupied the pulpit. I began to look down on "lesser" Christians. I wanted to drink it all in so I could wear the badge, too! A Pharisee was born!

The term Pharisaism is loosely defined as someone that has taken on the characteristics of the Pharisee as presented in the New Testament. Let's not forget that the Pharisees were the religious leaders and elite of their day. In the Jewish context, they were "it". They had their act together. They knew all the scripture, and they scrupulously observed rules and laws for the sake of following rules. (Sound familiar?) It is thought that they had to memorize the Pentateuch as part of their training. Many were considered lawyers and professionals. They were not to be taken lightly. Until Jesus came along, they were unaccustomed to being questioned.

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Fellow Christians, many of their characteristics were/are very desirable and admirable. **So what was their problem?**

1. They were exclusive, and they had a negative effect on converts. (Matthew 23:15)
2. They were nitpickers. (Matthew 7:3-5)
3. They carried on useless rituals. (Mark 7:1-8)
4. They were obsessed with appearing pious to others. (Luke 18:9-14)
5. They appeared to feel obligated to attack and argue with anyone disagreeing with them to the point of having them put to death. (The book of Acts)

Gary Tyra says: "What had begun as a well meaning effort to make sure they did not offend God, morphed into a desperate, fear based need to be certain of their status before Him, which evolved into a complex system of rules and rituals that allowed them to control their God. In Matthew 23, Jesus repeatedly warns his disciples about this approach. He wanted them to avoid "pseudo-holiness".

Why did they feel threatened by Jesus?

1. His approach to and contact with sinners. (Matthew 9:10-13)
2. His treatment of the Sabbath and man-made rules. (Matthew 12:1)
3. He did not fit their idea of holiness—His focus was on inner holiness, not outward appearance. He knew the fundamental truth that inner holiness would result in an outward manifestation. (Matthew 5:27-28)
4. They believed that their outward holiness and rule keeping was necessary to please God, obtain his blessing, and return as a dominant people a la David. Jesus turned this idea on it's head.

I would imagine that many of us can be "holier than thou". Of course, it is easy to look at the sinner and find issues, but what about our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Oh yes, they are among our favorite topics! If you don't do it, well....God bless you—a lot of us need lessons!

Is it wrong to find fault? No...I don't think so, but it depends on how it is approached. It is natural and Godly to identify wrongdoing in the right spirit for the right reason. Ezekiel 3: 17-19 records God's admonition to serve as the "watchman"; the extension of this thought is how we as Holiness people see ourselves, how we see the Great Commission, and how we interact with others. What image of Jesus do we portray? There is the possibility that we become so enamored of ourselves that we begin to feel self righteous and see it as our mission to not only warn folks, but also to desire for them to look up to us as if we were never sinners ourselves. The risk also exists that we become deceived and begin to follow rules and do things that we see as spiritual that really only exist for outward appearance, tradition, or to please the pastor (as opposed to living to please and serve God). Don't throw rocks! It's ok to please your pastor.

The problem of the Pharisee is not the fault finding, It is in the sanctimonious attitude. It is the seeking of perfection in others while ignoring the lack of it in yourself. It is when I convince myself that I have it figured out, when the truth is that I need the Lord just as much as the next pilgrim, and for that matter, as much as the common sinner. It is the lack of a heart change with strict adherence to a lifestyle and rule keeping.

In January of 2014, Bro Anthony Lester said (in a message at HPC) that many in the "Holiness movement" are just living a lifestyle. The implication being that the inward holiness and relationship had given way to looking and acting a certain way. I believe his words were to the effect of: "some of you could not live outside these walls," implying that some are only around because they know no different. They are doing what they are taught instead of doing what they do for the joy of obedience to and to be pleasing to God.

I did not grow up in the Holiness church or around Holiness people for that matter. Sanctified people with the right attitude are amazing! What victory they have! What inner beauty and peace they possess! How amazingly wise they can be! My, how much I love Holiness! (Don't we have to be careful not to love our way more

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THE AMERICAN DREAM OR THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

Brother Don Woolett © 2008 (reprinted by permission)
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

The American Dream is being turned into The American Nightmare by those who hate and despise our American Heritage and sovereignty, Christian biblical principles, and moral absolutes.

Nehemiah the Prophet said these words to sum up the whole discussion concerning protecting our home and family from those who would seek to destroy this Godly heritage. He said, "...Be not afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives and your houses...."[Neh.4:14]

Let's pray to make "God Bless America" a reality for the present and future welfare of our family, friends and nation. Let's do everything we can to stop the American Dream from becoming the American Nightmare!

Our Foundation

Psalms 11:3 says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

The American Dream; it's talked about, written about, sung about. The American Dream; It's People fighting, dying, and sacrificing to preserve the freedoms and way of life we hold so dear. The American Dream is rapidly being transformed into the American Nightmare!

People who hate and despise our American sovereignty and strength, those who despise Christian biblical principles and moral absolutes, those who hate private property ownership and individual rights (unless, of course, those rights are controlled by the state)—those are the people who are the arch enemies of our religious freedom and heritage. These liberal free think-

ers are the ones who have twisted the truth and lied about America's Godly heritage. They are the ones today seeking to change the American Dream into the American Nightmare.

These liberators of the American Dream, these re-definers of almost everything for which America traditionally stands, take advantage of our American freedoms while, at the same time, put America down and distort the history and fundamental principles of this great nation. As a whole, we have moved from a theistically based society to a humanistic society. One of our more liberal Presidential candidates of 2008 had this to say, "America is no longer a Christian nation. It is a Christian, Muslim and Buddhist nation."

The American Dream began many years ago with the faith of our Founding Fathers. Freedom is a word our forefathers learned from the Bible, and the movers and shapers of our nation were often men of evangelical persuasion. For instance, Samuel Adams saw individual freedom as "...the law of the creator and a Christian right documented in the New Testament." Then, there was Noah Webster, creator of Webster's American Dictionary, who once said, "The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." Webster went on to say, "the religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles...to this we owe our free constitutions of government." [History of the United States, 1832]

Founder after founder declared the same belief:

Patrick Henry said, "Whether this [new government] will prove a blessing or a curse will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone can exalt them as a nation [Proverbs 14:34]. Reader! Whoever thou art, remember this, and in thy sphere practice virtue thyself and encour-

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age it in others.” [From Henry’s handwritten notes on the back of his copy of the Stamp Act resolutions, made public after his death.

Thomas Jefferson said, “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.” [Notes on the State of Virginia, 1781]

Benjamin Franklin, in the summer of 1787, proclaimed while addressing the Constitutional Convention: “I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth; That God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this...”

Our 28th President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, had this to say: “A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know what is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we came from or what we have been about.”

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President, echoed the sentiments of President Wilson when he said, “The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.”

From the historical record, I am convinced that the founders never intended that God’s Word or His principles be separated from public life. Equally as well, the founders saw the Bible as inseparable from public education. The first founder to call for free national public schools, Benjamin Rush, explained: “Let the children...be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating [removing] Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools.” [“A Defense of the Use of the Bible in Schools”, 1791]

Not only has the nation’s public schools fallen by the wayside both academically and morally, but it seems that our modern humanistic government has gotten out of control! The time was, when our forefathers read, believed, and practiced, as well as placed themselves under the authority of God’s Word. James Wilson, a signer of the Constitution and an original Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court said, “Human law must rest its authority ultimately upon the authority of that law which is divine....Far from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends, and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other.” [“Lectures on Law”, delivered in the College of Philadelphia, 1790 -1791] This is further proof, in my view, that the founders even viewed the principles of the Bible as inseparable from civil law.

We are now living in a day and age when liberals want to cry “freedom of choice” until it comes to the Christian’s freedom to choose! They’ll cry “separation of Church and state,” yet they push to propagate their religious secular humanistic value systems on the Church!

If America is to continue to survive and continue in world leadership, we must recapture the founders’ vision of the importance of God’s Word and His Gospel for this nation. As George Washington reminded us: “No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States....We ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious [favorable] smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation which disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself ordained.” [“Inaugural Address,” April 30, 1789]

Let us continue to stand for the freedoms our forefathers fought and died for. Let us hold forth the Constitutional Republic America’s founders established upon biblical principles. Let us not forget where we came from nor lose the vision of where we need to be in the future: The Land of the free and home of the brave! Also, let’s not forget the Second Amendment because that is what protects and guarantees the rest of the amendments to our Constitution and our basic freedoms!

Let’s look, for a moment, at the history of our Constitution and the facts about separation of Church and state.

The Constitution of the United States of America was

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BALANCING THE SCALE

Sister Cortney Astor
Hodgenville Pentecostal Church

What's causing the scale to tip?

We've all heard the scripture taught on at some point, "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" It's right there in the fifth chapter of Ephesians. While most would stop quoting the scripture there, I like to read the remainder of the chapter which includes verse 25: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*".

I can without hesitation say that I believe that women should submit themselves to their own husbands as the Lord has commanded. Also, through experience, I have come to understand that submission doesn't come only at a cost, but rather with many benefits. However, as much as I understand the importance of the role of the wife, I equally understand that with this scripture the Lord makes it clear that the husband also has a role to fulfill.

Thankfully, God gave me a wonderful husband. I have been married for 7 years. During this time, I have learned many lessons. One of those being that the husband and wife roles can be likened to a scale. If the wife neglects her role and becomes rebellious toward her husband, she can cause the scale to tip. This instability can cause much chaos in a home. In the same manner, if the husband only demands submission without displaying the love of the Father, the scales can shift dramatically in the other direction. That's why that I believe that the balance of submission and love in a relationship are equally important. The Lord made sure that the roles of both the man and woman are outlined. I also have come to understand that the Lord's desire is for this "scale" to be balanced.

I also believe that when this scripture was penned it wasn't to be used for reciting to remind women of their place and for husbands to proudly demean their wives, but rather this scripture was an encouragement to wives. That encouragement being that if we can humble ourselves and submit to our husbands, the Lord has set in place a protection above us. Husbands are given serious tasks. Providing for their families, disciplining their children, and most importantly, being the priest of their homes. I can personally testify that when I see my own husband striving to achieve all of these tasks as the Lord has instructed Him to do it becomes easy to submit to him.



Unfortunately, there have been times I have been around couples that have had an unbalanced scale. Almost every time one spouse will blame their inappropriate actions on the opposite spouse. Something the husband is doing causes the wife to be hateful and disrespectful, or the husband can't love his wife because the wife can't get her attitude in check. The worst part about these cases is that both partners are usually equally at fault and neither will admit it.

Instead of looking at a situation and asking ourselves what "I" have done wrong, it's easier to say "he does this" or "she doesn't do that..." If you are a married person (young or old) struggling with an unbalanced scale—I would encourage that you take a step back and take note of what is causing your scale to tip. From what I've come to learn, when there is a problem it is due to some unbalance on either side of the scale that directly affects the opposite side.



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adopted by a convention of the states on Sept. 17, 1787, and ratification was completed June 21, 1788. The Bill of Rights was passed by Congress on Sept. 25, 1789, and became effective December 15, 1791.

It's interesting to note that the Constitution and Bill of Rights are not our source of liberty and freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "Our form of government is not in our Constitution, but in the spirit of our people." In my view, the true spirit and intent of the founding fathers is best exemplified in the language that James Madison, one of our most noted founding fathers, proposed in 1789 for what ultimately became the religion clauses of the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights. Madison said, *"The civil rights of none shall be abridged on account of religious belief or worship, nor shall any national religion be established, nor shall the full and equal right of conscience be in any manner, or on any pretext infringed."* (1 Annals of Congress 434 {June 8, 1789}).

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states plainly: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

We often hear a lot of discussion today concerning ideas about the true meaning of separation of Church and state. To begin with, the words "separation", "church", or "state" aren't even mentioned in the First Amendment of the Constitution. The doctrine originated with the phrase "wall of separation" in a letter by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association in 1802; thirteen years **after** the passage of the First Amendment, and eleven years after its ratification. This Jeffersonian phrase should in no way be considered the definitive interpretation of the First Amendment. Very interestingly, Thomas Jefferson was in France from 1784 – 1787 and was not in attendance for the convention or debates on either the Constitution or Bill of Rights. From a historical perspective of the Constitution, separation of Church and state simply means that the government shall not establish a church to which any of us would be forced to attend.

(...continued in next issue)



I GO TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU

In 2014, my dad became very ill and was taken to the local hospital for care.

On the 2nd day in the hospital my husband and I went to visit and stay with him for a time. As we entered the room we noticed that he was looking up at the ceiling. As we approached his bedside he continued looking at the ceiling, but he didn't speak. As I spoke to him he glanced at me for a moment and then turned back to the ceiling and said "stairway, let me through." I asked "dad do you see anything else?" He said, "Jesus, let me through."

Dad never spoke another word after that point and he went to be with Jesus the next day. He left this world and went to that place Jesus promised us. The scriptures tell us that He would go and prepare a place that where He was we could be also.

I have heard other stories of people on their deathbeds

and they can be heard begging for someone to pull their feet out of the fire!

There are only two places we can go when we pass away from this life! HEAVEN or HELL!

John 3:16 reads: *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.*

Have you prepared for Eternity?
Ask Jesus to come into your heart
today, ask for forgiveness! Make
heaven your home!

**Love in Christ,
Sister Diana M. Ross**



What's That on Your Hands? - continued from page 6

than we love God?) But conversely, people with the wrong attitude can come across in a different manner: How cruel they can be! How intimidating they can be! How well they can cut! How quick they can be to focus on the "little i and the big YOU"!

Holiness is more than a culture. It is first a relationship, but also an attitude, and finally an appearance. Is it too much of a stretch to think that Holiness is a result of relationship and that attitude and appearance naturally follow? Inner Holiness always results in an outward manifestation.

We see the impact of this in John 8: 1-11. The story of the woman caught in adultery. The response Jesus gave to the Pharisees that brought him the woman was "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." He also told the woman "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more." Of all people, Jesus certainly had the most right to be "holier than thou". He did not condone her activity; He expected her to repent and change. He did not win her by showing His credentials (I doubt she even knew who He was). He won her by letting her know she had done wrong ("go and SIN no more") and by giving her a gift she could not imagine (forgiveness and freedom from sin). The accusers, on the other hand, were shown how to love and condemn at the same time. They were shown that the person's repentance and redemption is more important than the fact that they had caught her doing something sinful, which, in their eyes, made them look good and feel superior by comparison. Just guessing here, but maybe a few of those men were adulterers too?

My pastor often analyzes issues with the statement, "There is a ditch on both sides." This issue for Holiness people is no different. The ditch on one side of this is becoming a Pharisee; the other side is permissiveness. I doubt many, if any, of you would fall to the permissive side, but I humbly submit to you who are more learned, experienced, and spiritual than me, that there is great danger that we fall in the opposite ditch and become modern Pharisees. Pharisaism is really just as bad as permissiveness as both end up the same place.

Please don't take any of this as an argument against standards. They are wonderful but unnecessary to the

truly regenerate heart. You don't have to coerce someone that is truly saved, sanctified, and full of the Holy Ghost to dress modestly, clean up his mouth, treat his wife right, or follow the precepts in the Word of God. He does it naturally, only needing to be shown some scripture or given a nudge from the pulpit. Pharisaism greatly concerns me because I believe the Holiness Church has much to offer for today's world. We have what serious Christians are looking for. I know what it is to be in a dead church for years. I know what it is to never feel the moving of the Holy Ghost. I never want to go back, but I want to bring as many Christian folks along as I can, either by recruiting them to my Church or giving them something that can change their church. We can only do this if we take the right attitude with those curious people. They, of all people, are the most sensitive to the pharisaical spirit and we often only get one shot at them.

Since I came from without the Holiness church, I can tell you things that you may not realize if you were raised within. Many of the folks from the outside Christian world think of Pentecostal or Holiness or Full Gospel churches as places where uneducated people attend church. They believe that much of what we do is emotionalism and craziness. Of course, that is pure ignorance on their part. People with that opinion have not attended a service or given thought or prayer to the matter. We have that opinion to overcome. We owe it to them to not make it worse with our own attitude.

We must guard against this pharisaical spirit. We have much to offer. There is not a sweeter, more loving group of people anywhere. Open your church doors, let people see you like you are. Make them feel welcome. Focus on getting their hearts right, and all the other stuff will come along with it.

Our prayer should be for the Lord to help us follow His words from Matthew 22:37-39 - ³⁷"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This puts the focus on Christ and not on us.



Services and Times

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Worship 7:30 pm

25 **And there shall be signs...**

28 **And when these things begin to
come to pass...**

Luke 21:25, 28