

## BACK TO THE BIBLE FOR THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY

Matthew 4:4

This familiar passage tells us not merely that the Bible is the standard of authority in all matters religious, but that our lives should be controlled by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

My subject is, "Back to the Bible for the Needs of Society." As much as we wish it were otherwise, society in general is not going to take any notice of or be affected by what we say in this lectureship. But individuals go to make up society, and we, as individuals, can see to it that we live our lives by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. In doing so, we will at least procure for ourselves God's approval, and perhaps change is some small way the society in which we live.

We do, indeed, need to get back to the Bible for:

### DISCUSSION

#### I. THE KIND OF MEN NEEDED IN OUR SOCIETY

A. Men who are strong spiritually and morally to lead their families.

1. As fathers.

a. Gen. 18:19: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

b. Josh 24:14-15: "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. 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."

c. Eph. 6:4: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

d. Col. 3:21: "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

e.

#### INTROSPECTION

To get his goodnight kiss he stood  
Beside my chair one night,  
And raised an eager face to me,  
A face with love alight.

And as I gathered in my arms  
The son God gave to me,  
I thanked the lad for being good,  
And hoped he'd always be.

His little arms crept 'round my neck,  
And then I heard him say  
Four simple words I shan't forget--  
Four words that made me pray.

They turned a mirror on my soul,  
On secrets no one knew.

They startled me, I hear them yet;  
He said, "I'll be like you."

2.As husbands.

- a.Eph. 5:25: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."
- b.Col. 3:19: "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."
- c.I Pet. 3:7: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."
- d.It is sad that many husbands and fathers do not know, or do not care, about the happiness of their wives. Woork all week, leave wives at home with small children. Then on week-end go off to races, hunting, fishing, and leave wives to see after children. Not fair to wife, to children, to husband, though he won't realize it until too late.
- e.A man would not plant a garden without intending to spend some time cultivating it. What about trying to rear children without spending time with them?

B.Men who are strong spiritually and morally to lead the church.

- 1.I Tim. 2:8-10: "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."
- 2.I Cor. 14:34-35: "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

C.Passages which equate being strong spiritually with being a man.

- 1.I Kings 2:2: "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man."
- 2.Jer. 5:1: "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it."
- 3.I Cor. 16:13-14: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity."

## II.THE KIND OF WOMEN NEEDED IN OUR SOCIETY

- A.It would be impossible to overestimate the power of womanhood, either for good or for evil.
- B.Where would the church in the first century have been without it Loises, its Eunices, its Priscillas, its Phoebes? And where would the church be today if it were not for the great and Godly women who have made such tremendous contributions to its welfare?
- C.But none of these contributions were, in Bible times or in modern times, contributions in areas of public leadership roles.
- D.Notice some passages that we need to get back to:
  - 1.Eph. 5:22-24: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing."
  - 2.I Pet. 3:1-2: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear."
  - 3.Titus 2:4-5: "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."
- E.She may be the president of a large corporation, or of the United States, for that matter, but she can do no

more important work than that demanded in these passages from the word of God.

### III. GUIDANCE IN MORAL AND ETHICAL MATTERS

- A. Approximately one-half million children will attempt suicide in 1995. More than a million young people will run away from home. About 300,000 teen-age girls will have babies. About a million and a half unborn babies will be legally murdered. About ten times that many teen-agers will take some form of narcotics and regularly use drugs. About 4,000,000 young people will experience a serious drinking problem. More than 5,000,000 children will become victims of broken homes. About that same number of children will be beaten, sexually molested, or otherwise abused by their parents or some other adult. We are told that from fifty to seventy per-cent of teens between the ages of fifteen and nineteen are sexually active. The impression is left on television that a person is some kind of misfit if he has not had several sexual partners before he marries. Adultery and divorce are the order of the day, not only in Hollywood, but in the grass-roots of our society. Homosexuality is out of closet, marching on the streets, and is approved and defended by the President of the United States and his wife. And the statistics on AIDS are changing so rapidly I wouldn't want to try even to approximate them. Birmingham, Alabama had enough murders in 1994 to tie its all-time record high. (And I have not told you anything you did not already know.) The situation has become so bad that many people are afraid to step out of their houses at night, especially old people. Many have put steel bars on their doors and windows.
- B. Some of us can remember a time when we never even locked our doors, when homosexuality was a thing to be ashamed of, when *divorce* was looked upon with scorn and was almost unheard of, when couples lived together as husband and wife only after they became such, when abortion was against the law, and when little children could play all over their neighborhoods, even after dark, without their parents' having to worry about anything worse than their falling out of a tree or tearing the knees out of their jeans. AIDS was non-existent, and beverage alcohol was the only drug that really caused any problem for our society.
- C. What brought about the changes? A changed attitude toward the Bible as the standard of right and wrong? Who is responsible for this changed attitude?
1. Madeline Murray O'Hair?
  2. The ACLU? (American Civil Liberties Union)
  3. The teaching of evolution in schools?
  4. The influence of television?
  5. No doubt, all of these will share in the responsibility.
- D. But preachers and other religious leaders will have to bear their share of the responsibility for diminished appreciation and respect for the Bible, and theirs is a lion's share.
1. Preachers have denied clear Bible teaching with reference to:
    - a. Baptism as a burial
    - b. The purpose of baptism
    - c. The oneness of the church
    - d. The kind of music God authorizes
    - e. The frequency with which we are to eat the Lord's Supper
    - f. Etc.
  2. How long did they think it would take for people to decide the Bible is not a reliable and authoritative standard in moral matters?
  3. When parents allow their children to wear immodest apparel, go to the dances, participate in mixed swimming contrary to the teaching of the Bible, how long do they think it will take for their children to conclude the Bible is not worthy to be followed in other matters? No wonder so many are leaving the church! a)
- E. When we set aside the Bible as a reliable and authoritative standard, then there is no such thing as right and wrong.
1. In one of his books, F. LaGuard Smith tells of a practice of his to begin one of his classes by

asking each student to name one thing which is definitely wrong. None of them will name anything as being always definitely wrong. Even a Jewish girl would not say the holocaust was wrong. "I cannot force my thinking on other people."

2. In the Warren-Flew Debate brother Thomas B. Warren kept challenging Dr. Anthony Flew to tell what makes a thing wrong. He couldn't do it.

## CONCLUSION

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi watched his Green Bay Packers get slaughtered on the football field one Sunday afternoon, and made a decision they were going to have to get back to basics. Early Monday morning when the team met, he began the meeting by picking up a football, holding it up, and saying, "Gentlemen, this is a football."

It seems about time someone in our society began holding up the Bible, and saying, "This is a Bible." We need to get back to the Bible for the welfare and even the survival of our society.

This is basic!