

The New Cruse

It's time for a New Cruse for a New Revival of New Testament Christianity. This magazine will be dedicated to such an end.

EDITOR'S NOTE TO READERS

There has never been such a departure from simple basic Bible principles as in this hour. We are indeed living amidst the greatest departure from Truth ever experienced by the so-called born-again Church. This was prophesied in Scripture.

The Apostles and Prophets warned of an age when a great departure would come within the Church. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."* II Tim.4v2-3

We have reached such a day! Many such days have come to the Church during its long history. Each time this happens the Lord does the same thing - He starts again.

Every departure from God in history left a scattered Remnant crying out for the reality of God amidst sham, games, traditions of men, the abuse of carnal leadership, and false counterfeit Christianity.

Out of this scattered Remnant God always called His people back to His Divine original pattern as laid out in Scripture. This Remnant was then moulded into a vessel and prepared for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

The story of God's workings in the Old Testament, New Testament, and in Church History proves this to be so. Again in this hour of darkness, apostasy, dearth, famine, drought and desolation the Lord is again preparing a scattered remnant for revival. In this context we are so glad to present this, the first of a new simple free magazine.

This first copy of *The New Cruse* will deal with the work of God in gathering, moulding and forging His remnant into a vessel of revival. Other issues will deal with *The Remnant, Heaven Sent Revival, The need for Godly Leaders, True Salvation, Holiness, etc*

Issues may be irregular due to many ministry responsibilities, but we send it forth in faith, with prayer that the Lord will send it to hungry hearts across the nations, to those who are seeking to return to Christ, the Cross, the Scriptures, to holiness, to reality and to a Heaven Sent Revival.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Keith Malcomson
March 2009

THE NEW CRUSE

By B.H. Clendennen

"And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake" II Kings 2v19-22

Spiritual recovery has always demanded a vessel through which God could pour Himself. In every age there has been a remnant, those 7000 who would not bow unto Baal, who refused to be a part of the spiritual conditions of their day. There were those like Daniel, Samuel, and Benjamin who refused to be a part of the spiritual conditions that prevailed in their time.

These have represented a new beginning with God; it was through them that He recovered the whole. Can this final generation achieve the same results of the first generation? Our conclusion is that we not only *can* repeat their success, but somebody *will* rise up to the challenge. This final generation will reach its generation for Christ. In this chapter we shall take a hard look at the vessel of recovery.

We are looking at a vessel of recovery that God is forging through which will come the revival that will usher in the coming of the Lord. There is no question in my heart concerning the times. We are on the threshold of the mightiest move of God since Pentecost. The only man that saw the cloud that looked like a man's hand was the man who was looking for it. The only ears that heard the sound in the mulberry tree were those ears listening for such a sound.

I have been looking, and listening, and I am seeing and hearing the sights and sounds of revival. Everywhere there are the grass roots and ground swell of a move of God. There is a hunger for reality. This third generation of Pentecostals is tired of gimmicks and games, and those involved are earnestly seeking for reality.

We come now to the vessel itself. Keeping in mind the words of Elisha when he said to bring a new cruse, and put salt therein, let us look at Mark 9v50 which says, *"Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another."* The true believer is declared in Matthew 5v13 to be the salt of the earth. The "new cruse" that Elisha called for is the church. She is the vessel; she is not the cure. She is to contain the cure. The word of God speaks of vessels of honour

and vessels of dishonor. The vessel, in itself, is neutral. It is the contents that make it honorable or dishonorable.

We must constantly remind ourselves that we are not the river; we are only the vessel through which the river is to flow. Failing to recognize this truth, the church as a whole finds herself in a false position that borders on idolatry. Believing that she is the cure, her only concern is physical growth.

The result of such believing is a soft, under-bellied religious system that is totally ineffective against the darkness. The church that was birthed to be a habitation of God has become a circus, with its only concern being to keep the “tares” happy.

The preacher now has a committee to proof his sermons to make sure there is nothing offensive. Since everything produces after its own kind, there is a great multiplication of “Ishmaels,” but very few “Isaacs.”

God’s purpose is never advanced by religious systems or worldly churches. If there is to be a recovery, the true believer must be made to realize that his only reason for being is to contain the Creator. The measure of our effectiveness is the measure of Christ that we contain; and the river must be allowed to flow if Christ is to be demonstrated as being alive.

Any willful intrusion of the flesh will not only stop this movement toward His image, but will reverse the order, and produce the opposite of what God intended. The result of this is too horrible to contemplate. The “dark ages” were the result of the church that was born at Pentecost turning from the leadership of the Holy Spirit to the scheming of the carnal mind.

We come now to the more definite consideration of the nature and function of this peculiar vessel for God. The passages that we read in II Kings, Chapter 2, and in Mark, Chapter 9 are bound by a common tie; namely, salt and what salt signifies.

Throughout the scripture, the illustrations using salt stand for recovery, preservation, and permanence. In the first passage, we have the waters of Jericho lacking in some constituent, which resulted in the miscarriage of the trees. There were the trees, the water, the fields (as the church has the labourers, much energy, good motives), but it all stopped short of reproduction. Some essential property was missing, and this absence made everything else futile as to the ultimate or desired results.

While it is the “salt” that is the vital and most important thing, it is the “cruse” in the modern church that occupies our thinking at this time. Our attention is first drawn to Elijah’s request for a new cruse, meaning a small pan or dish. The questions that naturally arise are, “Why a new cruse? Why a cruse at all? Why not use just a handful of salt?” The message of the new cruse is this: before the work of spiritual recovery can begin, there must be a specially prepared vessel.

It has always been an Israel out of Israel, a remnant who, like Samuel, could see that the wrong king was on the throne; that is, that the flesh was ruling. This remnant was not caught up in all the glamour and showmanship of religion. They could see beyond the facade, that when all the “leg-stretching” was over, the legs were still short.

They were able to see that God’s special concern was a vessel through which He could pour Himself. He was after a “new cruse;” that is, an instrument conformed to the mind of God, based solely upon the Holy Spirit’s order and requirements.

What is the nature of the work to be done? What is the condition that needs to be dealt with? It is the loss and absence of a vital and distinctive spiritual element in the church. Everything else is there; but that certain something is missing, and it must be recovered or there will not be a harvest.

This was the condition in Elijah’s time. The modern spiritual counterpart of this is that things have degenerated into indefiniteness, vagueness, and uncertainty as to the real meaning of life and spiritual purpose. The average Christian doesn’t know why the church exists. He doesn’t know where he is going. He may talk about going to heaven, but he has no idea why he has been born again, why God commands him to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is indefiniteness, an uncertainty, things don’t mean what they used to mean.

Praying through, walking with God, holiness, and sanctification are vague terms that are rarely ever defined in the modern church today. That is the nature of the work to be done. For this reason, there must be a new vessel forged in the fire. You don’t put new wine in old bottles.

If we take the book of Acts as a model, and the epistles as revealing the truth intended by God to be the abiding basis of what came into being in the book of Acts, we cannot fail to be

impressed with the presence of a certain something which made everything very much alive. The church may have the form, the best preacher, the best orator, but if that something found in the book of Acts is missing, then the ultimate purpose of God is lost.

The missing ingredient in a condition is *life*. We have the buildings, the organization, the education, the music, the preacher, but it all stops short of God’s desire.

What was it that produced the atmosphere and the spirit of life in the first century church? The Lord Jesus Himself. Jesus had been glorified, and the Holy Spirit had come as the Spirit of the glorified Lord to glorify Him on earth through the church.

Jesus was alive in that first century church; and the world knew it. Hypocrites were falling dead at the altar, the dead were being raised to life, thousands were being saved, and the preachers were total fanatics. They were arrested and beaten for preaching in the streets, and while the religious heads were in counsel deciding what to do with them, they were in the synagogue preaching Jesus.

There was life pressing and pushing against death. We read these words of the Lord Jesus Christ when He was upon this earth, “*I must needs go to Samaria,*” or *I must needs go to a certain place.* What is the meaning of the “*I must needs...*?” There was an urgency that was not born out of human appeal; it was born out of life, the life of God.

That same life was in the first church; and it drove them to the ends of the earth. After being treated worse than an animal, Jeremiah said, “*... I will not make mention of him (God), nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with*

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forbearing, and I could not stay” (Jer.20v9). A religious world can’t understand that.

Those believers of the first century were not merely saved from something, or unto something, it was the Lord Jesus Himself that captivated their lives. *“The love of Christ constrains me,”* cried the Apostle Paul. The word “constrain” is from the Greek word “sunecho” which means to capture, to captivate, to control, and to consume. The message of salvation was entirely focused on who the Lord Jesus was. *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ”* (Acts 5v42-6v1). This was not a mere treatise on evangelical theology, but it was a presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

They never felt the call to teach people how to manage their money or how to be successful. They went to Corinth, to Athens, to Tyre, and to India to introduce men and women to a person called Jesus. They knew that salvation was a relationship between a man and his God, a personal intimate relationship with Christ. They had no “seed faith” message; they ceased not to preach Christ. The message was never complete until the people saw Jesus.

This is made so real in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus quoted Isaiah. This is the first message Jesus preached after the wilderness temptation. His message was; *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind...”* (Lk.4v18). At that point, He closed the book and said, *“This day is this scripture fulfilled.”*

Today’s clock watchers want no longer than one-hour church services with twenty-minute sermons, but they want no message.

In God’s thinking, the work is ever finished and the book is not closed until the people see Jesus. That day in Nazareth the people saw the Christ. In effect Jesus was saying, “I am the one of whom Isaiah wrote. You have seen the Savior, and now you can close the book.”

If we quit preaching before men see Jesus, we may excite the flesh, but nothing of eternal worth has taken place. When those who hurt see Jesus, the need is met. Those who don’t have time to wait upon the Lord will leave like they came. The Bible said, *“They ceased not to preach Jesus.”*

What was true concerning salvation in that first century was also true concerning service. In the Acts of the Apostles, service is never something appended to salvation as a further consideration or command. One of the striking omissions from the Book of Acts is any kind of appeal for service. Service was never the result of organizational or special appeals; it was spontaneous, it was free, it was natural, it was at all times, in every place, under all circumstances evident in the Christians as an irrepressible testimony.

There arose a great persecution, they were scattered abroad, but in the face of this, what did they do? They went everywhere preaching Christ. The Holy Spirit glorifying Jesus in their hearts produced the service. The revelation of Christ to them and in them was so great they could not help but serve.

I want us to look back now over the problem of the waters of Jericho, and the miscarriage of the fruit. Is it not true today, in

a very widespread way, that the constituents of wonder, glory, and life in all matters that relate to the Lord Jesus Christ is lacking in the Church?

One can hear a great shout when somebody exercises a gift; but if you question the people afterwards, for the most part, they could not tell you what was said. It is evident that they are not shouting over what was said; they are shouting because somebody did something. We are more excited over what people do than we are over who Christ is. We must understand that the Bible is all about Christ; and everything else, including the gifts, is to point to and to glorify Him.

When anything becomes more important than Christ, it always leads to disaster. Look at the Corinthian Church. They were more excited about the gifts than they were about Christ, and the end result was the committing of sin in the church that wasn’t even named among the Gentiles.

Real faith doesn’t come by seeing a miracle; real faith comes by a personal encounter with a man called Jesus. The faith that rests in Christ alone cannot be shaken. Paul said, *“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”* (Phil.4v12).

When locked in stocks in a filthy dungeon at midnight, his back laid open by the jailer’s whip, fever raging because of the infection, the church oblivious to where he is, and with a thousand devils telling him that he is never going to see daylight again, he can still sing “Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound” because his faith did not rest in what he had seen, or where he was; it rested in who he knew.

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eternal worth has taken place.*

The great need of the church is the recovery of that resurrection life which will make the glorifying of our Lord Jesus Christ dominant in our churches. It is not charisma, but character that must identify the vessel of recovery.

Perhaps, up to this point, most have agreed with the solution; but now, as we deal with what must be done to produce this new cruse, this vessel of recovery, many may turn back as they did in John 6v60 which says: *“Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?”*

We are not talking religion; we are talking about a vessel dedicated to the recovery of God’s full thought and purpose.

There is such a mixture of flesh and Spirit in the modern church that God said if it was not corrected, He would “spew it out of His mouth.” We have a mixture of neo-Pentecostalism and Romanism that is equivalent to the mixture Elijah faced in Israel; and for the most part, the so-called church thinks it is wonderful.

It is this mixture that restricts the Almighty from moving into that church. To counter this idolatrous situation, God must have a vessel of the same type as Elijah. Both the world and the flesh have gotten into the church. The result is that the church is now based on tradition, formalism, faddism, ecclesiasticism, and the mechanics of religion, which are like chains and fetters upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

The church, like Lazarus, must be set free from all that speaks of death. To bring about this miracle of deliverance, a new cruse is needed. It must be a vessel like the first vessel; it must stand on a New Testament basis. No matter who it comes from or how big the ministry, it must irrevocably deny or refuse anything that is not solidly built upon a New Testament basis. It must be where God has a clear way, in which the cross has brought to naught all the personal interests in those who form that vessel. Such a vessel must recognize, yield to, and glory in the absolute government of the Holy Spirit.

If we are going to rule with Him in eternity, we must be ruled by Him now. It must be that vessel which recognizes the Lordship of Christ, and sees in Jesus complete fullness, wisdom, power, knowledge, and grace; and which draws upon Him alone for all its needs.

Finally, it must be that vessel which is selfless and has only one object in this world, and that is to glorify Christ. Our only reason for being must be that God may reveal His Son in us. We are predestined to be conformed to His image. There is no higher calling, and no greater reason for living.

(This article was edited down in size for the purpose of this magazine)

A PEOPLE IN CONTINUANCE

By Pastor Peter Bond

A glance back through history and through scripture may seem to indicate that, against the background of repeated drifting and decline amongst God's people, the Lord is ever having to make a new beginning in accordance with His own divinely - revealed pattern.

Jesus' promise in (Matt.16:18) "*I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*", is sufficient to allay all fears that God's purpose has been placed 'on hold'; though the evidences of its grand progress (at least here in the British Isles) may appear to be sparse indeed.

The Lord is ever working, and working unswervingly, to bring that great purpose to its completion. What may appear at first to be a sequence of new beginnings is, in point of fact, a series of landmarks in a work which, in God's mind, has continued unceasingly.

I do not believe that the Lord has ever simply withdrawn His hand, and allowed the devil to prosper unhindered. I do not believe that the Lord Jesus has ever been forced to interrupt or revise His plan signalled in (Matt.16:18), and launched with the endowment of His power on the day of Pentecost. Nothing has changed; and nothing ever will change. The Son of God is going to build, accomplish His work through, and finally rapture the church which He paid so dearly for at Calvary, and which was in the mind of God before Satan fell, and before man ever set foot on the earth. All, in all its fulness, is going to be brought to completion in accordance with God's will, and exactly in His appointed time.

A scripture that has greatly confirmed my own heart in these things can be found in the 64th chapter of Isaiah's prophecy. Between the prophet's plea for God's intervention in reviving power, and His lament over the conditions of widespread

spiritual decline, we find a verse that assures us that God's plan brooks no interruption, and survives (as it will outlive) all the upheavals of secular and spiritual history.

This verse, (Is.64:5), speaks to us of a meeting point between God and His people. That is the unassailable guarantee that His work will be finished, and finished on time. "*Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.*"

The key to this verse is the word "continuance". There have been, and always will be, such a people. I think sometimes we too readily accept the historic view of the church as synonymous with God's view. Our perceptions must always be governed

by the Word of God, and not by the chroniclers of the past, even godly ones.

The Lord has always had such a people; and their characteristics are, in broad outline, always the same.

Firstly, they are a rejoicing people. "*Thou meetest Him that rejoiceth*". They are a people who have learned that their joy is in the Lord Jesus Christ regardless of varying conditions: prosperity or lack of it, sickness, health, persecution or liberty. God is never drawn to miserable, murmuring Christians; He looks for the man and the woman who knows, and lives in the victory of Christ's work on the cross, and in a joyous affirmation of faith exercised from day to day. 1 John 5:4 declares "*... and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith*". "The world", the poet said, "is too much with us, soon or late". The immediate world around us is affected positively by seasons of heaven-sent revival, and likewise adversely by seasons of spiritual decline; but as season gives way to season we know that, nonetheless, the world system grinds inexorably onward towards its ghastly climax in the reign of antichrist, and no revival will either halt or reverse that process. It behoves us, therefore, to be, by the grace of God, men and women 'for all seasons': rejoicing in the Lord, rejoicing in hope, rejoicing in this great salvation, and fully persuaded that God has pledged to meet with such a people.

Secondly, they are a people who demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of God in lives of practical and biblical righteousness. Righteousness is something. "*Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness.*" It is not something nebulous or abstract, assumed to be the property of all Christians; it is something to be demonstrated, worked out in daily life. It is observable, recordable, and an evident fruit of the Spirit. (Rom.14:17) bringing the balance in its context says, "*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but [it is] righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*" It is something: and our sin-ridden society urgently needs to witness the return of such a clear testimony among God's people.

Before God sent judgment in the form of a flood, He sent Noah, 'a preacher of righteousness' (II Pet.2:5).

Before God sent salvation in the person of His Son, He sent John the Baptist who "*came... in the way of righteousness*" (Matt 21:32).

And before He shall "*appear the second time without sin unto salvation...unto them that look for Him*" (Heb.9:28),

triggering the outpouring of God's judgments on the earth, I believe the Lord is going to send abroad a Holy Ghost race of preachers of righteousness!

But thirdly, they are a people who remember and abide in the ways of God – *“those who remember Thee in Thy ways”*. In (Jer.2:32) the Lord plainly asserts, *“yet my people have forgotten me days without number”*. No doubt the routine of religious sacrifices continued, no doubt the customary religious claims and clichés were still being bandied around; yet here was a people, encumbered with the machinery of religion, who had lost contact with the Lord Himself – they no longer remembered HIM! in His ways. How nearly this approximates so much of the professing church's activity at this time. Jesus assured His disciples in (Jn.15:5) *“... Without me ye can do nothing”*. We might reflect soberly on how much has been attempted in recent decades that has amounted to ‘nothing’, simply because Jesus Christ was not the true source and centre of the endeavour.

Let me close by saying this: (i) God has always had a people such as I have described in this brief article. (ii) *“... in those is continuance”*. Through them the purpose of God has continued without interruption. There has never been a moment in all history when such a people, somewhere, have not graced this dark world of ours. (iii) *“... and we shall be saved”*. It is through them that the spreading influence of the work God began on the day of Pentecost will reach its glorious fulfilment ‘in the clouds’ of glory – there is going to be a meeting in the air!

I pray that all who may read this little message will join with me in seeking the Lord for a renewed desire, *“if by any means”* we might find our place among that people in ‘continuance’ as this last and great hour of opportunity is presented to us, to glorify the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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THE NEW WINESKIN
By Keith Malcomson

“And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.” (Lk.5v36-39)

This parable was put forth to all by Christ just after Levi had converted and we know Levi then as Matthew; Matthew the author of the first Gospel. The setting of this parable was Matthew's home. In Luke chapter 5 we are told of the mighty miracles of Christ in healing the sick then we are told, *“And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named*

Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him.” Lk.5v27-28

Levi was a true convert. It seems from his name that he was of the tribe of Levi. His namesake forefather was an angry and cruel man. Through his wicked deeds he became a shame to his father Jacob, yet out of this line was raised up a tribe which were called, sanctified and set apart to the task of serving God.

The Tribe of Levi or the Levites were the smallest tribe of Israel. Once called and sanctified their task was to carry the tabernacle when they travelled and to minister in it when they settled in one place.

One of the great tasks of the Levites was to carry the Ark of the Covenant. This Ark was a symbol of the incarnate Christ, God manifest in flesh. Only four Levites were to carry the Ark at any one time.

If you study the history of this tribe you will find that every new Revival in Israel's history was marked by calling these Levites out and separating them from all decay and every influence of sin.

They were sanctified again that God's house could be restored or to carry forth the Ark one more time in obedience to God. Levites were given as a gift unto Aaron the High Priest (a type of Christ) and were totally dedicated unto God, to minister unto Him. They had no inheritance in the land but God Himself.

So this was Matthew's natural lineage but when Christ first laid eyes upon him we see him sitting as his work of tax collecting; the most hated profession in all of Israel. Tax collectors were no better than drunkards and harlots to the religious mind.

When Christ spoke to him and said *“Follow me”* we are told that *“...he left all, rose up, and followed him.”* This was a true convert, he left all and followed Christ.

Previously in this chapter we saw Simon, James and John following the same call to salvation. They were gathered unto Christ in order to follow Him. They were called away from their physical nets and Christ was then to forge them into a spiritual net to catch men.

Straight after Matthew's conversion we read that *“Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.”* (Lk 5v29) Elsewhere we are told that sinners also gathered in with other tax collectors to his home.

He is so glad in salvation and so taken up with Christ that he gathers in the only friends he has that they may also hear the call of God and experience the power of salvation.

Also gathered in the house were scribes and Pharisees who murmured against Christ saying *“Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?”* Christ responded *“They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

Again they asked *“Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?”* Again Christ answered *“Can ye*

make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days."

It is in response to these questions by these men in this home of Matthew that Christ then puts forth the parable of the wine and the bottles, or the wineskin.

What is Christ doing? He is preparing a new wineskin for new wine. By calling Matthew and the other disciples he has caught himself some rough wild goats which He must now skin and prepare for to hold the wine that will satisfy the thirst of many. They were to be God's vessel and instrument of Revival.

This new wine is a type of the Holy Spirit. Wine speaks of influence. When an individual is filled with wine they come under the influence of it. It affects their sight, their hearing, their walk, their speech, their actions, in fact everything.

So also when a man is filled with the Holy Ghost he comes under His influence which affects every area of life. Christ was calling out a group of men and disciples who would become the new wineskin for a new outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

God has always called such a people to repentance in order to prepare them for His purpose. The rugged message of repentance and of forsaking all has been the means of finding every new wineskin. Such people who simply and desperately need Christ are easily moulded and shaped for the new wine.

In the culture of the Middle East it was usually a goat with its thick course skin which was chosen for a wineskin. After being skinned it was softened with oil to make it subtle for moulding and usage. It was then filled with new wine which moulded, shaped and enlarged the vessel as it fermented. Note that the wine moulded the vessel.

An old wineskin could not be used as it had already been moulded into shape and could not be moulded afresh.

In Christ's day the Pharisees had for a long time been an old wineskin. This group once zealous for the Lord and His Word had now settled down into a legal form of religion. They had added to Scripture their own customs, interpretations and laws. They were righteous in their own eyes but felt no need of Christ or of repentance. They had cast the doctrine of repentance aside.

These Pharisees also pointed to John's disciples and their practice of fasting, prayer and abstinence in contrast to Christ's new disciples. These were vital things but John had pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God and as the baptizer in the Holy Ghost and Fire. John's revival was one of heart repentance to prepare individuals for fellowship with Christ Jesus. There was a grave danger that these other things would take the place of the person of Christ.

It is worth noting here that by the time every wineskin grows old it has left the heart of the message of its founder. It rejects the message originally preached that gave it birth.

Take good note that Christ bypassed the Palace and Temple in seeking a new wineskin. He called fishermen, tax collectors and zealots; not priests and princes. He called them from the Galilean back woods not from the city of Jerusalem.

He did not try to twist the pharisaic system into a new wineskin. It would have rent and the revival lost. All of John's disciples would need to come the way of John's message, to Christ as the Lamb of God. They must press on beyond the elementary points of repentance and faith and go on to perfection. Christ Himself must be the goal.

When people are religiously set on a track it will be hard to teach them anything or to show them a better way.

However we do know that there were those who belonged to these old wineskins who joined themselves to Christ as a new wineskin. Some of Christ's first disciples were those who followed John's direction and joined themselves unto Christ.

Apollos a Jew and convert of John the Baptist was an eloquent and powerful preacher who was mighty in the scriptures. This man was of such a humble teachable spirit that Aquila and Priscilla were able to teach him the way of God more perfectly and so he became a great preacher to the Church.

Saul the Pharisee of Pharisees met with Christ in soul rending repentance and so became a new wineskin for the Holy Ghost to fill. The revival at Ephesus began with twelve disciples of John who hearkened to the teaching of Paul and became a wineskin ready for the new-wine revival.

Most of what we see in the Church today is an old wineskin. The charismatic, user-friendly, gimmick seeking, church growth, prosperity preaching, fun loving, inner healing, counselling confusion has been set

aside by Christ as unusable for revival.

Christ is now seeking out four sanctified Levites who will carry the Ark of His presence back among His people upon their shoulders. He is tired of the Philistine carts that have filled the Church. He is seeking a mouldable wineskin that will yield to the working of the Holy Ghost.

Today most of what is called Charismatic and that is thought to be on the cutting edge of God's purpose because of its size, has been utterly rejected without remedy. They could never contain the new wine of the Holy Ghost.

If He came to them in revival power wanting to rebuke sin, they would stand closemouthed in fear of condemning someone. If He wanted to speak in such a way as to fill an altar with kneeling, broken, repentant, weeping saints, they would stand aghast desiring to sing a happy song.

If He wanted to simply proclaim Christ and to cure every ill by simple faith in Christ, as He did on the day of Pentecost, today's inner healing guru's would want to place these new converts on inner healing weekends, years of counselling, and on courses for the breaking of curses.

Most of today's Church is embarrassed about the Cross of Christ; they mock the message of the precious Blood; they laugh at those who love holiness; they down play the authority of God's Word; they buy and sell the Holy Ghost in their ministry meetings.

"And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved."

We have many called by the name and character of Balaam, Judas, Simeon, Alexander, Korah, Cain and Jezebel in our pulpits protected by the old worn out misinterpreted text, "*touch not my anointed.*" God cannot and will not use such a vessel.

He will go forth once more amongst the harlots and drunkards with the message of repentance to call fourth and sanctify a new vessel to receive of a fresh outpouring of the Holy Ghost and through them the Gospel will be preached with power in demonstration to the ingathering of one last harvest of souls in this generation.

Church History

Just read the great and long history of revivals which have come to the Church. Luther in a secluded state of soul-agony was told to keep quiet and to go back to his cell. But he couldn't. His eyes had been opened to God's Word and it burnt as a fire in his bones. As he began to preach justification by faith alone a new wineskin was formed and Europe was changed. The old wineskin of Rome could not stop him though they tried.

This new wineskin spread to Scotland and in forty days of anointed preaching by Knox the nation was changed. Sadly these wineskins of Lutheranism and Presbyterianism with time hardened and the wine soured.

Out of the ashes John Wesley while listening to readings of Luther's writings experienced a warmed heart through a real experience of the New Birth. He opened his mouth and preached with power only to be cast out of his father's church. Not deterred he stood upon his father's grave stone outside and preached the gospel by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Again new converts gathered and a new wineskin was formed which carried a Holy Ghost revival across the earth. Once this revival had spent its force and had hardened down in denominational carnality God stirred the embers once more. Out of them came a one eyed black man called William Seymour.

With His head tucked in a shoebox pulpit and his tongue on fire another wineskin was gathered in an old barn at Azusa and moulded under the impulse of the Holy Ghost.

This new wineskin carried the gospel to the end of the earth with a speed unknown since the early Church.

It is now very sad to say that this revival has spent its force and has either crystallized sacred convictions into laws and dogmas or has cast aside godly convictions and now revels in its liberty of carnality. Either way it has become an old wineskin. The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement has become old.

Yet, allow me to prophesy for a brief moment and let us renew our hope in Christ for surely out of the ashes and embers of this Pentecostal Revival will come a kindling amongst some small groups of remnant believers and God will again in this last hour have another wineskin for the coming Heaven Sent Revival.

SEPERATION & UNITY IN GOD'S NEW VESSEL

By Joseph Ben-Malcham

Ezra 4:1-5, "*Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel; Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.*"

"But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us."

"Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia."

The adversaries or enemies of God's true Remnant in the days of Ezra were the Samaritans. When Israel was carried away into a Babylonian captivity a remnant was left behind and King Esarhaddon, sent men from Babylon and other pagan nations to settle the land with Samaria as its centre (II Kgs.17v24, 33).

God sent lions among them which killed a number of people and so the Babylonian king sent a Hebrew priest back to Samaria to teach these new inhabitants how to fear God. The result was a mixed race, a mongrel race who feared God but

still worshipped their idols.

They also created their own ministry. They "*made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places.*" The honour, glory and reverence of the Ministry was taken away - anyone could become a preacher.

By the time Ezra came on the scene with a Remnant of Israel there was a confused mixture of culture - the product of intermarriage and of religion which thinks itself to be the real people of God inhabiting the land of promise.

The same has happened to the Church. It is a long time since a holiness revival has swept the Church clean. The Church first fell asleep, was then carried into captivity and we have observed for a number of decades as the world has been brought into our churches. Christ has simply been added to worldly thinking, lifestyle and desires.

Mongrel Christians now possess the pulpits, pews and altars once owned by holy men and women of God. They have mixed so well with what was left over of the real and have so settled into a long undisturbed occupancy, that they think they are the true Church.

Things that never at any time were acceptable in the Church during revivals are now accepted as normal. This mongrel

This new wineskin spread to Scotland and in forty days of anointed preaching by Knox the nation was changed.

Christianity is so widespread, dominant and strong in every so-called born-again denomination that it seems almost impossible that a change can come.

But the “*LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia*”, and all the leaders and remnant of Israel “*whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.*” This work began with the Lord. He stirred the hearts; He raised up the hearts to do His will.

When at Jerusalem the first thing they did was to rebuild the altar and to keep the feast of Tabernacles. Then they began on the great task of rebuilding the temple by laying the foundation once more.

Many of the old Levite priests who had seen the first temple, the former house in its glory before the long captivity “*wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy.*” Here was a genuine stirring, restoring, rebuilding and reviving of the true pure remnant of God.

As soon as the Samaritans realised what was happening they were quickly on the scene saying “*Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him.*” This would be one of the greatest tests for this new revival Movement. Would it stay pure or be corrupted?

Thank God that the leaders stood strong saying “*Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God;*” Thank God that they believed in the doctrine of SEPERATION from compromised Christianity. Surely just as today they were accused of causing disunity.

Today God’s true remnant who are being stirred to return and to rebuild a New Testament Church must remain separate from the confusion that has corrupted the Church – no matter how hard that may be. They must not accept worldly worship leaders, drinking elders, smoking members, money making false prophets, lust filled teenagers and the thousand gadgets of religion that have infiltrated God’s House.

Not only did they make a strong stand for SEPERATION but also for UNITY. They said “*we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel.*” They separated from the false but united with the real. There was unity; there had to be unity. They “*together*”, unitedly or as a unit would perform this task. Yes they were only a remnant. Yes it was a great task, but they would act as ONE.

Once they made this stand for separation and unity it was not well received. Those who offered themselves as fellow builders, brothers and worshippers soon turned against them and became their adversaries. This doctrine of separation will make you many enemies. Half-baked, half-hearted, half-converted Christians and preachers will become your greatest enemies.

These Samaritans now set about to sabotage the real work of God. They had nothing better to do than to give themselves over to hinder the work of God. Their true colours were soon showing. The flesh of carnal Christianity is the biggest hindrance to the rebuilding of the real genuine work of God.

They even paid the wages of those who thought up schemes to destroy this attempt at reviving old time religion. They so hated this attempt of recovering the old paths and ways of God that they continued in this opposition for many years.

The very same thing was faced by Nehemiah some years later when faced with the half-breeds Sanballat and Tobiah. But again like Ezra, Nehemiah answered them, “*The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.*” (Neh.2:19-20).

We must hold fast to these two great vital truths; the doctrine of SEPERATION and the doctrine of UNITY. If God is stirring your heart as a part of God’s true remnant to return and build again, then first, remain separate from the false doctrines of the ecumenical-charismatic movement.

But that is not all. We are not called to just be a scattered remnant living without purpose. There must be those whose hearts are being stirred who unite and begin to build God’s house together in unity.

Don’t just separate from the false; unite with the real and build a real Church after God’s pattern, God’s Word and according to God’s way. Then the glory will return and all will see and know that God is in the midst of His people.

GOD’S ANSWER TO APOSTASY!

Quotes by Great Christians

“This generation of fundamental Christians...we are so mixed-up with the world, so in love with it, so affected by it, so influenced wrongly by it, so drawn to it, that little by little we’re grieving the Holy Ghost out of our fellowships...Now here is what God is going to do. He’s done it every so often, in cycles down the centuries; God is going to have to raise up a despised smaller group who are willing to pay the price of separation from the world in all its ways and take the consequences. And He’s going to come in power upon that group, and save the church...you’ll find that’s the way God’s done it every time...and it’s the way He’ll do it again. – A.W. Tozer

“I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out.” -- *John Wesley*

“The new wine of revival will shatter the old wineskins of formality.” – *Leonard Ravenhill*

I had read in the Bible that there will be in the last time the great apostasy, that people will leave the faith and I believed that I lived now this time. But I said to myself if Christianity is dead, I will sit at its tomb and will weep until it arises again, just as Mary Magdalene sat at the tomb of Jesus and wept until Jesus showed Himself.” – *Richard Wurmbrand*.

“The chief danger of the Church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of turning the world upside down. Our Master expects us to accomplish results, even if they bring opposition and conflict. Anything is better than compromise, apathy, and paralysis. God give to us an intense cry for the old-time power of the Gospel and the Holy Ghost!” – *A. B. Simpson*

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