

"A Paradigm Shift"



"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD." People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it. (Amos 8:11-12 NASB)

~The Paradigm Shift~

I guess most of you know the definition of a "paradigm." According to the dictionary it is, "An example that serves as a pattern or model." So a paradigm shift would be a movement of a pattern or model from one place or one position to another. There have been and is a gradual shift from within the church concerning God and how His authority is applied within the church. Some of these changes are so gradual and small that unless you are in "The Word" – The Bible for those that may not know. The Word is referred to as the Bible, the Word of God, our one and only source of divine authority for daily living. *Sola Scriptura* – Latin for "The Bible only."



This apostasy or paradigm shift is conditioning the Church for the last days. Jesus and Paul foretold of it in I Timothy 4:1; *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (1 Timothy 4:1 KJV)* Pastors and youth are being enticed into the Emerging Church Movement (ECM), where the genuine "Word of God" is trying to fit the current changing culture, instead of the culture adhering to Bible principles.

I was in a meeting several days ago and they were giving estimates of where the church will be in the year 2020. One person said that 1/3 of the churches will be out of business if they didn't change. One member was there

that was a Southern Baptist and he said, “they reported that there baptism numbers were way down.” - Which is the way they record new converts. He went on to say that some churches had no new baptisms for the year. The question will be, “will the church continue to water-down the Gospel for the sake of new members (to stay in business, funny that they would use the word business.) and change with the culture or will the church stand firm for Jesus and His Holy Word in these critical times?”

The Bible says: *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.* (Deuteronomy 13:4 KJV) Why do we reject wise counsel? Consider the verse above as your wise counsel, “Walk and fear God, keep and obey His commandments and voice, serve and cleave unto Him.”

We have to remember what Jesus said; *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.*

“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14

NASB) Then in the next verse Jesus said; *“Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*

(Matthew 7:15 NASB) Jesus gave us counsel on the subject because He knew there were wolves (antichrists) out there that were false prophets and they would entice you and me to go down the long and wide road to destruction.

Our mission is from Exodus 19:6; *and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.* '..... (Exodus 19:6a NASB) Folks, we are far from being a kingdom of priests and a holy nation especially here in the United States. As a nation I don't know why God lets us continue to live and exist. “We have thrown God out with the bath water, as the saying goes.”



~How about the Church~

How about the church? For beginners; Christ built it and said it would exist until His return. Look at Matthew 16:18; *"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.* (Matthew 16:18 NASB) The true church is going to be here.

John the Baptist which was the fore runner of Jesus Christ came preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins; *And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;* (Luke 3:3 NASB)



After John the Baptist was imprisoned Jesus came to Galilee and was preaching; we pick the story up in Mark 1; *Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* (Mark 1:14-15 NASB)

Even in the New Testament, in the book of Acts where the beginning of the co-called New Testament church and after Christ's death and resurrection. *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* (Acts 2:38 NASB)

In the Old Testament Isaiah was crying out the repentance message. *"Cry loudly, do not hold back; Raise your voice like a (shofar) trumpet, And declare to My people their transgression And to the house of Jacob their sins.* (Isaiah 58:1 NASB)

Isaiah was crying out in the Old Testament to repent from your sins. John the Baptist came crying in the wilderness repent for the forgiveness of sins. After John was imprisoned, Jesus started His short earthly ministry and was preaching repent and believe in the Gospel. Even after His death and Resurrection in the Book of Acts Peter and the disciples were still preaching repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.

Look at the Church today, are we preaching a faith and repentance message or are we trying to look like the rest of the world? Is the Church set apart and Holy? I'm not referring to any particular church or denomination. But look around at the way they have watered down the Gospel. Is the Church being run by Biblical standards and the way Jesus Christ would have it structured.

“The mission of the church is to do the work of God.”

~**Government Education**~

We are just to look at our government education system to see why the worldview in schools is not scriptural. The hearts and minds of the students are been taken captive by our culture of corruption.

Fact: By the time a child graduates from high school, he or she will have spent 11,000 hours in school, 2,000 hours with their parents, 800 hours in church (if they attend church regularly) and 64,000 hours consuming the internet, computer games, occult books, TV, movies and music.

Fact: 80% of kids raised by evangelical Christian parents leave their faith behind when they enter college.



College campuses across America where students are exposed to moral depravity, which includes prostitution, pornography, orgies, drunkenness, addictive drugs, raunchy movies, and music with sexually explicit lyrics.

I know there are many good Christian teachers in public schools, I'm not referring to them, but due to the system they are limited in their witness.

For gone are the days when an educator's concern was to teach children how to think, rather than what to think. In government schools, no child will ever hear that “Jesus” is the answer to his or her problems.

Parents, immerse your children in a biblical worldview. “Why is our worldview important? Pastor Mark D. Roberts says; “Because it shapes how we think and act every moment.” Jesus said to put our priorities in order;

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NASB)

~**Apologist**~ (a defender of a cause – in this case, Christianity)

The Bible is clear; we should be apologists of our faith. Peter has a strong endorsement for us when defending our faith to anyone; *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (1 Peter 3:15 NASB)* We are to let people know where we stand on being a follower of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

~**Breakdown of our society**~

The breakdown of our society is a direct result of liberal social policy. So what's the solution? One writer said; "First and foremost Christians must start behaving like Christians." As Nancy Pearcey so aptly put it, "We must let go of the worldly motivations that drive us, praying to be motivated solely by a genuine desire to submit our minds to God's Word? And then use that knowledge in service to others."



She goes on to say, "Outsiders must be able to see for themselves, in the day to day pattern of our lives, that we do not treat Christianity as just a private retreat, a comfort blanket, a castle of fairy-tale beliefs that merely make us feel better." In order to achieve this, people of faith have got to stop serving two masters—God and the world. Jesus speaks of these two masters in Luke, He said; *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (Luke 16:13 NASB)*

You can't have one foot in the world and one foot with Jesus Christ, you cannot have God and the world. It's one or the other. The worldly serving is wealth, that's the way we are graded or looked upon from the secular world.

Jesus doesn't care a thing about the world's standard of wealth.

"He cares about you - Everything in your life!"

We have a choice to make! Joshua even speaks of it in chapter 24;



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. (Joshua 24:15 KJV)

Each of us has to make a choice! No one else can make it for us. "It's one on one folks, God has no grandchildren." "It's you and God!"

~Subject to a higher power~

Let Paul tell us how we are to live each day, yes we are subject to a higher power regardless of what the world will tell you. Paul said; *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (Romans 13:1-2 KJV)* The world will tell you otherwise. God's law says abortion is murder. Man's law says abortion is a choice. God's law says homosexuality is an abomination. Man's law says it is a civil right. We have a higher authority. Don't mix them up, God is in control!

~What would you do~



What to do: On a clear summer afternoon as you are cruising down the highway with the sun beating against your skin, you suddenly see an automobile lose control and horrendously hurtle off of the road and tumble into a bordering field. Being a Good Samaritan you stop your car and run to the badly-bleeding young man lying under the twisted steel. As you begin to climb the fence to offer aid to this critically injured young man you notice a sign dangling on the

fence near the spot you are preparing to scale. "NO TRESPASSING" flashes the red and white sign.

As a Christian you have been raised to follow the law. In fact, you have been taught that breaking the law is sin. You are facing a moral dilemma. If you climb the fence have you sinned? If you don't, someone may die.

What do you do? The question is foolish. Of course, you climb the fence and come to the aid of the wounded. It is your duty. Why? Because there is a higher law! God's laws are above man's laws.

~What you like isn't necessarily what you need~

What you like isn't necessarily what you need. From an article by Cathy Lynn Grossman; a recent Pew Forum poll called the U. S. Religious Landscape Survey where, after interviewing over 35,000 people by telephone, it was determined that Americans are changing churches, denominations and even religions like never before. Folks, everyone is searching and Jesus is



right under their fingers, just waiting for us to come to Him. He is the answer to all our questions and our problems. We are so much in the world that we don't see Him as the solution. We continue to search in all other worldly areas. "Just let Jesus in."

Grossman also wrote; ".....the main thrust of the study is that the religious landscape is changing, and Nashville is no exception, adding that Vanderbilt divinity professor Robin Jensen"....Had observed that there's much more of a "marketplace quality" to religion; People are interested in finding a church that matches their value system and that has programs that

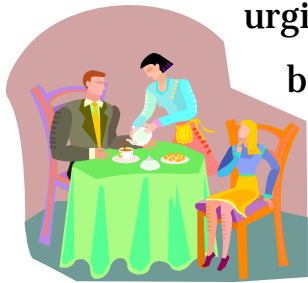


fit their family' needs. Instead of coming to Jesus, people have their own agenda and some of that agenda does not include God, the divine and higher power of authority.

Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions. (Isaiah 30:10 NASB)

Sounds like god shopping – and considering the “marketplace” mentality, I can’t help but wonder if we’re really talking about needs here or just wants.

Do you remember when your mother would sit down at the supper table and have you to eat all on your plate? Sometimes, as a matter of fact, there were a lot you didn’t like to eat, but you ate it anyway with your mother’s



urging you on to eat those vegetables. You didn’t want them,

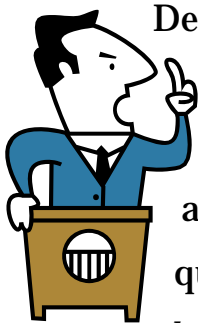
but you needed these foods because they were good for you.

And you knew mother was right. Junk in is junk out and no nutrition for a healthy body. Maybe some churches are giving you what you want and not what you need.

Remember Mother’s instructions; what you don’t want may be what you need, it may be good for you. Folks don’t get away from the Bible, its God’s Word.

~Jesus’ political affiliation~

Jesus is not a Democrat. Jesus is not a Republican. In fact, He is not even an American! Jesus is Lord; He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! The



Devil runs both political parties, no politician is going to save you.

Only Jesus can meet the needs of this sin-sick nation. I’m an American, but I’m a follower of Jesus Christ first. Jesus is the answer to any question. If you don’t believe me, just ask the question. Jesus said; *Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For*

this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37 NASB) You are not going to hear the truth from any politician or political party. We hear all these promises made by politicians; and “we believe them.” Only God can fix this nation. We are given the answer to how God can bless this nation in Second Chronicles; and *My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways,*

then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

(2 Chronicles 7:14 NASB)

God has given us all these truths in the Bible, but we seem to not want to adhere to His Plan. We are searching everywhere for worldly answers and God had it written down for us thousands of years ago.

~In the older days~

Back in the older days Christians believed that all truth is God's truth and that God revealed His truth to us in His Word – The Bible, and in Him who said, "I am the Truth." The Scriptures were memorized and quoted



frequently and no one was offended by them. People placed their right hand on the Holy Bible and solemnly swore to tell the truth, the whole truth....and meant it. Back then the Bible was the Good Book. "And by the way it still is." *Jesus *said to him,*

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (John 14:6 NASB) According to God's Holy Book we are told

that; *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (2 Timothy 3:16 NASB)*

~Reading and Studying the Bible~

Reading and studying the Bible is not a choice; it's a command. Noted theologian R. C. Sproul puts it this way,

I could plead with you to study the Bible for personal edification; I could try the art of persuasion to stimulate your quest for happiness. I could say that



the study of the Bible would probably be the most fulfilling and rewarding educational experience of your life. I could cite numerous reasons why you would benefit from a serious

study of Scripture. But ultimately the main reason why we should study the Bible is because it is our duty. If the Bible were the most boring book in the world, dull, uninteresting and seemingly irrelevant, it would still be our duty to study it. If its literary style were awkward and confusing, the duty would

remain. We live as human beings under an obligation by divine mandate to study diligently God's Word. He is our Sovereign, it is His Word and He commands that we study it. A duty is not an option. If you have not yet begun to respond to that duty, then you need to ask God to forgive you and to resolve to do your duty from this day forth.

~Secular Humanist~



Biblical moral values no longer dictate the way believers live their lives. Professed Christians have all but cast off their biblical worldview and blended in with our godless society. Is it any wonder that the religion of Secular Humanism has infiltrated our nation's institutions?

The Secular Humanist religion is anti-supernaturalism, therefore God does not exist. You might say that its theology is atheism. As well, it has a philosophy of naturalism and holds to a belief in Darwinism evolution. Secularists believe that man is self-sufficient. If man is self-sufficient, he has no need for God. Here is what Our Savior says to that; *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,* (John 11:25 NASB)

~Absolute moral truth~



Most Americans no longer believe in absolute moral truth as defined by Scripture. Instead they embrace moral relativism, which is the belief that truth is relative to the person and their situation. In other words, moral principles have no objective truth. Relativists use phrases like, "That's your truth," which translates to, "Believe what you want, I'll believe what I want."

Relativists aren't concerned about their view of rightness and wrongness, their truth is based on whatever seems right to them at the time. *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*

(Proverbs 14:12 NASB)

During the 60's and 70's many young people held the belief that, "God is dead." Mainly because if God is indeed dead, then you're free to "do your own thing" as long as it won't put you behind bars. Suddenly people's outlook was, "Who cares?" "Better him than me," "Tolerate others," "Make love, not war," "Sex, drugs and rock' n roll" which led to "Create your own reality." The 60's spawned the "If it feels good, do it" generation. When people are free to create their own reality, their own truth, pretty much anything goes? And there are no rules!

"In two national surveys conducted by the Barna Research, one among adults and one among teenagers, people were asked if they believe that there are moral absolutes that are unchanging or that moral truth is relative to the circumstances. By a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%) adults said truth is always relative to the person and their situation. The perspective was even more lopsided among teenagers, 84% of whom said moral truth depends on the circumstances, and only 6% of whom said moral truth is absolute." Which is the Biblical Worldview of Truth.

I had a young college student in my office a few months ago that said, "it didn't matter about right or wrong, it only matters that we all get along." I don't know about this person's background, but just look at students when they start college and then look at their worldview after four or more years of government schooling. We have a paradigm shift from the Bible to Relativism, "if it feels good or seems good, it must be right." *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 NASB)*

~Authority of the Scriptures~

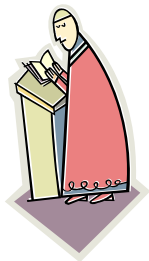
Jesus taught that truth is rooted in the authority of the scriptures, which have been tested, reflected upon, and debated for over two thousand years. Truth is not a personal preference, Truth is person. And that person is Jesus Christ. If you sincerely want to know more about Christ, read your Bible.

God gave us this commandment from the Old Testament; *And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, (Deuteronomy 11:13 KJV)*



Christianity believes it has the only truth! As born-again Christians, we believe this because the Bible says so and Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life!"* (John

14:6) With these words Jesus conveyed to His followers that he was the Truth. Jesus also said, *"There are the scriptures that testify about me."* (John 5:39) "We are to put our trust and faith only in Jesus Christ and His Word!"



~Preaching the Word~

I came across an article by Coach Dave Daubenmire¹ some time back on seven reasons why the preaching of the Word is so important? I wanted to share these reasons with you today.

1- The Word restores the authority of God into the lives of people.

Whenever anything is substituted for the Word, God's authority over souls is usurped. (To take over or occupy without rights) The Word feeds God's people. *So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." He *said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do*

¹ Coach Dave Daubenmire – In 1999 Coach Daubenmire was sued by the ACLU for praying with his teams while coaching high school in Ohio. He now spends his energy fighting for Christian principles in the public domain.

*you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep. (John 21:15-17 NASB)*

When Christ said; "Tend My Sheep" he didn't mean for Peter to give His people some other Gospel. It was the true Gospel he wanted Peter to deliver.

2- The Word reinforces Jesus as the ultimate authority in the church.

Jesus came to deliver us from evil. The famine of the Word has filled the church with false converts. Amos preaches about this; *"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD. "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find it. (Amos 8:11-12 NASB)*

3- The Word allows the Holy Spirit to do His work.

God's Word will not come back void! No one comes to the Father unless the Spirit comes from Him. The Spirit rides on the Word, not the opinions of feeble men. *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. (John 6:44 NASB)*

4- Preaching of the Word develops the mind of Christ.

For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16 NASB)

Quoted from the book of Isaiah 40:13. Paul added to the end of verse, "But we have the mind of Christ," meaning - The views, feelings, and temper of Christ.



We are influenced by His Spirit. America's pulpits have become so concerned with being "relevant to the culture" that they have permitted the leaven of the world to pollute the incorruptible Word of God. The church has made a paradigm shift to being like the world and not being like

Christ.

5- The Word allows the voice of God to be heard on the moral issues of the day.

The Word of God is what keeps the nation on course. So is it any wonder that there is so much confusion about what the Bible teaches regarding



homosexuality, marriage, and abortion? Remove the reading, teaching, and preaching of God's Word and we are shipwrecked in a world of sin. Paul in a letter to Timothy says: *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.* (2 Timothy 4:2 NASB) Concerning the moral

issues of the day Paul said; *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* (1 Corinthians 2:2 NASB)

6- The Word introduces people to their One True source of help.

Failure to preach the Word robs us of the ability to submit to Divine Authority. Focusing on the "felt needs" of those in the pew created a self-centered Christianity. The result of this "happiness-preaching" is the elevation of the needs of man above the will of God. In other word, "Divorce becomes justified if it makes one happy." The writer of Hebrews says; *For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.* (Hebrews 5:13-14 NASB)

7- The Word brings true repentance and conversion.



Sin is soul-sickness and just like any sickness it requires a cure. Failure to preach the truth of sin prevents the diagnosis of life's problems from ever being exposed. Would you seek a Savior if you knew you didn't need one? Those in the Church are seeking the same thing the pagans

seek.....and they think Jesus will help them get it. Paul writes in Romans;

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16 NASB) Paul goes on to say; "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. (Galatians 2:20 NASB)

“It’s important that we keep the main thing, the main thing. Jesus Christ.”

“Preach the Word, The Bible, anything else is junk food.”



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things. This article as well as many other messages can be found at www.deweyfox.com and click on Christianity.

May 24, 2008

Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

NOTE: Marsha West, Betty Freauf, Dave Daubenmire, Paul Proctor, and Beverly Eakman of www.newswithviews.com articles were used in part in this message.