

***The Jeremiah Connection***  
**Excerpt 1**  
**From INTRODUCTION**  
**CHRISTIAN MEANS “OF CHRIST”**  
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The responsibility of the Church in a lost America is in proportion to America’s “lostness.” If the sinfulness of our overall society is great, so must the Church be greater still in its stand against sin. The needs in this spiritual war are indeed great in modern society, greater than at any point in history.

But even Jesus said the laborers are few, and Paul said there would be a falling away in the last days, that Jane and Joe Christian would seek out teachers (ministers, pastors, preachers) who would give them a conscience-clearing, although not heart-purifying message. They would seek to be entertained amongst those who justify their desire to be “of the world” and delude themselves that they are getting away with it before a holy God.

When man’s “need” for quick fixes, “feel good” highs, catchy programs and entertainment overshadows his spirit’s need for rebirth and a turning of his desires towards what is true in Christ, I believe he is on shaky ground to dare call what he is involved in “Christianity.” As the ears in the pews hear what they want to hear, and the pastor is fine with that, and the American Idol spirit of the church “band” is allowed to run free and drown out the Holy Spirit, we are all on shaky ground if we dare not speak against it.

The Church (that is, capital “C,” the remnant, true Church of God) is finding itself at war with the churches. It is not something that has never happened before, but never before on such an enormous scale.

Oh, if “churchgoers” only understood the seriousness and necessity of a life wholly consecrated to God. To inform the average person of the consequences of not

purifying the self is to preach our way into ridicule. (Take heart – we're in good company with Jesus, Paul, Jeremiah and the other prophets and disciples.) But to inform the average "churchgoer" of the consequences, and to call upon them to realize the spiritual truths they are missing by catering to the modern ideas of "church" puts us on the outside of the church building. The doors will be boarded up and we'll see our faces in a red circle with a line going through them.

Can you imagine a nobody like yours truly (I went to college for one semester only, thereby relinquishing any respect from anyone who went for two or more) mentioning to a pastor with his man-dispensed degrees and years of "Christian" theory attained in the realm of head knowledge that his church may be just a tad – when weighed against the biblical model – lacking in what a lost world needs to know of its God? That maybe his programs and pomp are hindering, not aiding, the spiritual growth of his flock?

By "know," I mean know in the heart, not the head. There is plenty of knowing in the head that, instead of building a person's character, kills it. Only a life born of the Spirit and walking in God's love and grace is a life worth living and a life which has anything to offer another soul.

America, like ancient Judah in the days of the prophet Jeremiah, is swimming in the consequential vomit of its sought after and chosen, sin-laden, depraved way of life. The Church is called to rise up and fight this spiritual war against the powers of darkness pressing America to love sin, and in spirit and truth take a stand for righteousness only found in Christ and the ways of a holy God.

But the enticements of modern worldly offerings are proven too great even for God's people. The churches now fit the mold of the world, when the world is called by God to change in heart to fit the mold of, and belong to, His

Church. But there is too much fun to be had in the building. There is too much money to be made from the world. There are just too many sitcoms and ballgames to choose from on TV. And didn't you know, the archaic message of the Gospel accompanied by the power in the Holy Spirit just doesn't do the job anymore? Why, God needs to take a lesson from modern man!

Do we really have any idea what our "Emerging" and "Purpose Driven" churches are screaming towards heaven? What do we say when we cause the Holy Spirit of God to drown in the earthly muck that we choose?

Sit back, Old Man, and let the powerless infants calling themselves by the name of Christ bring in the masses with amusement-oriented programs, false teachers, soft gospel and hype-stirring "prophets." Repentance? Yeah, it's somewhere in the Bible. We've got it under control. A few words of scripture every week introduced by a rock band that learned everything it knows from MTV, and we're on our way. Jesus is cool. He's down with these things we're into. This is church, baby!

Audacity in the sight of a righteous and holy God is crowding the door of heaven, but it will not be allowed in. Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" is going to get past the gate. This may be "church" as defined by modernity, but this has nothing to do with the Church, God's true and holy people we are called to be of.

The problem is not just that America in its own right is going "down the porcelain tube," to use a phrase one of my mentors uses when discussing the present plight of our society. It is that the Church is going along in step with everyone else instead of being the light in their darkness we are called to be! How much more will those who profess the name of Christ be judged than those who simply never wanted anything to do with Him? Brother and sister, if we say "Christian," we better mean it. "Christian" means "of Christ."