

Howards Corner

The Methodist Church's Corner

While I have been writing Howards Corner publication, I have been observing the implosion of the Methodist denomination. This is no surprise to me for I have known for a long time that it had to happen at some time for the word of God is not preached in the pulpit and has not been for a very long time. I know because I have been in the Methodist Church for 65+ years and am a first-hand witness to what has been going on. I lived with it for a long time but thought I needed to stay to try and reach the church members with the real word, but I was not able to see any change. I could think that it was a wasted 48 years but then the Lord reminded me that it was His plan because if I had left, I would not have seen what I needed to see to be able to write what I am writing today.

Maybe It was my fault for not being able to convince them but after writing to a small number of fellow church members for about 4 years I finally realized that it was not possible to reach this church or the denomination because their eyes were blinded by pride in churchism—pride in John Wesley and pride in being a methodist but would not back away and start over with a fresh reading of the word of God. I wrote invitations to many others but no takers. They were comfortable with the deadness of Methodism and refused to read what I have written and what I will write in the future. I also invited all the pastors of the church, but none wanted to read. I guess I am just a pion with no understanding because I did not graduate from their cemeteries of confused learning.

Well now the Methodist church is in a corner. You have painted yourself in this corner because of your pride in yourself and your church and in a long-ago John Wesley. I do not blame John Wesley for he repented and was filled with the Holy Spirit and was empowered by the holy Spirit to preach the gospel to the everyday people in the streets and mining towns and for his efforts was **not** allowed to preach in those stuffy formal Anglican churches of that day. So why do I feel like John Wesley for I have been filled with the Holy Spirit and have tried to reach you, but you are too busy trying to reach the sophisticated and socially acceptable people and to please the world's way of thinking and have not bent your knees to

Jesus. Do you give Him lip service but that is as far as it goes? Is it genuine humbleness of your spirit?

After that you can say the Lord's Prayer until Jesus returns but it will do no good for you have refused to preach His word but instead are preaching your dead words. Individuals may listen, repent, and change but for the Methodist church organization it does not look good at all. Once an organization has made such a stance it is almost impossible to change because there is no leader to make the change and errors upon errors have compounded to the point of no return. I think you might call that in-breeding.

I read recently that the new Global Methodist church is organizing and recruiting United Methodists to join them. I was interested to see if they had recognized their error and had corrected those errors with the formation of this "New Methodist Church." So, I went to their website to see what they had to say. I looked at what had changed. They did do some house cleaning to control the bishop's power and to put some safeguard in place. Some things were changed about the ownership of property.

I read their version of the "Discipline", but I see no change. In fact, it is still written in "old English" which I had trouble even understanding and had trouble understanding if it had addressed an age-old problem of "Replacement Theology" but did not see it addressed. I tried to determine if the book of Daniel was recognized and the book of Ezeikel was included in their approved books of the bible. I was not sure because the language is "Old English" which is not spoken today. You would think that starting a new denomination you would at least rewrite the "Discipline" in modern language or do away with it because we already have the bible --which we do not read-- and correctly divide the word of truth and use the bible to interpret the bible and not man's concepts.

I Have been in the United Methodist church long enough to know that Daniel is not preached and understood because you cannot believe the book of Daniel and preach Replacement theology. The church has not replaced Israel in God's plan. There will be a nation Israel and it has already begun. It will not be totally fulfilled until Christ's second coming and the "Nation" of Israel accepts Jesus as their Messiah which you will find in many places in the Old Testament. The only Daniel I ever heard preached in the Methodist church is Daniel in the Lion's den and the

three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. The Important parts of Daniel were never taught and understood because it denies any possibility of replacement theology and therefore puts in serious question all the spiritualized interpretations of Old Testament writings. You cannot spiritualize away the first and plain meaning of a future blessing of Israel, and we have accepted these blessings to be upon the church and not on Israel. Rightly divide the word of truth!

So, I left the website realizing that nothing of value had been changed but was just a matter of moving the deck chairs around on the Titanic. The ship is still sinking and moving the deck chairs around will not save the Methodist thinking church. So, the Methodist church however you define it has indeed painted itself into a corner with no way out.

If you stay with the United Methodist church all the major errors of doctrine still exist plus now add on the catering to the world's ways which has grown to such evil proportions that there is no common sense any longer. The reason this church is where it is goes back to the first part of the 1900s. A major change of direction was made to put evangelism on the back burner and focus on a social gospel and when that happened the church thought it could change the world and that the church would then grow to fill the earth with eutopia. How are you doing? It is my observation that evil is growing and not eutopia!

The one thing missed however is man's sin nature. You can try to fix the world, but other problems will be developed by man's sin nature. So, when you removed the real "Gospel of salvation by grace through faith" and teach another gospel which is no gospel at all you have taken God out of the picture. You must address the sin nature of men first. Which means Jesus must be the primary focus of the church and that by introducing the world to the gospel of Jesus Christ and His kingdom, hearts can be changed, and righteousness will have a chance to grow.

One basic thing to remember is that sin has its own built-in consequences so if nations or peoples are living in sin there will be consequences. Whole countries are awash in sin and have led to demonic spiritual forces bringing about disaster after disaster (Hatti-Cuba area and India &etc.) so the people you are trying to help unless you change the evil power that controls them cannot be permanently helped. There is only one source available to combat those powers and it is the gospel of Jesus Christ preached with the power of the Holy Spirit. These sins are

personal sins and when enough turn from God and reject the message of salvation by grace the whole country starts to see the consequences of collective sin. Such is the case in America today. We are at a tipping point where most have left God and the message of salvation of Jesus Christ is no longer the prevailing power.

I lay this move, away from Jesus and His word, at the feet of today's churches. It is not just the Methodist church but is also many others that have watered down the word of God and preach something that is pleasing to man's ear. There is no word of conviction preached so the world is put to sleep and does not see their destruction and their only way of salvation because it has not been preached.

So, I see no hope for the Methodist churches of today. (Has Jesus taken away your lampstand?) If you stay in the present UMC or go to Global Methodist Church or to some other brand or separate yourselves as independent churches, then you must address the basic questions. Do I believe God and His word, and do I trust what He has recorded in the bible rightly divided by the power of the Holy Spirit? Do I still worship John Wesley and what I hear called "the Wesleyan way" (whatever that means) or have I finally understood there is only one way and that is Jesus' way? You must be born again into Jesus' way which is the real "Kingdom of God.

I do not see any way that the whole of Methodism can make these changes, but individuals can. One heart at a time can be baptized in His Spirit and become free in Christ Jesus. Pretense will not get you there –only true repentance and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ can deliver you.

So, if you are still in the Methodist church or new versions, I see no other choice for you but to leave because I see none searching today for the truthful way in the methodist organization but instead the apostate church is in full bloom. You have painted yourself into a corner and I do not think there is enough paint remover in this world to get you out of that corner.

I of course could be wrong but what I see today is the fulfillment of the falling away and the apostate church and it is many churches and not just Methodism. The times of the end are approaching rapidly because Israel is back in the land, and the decline of churches and the moral decay of today are signs of the times which we should have sense enough to read. It remains true –the path is narrow that leads to eternal life. It looks like there are many on the broad path and that leads to destruction.

Make your choice today. The narrow path may be rough at times, but it is well worth the struggle!

Howard