

February 23, 2009

TURN A CORNER!

I wrote a piece twenty years ago which Ray said was negative, so it was never used. It's certainly still negative but more true than ever. Ray, do you really mind if I use it? –

The unforgivable sin in much of Christianity today, as we observe it in our ministries, is the sin of being boring!

Believers want both content and hype – but if they must choose, forget the content and give them hype. So Christian music is less a vehicle to bring us truth, and more a vehicle to bring us emotion. Preaching is less exposing the pages of the Word, and more entertainment and story-telling. “Worship” is less revealing and admiring God, and more intense fervor for fervor's sake.

The acceptable responses to all this are a few halleluia-phrases repeated over and over – lazy reflexes which take no creative thought or energy toward God at all.

What is God's response? Maybe *He's* bored with *us!* Worse, maybe He's grieved. We tend to think that red-hot Christianity is clapping to rhythmic music; He says it's life-long faithfulness to the wife of your youth, honest buying and selling, humility, gentleness, purity, submission to authorities, unity in the church, devotion to prayer and the Scriptures, love.

All we like sheep have gone astray.

How do we turn back? Shouldn't we individually repent? And shouldn't we pray for the crowdsayers, that they will repent and lead us to prayer, to the Word, and to a holy life?

Pray for those Christian leaders who need – as we do so desperately – to turn a corner!