

August 18, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

October, 2003, *Christianity Today* had in it an editorial that made our hearts leap.

It said that evangelical Christianity is getting softer and softer. We "born-again ones" are becoming increasingly more oriented to our surrounding culture and less to the courageous, robust heritage of our biblical faith.

C.T. went on,

"That heritage includes Bible Study that moves beyond personal encouragement to learning about God and his demanding vision for both individuals and society. This means reading the whole Bible and reading it on its own terms-- not through the lens of the psychology of self-esteem."

Memorize the books of the Bible! Start reading it through from Genesis to Revelation! Wise up to reality! Get thrilled, motivated, deeper and tougher! "We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts" (1 Th. 2:4). "No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-- he wants to please his commanding officer" (2 Ti. 2:4).

Today's evangelicalism has created an ethic of tolerance and niceness. Our personal witnessing is timid for fear of offending anyone. We are toothless tigers! And *C.T.* wrote that "Bible study has been so personalized as to effectively block its implications for radical social transformation."

Paul wrote with tears that many leading Christian voices of his day were actually "enemies of the cross" (Php. 3:18). And so it is today: they lure people onto a religious path that has no strings attached.

Friend, heed the Lord's clear warnings:

"[A man] will die for lack of discipline" (Pr. 5:23).

"[Grace] teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Ti. 2:12).

Football players are told to "get tough," and "they do it to get a crown that will not last" (1 Co. 9:25).

But you, believer? "Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called" (1 Ti. 6:12).

Turn a corner!