Are We in the Last Days of the Church age? Part 2

By Charles Feinberg

Here is one leader who tells us the church must meet four important [inaudible] demands if it is to survive in the new day in America. He’s failed to make clear a few important points: he didn't state what church. The true church of which Christ is head will survive for according to Christ’s own words the gates of hades shall not prevail against it. He didn't define either what he meant by the new day in America. If he means the present with its low morals its low standards on every hand, it's highly questionable how much influence the church as an organization as such can have on these conditions but he goes on to tell us it must be able to change to live in a world of intellectual inquiry. The scientific world answering the test of science. My dear friends there’s nothing more ludicrous nothing more tragic, what tragic comedy we have when the world [inaudible] to science whether right or wrong. Whenever she [inaudible] to science she always loses ground. Why the waste baskets of science and if science labs are full, the bible has never had to discard any of its definite pronouncements, any of its positive statements. Why should the church [inaudible] to science? It can incorporate, it can assimilate all that is scientifically valid and proved and demonstrated. It does not have to wait until science checks out all of its theories so many of which it doesn't keep and has to throw aside.

Those churches holding to the truth of the bible, have never, I repeat they have never found themselves in disagreement with proved and approved scientific facts. Remember the bible has given science more facts than science has ever given or will give the bible. And yet they go on to
tell us the church must help create a better social order. Why the church always does this as a byproduct of redeemed lives and we ought to be concerned with the society about us because people are going to heaven ultimately does not mean they must live on a hell on earth. Oh no, no. in a world where one man is at another's throat, where race prejudice is rife. That’s not called for by God. oh my dear friends when will we get beyond the place of realizing that there’s some things in the world vastly more important than whether an individual's skin is white, or red, or black or yellow or whatever. We are never told to change society and its order or take over control of government in this age. We are told to preach the gospel unswervingly and to see that men and women live with one another in peace and amity and concern. Yes, in Christian love.

And then we are told we must recreate broken lives by human regeneration, have religion for all the world. Well if that, by that is meant that these are all to be accomplished in the Biblical sense, all is well and good. But if it’s meant here that man has got to keep a stiff upper lip to just weigh into it with his arms for the fight, with his sleeves rolled up, oh that won’t do it. If its just reliance on the arm of flesh as elsewhere till not do. Cursed is man that trusteth in man says Jeremiah and maketh flesh his arm. That will not accomplish the purpose of God in this age any more than in any other age. No. if it that’s the way of it, all is doomed to failure. Even though all is swelled up with amazing pride and man has an amazing capacity for pride, [inaudible] the middle letter in English in the word pride is the same as the middle letter in the English word for sin. Sin has 'I' in the middle. Pride has 'I' in the middle. we are told that a young medical student out of medical school, medical college, asked an older man who had been in the medical profession for close on to half a century he said in all these years of your work and of your study, what have you found to be the most remarkable thing about the human anatomy. And the older
man of medicine thought a moment and he said well I’ll tell you the most remarkable thing about the human anatomy is that if you pat it on the back, its head swells. Yes that’s man. Pride.

And all the tremendous pronouncements men are making. Especially in atheism communism will tear God down out of his heaven, he won’t remain there, he is just [inaudible] all through the centuries. My dear friends that is a lie and a devilish lie right out of the pit. Yes we know we are in the last days of the church age because of the remarkable fulfillment of the prophecies concerning lawlessness, concerning church union, not unity but church union, and the tremendous upsurge in every hand of pride. Insufferable arrogant pride.

And then what about the cults? We need to spend more time thinking along this line because it is making so many in roads into our well established churches. And as we have often remarked every time there is a new cult or a new sect a new ism or sism or asm or spasm on the church scene it’s because there are some unpaid bills of the church but let’s see about these cults. in your bible you will notice in 1 timothy 4:1, now the spirit speaketh [inaudible] by way of a figure not by way of a symbol but the spirit speaketh, the holy spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times, that’s the last days of the church age, some, not all thank God, some shall depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits. There are spirits abroad whose main objective is to seduce men and women from the truth. And doctrines of demons are there such teachings of demons? Yes. Speaking lies and hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron. Yes it’s these doctrines of demons that we find in the cults where they claim that Adam was equivalent to God and we can become equivalent to God and when statements are made that deny the place of our
lord Jesus Christ making him out to be only a man, or to be one ill begotten. Oh my friends these are doctrines of demons the Authorized Version says doctrine of devils, there’s only one devil but its doctrines of demons.

2 TIMOTHY 4: 3-4 we read this is on the matter of cults, sects, s-e-c-t-s, sects and cults, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables and then it seems to me that it’s all beautifully summed up, summarize so conclusively in 2 PETER 2:1-3 but there were false prophets also among the people even as there shall be false teachers among you who secretly shall bring in destructive heresies, there you have it destructive heresies those are the cults. And notice the three characteristics of them. Even denying the lord that bought them and bring upon themselves with destruction.

Denying the lord that bought them where did he buy us? At cavalry. Watch what they do with the death of Christ at cavalry that is all revealing. That is all disclosing as to what they really are. They deny it. They tone it down. They make little of it. they say that the blood of Christ was no more efficacious to cleanse from sin when it flowed on Calvary than when it flowed in his veins as he went about Galilee and Judea doing the fathers will. That’s denying the lord that bought them bringing upon themselves swift destruction. That’s one thing; many shall follow their pernicious way by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of their lascivious ways. They deny the truth of Calvary; they live in lasciviousness, in immorality. they're characterized by that and thirdly though covetousness shall they with feign [inaudible] make merchandise of you, they're after monetary pecuniary gain. They are in it for what they can get out of it. They’re making merchandise of the people of God. their judgement the judgement of the people like that
now for a long time lingereth not and their destruction slumbereth not in due time in other words it’s going to come and you may be sure of it why the origination of new cults in this country is nothing new.

We have a number of American made brands of religion such as Christian Science, unity, russelism [sp?], Jehovah’s witnesses, Mormonism, and others. In recent years there’s been a decided increase, you can’t miss it, a profusion of them and I have often said that when you get these cults that measure in healing it’s because the church did not teach the proper doctrine of healing. When you get folks like seventh day Adventists, another American made cult American made religion, on the back of it it says made in America. The reason we have that is because the truth, the truth of the bible on the difference between law and grace, Sabbath and the lords day, that was not taught in our churches. And so we can go on because the truth of Christ coming in the millennium because that truth was beclouded. It was not taught properly. We have millennial dawn, russelism [sp?], Jehovah’s witnesses, and because the proper doctrinal norms were not taught on the matter of marriage, we have transplanted Islam; we have transplanted Muslim faith in our country. In Mormonism there’s been a decided increase and profusion of these and more are coming on all the time. I shall never forget when we first came into the west coast area almost a quarter of a century ago, the Saturday paper of the Los Angeles Times, the issue of Saturday morning would have the different notices of the church activities for the Lords day. the next day and on it was an amazing array which you should see that has gone from one page to two, to three, to more, and you have all types not only Christian science but religious science and even Jewish science and you have the churches of mystic lore, and you have every conceivable aim. What a proliferation, what a profusion. It’s just like weeds you don't have to plant them.
They grow impossible to numerate them all. You say is that a sign of the last day of the church age? Verily it is. It’s all part of Satan’s scheme to keep men from believing the gospel. He expects to get them so confused, so perplexed that they don't know where to turn so they remain in their lost condition.

I shall never forget holding a bible conference in the city of Memphis, Tennessee. Where we use to hold conferences annually. a lady came up and said I've been interested to hear what you’ve been saying concerning bible truth but she says I don't know what to believe, and I said what’s your difficulty lady. well on one Sunday I got to such and such a place and on another Sunday I go to such and such a meeting and then a third and a fourth and a fifth. I told her my dear lady as long as you're going around in cafeteria style you aren't going to get a well-balanced meal. you better take the bible and sit down with it and ask God to lead you into the truth and where you find difficulty ask men that you know are trained in the truth and love the truth and manifest the truth in godly daily life, and you will come out of the mist and the fogs into clear daylight. Oh that so many remain as they are in their lost condition. Probably two of the more recent cults ought to be named. The one that has been headed up by father divine and the for instance the I am movement, father divine claimed to be God almighty himself. He has his heaven on the Hudson. He has his own angles and followers and if you mark his theory of government carefully, you'll find it's enunciated by the very same one as enunciated by the communistic party, although he expects to be the head of the government, put his divine party into power. He hopes to bring all the nations of the earth under his power, what he calls a righteous American government.
Who are those of the I am movement or those of the ascended master religion. It was headed by a guy W. Ballard [sp?], first a paper hanger. He says he’s earthly apostle, the only sensible law of light, great cosmic light emanating from the I am presence. He had been tried ya know for swindling various individuals in fraudulent businesses in duel prospects. He and his wife claim that by cosmic light, while they were stationed in Cleveland, uh Ohio, they had destroyed German submarines within 1000 miles from the American coast during WWII. All Westbrook peglers [sp?] said of them it seems impossible that in all history the human race has produced any more humiliated rebuke to its claims of reason and dignity than a big congregation of Americana gathers to take part in a religious cult known as the great I am. My friends as you see these errors down right heresies; they do not even begin to touch the truth of God. Is it not clear how men will someday really worship actually worship the antichrist the man as God? Oh friends when men depart form the truth, the wildest, the most fanciful trash and pifal [sp?] appears to them as the summation of wisdom.

I shall never forget some years ago when Bo Carter [sp?] spent so much of his money on that Bible in the hands of its creators. And there on one side there was some so called Hebrew texts and on the other side of the page English text. And how they tried to duplicate the virgin birth and calling Christ by an unmentionable name. And I was amazed as I read it in the public library there in Baltimore, Maryland it though how could this ever ever get out into print in a land like America. How men are prostituting the wonderful liberty of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Oh when men depart from the truth the wildest most fanciful trash and pifal [sp?]
appears to them at most idiotic position will appear to them as the summation of wisdom. What are we to think of it? Well when we think of these false teaching and cults, we are reminded of the old story from the Talmud where when falsehood slunk up to Noah in the form of a lizard and asked to be admitted in the ark, he was told only mated peers could enter. So falsehood sought out sin who consented to become a lizard and entered with him provided they should never separate and truly they never have: falsehood and sin. Of course it's just a legend, an old story from the Talmud, but these have been together throughout the centuries and they are more inseparably bound together than ever before.

My dear friends we've gone through four unmistakable, irrefutable, incontrovertible reasons why we know we are in the last days of the church age, and we could bring the final one, the fifth one, and that is the return of Israel to the land. it is preparatory to God's taking up this people themselves in Matthew 24 we read that God will yet get them from all the areas of the world he will send forth his angels and they will gather together his elect from the four corners of the earth. And don't forget some of them that are going back are believing ones as well as unbelieving ones. and we read he shall send his angels Matthew 24:31 with the great sound of the trumpet they shall gather together his elect from the four winds from one end of heaven to the other that’s in the period ahead of us which makes us realize that if we see the beginnings of it that we are so much nearer to the coming of our lord Jesus Christ for us. Yes these things were foretold not only by our lord Jesus in Matthews’s gospel but look at it. In the 11th chapter of Isaiah will have it. In the 11th chapter of Isaiah and in the 11th verse it shall come to pass that day the lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people. Who shall be left from Assyria, from Egypt, from pathros [sp?], from kush [sp?], from elim [sp?] from
shain [sp?] from Hayman, from the coastlands of the sea. [Inaudible] the outcast of Israel. He's going to gather together the dispersed from Judea to the four corners of the earth. They're coming. There's going to be a highway for the remnant of those people. They are going to be brought into the land, and God says I will settle them in their land. Even further, he says in Jeremiah 16:16 behold I will send for many fishers of the lord, and they shall fish them and after will I send for many hunters and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks, and some of them as we've realized as we've gone over there and as they've told us themselves we don't know why we've come here but they are there. God is ready to take up his dealings with Israel. This is such a clear clarying [sp?] sign that God is winding up affairs for the end of the church age. When he begins to deal with Israel, you may well know that he is beginning to put into operation his plans for earth and they are there. They are in the councils of the nations; they are talking now about expansion through their land. There is a great talk in many quarters about the rebuilding of the temple. Yes there must be a temple rebuilt in the land. There will be one during the tribulation times so that the man of sin sits there. He can't sit in a nonexistent temple in 2 Thessalonians 2. And there cannot be sacrifice. There cannot be offering as indicated in Daniel 9:27. Without a temple in which it is to be offered you see. Oh my friends the time is running out. We are in the last days of the church age.

But what shall we do then? Let’s make this message very practical, friends. Let’s drive it home to our own hearts. If we are in the last days of the church age, what shall we do? Shall we write to our senators and our legislators, our congressman, to tell them to do this that and the other. Well if it's in a cause of righteousness, we should. But that has nothing to do with the last days of the church age. first of all and foremost, we should see to it that we are in the household of
faith, that we are in the ark of safety, that we ourselves are trusting Christ as savior and nothing will take the place of a knowledge of Christ. That assures us of eternal life. I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish. We are in the last days of the church age. Time is running out, time of judgement is ahead. It is the part of wisdom to get ready and we can be ready by doing what? By seeing that we are safely securely settled in the ark of safety in the household of faith. And then if we are in the last days of the church age and we are believers, oh if the time is running out, work while it is yet day for the night cometh when no man can work. now is the time to give out tracts, now is the time to give out Christian literature, now is the time to pray for unsaved, now is the time to do godly Christian deeds, now is the time to share Christ with others, and now is the time to support works of God, institutions of learning, institutions of missions, institutions for winning the lost and training them in the things of God. this is the time as never before in the history of the world and my dear friends now is the time if we are in the last days of the church age, now is the time to issue the clarying [sp?] call to others, if you know this is true, then do not monopolize this truth, do not hold it so snuggly and monopolizingly to yourself. Be sure that you see that others get this wonderful truth as well. See that others are alerted to the fact that they must be faithful servants of the lord Jesus Christ in the last days of the church age.

Oh our friends, my friends, as we think of the last days of the church age, let’s think also of the joyous side of it. If what the bible indicates as the last days of the church age, if these are in progress now, do you know what that means? That means that our anticipation, our expectation for the two coming of our lord Jesus should be heightened and quickened. Our pulses should be revived. Our hearts should be crying out even so come Lord Jesus. His coming cannot be fought off. He that is to come will come and will not tarry. oh we're never more truly in the condition
and in the position that God delights in and God wants us to be in than when we are doing the
work of God but not only that, not only living Godly lives and doing the work of God, but when
our hearts are going out in actual yearning and saying oh come Lord Jesus to consummate thy
work, to receive thy well bought thy blood bought bride. He shall see at the avail of his soul and
be satisfied in a day, in a coming day; he will present unto himself his bride as a spotless one,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Don't you respond in a heartfelt way my beloved
friend if you're in the flock of Christ. Doesn't your heart respond, is there a responsive chord
there, when you think of his coming again, do you remember when dad was gone on a trip and
you knew he was coming back, oh what joy. Or a loved one ora bridegroom, oh yes how the
bride awaits the time when the bridegroom who went off I’ll be coming back. Wait for me. Why
every day on the calendar is marked out until there are less and less and less days course we do
not know the actual date but we know it grows nearer, and as has been indicated, one can almost
hear the footsteps of the coming savior. We are to be looking up for him. We are to be waiting
for the grand and glorious shout and with the apostle john we can do no better than to say even
so come lord Jesus. My friend do you study prophesy because you just want to be more
instructed, more trained, more conversant, more versed in prophetic things? Oh that’s a worthy
motive not the most worthy of all but to study it, to find out what to do to be ready, to be
anticipating, to be on the tip toe of expectation for the lord Jesus Christ that is the most
marvelous thing of all. oh friend will you ask as we have this concluding word of prayer, will
you ask God to make these truths so real in your life so that prophesy, this kind of prophetic truth
will have a tremendous impact on your own life, on your own service, on your own hearts
anticipating of the coming again of our lord Jesus Christ. yes, we are in the last days of the
church age, and in the light of it, we are to live, we are to work, we are to expect exactly what the scriptures tells us.

Our god and our father, how we thank thee that as the world looks on toward darkness, we can look on to the day start until it rises in our hearts. And yet how can we go on unconcerned about the awful loss condition of the world round about us. lord may we see that things are right in our own spiritual households, in our own heart, in the inner recesses in our own spirits, and then may we see that we serve the [inaudible] that we serve thee diligently, circumspectly, walking before men that are without bringing credit and not discredit, gracing the grace that saved and not disgracing the grace that saved us, and then oh to be looking to belonging to have our eyes be uplifted to be looking up as men and women who are waiting for their lord. the condition of our hearts should be even that of the disciples there in acts 1 not just standing and gazing into heaven, but doing our activity, but our herts ever gazing away, looking up, looking away until our beloved [inaudible] come and say come away where the shadows are no more, and sorrow and sighing and tears have fled away, granted our God, even so come lord Jesus in his precious, blessed holy name we pray with thanksgiving, amen, amen.