



"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." Hab. 2:1

May 20, 2011

My Crowd

(Every once in a while I read or hear a clear statement of truth that really resonates with my spirit. Bro. David Cloud sent the following description of the fellowship he loves and seeks. I say, "AMEN, that's my crowd, too." Bro. Buddy Smith)

"As for fellowship and association, I want a crowd today that is willing to raise the flag against compromise and apostasy high without hesitation -- publicly, clearly, being willing to name the names of those who are leading in the compromise --without speaking out of both sides of the mouth, without facing two ways. I want a crowd that doesn't just give lip service to the fact of growing compromise among IB churches but that warns plainly of such compromise and distances themselves from it in real, practical ways. I want a crowd that not only preaches against Christian rock but also doesn't hold hands with those who use it. I want a crowd that really hates the quick prayerism that has given multitudes of unconverted hell-bound sinners "assurance of salvation" and wants to distance themselves from those who practice it, not making excuses for it and not giving mere lip service to the importance of repentance. I want a crowd that knows that Jack Hyles built a man-centered cult and not a New Testament church, a crowd that plainly, unhesitatingly, publicly exposes Jerry Falwell for the dangerous compromiser that he was instead of speaking sympathetically of him and only haltingly, vaguely mentioning his errors. I want a crowd that wouldn't dream of sending staff members to Saddleback conferences or youth groups to Dollywood. I want a crowd that understands that the very essence of New Evangelicalism is trimming one's message down to the "essentials" for the sake of any sort of broader unity or fellowship, even for evangelism and world missions. I want a crowd where a serious teaching-warning ministry like Way of Life is welcome and appreciated. Yes, I want a crowd that doesn't take cheap shots at warning ministries. And I thank the Lord that there is still a "crowd" like this among IBaptists, though it is definitely in the minority." (Friday Church News Notes, May 13 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

Table of Contents -

[Spurgeon On Compromise](#) –
[Informative Links Methinks](#) -
[Who Do We Preach?](#) -
[Poems That Preach](#) -
[Quotable Notes and Notable Quotes](#) -
[Evolution At Evangelical College](#) -
[Therapy For The Funny Bone](#) -
[Life - More Complicated Than We Can Imagine](#) -
[Cartoons for Wise Men](#) -
[Lazy Christians Love Simple Equations](#) -
[Did I Hear Someone Say That Some Churches Are Using CCM?](#) -
[Eddy-Torial](#) -

Spurgeon On Compromise –

“Neither when we have chosen our way can we keep company with those who go the other way. There must come with decision for truth a corresponding protest against error.” *The Sword and the Trowel* September 1887.

*“Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it...Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin...That I might not stultify my testimony I have cut myself clear of those who err from the faith, and even from those who associate with them.” *The Sword and the Trowel*.*

*“There are many that are deceived by this method of reasoning. They remain where their conscience tells them they ought not to be, because, they say, they are more useful than they would be if they went 'without the camp.' This doing evil that good may come, can never be tolerated by an enlightened conscience. If an act of sin would increase my usefulness tenfold, I have no right to do it; and if an act of righteousness would appear likely to destroy all my apparent usefulness, I am yet to do it. It is yours and mine to do the right though the heavens fall, and follow the command of Christ whatever the consequences may be.” *C.H.S., Sermons, 37, p. 426.**

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Informative Links, Methinks -

If you own a dog, or wish you owned a dog and don't, you need to see this:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGeKSICQkPw>

There is an increasing groundswell of opinion against a carbon (dioxide) tax here in Australia. One of the groups that is gathering momentum is this one. I do not encourage people to join anything other than a good Bible preaching church, but if you like to be kept informed, you may want to look at this site:

http://www.galileomovement.com.au/galileo_movement.php

A new video of Japan's recent tsunami, from a Japanese person. You can hear the others talking excitedly as they watch the tsunami wreak havoc as it comes closer and closer. I think you'll appreciate the disaster more as you get a more personal view:

<http://sg.news.yahoo.com/dramatic-video-japan-tsunami-viral-video-20110417-074110-955.html>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Who Do We Preach?

by Daniel Kriss

2 Corinthians 4:5 'For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord'

After a full life of ministry, the fifty year old Charles Spurgeon writes, 'Souls by hundreds come to faith in Jesus under a ministry which sets Him forth clearly and constantly. Few remain unbelieving under a preacher whose great subject is Christ crucified. Hear no minister of any other sort.'

A survey of the content of preaching in this day and age would yield the sad results that the verse above has been inverted and reads: 'For we preach ourselves, but NOT Christ Jesus the Lord.'

The church, for whom Christ died, seems for the most part, to leave Him entirely out of the messages they proclaim. The Lord Jesus has become an inconvenience not dissimilar to those merchants, whose swine were lost over the precipice, in exchange for the demoniac's salvation.

They bid him depart from their coasts because he inconvenienced their business endeavours.

Sadly we see that Jesus has become too controversial as a person, too divisive as a teacher and too confrontational in His views.

Today our church leaders, pastors and preachers have exchanged the deep doctrines of Christ for a weak, watered down gospel message which pivots on a psychological appeal. It seems, for the most part, that the days are gone where the man of God mounts the pulpit with one purpose of heart, and that is the exaltation of Christ and the Words of Life. The average pastor is more concerned with the politics of the church than the person of Christ.

More consumed is he with the finances and the building projects, than with turning his congregation's attention to the person, life, work and example of Christ. Dear friend, have we forgotten the purpose of our sanctification; 'to be conformed to the image of His Son.'

Perhaps you wonder why the lost are not being rescued and it seems as though your evangelistic endeavours are in vain. Have you made much of Christ? Have you with John the Baptist boldly stated that 'He must increase, but I must decrease'? Is the Christ of Calvary real to you or are you chained to the prison of religiosity? What is the message of your ministry? For many, the content of their life's message is entirely immersed in personal achievements, financial prospects and worldly attainments. But what of Christ? The saint, like a trumpeter, is to announce the coming of the King of glory with power and gusto,

but many of God's heralds have muted their instruments and their preaching is reduced to a whisper of sound.

Dear preacher we must be very careful to maintain a right focus in our preaching and in our ministry.

We cannot afford a moment's glance at this world, for if we get a taste of the well watered plains we will soon be dwelling inside the very gates of Sodom and worst of all, we will lead others to this vile place.

At the risk of offence, I must urge upon you the need to take serious inventory of your preaching. Do you still announce your topic and then make a beeline for the cross? Does the dullest of passages come alive as you lead your people to the life of Christ? Have we got sloppy in our message preparation and therefore leave no lingering application for our people to digest? Our land is in a spiritual drought and our people MUST be led to the water of the Word that they might be cleansed of the filthiness of this world. Our land is in a spiritual famine and it is the responsibility of God's servant to prepare a hearty meal to satisfy the hungering soul. Let us feast on Christ!

Amos 8:11 *'Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.'*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Poems That Preach -

He Has No Enemies

He has no enemies, you say?
My friend, the boast is poor:
For He who's mingled in the fray
Of duty that the brave endure,
Must have made foes.

For if he has none,
Small is the work that he's done.
He's bit no traitor on the hip,
He's cast no cup from perjured lip.
He's opposed no traitor's stand;
He's rescued none from Satan's hand!
He's never turned the wrong to right!
He's been a coward in the fight!

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Quotable Notes And Notable Quotes –

- * “They go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent.” - By Winston Churchill (spoken of the indecisive nations before WWII)
- * John Chrysostom said this of prayer: “The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire, it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest; extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all sufficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by the clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.”
- * The next time you read the text, “The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up,” and consider the Lord Jesus Christ cleansing the temple, you should ponder this quote: “Zeal will make a man hate everything which God hates, and long to sweep it from the face of the earth” (J.C. Ryle, 1816-1900).
- * God has been replaced, as He has all over the West, with respectability and airconditioning. - Everett LeRoi Jones.
- * There is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies. - Winston Churchill.
- * The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried. – G K Chesterson.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Evolution At “Evangelical” Calvin College

(Friday Church News Notes, February 25, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org)

The following is excerpted from “False Teaching Rife at Calvin College,” Around the World with Ken Ham, Feb. 17, 2011:

“More and more people are finding out what is really being taught at Calvin College in Michigan. For instance, Dan Harlow is professor of biblical and early Jewish studies in the Department of Religion at Calvin College. In a recent paper, he stated the following: ‘Recent research in molecular biology, primatology, sociobiology, and phylogenetics indicates that the species *Homo sapiens* cannot be traced back to a single pair of individuals, and that the earliest human beings did not come on the scene in anything like paradisaical physical or moral conditions. It is therefore difficult to read Genesis 1-3 as a factual account of human origins. In current Christian thinking about Adam and Eve, several scenarios are on offer. The most compelling one regards Adam and Eve as strictly literary figures--characters in a divinely inspired story about the imagined past that intends to teach theological, not historical, truths about God, creation, and humanity...’ (Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith, Vol. 62, No. 3, Sept. 2010).

In response to feedback the college has received about what this professor believes and teaches (and he is just one of many with compromising beliefs at this 'Christian' college), the office of the President of Calvin College stated the following:

'What does Calvin College teach about evolutionary biology? Calvin affirms that the one true God is the creator and designer of the universe. ... the department also accepts the biological theory of evolution (descent with modification over time) to be the best explanation for understanding the commonality and diversity seen among all living creatures on earth...' If there is no literal Adam and Eve, no literal Fall, then there is no origin of sin and no need of a Savior. The false teaching of Calvin is destructive to biblical authority and the gospel."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Therapy For The Funny Bone -

Wednesday was my 67th birthday! I read a joke the other day that goes like this:

"My wife asked me what I wanted for my birthday and I told her I want something that goes from zero to two hundred in less than ten seconds.

So what did she buy me?

A set of bathroom scales.

"Don't Play Chicken with Integrity"

A woman went into a butcher shop to buy a fresh chicken for a dinner she was hosting. The worker went to the iced down barrel behind the counter, and pulled out the only one left. He weighed it and told the woman the weight. She then said she needed a little heavier one. The worker took the chicken, replaced it in the barrel and ran his hand around inside the barrel as though he was trying to decide which one to show her. He took the one chicken out of the barrel and told the customer that this one was a little larger than the one he had shown her. So then the customer said, "I'll take them both!"

Little Larry's kindergarten class went on a field trip to the local police station where they saw photos of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the kids pointed to a picture and asked, "Is that really him?"

"Yes," said the policeman. "And we want to catch him pretty bad."

Larry asked, "So why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?"

On holiday recently in Spain I saw a sign that said "English speaking Doctor" I thought, "What a good idea, why don't we have them in our country?"

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Life: More Complicated Than We Can Imagine

by Frank Sherwin, M.A.

Organic life is the antithesis of simplicity. Theologians, science historians, philosophers, scientists, and science writers have struggled through the decades to carve out a good definition of this cryptic term, but a lucid definition of life continues to evade even the brightest minds. However one describes it, life truly is complex. An excellent example of how intricate life can be is found in the genome (the total genetic makeup of an organism or cell). In 1990, the ambitious Human Genome Project was initiated to identify and map the genes (DNA) of the human genome. A recent *Nature* article stated: “We fooled ourselves into thinking the [human] genome was going to be a transparent blueprint, but it’s not,” says Mel Greaves, a cell biologist at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, UK. Instead, as sequencing and other new technologies spew forth data, the complexity of biology has seemed to grow by orders of magnitude.

In regard to genome complexity, biologist Remo Rohs and his colleagues wrote: Genomes are composed of both protein-coding and nonprotein-coding DNA sequences. Cells have the remarkable ability to decipher the information that is incorporated in both types of sequences. Biologists, on the other hand, are currently unable to do what the cell does—to interpret nonprotein-coding DNA sequences.

There are two domains within the “superkingdom” prokaryotes: the bacteria and the archaea (which resemble bacteria but have certain differences, such as the composition of their cell walls). Science has shown how naive the long-held assumption of “simple bacteria” is. Indeed, there is nothing simple about these tiny prokaryotes. A decade ago, *ICR* published an article outlining bacterial complexity. Not surprisingly, bacteria and other single-cell microbes continue to amaze biologists. A recent article in *Microbe* quoted naturalist (and outspoken anti-creationist) Edward O. Wilson as saying: Ten billion bacteria live in a gram of ordinary soil....I need venture no farther than ten paces outside my laboratory building. The jaguars, ants and the orchids would still occupy distant forests in all their splendor, but now they would be joined by an even stranger and vastly more complex living world virtually without end.⁴

The article’s authors exclaimed: We are just beginning to get a glimpse of how extremely complex the microbial world really is! Just attempting to tabulate the number of species present in any given location reveals this remarkable complexity.

They are correct. The microbial world is “extremely complex.” Two German scientists said in regard to intracellular signaling in bacteria: Despite the apparent simplicity of the basic signaling mechanisms, signal processing in bacteria can show a large degree of complexity. The magnitude of internal and external stimuli means that behavioral decisions must involve cross-regulation between individual sensory systems. At the same time, individual signals have to be insulated against unspecific cross talk to preserve the specificity of input-output relations.

In the face of such enormous complexity, secular scientists must engage in “just-so” accounts of its origins. In regard to how bacteria respond to the vast assortment of environmental signals, six evolutionists said, “A wide range of signal perception modes have evolved.” This explains nothing. Neither does stating that membrane pores (channels) in microbes “have evolved to be usually closed (in an occluded conformation).” Scientists have never observed signal perception modes “evolving” or membrane channels “evolving” to be

usually closed. Creationists maintain that the detailed conditions required for their very existence (life) were created “in the beginning.”

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Cartoons For Wise Men -

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Lazy Christians Love Simple Equations

“ $1+1=2$.”

That’s what we like. Anything more complex than that requires too much thought. When we read the story of Elkanah, Hannah, and Samuel, we would like it to be ever so simple, like this:

“Boy meets girl. Boy falls in love with girl. Boy marries girl. Boy and girl have six children. They all live close to grandma so she can babysit the kids, and boy, girl, kids, and grandma all live happily ever after.” All very simple.

God’s equations are not that simple.

We read in the Bible God’s equations for blessing his people, and we find them to be incredibly complex and painful to work through. Hannah is barren; Peninah torments her; Hannah grieves and prays a tearful prayer to God, vowing to give to God her firstborn son.

Eli falsely accuses her of drunkenness and then blesses her when he finds he is mistaken. Hannah bears a son, and she gives him to God, and though the priesthood of Eli and his sons collapses, and Shiloh is deserted for years, and the ark is stored away, the nation is blest through Samuel because God’s equation for blessing was complex and painful.....and perfect.

If it had been simple ($1+1=2$) there would have never been any tears, never a vow, and never a Samuel to preserve Israel.”

Buddy Smith

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Did I Hear Someone Say That Some Churches Are Using CCM?

“**W**hen the standard of music is lowered, then the standard of dress is also lowered. When the standard of dress is lowered, then the standard of conduct is also lowered. When the standard of conduct is

lowered, then the sense of value in God's truth is lowered" (Evangelist Gordon Sears, Songfest newsletter, April 2001).

"If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards" (Dr. Frank Garlock, Bob Jones University, chapel, March 12, 2001).

"Perhaps nothing precipitates a slide toward New Evangelicalism more than the introduction of Contemporary Christian Music. This inevitably leads toward a gradual slide in other areas as well until the entire church is infiltrated by ideas and programs alien to the original position of the church" (Dr. Ernest Pickering, *The Tragedy of Compromise: The Origin and Impact of the New Evangelicalism*, Bob Jones University Press, 1994).

"Good fundamental Baptists and others that refuse the teachings of the charismatic crowd concerning tongues, signs, miracles, and so forth are now singing their music in our churches and preparing our people for the world, the flesh and the Devil. It is the new Trojan Horse move ... to deaden our churches to spiritual truth" (Victor Sears, *Baptist Bible Tribune*, 1981).

"No one should deny the power of music to proselytize! Pastors in particular must defend their flocks from false teaching, heresies and 'ear ticklers' who bring worldly sensuality into the congregation; you are right to point out how easily this comes into a church through worship music. It seems wiser to decline the use of what seems to be a perfectly good song, rather than to give any honor and hint of endorsement to the composer and his/her mission" (e-mail from Dan Lucarini, May 24, 2009).

"A hymnal is very different than the contemporary 'song of the month.' We have the benefit of relying on the wisdom of godly men who very carefully assembled the hymnal. No hymnal is perfect, of course, but we know we can trust the vast majority of selections to support our doctrine without the need to examine each song and composer. The pastor who today claims that he will rigorously examine every CWM song before allowing its use takes on a terrible burden that will detract from his time preparing messages, discipling, and doing the work of an evangelist. I think that pastor means well but he is a fool to believe he can control CWM. No, practically speaking he will delegate this to a worship leader who is hardly qualified to defend the faith and the flock. This is the confession of a former worship leader!" (e-mail from Dan Lucarini, May 24, 2009).

It is important to understand that CCW (Contemporary Christian Worship) is all about a feeling, and that is why the heavy backbeat suits it so well. That backbeat is physically sensual and stimulating. Steven Tyler of Aerosmith testified that rock music "is the strongest drug in the world" (*Rock Beat*, Spring 1987, p. 23).

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

Eddy-Torial –

Why Are Fundamentalists More Interested In Spiritual Gifts Than In The Fruit of The Spirit?-

A dear brother in the Lord once told me that Independent Baptists are very gifted, but not very fruitful. The context of his statement was our discussion of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22,23. The adult Sunday School class in our little church invested six months or so studying the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It may be a surprise to some, but these studies have NOT resulted in our church becoming a charismatic

church. We are not inclined in the least to invite Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, or Rodney Howard Brown in to speak. Rather, these studies have resulted in our people being fortified with Bible truth against the errors of Pentecostalism. J.K Van Baalen once wrote that the cults are the unpaid bills of the church. He meant that error creeps in where truth is not taught. But I digress. The continuing spiritual gifts, sometimes called “body gifts” are of much greater interest to fundamentalists than the gracious fruit of the Spirit. I wonder if it is because our focus is on working for God to the neglect of worshipping God (Worship? Isn't that something Anglicans do?) I am reminded of Dr. Peter Connolly's insight into the Seraphim in Isaiah 6 as they worshipfully covered their feet and faces while they flew. Twice as many wings were given to worshipping God as were given to serving God by flying around His throne. I suspect that if we Independent Fundamental Baptists were given wings and voice on such an occasion, we would eagerly flap all six wings with great zeal and then proclaim to all and sundry how gloriously we flapped. After all, most of us are in a “flap” most of the time.

Of course, our imbalance regarding gifts and fruit *could* be due to the gifts being external and the fruit being internal. But that would mean we have a problem with superficiality and that we lack substance. (This is getting a bit personal.) I should also mention the possibility that we like to talk about gifts more than we like to talk about fruit because gifts have to do with ability and fruit has to do with attitude. It is a burden to this old sinful heart that my abilities are more sanctified than my attitudes. Oh Lord, Thou knowest!

I would like to call your attention to one of God's Greathearts, a man who displayed the firstfruit of the Spirit, which is love. His name was Robert Clever Chapman. The biography I have and treasure is called **Agape Leadership**. It was authored by Robert L. Peterson and Alexander Strauch (published by Lewis and Roth, Littleton, Colorado).

R.C. Chapman embodied “a sweet cluster of contradictions” we find so often in church history. Many of the Lord's choicest servants were eccentric anomalies and seemed to be out of step with their fellow Christians. They were criticised and shunned, and then after they were gone, it was found that it was they who were the most fruitful, not those who walked in the Lockstep Brigade and preened themselves to please their denominational masters.

Chapman was born in 1803 into an Anglican family. His father was a successful businessman who apprenticed Robert to a lawyer in London. While there he met John Whitmore who invited him to hear his pastor, Harington Evans, at John Street Chapel, a Baptist Church. For the first time in his life Robert heard the gospel and was soon converted. His pastor disciplined him and he began to preach on the streets.

At the age of 29 he left the legal profession and became pastor of Ebenezer Chapel, a Strict and Particular Baptist Church that had been through three pastors in 18 months! He was to remain their pastor for 70 years!!! When he accepted the call to Ebenezer he laid down one condition only, and that was “that I should be free to teach all that I found written down in the Scriptures.” (Of course, you say, isn't that what every pastor is supposed to do? Well, yes, but would you really do it? Would I?)

Chapman soon faced a test I think I would have failed. A splinter group had split off the church prior to his coming and now demanded that he turn over to them the church building since “they represented the Strict and Particular Baptists more than he did”? Chapman led the church to surrender the building to their antagonists, and he did it on the basis of Matthew 5:40-42, “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” And remember that Robert C. Chapman was a lawyer. He could have outargued them and demanded the church's rights, but he didn't. Incidentally, God so blessed this simple dependence upon His Word that it wasn't long before R.C. Chapman was preaching to 700 people every Sunday in a new church building in the little town of Barnstaple.)

Chapman's dependence upon the Word of God became the wellspring of his love for Christ and for sinners. Spurgeon once called Chapman "the saintliest man I ever knew." It was Spurgeon who penned the words, "It is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible, until at last...your blood is Bibline and the very essence of the Bible flows from you." I suspect that Spurgeon may have been thinking of his dear friend Robert Chapman when he wrote those words. A consuming love for God cannot be divorced from an overwhelming love for His Word.

Why do Chapman's biographers describe him as a man who bore the fruit of love? (They are not alone. Chapman's admirers included George Mueller, Charles Spurgeon, Hudson Taylor, and even Winston Churchill who was taken to meet him as a lad.)

Consider these evidences of love in Chapman's life:

- 1)** He was known as the gentlest of men. Bold as a lion when need be, characterised by humility, tact, compassion, and an understanding of others' weaknesses.. He was kind, tender and patient. He once told a friend that it was better to lose your purse than your temper.
- 2)** His love was ever so practical. He took great care to start and end the meetings at Ebenezer Chapel on time because he knew that servants who were attending needed to be on time when they returned to their masters' service.
- 3)** His love was gracious in its persistence. One of the converts at Ebenezer, Eliza Gilbert, wished to be baptised against the wishes of her mother and did so. So courteous and gracious was Chapman's shepherding work as he counselled Eliza that soon others in the family, including her mother were won to Christ. He even won to Christ and baptised the daughter of the Anglican minister, with his approval!! With his approval!
- 4)** His love was seen in the way he taught those divisive old Calvinistic Baptists to love one another. Little by little he led them to lay down Mr. Calvin's Augustinian errors to their own benefit. As they did so they grew to have more unity in the faith than they had ever known. And they became so broad in their love of the lost that they won many, many to Christ.
- 5)** Chapman would be best described as being "Brethren" in his affiliations, as would George Mueller. They both had many dear friends among the quarrelsome assemblies, including John Nelson Darby. When Darby and B. W. Newton fell out, Chapman did all he could to see them reconciled. Chapman was criticised severely for loving both men so that when some of Darby's followers accused Chapman of being doctrinally deficient, Darby defended him by saying, "You leave that man alone: he lives what I teach."
- 6)** Chapman's love shines forth at its brightest in his treatment of those who hated him. One day a Christian relative of his came to visit. When he left he asked if he might buy some groceries to help Chapman to care for his frequent guests. Chapman accepted gladly, but made one request. His benefactor MUST purchase the groceries from a particular grocer. He didn't tell his friend that the grocer hated him and had slandered him for many years. When the grocer asked where the groceries were to be delivered he was instructed to deliver them to R.C. Chapman.. He was astonished to learn that Chapman had sent his benefactor to that particular shop on purpose. "Soon the grocer arrived at Chapman's house, where he broke down in tears and asked forgiveness. That very day the grocer yielded his life to Christ!" Ah yes, love IS more powerful than hate.
- 7)** Chapman's hospitality was another proof of the love of Christ in him. When he bought his house in Barnstaple he sought and found one that had extra rooms for guests. Soon he made it known that any missionary, pastor, or Christian worker would be welcome to stay at his home without charge. Many were

helped and regained their strength through his acts of kindness while they were his guests. He would clean their boots and prepare their meals and greet them with a Scripture text when he wakened them in the mornings. And one of the results of his loving hospitality was that his church became a generous, caring congregation that touched its community.

8) His generosity led him many a time to give away what he needed for himself. His coat was often given to someone without one. He once arrived at Mueller's orphanage with a gift, not knowing that it was needed immediately to feed the orphans the next day. He was known to give away the money he needed for his train ticket, knowing that God would send someone along to meet the need. And He always did.

9) Chapman's love for his brethren was seen in the way he loved to share his pulpit with the men in his congregation. He had learned this from his old pastor and once said, "To make a good soldier, put him in the front of the battle; a good seaman, let him have the stern. So with the Christian." It is recorded that many of his converts who began their preaching on the streets ended up preaching on the mission field.

10) His love for Christ, of course, was too large for little Barnstaple. Oh, he remained their pastor until his death at the age of 99 (!), but he made several missions trips to Spain and won many to Christ in that Roman Catholic sinkhole. It is now known that he spoke 9 languages, including Hebrew and Greek, though he never attended a Bible College.

So here we have this amazingly fruitful Christian, saintly Robert Clever Chapman. What a blessed anomaly he was. Born an Anglican, trained to be a lawyer, converted in a Baptist Church, leaving his law practice for the ministry, accepting a call to a calvinistic and contentious church, pastoring that one church all his life, leading it to become a generous and caring congregation, becoming a linguistic scholar without formal training, doing missionary work in one of the most difficult countries on earth, all this and much more. How glorious are the triumphs of love if it is that love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!!!!!!

But what really sets Robert Chapman apart is the fact that the blessed Holy Spirit of God grew His fruit in him abundantly! Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, these are the manifold fruit of the Spirit. If we knew Chapman better I am sure we would find all nine aspects of the fruit of the Spirit in him abundantly.

If these were rare in Chapman's day, how much rarer are they in ours? This simple fact, the rarity of the Spirit's fruit, makes it more valuable than it has ever been.

Bro. Buddy Smith

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)