ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THE BACKBONE OUT OF THE CHURCH?

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. The word "backbone" is defined: The spine; courage; firmness, toughness, determination, spunk.
2. Indeed, the people of God must have courage and firmness if they are to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil -- Eph. 6: 10 - 17
   (1) Peter said to add virtue or courage -- II Pet. 1:5
   (2) Paul was set for the defense of the gospel -- Phil. 1:17
   (3) Jude 3; I Pet. 3:15
3. A man that loses his courage is not well respected and he does not accomplish much in life.
4. When God's people lose their backbone they are not going to accomplish God’s purpose for them in the world -- Joshua 1:9
5. Today there are certain "straws in the wind" that should cause alarm.

I. SOME PRESENT DAY TRENDS

1. Sin is winked at in many places.
   (1) Worldliness is not rebuked -- Eph. 5:11
      1. Fornication -- I Cor. 6:18; Eph. 5:3
      2. Immodest dress -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10
      3. Dancing
      4. Gambling
      5. Social drinking -- I Pet. 4:3
      6. Cursing -- Eph. 4:29
   (2) Being lukewarm is prevalent -- Rev. 3: 15 - 16
      1. Many don't attend Bible study -- Matt. 28:20; Eph. 4: 11 - 12
         (1) It is sinful not to study -- Heb. 5: 12 - 14; II Tim. 2:15
      2. Many are not involved in the work -- I Cor. 15:58
      3. Many are not concerned with their giving -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
   (3) The "Sunday morning members" are becoming the fad of the day -- Heb. 10: 25
   (4) Gospel Meetings are only weak gestures
      1. Many times very little preparation is made for the meeting and they are poorly attended, even by the members.
   (5) Efforts are being made to change the "style" of preaching.
      1. Many want to get away from "book, chapter and verse" preaching.
      2. Many want "all positive" preaching.
3. Many don't want any preaching on Hell.
4. Many want more professionalism in preaching.

CONCLUSION

1. When the "backbone" is taken out of the church it stands for nothing, and it departs from the faith.
2. Let us be firm in our stand for truth.