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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

The Down Grade Controversy

A Message for Adults

Week of Sunday 23 July, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

Sunday 29 Tammuz, 5777

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- A wise old man once preached, "We have today what we tolerated yesterday and we'll have tomorrow what we tolerate today!" (see week of 25 June 2017 Home Ministry Message For Adults)
- What was believed to be gross defection from cardinal doctrines of evangelical religion on the part of a number of brethren, took place in 1877. Because of the toleration of such laxity CHS withdrew, and in August of the same year, his reasons were given, published in an article

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titled "The Broad School of Dissent." I quote, "the Atonement is scouted, the Inspiration of Scripture is derided, the Holy Spirit is degraded into an influence, the punishment of sin is turned into fiction, and the resurrection into a myth." Do we have this today?

- "At the back of doctrinal falsehood comes a decline of spiritual life, evidenced by a taste for questionable amusements and a weariness of devotional meetings. At a certain meeting of ministers and church officers, one after another

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doubted the value of prayer meetings; and all confessed that they had a very small attendance, and several acknowledged without the slightest compunction that they had given up." Do we have this today?

- "As for questionable amusements – time was when a nonconformist minister who was known to attend the playhouse would soon have found himself without a church. And justly so; for no man can long possess the confidence, even of the most worldly, who is known to be a haunter

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of theatres. Yet, at the present time, it is matter of notoriety that preachers of no mean repute defend the playhouse, and do so because they have been seen there." Do we have this today?

- "Christian love has its claims, and divisions are to be shunned as grievous evils, but how far are we justified in being confederacy with those departing from the truth? It is a difficult question to answer so as to keep the balance of duties..."
- "A chasm is opening between the men who believe their Bibles and the men who are

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prepared for an advance upon Scripture. Inspiration and speculation cannot long abide in peace. Compromise there can be none. We cannot hold the inspiration of the word, and yet reject it; we cannot believe in the Atonement and deny it; we cannot hold the doctrine of the fall, and yet talk of the evolution of spiritual life from human nature; we cannot recognize the punishment of the impenitent, and yet indulge in the 'larger hope.' One way or the other we must go. Decision is the virtue of the hour." Do we have this today?

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- "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. Let those who will keep the narrow way, keep it, and suffer for their choice; but to hope to follow the broad road at the same time is an absurdity. What communion hath Christ with Belial?" Do we have this today?
- Although, good men have differed greatly, the frank Christian manliness of these utterances

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no one can question. There can be no difference of opinion as to the nobility, unselfishness, and perfect candor of the great Charles Haddon Spurgeon, withdrawing from the Baptist Union. He was the one dissenting minister of Great Britain – and there was no instance comparable afforded by the clergy of the Church of England. It was the staunch character, standing four square to all the winds that blew, almost more than it was the genius of the man, that explained his unique position,

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whose utterances, formed a staple topic of news and comment for the daily newspapers of the world.

- At the 17 February 1891 annual church meeting, the following statistics were given of his work:

Present membership	5,328
Mission Stations with seating capacity	3,740
Sunday Schools containing teachers	592
Sunday Schools containing scholars	8,001

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Did Jehoval stretched out his hand, with blessing from 1877 to 1891?

- **Text:** John 3: 19 ASV

This is the judgment, that the Light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their works were evil.

- **Text:** II Timothy 4: 3 ASV

Time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own

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lusts. Do we have this today?

- Today we believe we live in a unique and enlightened time. We are too educated and sophisticated. Truth has become relative, depending upon our own definition or interpretation. We have our own truth. We make our own rules. Do ethics change? Does morality change? Does God change? Do you believe "people are basically good" and "you can be anything you want to be?" If I fail to do what is right, "society or someone else is to blame."

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You are not held accountable for your own actions. Your only goal should be self-satisfaction. Don't you see it? God has revealed the truth of Himself. Hear my warning; lies, these are lies and the work of the devil ! ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 1: 18 ASV For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.

- **Text:** Joel 3: 9-20 ASV

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Proclaim ye this among the nations; prepare war; stir up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Haste ye, and come, all ye nations round about, and gather yourselves together: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Jehovah. Let the nations bestir themselves, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations round about. Put

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ye in the sickle; for the harvest is ripe: come, tread ye; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! for the day of Jehovah is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. And Jehovah will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but Jehovah will be a refuge unto his people, and a stronghold to the children of

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Israel. So shall ye know that I am Jehovah your God, dwelling in Zion my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with waters; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of Jehovah, and shall water the valley of Shittim. Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate

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wilderness, for the violence done to the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall abide for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. And I will cleanse their blood, that I have not cleansed: for Jehovah dwelleth in Zion.

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You are invited to join us!

*We continue steadfastly in the apostles' teaching
and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and
prayers every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*

*We study doctrine and pray every Wednesday at
6:30 p.m.*