Moving The Ancient Land Marks

Introduction: We are living in times of change. Our technology has changed, (cell phones, computers, auto's, etc.). Our mode of travel, way we eat has even changed (from foods preservation to preparation). Change in where we live, from rural to urban. Many of those changes have been good but not all of them. We are seeing major changes in values. How we view the Bible, the way we view human life, family make up and morality in general.

**I) Removing the Ancient Landmarks**

**A) God forbid the removing of ancient landmarks, Deut. 19.14; 27.17; Proverbs 22.28; 23.10.**

1. To change the landmark would be in essence to steal from your neighbor.

2. Once a landmark was moved it was hard to put it back where it belonged.

3. It would remove established standards. God has given the tribes their land and such land was to remain to those tribes.

**B) An uncertain sound, 1 Corinthians 14.8**

1. The trumpet was used for various purposes in the Old Testament.

a. Call to battle, **Joshua 6.20; Judges 7.18.**

b. Time to stand still, **2 Samuel 2.28; 18.16.**

c. Time to rally, **Nehemiah 4.20.**

d. As a warning, **Ezekiel 33.5,6.**

**II) Landmarks That Are Being Moved**

**A) The inspiration and role of the Bible.**

1. The Bible is the unknowable without the "church" interpreting its meaning.

a. The church's teaching concerning the Bible is that this written word of God comes to us think the enlivening atmosphere of the Church as the Body of Christ, and that the members must therefore be guided by the judgment of the Church who can speak and teach with the authority of Christ and who has the right to preach, interpret, and teach the Bible.

b. **What Does the Bible Say? Ephesians 3.3-4, 5.17, 1 John 4.1, Acts 17.11**

1. What did the first century Christians have to do to understand Paul's writings?

2. What were they to do with the "spirits"?

3. What did the people at Berea do with the scriptures?

2. **Is the Bible historically accurate? --**

**a.** *Not always. Records were scare in those centuries and people were little concerned or equipped for approaching history scientifically. The accounts are accurate enough for the overall history they contain.*

b. ***What does the Bible Say? 2 Peter 1.21; 1 Corinthians 2.9-12.***

i. What role did the Holy Spirit have in revelation?

ii. In contrast with the spirit of the world, the apostles received the .

3. Is the Bible outdated?

a. Yes. Much of the language and ideas it contains belongs to another age and culture and is no longer in use. The Bible's understanding of nature and the universe is very primitive and hopelessly behind modern science... These things make it difficult for us to read it easily today and we need help to understand it.

i. Over the last number of years the Pope has given credence to evolution.

ii. Many today deny the plain teaching on homosexuality, and marriage. Recently an article stating that couples living together are not living in sin.

iii. The church should re-evaluate its definition of sin to reflect the changing mores of society.... the church should sound a call for widening the circle of the faithful-- not with children, but with non-reproductive gays, lesbians, and heterosexual singles who practice 'safe sex'. We feel marriage is not what legitimates sexual gratification.

b. What does the Bible say? **Matthew 24.35; Hebrews 4.12.**

a. God created man, **Genesis 1.26-27.**

b. Marriage is between a man and woman, **Matthew 19.4ff.**

c. Homosexuality is sin, **Romans 1.28ff.**

**III) The Very Idea of Morality**

**A) Morality is determined by society.**

1. Humanism teaches that morality is determined by the situation and what is generally accepted.

2. Human life is not human if defined as being non-human.

3. Alternate lifestyle is been replaced by "personal rights". This generation believes they have certain rights that conflicts with the Bible.

**B) The Bible teaches that morality is certain, specific, and determined by God.**

1. Human life is sacred, **Genesis 9.6; Romans 13.9**

2. Social sins are still sins, **Galatians 5.19ff.**

a. Swearing, using God's name in vain, immodesty, gambling, stealing, etc.

Conclusions: The danger we face is accepting the changes and not even knowing we have moved the landmark. We must study the Bible to see what God says and then keep it.