

Lifting Up The

STANDARD



“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Why Good People Leave Good Churches

(Article # 2)



This is the second in our series concerning why good people leave good churches. In order to understand the premise of these comments it is important to understand that there are people who are not saved that are *good*, and people who are saved that are not *good*. We are using the term good in comparison to *nice* or *not nice* rather than saved or unsaved. Judas was unsaved; however, at the beginning he was considered to be a nice person. The disciples even trusted him to be their treasurer.

Unsaved Church Members?

Back in the 1960's A. W. Tozer believed that 90% of the members of our churches are not Christians. Bob Jones, Sr., in the 1940's estimated that 50% were unsaved and Dr. B. R. Lakin estimated that 75% are lost. W.A. Criswell said he would be surprised to see even 25% of his church members in Heaven, and even Billy Graham put the unsaved church members figure at 85%. **There are good people going to cult meetings, Catholic churches, and fundamental independent Baptist churches every week who have never been saved.** That is one of the reasons nice people leave good churches.

No-Repentance Prayers Save Nobody

Thousands of false professions have been made as the result of the Hyles, Hutson, “*damnable heresy*” that repentance as taught in the Scriptures and as taught by reliable men of God for the past two-thousand years is no longer relevant. Multitudes of “*fundamentalists*” will end up in Hell because of the Hyles, Hutson heresy, and the puppet preachers who promote their heresy.

Second Corinthians 13:5 says, “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.*” Jesus said, “*Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he which doth the will of my Father which is in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21).

“Good Minister - Good Doctrine”



First Timothy 4:6,

“*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*”

The Scripture above refers to the “*good minister,*” and “*good doctrine.*” In this article we will consider what God’s definitions are for these terms.

...continued on page two



First, we see that the "good minister" will "put the brethren in remembrance of **these things**." The word "things" occurs thirty-one times in First and Second Timothy and Titus.

First Timothy 3:11, Women are to be taught to "be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things." The pastor who is serious about that responsibility will find some nice people leaving his church.

First Timothy 4:8, Tells us that "godliness is profitable unto all things." The pastor who would dare to preach a series on genuine "godliness" will find more people leaving.

First Timothy 4:11, commands the pastor saying, "these things command and teach." Verse 11 says, "meditate upon these things." The things referred to in this chapter that the pastor is to "command and teach" include *faith, hypocrisy, truth, prayer, good doctrine, fables, godliness, charity, and purity*. The pastor who is faithful to "command and teach" these things will find he will not need to concern himself with a costly building program. **In fact, if the pastor "commands" people to do anything in this age of Laodicean fundamentalism he will soon find himself with a small group of sincere Christians.**

Our text also includes being "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine." To be nourished is to be provided with the food necessary for growth, and health. The word *faith* here refers to what the Bible teaches comparing "good doctrine" with the "other doctrine" mentioned in First Timothy 1:3, and "any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (First Timothy 1:10). The Bible also says "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" (Second Timothy 4:3-4).

The pastor who will be faithful to preach the "sound doctrine" of the Word of God as a "good minister of Jesus Christ" (First Timothy 4:6), should not be surprised to see people leave. Remember we are living in the time when "they will not endure sound doctrine." **The only way to be a "good minister" is to refuse to compromise.** I have no problem making that choice; however, I have watched our church attendance get smaller for the past ten years. I don't like that; but, by the grace of God I will be faithful to the cause of Christ and remember that "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:7).

...continued on page three

When Your Pastor Compromises?

There are two basic things a Christian should do when their pastor compromises.

1. Face the Facts.

It is very important to determine the truth about things that will have an effect on your family.

2. Face the Future.

It is also important to realize that decisions made, or not made, will also effect the future of your family.

Facing The Facts

The fact is, fundamental independent Baptist leaders are compromising. While this is a very serious situation we must realize that the Word of God has warned us about this sad departure from the faith that is taking place now, even in our fundamental churches as we come to the end of the local church age.

First and Second Timothy gives us very specific information concerning the last days of the local church age.

How To Determine God's Will

1. Determine to know God's will and be willing to do His will. Knowing God's will demands time and effort. Begin by spending earnest and sincere time praying for your pastor and his family. You are facing a very emotional situation. This is not a time to base your decisions on feelings.

2. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are always in complete harmony concerning God's will for your life. Be in much prayer and be in the Word concerning your decision.

3. The Bible guarantees us that the Holy Spirit will guide us "into all truth" (John 16:13). We must be very specific in our prayers.

...continued on page three



Good People - Bad Influences

The Influence of Women

One of the major reasons good people leave good churches is they are influenced by someone to leave. In Genesis 3:17, we read that God confronted Adam with the fact that he had **"hearkened**



unto the voice" of his wife to make a wrong decision. Both Adam and Eve were good people. Eve was influenced by the devil and Adam was influenced by Eve. In Genesis 16:2, **"Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai,"** and her influence began all the fighting we see in the

middle east today. The Bible gives us examples of women who influenced for both good and bad. It is a fact; however, that the majority of the problems that cause divisions in a church today are caused by women.

The Influence of Men

In Galatians chapter two, we read that Paul said, **"when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed... And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation."** Peter was a good person; however, he was used of the devil to the point that even Barnabas was **"carried away."**

The Influence of Phoney Fundamentalists

Peter would later warn about those who had **"forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam"** (Second Peter 2:15). Balaam talked like a fundamentalist. He made statements like **"If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more"** (Numbers 22:18). He said, **"The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak"** (Numbers 22:38). Balaam said, **"Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?"**(Numbers 23:12). **Balaam was an unsaved hypocrite.**

Jude said Balaam went to Hell when he died (Jude 1:13).

Joshua saw this fundamental sounding leader as, **"Balaam...the soothsayer"** (Joshua 13:22).

Moses said, **"Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD"** (Numbers 31:16).

Nehemiah reminded God's people how Balak had, **"...hired Balaam against them"** (Nehemiah 13:2).

Peter knew that, **"Balaam...loved the wages of unrighteousness"** (Second Peter 2:15).

...continued on page four

...continued from page two

The Bible says, **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him"** (First John 5:14,15).

Our Family Faced The Situation

As church members, when our family was young we faced the problem of having no solid church to raise our family in. We used the formula above to determine God's will. God lead us to begin FaithWay Baptist Church and FaithWay Baptist College of Canada. I was a salesman at the time.

Beware of the "House Church Movement"

Surveys indicate that about eleven million people are now meeting in house churches in the U.S.A. They have formed a house church movement. The dictionary says a movement is **"a group of people working together to advance their shared political, social, or artistic ideas."**

It is interesting to note that the dictionary, correctly, does not include a church in the definition of a movement. A group of sincere people meeting in a house does not constitute a church. There is a major difference between **"the church that is in their house"** (Acts 8:3, Romans 16:5, First Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:3), and a group of Christians meeting in a house.

[...read more](#)



The Pastor At Pergamos was rebuked because he allowed the doctrine of Balaam to influence his local church. In Revelation 2:14 the Lord said, "I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel..."

Many good people are influenced to make bad decisions because of unsound doctrine being presented by phoney fundamentalists in our age of apostasy.

Pastors Are The Main Reason People Leave Churches

Pastors Who Compromise

We are living in an age when many pastors are more concerned about pleasing men than pleasing God. They substitute Christian entertainment rather than bold, forthright preaching and as a result, they will have no difficulty drawing a crowd and as long as they don't get too specific people will stay.

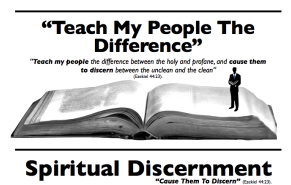
In the eighteenth century, Charles Haddon Spurgeon

said: "I fear there are some who preach with the view of amusing men, and as long as people can be gathered in crowds, and their ears can be tickled, and they can retire pleased with what they have heard, the orator is content, and folds his hands, and goes back self-satisfied." **Spurgeon continued,** "Now observe, brethren, if I, or you, or any of us, or all of us, shall have spent our lives merely in amusing men, or educating men, or moralizing men, when we shall come to give our account at the last great day we shall be in a very sorry condition, and we shall have but a very sorry record to render; for of what avail will it be to a man to be educated when he comes to be damned? Of what service will it be to him to have been amused when the trumpet sounds, and heaven and earth are shaking, and the pit opens wide her jaws of fire and swallows up the soul unsaved? Of what avail even to have moralized a man if still he is on the left hand of the judge, and if still, 'Depart, ye cursed,' shall be his portion?" (C. H. Spurgeon).

Pastors Who Won't Compromise

Pastors who can say with Paul, "I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), might also find themselves saying, "all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge" (Second Timothy 4:16).

During the past age of the great revivals (i.e. 1859) preachers preached the truth and crowds came. In our Laodicean age, preachers preach an unsound doctrine and the crowds come. The difference being, during the revival age the crowd was a revival crowd. In our Laodicean age, the crowd is apostate.



Discernment is
"The anointed eye, the power of spiritual penetration and interpretation, the ability to appraise the religious scene as viewed from God's position, and to tell us what is actually going on"

A.W. Tozer



"Discernment is NOT knowing the difference between RIGHT and WRONG. It is knowing the difference between RIGHT and ALMOST RIGHT."

-C. H. Spurgeon