### 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).

Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful



## **SALVATION**



## I Salvation Begins With Hearing The Word

Romans 10:14

"How shall they believe in him of whom they have not **heard**? and how shall they **hear** without a preacher?"

#### **Acts 15:7**

"The Gentiles by my mouth should **hear** the word of the gospel, and believe."

## 2 The Holy Spirit Then Convicts The Sinner

John 16:8,9

"And when he is come, he will **reprove** the world of sin...because they believe not on me."

#### Call To Repentance

**Acts | 1:18** 

"Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance** unto life."

#### **Second Timothy 2:25**

"In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."

...continued on page two.

#### "That Your Love May Abound...In Knowledge And In Judgment!"

(Philippians 1:9)

#### Paul had a very special love for the Christians at Philippi.

In verses 3-5 he wrote,

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now."

In chapter 4:1-3 Paul referred to them as.

(1)"my brethren dearly beloved and (2) longed for, (3) my joy and (4) crown... (5) dearly beloved... (6) true yokefellow... (7) my fellowlabourers."

Yet, in spite of their great love for each other, Paul prayed that their love would.

"Abound more and more in knowledge (precise and correct knowledge) and in all judgement" (discernment).

#### **Love Must Be Cultivated**

Loving one another will not happen automatically. That is why the commandment to "love one another" is repeated so many times in the Word of God.

- · John 13:34, "love one another."
- John 15:12, "love one another."
- John 15:17, "love one another."
- Romans 13:8, "love one another."
- I Peter I:22, "love one another."
- I John 3:II, "love one another."
- I John 3:23, "love one another."
- I John 4:7, "love one another."
- I John 4:11, "love one another."
- I John 4:12, "love one another."
- 2 John 1:5, "love one another."
- 2 Thes. 4:9, "love one another."

#### Paul Focused On The Importance of Christians Learning To Love.

- Romans 12:9, "Let love be without dissimulation."
- Romans 12:10, "with brotherly
- Romans 13:8, "love one another."
- Galatians 5:22, "the fruit of the Spirit is love."
- **Ephesians 3:19,** "know the love of Christ.."
- Ephesians 4:2, "forbearing one another in love."
- **Ephesians 5:25,** "Husbands, love your wives."
- **Hebrews 10:24,** "provoke one another unto love."
- **Hebrews 13:1,** "Let brotherly love continue."
- **Titus 2:4,** "teach the young women...to love their children."

## Christ's Final Message Was About Understanding Love

In John 15:17 Jesus said, "These things I command you, that ye love one another." Christ did not say, I command you to love one another.

...continued on page three.



#### **SALVATION...**continued from page one.

#### **Ephesians 1:3**

"But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that **they should repent** and turn to God, and do works meet for **repentance**."

#### **Acts 11:18**

"God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance** unto life."

The word "granted" here has been translated "give" 365 times in our King James Bible. When it is translated "grant" in the New Testament it is always used in the context of God granting something that was out of the power of man to achieve. Consider the following Scriptures.

#### Matthew 20:21

"**Grant** that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom."

#### **Luke 1:74**

"That he would **grant** unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies."

#### Ephesians 3:16

"That he would **grant** you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

#### Second Timothy 1:18

"The Lord **grant** unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord."

#### Revelation 3:21

"To him that overcometh will I **grant** to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

#### Salvation

- I. Hearing the Word of God.
- 2. Conviction by the Holy Spirit.
- 3. The gift of repentance is made available by God.
- 4. A Decision Must Be Made.

# 4 The Sinner Repents or Rejects The Conviction of The Holy Spirit

#### Romans 2:4

"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

#### **Luke 13:3**

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

## 5 "Whosoever Will May Come"

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

## The Result of Repentance Is A Changed Life

**Second Corinthians 5:17** 

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

#### Love For The Word

Romans 10:8

"The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart."

#### John 8:47

"He that is of God heareth God's words."

#### 2 Love For God's People

First John 3:14

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."

#### 3 Desire For God's Will

#### Romans 6:4

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments."

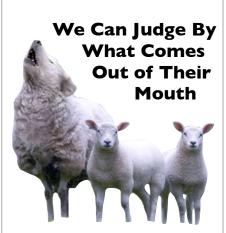
#### Philippians 2:13

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."



A nine year old girl wrote the following note to her pastor.

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers?



"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

We might be fooled by the outward appearance; however once a false teacher opens his mouth we are without excuse.

#### Jesus said,

Mark 8:18, "having ears, hear ye not?"

#### John 7:24,

"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

**Luke 12:57,** "Why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right."

#### Paul said,

**First Timothy 4:16**, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine."

#### James said,

**James 1:19**, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear."

#### <u>Jesus said,</u> Matthew 12:34

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

#### We are without excuse.

The word of God warned us there would be "false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1).



#### LOVE...continued from page one.

It is not possible to love on command. Love is much deeper than that. Christ said, "These things I command you that (in order that) ye love one another."

The "things" that Jesus was talking about in John begin in chapter thirteen. He said, "If ye know (cherish, pay attention to) **these things,** happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

The little word "if" is used in various ways in the Scriptures. Here it is used in the same sense as John 7:17 where Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know (come to learn) of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

## God opens the understanding of those who do His will

A careful study of the "things" Jesus spoke about, with a purpose in making those "things" the most important part of our being, will result in us loving one another.

Jesus said, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love" (John 15:10). John 13:1 tells us that Jesus "having loved his own...he loved them unto the end." (The end - "the point upon which something cannot extend.") As a result of that love "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded" (Verses 4,5).

#### We read,

"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to

you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (Verses 12-17).

## "In Knowledge And In Judgment"

The word "love" in this verse is agape It refers to an undeserved love.

#### Jesus said,

"For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" (Matthew 5:46).

#### First Corinthians 13:1 says,

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

#### "Though I speak..."

As pastors, we "speak."

With our speaking, we can move people emotionally and sometimes even make them cry. We can move people mentally

to get them to change their wills and do things we want them to do; however, only agape love will change a persons' spirit and Christians are to be "...renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Ephesians 4:23).

Preaching is not the key; love is the key that leads Christians to be renewed in their spirit. Paul said we are to be "rooted and grounded in love" (Ephesians 3:17).

Following that, we read of being "renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Verse 23).

To change a person's will is not the answer. People are to be "renewed in the spirit."

## The Bible Way Is To Do It Through Love

- Ephesians 1:15, "love unto all saints."
- Ephesians 4:2, "forbearing...in love."
- Ephesians 4:15, "speaking...in love."
- Ephesians 4:16, "edifying...in love."
- Ephesians 5:2, "walk in love."
- Ephesians 5:25, "love your wives."
- Ephesians 6:23, "love with faith."

There are three different Greek words that are translated "love" in our King James Version of the Word of God.

They are,

- Eros...erotic love...sexual lust.
- **Phileo**...affection ranging from infatuation to a deeper love.
- Agapē...used here and is the only kind of love that solves problems!

Agape was in the Greek language, yet no unsaved writer used it. Perhaps, it was for this reason the Holy Spirit chose this word for a genuine Christian love. It is free of the sensual overtones common to other Greek words. "agape" is one of the greatest words used in the New Testament.

#### Why The Word "Charity"

A "charity," such as the Red Cross Society, does something with the money they collect and they do it for people who do not earn it or have done something to deserve it. They do it expecting nothing in return.

Charity (agape love) is not just a feeling for people or just telling people you love them.

...continued on page four.



The Bible says, "Though I speak...and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

The Word of God says, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (First John 3:18).

Speaking without "proving the sincerity" of our love (Second Corinthians 8:8) is as useless as an annoying noise! It is like someone playing a solo on cymbals.

#### Christ said in Matthew 15:8,

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

It is a sad commentary that many members in our fundamental independent Baptist churches could say the same thing. "My pastor draweth nigh unto me with his lips but his heart is far from me." To the pastor - not to the people -Christ said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." (Revelation 2:4) Notice it does not say the pastor lost his first love; it says he "left" it. To lose something might be excusable; however, to leave something is to make a conscious decision. The word "left" here means to "depart from one place or position to go to another."

The Ephesian church failed because the pastor purposely "left" his first love. He made a conscious decision. The problem was not the people, nor was it the program; it was the pastor. The Pastor Was Speaking.

#### The Pastor Was Serving

Christ knew all about the pastor's service concerning the ministry ("works"). He knew about the pastor's efforts in the ministry ("labour").

#### The Pastor Was Separated

The pastor at Ephesus did not "...bear them which are evil." He faithfully "tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." The pastor at Ephesus, unlike many fundamentalists of our day, was faithful in keeping the church pure rather than keeping it full.

#### The Pastor Was Stable

He was not the kind of pastor who would cooperate with those who promote the heresy of Calvinism or the damnable heresy that promotes salvation without repentance.

Verse three says the pastor had "...borne (not abandoned truth), and hast patience (Tribulation worketh patience - Any pastor who dares to be faithful concerning ecclesiastical separation will know some persecution), and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted" (not grown weary and shut down).

#### The Pastor's Shortcoming

Christ rebuked His pastor saying, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, (pastor) because thou hast left thy first love."

#### Love Is A Relationship

As previously mentioned, there are several words in the original Scriptures that refer to different kinds of love.

There is a "low-level" type of love that says, "I will love you if you do things my way." It is a conditional love based upon our expectations.

It is a love that says, "You must earn my love." The love mentioned in our text is an unconditional love. Love is a relationship, but with whom did the pastor's relationship change?

We all have specific relationships, such as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, etc. As Christians, our first love should be our love for Christ. First John 4:19 says we should, "love him, because he first loved us."

In our God-given position as a husband, our main responsibility concerning our wives is to love them. Ephesians 5:25 says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."

In their God-given position as a wife, their main responsibility concerning their family is to love them. Titus 2:4,5 says wives are to "love their husbands, to love their children...that the word of God be not blasphemed."

## As Pastors Our First Responsibility Is To Love The Church Family

The pastor's main responsibility is not to be a great public speaker. His main God-given responsibility as a pastor is to love his people with an unconditional love.

#### The Good Shepherd

- **John 10:3**, "the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out."
- **Verse 4**, "he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."
- **Verse 11**, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."



The pastor at Ephesus was speaking; he was serving; he was separated; he was stable; however, Jesus said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

He was rebuked because as a pastor, he had made a choice to focus on a program that might swell the attendance at the expense of loving the people.

Notice again, he did not lose his first love. He "left" it. It was not by accident; it was by choice. When I was first starting out in the ministry, I met with a very wellknown pastor who travelled every week to preach in conferences. I asked him if he was just starting out, as I was, what would he do differently. He immediately answered, "I would stay home and take care of the sheep God has given me." He continued, "The wolves are devouring the sheep while I fly around the country every week, preaching to others."

#### **More Than The Spectacular**

First Corinthians 13:2 speaks of having some fantastic abilities!

- "the gift of prophecy."
- "understand all mysteries."
- "all knowledge,"
- · "have all faith,"
- "could remove mountains,"
- "I have not love," (agapē)
- · "I am nothing."

These attention-getting abilities would make a pastor very popular. Everyone would want to be his friend. He would be famous and he would be rich. He would be able to tell the future, understand all mysteries, have all the knowledge in the world, have the faith to

move mountains and yet Christ said if he had all those attention-getting abilities and did not have Agapē love, he would be "NOTHING!"

#### **More Than A Sacrifice**

The Word of God says even if "I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, (agape) It profiteth me nothing."

It would be a great sacrifice if we gave "all our goods" to feed the poor or even gave up our life in the process of helping the cause; however, God says without agape love it profits "nothing."

All love begins somewhere. As previously mentioned there are three Greek words translated "love" in our King James Bible. Eros refers to an erotic love or a sexual lust that begins in the mind. Phileo is an affection ranging from infatuation to a deeper love that also begins in the mind. Agape is a very different love that originates not in our mind, but in our spirit and the Holy Spirit is the Author of this love.Romans 8:16 tells us that the Holy Spirit "beareth witness with our spirit." The Holy Spirit always works using the Word of God.

As we determine to let the Holy Spirit have His way as we study, "these things," the Holy Spirit will do His work in OVI our lives and we will find that "the fruit of the Spirit is

love"(Galatians 5:22).

John 13:17,

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."



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# Past Issues of Lifting UpThe Standard

We Are Not of Them
That Draw Back

Fence Straddling Fundamentalists

The Difference Between The Church And The Movement

Fundamentalists Who Walked Away From Christ

There Is Death In The Pot





Pastor Bob Kirkland

#### Our Adventure ...part three Go West Young Man, Go West

When Debra was eighteen months old we began a trek across Canada looking for a solid church. Our journey took us west to Alberta because that area was often referred to as "The Bible Belt."

#### The Bible Belt?

Premier William Aberhart, was the seventh Premier of Alberta. He was known as "Bible Bill" because of his outspoken Baptist views.

In 1918, he began a Bible study group in Calgary, which steadily grew until the Palace Theatre had to be rented to accommodate the number of people that

attended. In 1925, radio station CFCN began broadcasting his Sunday sermons.

His Sunday broadcasts proved as popular as his Bible studies and Aberhart drew listeners across the Canadian mid-west, and the northern United States. In 1927, he became the Dean of the newly-founded Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute. Aberhart served as the seventh Premier of Alberta. Minister of Education, and as Attorney General.

Ernest C. Manning, was the Premier of Alberta from 1943-1968. As a direct result of listening to Aberhart's radio broadcasts, Manning became a student at the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute in 1927. He was their first graduate. That same year, Manning also began

speaking on the Calgary Prophetic Bible Institute's radio broadcasts with William Aberhart. After the death of Premier Aberhart in 1943, Manning

continued these broadcasts on his own. The broadcasts were eventually aired on over ninety radio stations across Canada, from Halifax to Vancouver, with a very large listening audience. I was one of those listeners in the 60's.

Alberta was also the home of the Prairie Bible Institute which by 1948 had become Canada's largest Bible college and at that time took a solid Scriptural

> position. In spite of Alberta's past history, we found no Bible Belt in Alberta. The dictionary says a Bible Belt is "Those areas...where Protestant fundamentalism is

widely practiced."

To our surprise we soon learned that the term "fundamentalism" was, and is, an ambiguous term that can have many different possible meanings or interpretations, as it does today.

#### An Exercise In Frustration

We settled in Edmonton, Alberta and began searching for a church that preached the Word. As we went from church to church, we found it to be an exercise in frustration. Sometimes we visited three churches on a Sunday morning. I remember going to one church for their Sunday School hour and leaving thinking there would be more life in the average morgue. We arrived at the next church for the morning service and there on the platform was a man with a guitar and his shirt open exposing his hairy chest. Their religious country hoedown was soon underway and soon we were back in the car. We visited another church that evening that was a Calvinist church.

As a young man in my twenties, without much knowledge of the Scriptures I knew that anyone that teaches that God brought some people into this world for no other reason than having them burn in Hell for eternity was teaching a wicked heresy! I am still amazed that some leaders in our so-called fundamental movement have no problem putting their stamp of approval on the heretics who promote that blasphemy in our age of fundamental apostasy.

We left Edmonton and travelled several thousand miles in Canada looking for a solid church to raise our family in but found none. We ended up back in Ontario, and decided the best thing to do was to start a church and find someone to

pastor it who had the same goals for Christian living as we had.

I had been reading Roy Hession's book "The Calvary Road." Roy Hession It had a major



influence in my life. I liked what it Stamps were now six cents; said and also thought it would be a good name for a church.

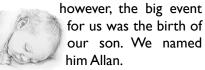
By this time we had had our fill of "Baptists" and decided to call the church "The Calvary Road Gospel Center." The "Calvary Road" part was good but the "Gospel Center" part was a mistake. With a "no name" church we were classified as anything from a kookie religious group to holy rollers, so eventually we changed the name to the Calvary Road Baptist Church.

At the time, I was working at a full time job selling tires at an automotive centre. We started the church with a program on Tuesday nights that was designed for children. We called it "Happy Hour." That was before any booze-joints started having their so-called happy hours, which will bring far more sorrow than happiness.

We made up some flyers, handed them out in the area where my parents lived, inviting children to come to my parents home. Before long we were averaging over one hundred children every Tuesday evening.

#### **Another Gift From Heaven**

In 1971 astronauts drove on the Moon in a lunar buggy. GM sold 21,801 Corvettes. Evel Knievel set a world record jumping nineteen cars on his motorcycle. Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida. Intel released the world's first microprocessor. The cost of homes had risen to over \$25,000.00, the average income was about \$10,000, and gas was pushing forty cents a gallon.



#### We started a radio program for children.

I went to C.H.O.O. Radio in Ajax and had them listen to a sample of the program that I wanted to air.

I recorded it on a reel to reel recorder and took it in on a little portable player. It started off with the voice of a little girl singing "I'm On The Faith Line." It was a professional recording of a very good quality and the manager of the station thought she was singing "I'm On The Base Line." There was a road in the area called the Base Line and he assumed we had a church there and with this quality of recording he figured we knew what we were doing.

We signed a contract and the program was extensively promoted by the station prior to the first broadcast. I did not know that the station used a full-track recording system and he never guessed we would be unprofessional enough to use four-track equipment.



Unfortunately, four programs played at the same time (two of them playing backwards) so as a result, our first program sounded like a bunch of turkeys speaking in tongues. Well, we got that all sorted out and that was the beginning of our

adventure in the radio ministry that lasted seventeen years.

We added Sunday services to the Tuesday night meetings as well as a weekly prayer meeting and soon we found my parents home too small. We needed more space. We rented a gym and several rooms in a local school and purchased a couple of seventy-two passenger buses. Soon we were averaging over 100 in Sunday School and I was still working a full-time job as a tire salesman. I decided we needed to get a pastor to take it over.

#### **Right Motives - Wrong Methods**

At that time my motives were good; however, my methods were far from Scripturally correct. I sincerely wanted to see people saved; however, sincerity is not enough with God. God wants His work done His way.

The Books of First and Second Timothy, Titus and the letters to the seven pastors in Revelation teach us all we need concerning the philosophy of ministry for a local church.

#### **Hooked On Hyles**

At least eighty percent of the New Testament gives us instructions for Christian conduct and church conduct; however, by that time in my life I had become hooked on Hyles. It was much more exciting to travel to Hammond, Indiana to the Pastor's School and listen to Jack Hyles, and his staff teach their carnal, worldly, and unscriptural methods than it was to follow God's instructions as outlined in the Word of God.



I had been going to the Pastors School at Hammond, every year for seven or eight years and figured this would be the best place to find a pastor for our growing church.

We found someone and my wife and I personally paid all of the moving expenses to get him and his family here. The church continued to grow numerically; however, after his third literal fistfight our new fundamental pastor was involved in, I once again concluded that this was not the kind of leadership I wanted for my children.

After one of the fights he was involved in, the pastor charged the other Christian man with assault. It went to court, the pastor lost the case. The judge told the man who had been charged, if he charged the pastor with assault he would win, and the pastor would have to pay all the court costs. The man told the judge he was a Christian and it was unscriptural to take a fellow Christian to court.

The court case made the front pages of the local paper, and the cause of Christ was greatly hurt. I wanted to be able to say to my children, "...follow that pastor as he follows Christ." Obviously we could not say that.

I do not believe anyone has the scriptural grounds to openly oppose a pastor and so we had a meeting with the pastor and the men of the church as outlined in the Word of God. At the beginning of the meeting the man who chaired the meeting said, "we will operate and if there is a cancer we will remove it."

During the proceedings the pastor lost control and came at me with

his fist clenched and was about to punch me in the face. Two men had to physically stop him; however, in spite of the facts concerning the previous fights and the actions of the pastor at the meeting, the men decided to continue to support the pastor.

The man who chaired the meeting said, "We must keep this quiet, what if other churches hear about this." It was obvious we had no choice but to leave. At that time I had a bus route with two seventy-two passenger buses on my route, one following the other, picking up children for Sunday School. It was very heartbreaking to leave those children.

It is not surprising that the pastor was soon out of the ministry. The church got another pastor from the Hyles group in Hammond. He told the people that God had called him to be a Canadian. He took the church into major debt, and moved back to the States.

Another pastor took over who soon left his wife and ran off with a married woman who taught in the Christian school. The church became the first church in the history of Canada to declare bankruptcy. And to think, we call all this "fundamentalism."

In part four we will discuss our adventure concerning Hyles Anderson College.





# Are We Guilty of PROOF TEXTING?

#### **A Proof Text**

"A passage of the Bible to which appeal is made in support of an argument or position concerning theology or a philosophy of ministry."

It is possible to be guilty of proof texting without realizing it. Proof texting is when we take a passage from the Bible to support a position we hold concerning Bible doctrine or our philosophy of ministry.

When I determined to check myself out, I found I was guilty of proof texting even though I strongly preached against it.

We need to be sure our doctrine is without mixture; however, we also need to be sure that we are not taking Scripture out of context to support our position on issues that we believe to be right.

Watch For Our Six-Part Series Are We Guilty of Proof Texting?