

Where Are We Going?

And What Should We Do?

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

Issue 25 - July 7, 2014

Where Are We Going And What Should We Do?

I was saved in 1955 and joined an evangelical Baptist church. In the 1960's I read Earnest Pickering's book on "Biblical Separation" and "Axioms of Separation" by John Ashbrook, as well as a book by Charles Woodbridge called "The New Evangelicalism." I realized the compromise that was within our church and decided to align my family with what we call fundamental churches.

I have been traveling the fundamental path for over fifty years, and have watched the deterioration of fundamentalism. For example, I saw the Thomas Road Baptist Church of Lynchburg, Virginia, go from a fundamental church to a place where Catholics are welcome to take part in their ministry, rock singers are welcome, and this year they featured a Mormon who promoted his Mormon beliefs during his message. We could list many churches that were fundamental ten years ago that are promoting apostasy today.

The fundamental movement is far worse now than the evangelical movement was when I left it in the 1960's.

Anyone who can't see that is spiritually ignorant or willfully blind to what is happening. **The question is where are we heading and what should the sincere Christian do?**

What Should We Do?...continued on page two

FIGHTING



Unmet Expectations

At the root of much, if not most of our discouragement, is unmet expectations.

Before starting FaithWay Baptist Church at Ajax, Ontario, I made a list of the people I **expected** would come to our first meeting. **None of them came.**

When we began the FaithWay Baptist College of Canada we **expected** to start the first year with fifty students. Prior to opening we traveled from coast to coast letting people know about the new college. **We started with seven.** If we will go about our God-given responsibilities and not be concerned about our *expectations* it will go far in winning the battle over discouragement.

Discouraged...continued on page two

What Should We Do?...continued from page one

The Instructions From Jude

*“But, beloved, **remember ye the words** which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts” (Jude 1:17,18).*

Jude began his discussion of the situation with a focus on the remnant that was concerned about the situation. He said “Beloved...it was needful for me to write unto you” (V.3).

After an explicit discussion concerning the apostasy and the apostates who promoted it, Jude focused again on the “beloved.” In verses seventeen through twenty-five he gave some insights concerning what the faithful can do in an age of apostasy.

I. Remember It Was Prophesied

Jude 1:17,18,

*“But, beloved, **remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles** of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.”*

Second Timothy 3:1-3,

*“**This know** also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”*

Second Peter 2:1-3,

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”

Apostasy In The Local Churches

The apostasy we are facing today was prophesied 2000 years ago. The world has always been “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” The Bible says apostasy will happen **in our churches** during “the last days.” In verse five it says they would be, “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

We need to face the facts. The false teachers that Peter said would be “among” us are among us!

What Should We Do?...continued on page three

Discouraged...continued from page one

If we expect everyone to appreciate our efforts, we will soon be discouraged. If there are some people we expect should be in church next week and they don't come we tend to get discouraged. We would be better off to expect no one to come and then we can be encouraged if anyone shows up.

Handling Disappointments

We must face the fact that disappointments are a part of life. If we assume we are not going to be disappointed, every disappointment that comes along will be more discouraging than the one before it.

A Choice

In Hebrews 13:5 the Christian is commanded to, “be content;” however, we cannot be content simply because someone commands us to be content, even if the command comes from God. If we are going to achieve contentment we will need to “Study to show ourselves approved unto God,” concerning how to make contentment a reality in our lives.

In Philippians 4:11-13 Paul said,

*“**I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” He continued, “**I know** both how to be abased, and **I know how** to abound: every where and in all things **I am instructed** both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”*

Paul learned how to make contentment a reality in his life in

Discouraged...continued on page three

What Should We Do?...continued from page two

2. Remain Faithful

Jude 1:20,21,

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

- a. Remain faithful to the Word.
- b. Remain faithful in prayer.
- c. Remain faithful in mercy.
- d. Remain faithful in witnessing.

Jude 1:22,23,

“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

3. Educate And Expose

Hosea 4:6,

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

We must realize that silence gives consent. If we do not **educate** the people God has given us in our local churches, concerning the apostasy that is coming in like a flood, and if we do not **expose** the compromisers who are promoting it, we can say goodbye to our young people.

Proverbs 22:3,

“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”

Paul’s Instructions To Pastors

The following verses need no interpretation. As pastors, may it be our goal that when we leave our churches as Paul did that we may honestly be able to say what Paul said.

Acts 20:26-31

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that **I am pure from the blood of all men.**

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel** of God.

28 **Take heed** therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to **feed** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

What Should We Do...continued on page four

Discouraged...continued from page two

spite of his many discouraging circumstances.

Paul said, “I am content.”

However, he qualified that in First **Corinthians 15:10** where he said, “By the grace of God I am what I am.”

“Written For Our Admonition”

Psalm 62:5,

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.”

The Hebrew word “wait” in this verse is “damam.” It has been translated “silence” six times and “silent” four times.

The soul is the mind, the will, and the emotions. The Psalmist is telling his mind, will and emotions to be silent before God.

The greatest source of discouragement for the preacher is the fact that things are not happening in the church like we wish they would.

If we allow the devil to discourage us for this reason we will be discouraged until we die.



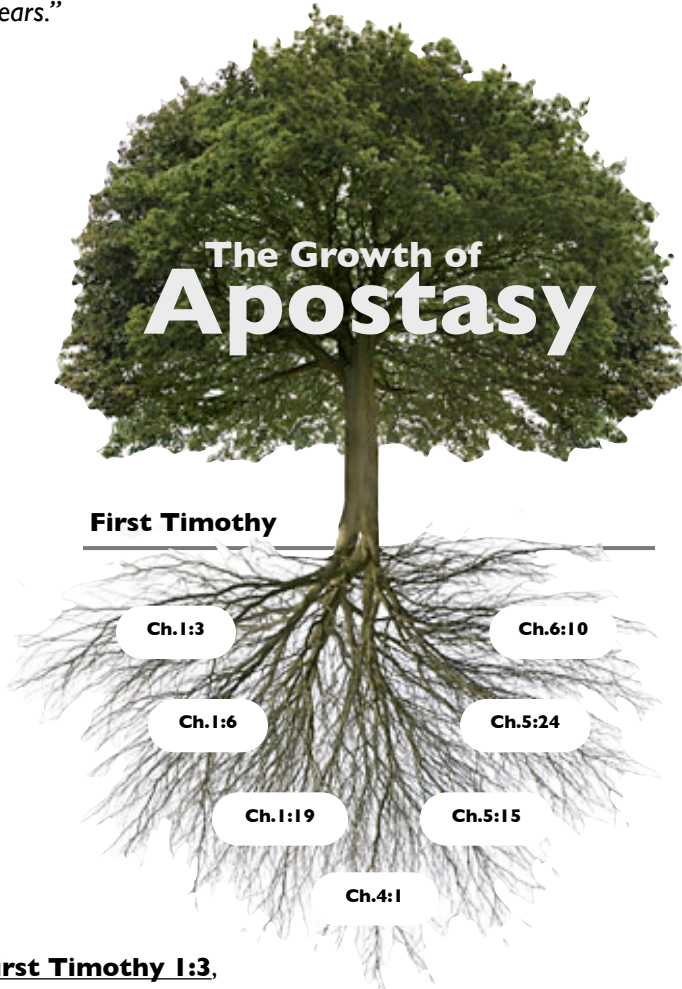
C. H. Spurgeon’s Words of Encouragement

“I am often sadly tossed about because of the heresies and false doctrines of this present age. It grieves me to the heart to see the want of spirituality among ministers, and of holiness among professing Christians.

Spurgeon...continued on page four

30 Also **of your own selves** shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years **I ceased not to warn every one** night and day with tears.”



First Timothy 1:3,

“Charge some that they teach no other doctrine.”

First Timothy 1:6,

“Some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.”

First Timothy 1:19,

“Some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.”

First Timothy 4:1,

“Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

First Timothy 5:15,

“Some are already turned aside after Satan.

First Timothy 5:24,

“Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.”

First Timothy 6:10,

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

It cuts me to the quick to see the utter rubbish and poison which is preached instead of Christianity.

At times it looks as if all things were going wrong; the men to whom one looked as pillars, forsake the faith, and the staunchest give way for the sake of peace.

We are apt to cry, "What will become of us?" But if God is our refuge and strength, **we need not be afraid, even amid general apostasy.** While God lives, truth is in the ascendant.

I remember years ago meeting with that blessed servant of God, the late Earl of Shaftesbury. He was at Mentone with a dying daughter, and he happened that day to be very much downcast, as, indeed, I have frequently seen him, and as, I am sorry to confess, he has also frequently seen me. That day he was particularly cast down about the general state of society. He thought that the powers of darkness in this country were having it all their own way, and that, before long, the worst elements of society would gain power, and trample out all virtue.

Looking up into his face, I said to him, "And is God dead? Do you believe that while God lives the devil will conquer him?" He smiled, and we walked along by the Mediterranean communing together in a far more hopeful tone.”

An excerpt from C.H. Spurgeon's sermon preached Sunday morning 27 February 1887, at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London.

No Choice But To Choose.

Fight Discouragement or Let It Destroy You!