

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

Monday, August 3, 2015

“How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!”
(Second Samuel 1:27)

I was twenty-seven years old, married with one child, and soon to have another. My wife and I were very concerned that our children would have a solid church to attend. At that time, Elmer Towns wrote a book entitled **“The Ten largest Sunday Schools And What Makes Them Grow.”** I visited eight of the ten churches he featured in his book.

One of those churches was Akron Baptist Temple. It was pastored at that time by Dr. Dallas Billington. The church began in June 1934, with thirteen people. The offering at their first meeting was \$1.18. By the time of my visit there were over six thousand attending the Sunday School in their seven million-dollar facilities. **Things have changed!** Today, the Akron Baptist Temple is a rock and roll center with a little religion on the side.

I visited the Highland Park Baptist Church, in Chattanooga, Tennessee when it was a solid fundamental Baptist church. **Things have changed!** The church has adopted a contemporary style of what they call worship and they are now one of the main leaders in the apostasy of our day.

I visited the Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan when it was highly respected as a fundamental Baptist church that used only the King James Bible. **Things have changed!** The church's music today features their “Praise Bands” that consists of the piano, synthesizer, acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, and drums.

They changed the name to Northridge Church of Plymouth, Michigan after taking a survey of the community and finding out that most people don't like the name Baptist.

I visited the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia when Jerry Falwell was the pastor. **Things have changed!** Falwell has been aptly called *“The Billy Graham of Independent Baptists.”* As far back as June 15, 1987, Dr. Victor Sears said, *“Dr. Falwell is not basically a fundamental Baptist, [but] is a New Evangelical in the same compromising vein as Dr. Billy Graham. If we keep following the road paved by Falwell, we of the (BBF) will lose our identity completely as old-fashioned, Bible-believing separatists.”*(Calvary Contender, June 15, 1987).

Why Our Churches Are Going Apostate

I. The Influence of The Leaders In Our Movement Are Responsible For Influencing Our Churches

The dictionary says an influence *“has the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behaviour of someone.”* The fundamental movement has had a major influence on the behaviour of our independent Baptist churches. Influenced by the leaders of our fundamental movement, many pastors have dumped the instructions of First and Second Timothy concerning how we are to *“behave”* in the local church. (First Timothy 3:15)

2. Leaders In Our Movement Changed The Doctrine of Salvation

a. Our New Incentive Salvation

The dictionary says an incentive is “*a thing that motivates one to do something.*” For about two-thousand years we simply preached the Word and allowed the Holy Spirit to convict people of their need to repent.

The new plan presented by the leaders of our movement is to offer Heaven as an incentive or a motivation to get people to pray a prayer. The fact is, mankind has sinned against a thrice-holy God and, God demands that we repent. Jesus said, “*Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3).

Heaven is a wonderful by-product of salvation; however, man needs to repent of his sin against God, even if there were no Heaven. The reason to trust Christ as Saviour is to “*glorify God.*”

First Corinthians 10:31,

“Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

b. The No Need To Repent Heresy

Two men who were at the forefront of our movement in the sixties were Jack Hyles, and Curtus Hutson. They promoted the “*damnable heresy*” that repentance is the enemy of soul-winning. They influenced thousands of pastors in local churches who adapted the “*any one want to go to Heaven, say I do,*” plan of salvation.

c. Unsaved Church Members

Soon, our fundamental independent Baptist churches were flooded with church members who had prayed a little no repentance prayer. According to Jesus, “*they shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3). As a result of the influence of the leaders in our movement multitudes of people became members of what we call fundamental churches who have never been born again.

d. An Appetite For Worldly Things

These unsaved “*religious*” church members have an appetite for worldly things and so worldly things became a part of local church programs. Usually the first avenue used by Satan in these churches is

to introduce satanic music. Then, it is all downhill from there.

3. A Lack of Discernment

People in these churches who are born again have a serious lack of discernment. If they had even a limited amount of spiritual discernment they would not remain in a church that preaches heresy in the place of sound doctrine.

Second Timothy 4:3-4 says,

“For 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.”

There Is A Remnant

A remnant is, “*A small remaining part of something.*” We first read of a remnant in Isaiah 1:9 where we are told,

“Except the Lord of hosts had left us a very small remnant, we should have been like as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

In Isaiah’s day God had a small remnant who remained faithful to His Word. God also has a remnant in these last days.

Romans 11:5,

“Even so at this present time also there is a remnant...”

Understanding The Day In Which We Live

We need to understand our day of apostasy was prophesied by our Lord. Let us not be shaken to the roots by something that we are told would happen.

Second Peter 2:1-3 plainly tells us even Christians would be promoting a “*damnable heresy.*”

“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*. (Translated “redeemed” three times) 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.”

There is no heresy more “damnable” than the Hyles and Hutson heresy that promoted repentance is not necessary for salvation. To believe their heresy is to spend eternity in Hell.

We need to understand that it is our duty to respond to apostasy scripturally. We must “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3). We are not commanded to earnestly content against the apostasy, but we are to “contend for the faith that was once delivered...”

The Remnant In Israel’s Day Needed To Face The Facts

Concerning The Majority of God’s People, God Said,

Isaiah 1:2,

“They have rebelled against me.”

Isaiah 1:3,

“Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.”

The Hebrew word translated “consider” is *biyn*. It has been translated “understand” sixty-two times, “perceive” seven times and “discern” three times.

Isaiah 1:4,

“Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.”

Isaiah 1:5,

“The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.”

Isaiah 1:6,

“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

Let Us Also Face The Facts

First Timothy 4:1,

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

Second Timothy 3:5 tells us that when the “perilous times” come our churches will be entertaining those who will have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” Verses 1-9 tells us that church members will be, “lovers of their own selves, covetous, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God,” and the list goes on.

A.W. Tozer

Concerning The Remnant

Years ago, A.W. Tozer preached a message he entitled “**The Terrible Remnant.**” In that message Tozer said,

“Do you know what is wrong with us as a Church today? We are taking ourselves for granted. We are assuming that which may not be true at all; that which is founded upon wishful hoping and not upon sound Biblical experience in many cases. We have not been disturbed enough. We have not allowed God to plough furrows on our backs. We have not dared to go before God and have the examination made. We are afraid of what God will find, and we would rather wait. Therefore we have waited and settled down.”

Ezekiel’s Remnant

Consider the remnant 600 years before the Lord was born in Bethlehem. God had a small remnant that were concerned about the apostasy of the day.

Ezekiel 9:4,

“And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of **the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations** that be done in the midst thereof.”

Here is the attitude of the remnant, they “**sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done.**”

Concerning this Scripture A. W. Tozer said,

“I cannot stop people from doing what they are doing, but at least I can grieve because they will not stop; and I am going to do that. I am going to let my tears water the footsteps of those who go astray. And when the churches will not come back to the New Testament standards and worship the Lord our God in the beauty of Holiness, if I cannot make them do it or persuade them to do it in this awful hour of crisis, at least I can weep because they will not come. And I can sigh if I cannot weep.”

God’s Remnants

The Remnant of Noah’s Day

First Peter 3:20,

“God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

The Remnant of Isaiah’s Day

Isaiah 1:9,

“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

The Remnant During The Ministry of Christ

Matthew 7:14,

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

It is very important to understand that the verse above has absolutely nothing to do with people being saved. He was speaking concerning the very few Christians who would be willing to walk the narrow way.

Matthew 9:37,

“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.”

The Remnant of The Early Church Period

It is very important to understand that although they were small in number they were organized with a membership and with a God-sent pastor to lead them.

Philemon 1:2,

“The church in thy house.”

Colossians 4:15,

“The church which is in his house.”

First Corinthians 16:19,

“The church that is in their house.”

Romans 16:5,

“Likewise greet the church that is in their house.”

Acts 8:3,

“As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”

Revelation 2:8-9,

“The church in Smyrna...I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty.”

Revelation 3:4,

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis.”

A careful study of the early chapters of the Book of Acts will show that the crowds that began gathering on the Day of Pentecost were Israelites, and only Israelites, who were looking for the Kingdom of Israel to be organized. As soon as they found out that becoming a Christian meant facing persecution, the crowd was reduced to a remnant who were small enough they could assemble in the homes of faithful Christians.

Facing The Facts

Like in the days of Isaiah, once again we need to face the facts and we need to face the future. Our fundamental movement has failed, and many of our local churches are following close behind.

The doctrine of *salvation*, that in no uncertain terms includes repentance has been rejected by many who call themselves fundamentalist.

Biblical standards that were held high for the past 2,000 years have been set aside lest we should offend someone. Politically correct fundamentalism prevails today.

Those who dare to stand and warn against the apostasy that is coming in like a flood are now categorized as unloving and causing division.

The Responsibility of The Remnant

The little Book of Jude was written to exhort faithful Christians in the time of apostasy. Verses 17-25 gives us our responsibilities in the days of apostasy. Jude gives seven things here, which are highlighted below.

Verses 17-25,

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

20 But ye, beloved, (1) building up yourselves on your most holy faith, (2) praying in the Holy Ghost,

21 (3) Keep yourselves in the love of God, (4) looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 (5) And of some have compassion, making a difference:

23 (6) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

24 Now unto (7) him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

The Importance of Love

Jude begins with the importance of doing what we do in "love." (v.2). Genuine love moved Jude to action.

Jude's love included,

- Exposing "filthy dreamers" - V.8.
- Exposing "the way of Cain."- V.11.
- Exposing "the error of Balaam."- V.11.
- Exposing "the gainsaying of Core."- V.11.
- Exposing the "spots in your feasts of love."- V.12
- Exposing the "murmurers, complainers."- V.16.
- Exposing those "walking after their own lusts."- V.16.
- Exposing those "taking advantage of you."- V.16.
- Exposing the "mockers" - V.18.
- Exposing the "sensual, having not the Spirit."- V.19.

"Contending For The Faith"

We are to "earnestly contend for the faith." The dictionary defines the term earnestly" as, "resulting from sincere and intense conviction; a condition demanding a greater extent or more intensely than before."

"Building Up Yourselves"

Verse 20,

"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

We need to be constantly seeking for an improvement of the understanding of our faith, and we need to be much in prayer.

Two Types of Apostasy Moral - Doctrinal

Second Peter 2:1,

tells us that in the last days

even Christians

will be doctrinally

**"denying the Lord
that bought them."**

Face The Facts!

**"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."**

"If the Holy Spirit were taken away from the New Testament Church, 90% of what they did would have come to a halt. But if the Holy Spirit were taken away from today's Church, only 10% of what it does would cease." - A.W. Tozer
