

Lifting Up The STANDARD

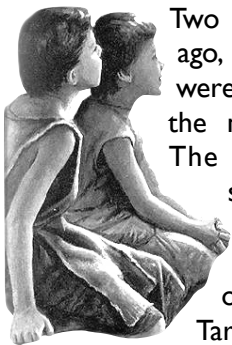
“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 9

Two Little Boys In Israel



Two thousand years ago, two little boys were growing up in the nation of Israel. The Devil had his sights on both of them. One of them started out his life in Tarsus, a town that

is mentioned five times in the Bible and always in reference to this little boy. His name was Saul. The Devil's goal for Saul was to use him to fight against the things of God.

The other Child lived in Nazareth. His name was Jesus. The goal the Devil had for Him was to kill Him before He could die of His own accord at Calvary.

Matthew 2:1 tells us, “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king.” Satan had done his job in seeing that Herod was against Christ, and as soon as He was born we read, “Herod the king...was troubled.” Verse sixteen tells us, this instrument of Satan, “slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and

in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under.”

Matthew 2:13-15 tells us that “the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him... And was there until the death of Herod.”

Matthew 2:23 tells us that Jesus “dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”



The Education of The Two Young Men

While Jesus was being home schooled at Nazareth, Saul had moved to Jerusalem where he was being taught the Old Testament Scriptures, by a highly respected Pharisee whose name was Gamaliel. **Acts 5:34** tells us that Gamaliel was a, “Pharisee,...a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people.”



All Materials Including Books Are Available For Download FREE OF CHARGE!

Additional Files

- Audio**
A Good Man With A Bad Friend
- Article**
The BIG Church Myth
- Article**
Why So Few Seeds Falling On Good Ground
- Article**
Para-Church Ministries - Doorway To Apostasy
- Guest**
Calvinism Growing Among Ind. Baptists
W. Unger

Acts 22:3 says Paul was “brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers.”

The Pharisees were a group of religious, self-righteous, self-centered, unmerciful, hypocrites. (See Matthew 9:11, 23:14; John 8:7, Luke 18:11) Saul would become one of them who would be involved in murdering Christians under the banner of his religion.

...continued on page two



...continued from page one

When Jesus Was Twelve

The Bible tells us when Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary, “supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey;” leaving Jesus in Jerusalem.



Luke 2:46-47 says, “And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, (Instructors of the people in matters of religion) both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.”

No doubt, Saul was one of those standing there who was “astonished at his understanding and answers.” He must have wondered who this twelve-year-old boy was, who taught the teachers things they did not know about the Scriptures.



What Did Saul Think About John The Baptist?

Matthew 3:1 says, “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea.”

When John came on the scene, Saul would have been very concerned about the fact that most of the people who once filled the Temple at Jerusalem, had abandoned the Temple worship to

go out into the wilderness, to listen to this very unusual preacher.

Matthew 3:5-6 tells us, “Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.”

Perhaps Saul was in the crowd when John baptized Christ. If Saul was there, he must have recognized Christ as that twelve-year-old boy he had seen in the Temple eighteen years earlier.

A Great Day For Saul

John’s preaching landed him in prison and ended up costing him his life. No doubt the day John was put to death was a great day for Saul; however, **Matthew 4:17** tells us,



“From that time Jesus began to preach.” and **John 4:1** tells us, “the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John.”

Saul watched for three years as the Temple crowds continued to dwindle and the followers of Christ increased.

Another Great Day For Saul

Then came the time when “all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death” (**Matthew 27:1**). Saul probably was numbered among that group. He probably was also among the religious hypocrites recorded in **Matthew 27:20** that ran among the crowd and

“persuaded the multitude” that they should ask for “Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.”



No doubt Saul was glad when he saw Christ hanging on a cross. Once again he thought his problems were over; however, his anxiety soon returned when multitudes continued to follow the disciples of Christ. His disciples were claiming that Christ had risen from the dead, and thousands were believing it.

Acts 6:7-8 tells us,

“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

Saul And The Pharisees Hated Stephen

The Pharisees hated Stephen and “they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council” (**v.12**).

Lying In The Dirt



Stephen would be murdered before the day was over.

Acts 7:58 tells us they “cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.”

...continued on page three



...continued from page two

Acts 8:2 says, "And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him."

Saul no doubt thought he had attained a great victory. When Stephen fell to the earth and died at the hands of the Pharisees. Saul decided more of the followers of Christ must die. He made it his purpose to stamp them all out.

Acts 8:3 says, "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

Acts 9:1-2 continues, "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem."



Paul's Turn To Lie In The Dirt

Acts 9:3-4 says, "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"



Acts 9:8 continues "And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus."

Acts 9:15 tells us that Jesus said Saul was "a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." Paul was told to "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

"What Thou Must Do"

About thirty-two years later Paul finished the work he was given to do. He said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (Second Timothy 4:7).

God had a purpose for Paul and He has a purpose for all of us. Let us determine that when we leave this world that we also can say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (Second Timothy 4:7).

Hidden Treasures



"If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:4,5).

"If...So...Then"

Verse 1, "if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee."

Verse 2, "So that thou incline thine understanding."

Verse 3, "if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding."

Verse 4, "if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures."

Verse 5, "Then shalt thou understand."



Get Out Of The Commentaries And Into The Scriptures

Commentaries can shed some light on a passage; however, you may be surprised that what you read in a commentary written by man has little in common with what the Holy Spirit has taught you if you check the Word of God first.

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."



Periodically, a pastor asks about a course for teaching young people. **I know a good one! It is called the Bible!** Why would a pastor want to order some generic Bible study done by someone who has no idea concerning the needs of the young people in his church? Perhaps the answer to that question is he is too lazy to dig for the hidden treasures in the Word of God.

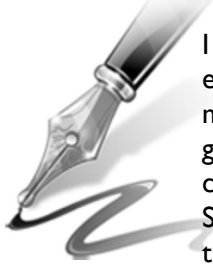
For several years in our chapel service in our Christian School we would take a portion of Scripture and have each person read a verse until we read the entire chapter. Before reading, I would ask the young people to watch for a verse that especially got their attention. After reading we would share our thoughts. Chapel services that were supposed to last for fifteen minutes would often last for an hour and a half.

In recent years I have tried to be very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit concerning our church services. It is possible to have such a slick "order of service" that there is no opportunity for the Holy Spirit to get involved.

We are a small church and several times this summer when people were away and our attendance was low, we did not play church. We picked a portion of Scripture, asked everyone to watch for a verse that got their attention and then we discussed it. Those were some of the best meetings we've ever had.



Pastor Bob Kirkland



Our Adventure...part five

It was now the early 70's and God was blessing us in many ways.

The average cost of a new house was now well over \$30,000.00. The average income was about \$13,000.00. Cars were now selling around \$4000.00 and gas was over fifty cents a gallon.

I had a dream job; I was making a lot of money; had purchased a nice home, drove a new car, but we still needed a solid church for our family. It was time to start another church.

1974 Begins The FaithWay Adventure



The last church we started we turned over to someone from the Hyles organization who ended up destroying it. This time I determined we did not need to pay someone to destroy it. If that was going to happen I could do it for free.

I gave my employer two weeks notice, and my wife and I and our two little children started FaithWay Baptist Church with no income; however, we had a verse. "My God shall supply all your need." (Philippians 4:19). If God was in it God would take care of everything and He did.

I was determined not to let my experience with Jack Hyles stop me from building the fastest growing church in Canada. I continued to go to the Pastor's School in Hammond every year for three years after the college incident. He had all the "how to do it" tricks and I wanted to know how to do it.

My wife and I purchased a seventy-two passenger bus and started knocking on doors. People started to come. Within one year we were averaging 242 in Sunday School and had nine busses.

We used every cheap trick in the book to get people to come. One week we had Snoopy and the Red Barron land in a helicopter. Another time we had seven Santa Clauses in the morning service all arguing who was the real Santa Clause. We were eating live goldfish and throwing pies in peoples faces. We learned it all at Hammond. The thing about all that trash is it works if your goal is to get a crowd.

I averaged about forty in my adult Sunday School class, however, it was a different forty every three months. These people had prayed a little "vote for Jesus minus repentance prayer" and actually thought they were saved.

The Christian School Adventure

The weekly radio program was now being broadcast every day, we purchased a building and put a full page ad in the local paper stating we were starting a Christian School in September. We did not have a school program, or a teacher, however, we had a God-

given burden to start a Christian school. My wife and a lady that had been saved only three months were our first teachers in the school. We soon outgrew the building, and purchased another property that had a house and a barn. We used the house for the school and renovated a barn that was in the backyard for our church services.

Soon the town authorities came by to tell us we could not have a church in a barn. I suggested that Jesus was born in a barn and it was a good thing they didn't have all their minimum standards or we would never have had Christmas.

They did not appreciate my sense of humour. They also told us we could not have the Christian school in the house. They agreed to let us finish out the school year with the promise that we would not be there in the fall. The following year we rented an empty government school on Hilltop Street in the Ajax area.

I was beginning to realize that something was wrong.

All that was happening was very exciting, however, it was not very Scriptural. We were still promoting the church with the carnal, worldly promotions we had learned at the Hyles pastor's school in Hammond.

About that time God brought Dr. Jim Phillips into my life. He was the pastor of FaithWay Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan. It was once considered the fastest growing fundamental church in the State. Dr. Phillips was also hooked on Hyles and used all the tricks in the Hyles book to draw a crowd.

...continued on page 5



...continued from page 4

He told me that one day he had an attendance drive with a man who called himself bird man. He had a bunch of trained birds. Dr. Phillips came to his auditorium that Sunday morning and saw all these birds flying and expelling feces all over the pews and the people, he thought, **“What am I doing?”** **“This has to stop!”**

Dr. Phillips and I became good friends as we compared our adventures in unscriptural stupidity. We also lost a lot of friends as we began to openly oppose the carnal unscriptural methods taught at First Baptist in Hammond, Indiana.

What Do I Believe?

I decided I needed to determine what I really believed. I knew what Jack Hyles believed but what did I believe? I took the next five years to figure it out. I did not go to any exciting “how to do it” meetings, I went to the Word of God. I determined to find out what I believed about the local church, evangelism, Christian education, separation, missions, and every major Bible doctrine, and **how** God wants us to do what He has commanded us to do.

1983 Begins The FaithWay Baptist College of Canada Adventure

In 1983 God laid it on my heart to start the FaithWay Baptist College of Canada. We had a serious problem. We had never been able to sell the original property and we were facing a serious debt by this time. We had been surviving with one nostril above the water for over five years. How could we start a college?

We prayed for three things. **First**, we prayed for a *faculty*, I knew nothing about how Bible colleges operated. I remembered Bob Jones Sr. saying *“You can always hire brains.”* If we were going to start a college we must have some people who were capable of teaching in the college.

Second, we prayed for *facilities*. We needed a place to house the college. **Third**, we prayed for *finances*. Plain and simple, we needed to get out of debt and we needed money to start the college.

A Fifteen Round Main Event

Do to my ridiculous and unscriptural *“fly now pay later philosophy”* we had bordered on bankruptcy for several years. There is a thin line between faith and foolishness and in the area of finances I operated on the foolish side of the line. If we were going to have a college, this would have to change. I decided to have a fifteen round main event with the Devil. I told him we would be out of debt in fifteen weeks or I would quit the ministry. (I don’t talk to the Devil much, but when I do I call him smut-face.)

“We’re Fighting Back!”

“We’re Praying And We’re Paying!”

I put a banner across the front of the church that said *“We’re Fighting Back!”* Across the back was a banner that read, *“We’re Praying And We’re Paying!”*

It was a Friday morning when I finished the banners. I stood in the auditorium thinking about the people coming on Sunday and my announcement about being debt-free in fifteen weeks. It was then

that the Devil really began to do a number on me. I started thinking, am I crazy? What if it doesn’t happen? I was looking at the banners I had just tacked to the wall. I was almost ready to tear them down. I reached for my Bible and it opened at Psalm 20:5 that says, *“In the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.”*

I held up my open Bible and yelled at the Devil. I said, *“Hey, Smut Face, can you read?”* I said *“in case you can’t, let me read it to you.”* It says, *“In the name of our God we will set up our banners: the LORD fulfil all thy petitions.”* I said, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Romans 8:37). I said *“Smut Face, You Lose!”*

Our church family started meeting every morning at 6:00 am for fifteen weeks. We prayed for specific bills each week. That is, we did not just pray for money, we prayed for a specific amount of money each week to pay specific bills. The total debt was around \$80,000.00. God took care of it during those fifteen weeks. I could tell you many stories, I will share just a few.

The first morning we met to pray, shortly after six A.M. the phone rang. A lady on the phone asked this question, *“Does your church need money?”* I said *“yes.”* She said, *“my husband has phoned me from work and said we should send you money.”* These people had previously left our church very disgruntled. They didn’t come back to the church, however, they sent money every week during the fifteen weeks.



Another time a lady phoned and said that a woman in a seniors home north of Toronto, was trying to contact us. She said all she knew was that the church was north of Ajax somewhere, it had a school and needed money. We got her address and went to see her. As it turned out, she was blind. I asked how she heard about us and she said "there is only God and I in this room." I asked if she had heard our radio program and she said I do not have a radio. She gave us seven hundred dollars that day that made up the exact amount we were praying for that week. Over the next few years she sent several thousand dollars to help with the church and the college.

Another time we received a phone call from one of the businesses in the area that we owed several thousand dollars to. I promised the man that they would have the money by the end of the month. We received some money but with only one day to go before the end of the month, we were short of meeting our goal.

My assistant pastor said that he had figured out if he and I did not take our pay that week we would have exactly the amount of money we needed to pay the bill. Quite often we had turned our pay back in; however, I did not think we should do that this time. The next morning there was an envelope on my desk from someone who did not attend our church. In it was the exact amount we needed to make up the funds to pay the bill.

There was another serious problem. I had no idea how to run a college. I had never attended a Bible college, how could I be the

president of one. Dr. Jim Phillips was the president of a Bible college in his church and offered to help me get FaithWay going. At his own expense, he travelled all the way to Canada's west coast looking for students.

Together, we travelled in a beat up Volkswagen van to the east coast. It was an interesting trip. The heater didn't work and the pop we had in the van actually froze.

God Sent The Staff

We had more doctrinally solid Bible college professors asking me if they could come and help, than we had positions to fill. I told them I could not promise any of them any money. They came on those terms.

We were only a month away from beginning when a beautiful very large home with a maids quarters attached, was made available to us. It was only a half a mile from the church. We needed about fifty students to pay the bills. We started with eight. This meant there was no possible way of making it financially. We announced to the students that we had a no debt policy. On paper, we would be going behind one thousand dollars a week. I said, if we do not pay the bills we close the school. My advice to the students was to get serious about prayer.

I was the pastor at FaithWay Baptist Church for five years after we started the college. We ended every year debt free. God took care of the yearly expenses of over \$52,000.00 because the students were serious about prayer.



Things were going well. We had no bills, people were getting saved on a regular basis and God began to move me to turn the church over to my assistant pastor and travel the country of Canada to encourage pastors in the many small churches in our land.

...to be continued

OUR NEXT ISSUE

We will begin a series entitled **Are We Pulling Bible Texts Out of Context To Prove We Are Right?**



We will consider the subjects of the local church, separation, modesty, calvinism, repentance, and other issues. The first subject we will deal with is the local church.

A Prooftext Is,

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



All Materials Including Books Are Available For Download FREE OF CHARGE!

