

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

Sunday, September 6, 2015



Face The Facts And Face The Future

On October 7, 1955, I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour. I began my Christian walk involved in what we call evangelicalism; however, due to the erosion of Bible doctrine and Bible principles in the “*Evangelical Movement*,” I moved my support to the “*Fundamental Independent Baptist Movement*” in the 1960s.

In the past forty years, there has been many changes in our “movement.” I never imagined I would see the day that it would be necessary to warn about the erosion of doctrine in our movement.

Be assured that it is my desire to be a fundamentalist in the Scriptural sense of the term; however, because I am fundamental, I can no longer consider myself a *fundamentalist* in our common definition of the term because there are now many different definitions of what a fundamentalist is.

This Is Not An Attack

I want to strongly express the fact that this material is not meant to be an attack by an enemy. I have constantly used the word “**we**” in this material. I do not write as one who is standing outside of our group slinging mud, or as one who is suggesting we stop having a fundamental point of view. **I am very emphatically saying we need to realize that we are in trouble.**

I have used the word “*movement*” several times in this introduction. Therein lies our problem. Our man-made movement has taken over the responsibilities that God has given to the local church. The Bible says the local church is, “*The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*” (First Timothy 3:15).

Our mandate from God is to do the Lord’s work through the local church. We have chosen to ignore God’s way for our own way and we are paying the price of disobedience. We need to face the facts and we need to face the future.

Facts are things that are indisputable, they can not be denied. **To refuse to face the facts is to indicate that we are not willing to face the truth.** To bury our heads in the sand and pretend there is no problem is to be assured of more serious problems in the future.



The following material will deal with the fact that our fundamental movement, as we know it, has failed. We will look at why it has failed and consider what the future holds.

Our Fundamental Movement Was Destined To Fail From Day One

Our "*Fundamental Movement*" was founded on the faulty foundation of human reasoning from day one. Reasoning is the power of the mind to think and make judgments by the process of logic. On several occasions in the Scripture, we find examples of those who "*reasoned among themselves.*" They were trying to understand and make judgments by the process of logic, and their human reasoning was always faulty. Below are a few example of men reasoning among themselves.

Reasoning Among Themselves

- Matthew 16:7, "*They reasoned among themselves.*"
- Matthew 21:25, "*They reasoned with themselves.*"
- Mark 2:8, "*They so reasoned within themselves.*"
- Mark 8:16, "*They reasoned among themselves.*"
- Mark 11:31, "*They reasoned with themselves.*"
- Luke 20:5, "*They reasoned with themselves.*"
- Luke 20:14, "*They reasoned among themselves.*"
- Luke 9:46, "*There arose a reasoning among them.*"

The only safe way to reason about Scriptural things is to follow the example of Paul who reasoned with his listeners "*out of the Scriptures*" (Acts 17:2).

We Reasoned That We Needed An "Ism"

In the early 1900s, liberalism and modernism were coming in like a flood. Concerned Christian leaders reasoned together concerning how to combat the problem. We concluded if we were going to battle liberalism, modernism, communism, socialism, and all the other "*isms,*" we would need to have an "*ism*" of our own. We called it "*fundamentalism.*" The outcome of our reasoning was a series of articles known as, "**The Fundamentals.**"



The Fundamentals

The Preface To The Fundamentals, Written By R. A. Torrey Reads,

"The oversight of the selection of articles to be included in The Fundamentals was given to a special committee of men who were known to be sound in the faith." (Emphasis mine).

We Reasoned That Bigger Is Better

Our "*special committee,*" armed with the logical humanistic reasoning that "*bigger is better*" decided to bypass God's plan for local churches and we formed a

"*special committee*" of Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists (very few Baptists) and other denominations. Some of them sprinkled adults, some of them sprinkled babies and called it baptism. (**Note:** *Immersion is not a mode of baptism. Immersion IS baptism.*)

Influence Was More Important Than Truth

Our "*special committee*" included C. I. Scofield, who was divorced in 1883, remarried three months later, and was ordained as the pastor of a Congregational church the same year. Our "*special committee*" who according to R. A. Torrey were all "*sound in the faith,*" obviously ignored the fact that **three times in the Word of God we are told that a divorced man is disqualified from being a pastor.** Scofield was one of their friends and he had a lot of influence. Our founders of "*fundamentalism*" ignored the Scriptures concerning divorce because Scofield was very influential at the time. The same thing is happening today. If a man holds a position of influence in our movement, we will ignore the Word of God, reason among ourselves, and do whatever is necessary to promote our *movement.*



C.I. Scofield

The Beginning of Our Para-Church Ministries

The Niagara Bible Conference contributed to the rise and spread of other Bible conferences. Speakers began promoting Bible Schools and other para-church ministries. The Niagara meetings inspired Christian businessmen to become generous donors to Bible colleges, publications, and other ministries outside of the authority of God's local church. The Conference also resulted in a fourteen point creed otherwise known as the "*Niagara Creed.*"

Point ten of their creed included "*we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry.*"

The Local Church And Baptism Became A Bigotry

The fact is, nothing is mentioned in their creed or any of the articles in The Fundamentals referring to the local church or baptism, as these two important Bible doctrines could not be a part of their new para-church movement if they were going "*to keep the unity.*"

For the first time in two thousand years, God's pastors and God's local churches and God's instructions concerning baptism were pushed aside and our new "movement" became the spearhead of what we called "*fundamentalism*."

We Dumped The Truth For Unity And Called It Fundamentalism

The goal was, "*to keep the unity.*" Anyone who would suggest anything contrary to our creed would be guilty of "*sectarian prejudices and denominational bigotry.*"

Sectarian,

"Religious beliefs typically regarded as heretical."

Prejudice,

"Opinion not based on reason."

Bigot,

"Intolerant toward those who hold different opinions."

Prejudices And Bigotry?

For the sake of unity, R. A. Torrey, A. C. Dixon, W. B. Riley, Lewis Sperry Shafer, C. I. Scofield and other "*fundamentalists*" agreed to reduce the major Bible doctrines concerning the local church and baptism to a "*different opinion.*"

For the sake of unity, we approved a creed that determined those who were true to the doctrine of baptism by immersion were promoting "*bigotry.*" We sacrificed Bible doctrine for the sake of unity with baby baptizers and had the gall to call it "*fundamentalism.*"

Our special committee compiled the works of many writers and issued them in twelve volumes. These twelve volumes were later printed in a four-volume set. **We sent what they considered to be "The Fundamentals"** of the Word of God to about 300,000 ministers, missionaries, and other workers in different parts of the world.

The fact that our special committee included a group of leaders with many different doctrinal beliefs, indicates their reasoning was humanistic rather than Scriptural. Had we reasoned together using the Word of God as our foundation, we never would have compromised to form a group of men with many different opinions concerning Bible doctrine.

The fact is, if we had checked the Scriptures we never would have bypassed God's pastors and God's local

churches in forming a "*special committee*" in the first place. We thought we needed a big organization with some big named people, so we set aside Bible truth to accomplish our goal.

Our Committee And The "Universal Church" Virus

One of the contributors on our special committee was Anglican Bishop John Charles Ryle. He wrote an article in *The Fundamentals* concerning what he called the "True Church." (Referring to the so-called universal church) He supported his position with absolutely no Scripture. What else could he do? No Scripture can be found to support his position.

The "*universal church*" virus was one of the foundational blocks of what we call fundamentalism. Ryle began his discussion with the question "**Do you belong to the one true Church?**" Ryle's question plainly suggested that your local church is not the "*true church.*" Referring to their committee Ryle also said, "*Its members are entirely agreed on all the weightier matters of religion, for they are all taught by one Spirit.*"

Agreed On The Weightier Matters? Taught By One Spirit?

If the truth be told, Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Baptists were not "*of one mind*" concerning baptism; however, the truth could not be told if we were going to keep the unity of our group.

Keeping the unity was more important to R. A. Torrey, A. C. Dixon, W. B. Riley, Lewis Sperry Shafer, and C. I. Scofield, than defending the important doctrines of baptism, and the local church.

NOTHING On Baptism!

Baptism is one-third of the command of Christ in Matthew 28:19; however, nothing is written in all of their twelve volumes about baptism and for the sake of unity our compromising, "*fundamentalists*" remained silent about it.



Ryle said, "*Its members are entirely agreed on all the weightier matters of religion.*" Therefore, the local

church and baptism were not considered by our fundamental forefathers to be “weightier matters.” Ryle went so far as to say they were all taught this wicked compromise of the Word of God by the “Spirit.”

Leander Whitcomb Munhal, a Methodist evangelist wrote in *The Fundamentals* concerning, **“The Doctrines That Must Be Emphasized.”** He did not mention baptism, and neither did any other writer of the *Fundamentals* deal with baptism.

Our special committee should never have “agreed to disagree” on Bible doctrine. Our “fundamentalism” began with a compromising committee of pragmatic, interdenominational leaders who determined that believing fundamental doctrine was not important to be a fundamentalist.

We Found A Better Way

Our new movement presented an open door to scores of para-church ministries. Colleges, newspapers, magazines, and *the movement* itself became the new focus. Our local churches were reduced in value as the movement took the preeminence. **The God-given title of pastor** was far less impressive than the worldly titles such as *president, professor, administrator, director, editor,* and such like. Soon everybody who was anybody could get a doctor’s degree if you knew the right fundamentalist. We have never had so many leaders with doctor’s degree and the cause of Christ has never been in such a sick state.

Doing That Which Was Right In Our Own Eyes

Any ministry that is organized outside of the local church is not part of a church, it is part of a movement. God has not given any instructions concerning how movements are to operate so we were free to “do that which was right in our own eyes.”

Our Fundamentalism Is Man-Centered

Our movement started out man-centered and it is still man-centered today. Here is an example of our man-centered mentality.

Some time ago, a concerned parent asked me for some guidelines for her children who were on

Facebook. I researched the site for three days. I made a survey of only fifteen young people from Independent Baptist churches in our area who were on Facebook. There were at least three times that many fundamental Independent Baptist young people and their fundamental pastors in Ontario, on this social networking site at the time.

Our Young People Had Some Very Wicked Friends

I found each of these young people from our fundamental Baptist churches had an average of 120 “friends” they communicated with. I found the “friends” of these young people had “friends” promoting the occult, very vulgar sexual comments, and one had an actual close-up photograph of a man’s privates. I found on some of the sites of our fundamental independent Baptist young people a “Sex Button” that said, “Browse profiles of hot looking people and Have Sex! with them in different positions and places! Put a “Have Sex! button on your profile so your friends can Have Sex! with you.” Their “friends” also had other material and photos too immoral to report in this material. It took me three days to get the trash out of my mind after being on the sites of our fundamental independent Baptist young people. I published several articles warning pastors of the dangers of this site.

(Available on our website at www.fairhavensbaptist.net).

Two Different Responses

Please keep in mind that the issue I am dealing with here is not Facebook but the fact that our movement is man centered.

Response Number One

A pastor of a smaller church in Alberta wrote, “Thank you for this excellent warning, Brother Kirkland. At one time, I had profiles on three different social networking sites (Hi5, Bebo, and Facebook), and everything you said is very true. Even if someones’ motives for being part of one of these sites is pure, they cannot help but be bombarded with immorality, pornographic or near pornographic pictures. Also, most of these sites have very sensual advertisements (including swimsuit calendars, pornographic screen-savers, and dating sites) that will pop up from time to time and are IMPOSSIBLE not to see.”

Response Number Two

Dr. Greg Baker, who at that time was at the forefront of fundamentalism in our country wrote, “I just preached at

Crown College two weeks ago and heard Dr. Sexton encourage his grads to stay in touch with him through Facebook.” He continued, “Dr. Chappell and I talked about this when he was here last month. He “Tweeters” and has people that stay up with him daily.” Dr. Baker’s conclusion was, “I don’t know that Facebook is sinful.”

Our Movement Is Man-Centered

Greg Baker came to his conclusion because of what other well-known fundamental leaders with large ministries said.

He ignored the facts in my article and he ignored the testimony of the pastor of a smaller church who confirmed my findings about the trash-filled site. Dr. Baker’s letter to me started with the phrase “I think.” He told me what he thought after he *reasoned together* with other *fundamentalists* to see what they thought.

He offered no Scripture to support his conclusion. He referred to the opinions of successful looking fundamentalists. Fundamentalism is man-centered. As previously mentioned, if we are going to reason together let’s reason, “out of the Scriptures” (Act 17:2).

When A Good Friend Compromises

For the record, Pastor Baker and I were very good friends. He was my assistant pastor for about seven years. Peter and Paul were also very good friends. Paul once stayed at Peter’s home for fifteen days (Galatians 2:9). Truth demands that “pillars” like Peter, (Galatians 2:9) friend or not, are to be publicly confronted when they promote things that will lead others astray.

Peter’s actions caused others to “dissembled (act hypocritically) likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.”

The Greek word dissimulation is translated “hypocrisy” five times in our King James Bible.

Peter’s Response When Publicly Rebuked

When Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit publicly exposed Peter for leading people astray, Peter would obviously respond in one way or another to his rebuke. How did he respond?

“Only by pride cometh contention...”
(Proverbs 13:10)

In Peter’s final recorded words, in Second Peter 3:15, he referred to Paul as “our beloved brother Paul,” and he made reference to “the wisdom given unto him.”

Prior to that, at the council meeting at Jerusalem recorded in Acts chapter fifteen Peter defended Paul in their discussion concerning the very thing Paul had publicly confronted him about. The Bible says, “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom” (Proverbs 13:10).

Dealing With Our Present Day Issues

We have some leaders today who are running under the banner of fundamentalism who are leading people astray. They may be good friends; however, they need to be rebuked before all.

“Written For Our Learning”

Romans 15:4,

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.”

Israel rejected God’s plan for what they thought was a better way. Psalm 78:55 says God, “made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.” The leaders in Israel’s day, like the leaders of our day, decided they had a better plan. They were weary with dwelling in tents and they wanted to do things like the world did things.

First Samuel 8:4,

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel and said unto him...make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

God Wanted Tribes Living A Simple Life

The word “tribe” or “tribes” is in the Word of God over 350 times. It was God’s plan for Israel.

Numbers 24:5-6,

“How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river’s side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters.”

Psalm 78:55,

“He...made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.”

The Priests And The Parents

God's plan for Israel was very plain, and it was very simple. Israel was divided into twelve tribes. God had ordained priests to teach, and in turn parents were to lead their families in the way of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:4-8,

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."

Before Israel Entered The Promised Land, They Followed God's Plan

In the wilderness, it was God's plan for priests to teach and the parents were to be sure their families understood the things that were being taught. It was in this context we read, "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel!" (Numbers 24:5).

When Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land, we read that the plan remained the same. Psalm 78:55, God "cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents." The Philistines were a threat to Israel and the elders of Israel did not trust God to "cast out the heathen."

First Samuel 7:3,

"Prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

The Elders Decided They Would Rather Trust Their Own Plan

First Samuel 8:4,

"Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel and said unto him...make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

It was God's purpose to show Himself powerful through His tribes. In our age, it is God's purpose to show Himself powerful through His local churches.

First Corinthians 1:27-29,

"God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen...That no flesh should glory in his presence."

God did not need His people in Israel to take things into their own hands and fight their battles like "all the nations," and neither did we need to form a movement to do it in our day.

When God's people trust God, He takes care of His people. Israel should have trusted God in Samuel's day and claimed the promise: "I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem" (Zechariah 12:9).

Samuel Pleaded With The People To Do Things God's Way.

First Samuel 8:19,

"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us."

Samuel continued to warn them, but they refused to listen.

Finally Samuel said,

First Samuel 10:19,

"And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us."

The Plan Looked Good At The Beginning

Israel's first King was King Saul. His first focus was to conduct a confrontation against the Philistines. Israel's new organization appeared to be a much better plan than a group of seemingly insignificant tribes without a central leader. "And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him" (First Samuel 14:52).

First Samuel 13:4 says,

"And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines." Then, Saul overstepped his God-given boundaries in offering a burnt offering.

First Samuel 13:11-14 says,

“And Samuel said, What hast thou done?...Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue.”

We Always Become Like Those We Associate With

David's reign was regarded as Israel's "golden age;" however, he began to go the way of the kings of "all the nations."

David Was Influenced To Ignore God's Command

In Deuteronomy 17:14-17, we read a king in Israel was not to "multiply wives to himself."

Second Samuel 3:2-5, lists six of David's wives. Then, following the ways of the kings who were noted for how large a harem they had, we read: "And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem."

The Shepherd or The Sovereign

When David was a shepherd with his "few sheep" (First Samuel 17:28) he was the man "after God's own heart" (First Samuel 13:14).

When David became a sovereign, he chose to follow the example of the kings of "all the nations." The man who was once a man after God's own heart became a man after another man's wife.

First Samuel 27:3, tells us of two of David's wives, plus "Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife." Then, David took "Uriah's wife" (Second Samuel 12:15), and had Uriah and his men slaughtered so that he could have her. God is not mocked by unsaved sinners or by born-again sinners. David paid dearly for his sin. Israel also paid dearly for her disobedience in rejecting God's plan and choosing a king.

First Samuel 8:7 says, "And the LORD said unto Samuel...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."

Following King Saul, King David, and King Solomon, God's Word declares that **about eighty percent of Israel's kings did "evil in the sight of the LORD."**

How did their plan to battle the Philistines turn out? God is not mocked. We read, "The LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years" (Judges 13:1).

We Also Refused To Stay With God's Plan

The word "church" and "churches" is in the Bible over 100 times. That is God's plan for our present age. Like Israel, we refused to stay with God's plan. As a result, we are also paying a serious price.

God's Plan For Our Age Is Plain And Simple

For Israel, it was priests teaching the people and parents training their families to do what God commands. God's plan for our day is local churches.

Acts 15:5,

“And so were the churches established.” God gave pastors who are to teach “faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (Second Timothy 2:2).

Ephesians 4:11,12,

“And he gave some...pastors and teachers...For the perfecting of the saints.”

The plan is plain, and it is simple. God wants pastors teaching the Word of God and parents teaching their children to follow God's Word.

Ephesians 6:4,

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Our founders of fundamentalism, like Israel, rejected God's way for what we thought was a better way. Our new way also looked good at the beginning; however, we too have ended up in a mess as we have followed our fundamental kings.

We made a mistake when we said, "Nay, but we will have our kings." We have rejected His perfect will for His permissive will and we are paying dearly for it. One would need to be completely spiritually blind not to see the mess our movement is in today.



We, Like Israel, Decided We Had A Better Plan

First Samuel 8:4 says, “The elders gathered themselves together” and decided they wanted to do it like the world did it. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, our leaders gathered themselves together because we were concerned about the advancement of modernism and liberalism. We decided something needed to be done to combat our Philistines. We decided we needed an “ism” to stand against modernism and liberalism. We called it “fundamentalism.”

We decided that God’s local churches, scattered everywhere could not handle the threat. Like Israel, we forsook God’s way and went the way of the world and local churches were set aside.

The World Has Colleges

We organized colleges

The World Gives Doctor’s Degrees

We give Doctor’s Degrees

The World Has Newspapers

We started newspapers

The World Has Magazines

We published magazines

The World Has Seminars

We organized seminars

The World Has Associations

Baptist’s have over 300 different Associations



As a result of our movement, the influence of pastors faded and the influence of college presidents and professors took control. Soon the phrase, “As goes the colleges, so goes the churches” became an unscriptural fact.

God’s plan is pastors “in every city” (Titus 1:5).

Today, editors, presidents, and professors, have more influence than most pastors. Scores of para-church ministries, with no Scriptural foundation, continue to spring up around the world. There are now thousands of para-church ministries on the internet “doing that which is right in their own eyes.” Some of them are more doctrinally correct than others. **However, no para-church organization has a Scriptural foundation to stand on, including any Bible college that is not under the umbrella of a local church.**

To add to our fundamental confusion, in the last fifty years, new issues have come to the forefront with many “fundamentalists” taking many different positions concerning these issues or taking no stand at all.

A partial list includes such important issues as,

- Bible translations
- Music standards
- Dress standards
- Calvinism
- Lordship salvation
- Repentance
- Separation

And the list goes on.

While “fundamentalists” continue taking different positions on these issues, it becomes obvious that the word “fundamental” means many different things to many people. The term now raises more questions than it answers. Fundamentalism is an “ism.” An “ism” is “A tag hooked on the end of a name that promotes a belief accepted as authoritative by a group.”

For example,

- Communism
- Marxism
- Socialism
- Modernism
- Mohammedanism
- Unitarianism
- Catholicism
- Nazism
- Zionism
- Fundamentalism

And the list goes on.

Socialism is a mixture of Communism, Marxism, Anarchism and anything contrary to Capitalism.

Like socialism, we fundamentalists have our own mixture of,

- Fundamentalism
- Neo-fundamentalism
- Pseudo-fundamentalism
- Militant fundamentalism
- Moderate fundamentalism
- Authentic Fundamentalism

And the list goes on.



The World Has Its' Modernism And So Do We

Modernism represents those who “*modify traditional beliefs according to modern ideas.*” Since modernism represents “*the present,*” as opposed to “*the past,*” modernism changes every few years. Like modernism, fundamentalism continually modifies its traditional beliefs according to new modern ideas.

The World Has Its' Liberalism And So Do We

Liberalism represents those who “*are open to new behaviour or opinions and are willing to discard traditional values.*” Like Liberalism, many who travel under the banner of fundamentalism are open to any new behaviour or opinions of big name *fundamentalists* while discarding traditional values.

God's Plan Has Always Been A Simple Plan

At the risk of being too repetitious, I want to emphasize the simplicity of God's plan again. For Israel it was “*the tribes of Israel.*” For our age, God's plan is local “*churches.*” The word “*churches*” is found thirty-seven times in the New Testament. Seven times in God's final Book in the New Testament we read, “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*” God did not write seven Bible colleges or any other para-church organizations.

This Is Not A Time For Generic Preaching

Something that is “*generic*” is something that is not specific. Much of what passes for preaching in many of our so-called fundamental churches is anything but specific. It is not necessarily false preaching. **We may preach some truth** while refusing to be specific concerning what the Word of God says about separation from Christians who are promoting apostasy.

Face The Facts Our Movement Has Failed

Leaders in our fundamental movement have changed the doctrine of salvation to what the Bible refers to as a “*damnable heresy.*”

The doctrine of separation is held only by a very few who are branded as unloving and causing division. Sound doctrinal preaching has been replaced by

smooth things only messages. Standards of dress, music and separation have deteriorated to the level of the world. Spiritual discernment is at an all time low. Reaching a crowd has become an unscriptural definition of success.

Face The Future

As we face the future, we must realize that there is a difference between the movement and the local church. We must determine to guard our churches from being influenced by our movement.

Silence Gives Consent

We cannot over emphasize the importance of teaching our church membership the facts about the apostasy we live in and the facts about the leaders in the movement who are promoting apostasy. Silence gives consent! Any pastor who only preaches the smooth things can say goodbye to his young people.

How The Movement Has Influenced Our Churches

We changed what was once called the *pulpit* area to the *platform*. The word platform came from the theatre where people are entertained. The pastor's *study* is now the pastor's *office*. The study was where we once studied to show ourselves approved unto God. Today we have an office where we can run the business aspects of the ministry.

God's Remnant

The remnant in Noah's day needed to face the facts.

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 in Isaiah's day needed to face the facts.

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 in Jesus's day needed to face the facts.

Matthew 9:37,

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

The remnant during the early church age needed to face the facts.

Revelation 3:4,

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis."

The remnant in our age of apostasy needs to face the facts.

Romans 11:5,

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

We need to understand that the apostasy of our day was prophesied by the Lord Himself. When the disciples asked Jesus what things would be like at the end of the age Jesus said, *"because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"* (Matthew 24:12).

As The Days of Noah

We need to understand that Jesus said, *"as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man"* (Luke 17:26).

He continued *"Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."* In the same context, Jesus asked the sobering question, *"when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8).

We are not commanded to stop the apostasy; however, we are commanded to understand what to do.

First, we need to understand this apostasy was prophesied by our Lord. Let us not be shaken to the roots by something that we were told would happen.

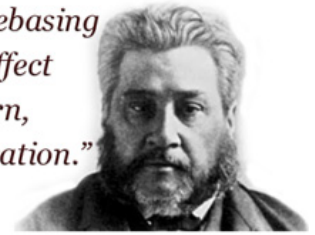
Second Peter 2:1-3 plainly tells us,

"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."

There is no heresy more "damnable" than two "fundamentalists" named Hyles and Hutson preached saying repentance is not necessary for salvation. To believe that heresy is to spend eternity in Hell. All heresy is bad, however, the Hyles, Hutson heresy is "damnable."

"Trimming now, and debasing doctrine now will affect children yet unborn, generation after generation."

Charles Spurgeon



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 contend against the apostasy, but we are to *"contend for the faith that was once delivered."*

We need to face the facts and we need to face the future.

Pastor

*If This Is Your
Philosophy of
Ministry
Say
GOODBYE
To
Your
Young
People!*

"Let's just keep the meetings positive and stay away from any issues."



"Do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

(Galatians 1:10)