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## Feature Article – Vision and Voice

**1 Samuel 3:1** *"And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision."*

One of the old Scottish theologians said, "A prophet is a man who sees what others cannot see, and so he says what others cannot say!"

Vision and Voice! These are the true marks of God's prophets! I doubt if we could describe a real Bible preacher much better than that. God's men are those whose eyes and mouths are open. God shows them His perspective so that they can preach it to their peers. The Vision gives them Voice.

Enoch's eyes were opened by his faith and God showed him the return of Christ, so he preached it (Jude 14-15)! Noah saw the vision of God's judgment on a sin crazed world and became a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Moses beheld the Lord's lesser glory and came down from the mount to preach the Law of God (Exodus 33 & 34). Nehemiah wept and mourned and

fasted and prayed over the remnant in Jerusalem until God gave him the vision of rebuilding the walls. Once he had the vision, he told it to others and they built the wall in 52 days.

Over and over we see this truth repeated in Holy Scripture. When holy men catch the vision of what God would do and then preach that vision, the world is changed. What was the powerful ministry of the apostles, but the getting from their Lord His vision, the making of it their own vision, and then the preaching of it all over the world?

Vision and Voice, that's it in a nutshell!

Sadly, the reverse is equally true. False prophets deceived by the Devil see a false vision and therefore preach what they shouldn't.

Jeremiah warned his people of the false prophets of his day with these words, "Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart" (Jer. 14:14). "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD" (Jer. 23:16).

The vision God gave Jeremiah contained a keen insight into the hearts of the false prophets. They preached their false vision, peace to Jerusalem. Peace without repentance. Peace in the midst of idolatry. False peace!

Jeremiah discerned their spiritual blindness. He perceived their lack of the true vision that comes from God. And then he wrote down the disastrous result of sitting under false prophets. It is revealed in the last verse. Men without God's vision "make their hearers vain."

Jeremiah is a wonderful example of a faithful preacher who sees what God has revealed in His Word, and then preaches it with boldness. We often forget that Vision and Voice, Seeing and Saying includes exposing false prophets and the lies they preach. Just like Jeremiah did.

Our prayer, then, must be, "O God give me the true vision according to your Word and the voice to preach it without fear of man!"

**Ephesians 6:18-20** *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."*

*Buddy Smith*

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## When I Look Into The Mirror – Psalm 7

Most of us have heard of Robert Louis Stevenson's work, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde". It tells the story of a man who found a way to divide himself into a good being or an evil being; how the good being, Dr. Jekyll, had no knowledge of the doings of Mr. Hyde, the evil being. It also tells how he lost himself in his enjoyment of evil, and began to spontaneously transform into Mr. Hyde while he slept. The story ends with the suicide of the man who had become completely Mr. Hyde - a man who couldn't go back.

Stevenson wrote his story as an allegory, and I think we can all see a little, or a lot, of ourselves here. But this is only a work of fiction; let us read from the Word of Truth.

Psalm 7:1-5 says, "O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver. O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands; If I have rewarded evil unto him that was



at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah."

I almost feel as though the psalmist, in passing by a mirror, has caught a fleeting glimpse of something that causes a chill to run up his spine. In this moment of recognition he stops his plea for deliverance, and begins to pray for justice - for others.

Just like Dr. Jekyll, there lays in all of us some kind of monster, waiting to be roused. At best, we are quite often ignorant of this beast, at the worst we recognize it, give it a pet name and a comfy spot. Most often we identify it incorrectly, like some short sighted biologist. When the monster of wrath rises up in us, we mis-identify it as 'righteous indignation' - forgetting that our Divine Manual points out that "...the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Psalm 7 speaks particularly of a frenzied attack, a tearing and rending, while there is none to deliver; the psalmist, in this predicament, suddenly understands what it is like to be on the other side - to be the victim of the attack, to be experiencing the tearing and the rending. In horror, he begins to question whether he has ever been the instigator of such an attack.

Is it possible that we could behave in such a way, and yet have no idea of how we are behaving? God's Word gives light on this subject.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Psalm 19:12, 13 say, "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me."

Romans 7:15 & 18, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

We know that we have two natures, the old and the new man, but we are continually shocked by each other, and even, occasionally, by ourselves. None of us are free from the sin nature, it is the evil that lurks in all of us. As in Psalm 7, we often pray regarding others treatment of us. Should we turn around our prayers? So that the judgment that I am praying for, regarding their treatment of me, should also be applicable to my treatment of them and others?

Christians can be a very short sighted bunch when it comes to our own failings. Our vision is 20/20 when it comes to the failings of others. It behooves us to begin showing mercy in regards to the faults of others. The day will come, if it hasn't already, when what we most desperately need is gentle mercy.

When one of my dear friends strayed away from the Lord, she told me later that what brought about her return were not the reprimands and reprovings of other believers. Rather, it was the love of God that turned her heart back to Him. I wonder how many believers slide away and stay away because of all our stern and unloving faces?

I believe we must be valiant for truth but I think this should never be an excuse for ungracious behaviour or bad manners. The biblical definition of the word valiant is also translated virtuous. Can we put our behaviour under God's microscope, and ask ourselves, "Is my behaviour, in this regard, virtuous? Does it exhibit true Christian virtue?"

2 Timothy 2:24-26 says, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." God doesn't want us to be quarrelsome but gentle; able to teach but patient while waiting for someone to be teachable; humbly instructing those who have gone astray.

Titus 3:2-3 reiterates this, "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another." These words are written to the saved regarding the unsaved but I

know God desires us to treat all men righteously. Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

It is not possible that any of us will ever be completely good on this earth, yet it is possible to allow ourselves to be used for evil more and more. Like Dr. Jekyll, when we succumb again and again to the temptation to behave in a fleshly manner, the flesh will begin to overtake us; so that in every situation the flesh will be my fallback position. It will make the decisions and take the action, it will speak its voice for all to hear.

When we extend to others the mercy, forgiveness and longsuffering that God extends to us, then the slathering beast begins to slump. It will never die but if we keep it on starvation rations, it will never be in control. We do not want to become a person who cannot find the way back.

Our worship of God must be done in righteousness, then it will have a transforming effect on our character, Psalm 17:15 - "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness."

Our sincere prayer must be Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer."

We don't want to look into the mirror, and not recognise the person we have become. Our great desire must be that others truly would see Jesus in us.

"Sir, we would see Jesus." - John 12:21

*By Joye Binstead*

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## Secret Heroes –

*By BBC*

"In 1938, Nicholas Winton helped 669 Jewish kids escape certain death from the Nazis. He never told anyone. While on a ski trip in Switzerland, Winton took a detour in Czechoslovakia to help the children of refugees. Nazi Germany had recently annexed a large part of Czechoslovakia and the news of Kristallnacht, a violent attack on Jews in Germany and Austria, had just reached Prague. Winton set up a rescue operation for the children, filling out the required paperwork for them to be sent to homes in Sweden and Great Britain. He had to raise money to fund foster homes for all of them, and then he sent 669 children away from Czechoslovakia on trains before the Nazis closed down the borders. Winton told no one that he did this, not even his wife. In 1988, his wife found a scrapbook full of pictures of the children and letters from parents in their attic. She arranged to have Winton's story appear in newspapers. Many of the children Winton saved went on the BBC television program, That's Life, to meet him for the first time since the war. They refer to themselves as "Winton's children." Winton is now 101 years old and has received awards from Israel and the Czech Republic as well as Knighthood from the Queen of England in 1993." <http://www.wimp.com/secrethero/>

I was so impressed when I came across this video, that I watched it several times. And then I thought back over all the secret heroes who do even more than Nicholas Winton did. Let me tell you about one of them. His name is Carl "Curly" Lauridsen. He lives in north Queensland, only about an hour's drive from our house. His whole life, as far as I know, has been lived near Babinda, Queensland. He has led a Sunday School in his town, along with his brother and parents, for more than fifty years. He has run Christian children's camps for many, many years. At present he is the chaplain at the state schools in Babinda. He has a Bible club that meets at lunch at the primary school, and do you know where he gets the helpers he needs? He gets them from the student body at the high school. They meet with "Curly" before school to pray, and then at lunch, with permission from the principal, they go to the primary school to help teach the little kids. If that isn't impressive enough, listen to this. "Curly" runs a youth group. It is limited to 40



kids who can attend, and would you believe, they have a waiting list so that if anyone moves away or drops out, someone else is waiting in line to take his place? One of the ladies who attends our church gave a testimony recently and said that she was won to Christ through "Curly's" Sunday School, and that she was the first in her family to be saved, and now her whole family has come to Christ. Glory!!!!!!

And we never heard of "Curly" Lauridsen! I have to tell you, these are the real secret heroes!

*Bro. Buddy Smith.*

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## What is So Different About Emerging Churches? –

Ed. - It is true that every religious movement, good or bad, grows out of a basic philosophy. Bible believing churches grow out of the godly wisdom found in the Holy Scriptures. Emerging/ emergent churches grow out of the humanistic philosophy that man is the measure of all things, and that his wisdom supercedes God's wisdom. Emergent churches are the outgrowth of post-modernism. Its basic tenet is that no one can know anything for sure by reading the Bible alone. He has to experience it for himself and measure it by himself. We are finding increasingly that this elitist, intellectual pride carries its adherents into the admiration of and fellowship with modernists (see example #3). Here are three examples:

**Example #1 - WASHINGTON (BP)** - A newly released interview from 2004 sheds light on President Obama's faith, showing that on several major doctrinal issues - including sin, heaven and the Gospel's exclusivity - he steps outside historic Christianity. The one-hour interview by Cathleen Falsani was conducted when Obama was running for U.S. Senate, several months before he was introduced to the country during his 2004

Democratic National Convention speech. At the time, Falsani was a religion reporter for the Chicago-Sun Times. Although the interview formed part of a book ("The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People"), much of Obama's answers were not included in it. She calls the interview the "longest and most in-depth he's granted publicly about his faith," and she made the transcript available at the Sojourners website in February. Among Obama's most intriguing answers, he says he believes there are many paths to God. His answers on heaven and sin, though, have drawn the most discussion:

**FALSANI:** "Do you believe in heaven?"

**OBAMA:** "Do I believe in the harps and clouds and wings?"

**FALSANI:** "A place spiritually you go to after you die?"

**OBAMA:** "What I believe in is that if I live my life as well as I can, that I will be rewarded. I don't presume to have knowledge of what happens after I die. But I feel very strongly that whether the reward is in the here and now or in the hereafter, the aligning myself to my faith and my values is a good thing. When I tuck in my daughters at night and I feel like I've been a good father to them, and I see in them that I am transferring values that I got from my mother and that they're kind people and that they're honest people, and they're curious people, that's a little piece of heaven."

**FALSANI:** "Do you believe in sin?"

**OBAMA:** "Yes."

**FALSANI:** "What is sin?"

**OBAMA:** "Being out of alignment with my values."

Read the complete Interview on Sojourners website:

<http://www.sojo.net/blogs/2012/02/21/transcript-barack-obama-and-god-factor-interview->

**Example #2 - Shane Hipps is the man who replaced Rob Bell at Mars Hill Bible Church.** Here Hipps is discussing his thoughts "...surrounding Rob Bell's book and the issue of hell." According to Hipps, many books have been written on the subject of heaven and hell in direct response to Rob Bell's book *Love Wins*. Hipps says, "As a Christian who believes in the Bible and Jesus, I have found the intensity and certainty of the debate all very bizarre. It's strange that so much passion and ink has been spilled over something that is all speculation. Here's what I mean: If you died, took pictures, and came back to life again, then you would know with certainty what happens after death. Of course you would only know what happens to you, not everyone else. But if you haven't died, you can only speculate about what happens to you and everyone else."



This speculation is perfectly fine. As long as we recognize these are only our beliefs. And beliefs by nature are not certain, they are faith based assumptions. That's what makes them beliefs, once you can prove them they are no longer beliefs, they become a kind of knowing. And the funny thing is, once you know, you don't need to debate anymore.

I have never died, so I don't have a theological position on heaven or hell, I can only entertain theological possibilities. There is a big difference. I take a position when I know something with certainty. Almost always through direct experience. If someone pinches me, I don't believe they pinched me. I know it. I experienced it. It doesn't reside somewhere in my head. Nothing to debate. It happened. I consider a possibility when it's something I don't know. This is something I merely believe. Either because someone I trust told me, or the Bible seems to say it, or reason supports it. But until I've experienced it, this is only something I believe— a possibility. And possibilities should be held with an open hand, perhaps with some humility and even humor. Who knows, I could be wrong about what I believe?" - quoted from Shane Hipps' blog - <http://shanehipps.com/2011/09/jesus-on-life-after-death/>

**Example #3 - CAMPOLO, MCLAREN, AND WRIGHT AT FOSDICK CONFERENCE** (Friday Church News Notes, June 29, 2012, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)



Tony Campolo, Brian McLaren, and Jeremiah Wright were three of the speakers at the 5th Fosdick Convocation at Riverside Church in New York City last October. The meeting is held annually in honor of the blasphemous heretic Harry Emerson Fosdick, founder of Riverside Church. Fosdick denied every fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith, including Jesus' Divinity, virgin birth, miracles, vicarious atonement, and bodily resurrection. In a letter written in 1945 to

an inquiring individual from Peru, Indiana, Fosdick said, "Of course I do not believe in the virgin birth or in that old-fashioned substitutionary doctrine of the atonement, and I know of no intelligent person who does" (*The Christian Beacon*, January 3, 1957). He called the doctrine of Christ's blood atonement "a theological disgrace" (*Dear Mr. Brown*, p. 135). In his sermon "The peril of worshipping Jesus," Fosdick said, "Of course the divinity of Jesus differs from ours in degree but not in kind" (M.L. Moser, Jr., *Ecumenicalism Under the Spotlight*, p. 65). In spite of the wicked unbelief of this "pastor," the Northern Baptist Convention in 1926 voted by a margin of three to one not to evict

Riverside Church from its membership. Fosdick become the featured radio speaker for the Federal Council of Churches in America (the forerunner to the National Council of Churches) after its formation in 1950. Emerging church leaders Campolo and McLaren--whose heresies we have documented in *What Is the Emerging Church?*--are spiritual chameleons and wolves in sheep's clothing. I have interviewed both men at conferences I attended with media credentials, and they deceptively transformed themselves into Bible-believing fundamentalists for the occasion. As for Jeremiah Wright, he was President Barack Obama's pastor for 20 years at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. By his presence at the Fosdick convention he demonstrated his unbelief and sympathy for wicked heresies.

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## They'll Never Tax Air! –



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### Hebrews 4:12-13

**"...the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."**



## Fresh Quills – The Old Sword

A dim fog hung over the battle field as Christian stepped forward to join the fight by himself for the first time. The war he was about to enter was not a new conflict; it was a fight that had raged violently from the beginning of time; the war between God and Satan. Christian was well protected by tried and tested armor and in his hand he held his weapon of offense; the Sword of the Spirit.

As Christian clutched his sword, a flood of memories filled his mind of the years of careful training he had received from his grandfather on how it was to be rightly used. His mind went back to the many times he had sat by his grandfather's warm, open fire and listened to his deep, mellow voice as he spoke of the conquests and victories he had experienced as a warrior for the truth. He remembered the humble prayers his grandfather had often prayed that Christian would grow up to be a good soldier in the army of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This was no ordinary Sword; it had been passed down from generation to generation, and though it was old; it was whole and complete as though protected and pre-served by unseen hands. Its edges were sharp and powerful like no other sword known to man. Though it was of simple design to the human eye, when used by men of faith, it inflicted great wounds upon the enemies of God. Christian trusted this Sword with all his heart and above all he de-sired to please the Great Captain of Heaven; the same Captain his grandfather had given his whole life to serve. Now it was time for him to stand for the faith of his fathers. His creed was short and pointed, **EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH**. This was to be his charter, his guide, and his calling as a soldier of the cross.

As Christian made his way to the battle, he was joined by another soldier who was also traveling to the front. His armor was quite impressive and shiny compared to the plain, simple attire that Christian was given by his grandfather. "How do you do good sir," enquired Christian politely, "are you traveling to the front? I hear the battle is fierce. What is your name?" "My name is Captain Contemporary" replied the stranger, "and as for your comment concerning the battle; well, it is quite plain to see you lack experience in these matters. You see I have been to the finest and most up to date military training workshops and possess some of the finest weaponry available to the modern soldier. This takes some of the sting you speak of out of the conflict." "That does sound impressive," replied Christian. "I have not the credentials you speak of, but I have been trained by my grandfather who has fought bravely for the cause for many years. This Sword in my hand is what he used and he has taught me diligently in the correct use of it." "Hmmm" said Captain Contemporary, "I can see you are going to need some help from me to prepare you further for what's ahead on the front line. You see, today's battlefield requires a much more sophisticated and educated approach. The old Sword used by so many in the past is somewhat archaic and outdated for the modern soldier. Some very highly trained and intellectual men have produced some excellent Revised swords that are far more up to date. While some of the design is similar to the old Sword you speak of, they are much easier to use and have had a lot of the unnecessary features removed. The design has been modified so you still get the intent of the original Sword without having to be concerned about the fine points of detail." "I see," said Christian. "Could you please show me one?" "Why certainly," replied Captain Contemporary, "I always keep several different kinds with me so I have the flexibility of choosing which one best suites me at the time depending on the situation."

The swords did look impressive. They were much smaller and thinner than Christian's but they were very shiny and colorful. As Christian took the sword in his hands, he was startled to notice that it was made of plastic, so different to the hard, unbending steel of his own sword. Only one edge had been sharpened and even that was very blunt in comparison to the sharp two-edged Sword in his possession. "Are you sure these are strong enough to be used against the enemy?" enquired Christian. "My grandfather has told me of the nature of the foe we are to encounter and the fierceness of the battle that rages for the souls of men held captive." Captain Contemporary smiled understandingly. "Why of course they work very effectively. You see, some of the previous generations, like your grandfather, employed certain military strategies which were somewhat narrow minded and misguided in their purpose. They never won any major battles and never gained the majority. With up to date research, we have found that the enemy does not so violently oppose us so long as we approach them with one of these new swords. In fact, they very often end up joining our clan! The battle has taken on a whole new progressive dimension; it's really quite invigorating. Don't concern your-self too much with thinking about all the details for yourself, just trust the experts with the qualifications, Christian, you will find it so much easier. Everyone does it this way now. Would you like to try one of the swords? They are a little expensive but the funds help the experts to produce more with further



improvements. I will even let you use one as a trial if you like. You will soon see how successful it will be. If you follow our carefully researched formulas, very soon you will be able to join the rest of us great leaders on the platform at the next workshop on modern warfare leadership. But remember, you must adopt the new methods and motto that go hand in hand with the use of the new swords. The old methodology of your grandfather will not work with the new swords. They demand a whole new approach, a total change in the way you view the battle. Your new motto must be SOFTLY DIALOGUE, GENTLY PERSUADE. Be kind and affable towards the enemy. In fact, don't view them so much as the enemy. This is outdated terminology in modern warfare. Rather, seek to find some common ground that will enable you to join sides and work together for the same cause. Win them over to your side by being flexible and accommodating. Find out what they like and dislike and tailor your approach accordingly. Be sure not to offend them by trying to cut and jab too much with the sword like the old time warriors. The new swords are more suited to the entertainment job so invite the enemy for a mug of coffee and show them some clever tricks and stunts with the swords. You will find some great ideas in an up to date war Manual called The Purpose Driven Soldier from one of the new mega military centers. Well, all the best Christian, I must be going. I must be ready for my next speaking engagement at the new dialogue forum. All the best with the new sword. I will ensure you receive the bill later if you decide to use it."

Christian stood alone, confused and perplexed. Maybe he should try the new way. Maybe his grandfather was too old to know the unique challenges of his day. While he pondered what to do, he remembered that his grandfather had warned him that without faith, the Sword would be of no effect. The Sword had to be used in complete dependence upon the Great Captain of Salvation. He had also warned him to beware of counterfeit swords that were secretly designed by the enemy to deceive young soldiers and render them useless in the battlefield. Many a young soldier had been brutally slain on the battlefield that way his grandfather had cautioned. Before Christian went out on his own, his grandfather had encouraged him to read often the inscription that was engraved up-on the handle of the sword. Christian quickly dropped the new sword and picked up the old Sword he had placed to one side. He carefully began to re-read the inscription and soon its familiar words began to re-kindle a fire within his heart.

This sword burns like a fire and breaks like a hammer. Its edges are sharper than any two-edged sword; it is quick and powerful and pierces to the very depths of the soul. It will never change; it is forever preserved for God is its Designer and Keeper. It will accomplish the will of God and is all sufficient for the soldier to equip him for the battle. Fight the good fight! War a good warfare! Finish the course! Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith. (Jeremiah 23:29; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 24:24; Psalm 12:6-7; II. Timothy 3:16; II. Peter 1:21; Isaiah 55:11; I. Timothy 3:16-17; I. Timothy 6:12; I. Timothy 1:18; II. Timothy 4:7; Heb. 12:1-2)

With renewed faith, courage and determination, Christian went forward to face the enemy. The enemy was fierce and dreadful just as his grandfather had told him, yet Christian found the Sword a faithful and true weapon. The powers of darkness could not withstand his brave advances for the Sword was too powerful for them to overcome. Captives were rescued and victories won as he earnestly fought for the faith that had become his own. His grandfather, frail and weak physically, no longer had the strength to fight along-side Christian on the front line of the battle but he joined the battle in the place of prayer - prayer for his courage and strength. His words of counsel and wisdom were constant sources of encouragement for Christian that spurred him to continue in the fight for the truth.

And now dear reader, how about you? Are you a young man or woman? Will you commit to war a good warfare for the glory of our Great Captain, Jesus Christ. Don't lay aside the old Sword of the Word of God (KJV 1611) for a cheap, plastic substitute with no spiritual power to set captives free or edify the saints. It may not have all the bells and whistles' of modern Christianity yet it is a tried and tested weapon that has slain its tens of thousands for the glory of our God.

Perhaps you are an older saint? What are you doing to encourage and strengthen the hands of the young warriors of the faith coming up the line? You may not have the physical strength you used to have but you can join the fight in the place of prayer and in the counseling of young soldiers of the faith. We need your wisdom, your prayers and your counsel. I am personally grateful to know that my own grandfather and grandmother, Mr. Peter Western and Mrs. Leila Western, pray for their children and grandchildren daily. Though they are too old to leave their house very often, they strengthen our hands for the fight with their intercessions before the throne of grace. Only eternity will reveal the full extent of how God has used their prayers to work in our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, I charge you today to lay aside the weapons of carnal compromise, and to arm yourselves with the weapons of spiritual power. With the Apostle Paul I beseech you to, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." I. Timothy 6:12.

*By Simeon Western.*

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## A World Divided –

The country I live in is a sample of a worldwide divide. We are not divided by political parties; those are too much like each other. We aren't divided by religions; they have too much in common. We are not even divided by wealth; poor people are just as greedy as those who are rich. We aren't divided by race, either; all people groups operate with pretty much the same kind of approach. It isn't the peripheral things about which we disagree that count here. Rather, there are basic things that divide us; and while they can be rejected, they remain as crystal clear options.

The whole world is divided into two groups. The first group consists of those who believe in the sovereign creator God and who have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ. The second group is made up of those who confess and/or live as if man is god. This is the reason why there are only two final dwelling places, one called heaven and the other hell.

Each of the two groups has its own authority base. For the believer, it is the revealed word of God, the Bible. The authority base of all others, without exception, is human reason. I like to classify this group as "Humianity" in contrast to biblical Christianity. Some would argue that there is a third group known as moderates. The problem is that a moderate must use human reason as a higher authority than scripture, and that would automatically place him/her in the second group. I am fully aware of the fact that people hate simplicity, and there is a reason for that: they do not like the discussion of right and wrong, even when it comes from the eternal Creator and Judge of the universe.

Individuals who have chosen man as their god will often quote from, or rub shoulders with, the authority base of the Bible. Such a practice is just one more clear indication that they want the respectability of both, while still clinging to their own sense of superiority. For believers, the scriptures are the sovereign word on anything to which they may speak.

## Conservatives And Liberals

An example of this issue of an authority base is found in the divide between conservatism and liberalism - the real struggle that is dividing our own nation. At the heart of this warfare is a life-and-death struggle around the issue of an authority base; it's not really about all the incidentals stated in half-truths and partisan politics. There are no perfect people. There is no one who always does it right, but there are people who operate on a solid standard that over the years has been tested and tried. This is the authority base of conservatism. The authority base of liberalism is the plastic whim of man at any given point in time, and this movement hates any reliable standard.

The best example of this is the constitution of the United States. It is despised, hated, maligned and disobeyed by liberals who want to rewrite it. It is interesting to note that this group deals with the Bible in the same way. They try to tell us that both documents are out-of-date and certainly not applicable to today's world - that people today are

much smarter than the founders of our country and certainly more intellectual than God! Because liberals claim the authority base of human reason, all of their actions are bound to be bent in the wrong direction. Conservatism, on the other hand, tends to find itself committed to proven standards such as the constitution. This identifies their authority base.

We are not proud of the attitude and vitriolic speech of some people who call themselves conservative, but conservatism is the home of many measured saints. Although liberalism may claim to be compassionate and caring, some - if not much - of the hate speech and ugly rhetoric come from that camp. They say that conservatives have a "boiler plate mentality" and are "short part of their brain", and they like to call us the "radical right". Now, I'm not suggesting that we should actually use the term - after all, what would that gain us? - but I do wonder if the above does not make them the "lunatic left"!!

## Further Consideration

This matter of the authority base is not a hard one to follow. It is the reason why those of us who prefer tested standards tend to support a good work ethic, compassionate use of wealth, justice and judgment for the offender, careful recognition of the victim, etc. It is also why we oppose socialism and government-controlled functions that belong to the private sector. We oppose making anyone either dependent on or virtual slaves to the government. Interestingly, the Bible speaks to all of these issues; and that is why it is a good authority base.

The problem of using man as a standard rather than God is that man is flawed, and so are all of his attempts to mold society. This mindset only repeats the same errors over and over again. For instance, socialism has never worked anywhere. It only creates pain and suffering. Rather than erasing greed, it creates it at every level. Liberals hate the word socialism, which is proof that they know how bad it really is; but they will press on to own it, anyway.

In this discussion, it is important to avoid a major error used by the "man is god" group. In reading the literature they provide on this subject, I note that nearly all their arguments use error to build error. For instance, many of the complaints offered by those on the left are valid: people are doing it wrong. The problem is that doing something wrong in order to deal with a wrong is a non-answer. That kind of thinking flows from an errant authority base. If something is wrong, we need to go back to the beginning for an answer - a solid authority and the true God.

Finally, it is to be noted the authority base of individuals, and the decisions they make, will run throughout the whole of their lives and will affect them politically, spiritually, socially, mentally, and even physically. As for myself, as a believer I have chosen the sovereign creator God and the authority of scripture because all problems, injustice, difficulty, and human standards are tested by the Bible. Just like you, I am what I believe. Each of us is what we believe, and that is why we think and act the way we do.

*By Clay Nuttall*

<http://shepherdstaff.wordpress.com/>

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### **Joshua 24:15**

**"...if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

## The Best Kind of Christian Woman You Can Be –



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## Deacon True Sez –

One of them denominational big-wigs dropped by our church the other day and spruiked on for a while about the need for money for their Bible College. I noticed him hangin' around the songleader and the youth pastor, so I asked our old church janitor what it was they had in common to be so friendly. He said it was "the old school tie."

I pondered on that for a while and finally figured out that they all went to the same seminary and learnt to see things the same way, and got branded with the same brandin' iron. It's like they can spot one another a mile off by "the old school tie" they wear.

Hmmmmm, most of them fellers that wear that tie seem to wear it awful tight. Tight enough to choke off the blood supply to their brains. From what I see some of them end up using it for a noose. Maybe that's all it's good for.

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## The Finished Product of the Brewers' Art –

When I was a boy, we had lots of towns in Texas that were still "dry." That is, they had never allowed liquor to be sold in their city or county since Prohibition was brought in, way back in January, 1919. One of those counties' churches had placed big billboards alongside the highways with graphic warnings against the drinking of alcohol. The one I remember best had the picture of a drunk lying unconscious in the gutter with a beer bottle in his hand. And underneath the picture of the drunk was the advertising slogan of one of the largest beer breweries in the USA. It read, "The Finished Product of the Brewer's Art." Every time I drove past that billboard, I would look at it and nod my head. What was in the bottle was not the "finished product of the brewer's art." It was the drunk in the gutter. He was the best they could do. We used to see in Cairns on a hot day a dozen or so drunken aboriginals lying in the big





fountain in the park in the middle of town. I wonder how many people knew how fitting it was that the fountain was built by the brewery?

Someone sent me this photo last week. It was taken in the Northern Territory. This poor drunken aboriginal passed out in a pool of muddy water, and reflected in the water you can see an advertisement for "Four X" beer. Another example of the "finished product of the brewer's art."

*Buddy Smith.*

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## Therapy For the Funny Bone –

A large jet airliner crashed on a farm in rural Alabama. Panic stricken, the local sheriff and all his deputies mobilized and descended on the farm in force. By the time they got there, the aircraft was totally destroyed with only a burned hull left smoldering in the tree line that bordered the farm. The sheriff and his men probed the smoking mess but could find no remains of anyone. They spotted a farmer plowing his field not too far away as if nothing had happened. They drove across to ask about survivors.

"Hank," the sheriff yelled, panting and out of breath. "Did you see this terrible accident happen?"

"Yep. Sure did," the farmer mumbled unconcerned, cutting off the tractor's engine.

"Do you realize that is Air Force One, the airplane of the President of the United States ? Did you know he had democratic congressmen on board?"

"Yep."

"Were there any survivors?"

"Nope. They's all kilt straight out," the farmer answered. "I done buried 'em all myself. Took me most of the mornin'."

"The President and all the congressmen dead?" the sheriff asked.

"Well," the farmer grumbled, restarting his tractor. "They kept a-saying they wasn't... But you know how bad they lies..."

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Muslims have gone on the rampage in several large cities in Britain, killing anyone who's English. Police fear the death toll could be as high as 5.

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## Murphy was an optimist -

**O'Brien's Law** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, if dropped, will immediately roll to the least accessible corner.

**O'Meara's Law** - The probability of being watched by the boss is directly proportional to the stupidity of your actions.

**Paddy's Law** - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone or the doorbell will ring.

**Mick's Law** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine doesn't work, it does.

**Paisley's Law** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the distance you have to reach to scratch it.  
**Shannon's Law** - As soon as you sit down to a good cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something that lasts until the coffee is cold.  
**Finnegan's Law** - The possibility of toast with jelly on it landing face down on the floor, is directly related to the newness, cleanness, and cost of the carpet.  
**O'Harrigan's Law** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.  
**O'Shaunessy's Law** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly or dirty.  
**Kegan's Law** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they stop making it.

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## Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes –

- "The gain in Spain goes mainly down the drain." *Bro. Don Boys*
- It was for this end that the Almighty made us, and for nothing short of this, that we might glorify God and enjoy him for ever. When a man fashions a vessel or a tool, it is that it may answer the purpose for which he designed it, and if it does not answer his design he casts it away. What man will keep a horse or a cow if it yield him no benefit? And if a dog never owned you as its master, who among you would long call it your own? God has made us that we may glorify him, and if we do not honour him we miss the end and object of our being. I care not what you do nor what you are; though you should be owners of a score of counties, if you love not God your soul is poor and degraded; though men should set you on a column high in air, and account you a hero, if you have not lived for God you have lived in vain. As the vine which yields no cluster is useless, so is a man who has not honoured God. As an arrow which falls short of the mark, as a fig tree which yields no figs, as a candle which smokes but yields no light, as a cloud without rain and a well without water, is a man who has not served the Lord. He has led a wasted life — a life to which the flower and glory of existence are lacking. Call it not life at all, but write it down as animated death. From a sermon by *Charles Haddon Spurgeon* entitled "Gone. Gone For Ever," delivered May 28, 1876.
- "Words easy to be understood do often hit the mark; when high and learned ones do only pierce the air." *John Bunyan*
- "The next time the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future." *Anon*

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## Why Birds Don't Need Socks –

(Friday Church News Notes, June 22, 2012, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

The following is from *Creation Moments*, November 7, 2011, [www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com):

"Have you ever watched ducks out on an icy lake paddling around in the near-freezing water? They will spend much of the day in that one spot with the temperature well

below freezing, and yet the cold doesn't seem to bother them. Perhaps on shore there are some sparrows hopping around in the snow. One wonders: Why don't birds need shoes and socks? If you or I ran around with bare feet and legs when the temperature was below freezing, it would not be very long before we had a good case of frostbite. We

could even lose so much body heat that our very lives would be threatened. Birds have a network of arteries that all blood going into their legs must enter. These arteries are interwoven with the veins returning from the foot. When the blood going to the foot enters this structure, called a 'wonder net,' its temperature is 106 degrees Fahrenheit. The blood returning from the foot at the same time is only 37 degrees. The warm blood passing through the net reheats the cold blood coming from the foot before it enters the body. The result is that the bird loses very little body heat. So the blood going into the foot never becomes dangerously cold in normal winter weather. The wisdom of this design is obvious. Could birds have survived having their feet frozen off before they learned to evolve this special arrangement? Our only conclusion can be that there is a Creator who cares for all of His creation, including you and me!"

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## Links In The Media Chain –

- How bad is \$229 trillion of debt?  
<http://bayourenaissanceman.blogspot.com.au/2012/06/more-about-derivatives.html>
- If you like fresh sausage –  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUoCZOOxgv8>
- Interesting posters -  
<http://www.outreachmedia.org.au/posterArchive/index.php>
- I wonder about the motivations behind these "flash mob" symphonies and chorales, but many of them are beautiful -  
<http://www.flixy.com/symphony-orchestra-flash-mob-sabadell-spain.htm>

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## Timeline of Apostasy – A Decade of Decadence

**1921--Rudolf Bultmann (1884-1976)** published The History of the Synoptic Tradition, a first step toward his attempt to "demythologize" the New Testament. In another book, Jesus and the Word, Bultmann claimed, "We can now know almost nothing about the life and personality of Jesus."

**Carl Jung (1875-1961)** published Psychological Types: or the Psychology of Individuation. Jung delved deeply into Eastern religions, Gnosticism, mythology, astrology, and occultism and prepared the way for the New Age movement. He attended séances and acquired a spirit guide named Philemon. He had a vast influence on Christianity, philosophy, and the arts. "The moral relativism that released upon us the sexual revolution is rooted in an outlook of which [Jung] is the most brilliant contemporary expositor" (Merill Berger). "Jung's direct and indirect impact on mainstream Christianity--and thus on Western culture--has been incalculable. It is no exaggeration to say that the theological positions of most mainstream denominations in their approach to pastoral care, as well as in their doctrines and liturgy--have become more or less identical with Jung's psychological/symbolic theology" (Jeffrey Satinover, Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth, p. 240).

**1922--Planned Parenthood** founder Margaret Singer's book Pivot of Civilization condemned charitable action because it hinders the progress of evolutionary natural selection. She referred to "inferior" humans as "weeds," complaining that "nature eliminates the weeds, but we turn them into parasites and allow them to reproduce" (Edwin Black, War Against the Weak, p. 133). Sanger called large families "immoral" and advocated not only birth control, but also abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. She was on the cutting edge of the modern culture of death. In her book

Woman and the New Race, she said, "The most merciful thing that the large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it."

**1924--The Methodist Episcopal Church** approved the ordination of female pastors.

**Clarence Darrow** defended the wealthy teenagers Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb who admitted to murdering 14-year-old Bobby Franks just for "a sort of pure love of excitement." Leopold and Loeb were atheistic Darwinists, heavily influenced by the "God is dead" philosopher Frederick Nietzsche and by Darwin's foremost German disciple Ernst Haeckel. Leopold said, "There is no difference between the death of a man and the death of a dog" and "it is as easy to justify murder as an entomologist in impaling a beetle on a pin" (Hal Higdon, *The Crime of the Century*). Darrow, a committed Darwinist, hosted the weekly meetings of the Evolution Club in his Chicago home. The portraits of his heroes decorating the walls of his office included Karl Marx. Darrow successfully argued against the death penalty on the basis of Darwinist determination and natural selection. In his closing speech he denounced the "old theory" that man has a free will and is accountable for his actions and called for its replacement with a "new, enlightened "view of modern science that human beings are machines determined wholly by their heredity and environment" (John West, *Darwin Day in America*, p. 46).

**Alfred Whitehead (1861-1947) published *Science and the Modern World***; Whitehead was the prominent voice of "process theology," which taught that God is not the omnipotent God of the Bible but is himself subject to the process of change "carried out by the agents of free will; God cannot force anything to happen, but rather only influence the exercise of this universal free will by offering possibilities; because God contains a changing universe, God is changeable (that is to say, God is affected by the actions that take place in the universe) over the course of time." Other proponents of process theology are Charles Hartshorne (1897-2000), John B. Cobb, and David Ray Griffin.

**1925--The Scopes "Monkey" Trial** was held in Dayton, Tennessee, and Bible-believing Christians were made a laughing stock by the mainstream news media.

**Alfred Whitehead (1861-1947) published *Science and the Modern World***; Whitehead was the prominent voice of "process theology," which taught that God is not the omnipotent God of the Bible but is himself subject to the process of change "carried out by the agents of free will; God cannot force anything to happen, but rather only influence the exercise of this universal free will by offering possibilities; because God contains a changing universe, God is changeable (that is to say, God is affected by the actions that take place in the universe) over the course of time." Other proponents of process theology are Charles Hartshorne (1897-2000), John B. Cobb, and David Ray Griffin.

**1926--**After a debate lasting almost five hours, the Northern Baptist Convention voted by a margin of about three to one not to evict Riverside Church of New York City from its membership for the rank modernism of Pastor Harry Emerson Fosdick.

**1927--In *The Christlike God***, Methodist Bishop Francis McConnell of New York, denied the deity of Jesus Christ. McConnell said, "Is not this tendency to deify Jesus more heathen than Christian?"

**1928--In *Christ and the Roundtable***, Methodist missionary E. Stanley Jones wrote, "If verbal infallibility is insisted upon, then the certainty is very precarious" (p. 257).

**1929--Princeton Theological Seminary**, which had become permeated with theological modernism, witnessed an exodus of conservative Presbyterians who formed Westminster Theological Seminary.

**Charles Potter founded the Humanist Church** and proclaimed his new evolutionary faith with the construction of a statue called "The Chrysalis," depicting a naked man emerging chrysalid-fashion from an ape-skin.

**1930--The Presbyterian Church in America** approved the ordination of women as elders.

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## Poems That Preach –

### WHEN WE MEET HIM IN THE SKY

*One day who knows when will it be, the clouds will part once more,  
As the glory of redeeming grace bursts forth as ne'er before;  
We'll be caught up in an instant, in the twinkle of an eye,  
To meet our blessed Saviour, some-where up in the sky.*

*He has promised He'll return again to meet His blessed Bride,  
The wedding of all ages, He the Groom, her at His side;  
Oh, that day beyond all reckoning will happen by and by,  
When we meet our great Redeemer some-where up in the sky.*

*No more sickness, no more sorrow, for we'll leave that all behind,  
Our new bodies will be like Him, transformed in heart and mind;  
Tis not for us to understand, or know, or reason why;  
New sight will show us clearly when we meet Him in the sky.*

*That day our voices will be changed, ere we join the angel's choir;  
Praise Him with what we have to-day, should be our heart's desire;  
We'll sing and shout while passing through, His name we'll glorify,  
As beyond the blue we hasten to meet Him in the sky*

*What will this all be like, dear friend? Can you imagine here  
To leave this sinful world behind, meet those we hold so dear?  
Our bodies changed, our souls redeemed, we're moving up on high;  
At the rapture, it WILL happen, when we meet Him in the sky.*

*Oh, rejoice with me He's coming soon, to-day or in a while;  
Let's walk above this sinful world, beyond our every trial;  
Through dark days we'll need His victory, on Him let's fix our eye;  
Then we won't be caught napping, as He's coming in the sky.*

*As you read each word I'm writing, do you doubt just where you stand?  
Or your sins are not forgiven, you've not joined the God blessed band;  
You'll need to trust my Saviour, repent, don't pass Him by;  
Then you'll rejoice there with us when we meet Him in the sky.*

Kevin Milson

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## A Reply to a query about the article on Parachurch Proliferation –

Dear brother \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks for you comments. I am not up to speed regarding your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ Church.

Basically, if a personal ministry has its oversight in the hands of an individual Christian who is not a member, nor under the authority of a local church, it seems to me it would have to be called a parachurch ministry.

The simple teaching of the New Testament is that all ministry is done through local churches. Suppose I were a Bible believing Christian, but not affiliated with a church. I desire fellowship with brethren of like mind so I search for and find a church where I fit in and am fed, but I do not join that church. After a time I decide I want to reach out to others through a tract distribution ministry. I buy the best tracts I can find and begin distributing them. What do I put on the back? If I want to follow up on those who receive and read them, I put a phone number and maybe my name on the back. And then I get a phone call from an aggressive atheist who ties me in knots, or from a transexual nutcase who is in tears and needs long counselling sessions. What do I do? I go to my "pastor" and ask for help. My pastor is very gracious and he asks about the tract ministry, and how I am running it. He asks what kinds of tracts I am using, and who prints them, and what translation is used in them, and who is helping me with counselling. As we talk I soon realise that I am obligating him and the church to assist me in a ministry that is not accountable to anyone, and that I am actually freeloading off the church, that I am a spiritual hitchhiker. If I am able to lead someone to Christ, I either have to pretend I can meet all his spiritual needs (how ridiculous!!!) or I have to bring him along to the church for others to help me disciple him. And if I bring him to the church I am expecting the church I do not wish to be a member of to help me with my ministry. So I am asking the church to support my parachurch work, my "outside/alongside the church" work.

I have neighbours like this. They are not part of my family, but they want to borrow my mower, my power drill, and my ute, and expect me to feed their kids and take them to town when their car runs out of rego.

It is so much better for me to go and find a church I can work with and join that church and then ask my pastor if I can present the ministry that is on my heart to a business meeting of the church and seek their backing and assistance in the doing of it.

Otherwise, no matter what we call it, I have a parachurch ministry.

Bro. \_\_\_\_\_, I don't know you and am not your pastor or your judge, but.... most people who run parachurch ministries have a problem with Romans 13 and the Bible doctrine of being under authority. Sometimes they struggle with pride and stubbornness. Sometimes they have just never read the New Testament through and seen what God tells His disciples to do and how to do it.

A question I would like to ask them is, "Do you really think you have figured out a better way to do God's work than He has commanded in the Bible? Are you wiser than God?"

Since I do not know you I have no idea whether any of these apply to you.

Let's just set our hearts to please God through simple and selfless obedience in this matter and in all others and do it cheerfully.

Blessings,

*Bro. Buddy Smith*

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### Eddy-Torial – A Hatchet and a Tree

You can never go back. No, that's not exactly correct, is it? What I meant to say is, "You can never turn the clock back so that when you do go back home, you find things the same as they were when you were there last." Most of us pastors remember the churches we led years ago and we would like to go back and find things the same. But they never are!

Without entering into an discussion over whether Time is linear or cyclic, it is expedient for us to believe that Time moves on. Noah took the cover off the ark, and the world was changed. It no longer looked, smelled, or sounded the same. Moses went back to Egypt after forty years away, and it was all changed. The Pharaoh did not remember Joseph's contribution to Egypt's well being, and refused to even acknowledge the God who sent the dreams that rescued them from destruction previously. Even in the book of

Acts time moved on. When Peter was imprisoned and condemned in Acts 12 the church prayed without ceasing. Paul and Barnabas were there when it happened. But by the time Paul went back to Jerusalem in chapter 21 much had changed. Now the Jewish law keepers were in the church and there were no more all night prayer meetings for imprisoned apostles. We find no indication that the church was the least bit concerned that Paul was in jail. It all changes, doesn't it?

Well, that settles it. Nothing ever stays the same.

Hold on a minute. I am having a problem here. I find I do not agree with myself. Ok, you can accuse me of double mindedness, but I disagree with what I just wrote. Some things DO stay the same. Some things are unchanging and immutable. God never changes. His Word is settled and preserved and totally unalterable. And believing prayer still brings answers from God. And the Holy Spirit still convicts of sin and blesses faithfulness. And the gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth! God is still on the throne. And he says,

***" See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:" Hebrews 12:25 - 28.***

In a shaky and changing world it is good for us to read these verses often. Much is changing today and even the heavens will someday be shaken BUT there are things which cannot be shaken and they will remain! No matter what!

The little hillbilly church I shepherded in my first pastorate is still there. It's had its ups and downs, some before I came, some while I was there, and some after I left. Nothing stayed the same. (I've got to stop saying that! It's not true! People moved on. Most of the ones we knew are dead and buried, and their children are old people now. Winds of strange doctrine have blown in at the front door and out the back door. Strange doctrines and sound doctrines struggled for supremacy again and again. But God is still on the throne!)

More than twenty years passed after my pastorate there. We moved to Australia and had been home twice on furlough. In 1990 we were early for an evening service at a missions conference at \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church, about twenty miles down the road from Grace Baptist Church, where I first pastored. A young couple with several children came in before the meeting and we started talking. His name was Donny. I asked if he was from the district where the conference was being held. He shook his head and said he grew up in Galena. I asked where he came to Christ, and he told me it was at the little church on top of the hill over there. I asked if it was Grace Baptist Church, and he said it was. I asked how long he had been saved and he told me it was in 1966. His words triggered a rush of memories, and all of a sudden I knew who he was. So I asked him, "Donny, did you go to Sunday School at Grace Baptist?" He nodded and said, "Yes, I did." Did you ever ride in an old panel truck that was used to pick up kids?" Again, he nodded. I asked him, "Did you live in a little house on the side of a hill with a little driveway that came up from the valley and went out at the top of the hill?" He smiled as he remembered his boyhood home. And then I asked, "Did you ever have to chop a tree down to go to Sunday School?" Donny laughed out loud and grabbed me and hugged me. And we dredged up all the memories of that Sunday when, to make room for a car coming down his drive from the top of the hill, I reversed that old panel truck into a little footpath, and when the car passed, I tried to follow it down the hill and couldn't turn sharply enough. I had driven over the edge of the drive and was headed downhill through the scrub toward the road below. We would have made it, but there was a sapling there and it stopped us dead. We couldn't reverse up the hill, and we couldn't go downhill because we were up against that sapling. So I asked little Donny, "You got a hatchet up at the house?" And in just a few minutes we had chopped the sapling down, returned the hatchet, slid down the hill to the road and headed off for Sunday School. I think that was the Sunday Donny called on the Lord.

I learned some lessons that day.

It pays to go out of your way to bring people to hear the gospel.  
Little people are worth every effort we make to win them to Christ.  
Don't ever give up.  
If you are not a very good driver, carry a hatchet.  
And remember, some things never change!

*Bro. Buddy Smith.*

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Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



*On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia*

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