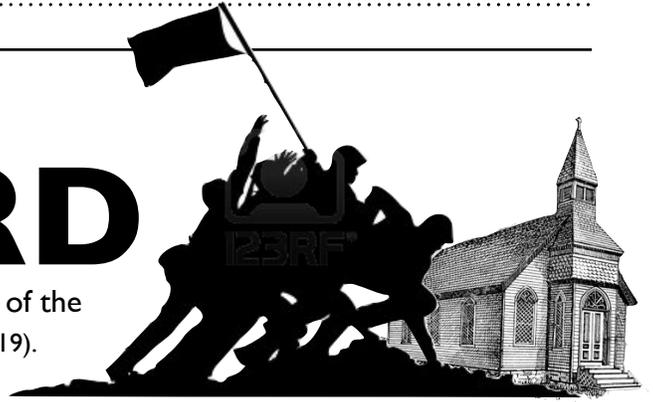




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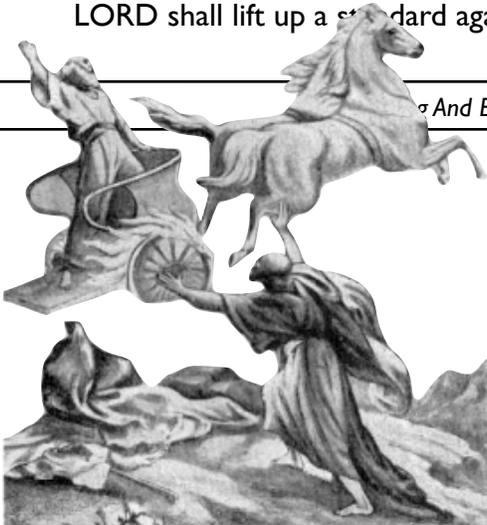
# Lifting Up The STANDARD

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



And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 20 - May 19, 2014



thee; but if not, it shall not be so. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.”

“And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.”  
(Second Kings 2:9)

At first glance we might wonder why it would be “a hard thing” for Elijah to “let a double portion” of his spirit to be upon Elisha. Actually, it was not hard for Elijah, it was going to be hard for Elisha. To have a double portion of Elijah’s power would mean Elisha would have a double portion of persecution. The phrase “hard thing” has been translated “grievous” four times.

## Asked A Hard Thing???

### Second Kings 2:9- 12,

“And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.10 And he said, **Thou hast asked a hard thing;** nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto

When Elijah first met Elisha on the very wealthy farm of Elisha’s parents a careful study of the situation reveals that Elijah gave instructions to Elisha to consider carefully his decision to leave.

Elijah was now giving Elisha the finishing touches concerning his training program. We read “they two went on” (Second Kings 2:6), “they two stood by Jordan” (Second Kings 2:7), “they two went over” (Second Kings 2:8). It was in verse nine that Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. In verse ten we read that his request would become a reality if he was still with Elijah when he was taken.

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In verse eleven we read, *“they still went on and talked.”* In the context of Elisha asking for a *“double portion”* of Elijah’s spirit it would seem likely that they were talking about what that was going to cost Elisha. We don’t know how long they *“went on and talked”*; however, we do know Elisha was willing to have a double portion of the persecution if he could have a double portion of Elijah’s power with God.

## A New Beginning For Elisha

### **Second Kings 2:11-13,**

*“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan.”*

This was a very sad moment for Elisha. His best friend and his only friend was gone! He was completely alone. Across the river were fifty of the *“sons of the prophets”* who had little or no discernment concerning the things of God. They were probably one of the groups of fifty that hid in a cave when Elijah was standing alone on Mount Carmel. Elisha would find no real friends in that group; however, he would attempt to direct them in the things of the Lord. Perhaps there was a remnant among them with some discernment.

We read *“He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan.”*

In our last article we discussed the fact that during the spring the Jordan, swelled to more than double it’s normal size. It was possibly 360 feet wide and very deep with a powerful current when Elisha *“stood by the bank of Jordan.”*

### **Second Kings 2:14,15,**

*“And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. 15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.”*

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## The Shadow of The Cross



To date over 300 people have downloaded our sermon series entitled **“The Shadow of The Cross.”** **Click On the microphone** for this series of seven messages dealing with the last seven days of Christ’s ministry on earth.

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## Learning How To Love



*“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.”*  
(Philippians 1:9)

Loving one another will not happen automatically. That is why the commandment to **“love one another”** is repeated so many times in the Word of God.

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## He Took The Mantle

This is the second time in as many verses that we read Elisha “took the mantle.” We sometime hear the phrase the mantle fell on Elisha. No, he had to decide to take it. As he looked back across that raging river at fifty useless “sons of the prophets” no doubt the devil prompted him to forget his God-given responsibilities and head in a different direction where he would have less opposition. Remember that a double portion represented a double persecution. No lack of faith here. Elisha took the mantle and stood by the Jordan.

He did not trust in the mantle nor did he trust in the man called Elijah, he said, “Where is the LORD God of Elijah? It is interesting that when the title “LORD God” is found in the Old Testament printed as it is here, it always refers to Christ.

### The Response of The Sons of The Prophets

Remember verse seven tells us they were “afar off” and they were just there “to view.” They were not only afar of geographically, they were “afar off” spiritually.

First, God has recorded for us the fact that they were willing to admit that Elisha was God’s prophet; however, they were not willing to listen to him.

### Second Kings 2:16-18,

*“And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.  
17 And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.  
18 And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?”*

These fifty “sons of the prophets” thought they knew more than Elisha. After all, they were in a Bible college. Elisha, came out of a plowed field; what does he know? The difference lay in the fact of **who** he knew.

After a lengthy argument we read Elisha was “ashamed” and so he gave them leave to go ahead and make fools out of themselves. To be ashamed is to be embarrassed or regretful. Elisha regretted the facts that these students would learn no other way. He said, “did not I say unto you, go not?”

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## Open or Closed?

We have coined our titles including, “...open,...close, and...closed,”

### What saith the Scriptures?

In an effort to determine the Bible answer to this question I set out to determine three things:

1. Is there any such thing in the Bible as a universal church?
2. Is church membership optional with God?
3. Should one be a member before having the privilege of partaking in a communion service?

### This article...

and all of our materials, are not written to persuade anyone to my position.

The subject of the Lord’s table is not a simple subject and certainly has not been covered in depth in this article.

**It is written in hope that it might be of help.**

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**At The End  
of Life’s  
Journey  
Is God**



A Five Minute Audio Message

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**Ninety-nine Percent of God's Churches Are Small**

Continued from page three

**You Should Have Harkened Unto Me.”**

**Acts 27:21,**

*“Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.”*

Those who were in a very costly storm that they had brought upon themselves were there because they did not listen to someone sent from God to help them.

It has been my privilege to cross our country from coast to coast more times than I can remember. I have preached in every province in Canada. Very few of the churches I have ministered in have large congregations, most are very small, have been small for many years, and will be small when Jesus comes again.

They are pastored by faithful pastors who feed the sheep that God has entrusted them with. These churches are maintained by little groups of sincere Christians who have sacrificed to pay their pastor's salary and the expenses of the church from year to year.

In Psalm 119:141 the psalmist said, *“I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.”* It is good to have a larger church if the increase is of God; however, an increase that is acquired and maintained by compromise is not a successful church.

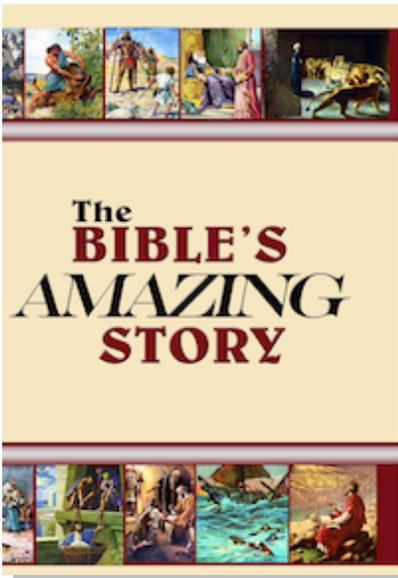
The one church of the seven listed in the Book of Revelation that received no rebuke from the Saviour, was the church at Philadelphia. The Lord highly recommended them. He said in Revelation 3:8, *“Thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”* The church that received the sharpest rebuke was the church of the Laodiceans. Revelation 3:17 says they were *“rich and increased.”* *They had a crowd but where was Christ? He said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock.”* (Revelation 3:20). The focus of much literature and how to do it conferences is about numerical growth. The main focus is if a small church wants to be better, it has to be bigger. Again, Proverbs 16:8 says, *“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.”*

Every Christian, should be attempting to reach people for Christ, including the pastor; however, the main purpose of the local church is to feed the sheep. If you are faithfully feeding God's lambs and God's sheep don't let anyone put you on a guilt trip about how many sheep you don't have.



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