

Lifting Up The STANDARD

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



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 11

Are We Guilty of Proof Texting Concerning The Local Church?



Possibly no subject in the Word of God has been subjected to more proof texting than the subject of the church.

What Is The Church?

The word "church" or "churches" is found 112 times in the King James Bible. The Greek word translated "church" is "ecclesia." In Acts chapter nineteen the word "ecclesia" occurs three times where we find it has been translated "assembly" (v32;39,41).

Did Moses Have A Church?

In Acts 7:38 referring to Moses we read, "This is he, that was in **the church in the wilderness.**"

In Acts 8:1 we read, "And at that time there was a great persecution against **the church which was at Jerusalem.**"

In both of these verses the Greek word "ecclesia" has been translated "church."

It is very obvious (if we compare Scripture with Scripture) that Moses did not have a *church* in our modern day understanding of the word church.

The Riot At Ephesus

In Acts chapter nineteen the Greek word "ecclesia" has been translated "assembly" three times.

Acts 19:32,

"Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for **the assembly** was confused: and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together."

Acts 19:39,

"But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful **assembly.**"

Acts 19:41,

"And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed **the assembly.**"

Proof texting is taking a passage of the Bible out of context to support an argument or position concerning a doctrine or a philosophy of ministry. If we keep the verses above in their context we do not have a problem. If we take them out of context and ignore the original meaning of the word *ekklesia* we must conclude

Additional Materials

Article

Me And My Dad We Were Very Brave

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Buddy Smith

Article

The Saint Must Walk Alone

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A.W. Tozer

that the church age started with Moses, which we know, if we compare Scripture with Scripture, that it did not. If we isolate Acts 7:38, and do not compare Scripture with Scripture we would have grounds to say the church age was underway in the Old Testament.

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The Universal Church Dogma

There are few things in the Scripture that have been more misunderstood than the subject of “the church.” For example, we ask the question, when did the church start? What church are we talking about? Are we talking about the church at Jerusalem, or the church at Ephesus, or the church at Sarnia? To ask when the church started is to assume there is a universal church.

The Rapture of the Church?

We talk about the rapture of “the church.” What church are we talking about? That unscriptural phrase suggests there is a universal church. The greatest source of confusion concerning the subject of the church is the dogma concerning a so-called universal church.

In my early twenties a pastor told me I needed a Scofield Bible. I got one and have worn out more than ten of them over the years. I believed everything Scofield said including his distortion of Scripture concerning his so-called universal church. The only church recognized in the New Testament is the local church.

The word “church” is found eighteen times in the Book of Acts. For the purpose of this study we will look at the local church as given to us in that Book.

I want to say again my purpose is not to persuade you to my position of when the church age started. I have a position concerning that and

I will reveal what it is; however, study it out for yourself. I might be wrong.

The purpose of this series of articles is to determine if we are guilty of proof texting to support a position we already hold concerning the subject.

I remember my Dad saying, “It is what we learn after we know it all that is important.” When we cease to be humble enough to be teachable we are of little or no value to God or man.



We need to be sure we do not have an attitude that says, “do not confuse me with the Scriptures my mind is made up.”

Ask yourself, am I teachable?

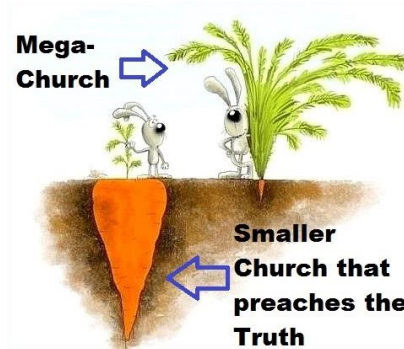
Someone has said, “It is sad to observe someone who has at least one half of his life remaining who feels he has no more to learn.”

“Teach Me”

In Psalm twenty-five the Psalmist prayed, “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me.” Fifteen times someone in the Bible prayed “teach me.” Let us be sure we are teachable.

Acts 1:1-3

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”

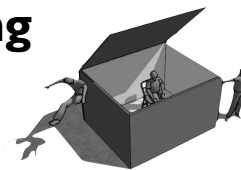


How Did I Miss That?

The answer is simple. I believed the commentaries and my Bible footnotes. Most every commentary I read told me the Book of Acts is God’s history of the beginning of the church. The only way we can come to that conclusion is to take Acts chapter one totally out of context.

The old nature hates to admit it is wrong. To my surprise when I put away my commentaries and began to study the Bible I realized I was guilty of something I had preached against for many years: Proof Texting.

Thinking Outside of the Box



At that point in my studies I had to force myself to think outside of the box. That was a very difficult thing for me to do. What will my peers think if I don’t agree with them? I made two decisions that day.

First, I decided not to let anyone force me into their mold.

Second, I decided to smash any molds I might have for other people to fit in.



I got out of the box and to my surprise when I put away the commentaries and began to study the Bible I realized how obvious the Word of God really is.

Let me say three important things.

First, if you are afraid to think outside of the box I suggest you read no further. **Second**, please, put away your branding iron.

I am not a hyper-dispensationalist. I have not fallen for Bullinger's nonsense concerning the church or the doctrine of dispensationalism.



For a good article on the subject of Bullinger's errors I recommend Harry Ironside's article entitled **Wrongly Dividing the Word of Truth**, which is published by Loizeaux Bros. of Neptune, N.J. and is available on the internet.

Third, I really don't care what the party-line teaches. I want the truth from the Word of God. I will give you my findings and suggest you search the Scriptures to see if these things be so. Remember, I might be wrong! Then again, I might be right.

Let Us Compare Scripture With Scripture

Acts 1:1 says "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach."

I typed "Jesus began" into my Bible program to see if Scripture would explain Scripture. Sure enough, it does.

Matthew 4:17 says, "Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for **the kingdom** of heaven is at hand."

When and where did Jesus teach about the kingdom of heaven? According to Matthew 4:17, He taught it during His earthly ministry and continued "after his passion." (Calvary) "until the day in which he was taken up" (v.2).

What did Jesus teach after Calvary, until He Returned To Heaven?

Acts 1:3 says Jesus was "seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to **the kingdom** of God."

It is very plain to see that the Bible says, Christ continued the same message He started in Matthew 4:17, "**after**," His resurrection and "**until**." He returned to Heaven.

His message had nothing to do with the local church. I will emphasize repeatedly in this series **that this does not mean the local church was not underway.** It simply means Acts 1:1 and the Book of Matthew are focusing on something else.

Acts 1:2

"Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen."

His commandments here had to do with "**the kingdom**." To force the Battle of Jericho into this Scripture would be to totally take it out of context. To put the local church in this verse would we not also have to take it out of context?

Acts 1:3

"To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to **the kingdom** of God."

Christ spent forty days instructing them about **the kingdom** that was promised to the Nation of Israel. There are no instructions here concerning the local church.

This does not prove local churches were not in existence. It simply means this portion of Scripture is referring to Israel's kingdom.

Acts 1:4

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father."

They were "assembled." This was not a picnic atmosphere: they assembled for a purpose. They were commanded to "wait," for the Holy Spirit. They were to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for service.

Christ said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (v.8).

The Question Jesus Refused To Answer

Acts 1:6

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again **the kingdom** to Israel?"

It is obvious the kingdom referred to here has nothing to do with the local church or the salvation of a person. They were asking if the glory days of Israel would be restored. Only a few days prior to them asking this question, just prior to Calvary, Jesus told His apostles that they would "sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28).

Also just prior to Calvary we read in Matthew 20:18-21, James and John came with their mother. She asked Jesus if He would "Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on



thy right hand, and the other on the left, in **the kingdom**.”

Luke 19:11 says, “they thought that **the kingdom** of God should immediately appear.”

After Christ was crucified the disciples on the road to Emmaus lamented, “But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel” (Luke 24:21).

This Was A Sensible Question To Ask

Now, that Christ was alive and with them again, their hope for the **kingdom** in Israel was renewed. The context of this verse is obvious. **They were thinking of a literal kingdom**. They were not asking Christ if He was going to restore Heaven to Israel. They were not asking Him about the plan of salvation. They were not asking Christ about the local church. They were asking Him if He would “at this time restore again **the kingdom** to Israel.”

The Secret Things Belong To God

Deuteronomy 29:29 says, “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God.” God is not required to explain His timetable to us any more than parents need to explain everything to their children concerning the running of their households.

Daniel 12:4 tells us Daniel was commanded to “shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end.” Later we read in Revelation 22:10 God said “seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.”

Acts 1:7-8

“And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put

in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Notice the major change of focus in this verse. Christ took their focus away from the kingdom and focused on the other message.

This message was for “Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” It was very easy for them to focus on their kingdom and their power at the expense of the other message. Christ’s last message to them was concerning their responsibility in winning lost people. We would do well to remember that.

Acts 1:91-11

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

The angels promised that Christ would come back, and the apostles went back to Jerusalem to wait. They had no idea He would not be back for 2000 years. That was one reason why Jesus said, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons.” They had a job to do which had to do with fulfilling prophecy.

Acts 1:12-14

“Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day’s journey. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and

James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”

Christ was alive and the apostles were excited about **the kingdom** they thought would soon be a reality. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was meeting with them. The brothers of Christ were also meeting with them.

“Peter Stood Up”

Acts 1:15

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)”

Peter was a leader and it is always very difficult for leaders to “wait” (v. 4). Peter determined to get things organized. Did Peter act on his own or was he doing what God wanted him to do?

Consider the following:

The Apostles had never had a part in choosing Apostles. The Lord had done the choosing. Jesus said, “Have I not chosen you twelve” (John 6:70, 13:18).

The apostles were commanded to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

The Greek word that is translated “tarry” has been translated “sit,” twenty-six times and translated “sit down” another fourteen times.

We read, “Peter stood up” (Acts 1:15). Again, in Acts 2:14 we read, “But Peter standing up.” in spite of the Lord’s command to “tarry” until the Holy Spirit came.



Luke 24:49 tells us Jesus said, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

The Holy Spirit Was To Control Every Position of Leadership.

- **Acts 20:28**, "The Holy Ghost hath made you overseers."
- **Acts 6:3**, "Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 13:52**, "The disciples...filled with the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 13:2**, "The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

The Holy Spirit Was To Control Everything They Said

- **Acts 2:4**, speak...as the Spirit gave them utterance."
- **Acts 4:8**, "Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said..."
- **Acts 1:8**, "After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses."
- **Acts 4:31**, "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God."

The Holy Spirit Was To Control Where They Went

- **Acts 8:29**, "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot."
- **Acts 11:12**, "And the Spirit bade me go with them."
- **Acts 16:6**, "Forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia."
- **Acts 8:39**, "The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip."
- **Acts 13:4**, "Sent forth by the Holy Ghost."

The Ministry of The Holy Spirit In The Book of Acts

- **Acts 16:7**, "The Spirit suffered them not."
- **Acts 2:4**, "The Spirit gave them utterance."
- **Acts 7:55**, "He, being full of the Holy Ghost."

- **Acts 9:17**, "be filled with the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 9:31**, "The comfort of the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 10:38**, "With the Holy Ghost and with power."
- **Acts 11:24**, "Full of the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 13:9**, "Filled with the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 15:28**, "It seemed good to the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 19:6**, "The Holy Ghost came on them."
- **Acts 20:23**, "Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city."
- **Acts 21:11**, "Thus saith the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Spirit had not descended at the time Peter organized a meeting to replace Judas. There is no indication that the Holy Spirit had anything to do with Peter's election of Matthias and Matthias is never mentioned again in the Word of God.

The Lord Himself chose Saul of Tarsus to be an Apostle. Unlike Matthias, Paul could refer to himself as "Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:1).

Some assume that God considered Matthias as an apostle because it says, "he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26). Matthias was numbered with the eleven; however, we also read in Mark 15:28 that Christ, "was numbered with the transgressors." Should we assume Christ was a transgressor?

Peter quoted Scripture (vs.16-23). He said, "the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas." Was he referring to Psalm 41:9?, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." This verse refers to Judas; however, Peter mentions things concerning Judas that are not referred to in Psalm 41:9.

In verse twenty Peter quoted Psalm 69:26 that says, "For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded."

This Psalm refers to the Messiah and His sufferings; however, it does not say anything about Judas in particular, but refers to Christ's foes (plural) in general. Was Peter proof texting to get the others to follow him in getting someone on that twelfth throne?

Casting Lots?

Acts 1:24-26

"And **they** appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

Casting Lots Has Nothing In Common With Local Church Doctrine

Casting lots was something that was commonly done in the nation of Israel. The practice of casting lots is mentioned seventy times in the Old Testament. Acts 1:26 says, "they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias." Peter was obviously acting under the Old Testament system when he directed the men to cast lots concerning replacing Judas.

Conclusions From Acts Chapter One

Jesus began His earthly ministry preaching about the earthly **kingdom** that was promised for the Nation of Israel. Throughout His ministry Christ preached and



taught about the kingdom for Israel. Matthew 4:23 says, *"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of **the kingdom**."*

After His resurrection Christ gave "commandments" to the apostles, concerning **"the kingdom"** The kingdom message was strictly for the Nation of Israel. The message concerning everlasting life was for everyone.

Jews and Gentiles were trusting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour during the ministry of Christ on earth, during the early chapters of the Book of Acts, as well as today.

The "kingdom of heaven" and "the kingdom of God" are always obvious concerning their meaning when they are studied in light of the context in which they appear. The kingdom mentioned in Acts 1:6, obviously refers to a literal kingdom. They were not asking if the Lord would restore the plan of salvation.

The Holy Spirit was to be in charge of everything during the Book of Acts. The Holy Spirit had not yet descended when Peter held a meeting to choose an apostle to replace Judas.

The literal kingdom for Israel is the focus of Acts chapter one with the exception of verse eight. The local church is not the focus of Acts chapter one.

That does not mean churches were not there. It simply means this chapter is not referring to the church.

It is not logical to assume that God would leave multitudes of new Christians on their own for many

years until the local churches were organized.

The Greek word translated "companied" in verse twenty-one is *synerchomai*. It has been used several times in context with Christians meeting together. Paul used this phrase seven times when referring to the people who met together in the local church at Corinth. This would indicate that the local church and the coming together of Christians prior to Pentecost had something in common. The Greek word *synerchomai* has been translated "come together" eighteen times and is used of different groups that assembled for a purpose.

While there are many Scriptures to indicate local churches were meeting prior to Pentecost, to take verses from Acts chapter one to prove it is to be guilty of proof texting.

In our next article we will look at Acts chapter two to determine if we might be guilty of proof texting concerning our position regarding the local church.

Points To Ponder



Many Years After Acts Chapter Two

At least, seven years, and more likely twelve years after Acts chapter two, Peter said to Cornelius,

Acts 10:28,

"Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation."

Also

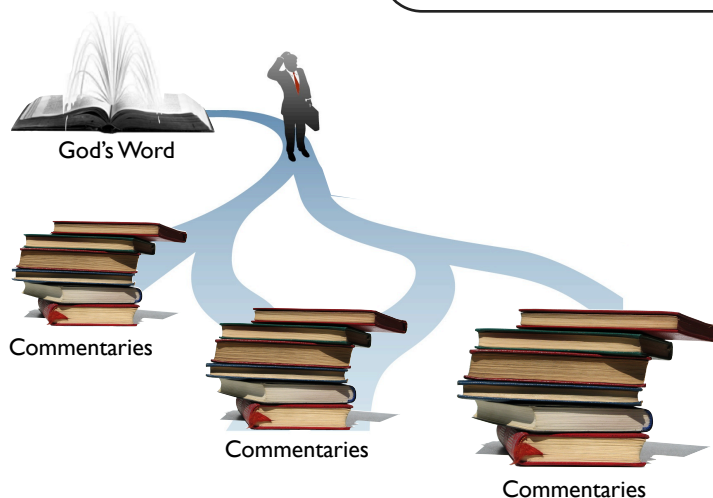
At least, seven years, and more likely twelve years after Acts chapter two we read,

Acts 11:2,

"And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them."

Were they "all with one accord" in Acts 2:46?

We will look at this seeming contradiction in our next article.





Our Adventure...conclusion

The Fair Havens Adventure



My plan was to move back to Ontario in the spring, set up a home there, and raise the support necessary to begin another church. We still had a motorhome to get rid of and so I decided to bring it to Ontario and put it up for sale hoping it would sell over the winter months.

I stopped at a little church in Sarnia, Ontario for the Sunday services. They were without a pastor and a preacher friend and I went out for supper on Saturday night. He spent most of the time trying to convince me to become the pastor of that church. I informed him in no uncertain terms that that was not going to happen. This time, I was going to raise the necessary support before starting a church and then start it in Toronto.

Three Green Lights

The pastor asked me what it would take for me to know it was God's will to take the church in Sarnia. I told him that

I would need three green lights. One from God the Father, one

from the Son, and one from the Holy Spirit. I explained that God the Father is in charge of the circumstances of life. We call it "the providence of God." I further explained that the Son is the Word. The Bible says "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." I explained that the Trinity is always in total agreement. Therefore, concerning the will of God, the Spirit, working with the Father, and the Word, will guide us "into all truth."

My friend said well, the church at Sarnia needs a pastor. Could that not be a green light from the Father? I said, "perhaps; however, I would also need confirmation from the Word and the Holy Spirit."

I preached in that little church the following morning and it was very obvious that God was working in my heart about taking the church. I announced that we would have a prayer meeting that afternoon. We would pray specifically concerning God's will for whoever should be their pastor. I was hoping it would not be me. We had started other churches without an income and I didn't want to do that again.

One of the pastors who was at the prayer meeting read some Bible verses before he prayed. When he read those verses I wondered why he had chosen that portion of Scripture.

We were praying for direction. Why was he reading from Isaiah 43? Why not choose one of the Psalms or Proverbs? He read, "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." What's that got to do with us seeking God's will? Then he read "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee." About that time I began to think there would be no green light from the Word; however he then read, "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west."

The hair stood up on the back of my neck. I had goosebumps. This was a very bright green light from the Word. I had just driven over 2000 miles from "the west." The seed (the beginning) of all my ministries had begun in "the east." The Word hit me like a thunderbolt. "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west."

I asked the pastor who read that portion of Scripture why he chose it. He said he didn't choose it. He was reading through the Bible again and that happened to be where he left off. He said it was his manner to read the Bible before he prayed and so he simply read from where he had left off. He said he thought verse five was for me.

Sunday night was another service where God was obviously directing things. The Holy Spirit confirmed it. I was to take the church in Sarnia. I left that night with the key to the building in my pocket. I was the new pastor of the church.



Halfway between Sarnia and Toronto, I stopped in a service center and phoned my wife who was in Alberta. I told her I was pastoring a church in Sarnia and wondered if she would be interested in moving there.

I phoned her again the next day and told her I had rented a truck at Calgary, I told her when I would arrive, and said *"have the furniture packed and the dog ready. I will see you then."* Her astonished answer was *"you were serious about the church in Sarnia!"*



We rolled up to the church with a truck load of furniture

and no place to unload it. A pastor friend went with me to a real estate office and I enquired about a house for rent in the area. They said they had one. If I remember correctly the rental price was 1,200.00 a month with first and last in advance.

I told him I would pay 600.00 a month and no first and last month in advance. The real estate man laughed. I reminded him he worked on commission and had nothing to lose by calling the owner. He reluctantly agreed, called, and the owner agreed to the monthly rent; however, he said he wanted first and last in advance. I said *"tell him we have a deal."*

I had about forty dollars to my name at that time. I asked the preacher that was with me if he had the funds available so we could close this deal. He said he did but he would need it back before the

end of the month to pay his rent. He gave the man a cheque and on the way to the car he asked me if he was going to get the money back before the end of the month. I said *"I don't know, it depends on your prayer life."* We were able to refund him his money in time. To God be the glory, the new phase of our adventure was underway. What are the odds of traveling 2000 miles and having a house empty and ready to move in at half the asking price? Actually, there were no odds. God's work done God's way will not lack God's support.

The Highest Unemployment Rate In Canada

Sarnia was blessed with the highest unemployment rate in the country. For the first five years I was pastoring in Sarnia we had no one in the church with a full time job and the mortgage company was about to foreclose when a cheque arrived in the mail enabling us to pay the mortgage in full.

More Hills And Valleys

We have been in Sarnia for nearly twenty years. We have seen many hills and valleys. We love the mountaintop experiences; however, it is in the valley where everything grows. In one of those valleys I wrote the following poem.

Down In The Valley

Down in the valley, help me to know,
That I'm in the place
where You want me to grow.

I want to clime to the mountain above.
But You keep me low,
because of Your love.

You know that nothing, on the mountain will grow. It's just a rock,
all covered with snow.

Down in the valley, You've taught me to know,
That I'm in the place
where everything grows.

Thanks for the mountain, and thanks for the snow. And thanks for the valley, where You let me know,
That flowers and grass and things that are dear,
Grow down in the valley, where it becomes clear,

That You keep us there, because of Your love,
So, help me forget the mountain above. Then if for a season, I'm up for a time,
Bring me back down, that growth might be mine.

Our Greatest Outreach Ministry

FairHavens Baptist Church is a small church and probably always will be. Our website is not a commercial to lure people in. Everything we stand for from morals to modesty is on our site.

In this age of apostasy most professed Christians refuse to pay the price to live like the Bible commands us to live; however, God has some faithful Christians who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

In the past month nearly 3000 articles and sermons have been downloaded from our website by people around the world. Another 7,754 audio messages from the FairHavens pulpit have been



downloaded from our outreach ministry - www.sermonaudio.com.

Conclusion

Shortly after I was saved I read First Corinthians 1:27 that says, *"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."* I concluded that statement put me at the front of the line. God could use me because He is more concerned about the *"I will"* than the I.Q.

My service for the Lord began with two growling german shepherds who really didn't want me doing what I was doing. Later, I read in Philippians 3:2 that I should *"Beware of dogs."* God is not referring to german shepherds, he was referring to people who will try to stop you from doing God's will. Don't let it happen.

Early in this book I mentioned that I had wept until I had no more power to weep. My adventure in Christian living has not been all sunshine and roses. There have been four times when I have wept until I could weep no more. I can relate with *"David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep"* (First Samuel 30:4).

David and his men had a great victory after they had this time of weeping. God does not use anyone who is not broken.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,

When funds are low and the debts are high,

And you want to smile but you have to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit,

Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is filled with its twists and turns,

As every one of us often learns,

And many a failure turns about, When he might have won

if he'd stuck it out.

Don't give up, though the pace seems slow - You may succeed, with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than, It seems to a faint and faltering man; Often the struggler has given

up, When he might have captured the victor's cup,

And he learned too late, when the night slipped down, How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out

The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,

And you never can tell how close you are -

It may be near when it seems afar; So stick to the fight when you're

hardest hit - It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Author Unknown

"Committed To Thy Trust"



In First Timothy 6:20 Paul warned those of us who are pastors to, *"keep that which is committed to thy trust."* As

pastors, we need to consider the seriousness of this charge. We are dealing with lives and we are dealing with eternity.

The Doctrine of Salvation Is Committed To Our Trust

Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson were wrong when they promoted the heresy that repentance is an enemy of soul winning. The Sword of the Lord was wrong when they removed the references to repentance out of hymns in their 1989 version of Soul-Stirring Songs and Hymns. Those who know better should have risen up in protest against this *"damnable heresy."*

The Doctrine of Separation Is Committed To Our Trust

We will lose our young people to the flood of apostasy that is destroying our so-called fundamentalism if we shy away from preaching the truth about separation from professed Christians who are actually promoting apostasy. We must expose the compromisers or we will lose our young people to their influence.

If our next generation is not taught to *"mark"* and *"avoid"* compromisers they will become compromisers themselves. The pastor who does not expose compromisers is a compromiser.

"Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life's busy way; Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last." - C.T. STUDD