

BAPTIST PILLAR

Oct-Nov 2020

1Timothy 3:15

BIBLE BAPTIST



CHURCH

Brandon  Manitoba

Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: For the LORD Jehovah is my strength and song; He also is become my salvation.

Fall is upon us here in Manitoba, Canada. It is a beautiful season that the Lord has made, but it brings to mind the fact that many are falling away from the truths of the Word of God. We see so much in our news of the day that this world is getting more wicked by the day, and churches are getting weaker by the day as well. We must not compromise our doctrines, or we will become like the world. Too many Christians today allow doctrinal compromise, which brings in spiritual compromise. This world is getting further from God, which means they should be getting further from our churches. Unfortunately, the churches of today just seem to be a couple of steps behind the world. I pray that in even some small way, the Baptist Pillar can help remind us to stay strong and hold the line. We must be like Christ. Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever."

Please enjoy the articles, and feel free to share the paper with anyone. Again, we don't necessarily share all the viewpoints of the authors of the articles we use, but do generally agree with the articles. If you have questions, or would like to submit an article, please let us know at Brandonmb.bbc@gmail.com

*As always... **Keep On Keeping On !!!!***

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BBC Brandon Update

Fall is upon us, and we are unfortunately in a holding pattern as far as the government restrictions on our lives. I speak in terms of these restrictions, because they are far more dangerous than catching the "flu". We are thankful that we have not had as strict of situations as others have had to deal with, and do have the freedom to have services with some restrictions.(1/3 capacity of the building) The other issue that we have run into is that non-essential travel across the American boarder is banned. This severely restricts the help that we can receive from our sister churches in the United States. We are able to bring in a pastor to help us out, but they must quarantine for two weeks before they can help us.

Our search for a pastor continues, but the quarantine issue makes it harder to bring anyone up. We are still looking for help in filling our pulpit and would gladly have someone come here for even a short to medium term. Please keep us in your prayers in this regard. The longer we go without a pastor, the more the devil gets a foothold in people's lives. Not only do we at Brandon BBC need a pastor, but Canada as a whole needs pastors and missionaries. There is a great lack of solid, doctrinally straight, Baptist churches in our country.

Some Had Rather Run Than Fight

Part 2

E. L. Bynum

From the *Plains Baptist Challenger*, December 2009,

Many modern day pastors have shied away from being soldiers, and are more prone toward pacifism, when it comes to defending the faith. Political correctness is doing a lot of damage to our nation and its future. Political correctness has leaked into our pulpits so that some preachers can hardly say anything against Satan for fear that will offend someone.

Many have taken of the armor of God, and put on garments more fitting for a pink tea party hosted by the Ladies Aid Society. People Pleasing Preachers will not fight the good fight of faith, but will talk and talk about things that will not ruffle the feathers of worldly Christians. They remind me of some of the Old Testament Priests who said, "*Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.*" (1 Samuel 2:36) I guess if they had a right to exist then, they can still exercise the same rights today.

NEW EVANGELICALISM – NEW WAY TO COMPROMISE

The father of New Evangelicalism is the title that has been given to Dr. Harold John Ockenga, pastor of Park Street Church, Boston, and first President of Fuller Theological Seminary. I will quote at some length from a news release of Dr. Ockenga of December 8, 1957:

"The New Evangelicalism is the latest dress of orthodoxy, as Neo-Orthodoxy is the latest expression of theological liberalism. The New Evangelicalism differs from Fundamentalism in its willingness to handle the social problems which Fundamentalism evaded. There need be no dichotomy between the personal gospel and the social gospel.

"The true Christian faith is a supernatural personal experience of salvation and a social philosophy. Doctrine and social ethics are Christian disciplines. Fundamentalism abdicated leadership and responsibility in the societal realm and thus became impotent to change society or to solve social problems. The New Evangelicalism adheres to all the orthodox teachings of Fundamentalism but has evolved a social philosophy." (*Evangelicalism, The New Neutralism* by Ashbrook)

Dr. Ockenga continues:

"The New Evangelicalism has changed its strategy from one of separation to one of infiltration. Instead of static front battles the new theological war is one of movement. Instead of attack upon error, the New Evangelicals proclaim the great historic doctrines of Christianity.

"The results have been phenomenal. The New Evangelical is willing to face the intellectual problems and meet them in the framework of modern learning. It stands doctrinally upon the creeds and confessions of the Church and grants liberty in minor areas when discussion is promoted on the basis of exegesis of Scripture.

"The strategy of the New Evangelicalism is the positive proclamation of the truth in distinction from all errors without delving in personalities which embrace the error. The evangelical believes that Christianity is intellectually defensible but the Christian cannot be obscurantist in scientific questions pertaining to the creation, the age of man, the universality of the flood and other moot Biblical questions. The evangelical attempts to apply Christian truth to every phase of life. Since I first coined the phrase 'The New Evangelicalism' at a convocation address at Fuller Theological Seminary ten years ago, the evangelical forces have been welded into an organizational front.

"**First**, there is the National Association of Evangelicals which provides articulation for the movement on the denominational level; **second**, there is World Evangelical Fellowship which binds together these individual national associations of some twenty-six countries into a world organization; **third**, there is the new apologetic literature stating this point of view which is now flowing from the presses of the great publishers, including Macmillans and Harpers; **fourth**, there is the existence of Fuller Theological Seminary and other evangelical seminaries which are fully committed to orthodox Christianity and a resultant social philosophy; **fifth**, there is the establishment of Christianity Today, a bi-weekly publication, to articulate the convictions of this movement; **sixth**, there is the appearance of an evangelist, Billy Graham, who on the mass level is the spokesman of the convictions and ideals of the New Evangelicalism.

"The strength of this movement is recognized by the Christian Century, America's leading theologically liberal magazine, by its expression of fear that this movement may challenge the religious scene and change the religious climate in this nation. The New Evangelical believes that Christ is the answer; that He must be understood in a Biblical framework and He and His teachings must be applied to every realm of societal existence." (*Ibid*)

OCKENGA LETS THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG

It is clear that the New Evangelicals had rather run than fight. The Fuller Theological Seminary followed this trend and it led them right into liberalism and compromise. Of course Ockenga felt right at home there as their first President. This seminary was founded by the famous radio preacher, Dr. Charles E. Fuller, who no doubt would have been shocked by the direction it soon took. Ockenga along with Fuller's son and other assorted fence straddlers made it a citadel of compromise.

Of course Billy Graham was a new evangelical in his approach to evangelism. W. B. Riley a Baptist pastor of Minneapolis, MN, was a militant fighter against liberalism, but alas he never led his Church out of the Northern Baptist Convention (now American Baptist Convention). It has always been a mystery to me as to why he picked Billy Graham to be president of Northwestern Schools. Billy did not last a long time there till he went on to greener pastures. He placed his membership in the First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas where it remained for many years, even though he never lived in Dallas. Dr. W. A. Criswell was the pastor of First Baptist and was known as a conservative, but he did little to drive out the modernism in the Southern Baptist Convention while he was their President.

Billy Graham could not be much of a Baptist since he was married to a Presbyterian, and most of his children were sprinkled in the Presbyterian Church. He was clearly a New Evangelical and felt comfortable in bringing some of the leading liberals in America to the sponsoring committees of his crusades. He said on one occasion that "The great theologians of today are Rudolph Bultman, Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, Reinhold Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, and Carl Henry." All of them were some of the worst modernists of the 20th Century with the exception of Carl Henry who was a New Evangelical.

The Southern Baptist Convention is a kind of New Evangelical movement. Even though there have been some reforms in the SBC, they have not returned to the biblical doctrines which they once taught. That is another subject which we will not develop at this time.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT INDEPENDENT BAPTISTS?

Independent Baptists are not immune from the possibility of compromise. All of us have to be on guard, lest we fall into the trap of compromise. We can easily compromise sound doctrine, and we are subject to moral or ethical failure. The

Bible gives us adequate warning that we should pay attention to. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12) Failure to heed such warnings can lead to spiritual disaster.

A number of years ago Jim Higgs the president of the Independent Baptist College of Dallas did an unbelievable thing. This College was sponsored by the Trinity Temple Baptist Church and was housed in their facilities. We were lead to believe that he was a solid Independent Baptist. He later resigned and after a while became the pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Francisco, California.

This Church was a member of the liberal American Baptist Convention and under his leadership also joined the Southern Baptist Convention. He remained as pastor of the San Francisco Church for 18 years, before going on to the Chicago area to pastor another Church. One pastor in the Chicago area told me that he had seen him at a Church sporting event, and that he wore long hair like a hippy.

It would seem that this event would cause great consternation in the Dallas College, and they would be indignant of Higgs' action, but I never heard a peep from any of the leaders who were there. I wrote a short article in the PBC exposing this compromise.

One faculty member (now deceased) of IBC, was reported as saying that Bynum did not understand that Higgs was simply trying to save a Church. All I can say is that it is a strange kind of "saving." I do know that he had a bad influence with some of the students at IBC as they visited with him in San Francisco. Higgs is back in the San Francisco area, and his website says, "For two and one-half years I served as a church consultant to forty-five churches in the Bay Area of California."

WE HAVE TO STAND READY TO FIGHT

I know that we live in a religious world where pacifism is more popular than taking a stand and fighting. Years ago, the hippies would cry out "make love not war." Of course this was a snappy saying that was wicked in its intent. Some Bible believers had rather speak about love than to take a stand for truth. When a rattlesnake crosses your path you had better not talk about love to the snake, but it would be advisable to kill the snake as fast as you can. Christians should be told that this is not a love feast with the devil. It is an all out war with evil and we must fight or we will be led into compromise.

ARE THEY OUT OR ARE THEY IN?

I am well aware that some good Independent Baptists were once a member of one of the various Fellowships or Associations. I have never been unfriendly with those who may have gone to some unscriptural College. I have always tried to be helpful to those who come out of these Fellowships or Association, if indeed they have come out. I am not so interested in where a man has been, but where they are right now.

There are some who seemed to be coming out, but years later they still have not made a clean break with extra-biblical organizations. They struggle to make up their mind. Some evidently would like to come out, but are unwilling to pay the cost or stand the heat.

Some men said they were coming out of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, but they continue to support BBF missionaries and other projects. They use the excuse that they are also supporting Independent Baptist Church missionaries that are Church sent. Others said they were coming out, but they ended up going into the Heartland Baptist College and the Global Baptist Fellowship movement. It is up to every preacher and Church as to where they will stand, but they ought to be honest about which brand they are wearing. My question to you is, "Are you in or are you out?" Just fly your colors and let people know what you are.

BE PREPARED TO FIGHT AND DEFEND THE TRUTH

There are many ways that a servant of the Lord must be ready to fight, if he intends to please God. "*I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so **fight** I, not as one that beateth the air.*" (1 Corinthians 9:26) Paul in this passage and its context is declaring that it is a **fight** to be temperate in all things. It is important that we keep our body in subjection to God if we would win the prize and finish the course with joy.

*"**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" (1 Timothy 6:12). It is clear that the faith is worth fighting for and that we are to be sure and do this in light of the coming of the Lord. "*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a**

good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. No man that **warreth** entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a **soldier**." (2 Timothy 2:3-4)

It is clear that if we are going to "fight the fight of faith," that we must endure hardness, and not be entangled with the affairs of this life. When you enlist in the army, you cannot take your farm with you or any other business. The Lord expects you to give him your best and to be willing to fight. There is no room for cowards and sissies.

In Ephesians 6:11-18 we find the uniform for the Christian soldier and every part of it was for battle in the day in which it was written. It is the armor that ever Christian should be willing to wear, and be ready to fight for God and truth. The conscientious objector has no defense or even an offensive weapon. In World War II there were quite a few conscientious objectors and they were generally scorned by most in that day. Now we have conscientious objectors in the ranks of the Christian faith. They will not take up the weapons of a soldier and fight for the faith once delivered unto the saints. Frankly, they had rather run than fight.

We are instructed by God to take up arms against the enemies of the cross of Christ.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:11-13). Read Ephesians 6:10-18

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)." (II Corinthians 10:3-4)

Let us fight the battle in such a manner that at the end of the course, we will be able to say with Paul, "**I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.**"

Falling Away

Part 2

By Pastor John Reaves Sr.

A Departure from Standards

First of all it begins with a departure from standards. The word standards means, "that which is established by sovereign power as a rule or measure by which others are to be adjusted." The root word being stand means, "to remain upright, in a moral sense; not to fall." Remember the word falling in our text speaks of a defection from the truth, and with that in mind look at Eph. 6:13-14, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;"

When I was just a young Christian I wrote in my Bible a statement that has stuck with me until this day, "If you don't stand for something you will fall for any thing," and that's exactly what is happening today, fall-ing for anything. Would to God we had more preachers like Paul in Acts 20:27. He says, "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

Preaching the whole counsel of God includes standards. Standards such as standing against long hair on men, I Cor. 11:14, standing for modest apparel, I Tim, 2:9, against nakedness, Gen, 3:10, against vile wicked videos and filthy, degrading, family sitcoms, Ps. 101:3, "I will set no wicked thing before mine

eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me." It also includes making a stand against such things as rock music, with so-called Christian words, and contemporary [agreeable sound] music, Eph. 5:19, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Back in the early 70's the Bible College I went to had standards. Men had to look like men, women had to dress like women, and at that time the college stood for something. The standards are gone and so too has its stand; they might as well take the words Baptist and Bible off their sign in Springfield. I can already hear some crying out "legalist", not hardly, I add nothing to salvation.

We are losing a whole generation because we have a bunch of spineless preachers behind the pulpits in North America who are afraid to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Instead what we have are teachers having itching ears, preaching smooth things, things that won't make waves. But we are instructed to do as II Tim. 4:2 says, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Why? "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (v. 3&4) That's the departure, the defection from the truth, the falling away.

Preachers are afraid to preach all the counsel of God, they are afraid they might lose their tithers. We could all learn a lesson from Gideon; God had to reduce his numbers before he could get victory. Maybe we need to stop worrying about numbers and let Jesus build his church. What we need to do is as John 12:32 says. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

And we can do that by preaching the whole counsel of God behind the pulpits of North America.

We need to get back to standing for something. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mat. 5:16. When standards are gone there is not much to see. The world doesn't need a church to look like them, they are looking for a church that is different.

The falling away is a step by step process. There's definitely a pattern and the first step is a departure from standards. The next step is:

A Departure from Scripture

In my Bible College days there were strong standards preached and no coincidence that at the same time the college made a strong stand for the Word of God, the KJV 1611. But as soon as the standards were gone it was just a matter of time that books in the bookstore, like, Battle for the Bible, and The Foundation and Authority of the Word of God, were gone also and it was not too long before you could find the NIV there.

After all, when holiness, purity, and godliness is no longer preached there is a great void of spirituality. John 4:24 says, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Where there is a void of standards there is no spirituality and when someone is not spiritual why do they need a spiritual book? I Cor. 2:13-15, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom

teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

With no standards there is no need for a spiritual book so they seek out for a book that is not spiritual. A book that they can understand, like the N-I-V-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E, the Mickey Mouse Bible. If one has spirituality missing in their life why not get a Bible like the NIV with 64,576 words missing? Or maybe a NKJV, it has 2,289 words missing just in the New Testament. Jesus said in John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." I like what one preacher said concerning the Word of God, "You don't have to be a Greek scholar to know whether or not a translation is good. Just take a look at what it does for Jesus. If it magnifies Him, it is a good translation. If it plays Him down [like all modern translations do], it is of the devil."

It has only been in these last days that we have seen in the articles of faith of Independent Baptist Churches statements such as, "We believe that the Word of God is inspired in the originals." That statements says nothing. We don't have the originals besides what idiot would not believe that the originals were inspired? The question today is, do we have an inspired, God breathed Bible? If not, it's dead, let's bury it. But the Word says it's "...the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." If the KJV 1611 is not the inspired Word we better find the one that is because God says His word will live and abide forever.

Falling as found in our text is a defection or departure from truth. In John 17:17, Jesus said while speaking to the Father, "...thy word is truth." Many churches are listening to the devil, "Yea, hath God said."

Amongst many so-called Independent Baptist Churches today they think they have a bible that has mistakes, not perfect. They don't believe their bible is inspired, and no doubt their pulpits are just as dead as they think their bible is. Once they toss their perfect, inspired Bible to the side, complete apostasy, an abandonment of what one professed is just around the corner.

The falling away doesn't happen overnight. It is a step by step process. A departure from standards, no spirituality, then a departure from the Scripture. The unspiritual do not want a spiritual book so they look for one they can understand.

Last of all, there's:

A Departure from the Saviour and Salvation

When you have an unspiritual congregation with an unspiritual book you end up with an unconverted church and a complete departure from the faith.

We have recently seen a perfect illustration of this. The Detroit Baptist Temple, once pastored by J. F. Norris and after by G. B. Vick, just 25 years ago the church stood strong on the Baptist distinctives and earnestly contended for the faith but their standards were lacking. Before long they had someone behind the pulpit, Truman Dollar, who hated the KJV and used the NIV and now they have taken the name Baptist off the church. A complete departure from the faith once delivered unto the saints, a total desertion.

When a church departs from preaching on standards, which leads the departure from the Scripture which leads to lack of spirituality, you end up with a church full of the unconverted, which leads to nothing spiritual mattering, including the Saviour and salvation. And before long the churches that once contended for the faith are no different than the evangelicals, charismatics, and ecumenicals who like the Pope believe that there are many ways to God and heaven. Jesus Christ no longer matters, he becomes another fixture in their religion.

Falling away is a slow, step by step process. Departure from standards, departure from the Scripture, which leads to a departure from the Saviour and salvation. A complete abandonment of what one has professed.

In Conclusion

No doubt we are living in the last days, the falling away of the church that Jesus built is upon us. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" I Tim. 4:1&2. Few are standing for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

My closing words to those churches that are at the point of apostasy is found in Rev. 2:5, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

My exhortation to those that are still in the battle is found in II Tim. 4:2, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine," and Jude 24, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy."

Perseverance

John D. McNeil

In a booklet entitled, *Keep On Keeping On*, Leslie B. Flynn tells of a man who handed out gospel tracts on a street corner. After years of not seeing anyone trust Christ as Saviour, he became discouraged and quit.

Two years later he passed that same familiar corner and saw a person handing out tracts. He walked over to the stranger and struck up a conversation and learned that a little more than two years earlier the man had become a Christian after reading a tract that he had received at that corner.

"Many a time I came back here to find the man to thank him," said the stranger, "but he never came back. So I decided he must have died and gone to his reward. That's why I've taken his place."

Keep on keeping on. Only eternity will reveal the results of a faithful sowing.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise ".
(Prov. 11:30).