



CONNECTED

January—March 2013

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Bill Jackson & Bro. Hutson

What a privilege to visit with one of the great preachers of my generation, Bill Jackson! Bill & Joyce now live in Ada, Oklahoma near their daughter & son-in-law, Mickey & Joann Hollars. I was preaching there with CLA.

THE DIRECTION OF OUR LIVES

The Bible says, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD; and he delighteth in his way"* (Psalm 37:23). I want my steps to be *ordered by the LORD*. So often I sense it; forces beyond my power (some subtle and some pretty radical) that simple take over and control my direction. I am thankful for that; to know that there is a power greater than me that is shaping my life and directing my path. When I was just a boy, I trusted Him as my personal Savior and it's great to know that He is always there, often salvaging me when I mess up and forcing me in directions where I didn't expect or want to go. He is really good!

Mrs. Hutson and I begin 2013 highly blessed. We have good health, a wonderful family, lots of friends, a place to live, transportation, plenty to

eat and a good church. We are saved by God's grace and still blessed to live in America. Just in front of us (Friday night through Sunday night January 25-27) is the first *Missions Conference* at our new church, Northwest Baptist in Houston. Pastor Dulany allowed me to do much of the planning and legwork for this *Conference* and I am thankful for that. Those of you who know me very well know that *Missions* is a passion with me. We'd be delighted to have you as a guest at our *Missions Conference*.

In February, I will represent the Christian Law Association in Houma, Louisiana and attend the annual Bible Conference at Bay City Baptist Church in Bay City, Texas. A tour of Israel is an experience beyond adequate description. We are so humbled at the prospect of going there again with

"You can avoid reality, but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality."
Ayn Rand

a small group of our friends. We are particularly delighted at the prospect of linking up with seven of our lifelong friends from Spain. They are traveling from Barcelona to be a part of this life-changing event.

During these three months, I will be preaching several times at my home church and working on a number projects within the church. I will also be giving serious time to my writing ministry. Mrs. Hutson and I appreciate your interest in our lives and your encouragement. Please pray that I will be fruitful and make a difference for the better.

Throughout 2013, I have a few openings and am available for revivals, seminars, conferences and workshops to help churches and pastors fortify themselves legally. Email me at lesterhutson@gmail.com or call 713-206-8367.

HAPPY NEW YEAR DEAR FRIENDS
May your New Year be blessed & fruitful

Northwest Baptist **MISSIONS CONFERENCE** - January 25-27, 2013

MY DEEP GRATITUDE

How blessed I consider myself to be to have so many precious friends! Thank you for your encouragement and love that just seems to keep flowing my way. Most of you know that my heart has long been to produce more written materials. I have now postured myself to give more time to that type of work.

Time spent alone in a library and in reference books is laborious work. Sometimes it's a little lonely and Satan tempts you to doubt its worth. Words from readers who use and appreciate the materials are great sources of confirmation and encouragement. Thanks to each of you who has communicated your thinking on my work.

I have new materials on the way; however, during the last two or three years, much of the time I have been able to devote to writing has been given to editing and improving some of my existing materials. Publishing paper books is a very expensive undertaking and unfortunately many of God's people do not buy books. Thankfully electronic books have entered the market place. Electronic readers (iPad, Nook, Kindle, etc.) are growing in popularity. One of these devices can house a pretty big library and these eBooks are relatively inexpensive. The *reader* is small and portable, making the books readily available wherever one is. They are definitely the coming thing and the books can be easily downloaded from the Internet right onto the device from such vendors as Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Many of you have purchased my electronic books (eBooks). Right now I have 12 books available through both Amazon or Barnes and Noble: *Basic Bible Truths*, *Great Bible Truths Revisited*, *Basic Discipleship Teacher's Manual*, *Notes on Studies in Nehemiah*, *Christian Family Principles*, *Cultivating Your Heart*, *Outlines on Ruth*, *Philippians: God's Love Letter*, *Creation through the Fall*, *Cain and Abel through the Tower of Babel*, *the Patriarchs* and *Giving*. My hope is to have two others ready within a few weeks.

The little 7-chapter book on *Giving* is my latest entry; I was able to list it in mid-December. Thanks to each of you who has given my books a chance. It is my prayer that you have found them beneficial. To find a brief description of each one and ordering instructions, visit my website at www.lesterhutson.org.

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." Galileo

MY LATEST ELECTRONIC BOOK

In December the Lord enabled me to publish another eBook. It is a small seven-chapter treatise on *giving*. It touches the heart of money issues addressing work, income, budgeting, debt, savings, investments, giving and much more. The critical issues of management and attitude toward material goods are foremost in the book. God's four basic reasons for giving people money are presented along with four principles for getting out of debt. The book also presents six fundamental biblical principles for staying out of debt. Taxes, tithing, church giving and giving to the poor are all addressed in this book which is excellent for personal guidance. Its outline format makes it ideal for teaching in a small group or church setting. It is straightforward and laced throughout with Scripture references.

Monetary success and satisfaction are not as dependent upon how much money one makes or has as they are upon money management and one's attitude toward material possessions. God's Word is packed with monetary principles. This short book addresses many of them and provides a clear guide to material success and satisfaction.



The sermons on my website are changed approximately six times a year. I appreciate your visits to my site & want them to always be helpful & refreshing.

[Listen to Sermons](#)

"God is love"

1 John 4:8

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Oh Yes" said the class. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little guy shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

Our Prayer List

- ✓ Wisdom, love & good spirits
- ✓ Faithfulness & fruitfulness
- ✓ Thankful hearts & that none of God's benefits will be taken for granted
- ✓ Good management of our time
- ✓ That I may give myself to pursuits that will matter beyond this lifetime
- ✓ America & a return to true biblical Christianity

WHAT NOW?

The election didn't go like Christians hoped. A man who makes no secret of his disdain for America and Christians in particular was voted in. Again! It's not just our leadership that is increasingly anti-Christian; it's the rank and file of America. We have standards and believe in absolutes. We're not politically correct. We believe the Bible: what it says about morality, sex, spending, marriage, work and the sanctity of life. We're out of vogue. We're the radicals, the people who are in the way of a new world order. We're in harm's way. With a barrage of new laws, taxes and regulations, the powers that be are posturing to force us their way or eliminate us.

You would do well to think about what you are going to do when you are really tested. Ready or not, it is pretty obvious that trouble is heading our way. Do we give up on God and join the new anti-God wave? Do we dilute our doctrine and fervor so that we don't stand out? Do we hide? Do we arm ourselves and fight to the death? Do we join a resistance group? Unfortunately, I suspect too many will *tone things down* and try to blend in, be as inconspicuous as possible.

We should not imagine that this has never happened before, that it has never cost true biblical Christians. I fear that our ignorance of our own history has blinded us to reality. Until America, most of our Christian forefathers paid an extremely high price. Shortly after the death of Christ when our kind were being severely persecuted, beaten and killed; the Apostles said, *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20). Time proved that if need be, they would die for Christ. Most of them did.

It's past time to rethink what being a real Christian means. It's high time to know how you are going to respond to the increasingly hostile environment that is forming around us. Based on a lifetime in the Bible, I offer these recommendations:

- ✓ Draw close to God. Learn who He really is and how to intimately walk with Him.
- ✓ Acquaint yourself with His Word about opposition and how to respond to it.
- ✓ Pray for courage and the help of God that you might stand.
- ✓ Practice your faith. Let your light shine. Let the world see real Christianity in you. Don't be a closet Christian.
- ✓ Learn to defend your faith. Be ready to give true Christian answers and positions on the issues.
- ✓ Uphold Christ as the only true answer to the woes of this world.
- ✓ Win people to Christ. He is the only real hope of sinners.
- ✓ Teach others the great truths of God's Word, especially your children.
- ✓ Get into a church that is truly committed to biblical Christianity. Stand together.
- ✓ Pray for and encourage others, especially your leaders and others who are standing.
- ✓ Always practice the spirit of Christ in all you say and do.
- ✓ Let love be your crowning characteristic!

OH BOY!

A bagpiper was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. The man had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. Not familiar with the backwoods, the piper got lost & arrived late. The funeral director was gone & the hearse was nowhere in sight. The grave diggers were eating lunch. The piper apologized to the men for being late, went to the grave, saw the vault lid in place & started to play.

The workers put down their lunches & gathered around. He played out his heart & soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. As I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept. I wept. We all wept together. I finished, packed up my bagpipes & started for my car with my head hung low but my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, *"I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."*

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ & HIGHLY RECOMMEND

The Signature of God

Grant R. Jeffrey.
Frontier Research Publications,
Inc.
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Ontario M8Z 5M4
ISBN 0-921714-28-9

Outstanding! One of the most fascinating, intriguing books I have read. Scholarly, yet easy to read & digest. This book is about the Bible, which is constantly under attack, especially from the academic community. Throughout this book, Mr. Jeffrey presents hard-core evidence in support of biblical claims: historical documents, inscriptions in the Sinai from the time of Moses, archeological discoveries, scientific proofs, historical evidence about Jesus, prophecies fulfilled in this generation and proofs encoded in the Scripture texts.

This book will strengthen your faith. I highly recommend it.

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

Albert Einstein

ISRAEL

Many times I have encouraged people to visit Israel. A *Holy Land Tour* is far more than merely a trip. It is inspiring & educational beyond adequate description.

Unless The Lord intervenes, this coming trip will be my last. At my age getting another tour together does not seem wise; however, I encourage you find a good Christian host & go. It's a vote for Israel with your feet.

Yes! We're going. At the end of February, 18 of us will join another group there. Sure wish you could join us. Since you can't, please pray for us.

50 YEARS & STILL IN LOVE

August 3 marked our 50th wedding anniversary. My! The Lord has been so good to us! When Margaret & I met back in 1961, I was pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. I was saved in October 1954 & surrendered to preach on May 1, 1955.

We were married on August 3, 1962 & our entire married lives have been in the gospel ministry. What a blessing!

We were in love then. We still are, but even more! Yes! Over the years our love has grown far deeper & richer! Knowing what we know now, would we do it again? Yes, yes, yes! Without hesitation! She is so beautiful both inside & out. Next to my salvation, she's God's greatest gift to me.



I didn't kiss the Blarney Stone;
I did a whole lot better!



Scotland

The Christian Law Association

Despite rumors to the contrary the Christian Law Association is alive & well doing the same work it has been doing since its birth in 1969. I am still a CLA National Field Representative. Call our office & speak to Steve Kluth to schedule an appointment. 727-851-9000.

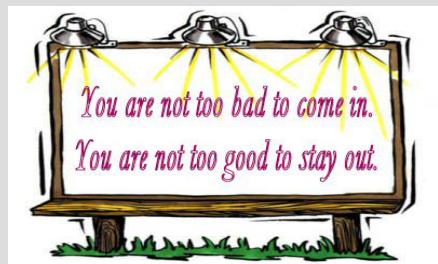
WITHIN OUR POWER

God could make you do anything, but He won't. Satan would make you do things, but he can't. It is you who makes the decisions that govern your life.

Thank God we're off & running in a brand new year & most of it is still in front of us. What do you plan to do with the new opportunities which are directly in front of you? There are multiple options. You can plan, seek God & His help and work hard to grow & be fruitful; you can sit on it & do nothing. It's your call. Outlook & attitude matter. Life brings challenges. Some can be tough. Very tough! How you respond is up to you; not God or the Devil.

I thank God for new beginnings & opportunities. My heart is to be more fruitful in 2013 than I have ever been. I plan to bring several souls to the savior, produce new Bible study materials, make a difference for the better in my church, be a better friend & grow observably in the knowledge & character of Christ. I want to love more, be more humble & be a person of true integrity. At the end of this year, I don't want to be the same as I am now.

When we stand before the judgment bar of God, there will be no excuses. What others did or didn't do won't matter. We're accountable to do what we can and should regardless. That's within our power.



RESPONSE

The difference between winners & losers, victory & defeat is not obstacles or severe blows. It's response. Losers get hurt, knocked down, disappointed & wronged. They lie there & whine, make excuses, grow bitter & blame, blame, blame. It's never their fault. Winners get up & go forward.

Satan tests you. On your own turf! *Physician, heal thyself.* Preacher, will all that lofty counsel you've given to others work for you? What will you do when you endure a raw deal, face betrayal, see your dreams turn to ashes?

Christianity demands more than *lip service!* It demands implementation of the principles which are set forth in the Bible. Between where you are and the Promised Land, there's a flooded Jordan, a fortress named Jericho, a nest of Goliaths and plenty of adversaries ready to take you down.

Success for you in 2013 will not depend on whether or not you are knocked down. Doubtless you will face severe blows: health, job, family, career, church. Satan will see to it that somebody hurts you really bad, that your dream is smashed, that you are betrayed! Your response will determine its true impact on you. In Christ, you can get up, forgive, put the past behind you and go on. *"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds"* (Hebrews 12:2-3).

*"Political correctness is
tyranny with manners."*
Charlton Heston

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