



CONNECTED

October—December 2013

In this issue

A History of Churches	1
A Good Hot Summer	2
Our Prayer List	2
Just Ahead	3
My Post Senior-Pastor Life	3
eBook Owners	3
Books by Lester Hutson	4
A New Website	4
A Little Humor	4

Merry Christmas!

The beautiful holiday season is almost upon us. Plan now to keep Christ the center of your plans and activities. Thanksgiving is close. God gave you all you have. Christmas is just a month later. Don't be ashamed to stand up for Jesus Christ. This season is about Christ. It's *Merry Christmas*, not "Happy Holidays."

Mrs. Hutson and I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a *Merry, Merry Christmas* and a great 2014.

A History of Churches: *The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds*

Many of you know that for several years I have been working on a church history book. The project is nearing reality. The editing process should be complete by Thanksgiving. Shortly thereafter the book will be available as an eBook.

The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds proves that Christians and churches which embraced the basic positions of New Testament Christianity have continuously existed from Jesus' church in Jerusalem, Israel to the present. Evidence substantiates the fact that a people exists who were never part of Constantine's state church which ultimately became the Catholic Church. Over the centuries and in many locations they were known by different names; but they were here, wed together by their common commitment to the brand of Christianity taught in the New Testament. This book shows who they were, where they lived, what they believed and unbelievable efforts to eradicate them.

As these remarkable people are traced through the centuries, the circumstances of their survival come into focus. The

book deals with the Roman Empire, the tremendous persecutions these Christians faced at the hands of Pagan Rome, the formation of a state church and its ramifications, the breakdown of the old Roman Empire and the emergence of a new Europe, how Roman Catholic and an Eastern Orthodox Catholic Churches came into existence, the birth and spread of Islam, the Crusades, the Protestant Reformation and the proliferation of denominations. The book also shows why the New Testament has 27 books and not more or different books. One chapter is devoted to how the Bible made it into the English language and to the amazing King James Bible.

The book will be available through Amazon in both paper & eBook formats. The book consists of 31 chapters. It is well documented with hundreds of endnotes & a large bibliography. From Amazon the paper copies will be perfect bound. I will let you know as soon as they are available on Amazon.

Some of you have expressed a strong desire to have this book in comb

bound format. Paper books through Amazon will be black & white. I will be printing limited comb bound copies through Office Depot. The 60 pages of charts plus 10 pages of maps will be in color. Whereas we expect the Amazon books to be priced in the \$15.00 range (it is too soon to announce an exact price), these comb bind copies with color pages will be closer to \$50.00. The cost will be whatever the printing is plus postage & a mailer. You who want one or more of these copies should let me know. No money will be due until the book is printed and delivered to you. I will invoice you at that time.

To pre-order one or more comb-bound copies, please email me at lesterhutson@gmail.com. Include your (1) name, (2) mailing address, (3) email & (4) phone. Let me hear from you as soon. I expect to print these comb-bound books with color charts & maps in time for you to have them for Christmas. I will print as many as pre-ordered.

**Check out our new website:
Lesterhutson.org**

Northwest Baptist **MISSIONS CONFERENCE** - January 24-26, 2014

A GOOD HOT SUMMER

In July it gets really hot in Texas; yes, I mean REALLY hot. Mrs. Hutson and I found ourselves quite consumed with the good work of our great God. July 14 found us in Kountze, Texas at the Midway Baptist Church with many dear friends from the 1960s: faithful, stable people who just keep standing on solid ground. It was my privilege to conduct all services at my home church on July 21. On Monday, July 21 Pastor Dulany and I, along with our wives, drove to Rodgers Baptist Church in Garland for the annual *Missions Conference*. What a blessing to see so many pastors, missionaries and other friends from our past!

We took a little time in August to enjoy the gorgeous beauty of the San Juan Mountains in Southeastern Colorado. Uncomprehensible! Yes! They are indescribable. It was great to catch a few rainbows and see wild moose up close. We got back just in time to make the Saturday/Sunday *Defending Your Faith* apologetics conference at Calvary Baptist Church in Athens, Texas. I had the privilege of joining Drs. Patrick Briney and Carl Baugh in presenting evidence and proof that the biblical account of Noah and the Flood is both historical and scientific. The last weekend of August found me in Benson, Arizona with Pastor A.B. Blair and the First Baptist Church. This was one of the most uplifting weekends I've experienced in a long time.

In September our lives seemed to speed up. I preached all services at Memorial Baptist in Conroe on the 8th and at Calvary Baptist in Athens on the 15th. On the 22 I began a Sunday through Thursday revival with Pastor Rick Nesmith at the Liberty Baptist Church in Cabot, Arkansas. My, what a blessing to see the Lord at work! On the last Sunday of September Mrs. Hutson and I were with Pastor Wade Lentz at Stanfill Baptist in Jacksonville, Arkansas. During Sunday school I offered information to help them legally and was able to preach on *Faith Promise Missions Giving* during the morning service. They were in their *Missions Conference*. Sunday night we moved south to Bryant, Arkansas for a service with Pastor Joel Prickett and the Grace Baptist Church.

Already nine months of 2013 is in the eternal record books of heaven. May we number our days and give ourselves to the service of God! Before long we'll be standing before the Judgment Seat of our great God. Oh, how I want to be found faithful and fruitful!



A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

Gandhi's Seven Deadly Social Sins

- 1. Politics without principle**
- 2. Wealth without work**
- 3. Commerce without morality**
- 4. Pleasure without conscience**
- 5. Education without character**
- 6. Science without humanity**
- 7. Worship without sacrifice**

The sermons on my website are changed approximately 6 times a year. Ten sermons are listed for your enjoyment.

[Listen to Sermons](#)

"Peace be unto You"
John 20:19

MY HOME CHURCH

I am happy to announce that I will be preaching the morning message (11:00) at my home church, Northwest Baptist in Houston, on Sunday, October 20. Northwest is located at 1710 West 34th Street just east of Ella, two blocks north of Loop 610.

Our Prayer List

- ✓ Faithfulness & fruitfulness
- ✓ Good management of our time
- ✓ Focus on & pursuit of the eternal
- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Love, kindness & a good spirit even in the face of misuse & injustice
- ✓ Life lived to the fullest
- ✓ Routine excellence
- ✓ God glorified thru us

JUST AHEAD

We're heading into the home stretch of 2013. I feel a sense of urgency. This has driven me to work hard on the church history book which I've decided to call *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds*. While engaged heavily in other ministry, I have given considerable time and effort to the exacting editing process of this book.

Now the home stretch is here. Lord willing, on October 13 I will be in North Georgia with the South Dalton Baptist Church in the morning and with the Victory Baptist Church in Rossville that night before driving to Sommerville, Alabama to be a part of the Southwide Baptist Fellowship. We are looking forward with great anticipation to seeing many of our Ohio friends toward the end of October. I will be preaching a family-centered revival with Pastor Ron Pittman at Bible Way Baptist Church in Hamilton October 27-November 1. On the first Sunday of November I will be with Pastor Aaron Samples at Grace Baptist Church in Urbana, Ohio.

Pray with me that along the way that I will have the wisdom to keep up with my routine responsibilities and give adequate attention to the completion of the church history book.

My Post Senior-Pastor Life

Sometimes people ask me what I'm doing now that I'm 72 years old and "retired." It's pretty hard to put into a few words, but I think it's honest to say that I am running faster than I ever have in my life. I am highly blessed with good health and plenty to do. Most of my time and energies fall into one of four major areas of ministry.

Written materials

A major burden of my heart is to leave a legacy of written materials that will help people and make a difference for the better even after I am in my eternal home. My main areas of written materials include (1) books in both paper and electronic formats, (2) a quarterly digital *Connected Newsletter*, (3) a growing website at lesterhutson.org and (4) regular website blogs on many subjects. (5) I also write policy statements and other church helps materials.

Associate pastor

It is my privilege and joy to serve as Associate Pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. In this utility role I write the Sunday bulletins, preach approximately once a month, often teach classes, lead the missionary ministry, help establish policies and programs, write policy statements and serve as a confidant and advisor to Pastor Dulany.

Private speaking engagements

Often I have the privilege of conducting revivals, seminars and workshops. Several times a year I preach for pastors, preach in missions conferences and assist churches that are without a pastor.

Christian Law Association

Approximately one weekend a month I represent the Christian Law Association in churches across America. I help pastors and churches identify areas of legal weakness and take important steps to fortify themselves. Our emphasis at CLA is on prevention; however, we will defend a church that finds itself in legal trouble.

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ
*Stop Asking Jesus into Your Heart:
 How to Know for Sure You are Saved*

J. D. Greear
 B&H Publishing Group
 Nashville, Tennessee
 ISBN 978-1-4336-7921-6

A book like this by a known & respected church leader is surely needed. No doubt many will spend an eternity in hell because they thought a prayer took care of their salvation. In the first part of this book Mr. Greear effectively explodes that myth; however, in the latter part he again confused the issue. After reading this most readers will be pretty sure that an empty prayer will not give them eternal life, but they will be pretty sure they cannot know for sure that they are saved until they get to heaven. Mr. Greear's bottom line conclusion is that if you don't live it, you never had it. His exegesis of several Scriptures toward the end of the book leaves much to be desired. Only those who know how to eat chicken and throw away the bones should tackle this book.

"If a nation expects to be ignorant & free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was & never will be."

Thomas Jefferson

eBook Owners

A Special Note of thanks to the more than 220 Owners of my eBooks! Here and there minor corrections and improvements have been made to my eBooks: better wording, a few spelling corrections, better paragraph separation, etc. This is particularly the case in *Philippians: God's Love Letter*. You who have purchased copies can go to Amazon or Barnes & Noble and download updated copies at no additional cost.

BOOKS BY LESTER HUTSON

Titles	Paper	Order from	eBook	Order from
<i>Great Bible Truths Revisited</i>	\$15.00/2 \$25.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$9.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Basic Bible Truths</i>	\$10.00 perfect bound	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$9.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Basic Bible Truths</i>	\$ 5.00 comb bound	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available	
<i>Basic Bible Truths (Spanish)</i>	\$ 5.00 comb bound	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available	
<i>Basic Bible Truths (Portuguese)</i>	\$ 5.00 comb bound	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available	
<i>Basic Discipleship Teacher's Manual</i>	\$ 5.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$6.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Basic Discipleship Student's Manual</i>	pdf	lesterhutson.org	free download	
<i>Christian Family Principles</i>	\$ 4.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Cultivating Your Heart</i>	\$ 4.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Survey of Bible History (Creation - Fall)</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Survey of Bible History (Cain - Babel)</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Survey of Bible History (The Patriarchs)</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Survey of Bible History (Full set)</i>	\$ 6.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>The Week They Killed Our Lord</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Philippians: God's Love Letter</i>	Not available		\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Outlines on Ruth</i>	\$ 2.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Giving</i>	Not available		\$2.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>Notes on Studying Nehemiah</i>	Not available		\$4.99	Amazon , Barnes
<i>What We Believe & Why I</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available	
<i>What We Believe & Why II</i>	\$ 3.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available	
<i>Peculiar Misunderstandings</i>	\$ 4.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available yet...	
<i>Once Delivered</i>	\$ 1.00	lesterhutson@gmail.com	Not available yet...	

Note: Upon request copies of *Basic Bible Truths* can be generated in Japanese, Viet Namese, Russian and Czech. The cost of printing will dictate the price.

Books make excellent & inexpensive Christmas gifts

A NEW WEBSITE

Please stop by and visit us at lesterhutson.org. You will see a new look. Some of you know that listening to sermons on my old site has been an on-going problem. That's been fixed. New sermons are there now and we often add new ones. A new feature has been added, a *photo gallery*. It's somewhat representative of my ministry over the years. I think you will enjoy the photos which we will change from time to time. Also this new site can be viewed on a cell phone and other small devices. The new technology is now in place. I surely hope you enjoy the site. There are places to post your comments. I would like to hear from you.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Visit my website to sign up for automatic notices of my new blogs

Lesterhutson.org



A deacon was testing children in Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven...

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?" "NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the lawn, and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?" Again, the answer was "NO!"

"If I gave sweets to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into heaven?" Again, they all answered "NO!"

He was just bursting with pride for them, and he continued, "Then how can I get into heaven?"

A little boy shouted out: "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Oh Those Sunday Bulletins! "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT
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