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Pastor & Mrs. A.B. Blair
1st Baptist Church
Benson, Arizona

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April—June 2014

CONVICTIONS VERSUS PREFERENCES

Preferences are abundant; convictions are scarce. You may like and feel really strong and passionate about many things, but what will you die for? When severely tested (hateful scorn, lawsuit, loss of money, poverty, prison time, torture and possible death) most people do not have many convictions.

It was convictions, not preferences which gave us the great truths of the Bible and a free America. Over the centuries religious powers (church and state wed in lock step with the state enforcing the tyranny of the church) did their best to erase Bible concepts and freedom from the face of the earth. They oppressed, tortured and killed millions of men and women of conviction; people who were willing to lay it all on the line for what they believed to be true and righteous. Yes, ALL on the line: their homes, their fortunes, their families, their lives!

They had many convictions, but at the core was belief that the Scriptures were the Word of God and the only and final rule of faith and practice. Along with that belief was the firm conviction that men are by nature sinful and apart from the grace and intervention of God, they are doomed to eternity in hell. They were convicted that forgiveness and eternal life come exclusively by faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work in which He shed His sinless blood in His death, was buried and rose from the grave. They rejected any notion that salvation comes through a church, baptism or any form or good works. After all, that is what the Bible teaches. When the big church with the backing of the state police tried to force them otherwise on pain of death, they stood. Embedded in this notion is the belief (conviction) that every man should be free to decide for himself what he will do with God and His plan of salvation. It's called liberty of conscience; we call it freedom. Nobody has a right to impose or force his religion on any other person. Not even a state has that right.

Convictions! Beliefs to die for! Against unthinkable cruelty and overwhelming odds, they stood. They came to this new world called America. Against tremendous opposition they insisted on a *Bill of Rights* to our Constitution and the first article says, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*"

Congress and the courts are no longer obeying the constitution. Society as a whole is becoming increasingly hostile to basic Christian positions. Many who profess to be Christians are taking a softer stand. The lines are becoming blurred; nobody wants to take a stand and suffer the scorn of being different and politically incorrect. Convictions are in short supply; and those who have them are increasingly held in contempt and openly mocked. Look in your mirror. Take a good look at your beliefs. It is quite likely that before long they will be tested.

'I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress...'

Ronald Reagan

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs"

*19 Books! Paper & electronic formats.
Most available on Amazon & Barnes and Noble.
Check my website for a complete listing.
www.lesterhutson.org*

MINISTRY WITH THE HUTSONS

How very, very grateful I am that God still allows me to be active in His great enterprise! Yes! This is His business, not mine. This is His world and His time. My life is not mine; it's His! He bought me with His own blood (1 Corinthians 6:20). I live on His earth, breath His air, eat His food and drink His water. And He allows me to be a part of what He is doing! That's grace! Hallelujah!

So far, 2014 has been wonderful! After a great holiday season with our friends and in our home church, on the first Sunday of the year we enjoyed a great time with [Rodgers Baptist Church](#) in Garland, Texas. Pastor and Mrs. Ron Thomas are gracious people and wonderful hosts. The next Sunday we were in New Braunfels, Texas with [Calvary Baptist](#) and the Beattys. Cancer will soon place Bro. David Beatty, Sr. in heaven. His son, David, Jr. has become the new pastor and the church is growing.

What a blessing to preach in our [home church](#) the 3rd Sunday of the year and be there for the annual *Missions Conference* (Jan. 24-26)! [Bro. Raleigh Campbell](#) was the keynote speaker. Sam and Annie Varughese (India) along with Robert and Valerie Creech (Panama) were the featured missionaries. All of these along with Susan



A great service with Pastor Earnest Groce and [Victory Baptist Church](#) in Rossville, Georgia

Campbell and the Wheelers (Winston and Geri) taught in the practical missions seminar on Saturday morning. We were especially blessed to have the Campbells and Creeches as house guests during the conference. The conference was a *home run!*

A week later we were a part of the annual Preacher's Fellowship at [Bay City Baptist](#) before flying to Washington D.C. and on to Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. I was blessed to represent the Christian Law Association and address a Winter Retreat of about 35 Bible Church pastors. Mrs. Hutson was the featured speaker to the ladies. Between ice and snow we flew home to Houston where I took care of preaching and pastoral responsibilities at my home church while Pastor Dulany was on a missions trip to Panama.

By then February was gone and we were off to Benson,

Arizona. We had an old-fashioned revival meeting at [First Baptist Church](#). Pastor A.B. Blair is a joy to know and a wonderful man of God. We drove from Benson to Aztec, New Mexico to be with Pastor Barry Quinn and [Bible Baptist Church](#). After a wonderful Sunday there we drove over to Durango, Colorado to visit our son and daughter-in-law. It was truly a delightful family time and felt good to rest a bit. We drove back to Houston in time to bring the morning message in Northwest Baptist on March 23. We ended March with Memorial Baptist in Conroe.

Lord willing, I will conduct a *History of Churches Seminar* April 3-6 with [Midway Baptist](#) in McKinney, TX. I'll preach the evening sermon at Northwest in Houston on April 13, preach on Easter Sunday at [Salem Sayers Baptist](#) in Adkins just outside San Antonio and preach at Toledo Bend Baptist in Anacoco, Louisiana on the 27th.

It was a tough winter, but I made it! How 'bout you?



A United States Marine was attending some college courses between assignments. He had completed missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist and a member of the ACLU.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes."

The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God. I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Marine got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and cold-cocked him knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold. The Marine went back to his seat and sat there, silently.

The other students were shocked and stunned and sat there looking on in silence. The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Marine and asked, "What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Marine calmly replied, "God was too busy today protecting America's soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid things...and act like an idiot....So, He sent me."

THE LANDSCAPE CONTINUES TO CHANGE

The attitude toward Christians and churches in America (and the world) continues to ferment. Not only is Christianity (especially the real New Testament variety) increasingly held in contempt by the general populace, churches are more and more under fire on many fronts: unfriendly laws, law-suits, zoning, the IRS and the list goes on.

The Christian Law Association is a team of legal missionaries. We've been here since 1969 when Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. founded the association. We primarily help three groups of people: pastors (they are always in the bull's eye when an attack comes), churches and individuals who find themselves under attack for the faith. We defend a pastor, church or individual under attack for the faith; however, we much prefer to keep pastors, churches and individuals out of legal trouble. Our approach is decidedly prevention and proactive. We can provide much commonsense advice that can greatly help.

On a limited basis I can come to your church and offer clear direction and steps you can take to legally fortify you and your church. I have no openings in 2014, but I do have a limited number in 2015. To schedule an appointment with me or another CLA representative, call Steve Kluth at 888-252-1969.

A PERSONAL WORD

Many have asked about our health. Both Mrs. Hutson & I are at or beyond the 3-score & ten mark, and we're still going strong: traveling all over America, writing, serving with CLA, preaching revivals & seminars.

Oh yes, the years make things a little harder. Arthritis, a bit of acid reflux & a few foot and knee issues assert themselves; but overall God has given us extraordinary health and mobility for our ages.

Our deep appreciation to each and all of you who pray for us. Everywhere we go people tell us that they keep us before the Lord in prayer. I assure you that is a marvelous gift



Yes, this is Houston. Brrr. Really!

However, there are much colder places. Below is how it looked outside our motel in a snowstorm in Pennsylvania when we were there in February to speak to a Winter Retreat of the Fellowship of Bible Churches.



A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ *The Genesis Record*

Henry Morris
Baker Book House
Grand Rapids, Michigan
ISBN 0-8010-6004-4

A true masterpiece! Henry Morris is in heaven now. This Rice University genius was an unashamed believer and immanent scientist committed to the truth and inerrancy of the Bible.

This is the book that brought about the revival of creationism. Dr. Morris exegetes Genesis hermeneutically and scientifically proving that a literal interpretation of Genesis is the correct interpretation. This book is a powerful commentary on the book of Genesis, but it is also a book of science. Dr. Morris goes verse by verse through the book of Genesis.

The Genesis Record is written in layman language. It is easy to read but extremely rich in content. In a world that is swamped with Darwinian evolutionary propaganda, this book is a MUST read. It is full of answers to many of the attacks upon the word of God. I highly recommend this book. It is good for laymen, but every serious Bible student should have and read it, especially pastors and teachers.

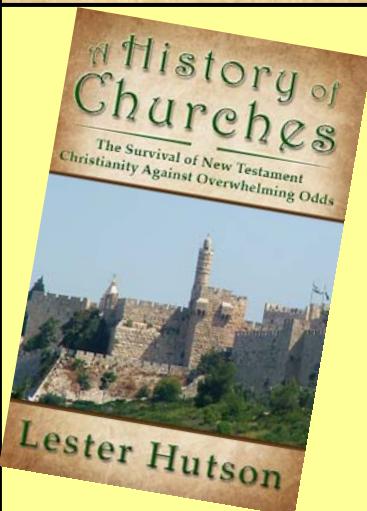
YOU MAY CONTACT US AT
lesterhutson@gmail.com.

STARTING A NEW BOOK

Groundwork has been laid for a new book. It will be about *Spiritual Maturity*: what is it, what it's not and true evidences of it. This book will look seriously at reproof as a tell-tell sign of where a person is in terms of real growth and maturity.

Your prayers for this venture will be greatly appreciated. Writing a book is no small undertaking. Many painstaking hours of meticulous study and labor are required. Satan always tries to interfere and distract. Good is always the biggest enemy of the best and there's an endless parade of good things to divert the writing of a book. Yes, I truly desire your prayers.

A SEMINAR ON CHURCH HISTORY IN McKINNEY, TEXAS



Our great God has shown His hand of blessing on the studies I did on our spiritual heritage from Jesus' church in Jerusalem to America. Most of you know that those studies resulted in a book I published through [Amazon](#): *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds*.

I have now condensed the material into a seminar of eight 55 minute sessions. Each session is accompanied by a Power Point presentation and detailed handouts. It is good for Christians who know they are not Catholics, Protestants, Jews or Muslims to see evidence which supports their claim. Bible-believing Christians and churches that never became a part of any state church have been here continuously since Jesus Christ personally established His first church in Jerusalem, Israel.

Lord willing, this week I will present this seminar at [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas. The seminar begins Thursday through Saturday at 7:00 PM nightly. Each night there will be two 55 minute sessions with a 10 minute break between. The two final sessions will be on Sunday: one during Sunday school and the final session on Sunday evening at 6:00.

Bro. Ed Neal is pastor of Midway Baptist. The church is located in McKinney at 205 Bridgefarmer Road. You may contact him at 214-232-3038 for details and directions.

Thanks for visiting my website
www.lesterhutson.org

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean", she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comment.

About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband: "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this."

The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look!



The Garden Tomb in 2013

"Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear."

Mark Twain

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the US Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our Government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that, 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."

**~Senator Barack H. Obama,
 March 2006**

ANOTHER FAMOUS QUOTE WITH AN OMINOUS RING

"This year will go down in history. For the first time, a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future!"

*~Adolph Hitler, 1935,
 on The Weapons Act of Nazi Germany*