



CONNECTED

July—September 2016

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54 years later, I still think she's lovely!

HILLS & VALLEYS

God said to His servant Moses, "*The land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys,*"

Deuteronomy 11:11. What a picture of life. There are ups and downs, and none of us can know for sure what is just around the corner. I got an up close and personal look at that reality.

I was blessed to begin the second quarter of this year with Pastor Lamar Denby at [Highway Baptist Church](#) in Huntington, Texas. What a blessing to go back to the church where I was saved as a 13-year-old boy! A week later I had the privilege of presenting my *Improving Your Home Seminar* at [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas. Thank God for godly men like Pastor Ed Neal. Mrs. Hutson and I spent the end of April in Virginia. We got back home just in time for me to conduct the funeral of a precious friend, Eleanor Lee Moran. She was almost 106 years old. A year before I visited her in a hospital bed. As I leaned over to pray with her, I heard her talking. I realize that while I was praying for her, she was praying for me. It was one of the most touching moments of my life. Her funeral was at 2:00 PM on

Friday, and at 10:00 Saturday morning I conducted the funeral of another dear and precious friend, Bill Sisk. He was one of my deacons at Berean.

After the funeral, Mrs. Hutson and I jumped in the car and drove to Gatesville, Texas. [Gateway Baptist Church](#) has been in the midst of a pastor search. I was blessed to cover their pulpit for a Sunday, and offer them advice. On the day following, Granny celebrated her 72nd birthday, and we stopped by Austin to see our grandson, Cody.

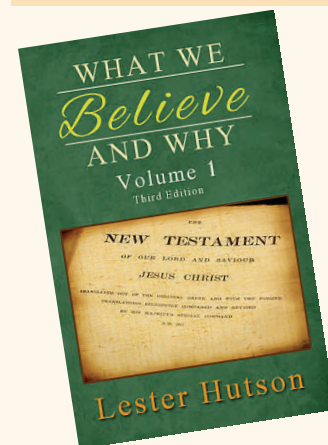
During this time my long time yokefellow in the Lord, Eddie Atkinson went to heaven. Mrs. Hutson and I arrived home late Monday night. Wednesday morning I drove to Crockett, Texas to conduct Bro. Eddie's funeral at 10:00 AM. I knew I was preaching the funeral of a giant. I left Crockett and drove on to Brownsboro, Texas. What a blessing it was to bond with Pastor McJohn Bagley and conduct my *Improving Your Home Seminar* at [Faith Baptist Church](#)! I drove back to Houston Sunday evening met with our Northwest Baptist Pulpit Committee on Tuesday,

and began to have rigorous chills and fevers Thursday night. Pastor Dulany was in Panama, and Pastor Burt Atkins and his family were with us at Northwest for the weekend.

I turned out to be a very poor host, and on the following Tuesday I was hospitalized for five days with urinary sepsis. By the time I received medical help, the blood infection had gotten quite a hold on me: lots of hydration and heavy antibiotics. I simply couldn't function and have found that getting up from this kind of sickness is very slow. May was mostly a wipeout for me. I'm still weak and under doctor's care, but happy to say that I'm up and going again; not at full speed, but greatly improved. To all who heard of my situation and prayed for me I offer my sincerest thanks.



Some people are kind, polite and thoughtful until you try to sit in their pews.



FINISHING STRONG

"Be thou faithful unto death," Revelation 2:10. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," 2 Timothy 4:7. Oh how I want that to be me! I want to be serving my Master with all my might when I cross the finish line into His presence. Sprinting, not coasting!

I didn't foresee another pastorate in my lifetime; however, I'm not my own boss. God put me here at Northwest, and I must stand in the gap until a permanent pastor is found. That means curtailing some of my other activities, and direct most of my attention to this church. Obviously, I will be responsible for the pulpit and the oversight of the church.

One side benefit of my role as interim pastor here at Northwest will be more time in my home study. So many miles on the road during the last few years has made it difficult for me to do justice to my writing ministry. I look forward to the opportunity to publish more books and other Christian resources.

In May I turned 75. I am humbled that God would still allow me to serve Him at this point in my life. Yes, my recent illness with urinary sepsis almost punched my ticket for my heavenly home, but the Lord gave me the help I needed for recovery and a new lease on life. I'm grateful for that and intend to use whatever remaining time I have honoring Him with my life. I have said many times that I am not nearly as interested in how many days I have left as I am in making every remaining day count to the glory of my great God.

An elderly couple returned to a Mercedes dealership where the salesman had just sold the car they wanted to a beautiful, leggy, shapely blonde.

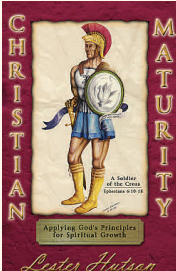
"I thought you said you would hold that car till we raised the \$75,000 asking price," said the man. "Yet I just heard you closed the deal for \$65,000 to that lovely young lady there. You insisted there could be no discount on this model."

"Well, what can I tell you? She had the ready cash and, just look at her, how could I resist?" replied the grinning salesman.

Just then the young woman approached the old couple and gave them the keys. *"There you go," she said. "I told you I would get the idiot to reduce it. See you later, Grandpa."*

Each year 2,000,000 smokers either quit smoking or die of tobacco-related diseases.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are *limbs*, therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, *"Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."* (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)



Good
Reading

EDDIE ATKINSON, A GIANT NOW WITH THE LORD

It was my privilege to know Bro. Eddie Atkinson for well over 50 years. He was a true and highly talented man of God. He was a tenacious student of God's Word and a real scholar, especially on Noah's Ark and the Great Flood. His 35+ color ink drawings of biblical scenes are unmatched, true treasures. One of them serves as the cover of my [book](#) to your left. Efforts are under way to capture them in book form and make them available on Amazon. Watch this *Connected Newsletter* for details as they are available.

YES! THEY REALLY SAID THESE THINGS

"When the Paris Exhibition closes, electric light will close with it and no more be heard of." Erasmus Wilson, Professor at Oxford University in 1878.

"The abdomen, the chest and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and human surgeon." Sir John Ericson, British surgeon appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria in 1873.



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A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ & DO NOT RECOMMEND

Bible Wines or the Laws of Fermentation

William Patton
The Challenge Press
P.O. Box 5567
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
ISBN-13: 978-1103764693
ISBN-10: 1103764691

Regardless of which side of an issue one takes, honesty should prevail throughout any debate. Truth and the facts should prevail and rule regardless of where *the chips may fall*.

That does not happen in this book. The scholarship is poor. Unfounded claims abound. Temperance rather than honesty is obviously the driving force and objective of the book, even to the point that information is routinely inflated or deflated to make an argument. Time and again the 1+1=5 approach prevails. Mr. Patton simply draws inconclusive conclusions, and then proceeds to use his unfounded conclusions thereafter as irrefutable evidence and foundations for later affirmations. For example, early in the book he claims that in Bible days *unfermented* wine was abundant and the drink of choice by multitudes of ancients. To establish the idea of *unfermented wine*, he declares the Bible words used for wine to be generic. Thereby he contends that almost every Hebrew or Greek word for wine can mean the *fermented* or the *unfermented* state of the fruit of the vine. Such use of Bible words for wine can neither be scientifically nor hermeneutically sustained. Furthermore, even by modern science, *unfermented* wine cannot be produced. Squeezed grape juice is not wine, but Mr. Patton insisted that it is. His theory requires a redefining of Bible terms. Furthermore, he proceeds to slant almost every passage dealing with wine to fit his total abstinence theory. He even says filtering can remove the impurities in grape juice. It is a demonstrable and repeatable fact that all of the impurities and leaven in the juice of the grape can be removed only through fermentation. Cooking simply kills the live bacteria and leaves the impurities in the juice.

Another major flaw in the book is his erasing of the lines between drunkenness and the legitimate use of wine. A strong emphasis of the book is that the unequivocal teaching of the Bible is total abstinence. Scriptures that do not at all deal with total abstinence are slanted to imply (and outright claim) that they do. Those who do not take his position are condemned as contributors to the evils of alcohol abuse and all of the ills that come from it. He does not seem to grasp the legitimate use of food, sex, money or wine. His strong implication is that anyone who uses wine for any reason is very wrong. Many people see the terrible ills of misuse and abuse of God-ordained blessings, but know better than to throw out the baby because of the dirty bath-water.

I am in great sympathy with those who oppose the abuse of wine or any other substance. I am about as close to a total abstainer as they come, but I have to admit that there is a little alcohol in the cough syrup I sometimes take. I despise what *the product of the brewer's art* has done to society over the centuries, but I must be honest. God forbid that our passion and zeal against anything take away our honesty and objectivity. It appears to me that William Patton's zeal for the temperance movement seriously jaded his approach in this book to the subject of Bible wines; and in the process, he greatly weakened his argument.

PASTOR SEARCH AT NORTHWEST BAPTIST

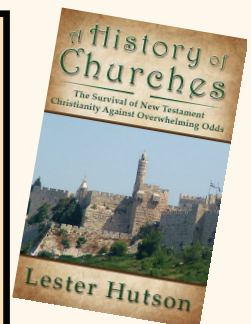
Since Pastor Dulany announced his plans to go as a missionary to Panama, Northwest Baptist where I am has been in a pastor search. I have been deeply involved in the search which continues. Also, Northwest asked me to serve as interim until a new pastor is found. At this point none of us know how long that will be. Depending upon who the church calls to be its next pastor, my time as interim may be only weeks or it may be as much as a year. Meanwhile, in order to give proper attention to the leadership of this church, I have curtailed most of my outside activities.

We would greatly appreciate the prayers of God's people on our behalf. As interim I have no intentions of maintaining status quo or coasting until we get a permanent pastor. My heart is to lead this church forward in an era of revival and prosperity as we search for the man whom God has for us.

THE DULANYS TO PANAMA

Bro. Tim Dulany has now moved to sponsored missionary status out of Northwest Baptist Church, and is on full-time deputation to raise needed support for the missionary work in Panama. To schedule him for an appointment, call his mobile number which is 713-806-4222. His email address is odulany@hotmail.com.

This book traces 1st century Christianity from the Church Jesus established through the centuries to America. It is available on [Amazon](#).



"To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize."

Voltaire

ON NOVEMBER 8 YOU WILL ELECT A PRESIDENT

November 8. Elections day. You will vote either by ballot or by abstinence. All who do not vote by ballot will by default automatically vote for whoever wins. Every Christian should vote Christian. Our allegiance is to God, not to a political party. There will be no perfect candidate. We will have to accept some things we don't like. I'd like to see America embrace God and return to His principles: honesty and integrity, a heart for liberty, obedience to law and order by everyone at all levels, a strong military, the sanctity of life, basic morality, America's welfare and needs first, a strong economy with jobs at home and constitutional government. I am against criminal rights over victim rights, the redistribution of wealth, the subsidizing of those who are able but won't work, political correctness and refusal to face the obvious reality of radical Islam and other such evils. I am against special interest groups whether they be white, brown, black, female, homosexual, rich, religious or otherwise. Racism is wrong whether in the form of affirmative action, segregation, stereotyping or downright prejudice. I'm against the murder of little babies in the disguise of women's rights, the wreckage of the Christian family, the abuse of equal rights to protect perverts who think they're a boy today and a girl tomorrow, the elevating of the rights of criminals above the rights of law-abiding citizens and big controlling government.

Furthermore, I don't believe striking down the second amendment and gun control will solve the violence that is rampant in America. People who are really more serious about reducing violence and killing than they are about control will take a look at what Hollywood and the entertainment world is doing with their steady stream of violence, illicit sex, homosexuality, immorality, atheism, Darwinian Evolution, disrespect for parents and all forms of authority and glorification of the rich and famous in spite of their gutter-style lives. They will look at video games and the messages that come with that territory. They will not ignore the breakdown of the Christian family unit and what that breakdown has produced. They will not ignore preachers and churches with their dumbed-down, entertainment Christianity void of doctrine and holy standards. They will look at our justice system which places far more emphasis on the rights of criminals than it does on honest, law-abiding citizens including victims.

In my April-June issue of this *Connected Newsletter*, I included a 3-columned list in which I listed over 20 hot-button issues in this current presidential race. Beside each issue, I listed the Christian position and biblical proof. I encouraged every reader to look at the presidential candidates to see where they stand on these issues. Christians should not be bound to a political party; Christians should vote Christian regardless of the party. I encourage you to educate yourself as to where the candidates stand on these key issues. Evaluate them in light of the Bible, and then vote for the candidate which most closely aligns with the biblical stance.

Remember, you are not voting to call a pastor; you're voting for a president.

Samsung Electronics

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"
 Operator: "I'm sorry sir, I don't understand who you are talking about."
 Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"
 Operator: "I think it means the telephone plug on the wall."

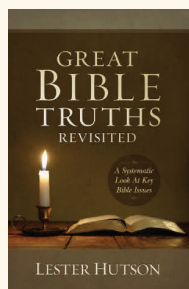
JUST A SCENARIO

During hunting season if I shoot a buck but I only have a doe tag, can I claim that the buck wasn't really a buck? Maybe he'd always wanted to be a doe, but with no choice of his own he was born with the physical attributes of a male. Yet on the inside he'd always known he was truly a female.

Just wondering if the game warden will buy it. The Supreme Court and a growing number in society do.

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

The *Creation Evidences Museum* in Glen Rose, Texas is a treasure for divine creation. I'm hosting a group there on July 14. Dr. Carl Baugh will give us a private tour. Those interested in joining us should contact me at lesterhutson@gmail.com.



Great Bible Truths Revisited has 50 chapters addressing Bible texts and issues from a strictly exegetical and hermeneutical standpoint. Many chapters such as #15 on *God's Threefold Salvation* can revolutionize your understanding of many other Bible passages. This book is available at Amazon.com or at lesterhutson@gmail.com.

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To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers.

*Many of My Books Are Available
in both Electronic and Paper Formats at Amazon.com*