



CONNECTED

October-December, 2026

A BLESSED SUMMER

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Lecturing on the Mount of Olives across the Kidron Valley from the Temple Mount.
Nov. 17, 2019: 8:12 AM

Time flies, even in hot Houston, the most air-conditioned city on the planet. Somehow, we made it before A/C, but we're not sure how.

In June, Mrs. H and I made it home from Colorado. Bam! Vertigo! Mrs. H's head began to spin, and nausea stepped into full charge. A month and a half later, four visits to the ENT doctor and specialized therapy sessions, she can walk a straight line. Fatigue, weakness and some disorientation linger, but she's much better.

Reluctantly, we had to cancel our plans to be a part of the annual Rodgers Missions Conference in Garland. Like it or not, sometimes *mind over matter* is not enough; health has a pretty loud voice.

Sickness and death are oblivious to calendars and plans. One of our dearest friends (Bro. Earl Baugh) died. His funeral was at the [Highland Missionary Baptist Church](#) in Dublin, Texas. Though it was a challenge, we were able to attend the Memorial Service. Two days before, I conducted Cathy Robinson's Memorial Service in Deer Park,

Texas. Our heart is to spend quality time with our children. Two weeks in Traverse City, Michigan with our daughter and son-in-law was like medicine for us. We enjoyed the *down-time* to just rest and heal plus 64 years as one.

What a blessing to finally videotape my *Basic Bible Truths Training Seminar*! Our dear brothers from El Reno, Oklahoma again drove to Houston, and we were able to get it done. The stolen equipment was all replaced; before long, the editing work will be done, and the training seminar will appear on the [Basic Bible Truths YouTube Channel](#).

As we head into the final quarter of 2026, Mrs. H and I wish each of you a safe and blessed holiday season. Thanksgiving will soon be upon us, and Christmas is just around the corner. Friends, take nothing for granted; not your family and loved-ones, not your friends, not your job or your church, not your country and freedom and certainly not your health! Every day is a blessing from God. Be thankful, and give your roses while they're living.

GOD CAN CHANGE YOU

A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure!

NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS A CAT DOES!

"Sometimes, I lie awake at night, and I ask, 'Where have I gone wrong?' Then a voice says to me, 'This is going to take more than one night.'"

Charlie Brown

'I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work.'

Thomas Edison

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IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE**EARL BAUGH**

1938-2026

Through the years, God has blessed me with a host of wonderful, great friends; some closer than others. Earl Baugh was about as close as they get. I loved him like a blood-brother. He was a good man with a true heart: kind, loving in season and out, warm and patient, understanding, loyal, giving, genuine to the core. In many ways, Earl Baugh was my Jonathan. He was there for me when my son took his life and many took me to task; later, it was his son.

God called this precious Okie into the gospel ministry. He left his secure job in a Pasadena refinery to become a janitor at Austin Avenue Baptist Church under Nick Michalinos. God grew Earl, and used him; at Humble, and Beaumont, and Gatesville, and Midland, and Stephenville! He was a shepherd to God's churches. He loved people, and brought many of them to Christ. He was a loving mentor.

For many years when she was incapable of responding, I watched him take care of Paula. Every day, he went down there to that nursing-home, and fed her breakfast. He was back at dinner. He talked to her like nothing was wrong. Repeatedly, I heard him tell her how much he loved her. Like me, he couldn't carry a tune in a bucket; but he sang to her. Till death, she was his queen.

We climbed and hiked mountains together, caught lots of trout and had to be rescued from a sheer cliff on Henson Creek in Lake City, Colorado. We explored lots of Theology together, and cried on each other's shoulder. Earl was more than a brother to me. I'm happy that he's been promoted, and out of all that pain. I miss him, but I know our separation is not for long.

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@BBTstudies>.

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

George Washington

"Out of one hundred men, one will read the Bible, the other ninety-nine will read the Christian."

D. L. Moody

"A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine."

D. L. Moody

"I don't care what a man says he believes with his lips; I want to know with a vengeance what he says with his life and actions."

Sam Jones

**Happy 250th Birthday to the
United States of America
July 4, 1776—July 4, 2026**

BEN FRANKLIN AND THE BIBLE

While there are no eye-witness accounts of this story, historians generally regard this story as an **apocryphal legend**, a widely circulated, popular story or anecdote that is treated as history; but is of dubious authenticity, unverified origin or known to be entirely fabricated.

Benjamin Franklin once served in France as a representative of the United States; and while there, he had met and conversed with a group of atheists. Though he didn't profess to be a believer himself, Mr. Franklin nevertheless had a great respect for the Bible. As it happened, these atheists were ridiculing him for his confessed admiration for the Scriptures. They couldn't understand how someone so intelligent could admire such a crude book as the Bible.

Franklin suspected that these critics really didn't know much about the book that they were mocking. One evening, he came into their group with a manuscript that contained the words of an extraordinarily beautiful poem that he said had greatly impressed him. They asked him to share it with them; and so, he took out the manuscript and read these words:

*"Although the fig tree shall not blossom,
neither shall fruit be in the vines;
the labor of the olive shall fail,
and the fields shall yield no meat;
the flock shall be cut off from the fold,
and there shall be no herd in the stalls:
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
The LORD God is my strength,
and he will make my feet like hinds' feet,
and he will make me to walk upon mine high places."*

It's said that everyone in the group joined him in his admiration of those stately words; and exclaimed that it truly was a magnificent piece of work. They all wanted to know where they could get a copy. He told them that they could find it in the last three verses of Habakkuk in the Bible, the book that they had been so ignorantly mocking.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT BOOK, ESPECIALLY FOR SERIOUS READERS

Christianity on Trial: A Lawyer Examines the Christian Faith

By W. Mark Lanier

InterVarsity Press, 2014

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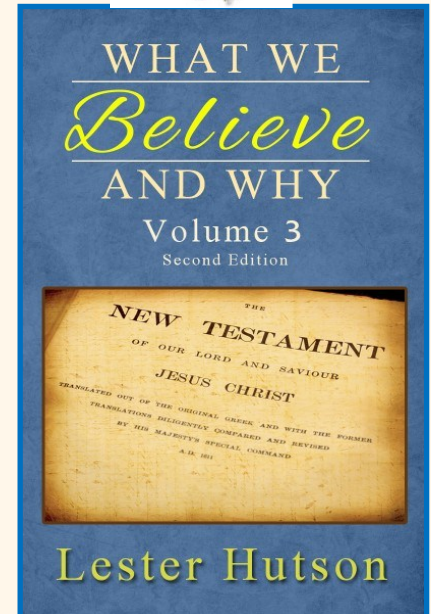
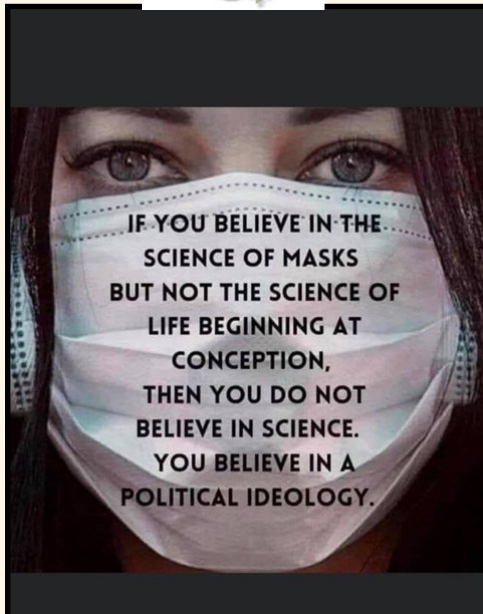
Rarely have I read a more clear-cut, well-grounded apologetic for Biblical Christianity than attorney Mark Lanier's ***Christianity on Trial: A Lawyer Examines the Christian Faith***. Mr. Lanier opens this book with the obvious questions about the legitimacy of Christianity; he's not afraid to face the hard questions. Is there really a god? Why should anyone think the Christian God is real, and all others are not? What about the Bible: is there solid evidence to conclude that it is God's trustworthy revelation of Himself. Why Christianity over all other religions?

Christianity on Trial: A Lawyer Examines the Christian Faith is a search for truth. What does the evidence say? (And yes, Mark Lanier included a powerful section on whether or not there is such a thing as truth including right and wrong; if so, how to recognize and identify it.) As suggested in the title, Attorney Lanier (who is a nationally recognized and highly renowned trial attorney) follows the United States Justice System format to place Christianity on trial. He presents the most basic, fundamental claims of Christianity enunciating each claim clearly and succinctly. Before the jury, who is you and every person, Lanier not only appeals to the Bible; but also, to many of history's foremost thinkers, authorities and experts many who were eyewitnesses. Point by point, Lanier builds the Christian case.

In typical courtroom fashion, Attorney Lanier presents the opposition. Authority after leading authority from the days of Socrates and Aristotle through the centuries to the present are called to testify in opposition to God and Biblical Christianity. Both defendants and prosecutors are cross-examined. The arguments, both pro and con, are deep and profound. At the end of the trial, a closing argument is presented to the jurors, the readers of this book.

The ramifications and impact on jurors are enormous. Every human would do well to sit through this trial. Those who embrace Christianity should not be afraid to have their case tested. Atheists, agnostics and all who for whatever reason reject Christianity should take a hard, honest look at this case.

I have read lots of books. ***Christianity on Trial: A Lawyer Examines the Christian Faith*** is a really good book. It is well-written in language that will be clear and compelling to scholars as well as to laymen. This 230-page book is well-suited for die-hard Christians, and for the most entrenched skeptics. The bibliography is an outstanding resource of powerful sources which are cited in the book. I highly recommend this book.



BAND-AID CHRISTIANITY

Recently, a godly lady in my life died of cancer. As it relentlessly spread, it emaciated her. The people at M.D. Anderson did all they could. One thing they did not do is put on a band-aid, and pretend everything was okay. They were honest about where she was.

My heart is dismayed at the growing number of professing Christians who increasingly treat a profession of faith in Christ like a spiritual band-aid. They treat a profession of faith like a cure-all, like nothing else really matters. With abandon, they defy God's clear statements in His Bible about holy, separated living. They openly do things He forbids like cheat others and on tax returns, engage in sex before and outside of marriage and practice God-forbidden lifestyles. During the time of the Judges, the men of Gibeah openly practiced homosexuality. The tribe of Benjamin didn't approve of homosexuality, but they staunchly defended the right of the men of Gibeah to practice the lifestyle. Today, we're reliving history.

A partial truth is much more palatable than an outright lie. Satan has been using the approach since the Garden of Eden. It is true that when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden, they became wiser; but when Satan made that claim, he was highly distorting the picture. It is true that when a person comes to Christ in true brokenness and faith, that person will receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life which can never be lost. That fact is not a blank check or license to sin against God. Having written at length about justification by faith in Christ, the apostle Paul wrote, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* **Romans 6:1-2**. What a grievous, deceptive evil it is to misuse the truth about salvation in Christ to justify the very things God has forbidden and condemned!

There is no truth about true Christianity and the behavior of true believers in Christ more central than the truth about holiness and separation from sin. He's the Master, and He expects obedience to Him. It would be hard to find language more straightforward and direct than this: *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"* **2 Corinthians 6:14-17**. God comes right out and says it, *"Be ye holy; for I am holy,"* **1 Peter 1:16**. Paul put it this way, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God,"* **Romans 12:1-2**.

The walk should match the talk! James said, *"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* **James 1:21-22**. On a truth so rudimentary and fundamental to the Bible, it seems needless to have a discussion like this. Can you imagine the naivety and folly of a biological son or daughter seriously saying his or her behavior doesn't matter? A genetic connection is not a license to defy the wishes of your own father or mother. This truth is so obvious and overwhelming in the Bible that it would seem beyond question to anybody who is the least bit familiar with or serious about the Bible. You'd think people who claim to know Christ would know godliness matters, but to many it doesn't. Increasing numbers actually seek to justify their open defiance of God. Once people lose their conviction about the authority of God's Word, they begin to challenge all kinds of things especially when sin enters into their life or the life of a close friend or family member.

The truth is that saved people are capable of all kinds of evil things. If they truly met Christ as personal Savior, they were born-again into the family of God; and nothing can take away eternal life. That by no means excuses disobedience and evil behavior. Only God knows the heart; but evil behavior, especially willful disobedience, calls into question the legitimacy of one's profession of faith in Christ. Jesus personally asked, *"Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"* **Luke 6:46**. There is a possibility that a person who willfully defies God's Word about sin and unholy living is saved. There is zero possibility that person can be rightfully called a "Christian" which means *Christ-like*. In view of the certain judgment of God and the fact that *"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,"* **Hebrews 10:31**, open defiance of God is a dangerous and risky way to live. As the Bible says, *"God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil,"* **Ecclesiastes 12:14**.

BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS TRAINING

We are happy to announce that the *Basic Bible Truths Training Seminar* has been videotaped, and will soon be available on the [Basic Bible Truths YouTube Channel](#). A click on the QR code will take you to the channel.

Most of you are familiar with this very practical soul-winning tool. For many years, thousands of God's people have used this tool as a resource. This seminar is designed to equip you to teach these six one-hour Bible lessons in an effective way. You will learn how the six-week course works, how to setup classes, where to start, the path to follow, how to effectively use the written teacher's manual and how to avoid pitfalls along the way. There is also information about follow-up and discipleship. Simply follow the QR Code or this URL (<https://www.youtube.com/@BBTstudies>) to the YouTube channel. Once editing is complete, finding the training seminar will be easy.

You probably remember that back in April, godly friends from Highland Baptist Church in El Reno, Oklahoma drove to Houston to record this seminar. Promptly upon arrival, their video equipment was stolen right out of their truck. God replaced the equipment, they returned to Houston in August, recorded the seminar and it is being edited and prepared for those who would like to use this tool to bring people to Christ.