



By **THE BOOK!**

“For the Word of the Lord is right...” (Psalm 33:4)

Local Church Ministries - Sarnia - Ontario - Canada - Pastor B. Kirkland

The Word of God says,

“...in the latter times some should depart from the faith...” (First Timothy 4:1) This has become a reality in the past fifty years. We have turned away from the Scriptures and have decided to do those things that are right in our own eyes.

A.W. Tozer said, *“Whatever originates outside the Scriptures should for that very reason be suspect until it can be shown to be in accord with them.”* Anything that is found contrary to the Word of God should be not accepted regardless of who is promoting it. Tozer continued, *“...no experience can be proved to be genuine unless we can find chapter and verse authority for it in the Scriptures.”*



A.W. Tozer

In recent years a number of unscriptural positions have gained acceptance among Fundamental Independent Baptists.

PARA-CHURCH MINISTRIES

There are no instructions in the New Testament concerning how to organize any ministry outside of the authority of the local church. God wrote, “*Pastoral Epistles*” giving details to *Pastors* concerning how God wanted *Pastors* to get things done in the local church.

God did not write any *College Presidents Epistles*, *Newspaper Editor Epistles*, *Radio Pastor Epistles*, *TV Pastor Epistles*, *Mission Board Director Epistles*, *City-Wide Crusade Organizer Epistles*, *Seminar Conductors Epistles*, or any Epistles for other para-church organization.

1. God did not give any instructions for discipline of any Christians in a para-church organization.
2. All missionaries in the New Testament were sent out by the local church.
3. All offerings in the New Testament were handled through the local church.
4. There are absolutely no instruction in the Bible concerning how to raise funds for a para-church ministry.
5. The only authority structure given in the New Testament concerning service for God is given in the context of the local church.
6. The only ministry Jesus sanctioned for the carrying on of His work was the local church.
7. The only agency given in the New Testament for the teaching of doctrine is the local church.
8. All decisions made concerning the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ were made in a local church context.
9. The only place ordained of God in the New Testament for the making of disciples was the local church.
10. Christ promised the gates of Hell shall not prevail against the local church. He made no such promise for newspaper or missions board outside of the local church.





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Don't Just Believe This Article - Search the Scriptures & See if These Things Be So!

If a mission board director or a Bible college president decided to have communion services or baptismal service we would raise up in protest. If a newspaper editor decided to have ordination services, we would expose them for their error. Why then have we been silent when para-church organizations have taken everything else the Lord commanded the local church to do?

WE HAVE TURNED OUR BACKS ON THE SCRIPTURES

We did it God's way for about two thousand years and reaped God's blessings. In recent years we decided to ignore God's plan and "...do that which is right in our own eyes."

First and Second Timothy was written that the local church would "...know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth.**"

For nearly two thousand years God has supplied pastors for His churches without the aid of any College that was organized outside of the church. Now we hear statements such as, "As Goes The Colleges, So Go The Churches." The problem with that statement is twofold. First, it is true. Second, it is unscriptural. To be Scriptural, the colleges and the churches should be one-and-the-same.

It is not our intention to judge anyone's motives and it would be foolish to suggest that para-church organizations have not accomplished some good for the cause of Christ; however, when we ignore God's way for any other way, eventually we will pay the price. Uzza died when they replaced God's old fashioned way with a new cart.

The problem has existed for many years and fixing it won't be simple, however, if we want to see God's blessing on our efforts like we once did, we need to get back to doing God's work ...**BY THE BOOK!**

Pastor B. Kirkland

PREACHING & TEACHING

We have a "charge" from God to "preach the word." (2 Tim. 4:2) The Greek word preach here means "to herald." A herald would come with a message from the King. He was not there to "share" some views concerning personality adjustments of the people. He was there acting as an official messenger of the King.

We have a direct command from, "God, and the Lord Jesus Christ to preach (herald) the Word." We are commanded to preach "in season" (when there is fruit for our labours), and "out of season" (when there is no fruit for our labours). We are commanded to "reprove" (express what is wrong) and to "rebuke." We are also commanded to "exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (Teaching)

The word *doctrine* here is not to herald, but to teach. We need to be teaching the sincere and faithful people in our local churches **the truth about the age of apostasy we live in.** Let they get discouraged, they need to understand that the Bible says most will not "endure."

WHEN GOD "SOMES" IT UP.

"Some - were teaching false doctrine." (First Timothy 1:3)

"Some - turned aside unto vain jangling." (First Timothy 1:6)

"Some - made shipwreck." (First Timothy 1:19)

"Some - departed from the faith." (1 Timothy 4:1)

"Some - turned aside after Satan." (First Timothy 5:15)

"Some - sinned openly." (First Timothy 5:24)

"Some - sinned secretly." (First Timothy 5:24)

"Some - coveted after money." (First Timothy 6:10)

"Some - erred concerning the faith." (First Timothy 5:24)

"Some - had their faith overthrown." (Second Timothy 2:18)

"Some - were vessels to honour." (Second Timothy 2:20)

"Some - were vessels to dishonour." (Second Timothy 2:20)

Let us never forget to appreciate the small percentage of those who want the truth. God calls them "vessels to honour"; (Second Timothy 2:20) however, we see the majority of people who profess to be Christians did not remain faithful two-thousand years ago and are not going to stick with a pastor today who will dare to preach "all the counsel of God."

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

(First Peter 4:17,18)

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