



CONNECTED

January—March 2014

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Happy New Year

By the time you read these lines we will be on the cusp of a brand New Year. The old year is gone, never to return. It's now a time of new beginnings, of opportunities! May you plan well and use the new time wisely! It too will slip past you in a hurry.

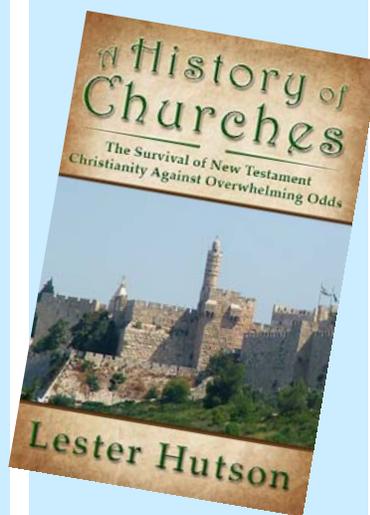
Mrs. Hutson and I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you the best *New Year* of your life to date. May 2014 prove to be a true *Home Run* in the eternal sense of the word for you!

MY NEW BOOK IS FINALLY A REALITY

What a joy it is to announce the release of *A History of Churches: the Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds!* This book traces New Testament Christianity from Jesus Christ to the present. It shows how this line of Christianity grew in spite of the Roman government, the state-church, the Crusades, Islam and the Protestant Reformation. You will be introduced to the various groups of New Testament Christians in different centuries who survived extreme persecution. These true Christians held firm to the doctrine from Jesus Christ and multiplied, even though they faced overwhelming odds.

This 31 chapter book starts with the initial exponential spread of Christianity and the Jewish and Roman responses to it. The doctrinal corruptions that quickly entered the picture are catalogued along with the steady drift of many churches away from the original doctrine and practices taught in the New Testament. The Roman government did its best to eradicate Christianity; but when these efforts failed, Rome made Christianity (with the corrupt doctrine) the state church. This move

spelled agony beyond words. It caused persecution and death for millions who



refused to become a part of the state church. It chronicles the rise of the papacy and the Catholic Church, the birth of Islam, the Crusades, the origins of nationalism in Europe and the Protestant Reformation. It also explains why the New Testament consists of 27 books and tells the remarkable story of how the Bible made it into the English language. *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds* documents the fact that people embracing New Testament Christianity have continuously existed from Jesus Christ to the present.

From Jesus forward there have always been Christian people and churches which were never a part of a state church. This book will tell you who they were, where they lived and how large numbers of them made it to America. They are the chief people who brought about liberty of conscience in America and in much of the world.

A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds will stand scholarly inspection. It is well documented with over 800 endnotes and an extensive bibliography, but it is written for the common man. The book includes over 70 pages of charts and maps.

The book is available in both paperback and electronic formats at Amazon.com. Go to the Amazon website and type Lester Hutson in the search for author box. You may also follow these links:

Barnes & Noble: [eBook](#)

Amazon: [eBook](#), [paperback](#)

Paperbacks may also be ordered directly from me. Send your mailing information to lesterhutson@gmail.com.

[Book Price List](#)

A GREAT TIME OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE HUTSONS

The final quarter of 2013 was a great time of thanksgiving for Mrs. Hutson and me. So many great blessings; so many great friends! We are humbly grateful to God and to all who have befriended us.

We ended September and began October in Arkansas. What a blessing it was to spend a week preaching at Liberty Baptist Church in Cabot. Pastor and Mrs. Rick Nesmith are dear friends from many years. In mid-October we flew to Huntsville, Alabama. From there we drove through Tennessee to north Georgia where I presented CLA and preached in two churches: South Dalton Baptist in Dalton and Victory Baptist in Rossville. From there we drove to Sommerville Baptist where we served with CLA at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship. After a week at home we were off to Hamilton, Ohio and a wonderful week of *Family Revival* at [Bible-Way Baptist](#) and Pastor Ron Pittman. From Hamilton we moved over to [Grace Baptist](#) in Urbana and Pastor Aaron Samples. The home office of the [Christian Law Association](#) is now located in Mason, Ohio. It was great to spend quality time with Dr. Gibbs while in the area. In early November we flew home and it's been great spending time in my own home church, [Northwest Baptist](#) in Houston. I've preached there a couple of Sundays and also at Memorial Baptist in Conroe. Pastor Dulany and I have spent time on the 2014 budget for our church, preparing for our 2014 *Missions Conference* January 24-26 and planning for the start of Northwest Baptist Bible Institute next September.

Beyond question the most gratifying thing that has happened in my life of late has been the completion of my new book: *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity Against Overwhelming Odds*. From the time I started the research for this book it has taken about seven years to get it to publication. Literally thousands of hours have gone into this project. I have now done all I can do; it's in the hand of the Lord. I pray His blessing upon it. It is His, not mine. I look forward to teaching a 9 session summary series of the book April 3-6 for Pastor Ed Neal and [Midway Baptist](#) in McKinney, Texas.

I look forward with great anticipation to being with [Rodgers Baptist Church](#) in Garland & [Calvary Baptist Church](#) in New Braunfels during January. Also a great Missions Conference at our church in Houston is set for January 24-26. Our speakers are [Raleigh Campbell](#) (Flower Mound, Texas), Sam Varughese (India) & Robert Creech (Panama). Lord willing, in February I will attend the Bay City Preachers Fellowship & speak at a winter retreat in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. In March I will have the privilege of preaching a revival at the [First Baptist Church](#) in Benson, Arizona before representing the Christian Law Association at [Bible Baptist Church](#) in Aztec, New Mexico.

It is a great privilege to serve the only true and living God. My heart and prayer is to be a faithful servant of His until the day I cross the finish line into His presence!

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE BOOKS I OFFER

At this link ([book list](#)) you will find a complete list of the 19 books I have written and offer to date. Most are in English; some are in Spanish and other languages. Some are offered in paper format only and others are available only as electronic books. Most of them are available on both Amazon and Barnes and Noble; however, a few of the paper books are available only by ordering directly from me at lesterhutson@gmail.com . The list on my website will show you the [books](#), prices and how to order.



What a blessing to serve with Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. and the CLA team!

WE ARE CONSTANTLY ADMONISHED NOT TO JUDGE ALL MUSLIMS BY THE ACTIONS OF A FEW LUNATICS; BUT WE ARE JUST AS FREQUENTLY ENCOURAGED TO JUDGE ALL GUN OWNERS BY THE ACTIONS OF A FEW LUNATICS.

**Northwest Baptist Church—Houston
2nd Annual Missions Conference
Friday—Sunday, January 24-26**

Discipline yourself so that others won't have to!

HE WHO AIMS AT NOTHING GENERALLY HITS IT

What specific improvements do you have in mind for 2014? A New Year is upon us. To some degree how it goes with you will be your call. God can and may trump you; but generally He gives us a big voice in our futures. He said the person who would build a wall should count his bricks (Luke 14:28-33). God is really into planning and being proactive. "Go to the ant . . . consider her ways, and be wise" (Proverbs 6:6-11). So much depends on the plans and decisions we make. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The hope of improvement and success is futile apart from planning, good decisions and hard work. And, if you don't get specific about it, it won't happen.

Someone has well said that *the room for improvement is the biggest room in the world*. I think so. I have several specific plans for 2014.

1. Read completely through my Bible
2. Pray for at least one hour every day
3. Deliberately check my spirit and attitude every day
4. Personally, one-on-one, win at least six people to the Lord
5. Read at least one good book every month
6. Spend more quality time with Margaret (no phone, computer or agenda)
7. Begin writing another book
8. Lose not less than 10 pounds
9. Systematically exercise at least three days a week
10. Spend more time fishing

VITAL ETERNAL TRUTHS

- ✓ By your nature you are a sinner before God



A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ *The Reformers and Their Stepchildren*

Leonard Verduin
William B Eerdmans Publishing
Company
Grand Rapids, Michigan
ISBN 0- 8028 -4780-3

This is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Verduin is a thoroughbred scholar. He scoured though libraries in Europe and read documents unavailable to most of us written in many languages. He lays bare the defenseless theological position that all persons governed by a state must be a part of that state's religion even if by force. Verduin proves beyond refutation that from the time of Christ there were multitudes of Christians who viewed Christendom as a separate entity within society as a whole. These people never equated membership within a political entity with salvation & membership in a true church. They embraced the concept of personal salvation by faith in Christ and held the position that only born again, baptized believers are members of the true church of Jesus Christ.

This band of people were mostly poor peasants. They were hated by the Catholic Church and by the Protestant Reformers. Both groups tried to eradicate them.

This is a MUST read. Great book!

"Be yourself;

everyone else is already taken."

THE FOUR MAIN HATS I WEAR

1. **I am an author.** I write books, sermons, blogs, the *Connected Newsletter*, Sunday bulletins and much more. Visit my website and you can see much of what I write: www.lesterhutson.org
2. **I am Associate Pastor at Northwest Baptist Church.** I assist, advise and help Pastor Tim Dulany. I write the weekly Sunday bulletin, write policies as needed, direct the Missions Ministry of the church, serve on the Building and Finance Committees, assist with budgets and elections and preach at Northwest at least once a month.
3. **I am a National Field Representative for the Christian Law Association.** Approximately one weekend a month I travel wherever in America that I might be needed to help pastors and churches stay out of legal trouble and understand the help available to the through CLA.
4. **I am an evangelist.** I preach revivals, address special subjects in churches, conduct workshops and seminars on a number of topics, speak in Missions and other conferences and often fill the pulpit for pastors who must be absent.

America, Here's a Clue ☺

Yesterday we had a power outage and my PC, TV and games console shut down immediately. It was raining (pouring, actually). I couldn't go play golf, go shooting - nothing - so I talked to my wife for about an hour and a half. She seems like a nice person.

There are new sermons on my website: [Listen to Sermons](#)

MY COLORS ARE STILL THE SAME

There is something to be said about consistency: a clear testimony, an identifiable target, people who stand for something. In this age of rapid drift away from foundational Christianity, no respect for standards or integrity and a rejection of most old things (including people), I am not afraid to let my colors show. I'm not much for, *change for change's sake, smoke and mirrors, hiding in the stuff* or cowardice. Obviously one small article is inadequate to communicate a full picture about any lifetime, but it is enough to get across the general idea of who I am.

I believe the Bible is the infallibly inspired Word of the one and only God. He used men to write it, but He got His message right; the Bible is His Word, not theirs. I believe God's assertions about creation, sin and man's sinful nature, eternal condemnation and the need for redemption. I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Birth, miracles; and His death, burial and resurrection (the greatest miracle of all). I think He was God incarnate, that He shed His own sinless blood for sinners and that salvation is exclusively through Him by grace through faith alone. I believe in Jesus is literally coming again. Soon! And, I'm eager, can't wait to see Him!

I am keenly aware of the translations/preservation issues; and am glad to still use the King James Bible. I consider it to be the best, most accurate English translation there is.

I believe in holiness. How you live is important. The Bible position is that there is to be a clear distinction between Christians and those who are not. God's people are in the world, and they are to love lost people and ever seek to win them to Christ; but they are never to embrace the standards and behavior of the world. Efforts to erase distinctions and the embrace of worldly values and appearances in hopes of bringing sinners to Christ are self-deception. The Bible surely does not support that approach. Yes. I'm a standards guy. I still believe in *The Ten Commandments*, modest dress, morality, God's marriage standards and respect for the House of God.

In the Bible, honesty and integrity are really big issues. They are big issues to me too. In fact, I think we ought to go big on the issues that are big in the Bible and not quite so big when the Bible is not as big. Our emphasis should be the emphasis of God. So, I still believe in telling (and living) the truth. Deception, hypocrisy, lying, cheating, bullying and rule by force have no place in Christianity. Without integrity and true godly character, no person can legitimately call himself *Christ-like*. The end never justifies the means. Yes! Character counts!

I'm a Bible Christianity man; I really don't believe any other kind of *Christianity* is Christianity at all. I believe in giving God your best. Routinely! I call it routine excellence. I'm committed to a spirit of excellence, especially when meeting with God in His house to worship Him. I'm committed to singing that exalts Him and which moves the heart and not just the body. I believe that all formal worship should exalt Him and not the worshipper; and that includes preaching, praying, singing, giving and the Lord's Supper.

I've been here quite a while, standing where I've stood for a long time. Through the years I've changed here and there, and I am still open; but I have to see it in *The Word*. I have no plans of jumping on any *Band Wagons*. Rhetoric doesn't touch me. Truth does. I'm glad to have an identity; I've gone on written record of where I stand and why. I am aware that in every age those who stood close to God when others drifted found themselves generally out of favor: Noah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul and Jesus just to name a few. I hope to never lose my identity as one simple man who loves people very much, who seeks peace and practices kindness and who loves God and has enough convictions to stand with Him regardless of the cost. I want the words of Ephesians 6 to be more than empty words to me. *"And having done all, to stand. Stand therefore."* And, God help me to know the difference between standing and stubborn!

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

www.lesterhutson.org

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT
lesterhutson@gmail.com

Love those kids!

"Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now?"

A 7 year old helped the supermarket manager gather the shopping carts from the parking lot. Looking toward the candy counter he asked, "If you could have anything in the store, what would you choose?" Without hesitation he answered, "The cash register!"

"Pull the string, and it will follow wherever you wish. Push it, and it will go nowhere at all."
Dwight Eisenhower

"A wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart at his left," Ecclesiastes 10:2