



CONNECTED

April—June 2015

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“A truly moral nation enacts policies that encourage personal responsibility and discourage self-destructive behavior by no subsidizing people who live irresponsibly and make poor decisions.”

Dr. Ben Carson

A MOMENT FROM MY HEART

At this point in my life God has given me a fairly unique ministry. I am so grateful that He continues to let me actively serve Him. Most of my life has been spent in a senior pastor role; however, God is now using me in other roles. You who know me are aware that I have four main pursuits: I'm (1) an author, (2) Associate Pastor at [Northwest Baptist Church](#) in Houston, (3) field representative for the [Christian Law Association](#) and (4) somewhat of an evangelist and guest speaker. Over the past couple of years that latter role has grown considerably.

Truly I am grateful to be used in this capacity. When God calls you to preach, it is there for life, in the very fabric of your being. Before this year started, God filled all of my available 2015 dates except one weekend. Already my 2016 calendar is beginning to fill. I preach at least once every month at Northwest Baptist and cover for Pastor Dulany when he is away. I also keep a few dates for CLA. I am aware that the years are taking a toll, and I don't know how much time I have left, but my plans are to run as fast as I can for as long as I can in the service of our great God. That not only

include preaching and writing, it also includes my family. The *ministry* has a way of taking preachers away from their family, and that's a big mistake.

My goal is not just to be busy. I want to be busy serving the Lord, but in a truly meaningful way. I am so convinced that the books I write will outlast me and keep on ministering when I am long gone to my new home. That's one of the reasons why they are such a passion of my life, and why I spend the countless hours in research and writing. Sometimes I have to say *no* to appointment requests and counseling. I can't be available for every phone call or there when every friend is ill. Oh my! Time is so precious and I'm keenly aware that mine is running out. May God give me the wisdom to invest all I have left wisely!

I want men of God and churches to call me only when they think I can be of genuine help. My heart is to bring to the table material and a spirit that is not readily available. My own need to know and personal studies have driven me deeper into several areas, like our heritage as first-century Christians who have never been a part of a state

church. Out of that study came my book on [A History of Churches: the Survival of New Testament Christianity against Overwhelming Odds](#). I now offer a seminar on that issue. For the last few months I have been digging deep into how God got His Word to the human race, how He transmitted it over so many centuries and translated it into multiple languages without losing it. This month I will present this material in a seminar at [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas (April 15-19). I am calling this seminar *The Reliability of Your Bible*. I have other seminars on specialized subjects, but I also greatly enjoy good, old-fashioned preaching. There's nothing quite like the gospel of Christ and seeing souls under conviction and coming to Christ for eternal life. And, I do want to preach with love, passion and a heart that is tender and compassionate. It seems to me that it is not always what you say that matters; how you say it is also VERY important.

I would greatly appreciate the prayers of my many friends. Pray that I will finish my course with joy and fruitfulness. That's my heart.

JFK's Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond. You could have heard a pin drop.

MISSIONS CONFERENCE IN LOUISIANA

God's special servants! Pastors! Missionaries! Whole families that have sold out to God! People who are laying it all on the line for our dear Master! One of God's richest blessings to me has been the privilege of being in the lives of many of these dear people.

In the middle of March, God had Mrs. Hutson and me in New Iberia, LA. I was there to lead a *Missions Conference* at **Temple Baptist Church**. What tremendous facilities! I found it impossible to capture their 67 acre campus in one photo, but below is a shot showing the back of their huge gym and four quest quarters with their auditorium in the background. To the left is their 34 year-old pastor, Aaron Weido. The hand of God is on this young man.



The men to the right are missionaries. Standing on my right is Bro. Leon McGee of *From a Child Ministries*. He's a gracious young man who is a Child Evangelist. To my immediate left is Bro. Ernie Flores who will soon depart for Veracruz, Mexico; and on the end is Bro. Devare Williams who is headed to Chile.



While there I had the privilege of meeting Bro. Hector Rodriquez who is planting a Spanish-speaking church in New Iberia

out of Temple Baptist. Missionary work is not just a long way off; it's a home assignment too.



Missions is the heart of God. He sent His only begotten Son. Praise God, He didn't wait for sinners to come to Him. As the beautiful hymn says, "*When I could not come to where he was, he came to me.*" May reaching men and women for Christ ever be our heart!



BLESSED OF GOD IN SO MANY WAYS

Mrs. Hutson and I are truly blessed beyond measure. God has given us many great years; He has always more than met our needs. I'm about to pass 74 with good health and still going strong. He is still using me to write books, serve in a good church, help lots of people and preach all over this land. This August Mrs. H and I will celebrate 53 years and we're more in love than ever. We have nothing but gratitude to God for His goodness to us! He has allowed us to travel world-wide. Our son and daughter-in-law live in Durango, Colorado. Last year while visiting them we drove to the nearby *Four Corners* area. It's a desert area, but quite scenic. Along the way we saw herds of wild Mustang ponies. As you can see from the photo, four states touch at this point: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.

As enjoyable as the exposure to so much of the world has been, the best part has been the dear friends we have met along the way. We have loved ones in many places in this world and across America. In so many ways God has used you in our lives. Thank you for loving us.

O Those Delightful Bulletin Bloopers!

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

THOSE CHILDREN HAVE MINDS OF THEIR OWN

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday school class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent. "*The Flight to Egypt*," was his answer without a stutter. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "*That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?*"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

IN SEARCH OF TRUTH

I do not recall ever seeing a quarter that did not have two sides. I've heard some one-sided arguments, but not very many that were totally one-sided. I have learned the hard way that most things are rarely as *black and white* as they might at first seem. It has been well said that *it is bad to be silent and thought a fool; it is worse to open your mouth and remove all doubt*. I can't tell you how many times I have rued the day that I opened my mouth. Oh how I wish I had listened and learned more before speaking with such authority!

Have you noticed that as people form opinions, they tend to isolate themselves from opposing opinions? I have observed that once good men take a position on an issue, they associate almost exclusively with those who take the same position. They feed off each other. The books they read are those that agree with them and fortify their position. To read a book from a position they've already decided to damn is considered a waste of time and rarely given serious consideration.

What a weak position! If you are going to stand against a position, you owe it to yourself to understand that position. Furthermore, you would do well to understand the attacks they are making against you and your position. You might even be surprised to learn that they are right about a few things. I think the military calls it *intelligence*. Even our government is smart enough to learn all it can about our enemies.

The subject of how our Bible reached us is both complex and intriguing. The arrival of multiple English translations and challenges against the King James Bible has brought this issue right into our homes and churches. It has become a very controversial and divisive issue. All of my ministry I have used the King James Bible, and I still do. God forbid that I do so blindly. God forbid that you do so blindly. You need to know the underlying concerns and make your stand based on the facts and evidence.

With this in mind, in this issue of my *Connected Newsletter* below I am including two book reviews. Both are by scholarly men who will help you understand the heart of the debate. I think both are good, insightful books, but I do not fully embrace the conclusions of either. I offer these books in the interest of balance and to help you see both sides of the picture. One conclusion is unshakable: the reliability of our Bible cannot be legitimately refuted.

Which Bible

By David Otis Fuller

Grand Rapids International Publications

Grand Rapids, Michigan

ISBN #0-8254-2612-X

Dr. Fuller's book is an anthology of excellent scholarly writings all having to do with Bible texts and translations. There is much in the book on the original Hebrew and Greek texts and how they were transmitted with astounding accuracy over many centuries.

The spotlight is then turned on textual critics and their unceasing and rabid efforts to corrupt the original texts. The book does an excellent job of exposing their method of rejecting a literal translation of the Bible by spiritualizing and allegorizing its accounts and teachings. It especially exposes Westcott and Hort, the chief architects of the corrupt Revised Greek New Testament. These writers show the strength of the Received Text, the primary text of the King James translators, but they do an excellent job in showing the modern move away for the true Bible texts

The book is also heavy on translating and translations. No translation can be better than its source text. The men of this book expose the fact that most translations of the Bible start with a corrupt text. Furthermore, the use of Dynamic rather than Formal Equivalency in translating has produced a whole marketplace of Bibles which are far from the Bible given us by God.

People who want to know the truth about the Bible they use should read this book. It's not mean-spirited and harsh. It simply lays the facts on the table. It is not a book for people who prefer to ignore the facts. It is a book for those who love the truth even when it is hard to take. I recommend it, but it should not be taken as a Bible.

The King James Only Controversy

By James R. White

Bethany House

Minneapolis, Minnesota

ISBN #978-0-7642-0605-4

It is extremely rare to find an author who is truly objective, one who presents the facts and evidence without skewing it at least to some degree to support his position. Generally Dr. White does a good job. In this book he clearly identifies the issues that make up this debate, and he does so in a very scholarly way; but it is obvious that he thinks several of the modern translations are superior to the King James Translation.

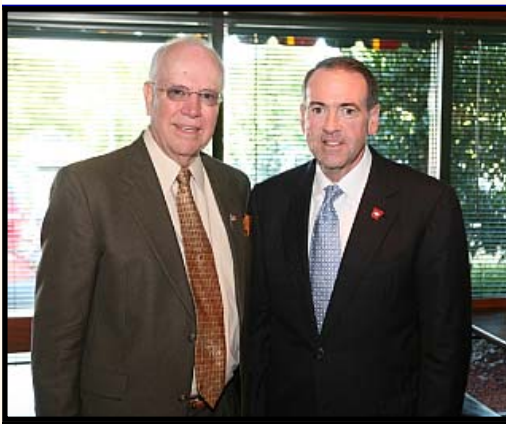
Dr. White is a scholar of the first rank and extremely qualified to speak on the subject of Scripture preservation and translation. For truth-seeking people who are willing to honestly look at the evidence before jumping to blind or baseless conclusions, White gets down in the trenches where there are facts and questions that must be addressed. Basic Christian honesty demands that conclusions be based on the facts and evidence. Sadly in Christian ranks that is not always the case. In this book White presents a great many undeniable facts and lots of evidence; however, he doesn't present all of the evidence and facts. This subject is far, far deeper and more complex than most people realize. On this very complex subject it is easy to speak both prematurely and from both sides of the mouth.

I recommend this book, but not for everyone and not carte blanche. You have to be able to eat the chicken and throw away the bones; and on a subject this broad and complex, that's not easy.

GOD IS LOVE

There are new sermons on my website. They are changed approximately four times a year. I appreciate your visits to my site and want the sermons to always be helpful and refreshing.

[Listen to Sermons](#)



Bro. Hutson and Gov. Mike Huckabee

LIFE WITH THE HUTSONS

It seems hard to believe that we are already into the second quarter of 2015. Yes. "We spend our years as a tale that is told," **Psalm 90:9**. In the short three months since January, I have preached in four states plus Texas for a total of 25 times. My, what blessings have been ours to meet so many new friends and touch hearts again with many whom we've loved and respected for years; people like Bill and Joyce Jackson, Mickey and JoAnn Hollar and the dear folks at [Bodine Baptist Church](#) in Oklahoma City, especially Ruby Hocking!

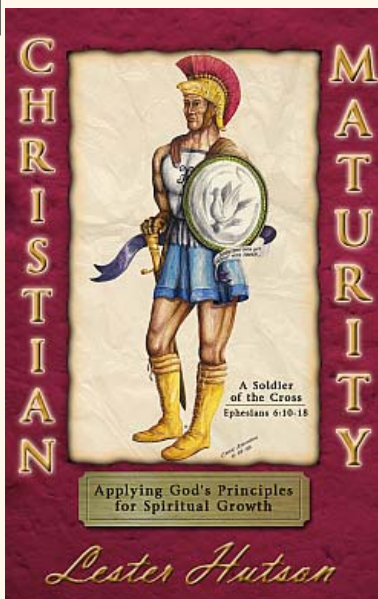
Soon after you receive this newsletter, I will be conducting *The Reliability of Your Bible* Seminar at [Midway Baptist](#) in McKinney. A week later I will return to a great old church that has a very special place in my roots, [Highland Missionary Baptist Church](#) in Dublin, Texas. We are going to have a plain old-fashioned revival. Yes, Sunday through Friday night, April 26-May 1. Along the way I will preach here and there at [Northwest Baptist](#) in Houston before being a part of the annual family camp of [Light-house Baptist Church](#) in Dickinson in June. Our granddaughter graduates from Bullard High School in May, and I expect to be on the front row. It looks like she will be the salutatorian of her class. Also our son and daughter-in-law in Durango, Colorado have bought a new house in the mountains. Granny and I are sure we need to inspect it. On the way up, it will be my privilege to preach for Bro. Don McFarland at Parkway Baptist Church in Childress, Texas. While in Colorado I will be preaching for a very godly man, Bro. David Daniel in South Fork. We should get back to Texas just in time to attend the annual *Missions Conference* at [Rodgers Baptist Church](#) in Garland.

Yes! It truly is great to be alive and able to serve our God whom to know aright is life eternal. In case you don't know Him, send me an email at lesterhutson@gmail.com. I will do my best to introduce you to Him.



Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells theirs.

**GOD
BLESS
AMERICA**



Just as my last newsletter was posted, my latest book was released on [Amazon.com](#). I am happy to say that the response has been strong and positive. Thanks to all of you who have let this book minister to you.

Our God is quite insistent that we grow up in Him. He does not want His children to remain spiritual babies. He expects us to reach a state of functional maturity. This book talks about maturity: what it looks like, how to recognize it, how to promote and accelerate it and how to recognize counterfeits. It is really a self-appraisal book, a means of systematically analyzing where you are in your own development.

The cover is a replica of an ink drawing by Bro. Eddie Atkinson and was used by permission.

The new book is available on line at Amazon.com in both electronic and paper formats. Paperback copies can also be ordered at lesterhutson@gmail.com.



Laugh, often, loud and long.

Laugh until you are out of breath.

If you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots of time with him or her.

Beware of pessimists and sore-heads

YES. I DO

Some have asked whether or not I have copies of the older, spiral-bound copies of *Basic Bible Truths*. The answer is yes. I have a fairly good inventory. They are \$5.00 each plus postage and a mailer. Perfect bound copies are also available from me or from the Christian Law Association.

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT
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