



# CONNECTED

October—December 2015

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**BILL JACKSON**

Our dear friend & brother is now with the Lord.

## EFFORTS TO BE A FRUITFUL SERVANT OF GOD

The God of heaven and earth knows that I do not want to be a slothful, unproductive servant. My heart is to give myself to Him as long as I live. I don't always live up to my own expectations, but my goal is *routine excellence*.

In some ways July seems just a *zip* ago; yet in some ways it seems so far back. Somehow life is like that; a series of paradoxes. Mrs. Hutson and I curtailed our travels a bit in order to attend to several important matters here in Houston and nearby. (It is somewhat ironic that after so many years of distant travel, destinations like Dallas, Tyler and San Antonio seem quite close.)

July found us in Southwest Colorado enjoying a little *down time* with our son and daughter-in-law who live in Durango. While up in that gorgeous part of the world, it was a blessing to again see my friend Pastor David Daniel, and preach in Emmanuel Chapel in South Fork. God blessed us with new friends at [Frontier Baptist Church](#) in Durango. Pastor Peter Reitz gave us a warm welcome when I spoke there. We arrived home in time for Pastor Dulany and me to preach two funeral for dear members of [Northwest Baptist](#). On July 19 I brought the morning message at Northwest in Houston before heading to Ada, Oklahoma to assist in the funeral of our dear brother in

the ministry, Bill Jackson. What a champion! We went from Ada straight to Garland for the [Rodgers Missions Conference](#). What a blessing! After the conference we stayed in the area. On Saturday I was privileged to teach a *Basic Bible Truths Training Seminar* to my dear friends at [Midway Baptist](#) in McKinney. Pastor Ed Neal had me preach there on Sunday. Pastor and Mrs. Dulany departed on Tuesday for a working vacation in Panama, I made it home in time to cover for him on Wednesday night and two weeks to follow. Suddenly July was gone.

I was glad for the early August opportunity at Northwest to preach my short series of sermons on *Life*. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated our 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> we attended the *Defending Your Faith* seminar in Athens on *End Times*. We had a spat of doctor appointments; it seems that they go with aging. After an MRI, I was finally able to find help for my back; the therapy is slow, but it's working. Before August ended I preached the funerals of two more of my good friends, and ended the month leading a *Missions Conference* at Memorial Baptist in Conroe. It turned out to be a quite revolutionary event, and suddenly August was over. Yes! Time can get past you in a hurry.

September! It cooled off

a bit in hot Houston. To start the month I preached Sunday morning at Northwest Baptist and spent Labor Day helping my friends at Memorial Baptist in Conroe. On the 12<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Hutson and I drove to [Athens](#) where I preached for Pastor Mike Bragdon on Sunday. Along the way we visited Eddie and Betty Atkinson. He has lost coherence. How I thank God for this dear servant: those masterpiece ink drawings, the scale models of Noah's Ark, that expertise on the Great Flood. Folks, do it while you can! One day your window of opportunity will close. Forever! On the 20<sup>th</sup> I recertified the children's workers at Northwest Baptist, and on the 27<sup>th</sup> Northwest was 51 years old. You got it; September was gone.

As you read these lines Pastor Dulany and I are glad to be attending the men's conference at [Dearborn Baptist Church](#) in Aurora, Indiana. I'm scheduled to preach at Northwest on the 11<sup>th</sup>, at [Calvary Baptist](#) in New Braunfels on the 18<sup>th</sup> and at [Creekwood Baptist](#) in Beaumont on the 25<sup>th</sup> before returning to Urbana, Ohio to be with [Grace Baptist](#) over the final weekend of October. When I get home I will present my *History of Churches Seminar* at Northwest Baptist on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, November 9-10, 12-13. We'll meet each evening, 7:00-9:00.

## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MY CONNECTED NEWSLETTER

You may not be aware that all previous editions of my [Connected Newsletter](#) are archived on my website. [www.lesterhutson.org](http://www.lesterhutson.org). I published my first edition in October, 2010. With this edition we are happy to begin our 6<sup>th</sup> year. To learn what we've been saying and doing, go there and see for yourself.

This is a digital newsletter which is published four times a year. If you know of someone who would like to receive it, get the email address to me. There is no charge.

## JUST STEWARDS, NOT OWNERS

Oh how easy it is to forget where we fit in the overall scheme of things! Selfishness and self-sufficiency is a disease with which all of us are fatally infected. *Me. Mine. What I want. My way. My car. My money. My home. My job. My wife. My time.* Jesus once asked one of us, “*Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*” **Luke 12:20.**

The truth is that we are all stewards, not owners. That’s right. In the big scheme of things, not one of us owns one thing. God owns everything including the air we breathe, the earth where we reside, time itself and even us. We didn’t bring even one penny into this world, and we won’t take even one penny out. We’re just passing through, privileged to enjoy a few of the things that belong to God the owner. When you back off a bit and look at the true picture, it becomes obvious that every moment is precious. Yes. Precious! Call it a *lifetime trip* or *the trip of a lifetime*; either way, life is quite a trip.

The older I get the more keenly aware of stewardship I become. Managing what God lets me have is a daily balancing act, especially time management. From the deepest recesses of my soul, I want to use wisely all he allows me to touch. It is not uncommon for people to become somewhat irritated with me because I’m not as readily available as they think I should be. They can’t always instantly reach me by phone, and I don’t return their call quickly enough. They want me to call or visit someone, make a hospital or shut-in call or be somewhere or do something. Usually on their timetable. With all the preaching and seminar work I do (all of which requires lots of preparation, usually many hours), the books and other materials I write, the travel and the help and advice I give to people all across America and often foreign countries, I often find myself overwhelmed. There’s more work than there is boy, not to mention a wife and family and a seemingly incessant increase in time spent in doctor’s offices.

More and more this forces me to view my time and other resources in light of the eternal, what my owner would have me as a steward do with His resources including the time He allows me to have. Only He knows how much I want to make it count! My use of it may sometimes disappoint and irritate others, but more than anything else I want my stewardship to be acceptable to God. If I have disappointed you, please forgive me. Sometimes my days and weeks end well before I complete all that is before me. Thanks to all of you who have *cut me a little slack* and been so patient and understanding. Pray that I will give the very best I have to my Master, and be a good steward of the resources He has entrusted to me. I am well aware that the day of accounting for my stewardship is not far away.

Barber, “*I don’t believe that God exists.*” Customer, “*Why do you say that?*” Barber, “*Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn’t exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can’t imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things.*”

Rather than start an argument the customer didn’t immediately respond, but as he left the shop he saw a dirty, unkempt man in the street with long, stringy hair and an untrimmed beard. The customer turned back into the shop.

“*You know what? Barbers do not exist.*” “*How can you say that?*” asked the surprised barber. “*I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!*” “*No!*” the customer exclaimed. “*Barbers don’t exist. If they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.*” The barber countered, “*Ah, but barbers DO exist! That’s what happens when people do not come to me.*” “*Exactly!*” affirmed the customer. “*That’s the point! God DOES exist! Pain and suffering is what happens to a world that rejects God and will not come to Him for help.*”

### Blogs

On my website I offer a new blog approximately six times a year. Go to the website and you will find my blogs on the [home page](#). All of my previous blogs are archived there.

The article just above on stewardship is the most current blog to appear on my website.

**GOD LOVES YOU**

### A HISTORY OF CHURCHES SEMINAR AT NORTHWEST BAPTIST

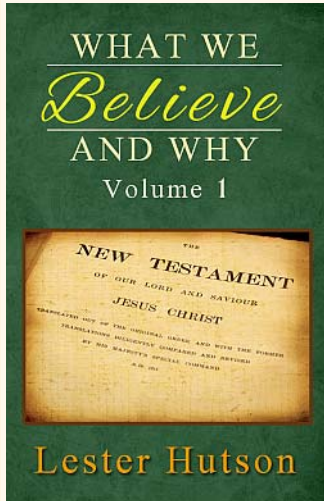
Many have asked how to avail themselves of my [History of Churches Seminar](#). Lord willing, I will soon present that seminar at Northwest Baptist Church in Houston. Each of you is invited. Here are details.

- ⇒ November 9-10, 12-13, 2015. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
- ⇒ Nightly 7:00 – 9:00 except Friday which will end at 9:30
- ⇒ No admission fees
- ⇒ Speaker: Lester Hutson
- ⇒ Eight Power Point illustrated sessions
- ⇒ Free workbook for each attendee
- ⇒ Northwest Baptist Church, 1710 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Houston, TX. 77018. 713-686-5885  
Informal; come straight from work
- ⇒ Lite but filling meal served continuously each night from 6:00 – 6:50



## RESCUE THE PERISHING

There are more ways than one to *rescue the perishing*. Many years ago I wrote a book called *What We Believe and Why*. As I read back through it I was appalled at how atrocious my writing was. In spite of the poor writing quality, through the years many people sought out and used the book. A few months ago the last copies were sold. Technically the book was extinct.



Some of my friends (especially one) have urged me to put all of my written materials into perpetuity before I depart for my eternal home in heaven. I had to face the fact that unless I do, these writings will all perish with me. In some cases I have a few copies in a book storage room, but without action, once they are gone there will be no more.

With that urgency in my soul, I have reworked *What We Believe and Why I*. (I call it "I" because there is a *What We Believe and Why II*. Lord willing, I will soon begin an edit of vol. II.) The content remains the same, but the

writing required a major overhaul. Hopefully this old book which almost perished will live and help people till Jesus comes. In the next months I plan to revive two other major titles in addition to publishing several smaller works.

As this newsletter is being posted the new edition of *What We Believe and Why I* is nearing reality. Hopefully not later than Thanksgiving it will be available in both eBook and paper formats from Amazon. Paperback copies will also be available from me. I am not sure what the price will be; the publisher has a voice in that decision.



While in beautiful Colorado Mrs. Hutson & I were privileged to right the famous Silverton Train up from Durango.

## A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ & HIGHLY RECOMMEND

### ***Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired***

Benson Bobrick  
Simon & Schuster  
New York  
ISBN 0- 684-84747-7

Few things in the history of mankind have impacted the course of human history like the arrival of the Bible into the English language. One of the greatest understatements of all of time is that *getting it there was a momentous struggle with few parallels*.

Long before the English Bible God got His Word to humanity. What an undertaking! Only He could make it happen. Talk about a treasure, the Scriptures are a gift from God that defies adequate description. *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward,"* Psalm 19:7-11.

God gave His Word mainly in two languages: Hebrew and Greek. For hundreds of years most people could not read or write, especially Hebrew or Greek. Even when translations began to appear on the scene, the audience of readers was very limited. Furthermore, before the invention of the printing press in 1454-1455, all copies of the Bible were handwritten. Before then only a very small percentage of the world's people ever saw a Bible let alone had access to a copy. Additionally the official position of the Roman Catholic Church which dominated Europe and much of the world at that time was repression of the Scriptures. It was a crime generally punishable by death for anyone other than a non-church official to have the Scriptures in his possession.

*Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired* is the story of how the Bible made it into the English language. It is a glorious and often sensational story. You owe it to yourself to hear it. Efforts to get the Bible into the English language started almost as soon as English became a language. Talk about *an uphill battle*, the idea faced opposition from the on-set, getting it to us cost many a great man their fortunes and lives. The book begins in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with John Wycliffe. He was a thoroughbred scholar who dared challenge Rome and her popes with all their deliberate lies and corruption. Wycliffe planted a seed and greatly nourished it. The baton passed to William Tyndale. What a great and courageous man! He too was a scholar. He translated and managed to get his English translation into England. Tyndale was eventually hunted down and burned to death, but the movement would not be stopped. Miles Cloverdale followed Tyndale, and a series of English Bibles sprang up. When King James ascended to the English throne, God miraculously opened a window; and this unlikely man authorized a new, official English Bible. Scholarship abounded and on May 2, 1611 the King James Bible was published. Multitudes of people could read English. The British Empire became world-wide. The English Bible came to the Americas; and with American and British missionaries and troops, it went around the world. It was translated into multiple languages.

No book has come even close to impacting the world like the English Bible has. *Wide as the Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired* is that story. Yes! You owe it to yourself to read this outstanding book.

## YES, I'M STILL PREACHING

*Since my post-pastorate years I seem to be preaching more than ever. The Lord has blessed me to preach many revivals, seminars, conferences, weekend events, sermons in my home church and other venues around the country. Some of these sermons are recorded. Many of them appear on my website. Ten sermons are posted there for audio access. They are changed four times a year. Thank you for listening. [www.lesterhutson.org](http://www.lesterhutson.org) and click Sermons.*

[Listen to Sermons](#)

## Books Make Excellent & Inexpensive Christmas Gifts

Yes! Before you know it Christmas will be here. At this time of the year most of us are scrambling for inexpensive Christmas gifts. Good books can make your life much simpler. In this issue of my *Connected Newsletter* I am again including a list of my books including prices. Some of them can be ordered on-line; some are available only from me. I express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you who have supported this ministry of my life.

Books by Lester Hutson	eBook		Paper	
	Amazon	Barnes	Lester Hutson*	Amazon
<i>A History of Churches</i>	\$9.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$15.00/2 \$25.00	<a href="#">19.99</a>
<i>Basic Bible Truths [perfect bound]</i>	\$9.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$10.00	
<i>Basic Bible Truths [comb bound]</i>			\$5.00	
<i>Basic Bible Truths (Spanish) [comb]</i>			\$5.00	
<i>Basic Bible Truths (Portuguese) [comb]</i>			\$5.00	
<i>Basic Discipleship Teacher's Manual</i>	\$6.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$10.00	
<i>Basic Discipleship Student's Manual</i>	free	<a href="#">pdf</a>		
<i>Christian Family Principles</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$5.00	
<i>Christian Maturity</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$10.00	<a href="#">9.99</a>
<i>Cultivating Your Heart</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$5.00	
<i>Giving</i>	\$2.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>		
<i>Great Bible Truths Revisited</i>	\$9.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$15.00/2 \$25.00	<a href="#">30.99</a>
<i>Notes on Studying Nehemiah</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>		
<i>Once Delivered</i>	N/A yet		\$1.00	
<i>Outlines on Ruth</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$2.00	
<i>Peculiar Misunderstandings</i>	N/A yet		\$5.00	
<i>Philippians: God's Love Letter</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>		
<i>Survey of Bible History (Creation - Fall)</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$3.00	
<i>Survey of Bible History (Cain - Babel)</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$3.00	
<i>Survey of Bible History (The Patriarchs)</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$3.00	
<i>Survey of Bible History (Full set)</i>			\$6.00	
<i>The Week They Killed Our Lord</i>	\$4.99	<a href="#">kindle</a>	\$3.00	
<i>What Happens Once You Die</i>	free	<a href="#">various</a>		
<i>What We Believe and Why I</i>	Coming soon		Coming soon	
<i>What We Believe and Why II</i>	N/A		\$5.00	

Beyond the Grave – tract 25 for \$5.00, 50 for \$8.00, 100 for \$15.00

### TRACTS

A tract can be a powerful tool. Like a seed a tract can root itself in a heart and with time produce a harvest far beyond what you might expect. I encourage you to keep a few tracts nearby and always be on the lookout for places to plant them.

I have written and offer an attractive salvation tract called *Beyond the Grave*. It's full-color tract which fits easily in a shirt or coat pocket or in a purse. I offer them in packets of 100 for \$15.00, 50 for \$8.00 or 25 for \$5.00 plus postage and a mailer.

[lesterhutson@gmail.com](mailto:lesterhutson@gmail.com)

### FREE DOWNLOADS

You who have not yet explored my [website](#) should do so. I think you will find many interesting and helpful items there. Among other things I offer a growing list of [free downloads](#). You will find a variety of materials including sample policy statements, helpful church administration information and information on how to ordain preachers and deacons.

Recently we posted both the *Basic Discipleship Teacher's Manual* and the *Basic Discipleship Student Workbook in Spanish*. Print as many copies as you want. Use them to God's glory!