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# Keystone BAPTIST

## The Church Militant or the Church Asleep?

by Dr. Charles L. Dear  
Pastor of Crescentville Baptist  
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We are ministering in the midst of a great social upheaval, foisted upon us by those who would break down every biblical principle enshrined in our founding documents and who would overturn every biblical principle we have preached to our people about society, family, and personal responsibility from the Word of God. Have we addressed these challenges to our faith and taught our people to have a ready answer to those who ask?

I fear we are failing to equip our people with the reasons for the hope within us, because fearing to be too political we have withdrawn from the battle for the truth. While I am not advocating actively campaigning for candidates in

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## The Elder Issue

by Dr. Allen G. Harris  
Pastor of Hope Baptist Church,  
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In the last forty years the issue of Elder Rule as a means of governing the church has swept through America with a powerful force. Popular preachers began to promote it as a better and easier way to govern the church, and pastors and laymen followed like dominoes behind them.

The scriptural difficulties this popular concept presents has been almost entirely ignored. Some, who at least recognized that the concept was not in agreement with Scripture, adopted it as being a "permissible" application which they believed did not violate the spirit of the Scriptures.

To deal with this issue from Scripture you must consider three factors:

### 1. *The identification of the elders:*

The term "elder" is used of leaders in the Jewish synagogue and of the civil leaders of a city. However, when Paul is speaking of the leadership of the church, he uses three terms interchangeably. These terms are elder, bishop, and pastor. The primary

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## MISSING OUT ON THE BLESSING

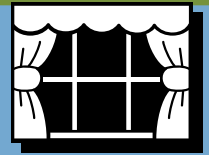
When I was a young lad (and that's a long time ago) my mom would prepare some of the most delicious meals and always with a fantastic dessert. But there were times I would miss dinner, regretfully so, but the fact of the matter was I missed out (on dessert). When my brother would describe the meal and all that went on at the dinner table, I felt terrible for missing out.

I have often wondered what the prodigal son must have thought when he reflected back on his family and all that he was missing. It must have torn his heart just meditating on all that he was missing: wonderful meals and all he had done with his father and family. There must have been an enormous empty feeling. He had missed out on all those things day after day, week after week he missed the blessing.

And then I thought of Thomas – “doubting Thomas.” All the disciples had gathered themselves together (John 20) to pray and encourage one another out of fear of the Jews– all that is but Thomas. He had walked with Jesus and talked and listened to Jesus, and had witnessed the miracles just like the other disciples. When Christ appeared

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## From the Parsonage Window



## The Cookies

by Mrs. Anita Fordyce

Hope Baptist Church, Hanover, PA



Recently I had an adventure at McDonald's. Sorry if you've got a problem with McD's. I don't.

But that day I did.

I'm so proud of myself that I can use the order keosk, which I did and my order number was #3. I got my receipt and my #3 table marker. McDs now serves your food.

A gentleman sat down at the booth next to me and put down a #51. An lady sat down in the booth behind him and put down a #54. Don't know why but something didn't feel right. 20 minutes later, after no food delivery, the lady got up and headed to the register. Were our orders lost?

No wait...the #51 man got his order. Doesn't #3 go first. I'm still waiting. But, the man announced that this wasn't his order. Through shrewd deduction, he and the lady figured out it was hers #54.

What about me? A McDs employee doing lobby duty heard us talking, took my receipt and said, "We'll get this out in a few minutes. Do you like cookies? I'll also get you cookies."

In the meantime, the lady was getting agitated. The man ate her order and when they finally delivered her sandwich, it had leaf and not shredded lettuce on it. Oh my! This was getting silly.

Finally, the manager came to the rescue. He replaced her sandwich and gave her and the man a free meal. By this time my meal has been delivered by the helpful employee with the cookies. The man and lady got a free meal; I got cookies!

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evidence that these all speak of the same men and office are:

a. Acts 20:17-28

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there\*:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this\* day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not\* shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto selves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood

i. Verse 17 says he called for the elders

ii. Verse 28 uses the words “flock” and “feed” which are the words for the work of the shepherd (pastor).

iii. Verse 28 uses the term “overseers,” which is the word “bishop.”

b. Titus 1:5-7

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

i. Verse 5 uses the word “elders” as the leaders of the church.

ii. Verse 7 uses the term “bishop” which refers to the leadership with oversight of the church.

c. I Peter 5:1-5

5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

- i. Verse 1 he addresses elders.
- ii. Verse 2 he uses the word “oversight” (bishopric)
- iii. Verse 3 he uses the word “flock” and spoke of God as the Chief Shepherd – both forms of the word “pastor.”

These references identify the office as one, but that each word describes an aspect of his ministry. As elder he is to be spiritually mature. As bishop he exercises oversight and leadership, and as pastor or shepherd he feeds and cares for the sheep like a shepherd.

### 1. The identification of only two offices:

Two passages detail these offices. I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The two offices are that of elder, pastor, or bishop, and that of deacon. I Timothy 3

- 1 *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*
- 2 *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*
- 3 *Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;*
- 4 *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;*
- 5 *(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*
- 6 *Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
- 7 *Moreover\* he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
- 8 *Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;*
- 9 *Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*
- 10 *And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.*
- 11 *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*
- 12 *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
- 13 *For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

Since only two offices are given, why is the office of Pastor now divided between a Pastor and lay elders. Who gave us the authority to change what God established? In practicality, the application of elder rule takes some of the responsibilities of the pastor and gives them to the elders, and also takes some of the responsibilities of the deacon and gives them to the elders, thus changing both offices.

This is not the same as having a church secretary or treasurer, that are not delineated as spiritual offices of the church.

2. The usurping of the rightful role of the church by removing their voice. The purpose of the elders is to have a small board that is easier to work with and control. This means that the church will be excluded from almost all ministry decisions. Yet, God had indwelt every believer with His Spirit that they might be led by a spiritual shepherd to serve the Lord.

As Baptists, we have a responsibility to Biblical integrity and faithfulness to our Savior.

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**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

**March 27-28, 2020**  
Youth Retreat & Talents  
for Christ  
Calvary Baptist Church,  
Bloomsburg, PA

See [parbc.org](http://parbc.org) for coming details.



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**Spring Conference - April 20-21, 2020**  
First Baptist Church of Ogden, Boothwyn  
Hosts: Pastor Dan Hicks and Congregation  
Special Speaker: Dr. Marty Marriott  
Maranatha Baptist University

**Fall Conference - September 14-16, 2020**  
Calvary Baptist Church, Jersey Shore  
Hosts: Pastor Jeff Howell & Congregation

Future Dates for Conferences are on our website  
[parbc.org](http://parbc.org)

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## **Churches Searching for a Pastor**

**Bethel Baptist Church--Erie**  
**Garden Heights Baptist Church – Erie**  
**First Baptist Church--Roulette**  
**Tidioute Baptist Church – Tidioute**  
**Calvary Baptist Church – Union City**  
**Worthington Baptist Church – Worthington**



### **Next Town Evangelism – Faith Baptist Church, Bradford**

Pastor Gary Smith was approved at the annual business meeting to receive matching funds from PARBC churches as he endeavor's to build back up the ministry at Faith Baptist Church. He is available to come to any interested PARBC church and present the need.

### **Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Resources**

The following links could be of help to our churches in many ways. You can go to our website [www.parbc](http://www.parbc) and click on the Brotherhood icon or use the following links. The first is a book of checklists that hone in on many topics surrounding ministry. For instance, you could introduce the link and point recipients to page 15, a property inventory. Page 25 offers a cold weather-maintenance check list. Or, pages 39-55 focus on safety and procedures for your children and youth ministry.

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/safety-library/publications/the-big-book-of-risk-management-checklists/the-big-book-of-risk-management-checklists-2>

This next link points recipients to Ministry Works, a payroll service designed specifically for ministries. The nice thing about this link is that each church can use the “cost tool” and see what the service will cost their specific ministry. It is as easy as inputting the number of employees and how often they are paid. (weekly, bi-weekly etc.)

<https://www.ministryworks.com>.

### **Council of Ten Elections**

- Dr. Charles Dear – Chairman - - term ends 2021  
Crescentville Baptist Church, Philadelphia
- Rev. Jeff Kistler – Vice Chair - - term ends 2021  
Middletown Road Baptist Church, Pittsburgh
- Rev. Gary Smith – Secretary - - term ends 2021  
Faith Baptist Church, Bradford
- Dr. Ear Shawley – Treasurer - - term ends 2020  
Messiah Baptist Church, Kylertown
- Rev, Randy Boston - - term ends 2020  
Bible Baptist Church, Shickshinny
- Rev. Joshua Franklin - - term ends 2020  
Open Door Baptist Church, Greensburg
- Rev. Donn Hauser - - term ends 2020  
Independent Baptist Church, Towanda
- Rev. Jonathan Hill - - term ends 2021  
Union Baptist Church, Kittanning
- Rev. Steve Lyon - - term ends 2021  
Bible Baptist Church, Upper Darby
- Rev. Mark Strangman - - term ends 2020  
Swissvale Baptist Church, Pittsburgh

our churches, it appears that we have abdicated both the responsibility of, as well as our history of, addressing biblical issues to those who wield the power of government and law-making. All of us should know the history of Isaac Backus, who was sent by the Warren Association to Philadelphia in 1774 to present to the Continental Congress a memorial appealing for religious liberty and the separation of church and state, which would end support of state churches.

It was a protracted battle, both in Philadelphia and Massachusetts, met with opposition and misrepresentation; but Backus and others with him pressed their case to both the people and the government to gain complete religious liberty. It would be another 17 years before religious freedom became an official amendment to our Constitution. There were other Baptists along the way, such as John Leland, who would play a role in garnering support at the state level before the federal Congress would yield; but clearly it required Baptist activism that enjoyed more than token support to challenge the status quo.

While all that seems long ago and far away, we would be deceived to think today that all of the contemporary self-proclaimed “rights groups” have no animosity against biblical Christianity. If we were to list some of the better-known ones, like Planned Parenthood, we would find advocacy in direct contradiction to the Bible.

We would also find a measure of hypocrisy, for many of their historical agendas have been eclipsed by broader globalist objectives that in some ways contradict their originally stated purposes. For example, women’s organizations are strangely silent about female genital mutilation practiced upon hundreds of young girls right here in America. It stands as one of the worst forms of child abuse in order to satisfy the requirements of a small sect in Islam, often performed by non-medical personnel without the benefit of anesthesia or sanitary conditions. Governmental services neither state objections nor take any action to curtail the practice.

While we help to fight disease in other parts of the world, diseases we once defeated here in America have returned. Many anti-Christian organizations receive support through our tax dollars, and billions of dollars of tax-deductible funding from anti-Christian foundations and philanthropists, both domestic and foreign, do more to undermine Christianity than advance worthy causes. These organizations actively seek to overturn governments that have had a Judeo-Christian heritage for centuries, and they have led efforts to change our culture by supporting unassimilated immigration and the acceptance of sharia law.

When asking how such things could come to be, especially in our own country, we must consider the collapse of biblical understanding and the rejection of biblical authority. The weakness of nominal/compromised Christianity, which has opened a floodgate for the acceptance and success of other religions such as Islam in western Europe—a nations that once professed to be Christian, only compounds this problem.

Consider how quickly changes have come to Great Britain, France, and Germany (500 years since the Reformation). Looking to the future of those western civilizations, in little more than a decade differing reproduction rates, even more so than immigration rates, may cause many of the native born of those countries to be outnumbered, out-represented, and out-voted in areas such as governmental authority, culture, and freedom of religion.

We dare not be so foolish as to presume, “that could never happen here.” American courts have already introduced foreign/sharia law into our courts, in direct contradiction to the laws of our land. There are already ethnic/religious enclaves here that are miniature foreign countries within our borders, with their own system of laws and law enforcement. Nevertheless, we hear the appeals from special interest groups and government officials that we should set aside the law in favor of being compassionate and generous towards strangers—one of the rare occasions when radicals quote Scripture.

But where must compassion end and the law begin? In the sanctuary-city movement, the public plea is to let compassion prevail and to overlook the complications of criminality and disease that have brought harm to others. Nevertheless, there are several “Christian” organizations that have received significant payments for facilitating sanctuary city lawlessness.

All of this will destabilize nations around the world. Social engineers and the billionaires who provide the funding to facilitate their changes believe in the virtue of a one-world government, where they will rule over a global society without national identities or borders. It is the Tower of Babel all over again and the human equivalent of the ambitions of Lucifer before he was cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:13-14). The ambition of men to rule absolutely has failed so many times, yet there is always someone who thinks that he can do it better. The psalmist speaks of this age-old ambition:

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure (Ps. 2:1-2, 4).*

The question for us here is, given that these things are already coming to pass, what manner of people ought we to be? Furthermore, how should we be addressing these things to our people? Have we pointed out how the things being promoted directly contradict the Scriptures?

Our people need to have a biblical world view, and that needs to be part of our ministry. Our people need answers, both for themselves and for those around them who are either complacent towards or actively engaged with the social engineering around us. We cannot underestimate the impact made upon adults and children who



are constantly exposed to the drumbeat of anti-Christian socialism. We cannot sit idly by and watch all these things come to pass thinking that, since they are inevitable, we should not resist them.

If for no other reason, we must recognize that all these anti-Christian actions undermine our present ability to fulfill the Great Commission. Our ability and opportunity to spread the Gospel has already been impeded by the success of American secularization of government and society. Our people need to understand - perhaps we need to be clear in our own minds - that biblical predictions of these conditions do not make them something we should ignore, support, or tolerate. There are evil things predicted to come to pass in the Great Tribulation, but that does not mean we should silently watch, or encourage by our silence, the groundwork being laid while we are still here.

Believers and unbelievers alike should take warning of the signs of the times and the approaching evil days of the Great Tribulation, which they portend. Noah sounded an alarm of the mi-pending judgment of God for 120 years. That his success was limited to his family was not an excuse to stop preaching the truth in a day when "every imagination of the thoughts of [man's] heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). That sounds all too familiar. As Jesus noted, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:37).

*Reprinted from The Review, publication of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America (IBFNA), August 2017.*

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**Cookies–Continued**

Sometimes you've got to pick your battles and this one was so ridiculous that I just surrendered. The man, though, assured the lady (and me) that he knows the owner of this McDs, and he'll be giving him a call. I admit I wanted to say, "Can you ask him why I got cookies?"

Sincerely, I was glad that it didn't escalate into something worse. I don't know who or what was at fault. The manager tried to soothe the matter over but you could see he was having a very bad day. It would have been very easy for the three of us to make a big deal about it.

In today's world some things as trivial as this escalate into tragic happenings. But I can think of many Scriptural passages and principles that apply to the Christian. My favorite: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.(Col. 3:16).

We all have these kinds of situations happen and it is frustrating but what IF, whatever our reaction is that it be done "...in the name of the Lord Jesus...."

In case you're wondering, I brought the cookies home and shared them with my husband with a serving of ice cream.

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## “On a Need to Know Basis”

By Rev. Jeffrey D. Kistler

Pastor of Middletown Road Baptist Church. Pittsburgh



Both the business and military worlds are quite familiar with the phrase, “On a Need to Know Basis”. “On a Need to Know Basis” implies that people are told certain facts which are essential for the proper performance of their duties. Likewise, this particular information is disbursed only at the required time.

At a recent PARBC Conference, attention was drawn to what could be a possible Biblical example of “On a Need to Know Basis”: the words of Psalms 78. The directive here, is that God’s people were to pass down to the continuing generations everything that God has done for them. These precious reminders and facts would be essential in the following generation’s relationship with Him, and greatly assist all generations in pursuit of all lives’ endeavors God’s Way.

***“Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done”*** (Psalm 78:1-4). Later in this same passage, Israel was given the reason why to pass on these important truths about God to the next generation: ***“That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God”*** (Psalm 78:6-8).

In this continual burden of the Lord, to reach the next generation, “On a Need to Know Basis”, we first must share **The Established Truth** (vs.5; Psa. 78:1-3). The Lord has given us His Word, which we must not change and which we must obey (vs. 1 “give ear.). We have an obligation to pass on to the next generation the scriptures, as established truth, because it is the unchangeable, eternal Word of God. Next, we must carefully, **Expose the Truth** (Psalm 78:4-6a). Here, we carefully detail God’s blessings toward us through His wonderful works in the display of His Omnipotence. Out of this comes genuine worship that must involve both the current and upcoming generations. Both, perhaps, enjoined in singing, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow! Praise Him All Creatures Here Below!” Third, in this text, we have the **Effects of Sharing this Truth** (Psalm 78:6b-8). Briefly, those effects are: 1) Our children will teach their children these same Truths (vs. 6b); 2) The next generation will set their hope in God (vs. 7a); They will not forget our God’s works (vs. 7b); and, 3) They will be unlike the previous unfaithful generations.

I would like to give attention to another possible scriptural example of “On a Need to Know Basis”. The Apostle Paul is telling his son in the faith, Timothy, how to navigate, the perilous times, that will come his way (II Timothy 3:1ff.). As Paul describes the awful, ungodly characteristics of these dangerous times (II Timothy 3:2-9), he sets a sharp contrast, ***“But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, char-***

**ity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** (2 Timothy 3:10-13).

Paul is instructing Pastor Timothy, that in order to prepare for the uncertain times that he will face in the near future, do so, fully understanding what he, Paul, endured, taught, and lived out as an example, as he followed and served Christ. In a sense, readying Timothy “for the essential proper performance of his duties”, as he serves the Lord during perilous times, Paul was sharing this list, “On a Need to Know Basis.”

Using Paul’s list here, as an example for us, may I suggest that we have the same responsibility to pass this same information to those we have the privilege of serving and ministering to, and likewise to the following generations of our own family - our children and our grandchildren.

“But thou hast fully known

- my doctrine,
- manner of life,
- purpose,
- faith,
- longsuffering,
- charity,
- patience,
- Persecutions,
- afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra;
- what persecutions I endured:
- but out of them all the Lord delivered me” (II Timothy 3:10-12).

These verses give a God-given checklist of 10 things we must pass on to others, “On a Need to Know Basis.”

### **1. Your teaching - “But thou hast fully known my doctrine”:**

What do you know? What do you Believe? What do you know you Believe? What do you Believe You Know? Specifically, passing on such things as: what do you believe about God’s Word, about the effects of sin in the human personality, about who Jesus is, and why He died, was buried, and rose again? What about the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in life of a believer? What about the importance of the local church? What about the Biblical directives of baptism and the believer’s regular involvement in communion? What about our glorious hope and longing in the second coming of our Lord? **“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus”** (II Timothy 1:12, 13).

### **2. Your way of life - “But thou hast fully known my . . . manner of life”:**

Here, we are suggesting, what has directed your lifestyle? Why do you live in the manner that you do? What things formed your choices and decisions in life? **“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”** (Proverbs 3:5, 6). **“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow**

*to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine*" (Proverbs 3:7-10).

**3. Your purpose - "But thou hast fully known my . . . purpose":**

Remember the philosophical question, "Why are you here?" How would you describe the great purpose of your life? How have you pursued (or not pursued) that in the past, and how are you pursuing it now? ***"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth . . . Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"*** (Eccl. 12:1, 13-14).

**4. Your faith - "But thou hast fully known my . . . faith":**

Where in your life have you most had to trust God? In your journey of faith, starting out as you trusted the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, how have you lived out your faith? Here would be a great opportunity to proclaim, how you came by faith to the Lord - ***"let the redeemed of the Lord say so." "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report . . . But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"*** (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

**5. Your patience - "But thou hast fully known my . . . longsuffering":**

Where have you had to be especially patient in your life? Have you ever had to wait upon the Lord, to trust His timing and not yours? And, what has that waiting taught you? How did the Lord use long-suffering in your life - ***"tribulations work patience?" "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"*** (II Peter 1:3, 4).

**6. Your love - "But thou hast fully known my . . . love":**

Who and what do you love the most? What would you say was the love of your life? Exploring this gives great opportunity to declare your love for your Lord, your family, God's Word, and the Church - His people. ***"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might"*** (Deut. 6:5).

**7. Your endurance - "But thou hast fully known my . . . patience":**

When did you find it especially hard to persist in something that God was calling you to do? Just how did you find the strength to keep on going? ***"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"*** (II Timothy 4:6-8).

**8. Your persecutions - "But thou hast fully known my . . . persecutions":**

Where have you suffered persecution, at the hand of men, because you were serving the Lord? Others should know and understand that following Christ is always costly. What they need to grasp is that it is always worth it.

***"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"*** (II Timothy 3:12).

### 9. Your sufferings - *“But thou hast fully known my . . . afflictions”*:

How have you suffered in your life, and how has the Lord helped you in your suffering? *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”* (II Corinthians 12:9, 10).

### 10. Your deliverance - *“But thou hast fully known my . . . (how) the Lord delivered me”*:

Paul speaks about how God rescued him from all the afflictions that he faced. How has the Lord rescued or delivered you? *“But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us”* (II Cor. 1:9). *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”* (Col. 1:13).

### How to Generate These “On a Need to Know Basis” Talks

Go to this precious text with those you are giving this information. Then suggest that you would like to have several discussions that might follow the example that Paul had with Timothy. Perhaps this purposeful sharing would be a great demonstration of Biblical discipleship.

Use the above points as questions above to start these talks. After you have shared your testimony by means of your life experiences in these areas, you could ask those you are talking to to share theirs. Use this as an opportunity to point others to “the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

### Missing Out—Continued

to the other disciples, following His crucifixion and resurrection, it was a tremendous privilege and blessing to those disciples, but not Thomas. He chose not to be with them. He missed out. Thomas missed out on the blessing of seeing the resurrected Christ when He first appeared to the disciples.

The Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches offers opportunity for our churches and pastors to join together in fellowship twice a year with the Spring and Fall Conferences. This year was no exception with excellent speakers much planning and preparation (hours, and

hours and hours spent) by our host churches. A tremendous time spent together in God’s Word and fellowship. The many testimonies of those present verify it.

Yet, there were those who did not come to the conferences. If the reason is finances – we have often said we would find help for you. If the reason is difficulty in getting away for the two or three days – we must make the extra effort and make it a priority. **We lose the value of the association when we fail to gather together, worship and study God’s Word together, pray together, stand in Christ together and work together. If ever there was a time for us to be united and standing together – IT IS NOW!**