

Ancient Landmarks

Landmark: boundary line to mark separation of fields

Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless – Pr.23:10

You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set - Dt.19:14

Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' – Dt.27:17

Landmark: boundary line to mark separation of fields

“The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out my wrath on them like water” – Hosea 5:10

- Not condemned for moving property lines – they are *like* those who do so
- These have moved God’s spiritual boundaries

I. Landmarks of Old Testament

Deut.4:2

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you”

“The law of the LORD is perfect,
converting the soul...” – Ps.19:7

Cannot improve on perfection.

Any change defiles it.

Any departure from OT pattern was sinful

1. Passover, Ex.12:17-18 [2 Chr.30:5]
2. Tabernacles, Neh.8:...14
3. Love of God

“For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal” – Jer.11:13 [6:16]

I. Landmarks of Old Testament

II. Landmarks of
New Testament

Gal.1:6

Turn away, desert

Jude 4

'Turn' grace of God into lewdness

|| LXX: Dt.27:17; Pr.23:10; Ho.5:10

Col.1:23

'Not moved away...'

|| LXX: Dt.19:14

Col.1:23

- If you continue in the faith, Col.1:23
- Stand fast in the faith, 1 Co.16:13
- Examine yourself as to whether you are in the faith, 2 Co.13:5

Col.1:23 ... *in the faith*

- Individuals – Ga.6:1
 - Restore to former condition
 - Of broken bones
 - Mk.1:19– of fishing nets
 - Gal.6:1– repair broken relationship
 - 2 Co.13:11– *mend your ways: restoration, made complete, mature*

Col.1:23 ... *in the faith*

- Individuals – Ga.6:1
- Congregations –
 - Acts 16:5, *so the churches were strengthened in the faith...*
 - Rv.2:5, Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.
 - Jer.2:2, 13, 32
 - 1 Co.13

I. Landmarks of Old Testament

II. Landmarks of New Testament

**III. New Testament:
Removing Landmarks**

Acts 20:29-30

- Monarchical bishop (AD 116)
- Holy water (AD 120)
- Infant baptism (AD 185)
- Sprinkling (AD 252)
- Papacy (AD 606)
- Mechanical music (AD 666)
- Infallibility of pope (1870)

1 Tim.4:1-3, predicted by Holy Spirit

- **When?** Last days
- **What?** Depart from faith
- **How?** Heed seducing spirits, doctrines of demons . . .

Good men became alarmed because of departure from NT

- John Wyclif (d. 1384)
- John Hus (d. 1415)
- Jerome Savonarola (d. 1498)
- Wm. Tyndale (d. 1536)

I. Landmarks of Old Testament

II. Landmarks of New Testament

III. NT: Removing Landmarks

**IV. New Testament:
Recovering Landmarks**

Problem: most information has
been lost; not newsworthy

- There have been attempts throughout history to return to God's original plan

Tottlebank, England

- Old church building
- Minute book, from 1600s: 'church of Christ'
- Non-conformist

Furness District, Lancashire, 1669

- Group of eight churches of Christ
- Old minute book:
 - Called by 'church of Christ'
 - Baptized by immersion
 - Lord's supper each Lord's day
 - Elders and deacons

Thomas Grantham essays, 1678

- Essays on Primitive Christianity
- Faith, repentance, and baptism for remission of sins – ‘the way of incorporation into the Church of Christ’ (preface)

Benjamin Grosvenor's book of sermons, 1728

- London: urged all to be simply
'Christians only'

John Davis, 1735

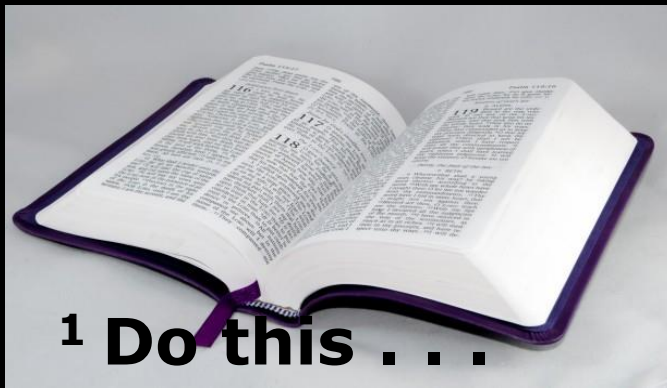
- Young preacher in Fift District, Scotland: preached NT Christianity 25 years before Thomas Campbell was born

America, as early as 1792

- James O'Kelley, Methodist preacher (N. Carolina): pleading that people "put away all other books and let this [NT] be the only criterion."
- Manakintown Methodist Church: in 1794, called "Christian Church" with Bible as its only creed, Christ as its only head, "Let names and parties fall."

Mt.7:15-20, by their fruits...

- Ro.8:16, ¹Holy Spirit with ²our spirit



- NT is standard
- We examine ourselves by it
- Illustrated: 1 Th.2:13 . . . 1:6-9

Loyalty to Christ, not 'movement'

- Men in a movement were not inspired
- They differed among themselves



