



**SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH**  
**"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 34 YEARS"**



# THE CORNERSTONE

April 2016

Becoming a Christian doesn't mark the end of your battle with sin and temptation; In many ways, it marks the beginning. ...A tragedy is A Calamity that results from a wrong decision based upon a flawed character. (DW/Page 28.3/23/16)



## *Ladies Friendship Luncheon*

*Saturday, April 30, 2016*

*11:00 AM to 1:30 PM*

*Speaker will be Rachel Norris– Potter*

*Rachel will be demonstrating her talent as she speaks.*

Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

*Jeremiah 18:2*

*You are encouraged to invite a friend or two to enjoy this time of fellowship and to hear Rachel's Testimony. (Invitations are on the table in the foyer)*

Rachel will have her spinning wheel with a lump of clay, and she will explain how the Potter wedges the clay, puts it on the wheel, carefully guides it and shapes it, and makes it into a raw, beautiful, but unfinished piece.

Rachel explains the steps that she takes to make and mold each pottery piece and as she is making her artwork look effortless, she shares how the molding the pottery applies to our lives, AND how God molds each of us into the perfect mold as He chooses. Rachel will share her personal testimony of trials and redemption through Jesus Christ.

**Sign up now at the Ladies display Table in the Foyer...**





## Missionaries of the Month



### James F. Myers Ministries

James F. Myers Ministries' primary purpose is to train national Christian leaders in the former Soviet Bloc countries and other nations. The primary focus of the ministry is in Kiev, Ukraine, where the ministry started Word of God Bible Church and founded Word of God Bible College. The Ministries also conduct conferences and workshops in other countries, traveling regularly to Zambia and Brazil, and in many other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

### Word of God Bible College

Word of God Bible College, founded in the year 2000, offers an intensive program of Theology, Bible study, Greek, Hebrew, hermeneutics, missions and evangelism, Church history and other subjects. The goal is not only to teach these subjects but to prepare students to be able to study on their own.

The faculty is made up mostly of pastors—men who have a deep understanding of Bible and theology, but who also have a good grasp of what ministry requires.

Instructors for Word of God Bible College all have academic credentials as well as hands-on experience and are involved in on-going local church ministries as pastors, teachers, elders, evangelists, or administrators. The instructors serve not only as teachers but as role models to our students. It is our goal to ultimately have enough nationals trained sufficiently that they can teach on a Bible college level so that the school is not dependent on foreign teachers.



### Word of God Bible Church



Word of God Church began as a home Bible study but soon grew too large for the apartment. Many of the people were new Christians who needed to have a church home. So a new church was planted. There was no trained leadership, no Sunday school teachers, no Sunday school materials. Through the years these areas have been developed so that today it is truly a Ukrainian church with Ukrainian leadership and teachers. In addition to regular church services (Sunday morning and evening) and weekly Bible studies (Wednesday and Friday), there are training classes for evangelism, Sunday school teachers, and leadership. Ministries in Zambia and

Brazil.

The **James F. Myers Ministries A Ministry** is now supported by Sugar Land Bible Church



Andy Woods—Pastor

## THE LAST DAYS APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH (Part 1)

Many other topics would be more pleasant to write about rather than the last days apostasy of the church. It would be far easier to talk about the positive topic of God's love rather than something as negative as apostasy. Yet, this subject must be broached since it is part of God's message in the Bible. In fact, this series will contend that it is impossible to understand God's plan for the end times without understanding what Scripture reveals about the last days apostasy of the church.

Let's begin with a definition of apostasy. The English word apostasy is derived from two Greek words. The first word is the preposition *apo*, which means "away from." The second word is the verb *histēmi*, which means, "to stand." Thus, apostasy means, "to stand away from." Apostasy refers to a departure from known or previously embraced truth. The subject of apostasy has little to do with the condition of the unsaved world, which has always rejected divine truth and therefore has nothing from which to depart. Rather, apostasy pertains to the spiritual temperature within God's church. While some might think that apostasy relates to some external factor such as whether the economy is up or down, the subject of biblical apostasy relates to internal church conditions.

Because comprehension of what Scripture reveals concerning apostasy is critical toward completely understanding God's end-time program, this series will develop several general characteristics of apostasy. They include the following: apostasy is a sign of the last days, is warned against repeatedly in the New Testament, impacts every major doctrine, is internal, knows no limits in terms of who becomes involved in it, can happen quickly, is satanically energized, is destructive, makes life difficult for the man of God, and can be guarded against.

### A Sign of the Last Days

Apostasy is a sign of the last days of the church. When we speak of the signs of the end, many subjects come to mind such as the return of the Jews to their land or the trend toward one-world government. However, these kinds of signs concern God's future program for Israel rather than the church. Apostasy is another sign, often taking place right under our noses, which we fail to recognize as a sign of the end. Apostasy is the specific scriptural sign given indicating that the church is nearing the completion of her earthly mission.

Second Timothy 3:1 says, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come." Paul's words to Timothy here are important since this letter represents Paul's last will and testament. Because they were given just prior to the apostle's death (2 Tim 4:6), they represent a time in his life when he was most serious. Also, this book, along with 1 Tim and Titus, is a pastoral epistle designed to give young Timothy apostolic guidance regarding how to pastor God's church. Here, Paul does not predict a last days revival but rather the coming of dangerous times. Later on in the same chapter Paul explains, "But evil men and imposters *will grow worse and worse*, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim 3:13; italics added). Thus, Paul in this final letter seems to be anticipating an increasing drifting away from truth throughout the church age.

The prediction of growing apostasy throughout the present age can also be seen in the eight Matthew 13 parables. In Matt 12, it is apparent that Israel was going to reject her king and His offer of the kingdom. Israel's religious leaders had even attributed Christ's miracles to Satan (Matt 12:24). Thus, in Matt 13, Christ through the use of eight parables outlines the course of a new intervening age to elapse in between Israel's rejection of the king and when she will accept Him in the future. This new age represents truth unrevealed in prior revelation (Matt 13:16-17). While encompassing the church age (which exists in between the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 and the rapture), this new era extends beyond it as well. It begins with Israel's formal rejection of Christ's kingdom offer (prior to Acts 2) and ends when Israel accepts her king (after the rap-



ture). When taken together, these eight parables describe the course of this new era.

The parable of the sower teaches that the gospel will be preached throughout the new age with various results depending upon how the hearer's heart has been prepared (13:1-9, 18-23). The parable of the wheat and the tares teaches that it will be difficult to distinguish between the saved and the unsaved throughout professing Christendom and a separation between them will not transpire until the age's conclusion (13:24-30, 36-43). The parable of the mustard seed teaches that Christendom will experience great numerical and geographic expansion from a humble beginning (13:31-32). The parable of the leaven working its way through the meal teaches that professing Christendom will experience increasing moral and doctrinal corruption as the age progresses (13:33).

This parable is the most important in terms of predicting increasing apostasy throughout the present age. Unfortunately, many interpreters miss this crucial point by interpreting the leaven as something good rather than evil. Walvoord explains:

What does the leaven represent? Postmillenarians and amillenarians... usually assume dogmatically that leaven cannot represent evil in the parable, although it is universally used to represent evil in both the Old and New Testaments... It is more evident than ever in the last third of the twentieth century that the gospel has not permeated the world and that evil tends to permeate the entire professing church, which is exactly what Matthew 13 teaches. In the Old Testament leaven is consistently used to represent evil... In the New Testament, leaven was used by Christ of the externalism of the Pharisees, of the unbelief of the Sadducees, and of the worldliness of the Herodians, and in general of evil doctrine (Mt 16:6-12; Mk 8:14-21). In Paul's letters, likewise, leaven represents evil, as in 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 and Galatians 5:7-10. In the parable, the meal represents that which is good... The professing church, however, is permeated by evil doctrine, externalism, unbelief, and worldliness, which tends to inflate the church and make it larger in appearance, even as the leaven inflates the dough but actually adds nothing of real worth. The history of the church has all too accurately fulfilled this anticipation, and the professing church in the world, large and powerful though it may be, is permeated by the leaven of evil which will be judged in the oven of divine judgment at the end of the age... To some extent, evil will extend even to... the body of true believers in the church as well as those that come to Christ after the rapture... even true believers fall far short of perfection and can embrace to some extent worldliness, externalism, and bad doctrine.

Toussaint similarly notes:

The discussion revolves around the significance of the word "leaven" (*zymē*). Many contend that leaven is used here in a good sense and pictures the spread of the gospel throughout the earth. Others state that the word represents evil and is used to illustrate the growth of evil within the group which professes to inherit the kingdom. This latter interpretation has the stronger support. It is consistent with the doctrine of Scripture concerning the evil character of the end of the church age and the tribulation (1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 3; Jude; 2 Peter 3; Revelation 6-19). One of the greatest supports for the interpretation that leaven speaks of evil is the use of the word in Scripture. Invariably leaven pictures sin (Exodus 12; Leviticus 2:11; 6:17; 10:12; Matthew 16:12; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9). Finally the verb used here, "to hide"... is very unusual if leaven represents good. It is a much more fitting word if leaven is to have a sinister effect. This is similar to the idea in the parable of the wheat and the darnel. The way the woman hides the leaven in the meal parallels very closely the manner in which the enemy sowed darnel by night. This parable reveals the fact that evil will run its course and dominate the new age. But it also indicates that when the program of evil has been fulfilled, the kingdom will come.

The parable of the hidden treasure teaches that national Israel (Exod 19:5) will remain in unbelief only to be converted at the age's conclusion (13:44). The pearl of great price teaches that the Lord will gain a treasure from among the Gentiles throughout the interadvent age (13:45-46). The parable of the dragnet teaches the



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

There is tremendous confusion in the church today regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This may be caused by the influence of the Charismatic Movement, by an American emphasis on pragmatism, and on a distortion of the role of the Spirit in the progressive sanctification of the believer. In this series, beginning in March, teacher Bob Graper will address the misrepresentation of the Spirit's work, and the overemphasis on the miraculous.

The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation. He provides access to God. He glorifies Christ and guides the believer. He ministers through believers and their spiritual gifts. And He strengthens believers and intercedes for them.

Galatians 5:16 says, *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."* If that Paul's recommendation, then how do we walk by the Spirit? In Ephesians 5:18 he says, *"be filled with the Spirit."* What does that mean? How is it accomplished? Is it a one-time event, or a continuous process?

A Spirit-filled life can be recognized. If you are walking by the Spirit you will experience the fruit of the Spirit. A person who is not experiencing love, joy, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control is not walking in the Spirit. How do we accomplish that? Come and find out.

C:\Users\Robert Graper\Documents\Bible Studies\Whatever Happened to the Holy Spirit\Advertising Blurb.docx

## Scripture for the Month: 1 Samuel 15:22-23

So Samuel said: "Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *And* to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from *being* king."



same message as the wheat and tares or the co-existence of good and evil only to be separated at the age's conclusion (13:47-50). The parable of the householder depicting the man bringing both new and old treasures from his house teaches that these parables describing fresh and new truths about the course of the present age must be considered alongside what prior revelation teaches about the future kingdom in order to understand God's total program (13:51-52).

Thus, the present age represents a period when the gospel is preached resulting in the salvation of some. However, a counterfeit sowing will also take place. Despite God's work throughout the church age, Christendom will experience an increasing doctrinal and moral corruption. Therefore, the teaching concerning the increasing apostasy of the church can be found not only in Paul's final letter but also in the Matthew 13 parables.

This teaching on the apostasy of the church does not mean that God cannot sovereignly send refreshing waves of revival and reformation, as He has done at various times. However, these refreshing seasons are not the norm but rather occur only intermittently throughout church history. Also, a proper understanding of apostasy represents a worldview that is diametrically opposed to "kingdom now" theology, which is the idea that the church will gradually Christianize the world thereby ushering in long-term cultural progress. The only way "kingdom-now" theology can be defended from Scripture is to ignore what the New Testament predicts concerning the apostasy of the church.

(To be continued...)

John F. Walvoord, *Matthew: Thy Kingdom Come* (Chicago: Moody, 1974), 102-4.

Stanley D. Toussaint, *Behold the King: A Study of Matthew* (Portland: Multnomah, 1980; reprint, Grand Rapids, Kregel, 2005), 182.

**Friday, April 15, 2016**

**6:30 to 9:30 PM**

**Safari Texas Ranch, 11627 Fm 1464**

**Richmond, Texas**

**There will be live entertainment, a silent and live auction, Hand-painted bowls for purchase.**

**Tickets are on sale now. Price of tickets \$40.00**

**For Tickets:** See Your Board Representative,

Pat Chandler—95% of proceeds goes to Ministry to help our Fort Bend County neighbors who are struggling to provide basic necessities for their families. Guest will be served a simple meal of soup and bread provided by several area restaurants in recognition and support of those who don't have enough food to eat. For more information contact *Pat Chandler* or call *East Fort Human Needs* at 281-261-1006 or go on line at [www.HumanNeeds.org](http://www.HumanNeeds.org)



**benefiting East Fort Bend  
Human Needs Ministry**

*The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:*

*[earlbudc@att.net](mailto:earlbudc@att.net) or send information to Carol Henry at [Carol@SLBC.org](mailto:Carol@SLBC.org)*



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## The Brightest Week of the Summer!

- J New friends J Amazing experiments
- J Spelunker Sports J Lip-smacking snacks
- J Surprising adventures J Incredible music

**Monday June 6, 2016 - Friday June 10, 2016**

**9:00 am-12:30 pm**

**Sugar Land Bible Church\***

**401 Matlage Way**

**Sugar Land, Tx**

\*For More Information contact the Church at: 281-491-7773

# Sugar Land Bible Church 2016 Men's Annual Expedition



To be held at Frontier Camp in  
Grapeland, Tx.

April 22-24

Your Speaker will be Ed Allsteadt



This year's Annual Men's Expedition on **April 22-24, 2016**, will be held at Frontier Camp near Crockett, Texas, and will feature a series titled "Unveiling Islam for the Evangelist". Ed Allsteadt will be leading four sessions on Saturday and the final session on Sunday about this subject. All men and teenage boys are invited to attend (also your friends and family members who do not attend SLBC)—please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the foyer. Transportation is not provided (nor is dinner on Friday evening), but rides are often shared amongst those who attend (usually with a meal on the way) —if you would like a ride, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet, which will be in the foyer the next several Sundays.

The Expedition begins Friday evening with a brief introductory session at about 8:00 PM. The teaching sessions and activities start with breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday, followed by two sessions with breaks before lunch, one session after lunch with recreation to follow (with a number of potential activities for groups and individuals), dinner is served about 6:00 PM, with another session thereafter. We end the Saturday program with a campfire. Sunday morning, we will have one session before we pack up and head home before noon (lunch is not provided at Camp). **The cost of the camp is \$100 per person, but scholarships are available (if needed, see an elder).**

Here is the agenda for the series of teaching:

Session one is: **Putting the beginning of Islam in the proper historical context.** Detailing the conditions and culture of pre-Islamic Arabia will set the stage for the rise of Islam. Arabia was in a condition of political unrest with Jewish, heretical Christians, and pagans all competing for power just at the time when Mohammed came to adulthood.

Session two is: **Mohammed's revelation to retaliation.** The early "revelations" of Mohammed are completely opposite of the later ones. This session will feature the reasons and results of the transformation.

Session three is: **Confusion and conquest.** The death of Mohammed brought initial rebellion and the following subjugation sheds light on the true purpose of Islam.

Session four is: **Modern day resurgence.** Sense the elimination of the Ottoman Caliphate on March 3, 1924, fundamental Muslims have desired the return of a worldwide Islamic Caliphate. This session will examine who is motivating the most aggressive Islamic push in a century.

Session five is: **Evangelizing the lost.** The main purpose of the series is to equip the believer with the background to be used as an instrument for evangelizing the Muslim. This session is culmination and exhortation.

We hope to see you there!

Ed Allsteadt and Ed Jones