

The Church – Part 16 **Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived** **The Book of Acts**

Today I'd like to pick up where we left off last time as we were talking about the great changes that have come about in local churches today. I'm going to entitle this section of study to this... "Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived" as our title for this.

If you'll remember, the last time I spoke about contemporary music doing things and bringing changes to local churches. I talked about several of the churches, how that things have changed at Highland Park Baptist Church, Landmark Baptist Church, and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fairfax, Virginia, and Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. These churches were once pillars of the faith but they seem to have gone by the way of the world now, trusting in manmade schemes in order to bring people in or entertainment or whatever you would call it. They've changed.

One of the churches that I had attended, was a member of, and the school is one of my alma maters. I attended Thomas Road Bible Institute and graduated from that school. At that time Thomas Road Bible Institute was a part of Lynchburg Baptist College, which later became Liberty Baptist College and in 1985 the name changed from Liberty Baptist College to Liberty University.

During this time, Thomas Road Bible Institute... during the time I was there, men and women of God were brought in to teach and preach the Word of God. Liberty University now in 2015 has rock musicians coming in to entertain the students. When I was a student at Thomas Road Bible Institute,

men and women of God were brought in to teach and preach the Word of God.

When I was a member of Thomas Road Baptist Church, it was a fundamental, independent, King James Version, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching Baptist church. It is now an anything-goes-to-get-a-crowd Southern Baptist entertainment center. By the way, Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University now have charismatics and homosexual sympathizers entertaining church members and students. God help us.

There are many things that can be said, and as we think of how these churches have gone, sometimes we get discouraged, but I've got news for you. God's not finished yet. God is still on the throne, and He's still in charge. One of these days, I believe, we're going to still see revival in this country. You and I who hold to the Word of God and do what God wants us to do according to His plan and His message, those of us who stick to the Word and pray and seek God's face, I believe that we're going to see a great revival, but we need to keep praying and we need to realize and keep realizing that it's not by might nor by power but "It's by My Spirit," God says, that anything is done for Him.

It's by Him. It's through Him, only by Him, not manmade ways of getting people saved. We can't save anyone. It's by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's by giving the Word of God out, telling people how to be saved through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's by the blood of Christ that anyone is saved and goes to Heaven.

There are many ways a local church can be led astray. One way a local church can be led astray is to stray from the basic fundamentals of the Bible, and the basic fundamentals of the Bible are found in the Bible. We're witnessing a widespread collapse of separatism. When you say that word around someone who has gone "contemporary," they automatically... it seems that the hair goes up on their neck and they say, "Uh-huh, you separate from everybody. You think everybody's wrong." Well, might I say that they're wrong, because separatism is not that at all. We're to go out and tell people how to be saved. We're to be separate from the world, not live like the world, act like the world, look like the world, smell like the world, and be like the world, but we're to be as God has told us to be.

Over the past fifty years, fundamental Baptists have composed the largest part of those who proclaim standards for the Christian found in the Bible. Fundamental Baptist churches today, in general, are radically different in character from what they were when I was saved in 1972. What is happening now among many fundamental Baptist churches is exactly what happened within evangelicalism in the 1950s. It is the rejection of separation... this means Bible standards... in favor of liberalism, anything goes, and so forth.

When I was saved over forty years ago, the major thing that distinguished fundamental Baptists from Southern Baptists was Biblical separation standards, but that distinction is disappearing with the merging of philosophy among many independent Baptist churches and the Southern Baptist denomination. This rejection of separation is sweeping through fundamental Baptist churches, and I am convinced that, unless there is a dramatic change, more and more fundamental Baptist churches and "Christian schools" will be

adopting the philosophies of the new evangelical emerging church movement.

Many local churches today are being overshadowed and replaced with what is called the Purpose Driven Church. Dr. Rick Warren stated on May 23, 2005, at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life: "The word 'fundamentalist' actually comes from a document in the 1920s called 'The Five Fundamentals of the Faith,' and it is a very legalistic narrow view of Christianity."

What fundamentals was he referring to? It seems that he's saying we don't need those things because they're legalistic and a narrow view of Christianity. Those five fundamentals first of all is, number one, the Bible. That's the first fundamental that he's talking about, the Bible. In other words, he's saying that it's legalistic and has a narrow view of Christianity. Can you imagine someone saying that? The Bible talks about, you know... we look at it and we read it and we know that it is inerrant. There are no mistakes. There are no mistakes in the Bible. Now, let me say this, that you'll find mistakes in the perversions, the so-called "versions" of the Bible.

In II Timothy 3:15-16, it says: *¹⁵And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

In Luke 24:27, Christ did this; He quoted, *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.* This was Christ doing this.

So, are the Scriptures important? Is the Bible important? Yes, it is. But Rick Warren uses about I don't know how many different "versions" and perversions he uses and quotes from, but how is an unsaved person supposed to know what is right and what is wrong? I've heard some say, "Well, you Christians, you don't even know what Bible to use. How am I supposed to know what's right and what's wrong?" I'll tell you how to know what's right and what's wrong. You stick with the tried and true, the proven Word of God, and I believe that is the King James Bible. The Bible is inerrant. There are no mistakes. And it has full authority.

Romans 10:11 says, *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.* Did you notice the word "scripture"?

II Peter 1:21: *For the prophecy... that's Scripture... came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

Acts 18:28: *For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*

If you don't use the Scriptures, how are you going to show that Christ is Jesus and Jesus is the Christ?

Psalms 119:161: *Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*

What is the Bible? It's the Word of God. It's the Holy Scriptures. It's what God has given us to present to this lost and dying world. So, the first fundamental that Rick Warren evidently is saying here is legalistic is the Bible.

And the second fundamental is Jesus Christ. The Bible tells me that there was a virgin birth

that took place. Luke 1:34-35 says, *34Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

Isaiah 7:14: *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

And let me stop there just a moment and say that those perversions that leave out that word "virgin" are perversions. That word "virgin"... *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold...* and they say, "Behold a young woman shall conceive." Well, the Bible says, *Behold, a virgin shall conceive....* She was a virgin. She had never been with a man. The Holy Ghost came upon her and we know that Christ was born of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:23 says, *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

Matthew 1:18: *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

Jesus Christ, according to what Rick Warren has said... well, that's just a fundamental that's unimportant anymore. The inerrant Word of God, that's the Bible, the virgin birth... well, that's not important anymore, he says.

And we see as we read on that Jesus was deity. He was given divine names, names that can only be given to God. Isaiah 9:6: *For unto us*

a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Let me ask you today, have you trusted the Prince of Peace? Do you know Him as your Savior? The Lord wants you to be saved. He wants you to know His Son as Savior. You need to ask God to save you today by saying, "Lord, come into my heart. I receive You, Jesus, as my Savior. I believe You died on the cross. I believe You were buried, and I believe You rose from the grave that I could have eternal life. Come into my heart and save me today."

If you'll pray that prayer, God will save you. He says, to as many as received Him, that's Jesus, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.