

As Believers in Christ,  
***WHO Are We?***

Presented at  
The 2020 Bible Conference  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Killeen, TX  
Pastor Robert Sperbeck

Presented by  
Evangelist, Dr. Randy Starr  
March 1-4, 2020

## *Introduction:*

Welcome to Tabernacle Baptist Church's 2020 Bible Conference, our prayer is that this conference will be a blessing to you. This conference answers many questions Christians have about Bible doctrine and will ground you in God's truth. All the messages preached during this conference will be available online for download from **Sermonaudio.com** following the conference. Below we have shared some links to additional resources for your spiritual growth. If you have any questions during the conference Dr. Randy Starr and I are available to answer any questions. May God bless during this special time of learning.

Sincerely,

Robert Sperbeck  
*Senior Pastor*

### **Links to Resources:**

Starr Publications (Dr. and Mrs. Randy Starr) - [www.starr-publications.com](http://www.starr-publications.com)

Way of Life Literature (Dr. David Cloud) – [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

Ultimate Goal Publications (Dr. Jerry Ross) – [www.stayinthecastle.org](http://www.stayinthecastle.org)

Fairhaven Baptist College – [www.fairhavenbaptistcollege.org](http://www.fairhavenbaptistcollege.org)

## Why am I a Dispensationalist?

Sunday School

### I. The Meaning of “Dispensation” “Stewardship” or “House rules”

### II. The List of Dispensations

Who? Pierre Poiret (1700s), John Edwards, Isaac Watts, John Darby (Plymouth Brethren, 1800’s), C.I. Scofield  
Depending on who you read, they will divide the Dispensations into 7, 8 or 9 periods of time.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Man under Innocence</b> —man in the garden before the fall  | Innocence lost                      |
| 2. <b>Man under Conscience</b> —From the fall to the flood  | Conscience defiled                  |
| 3. <b>Man under Human Government</b> —From the flood to the tower of Babel                                    | Societal disorder                   |
| 4. <b>Man under Promise</b> —From Abraham to the giving of the law  | Promises sought by flesh            |
| 5. <b>Man under the Law</b> —From Moses to the coming of Christ.  | Law broken                          |
| 6. <b>Man under Grace</b> —From Christ to the end of the church age at the Rapture-                           | Apostasy                            |
| 7. <b>Man under Judgment</b> —From the Rapture to Christ’s second coming—                                     | The 7 yr Great Tribulation          |
| 8. <b>Man under Christ’s Rule</b> —From His Second Coming to earth until Satan is loosed- Remnant rebels 20:7 | 8 is God’s number of new beginnings |

A case could be made for a ninth dispensation of a new beginning called...

#### I. **Man in the New Heavens and the New Earth**—From the Great White Throne to Eternity

### III. The Alternatives to Dispensationalism

#### A. **Covenant Theology**

1. Who? Reformed churches, Covenant churches, many Presbyterian and some Baptist
2. Belief? They believe in two covenants (this varies from group to group):
  - a. **The Covenant of Works** under which Adam lived and fell.
  - b. **The Covenant of Grace** –from the Fall of Adam to the present; No difference between the OT and the NT.

#### B. **Ultradispensationalism**

1. Who? Bullinger, Stam, Berean Bible Society, Grace Mission, Grace Bible College (Grand Rapids, MI)
2. Belief? They overextend the teaching on dispensations to believe that...
  - a. The church began in Acts 15 or Acts 28, NOT in Acts 2.
  - b. Therefore, water baptism and communion ended before the church began.
  - c. Paul’s writings are higher than the Gospels and what Christ said.

### IV. The Core Dangers of Covenant Theology

- A. **Their view of Israel and the church**—They say Israel in the NT refers to the church, not the nation.
- B. **Their view of Bible Interpretation**—i.e., allegorical when they want; not literal
- C. **A Shortsighted View of God’s Purposes**—i.e., salvation only

### V. The Practical Dangers of Covenant Theology

#### A. **Prophetical Heresies**

1. Oppose a Pre-Tribulation Rapture
2. Amillennial view—(“A” = not)—no millennium. They say His Kingdom is only spiritual.
3. Postmillennial view—(“post” = after)—Some believe that Christ won’t return until AFTER the millennium.

**B. Hypercalvinistic Doctrine**—Many of them believe that God chooses some to be saved and some lost..

**C. A Belief that Children of Christians will become a Christian**—i.e., God saves households -covenant.

**D. A Disdain for and no Biblical commitment to the nation of Israel**

**E. A Dutiful, but NOT urgent view toward Revival and Evangelism**

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## Why am I a Christian?

Morning Service

### I. Christians were Disciples of Christ -Acts 11:26

Acts 11:26b "... And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

- A. "Christian" refers to all who have been saved by the grace of God.
- B. Disciples in that day (& today) were called by less desirable names. E.g., Nazarenes Acts 24:5
- C. Disciples are "students under a teacher." They are learners; students. Matt. 6:33

### II. Christians were also Followers of Christ.

As students, we learn the highest teachings; As followers, we learn the highest pathway! Jn. 16:13

- A. Christians follow Christ FIRST in Salvation. Acts 26:28; Jn. 1:12; Prov. 8:33; Jn. 3:36; Heb. 2:3
- B. Christians follow Christ in Baptism by Immersion. Acts 8:12; 18:8
- C. Christians follow Christ in Church Attendance & Service through the church. Heb. 10:25
- D. Christians follow Christ in Bible Study and Prayer.
- E. Christians follow Christ in Witnessing to the lost. Jn. 8:12; Matt. 5:14; 4:19;

### III. Christians were Patterns after Christ. Eph. 5:1

1 Tim. 1:16; 4:12; 1 Pet. 2:21

- A. Christ had an excellent Attitude toward life and people.
- B. Christ lived without any sinful actions.
- C. Christ lived without guile in His speech.

### IV. Christian were NOT Ashamed.

- A. They were not Ashamed of Christ.
  - 1. They were not ashamed of Paul being in Jail. 2 Tim. 1:16;
  - 2. They were not ashamed of their sufferings for Christ. 2 Tim. 1:12;
  - 3. They were not ashamed of the testimony of Christ. 2 Tim. 1:8;
  - 4. How to overcome being ashamed:
    - a. Bible Study 2 Tim. 2:15
    - b. Witnessing Rom. 1:16; Phil. 1:20
- B. They were willing to be ridiculed & persecuted for being a Christian. 1 Pet. 4:16; Rom. 8:35-37
- C. They were also killed for being a Christian. E.g., James beheaded; Paul; the Apostles; Peter

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## Why am I a Baptist? Evening Service

**2 Thessalonians 2:15** “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”

We are Baptist by doctrinal conviction. Baptists hold to 8 Bible truths.

### I. Biblical Authority

- |                                  |  |                   |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| A. The Bible is Inspired by God. | Inspired means “God breathed.”           | 2 Tim. 3:16       |
| B. The Bible is Infallible.      | Infallible means “Unfailingly accurate.” | Matt. 24:35; 5:18 |
| C. The Bible is Inerrant.        | Inerrant means “free from errors.”       | Prov. 30:5        |

### II. Autonomy of the Local Church

- A. Christ is the Head of His church. - Col. 1:18
- B. Every local church is free from every other local church.

### III. Priesthood of all Believers

- A. No believer has to go through a priest on earth to get to God. - 1 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 4:16
- B. Every believer is a priest in the New Testament.

### IV. Two Ordinances of the Church

- A. Baptism is a Command of Christ for believers to obey. - Matt. 28:19
  - 1. Baptism is ONLY for Believers in Christ. - 1 Cor. 1:14, 17
  - 2. Baptism doesn't save or else we'd be saved by a work.
  - 3. Baptism FOLLOWS salvation and occurs only once. - Acts. 8:36-37; Rom. 6:4
  - 4. Baptism symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, & resurrection.
  - 5. Baptism MUST BE BY IMMERSION. - Acts 8:38; John 3:23
- B. The Lord's Table is commanded to be repeated. - 1 Cor. 11
  - The two elements we partake of are the bread and the cup.
  - The bread reminds us of His Body while the cup reminds us of His blood shed for us.

### V. Individual Soul Liberty - Phil. 2:12; Gal. 5:1

### VI. Saved Church Membership

**Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- A. All people are lost and going to Hell.
- B. Therefore, we must aggressively try to tell them about Christ and His salvation.

### VII. Two Offices in the Local Church

**Phil. 1:1** Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the **saints** in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops and deacons**:

We believe that a church can have two offices: The Pastor and Deacons. - Acts 6:3-7; 1 Tim. 2

### VIII. Separation of Church & State - Matt. 16:18

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## Why am I an Evangelical?

Matt. 28:19-20

### I. Our Experience - Acts 16:31

Our experience is salvation. We are evangelicals in experience.

### II. Our Message - 1 Thess. 2:4; 1 Tim. 1:11

- A. The Meaning of "Gospel"      The Greek word is Euangelion
- B. Gospel means "Good News." - Luke 2:10-11
- C. What is the "Good News?" - 1 Cor. 15:3-4

### III. Our Mission - Mark 13:10

- A. God is not willing that any should perish. - 2 Pet. 3:9
- B. How will the lost hear without someone telling them? - Rom. 10:14
- C. So, God instructed everyone of us to GO & tell them.

We are Evangelicals. But we are also Fundamentalists.

## Why am I a Fundamentalist?

Jude 1:3

### I. The History

We were called Baptists LONG before we were called Fundamentalists.  
Baptist ~ our doctrine and practice.    Fundamentalist ~our unwillingness to compromise.

- A. 1800s Bible believers were called Evangelicals.
- B. Liberal thought began to bombard Europe and America.
- C. 1909 -*The Fundamentals* written & sent. The term "Fundamentalist" was born.
- D. Withdrawal from Liberal groups is called "separation."
- E. Examples of Separation:      J. Frank Norris; Dick Wilson, J. Gresham Machen
- F. Non-Separatists organize:      National Assoc. of Evangelicals (NAE) of 1940;  
Promoted Fuller Theological Seminary, Christianity Today, & Billy Graham
- G. In 1948, Ockenga (to the NAE convention) called their group, "the New Evangelicals."  
Today, the NAE is made up of:
  - Lutherans              some Baptists      Mennonites      Brethren churches      Presbyterians,
  - Church of God      Reformed              Nazarenes      Holiness groups      Salvation Army
  - EFree churches      Free Methodists      Foursquare      Pentecostals      Open Bible chs
  - The Vineyard
- H. Update of New Evangelicals today

Fundamentalism is defined by its history. We'll continue in our next session.

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## Why am I a Fundamentalist?

Jude 1:3 The Fundamentalist is defined by History. Then, we are defined by ...

### II. Our Doctrines - Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 3:16; 4:3

- A. Early Fundamentalist defined 5 doctrines as essential:  
Inspiration/Inerrancy of the Bible; Deity of Christ/Virgin Birth; Atonement/Subst. Death of Christ  
Bodily resurrection of Christ; Second Coming of Christ to earth
- B. In 1919 the World Christian Fundamental Assoc. highlighted at least 12 doctrines.  
They said that no true fundamentalist would restrict required beliefs to just 5 doctrines.
- C. In 1976 the World Congress on Fundamentalism further defined Fundamentalism.

This was a much improved list, but omitted clear Bible doctrines for the sake of unity.

E.g., Water baptism of believers by immersion	The 8 Baptist Distinctives
Pretrib Rapture of the church	Commitment to the KJV
Local Church vs. Universal church	Style of Worship and music

We are defined by our history, doctrines, and...

### III. Our Separation

2 Cor. 6:17; Matt. 12:34; 23:23a-24, 27a; John 2:13-16; Rom. 16:17;  
Gal. 2:11; Eph 5:11; 2 Th. 3:6, 14-15; 1 Tim. 1:20; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 3:5; 4:14-15;  
Titus 1:13; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 1:9-11; 3 John 1:9; Rev. 2:2, 14-15

Should a Bible Preacher rebuke sin and error publicly?

1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:13-14; 2:15

Fundamentalists are defined by our history, doctrines, separation, and...

### IV. Those who are NOT Fundamentalists

- A. **Liberal, Modernists, or Apostates** do not believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible & are mostly members of the NCC, not Fundamentalists. National Council of Church members are:

African Methodist Episcopal (AME)	Evangelical Lutheran
Alliance of Baptists	Friends
American & National Baptist Chs	Greek Orthodox
Christian Church (Disciples of X)	Moravian Churches
Church of the Brethren	Presbyterian USA
Reformed Church of America	United Church of Christ
Episcopal church (ch of England)	United Methodist Church ... 24 more

- B. **Neo-Orthodox** belief is one step down.  
They would say they believe like us but redefine terms. They believe the Bible contains the Word of God.
- C. **New Evangelical** used to believe like us without any separation. Many of them have given up much more ground today and wouldn't say the Bible is inerrant or infallible.

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## Why am I an Separatist?

2 Cor. 6:17; Josh. 3:5

### I. The Purpose of Separation

Obedience to God. To be Holy as He is holy. - 1 Pet. 1:16  
Not to give ground to Satan. - Eph. 4:27

### II. Two Components of Separation

A. Inward Separation -UNTO THE LORD

Warning: Inward without External leads to compromise and worldliness. Faulty Grace.

B. External Separation

Warning: External without Inward leads to Pharisaism & Hypocrisy. We need both.

### III. The Bible Teaching on Separation

A. Separation in the Old Testament

Worship Ceremonial laws No idols

Morality Moral laws

Nation Civil laws

B. Separation in the New Testament - 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Pet. 2:9,11

### IV. Separation of Church & State - Eph. 5:23; Acts 5:29

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be controlled, approved, certified, or permitted by the government. It was not created by the government. It is not under gov't control.

### V. Ecclesiastical Separation from Compromise

A. We are not to league with the world. - 1 John 2:15

B. We are not to league with false teachers. - Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Pet. 2:1

C. We are not to league with disobedient brethren. - 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15

### VI. Personal Separation from Worldliness

A. Dress -Men dressing like women and vice versa are an abomination to the Lord. Deut 22:5  
(What are other things that are an abomination to the Lord?)

B. Modesty is the other rule in dress and behavior. - 1 Tim. 2:9-10

C. The hair is to identify the person's gender. - 1 Cor. 11:14-15

D. Bible Versions -Only the KJV - Prov. 22:6; 2 Cor. 6:17; Josh. 3:5

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