

FOREWORD

It is my joy to write the Foreword to this work on Fundamentalism. This publication is dedicated to the memory of Pastor Richard Anderson. Pastor Anderson was the pastor not only of one of the authors, Ken Brooks, but also was my pastor, during the years in which Ken Brooks and I were members of Calvary Independent Baptist Church of Tilton, NH. It was our privilege to be under a ministry where the man of God taught us the importance of all the Words of God and to measure everything by the Bible, regardless of the cost. Pastor Anderson taught us that our loyalty must be to the Words of God and not to a man or an institution. Isaiah 8:20 says, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." In keeping with the teaching of Isaiah 8:20, Pastor Anderson repeatedly said, "What does the Bible say?"

Not only did Pastor Anderson teach a loyalty to all the Words of God, but also he was one of the first to say of himself that he was not a Fundamentalist, but that rather he was a Biblicist, meaning that he stood for all that the Bible taught instead of just standing for the Fundamentals of the Faith. Indeed, the Bible teaches that "every word of God is pure" (Proverbs 30:5) and that man shall live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Jude likewise exhorts believers that they "should earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). The teaching of these verses is clear—believers need to stand for all the Words of God, not just for the Fundamentals of the Faith. Christ further emphasized the necessity of standing for all the Words of God in the Great Commission wherein He gave the local church the responsibility to teach baptized converts to observe all things that He had taught (Matthew 28:20). The *all things* far exceeds the five to fourteen so-called Fundamentals of the Faith. The responsibility to observe all things also involves keeping or guarding the Words, which is the duty of the local church, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Timothy 3:15), and not the responsibility of some Fundamentalist institution, no matter how big that institution may be.

Speaking of the local church, the authors are committed to the primacy of the local church in doing God's work in this dispensation. Ken Brooks is a pastor of a local church and Dr. Aaron Strouse is a professor at Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary, which is a ministry of a local church. Working from within the context of the local church, the authors are well-qualified to provide a Biblical perspective on the subject of Fundamentalism. They point out quite aptly that Fundamentalism is not a friend to local churches.

What this publication reveals about Fundamentalism may come as a shock to some. However, if a person is willing to "prove all things" (I Thessalonians 5:21), I believe that he will come to see that the authors make valid, Biblical arguments against Fundamentalism. It behooves us to be more than Fundamentalists: we should be Biblicists, standing for all the Words of God, for "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Dr. Chester W. Kulus
Pastor of Calvary Independent Baptist Churches
of Lebanon, Plymouth, and Tilton, NH

PREFACE

The origins of this book lie partly in my struggles to reconcile the things taught me within Fundamentalism with those revealed in the Word of God. As a young Christian, I attended Bob Jones University, perhaps the foremost Fundamentalist school in the world, graduating with the conviction that faithfulness to Christ meant loyalty to Fundamentalism in general and to the University in particular.

The following years were times of great tension as I struggled with the discordance between the Fundamentalist model and mind-set for the Christian life and what the Bible teaches. The outcome of those struggles was a sermon preached in New Hampshire in 1995 entitled "The Seven Fatal Flaws of Fundamentalism."

Ten years later and after graduate studies at Emmanuel Baptist Theological Seminary in Newington, Connecticut, I was invited to contribute to the Seminary *Journal* a paper on a subject of my own choosing. Unsure at that time how an article on Fundamentalism would be received, I adapted the sermon material and submitted it for publication and was pleased that the Seminary chose to include it along with a companion piece by faculty member Dr. Aaron Strouse.

The *Journal* article in 2006 led to a Seminary lecture in 2007 and widening interest in the subject. Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, generously reprinted both my and Dr. Strouse's articles as pamphlets and then suggested they be expanded and published in book form. It is due largely to the interest and encouragement of the brethren there, particularly Bill Gotwals and Noel Meadowcroft, along with Pastor David Smith, that we now present this material to a wider audience.

Ken Brooks
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