

## Old Landmarkism – What is it?

### Chapter 10 – 30 Minutes

#### The Continuity of the Kingdom of Christ

[Dan 2:44] And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

[Mat 16:18] And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

[Heb 12:28] Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

Logic: “The fall of a kingdom is the disgrace of its founder.”

#### General Belief of Landmark Baptists about the Kingdom

For the Word of the living God to stand, and for the veracity of Jesus Christ to vindicate itself, the kingdom which He set up “in the days of John the Baptist,” has had an unbroken continuity until now.

#### False Charges Against the Landmark Belief

- The first Church established in Judea has had a continuous succession
- One of the Churches planted by the apostles has continued until now
- Baptist ministers are successors of the apostles
- Answer to Charges:

--- The apostles Never had a successor any more than John the Baptist had one.

--- Those who hold such views of succession oppose true Landmark teaching.

#### Nature of The True Kingdom

- Christ did establish a visible Kingdom on the earth.
- This Kingdom has never been “broken in pieces”.
- This Kingdom has never been given to another class of subjects.
- This Kingdom will never cease from the earth until Christ returns to reign over it.
- This organization is what John called “the Bride” and the Lord called His Church
- All true Churches on the earth constitute the Kingdom during any period of time.
- Since His Kingdom cannot exist without true Churches, they have remained too.

#### The Sense of Church Succession

- The Model and Pattern of all parts of an organization must be like the original.
- Though multitudes of local organizations have gone out of existence, yet others have moved into other areas and remained, so then its existence also remained.
- There has never been a need to restart baptism or the Church due to the scriptures
- “I understand that Christ’s declaration in Matt 16:18 and Paul’s in Heb 12:28 are emphatic commentaries upon the prophecy of Dan 2:44,” JR Graves.

#### It is Vital to Believe the Promise of God

- To question the continued existence of the Kingdom is to question God.
- If Christ has Not kept His promise concerning the Church to Keep It, THEN how can we trust Him concerning our own salvation to keep it?
- For Christians to admit that Christ has failed to preserve His Kingdom is to surrender the whole ground of truth to infidelity.
- We must deny that a man believes the Bible who denies this reasoning.

#### The Challenge Requiring Proof of Succession

- “Liberals” say we must prove a continuous succession for it to be true.
- “Infidels” might just as well call on us to prove succession back to Adam.
- Answer: we point to the promise of God in His Word as our proof.
- Until the Word of God can be destroyed, our hope is unshaken.
- Will “Liberal” brethren accept the words of Christ as sufficient?

#### Historical Statements by the Following Men are Contained in this Chapter

- J.W. Smith to Albert Barnes: The passage of the Church through obscurity
- J. Newton Brown in the *Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*
- Joseph Beleher in *Religious Denominations in Europe and America*
- Brother R.B.C. Howell in *Letters to Dr. Watson*
- David Benedict in *History of Baptists*
- Others including W.R. Williams; J.L. Waller, D.B. Ray, and Crump
- Testimony of J.J. Dermout and Professor Ypeig from Holland

#### Questions

1. Logically, what would the fall of the Kingdom of God do to God?
2. What must be true for the veracity of Jesus Christ to vindicate itself?
3. What false charge is raised against Churches started by the Apostles?
4. Which nature of the “True Kingdom” stands out to you?
5. What constitutes the Kingdom during any period of time?
6. What verses did Bro Graves believe were a commentary on Dan 2:44?
7. What do we do when we question the continued existence of the Kingdom?
8. If we fear Christ’s ability to keep the Kingdom what else should we fear?
9. What do we point to as sure proof of the continued existence of the Kingdom?
10. What would have to happen to shake our faith?