



GOD'S LIGHT FOR DARK TIMES

PASTOR STEVE'S NEWSLETTER #1

OCT. 2001

INTRODUCTION

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. Most of you who are receiving this newsletter are probably acquainted with me to some degree already. I have been a Christian since I was a boy of 9 years. I started preaching at 17 years old. I was asked to pastor a church at 21. In 1990 I graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Since then I have Pastored several churches. Also God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, Cynthia, and my quiver is full of 7 delightful children. They have been a great source of joy and blessing.

During my time of ministry I have had many difficult and heartrending experiences in the organized local church. After many years of much prayer, study of God's word, and reflection, God has caused me to come to many startling and amazing conclusions about the organized churches of America. I believe the Lord wants me to share my insights and grievances with other sincere Christians who truly desire Christ in a Biblical way. I believe the organized church can be a hindrance to fully following Christ. Below is my discussion and evaluation. Do not be too quick to judge me as a radical fanatic. I did not come to this evaluation in haste or presumptuously. It has taken many, many years of thoughtful prayer to reach my conclusion, one I had never wanted to reach. But one which the Holy Spirit has directed me to, which the Scripture has also confirmed. Below is my discussion and evaluation. Read it thoughtfully and prayerfully. Your future relationship with God may depend on whether you understand it or not.

Recently, the Lord has laid it on my heart to start a Christian newsletter that will proclaim the uncompromised Word of God to encourage and guide true Christians who are serious about following Jesus. We also need to evaluate the present times, the modern church, and modern Christianity with the Word to see if we are truly following Jesus Christ, or being led astray into something that may look like Christianity, but really isn't. It is our nature as fallen humans to be easily deceived, that is why Jesus warned us, "Let no man deceive you." I remember learning in seminary that scholars used a good criterion to figure out which of the ancient N. T. Greek manuscripts was most accurate. They figured the text that had the most difficult saying and was harder to understand most likely came from the original text, and thus was the most accurate. Keep that in mind as you read this. It is the nature of truth in an evil world full of sinners that the truth about anything, especially God, is usually the more difficult and unpopular perspective to embrace, because it rocks our boats and may cause us great inconvenience. I hope most of you will love the truth enough to ponder what I write.