



Old Stone Fence Landmark

## Landmarkism

Compiled by God and Recorded by the Phoenix

[www.phoenixseven.org/archive](http://www.phoenixseven.org/archive)

Updated the 14<sup>th</sup> of March in the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ MMVI

Welcome to Phoenix Seven.

Some of the following is an excerpt from "The Channel" Grace through Faith.

And all is...

True to Life:

A little over three years ago after our Lord had called me to preach, I attended a Landmark Missionary Baptist Church. This was of course the chosen path that God had me walk, for as I have stated many times in the past, "All Things Happen For A Reason", and yes as I have stated many times before, "God is the best teacher".

This assembly not only held the views that God cannot and will not heal, but is an assembly as all Landmark Baptist assemblies, an assembly that holds true, the doctrine of Landmarkism.

The doctrine or teaching of Landmarkism was established or began in 1872 by a J.R. Graves. Graves, a Baptist minister, held true that unless a church could trace its roots back to the original church in Jerusalem, from landmark to landmark, from church to church, it was not a true New Testament church. Such is not reality but fantasy.

It was based upon a twisting of God's word from the book of Proverbs.

**Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. - Proverbs**

22:28

This scripture that reminds us to not remove the ancient landmark, is a scripture that was dealing with the wisdom of the landmarks of the land. And was telling us not entrench on others.

Now a bit of other various commentary:

From John Gill's Exposition of the Bible:

Pro 22:28 - Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set. Or, "the ancient border" or "boundary" (n); by which lands, estates, and inheritances, were marked, bounded, and distinguished; set by ancestors in agreement with their neighbours; which to remove was contrary to a law, and a curse is denounced upon those that did it, [Deu 19:14](#); and was always reckoned a very heinous crime in early times;

From the Adame and Clarke Commentary:

**Pro 22:28 -**

**Remove not the ancient landmark -** Do not take the advantage, in ploughing or breaking up a field contiguous to that of thy neighbor, to set the dividing stones farther into his field that thou mayest enlarge thy own. Take not what is not thy own in any case. Let all ancient divisions, and the usages connected with them, be held sacred. Bring in no new dogmas, nor rites, nor ceremonies, into religion, or the worship of God, that are not clearly laid down in the sacred writings. "Stand in the way; and see, and ask for the old paths, which is the good way, and walk therein; and ye shall find rest for your souls;" [Jer 6:16](#). But if any Church have lost sight of the genuine doctrines of the Gospel, calling them back to these is not removing the ancient landmarks, as some have falsely asserted. God gave a law against removing the ancient landmarks, by which the inheritances of tribes and families were distinguished. See [Deu 19:14](#), from which these words of Solomon appear to be taken.

The "Landmarks" have nothing to do with the nature of the Church. (Graves, a Baptist minister, held true that unless a church could trace its roots back to the original church in Jerusalem, from landmark to landmark, from church to church, it was not a true New Testament church. Such is not reality but fantasy).

For it discounts such as lets say the church at Sardis, in Revelation Chapter 3. The church at Sardis from all appearances where an alive and vital church, yet Our Lord considered them spiritually dead. By the Landmark definition, they where a New Testament Church, due to their roots back to the original church in Jerusalem. And yet scripture tells us they where anything but. And what if Sardis multiplied? A whole gaggle of spiritually dead little heretic churches, all missing the New Testament church mold. I believe you can see my point. And I do

emphasize **Gaggle**. The same can be said by our Lord, of the church of the Laodiceans.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. - Revelation Chapter 3:16.

To spue thee out of ones mouth is to gag and to vomit.

For in order to support this belief, "Landmarkers" had to adapt to a teaching that only those who where (the deceased), or members of Missionary Baptist Landmark churches (a church that can trace their roots to the original church), are members of the Body of Christ. All others are something quite less then what they are, though saved, are only a member of the family of God.

Such is heresy. It is time that this doctrine is exposed to all for what it really is. You see by their definition all Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Non-Denominational, Episcopal, Wesleyans, Church of God, Assembly of God, Church of Christ and all churches or assemblies coming out of the great reformation and after along with the all in the Catholic Church, are less than they are, though many may be saved, and not part of the Body of Christ. Even the "Mennonites", who are the Anabaptists that supposedly the Baptists came out of.

Such HERESY. A Heresy, grounded on their precious Baptist "Trail of Blood". A foolish genealogy.

If one studies the trail of blood as I have, you will become familiar with their "nickname" Baptists, such as the Paulicans, Novatians and so on. The Paulicans, so named for their devotion entirely to those Books of the New Testament written by Paul, excluded all of the other books, and all those of the Old Testament. Excluded as in the other books where to be written by an evil deity. Is it not great, Baptists (by their definition), that didn't hold the whole of scripture as truth!

This teaching destroys the unity of the true Church, and everything that Christ stands for. Unity. The Body of Christ, the Church, with Jesus Christ as head. It is time for their HERESY to end, and return to the Holy Word of God.

To better prove my point, I ask you to do this:

**On your next outing, stop by your local cemetery. Of all the grave markers and head stones that you can see, tell me of which ones are the saved in Christ Jesus? Can you count them? No, sure you cannot, for only God knows. Just as only he can look into the hearts of men and women, and know who actually are the redeemed within our assemblies.** (As in the Church at Sardis of Revelation Chapter 3) Only God can look at the heart.

This makes the true church invisible, and visible only to God. Not to man. The church at Sardis was visible to man as an alive assembly, yet where spiritually dead. There are many assemblies and churches such as this today. Jesus told us in scripture that not all that say Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23) And then He ends with depart from me "I Never Knew You". Many profess to know God, but does God know them? Dear reader, does our Lord know you?

Now to a better understanding a brief teaching on the rapture. God's perfect word tells us:

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: **and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.** - I Thessalonians 4:16-17

**This event, known as the Rapture of the Church, is the true Church.** And has nothing to do with what building or assembly you worship in. It has nothing to do with the church real estate of the Landmark Baptist, or of any particular denomination. But has everything to do with the true teachings of our Lord and your personal commitment to him. I believe his exact words where "Follow Me". More on this subject will be discussed in the next chapter.

For by their false belief, and doctrine, only those from Landmark churches (Their Church, The Body of Christ) can rise to meet the Lord. I guess, by their account the rest of us, as only the family of God, **though saved**, will remain in the ground indefinitely, or be left behind. **How can one be still truly saved and be left behind?** Christ will return my brethren. He is coming back. For the Church, His Church, the true Church. Glory to God, He's coming back.

Perhaps the rapture is not the rapture of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. By their Landmark belief we are not part of the Body of Christ. Such heresy. Such deception. Satan has done his job well, and has hardened their hearts to the truth.

Glory to God my brethren, Christ will return. He's coming back. Not for the modern church at Sardis, nor the modern Laodicean church, of those who are lukewarm. The complacent. For the rapture of the dead in Christ that shall rise first, has nothing to do with the spiritual dead at Sardis. They no longer where or are in Christ.  
(See John 15:1-2)

I believe you see what I am saying. **And what I am saying is, that a little bit of leaven leavens the whole lump.** A little bit of false teaching infects and affects the whole. Not unlike a cancer. A malignancy.

Honestly, I quite often have wondered why they themselves do not realize that it will be they that will perhaps be left behind. Perhaps they should study and show themselves approved unto God, the word, and not the doctrines of men, or their version, their "Defense of The Faith".

The Missionary Landmark Baptists by their secular false belief have actually constructed a fence between themselves and the brethren. Not unlike the fence shown in the image at the top of the page. Christ came as the ultimate sacrifice for all. We as Christians, are to be tearing down fences, not building them. Yet may I add, we are always to stand for the truth of God's word. And not heresy, and false doctrine.

An excellent study for all, would be of the ancient Jewish wedding. Coupled with a study of the first fruits and ancient harvests, both are excellent and a must for understanding the true rapture of the Church. And I highly recommend it. Additional reading perhaps would be "The Body" by Charles Colson. I have not read it entirely, but it appears pretty solid. And a note for the Baptist brethren, he is a Baptist as well.

This view, of the Landmark Missionary Baptist is that of a religious sect, with their secular views, are destroying the true Church. Let me clarify that the true New Testament Church is a church or assembly that adheres to the word of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. And one that follows him. Recall the Seven churches of the book of Revelation. Let him that has an ear hear.

There is only one true Landmark for mankind, and that is Calvary and the cross.

Honestly, I am quite amazed that anyone would base a teaching on a belief that started in 1872, some 1800 years after Christ. Prior to 1872 it was never taught. That should be a real clue to these people. It is not scriptural. And is a concept of one man, a concept that totally contradicts scripture. Sometimes it is hard to see the true forest for the trees, for a lack of vision.

Speaking of trees, one of the true sad things, I may be somewhere along the family tree related to this J.R. Graves. For you see, my mother was a Graves.

#### Rom 16:16-18

Rom 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Rom 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

The truly sad fact is that many who hold this false doctrine to be true, by doing so have come to love the lie more than the perfect word of God.

Once a pastor of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church told me this in an email on the Landmark position and subject of the Body of Christ vs the Family of God:

"It is true, even if it isn't in the Bible".

EVEN IF IT ISN'T IN THE BIBLE.

If they would only take a moment and listen to what they are saying. And to look at heart.

It is with a proud heart that they will not see the truth; and the Proverbs of scripture tells us this:

**Pro 1:5** A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

However we must note on the other hand, or "wing" I should say, there are other denominations with their own version of Landmarkism, and the race "TO BE FIRST".

I am referring to the Pentecostals, Church of God, Many of the Assemblies of God and Catholics as well. Both sometimes miss the true nature of the church. Sometimes I sit and reflect back on how many sermons I have heard preached by the Pentecostals, on how on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit descended and how on the day of Pentecost the church began. Then at this time they usually add the name of their particular denomination, such as "the Pentecostal Church of God"; or as with the Catholics, the "Holy Catholic Church"

I usually shudder at this point, for they have truly missed the whole point, of the unity in Christ, the true nature of the church, and have started that race "to be first". Yes, the Catholics included. True, the comforter was given to us on the day of Pentecost, however they should note that Pentecost is and was first and foremost a feast. It is man, and man alone that has redefined it to a particular doctrine or train of thought.

They completely have not taken into account the Churches of the Book of Revelation, the church of Galatians 5 (and their fall from Grace), and in many instances have missed it entirely. Just as justification is by faith, it is and remains, a matter of heart. Much more than mere "real-estate".

Often as not if you really think about it, it is a stealing or theft of the Glory to God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. For by ignoring His Holy Word, and pursuing "the doctrines of men", many have, and attempted to, put "themselves first". Or in the case of the Landmark Baptist, or any Baptist or denomination for that matter that holds true they are the true church, the only church. And now let us be honest

before God, neither the Baptists nor the Catholics have a very good history now do they? For it is not at all about who is on first or what is on second, but it is a matter of Jesus. Just Him. And Him alone. And following Him.

It is quite interesting, that in Fox's Book of Martyr's that many Baptists so prize: that the word Baptist, or Anna Baptist, as groups, are not mentioned until the reformation. And Paulicans, Novations, Montanists and Waldenese none. Zero, not at all. But many notations are found under "Christian" or "Christians". True followers of Christ. And not followers of a "Trail of Blood". Follow the trail, and your removing your focus from Jesus Christ.

Anyone attempting to place themselves first, or as "the true church", they pursue foolish genealogies and division, and in doing so they applaud themselves; and such is idolatry. And yes, in many ways is carnal. A product of carnal minds.

**For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? - 1 Corinthians 3:3-4**

For while one saith I am Catholic, while another Baptist, and yet another Pentecostal.. I believe you can see Paul's and my point. And still it remains a matter of heart, and not of carnal minds, of the flesh; and divisions, of and by foolish genealogies.

**Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. - Romans 16:16-18**

They have removed their focus from Christ, and have placed it upon a quite different doctrine. **And are COVETING genealogies:**

**For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. - Ephesians 5:5**

**And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. - 1 Corinthians 3:3-4**

**For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal**

**mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. - Romans 8:5:7**

**This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these ; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. - Galatians 5:16:21**

As I have told you in times past: The Galatians still didn't get it. And as I have told you in times past: And neither do the Baptists. And yes, some of the other denominations as well.

To deny the word, is to deny Christ.

Therefore, my prayer here at Phoenix Seven, is that one day 'Landmarkism' will fall. And in it's place shall prevail the unity, and the brotherhood, without prejudice and without division; which shall forever be known as "The Saints"

Shalom,

'the Phoenix'