

The Ancient Landmarks

Proverbs 22:28 says, "*Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.*" A landmark was a border or boundary by which lands, estates and inheritances, were marked, bounded and distinguished (Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17; Proverbs 23:10). Christ has built His kingdom, and marked out its boundaries for His heirs (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 8:8-12). The ancient landmarks for the church must not be removed!

The first landmark that is being moved is distinctive Bible preaching. Paul told Timothy to preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2-5), and it must be filled with the urgency and conviction of profiting the souls of men (Acts 20:20, 27). The second landmark that is being moved is authoritative practice. Acts 15 is a good case study in the establishment and application of Bible authority: necessary implication (vss. 7-11, apostolic example (vs. 12) and direct command (vs. 15). We must always walk in God's commandments (2 John 4-6). The third landmark that is being moved is the militant promotion of truth and righteousness. The spirit of faith must abide in our lives (2 Corinthians 4:13; 1 John 5:4). We must be aggressive in serving Christ and saving souls (Acts 8:4), assertive in evangelism (Acts 17:6), combative against Satan (Ephesians 6:11-13) and abhorrent of evil and cleaving to what is good (Romans 12:9).

Deuteronomy 27:17 says, "*Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.*" This was a stiff penalty to someone who moved a physical landmark. What do you think if someone moves one of the Lord's landmarks within His church? We shall not escape if we remove God's landmarks!

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