

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	11
PART I: CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY AND BIBLICAL TRUTH.	15
1. <i>The Reshaping of the American Way of Life</i>	17
Six Influences Currently Shaping America	22
Enter the People of God	27
2. <i>Our Contemporary Society:</i>	
<i>Where We Got It and Where It Is Going</i>	29
Augustine of Hippo (AD 354–431) and the Middle Ages	32
The Enlightenment: Age of Reason (1600–late 1700s)	34
Modern Times (late 1700s–present)	36
The World Wars	38
Modernity	39
Look What's Coming!	40
New Age	42
Five Hundred Years in Fifteen Verses	43
3. <i>God's People in Society: Why Are We Here?</i>	47
God's People and a Lost World: Why Are We Here?	48
The Nature of the Ministry	54
PART II: FROM ACTS TO THE PRESENT:	
AN HISTORICAL REVIEW.	63
4. <i>How Did the Gospel Grow?</i>	
<i>An Historical Look at the New Testament</i>	67
From Jerusalem to Antioch	67
The Apostolic Effort: Acts 13–28	71
The Apostolic Function	77
The Natural Expansion of God's People: The Epistles	78
5. <i>From Ignatius to the Puritans: AD 95–1620</i>	83
Persecution and Heresies from Without; Heresies and Divisions from Within	84
What Would You Have Done?	87
The Church Fathers and Apologists: What They Did	88
What Should They Have Done?	94

From the Medieval Church to the Reformation: 600-1517	96
The Early Reformers	98
From the Reformation to the Puritans: 1517-1628	100
How Did It Go with the Puritans?	104
What Happened—What Didn't Happen?	105
What Is the Church, According to the Reformers?	106
6. <i>The Church in America</i>	109
In the Shadow of the Past	110
From Mom and Pop to Demographic Analysis	111
What to Make of It	114
The Down Side	115
Regaining Our Mobility	118
The Unfinished Reformation	119
Voices of Leadership	120
PART III: PATTERNS FOR THE FUTURE.	123
7. <i>Freedom and Diversity: A First-Century Example</i>	125
“To the Jew First”	126
“Then for the Gentile”	128
The Watershed Event for the Future of the Gospel	130
Lessons from the First Century	133
8. <i>To Freedom and Diversity</i>	141
Incorrigibly Ethnocentric	142
Freedom, The Counterbalance	144
Tradition and Traditionalism	146
Traditionalism and the Church in America	148
Form and Function	153
9. <i>New Boundaries for the Church</i>	163
Our Diminishing Bible	163
Our Narrowed Understanding of the Church	168
What Is the Church?	170
Resetting the Boundaries	173
10. <i>God's People in the Midst of Postmodern America</i>	177
Postmodern Thought: What It Does to People	178
The New <i>Stoicheia</i>	180
Look Out from Behind!	182
So, What Do We Face?	184
11. <i>The Task Before Us</i>	185
Bearing Witness to Christ	186
Empowering Believers to Witness and Heal	193
The Dynamics of Spiritual Transformation	195
12. <i>Recovering Our Mobility</i>	205
The Apostolic Team	206
The Task of the Apostolic Team	208

The Local Expansion of the Gospel	212
Small Boats	213
What Will Become of Us?	214
The Art of Change	215
Principles of Innovative Change	216
Three Desired Responses	220
A Final Message to Our Leaders	225

Notes	227
-----------------	-----