

Ancient Landmarks

How can you know God's will?

Scripture: "Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set" (Prov. 22:28, NKJV).

I recently conducted a graveside service for an elderly brother who spent thirty-five of his working years as a land surveyor. My remarks centered on the fact that any good surveyor knows you must start from the right place to obtain an accurate measurement. Nowadays that beginning place might be a metal stake driven into the ground. From that point the surveyor measures the appropriate distance in the right direction. Without such a certain starting place, no surveyor could be certain whether your neighbor's fence is in the right place or if it encroaches five feet onto your property.

In Biblical times those starting places were called landmarks. God divided the promised land of Canaan among the various families in the tribes of Israel. They didn't have modern surveying equipment, but they knew where the borders were and set up landmarks to indicate them. Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what those landmarks were; we might think of large stones or some other permanent markers.

Unscrupulous persons who removed such landmarks were, in effect, stealing land from their neighbors. The Lord absolutely forbade doing so in the law He gave to Moses (Deut. 19:14) and pronounced a curse on such thieves (Deut. 27:17). "Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you" (Prov. 23:10-11).

We have an ancient spiritual landmark we must not remove. The Bible, God's inspired and authoritative word, must be the standard from which we measure everything we believe, do, and teach. We don't have to wonder, vote, or speculate about right and wrong because God has recorded the truth in His word. Taking from it, adding to it, or modifying it results in faulty beliefs, behaviors, and doctrines.

Be a good surveyor! Respect the Bible as the ancient landmark from which all of your measurements are taken. When you do that, you can be confident in all that you believe, do, and teach.

Hymn: "Give Me The Bible"

Prayer: Father, You have blessed us richly with the ancient landmark of Your word. Help us, we pray, to set aside our preconceived ideas so that we measure everything by Your standard. In Jesus' name, Amen.