

Steve Wilder Testimony

It's a pleasure to have dropped in on your web site. From what I can see so far, it is a doctrinally sound, Bible believing work. I haven't delved too deep into the content yet, but from what material I've seen so far, it's enough to keep me coming back. I particularly like the Bible study articles, Romans vs. James, and the articles about the path of the Second Advent compared to the rapture and the salvation in the tribulation period. It's very important to the differences in those, all about rightly dividing right?

A brief summary about my testimony of how I became born again. I grew up as Lutheran. At the time, the church was more of the traditional Lutheran type, like you would find in Germany. But I understand they are "evangelical" Lutheran now, not sure but that may mean that they started some sort of outreach. But when I was there many years ago, there was never to my recollection a clear presentation of the gospel to know how to be born again, saved.

I'm not saying this to put down my former church, just stating that since I became saved I can't recall a time when the gospel was presented in all of the services I attended in that particular church, like it was presented when I became saved. But one day that all changed when a elementary school friend of mine shared with me a Chick tract (This Was Your Life). That was the first time I was told what the gospel actually provided for me so that I can know I'm going to Heaven upon death. In my former Lutheran church, brief passages from the four gospels were read, and that was "the gospel for today" as the deacon said when he finished reading. The only occasion that people went up to the altar was for communion and when someone was being baptized, which in the Lutheran church is by sprinkling. Hell was not mentioned not once in any sermon. Even my mom noticed that when she attended a few services, and she wasn't saved at the time.

But that gospel tract had an actual drawing of hell and people being cast into the fire, with Revelation 20:15 as the verse. That thing had me really concerned. I thought to my, this was never mentioned in church. That was the first I found out I was lost spiritually, and needed to be born again to avoid being one of those people being cast in. Then on the very last page, it explained how to be born again by receiving Jesus Christ as payment for all of my sins personally. I can't recall at that time if I actually did that, but in my heart at that time I knew what I had to do. Fast forward to my college days. I ran into Chick tracts again while at a Christian bookstore shopping for a new Bible. So I bought a few, and ordered some more, and as a result, in the single furnished apartment I was living in, I knelt down and did what I was instructed to do in the back of the book, receive Jesus Christ as my Savior the best way I knew how.

Was my walk at the time a Spirit filled walk and living like I really should have then? To be honest not like I should have been, but God began to deal with sins in my life and I was in conviction to get those out of my life, and still today over 30 years later I'm still a work under construction. He even told me through Chick's material that the bible I was using at the time was corrupt, and not to toss my KJB to the side, so I kept it and stuck with it ever since. Fast forward to my military career. This is when I was introduced to Dr. Ruckman's ministry. A brother in church approached me after service, and he handed me three books by Ruckman. "Problem Texts" was particularly an eye opener regarding the "stand" on the King James Bible that the schools mentioned in that book claim that they make. "The Last Grenade" is another of my favorites. After reading them I absolutely loved Dr. Ruckman's style, which I discovered was very unpalatable to many IFB pastors. He upset their apple carts very badly and for good reason. I noticed right away that Ruckman was definitely not one of those "Hallmark Channel" guys. He is brutally honest, but he is very sound doctrinally. Character assassination was in full effect from the IFB circles, but I have been and still am tremendously blessed through his ministry. I can't even imagine the rewards the Lord will reward him with.

So, that's a bit about me. I'm not nearly where I should be spiritually, especially with witnessing, but sites like yours, and others that the Lord led me to discover are great tools that I really need for my spiritual growth. Thanks for allowing me to write in.

In Christ,

Steve