



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Years ago when I barely knew my way around Chicago and the O'Hare International Airport, I learned a minister friend from Dallas was in town. Better yet, he happened to be free on a Sunday morning. Naturally, I thought it would be great to have him speak during Sunday morning service. He gladly accepted, so I made plans to have some other ministers and deacons join us for lunch after service. One of the ministers agreed to take the visiting pastor to the airport after lunch.

After service that Sunday morning, the minister who had agreed to drop off our guest stopped by the church to announce (a) he couldn't go out to lunch with us, and (b) he couldn't make the trip to O'Hare Airport. Not only did this make for an unpleasant lunch, but it also ruined the rest of my afternoon. Not a single man who attended the lunch could make the trip to O'Hare Airport. With 90 minutes before the minister's return flight, I was given the job.

After getting slightly turned around and stopping for directions, we made it to the airport just as the plane was pulling out on the runway. Instead of arriving in Dallas at about 5 o'clock that afternoon, the minister did not arrive home until about eleven or twelve o'clock that night!

I had trusted a person whom I had believed to be a good brother, only to be let down. (Now I don't know what emergency, if any, had developed. I was not offered a reason that necessitated the change of plans.) The best-laid plans of mice and men can often go asunder when you're depending on anyone or anything except for the Lord! If you are in Christ, you recognize the lessons of life teach us to lean and depend completely on the Lord. For it is better to put your trust in God than your confidence in men!

**A Biblical Basket-Case Study**

Solomon's son Rehoboam reigned in his father's place. His short span of leadership began with a lesson in the ramifications of depending on men instead of the wisdom of God. He was offered three suggestions on how to start his leadership, each affecting his future and the future of Israel.

Rehoboam's first counselor was Jeroboam, who had fled from the presence of Solomon (1 Kings 12:2). There was rebellion in Solomon's camp, and Jeroboam lifted up his hand against the king (1 Kings 11:26-27). Since there was strife between Jeroboam and Solomon, Rehoboam should have had questions about Jeroboam's advice. If Jeroboam could not get along with his father, the chances were strong he would not get along with him.

Rehoboam's second piece of advice came from the elders who had served under King Solomon. They instructed him to be a servant of the people. The elders advised him that in return, the people would serve him. It was good advice, but it was not heeded.

Finally, Rehoboam sought counsel from the young men with whom he had grown up. In 1 Kings 11:11, they instructed Rehoboam to make the work harder for the people. Can't you hear them saying, "Show them that you're the boss!"

It is obvious some of Rehoboam's advice was wiser than other advice. But Rehoboam chose to follow the worst advice: he listened to the counsel of the young men. Having a father who was the wisest man who had ever lived suggests Rehoboam would have learned the importance of depending on the Lord. Instead, he depended on his friends. Because of this foolish mistake, there was a rebellion in Israel, and the kingdom split. Ten of the tribes elected Jeroboam as their king, leaving only two tribes with Rehoboam.

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We've selected the top Newsletter articles from the past few years and put them together for your enjoyment. Enjoy an article blitz on us!

**H**ow would you feel stepping from a perfectly stable room into a glass box 103 stories above the ground, with nothing between you and a gravity-induced eternity but an inch or two of glass? How would you feel if, while taking your first steps into the box, the glass beneath you began to crack? This nightmare became reality for one family visiting The Ledge at the Willis Tower. . . .



**P**arenting isn't easy. There are diapers to change, food and clothes to purchase, values to impart, birthdays to celebrate, and lawsuits to settle. At least that's how it was for Rachel Canning's family. Here's a shout-out to all the great parents out there who do the job with a love only God could provide. . . .



**W**ords of wisdom for those who mistake the window of the past for a parking lot. . . .

**S**ometimes toys have more fun than people do. This article isn't a reference to any of Disney's *Toy Story* installments; but it promises to warm your heart and provide perspective on creating a lasting, positive impression with the lost. . . .

**50** states. 30 countries. 1,026 newspapers. \$150,000. Would you spend the last 14 years of your life reminiscing over the climactic events of a single day?

-A Thanksgiving Psalm-  
Psalm 95:1-8a

*O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart. . . .*



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.  
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