

The Attackers: Adjusting to the Guidon: Establishing a Command Post in the Soul: Stability from Doctrine, Col 2:5: the Disbursement of Truth from First-Century to Present-Day: New Testament Epistles, the Gutenberg Bible, Vocal Projection e.g., George Whitefield, & Electronic Contrivances

So at gospel hearing, the unbeliever must orient and adjust to the Guidon if he is to be saved which requires faith alone in Christ alone.

Following salvation the believer must orient and adjust to the Guidon by means of spiritual growth. This accomplishment is illustrated by the next military metaphor:

- (2) **Establish a Command Post:** The second military metaphor that illustrates the idea of “standing fast” is the setting up of a command post in the soul. A passage amplifying this idea is found in:

Colossians 2:5 - Even though I am absent in the body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. (NASB)

Paul is an apostle who is incarcerated and guarded by Roman soldiers. He is therefore not in Colossae and states the fact he is absent in body. Yet, when he writes, he is recording what he would speak to these believers were he actually in the city.

Therefore, he establishes the point that the gift of apostleship functions the same whether he is addressing a congregation face-to-face or by means of an epistle which will be read by them or taught by a resident pastor-teacher.

Paul is presently in heaven therefore, he is not personally addressing congregations in this period of the Church Age. Pastor-teachers do the duty in the confines of local churches. Yet there are many who have not identified their right pastor in the area in which they live.

The same principle applies to the modern methods of communication beyond the written word. Today we have electronic contrivances that can transmit live Bible teaching over long distances or record them for playback at the user's convenience.

New Testament writers intended for their Gospels, history, Epistles, and the Revelation to be read, copied, and distributed among the various churches.

The original autographs have long since been abandoned in favor of copies from the originals. In the early 1450s, Johann Gutenberg's invention of movable type allowed the mass printing of information previously dependent upon handwritten manuscripts.

The famous first edition from the printing press is Gutenberg's Forty-two Line Bible, published around 1455:

Gutenberg Bible: the first complete book extant in the West and the earliest printed from movable type, so called by its printer, Johannes Gutenberg who completed it about 1455. The three-volume work, in Latin text, was printed in 42-line columns.

The Gutenberg Bible had no title page, no page numbers, and no innovations to distinguish it from the work of a manuscript copyist. This was presumably the desire of both Gutenberg and his customers. Experts are generally agreed that the Bible, though uneconomic in its use of space, displays a technical efficiency not substantially improved upon before the 19th century.

The original number of copies of this work is unknown; some 40 are still in existence.¹

The Guttenberg system allowed the general public access to the Bible where previously its content was restricted to the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

Further, it was not published in Hebrew and Greek but Latin. This introduced a trend where today the Bible is printed in almost 400 languages.

Where in the first century, apostles, evangelists, and pastors addressed their audiences with the lone assistance of their own vocal projection, today large audiences can clearly perceive the message with the assistance of sound systems.

Those who have interest in the teaching of the Word, but who cannot be present for the live delivery of the sermon, may do so by electronic means. Today these include radio, television, cable channels, and Web sites.

Those who wish to study previously delivered sermons can utilize a multiplicity of media that provide recordings of these teachings.

Consequently, the books of the Old and New Testaments establish confirmation of and precedence for the broad distribution of Scripture and its teachings outside the local church.

Some have asserted that no one can grow spiritually except through fact-to-face teaching. In my opinion, this is a rhetorical veil concealing a hidden agenda to increase attendance for live Bible classes and suppress use of those transmitted or captured electronically.

Everyone has a right pastor. This is the person you are confident is presenting accurate doctrine by which you are able to grow in grace. Others may supplement, but should any contradictions occur between the two, the local pastor takes precedence.

Bible study beyond the live presentation of the pastor is biblically supported by example of the Epistles. These were addressed to a specific audience, but then often distributed among other local churches, some of whom had local pastors.

¹ *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2010), 5:582.