

FOREWORD

FOR THE BOOK OF BIBLE LESSONS BY ALAN CHRISTENSEN

Alan Christensen was a gifted servant of the Lord. In his youth he was rooted and grounded in his Christian faith in the Black Rock Congregational Church, then in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

He was a gifted preacher. As a young man he preached passionately under the auspices of Youth for Christ International. He prepared for the Gospel ministry at Moody Bible Institute and Gordon College.

Before entering the ministry he gained experience in the world of business as President of the Bridgeport Exterminating Company. This experience prepared him to minister to business men and women in the business oriented town of Wilton, Connecticut.

On January 7, 1968, Alan preached his first sermon as a guest pastor at Hope Evangelical Free Church in Wilton CT. Thus began a 28 year ministry in the same church, something that is very rare in present day churches. From 1968 until 1970 he served the church as a frequent guest pastor. Then, on October 18, 1970, he was installed as Pastor of the church, a position he held for 25 years. Under his leadership the church grew and prospered and built a new sanctuary and Christian Education building.

The fact that he served the same church as Pastor for 25 years is a good indication of the quality of his preaching and teaching. Another measure of this can be seen in the fact that he was chosen to be The Staff Pastor of the Billy Graham Retreat Center (The Cove) in Asheville, North Carolina, a position he accepted in June of 1995.

From 1976 to 1979, Alan prepared and taught a series of Adult Sunday School lessons entitled, **Questions We Want Answered**. In this series he covered 83 vital topics. There are approximately 100 separate studies in the series since some of the topics are in multiple parts, and these studies form the contents of this book.

The reader will find the topics to be very practical and down to earth. Some of them are controversial but Alan did not shy away from tackling them in a gracious and informative way. These studies are Biblical, interesting, and well organized. They are a fine example of Biblical teaching at its best.

Alan Christensen was a Godly man who had a keen intellect. He was a fine Bible scholar who loved his people. In spite of his gifts and abilities he remained a humble man. Those of us who knew him appreciated his sense of humor and his hearty laugh. He was a loyal friend. I know because I was a recipient of his friendship.

This series of lessons is truly a treasure. The Christian world is indebted to Eric Friedrichsen and the members of Hope Evangelical Free Church for preserving them and making them available in this book.

As you read these studies, may you grow in grace and faith. Nothing would make Alan happier.

Dr. Stanley R, Allaby

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