

PREFACE



HOLD FAST

*Let us **hold fast** the
confession of our hope
without wavering,
for He who promised
is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:23

HOLD FAST

In the movie *Master and Commander*, a rugged and proven old sailor tightly grips a rope. Tattooed across his knuckles are the letters HOLD FAST. While a fictional character, we could imagine that many times throughout his seafaring life his strong, steady grip on a particular line was necessary for the success of the voyage. Over time, countless others have gripped the same rope and held it fast, arriving safely to shore. Others, losing their hold, brought great risk to themselves and to those around them.

Today the simple truth of the gospel is being tugged back and forth like a sail battered by a fierce storm. If we are not stalwart with a firm and unfaltering grasp on the truth, it can easily slip through our hands.

This book is a call to believers in Jesus Christ to H O L D F A S T to the truth of the gospel. This book is plea to those who desire truth over theological traditions and to recognize that simply regurgitating another's words may not necessarily be what God is saying to us in Scripture. This book is a plea to avoid twisting the simple gospel of grace and locking it in a theological labyrinth.

What do you believe? From whom did it come? Is it God's Word or the traditions of men? Do you know why you believe what

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you do? Our hope is that you will be able to see clearly why you believe what you believe and that you can have confidence in its accuracy.

This book will address a number of issues but we will only scratch the surface; however, these issues are the most critical in faith formation. Of necessity one's faith must begin with truth to end up at truth.

Dusty Believers and False Teachers

To HOLD FAST to the truth of the gospel is a challenge at any stage of one's journey with Christ, whether you are a new believer or one in Christ for decades. False teachings and pressure to conform to what is "true Christianity" will come from every angle and sometimes from the most unsuspected places and people. These false teachings are picked up along the way, like accumulated dust on one's feet. If these teachings are not washed off in the laver of God's Word, they proliferate as a distorted gospel.

Our hope is that you will be freed from any imitation of the truth you have picked up and that you will have the courage to HOLD FAST to the true gospel message as written in Scripture.