

## Standing In The Gap

*John Isaac Edwards*

The Lord said, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none” (Ezek. 22:30). How sad that none could be found to keep Jerusalem from being destroyed! I’m making spiritual application of this in our study, as there are some gaps needing filled today.

1) **The Family Gap.** There is a gap in the family today being what God made it to be at the beginning. The home needs men to stand in the gap and be husbands and fathers in the truest sense of the words. Ephesian husbands and fathers were instructed, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Eph. 5:25). “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). Women need to step up and be real wives and mothers. Older women are admonished to teach the young women, “... to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus

2:4-5). There is a gap in children pleasing the Lord as many dishonor and disobey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20). There was a time when parents would command their children (Gen. 18:19) and children would ask their parents (Josh. 4:6) — now a lot of children command the parents and parents ask the children!

2) **The Attendance Gap.** Often, there is a gap between attendance figures and what the book of God teaches. It is said of first-century disciples, “And they continued steadfastly... continuing daily with one accord in the temple...” (Acts 2:42, 46). Hebrews 10:25 demands, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” Some do not show up, without letting anyone know where they are. Do you do this at home, at work, or at school? It is recorded of the children out of captivity, “And all the people gathered themselves together...” (Neh. 8:1). It ought to be the rule that all members of the local church are gathered together; not the exception! How about standing in the gap between Sunday morning Bible study, Sunday morning and afternoon worship and Wednesday night Bible study by being present every time the

saints of God come together? Didn’t the Lord say, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...” (Mt. 6:33).

3) **The Contribution Gap.** In some places, there is a gap between the work to be done and sufficient funds to do it. This was not the case when it came to the tabernacle-offering. It was said, “The people bring much more than enough... So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much” (Ex. 36:5-7). Why did God’s people give too much? Their hearts were stirred, they were willing hearted, and they gave unto the Lord (Ex. 35:21-22)! What the church is able to do, so far as evangelism, edification and relief is concerned, depends upon the giving of its members. We are ordered, “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him...” (1 Cor. 16:2). How about standing in the contribution gap by being a bountiful sower, having a purposed heart, and giving not grudgingly or of necessity: but cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:6-7). “Give, and it shall be given unto you...” (Lk. 6:38).

4) **The Teaching Gap.** Have you noticed a gap between the number of teachers and those needing to be taught? The Lord said, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...” (Mt. 28:19). Home Bible studies need to be conducted with non-Christians. When folks obey the gospel, there is a need for “Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you...” (Mt. 28:20) so as to help them to “...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” (2 Pet. 3:18). Bible classes need faithful and able teachers (2 Tim. 2:2). The Hebrew writer penned, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers...” (Heb. 5:12). How about standing in the gap by teaching others the word of God?

5) **The Support Of Preachers Gap.** Sometimes there is a gap between a preacher’s support and what he needs to live and provide for his family. Paul asked, “And how shall they preach, except they be sent?...” (Rom. 10:15). 1 Corinthians 9:14 teaches, “Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” As

Paul asked the Corinthians, “If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?” (1 Cor. 9:11). He also wrote, “I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied” (1 Cor. 16:17). Is the local church not fully supporting the preacher as it should? Perhaps, we can stand in the gap by being a Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus. Remember, the laborer is worthy of his wages (Lk. 10:7).

6) **The Labourers Gap.** There’s often a gap between work to be done and workers to do it. Jesus told His disciples, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Mt. 9:37). Have you ever noticed that the bulk of the work is done by few — the same few? When gutters need cleaned, grass needs cut, snow needs removed, filters need replaced, a running stool or leaking faucet needs stopped, a light bulb needs changed, batteries need to be replaced, a crack needs filled, the building needs cleaned — who do you know in the local church that you can count on

who will see that it is taken care of? Beyond that, there are weak ones who need strengthening, straying ones who need bringing back, lost ones who need to be saved, and on it goes. It’s all some can do to be at the services when they feel good and they don’t have anything else to do! Have you considered that when you don’t supply your part, someone has to stand in your gap? How about standing in the gap by being “...stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (1 Cor. 15:58)?

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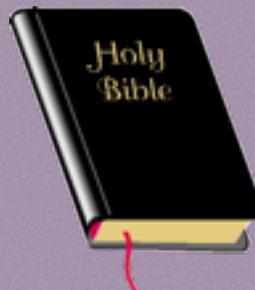
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Tuesday — David McPherson  
Wednesday — Craig Thomas  
Thursday — Dwayne Bronger  
Friday — Mark Russel

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