

What About ... Being “Unhitched”?

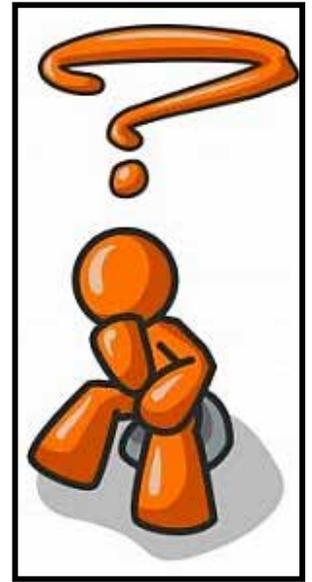
By DR. DAVID A. DEWITT

Andy Stanley, the senior pastor of the North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Georgia, made the following comments during an April 30, 2018, sermon to his congregation:

“(First Century) Church leaders **unhitched** the church from the worldview, value system, and regulations of the Jewish scriptures,” said Stanley. “Peter, James, Paul elected to **unhitch** the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well.” [<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-must-unhitch-old-testament-from-their-faith-says-andy-stanley-223818/>]

Apparently, Stanley believes it’s okay to “unhitch” our Christianity from the New Testament, as well. He seems to separate Christianity from the Bible.

“If you were raised on a version of Christianity that relied on the Bible as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, maybe it’s time for you to change your mind about Jesus... If you gave up your faith because of something about or in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily.” [<http://www1.cbn.com>]



I suggest that Stanley remember that Paul referred to the Old Testament as Scripture when he wrote:

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

When you “unhitch” Christianity from the Old Testament, or in Stanley’s case, I guess it’s any “version of Christianity that relied on the Bible,” you abandon the knowledge of God. Peter, James, and Paul taught Christianity as a mystery (Ephesians 3:3-9) and new administration of God. They most certainly did not “unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures.” Even the Law of Moses was to be applied to the church as profitable. What we have in the Bible is an inerrant revelation of the character and attributes of God. God revealed His works throughout history and had it recorded so we could learn about Him. Many of the things Stanley might find embarrassing that we must be “unhitched” from are the very things we need to know about God. For example, suppose Stanley thinks we should be “unhitched” from the idea of God bringing suffering and death to thousands of Egyptians and their animals during the 10 plagues preceding the Exodus. Well, here is why God said He gave them.

- **Exodus 10:2** *That you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a*

mockery of the Egyptians and how I performed My signs among them, that you may know that I am the LORD.

“Unhitched” from the Old Testament Scripture? Jesus said:

- **Matthew 5:18** *For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

“Unhitched” from the Old Testament Scripture? Luke wrote about the Apostle Paul:

- **Acts 17:2** *And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures.*
- **Acts 28:23** *When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.*

“Unhitched from the Old Testament Scripture? Paul wrote:

- **Romans 15:4** *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*