J. Frank Norris—The Pastor

(Continued from last issue)

By Dr. Raymond Barber

A man with a pastor’s heart! Dr. J. Frank Norris succeeded in all the pastorate he held and in all areas of the pastorate, Norris first pastorate was a small congregation of Baptists who called themselves ‘The Baptist Church of Mt. Calm, Texas.’ Here he served from 1899 to 1903 while a student at Baylor University. Norris graduated from Baylor with honors in 1903, he was called to pastor the McKinney Avenue Baptist Church of Dallas. His first sermon was preached in March 11,22 and the title was ‘Haven in Faith.’

First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas

Following a two-year internship and ownership of the Baptist Standard, Texas’ most prominent Southern Baptist periodical, Norris accepted the pastorate of the church that became his ‘Lock Out,’ the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. This was in the year 1909, and there he remained as pastor until his death in 1935. The growth of the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth under Norris leadership was phenomenal. To this the records see. By 1926, for example, the membership grew from 900 to a weekly Sunday school attendance of over five thousand. Thousands of people were saved and baptized during more than forty years at First Baptist of Fort Worth.

Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan

In 1909, the Temple Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan, called Dr. Norris to become their pastor. During the internship years, until 1950, he served the joint pastorate of the Detroit church and the Temple First Baptist of Fort Worth. These were stormy characterized by Norris fights with the upper traffic, the gambling interests, the Communists, the court, and the liberal theologians. Norris was a very controversial figure, and he engendered both love and hate, respect and derision, and disregard as he wielded the ‘sword of the Lord.’

God is sovereign and he will use his instrument on this earth to fulfill his purposes. Where Norris was, there was an interdenominational controversy. Where Norris was, there was a tremendous controversy. Where Norris was, there was a political controversy. Where Norris was, there was a religious controversy.

Windows Open: Influence

Norris’ influence and ministry were by no means confined to Fort Worth and Detroit. He traveled America and the world sounding the trumpet as a fearless fighter in defense of the faith. Whether connecting with the pope, a prima minister, or a president, he spoke the language of his audience, respecting their office and looking down any regent in nature for his own.

His conflicts were many, and his battles never was a fight. Fighting the good fight of the faith, he encountered opposition from many quarters. He received numerous threats on his life and was the target of political and religious foe alike. But none of these things moved Norris. Norris planted his feet firmly on solid ground fearing not these things. Norris saw his feet firmly on solid ground fearing not these things moved Norris. Norris planted his feet firmly on solid ground fearing not these things. Norris planted his feet firmly on solid ground fearing not these things.

What The Bible Teaches

By Dr. Raymond Barber

“Whoever it is, the God of Abraham, God the Author of faith, the Holy Bible, and the Church of Jesus Christ. (to be continued) A Word from the President

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