

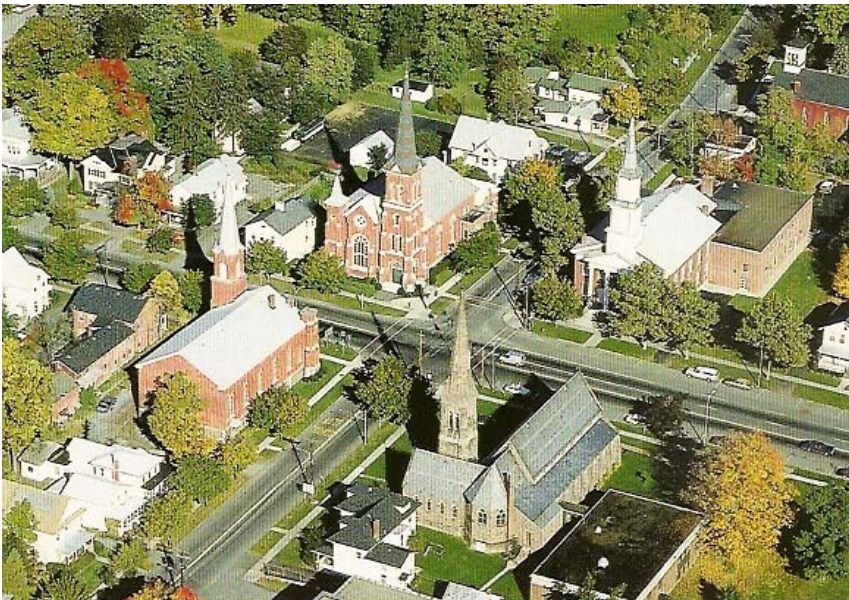
away when the congregation across the street started singing, "No, Not One, No, Not One!" They had scarcely finished when the third church began singing, "Oh, That Will Be Glory for Me."

Of course, this is just a humorous story, but it reminds us that a spirit of divisive competition does exist among some churches. Naturally, we will want to support our own church, pray for it, and rejoice in its growth. But we must never feel self-satisfied or be critical of churches that have problems or are not growing.

If there is a place for "competition," let it be to oppose those who deny scriptural fundamentals and the gospel. But if a church is true to God's Word and is winning people to Christ, regardless of its label, let's rejoice. That should be our attitude when faced with the competitive motives of envy and strife. Let's avoid church competition. --RWD

*Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone;  
Chosen of the Lord and precious,  
Binding all the church in one. --Neale*

**The fruit of Christian unity grows out of our union with Christ.**



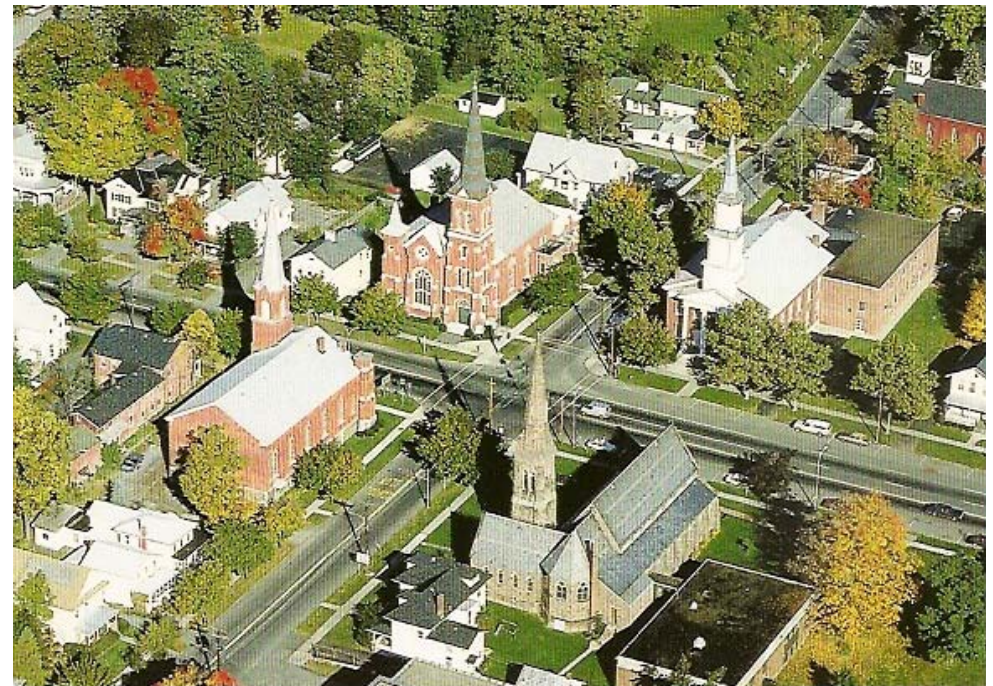
# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## DECEMBER 3, 2017

### Church Competition

**Whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice. --Philippians 1:18**

Three churches, located on different corners of the same intersection, didn't get along together. One Sunday each of them opened their meeting with a rousing song service. It was a warm day and all the doors and windows were wide open. One congregation began singing the old hymn, "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?" The strains had barely faded





# Insights for Living Gospel Priority



In Philippians 1:12-21 Paul makes 5 helpful statements about witnessing:

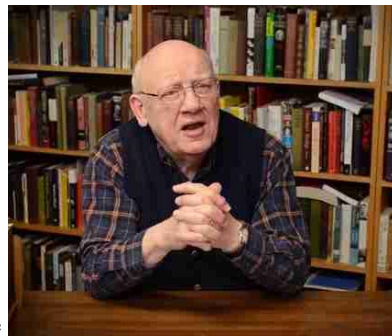
**1. The time for witnessing is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 12-13**



**(2 Timothy 4:2)** "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."



**2. The attitude for witness is \_\_\_\_\_, verse 14**



Warren Wiersbe

**3. The motive of witness is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 15-18, 2:3, 5, 8b**



**(Galatians 1:8)** "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

Celebrity pastor

**4. The result of witness is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 18**

**(1 Corinthians 3:11-15)** "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, {13} each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. {14} If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. {15} If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



**(Isaiah 55:10-11)** ""For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, {11} So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing

for which I sent it."

**5. The goal of witness is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 19-21**

