

WILLIAM BELL RILEY (1861-1947)

ACCC 78TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, OCTOBER 2019

PASTOR KEVIN HOBI

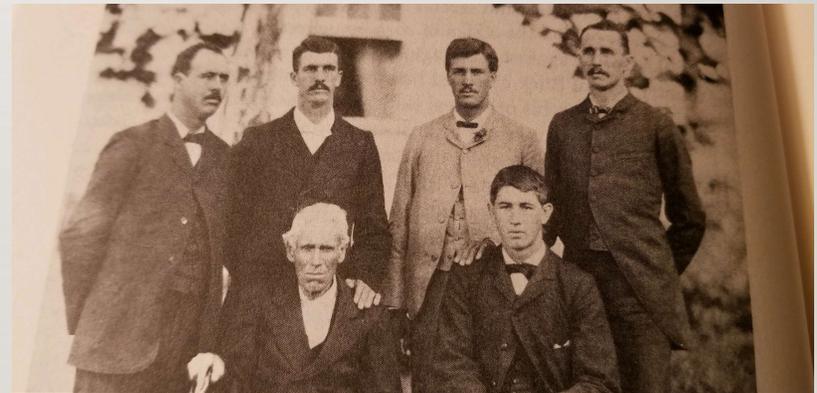
MAJOR THEMES OF W. B. RILEY'S LIFE

- Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis.
- Northern Baptist fundamentalist.
- President of the World Christian Fundamentals Association.
- President of the Northwestern Schools (not covered here).
- Tardy Separatist.
- Ministry lessons for today's fundamentalist.



PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MINNEAPOLIS

- Family roots – Humble background; hard work.
- Education and early ministry – Preparation for fruitful ministry.
- Minneapolis pastorate – A God-blessed reformation of ministry philosophy.



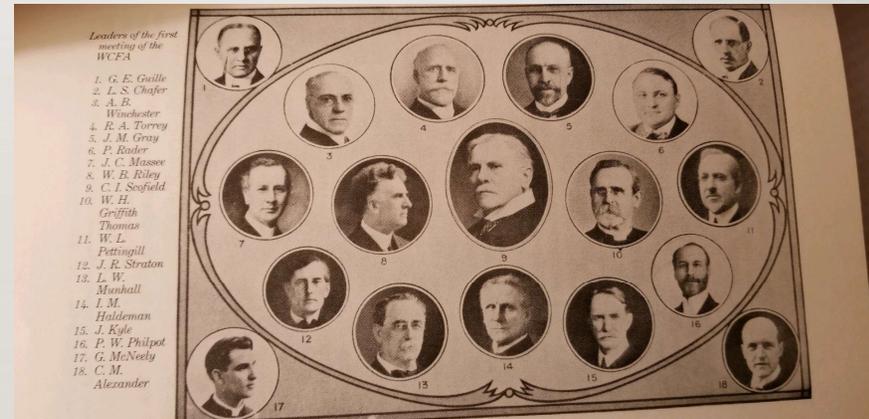
NORTHERN BAPTIST FUNDAMENTALIST

- The NBC problem was theological liberalism.
- Fundamentalists enjoyed political success in the battle against liberalism prior to 1920.
- Fundamentalists suffered crushing defeats after 1920.
- Neutrality was a critical problem.



PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS ASSOCIATION (WCFA)

- The WCFA was born from the fundamentalist prophecy conferences.
- The WCFA was the progenitor of other multi-denominational councils and associations.
- The WCFA was only temporarily effective for important reasons.



TARDY SEPARATIST

- 1930 appearance with Harry Emerson Fosdick at the NBC Convention in Cleveland, OH.
- Resignation from the NBC at the age of 86, the year of his death.
- Lifelong opposition to separation illustrated from his leadership of the BBU.



MINISTRY LESSONS FOR TODAY'S FUNDAMENTALIST

- “Seeker sensitive” is not new.
- Do the work of the evangelist.
- Political solutions are a poor substitute for separation.
- Neutrality will always be a problem.
- There is a God-blessed ecumenism.
- Good men can be enigmatic.

