

O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 32- Issue 8 - August 2015



A Critical Eye

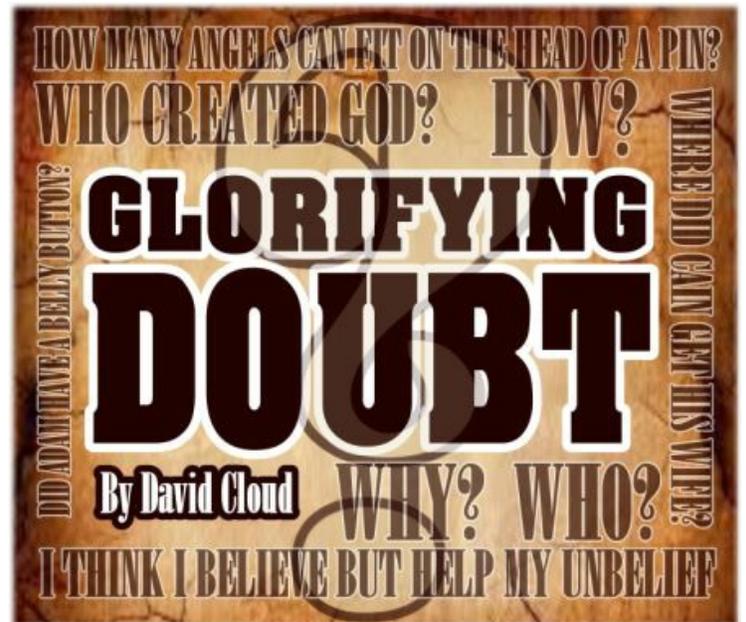
“A critical eye is wrong if it is a product of a carnal attitude and an ungodly spirit. It is wrong if it is a judgment according to personal opinion rather than the clear teaching of God’s Word. To judge things in the churches by one’s opinion and tradition and background and to set up one’s own conscience as a law for others is the sin that is condemned in Romans 14.” Page 6.

Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**



GLORIFYING DOUBT - by David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [What Is the Emerging Church?](#) The emerging church movement is a new approach to missions and church life among some “evangelicals” that is influencing many fundamental Baptist churches. The author has made a great effort to understand the emerging church, having read more than 100 books and many articles by emerging church leaders, having visited influential emerging congregations as well as attending with media credentials a large emerging conference sponsored by Zondervan and InterVarsity Press. In reality, the emerging church is simply the latest heresy within the broad tent of evangelicalism. The Bible does not warn in vain, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). Chapter titles include the following: *What Is the Emerging Church? A Great Blending and Merging. The Liberal Emerging Church. The “Conservative” Emerging Church.* 489 pages, available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.



The glorification of doubt and questioning is part of the deconstruction aspect of the emerging church. They aim to deconstruct traditional theology with the objective of

reconstructing something different, something allegedly more fitting for “these times.”

Rob Bell says that God gives men “the invitation to follow Jesus with all our doubts and questions right there with us” (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 28). He says, “We sponsored a Doubt Night at our church awhile back. People were encouraged to write down whatever questions or doubts they had about God and Jesus and the Bible and faith and church” (p. 29). He says, “Questions bring freedom” (p. 30), and, “Questions, no matter how shocking or blasphemous or arrogant or ignorant or raw, are rooted in humility” (p. 30).

Tim Condor, pastor of Emmaus Way and member of the coordinating team for Emergent Village, says there must be a “climate of theological openness” to allow people to express their doubts (*An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, p. 106). He says there should never be a punitive consequence or exclusion for expressions of doubt and questioning of even the most cardinal of doctrinal truths.

Adam Cleaveland says that churches should be “open to critique and deconstruction” (*An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, p. 125). He says there should be safe places “where people can come and be involved in the process of deconstructing ideas and practices, all while remaining open to the new movements and new waves of the Spirit.”

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Barry Taylor says, “Christian faith is open to discussion. Historically it always has been. It can be questioned and reinterpreted. In fact I would argue that it is meant to be questioned and reinterpreted” (*An Emerging Manifesto of Hope*, p. 167).

Brian McLaren says that we should welcome “the disillusioned and the doubters” (*A Generous Orthodoxy*, p. 172).

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s distinction between sincere and foolish questions.

Believers should entertain honest questions from seekers, but foolish questions are to be rejected.

“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes” (2 Timothy 2:23).

“But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain” (Titus 3:9).

We wholeheartedly support the idea of giving unbelievers “space” for expressing their questions and doubts as they are coming to the Lord. The man who led me to Christ spent a few entire days with me patiently teaching me the Bible and answering my questions. I was chock full of Humanism, New Age, Hinduism, Christian Science, and other errors, and I had a lot of questions and challenges to what the Bible taught. I believed there were many ways to God, that reincarnation was true, that a man can find the truth by following his heart, that God would not send people to Hell if they had never heard the gospel, that Christ had learned wisdom in Egypt during the “hidden years,” and many other false things. The man who led me to Christ knew little to nothing about the things I believed at the time, but he did know the Scripture, and as I expressed my views to him, including my doubts about the Bible, he patiently listened and then replied with Scripture.

In our church planting work in South Asia, many unbelievers visit our public meetings and home Bible studies and village meetings, and we deal with their many questions and doubts. Sometimes their questions are as ridiculous as whether or not we baptize people in cow’s blood (some of the Hindus have actually said this behind

our backs) or as substantial as why we believe that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and why He died on the cross. As we deal with their questions, sometimes they go on to saving faith in Christ and sometimes they turn away, but we deal as best as we can with their all of their issues.

After people are saved, they still have many doctrinal questions, of course. I thank the Lord for those who patiently taught me the Scriptures and set my thinking straight when I was a young believer.

For example, soon after I was saved I found a book by a Seventh-day Adventist at the public library and became confused about the sabbath and whether or not people go to Heaven or Hell at death and such things. The pastor of the church where I was a member showed me what the Bible said and his help and my own prayerful Bible study resolved those doubts.

The same thing happened in regard to Pentecostal-Charismatic doctrine. Having been led to Christ by a Pentecostal, I was confused about whether tongues-speaking is for today and such things, but by studying the Bible privately and receiving help from sound teachers, those issues were resolved.

I asked sincere questions and received honest Bible answers and the problem was settled.

I recall my late friend and former pastor, Gary Prisk. He had lived a roving lifestyle before he was saved, hitchhiking, using drugs, and he didn't know anything about the Bible. Not long after he came to Christ he went to Bible College, and one day soon after arriving he saw a book with the title "Is Jesus God?" He thought to himself, "No, God is God." He wasn't a heretic; he was simply ignorant; and after he was taught what the Bible says about Christ's divinity he accepted it readily and defended it for the rest of his life.

Foolish questions, on the other hand, are not to be entertained. A "foolish question" is *a question that is asked insincerely by a heretic with the goal of*

confusing people and leading them astray from sound doctrine.

This is the immediate context of Titus 3:9-10. A heretic is someone who is self-willed and has rejected sound doctrine in favor of his own opinions and perversions of the truth. The terms "heretic" and "heresy" refer to the willful choice of false doctrine, a willful alignment with error. The heretic is not content with the plain teaching of Scripture but pursues his own agenda.

This is exactly what we find in emerging church circles. A foolish question is one that is used in an attempt to overthrow plain Bible teaching, such as questions about the Trinity or Christ's bodily Resurrection and virgin birth or biblical inspiration or the eternal suffering of Hell or separation from the world.

It is good to ask sincere questions in the honest search for the truth, but it is evil to entertain questions that deny Bible truth. If the Bible says all unbelievers will suffer conscious eternal torment in fire, which it does, we must not entertain questions that speculate if this is a just punishment. If the Bible claims to be the infallible Word of God, which it does, we are not to question how this could be possible. If the Bible says we are not to love this world, which it does, we are not to question whether this might be a narrow, "legalistic" position.

Our questions must be controlled by the Bible, not the Bible by our questions. *"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law"* (Deut. 29:29).

A foolish question is also *a question that produces strife and contention* among Bible-believing Christians. Titus 3:9 associates foolish questions with "contentions and strivings," and 2 Timothy 2:23 says foolish questions "gender strifes." When someone only wants to argue with the Word of God, he stirs up strife and doubt and confusion among others and causes trouble in the churches.

A heretic is not a person who is merely ignorant of sound doctrine. A true believer can be ignorant of sound doctrine, but the evidence that he is not a heretic will be seen when he responds to sound doctrine and rejects the error.

The mouths of heretics are stopped *by refuting their questions and by putting them out of the assemblies* (Titus 3:10-11).

It is impossible to keep the truth without separating from false doctrine and maintaining church discipline. False teachers must be dealt with and not ignored, and the scriptural way to deal with them is to put them out of the assemblies and to separate the believers from them.

The heretic is to be admonished two times (Titus 3:10). An effort is to be made to reclaim the heretic from his error. It is possible that he is not truly a heretic but that he is only teaching out of ignorance, but the effort is not to be long and drawn out.

The heretic is to be admonished *only* two times (Titus 3:10). When it is obvious that he is set in his false ways, he must be rejected and put out of the assembly. Otherwise, he will corrupt others. “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Gal. 5:9).

The heretic condemns himself by his self-willed commitment to error. “*Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself*” (Titus 3:11). There is something wrong in the heretic’s heart.

“Subverted” is from the Greek word “ekstrepho,” which means to be twisted or turned inside out. Something has perverted that person’s heart so that he loves heresy rather than the truth.

“Such a one is subverted or perverted--a metaphor from a building so ruined as to render it difficult if not impossible to repair and raise it up again. Real heretics have seldom been recovered to the true faith: not so much defect of judgment, as perverseness of the will, being in the case, through pride, or ambition,

or self-willedness, or covetousness, or such like corruption, which therefore must be taken heed of” (Matthew Henry).

Consider an example of how to deal with a foolish question from Jesus’ earthly ministry in Luke 20:1-8 and 20:20-26.

Observe that Jesus did not argue with the Pharisees, nor did He waste time giving detailed replies to their insincere questions. He answered with statements that got to the root of the matter and shut their mouths!

If a person asks a sincere question, it should be answered from the Bible, but if he is asking a question to try to spread rebellion and promote false doctrine and draw people away from the truth, it is not profitable to answer it.

Therefore, our first point is that we must make a clear distinction between sincere and foolish questions.

The emerging church’s position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible’s requirements for church membership.

There are Bible qualifications for church members, and one of those is that they continue steadfastly in sound apostolic doctrine. This is the pattern that was set in the first church.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:41-42).

Those who were saved and added to the church at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost were Jews who were steeped in Judaism, but here we see that through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit they committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles and continued therein.

I am sure they had a thousand and one questions, but the teaching of the apostles settled every issue for them. This is the way it should be in every church.

If a church member asks a question about the deity of Christ or Hell or the sabbath, he should be taught in a patient and compassionate manner. If, though, he refuses to accept the Bible's teaching and persists in his doubt and unbelief and chooses heresy over the truth, he must be put out of the church.

Thus, there are doubts that an unbeliever can express to us in our evangelistic work that a church member is not allowed to hold.

The emerging church's position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible's exaltation of faith.

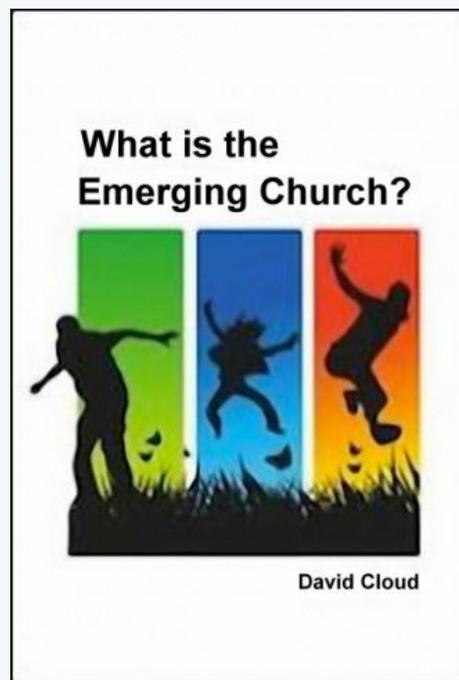
The Bible exalts faith over doubt. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* (Heb. 11:6).

Jesus rebuked those who doubted (Mat. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8) and praised those who had faith (Mat. 8:10; 15:28). He taught that faith is one of the weightier matters of the law (Mat. 23:23) and instructed the people to have faith in God (Mk. 11:22).

Zacharias was judged for doubting (Luke 1:20). James says those who doubt can receive nothing from the Lord (James 1:6-8). Christian men are exhorted to praise God *without doubting* (1 Tim. 2:8). To doubt is sin (Rom. 14:23).

The Bible teaches that we must come to terms with doubt; it must be dealt with; it must be resolved. The Psalmist momentarily doubted in Psalm 73, but his doubt was resolved in the same Psalm and he saw himself as a foolish beast for doubting God. John the Baptist doubted when he was in prison, but Jesus settled his doubt by doing Messianic miracles and thus reminding John that He is the One who was promised and also warning that it is those who are *not* offended in him that are blessed (Luke 7:19-22). On the cross, Jesus cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mat. 27:46), but this was not unresolved doubt; the question He asked is clearly resolved in Scripture. God the Father forsook the Son

What is the Emerging Church?



In this book we explore the following: (1) What is the Emerging Church? (2) A Great Blending and Merging (3) The Liberal Emerging Church (4) The Conservative Emerging Church (5) Brian McLaren: The Emerging Church's Biggest Mouth (6) Cain the First Emergent Worshipper (7) Charles Spurgeon Exposed the Emerging Church.

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From: <http://www.wayoflife.org>

on the cross because He was bearing the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4). Jesus' question was answered.

The emerging church's position on doubt/questionings is refuted by the Bible's teaching on the source of faith.

Faith does not come through contemplative practices or ecumenical dialogue; it comes by God's Word. *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17).

True faith, being founded upon God's inspired revelation has substance and evidence (Hebrews 11:1). The believer's faith is founded upon *"many infallible proofs"* (Acts 1:3). There is nothing blind about it.

A Critical Eye

By David Cloud

Recently a graduate of a fundamental Baptist Bible college told me that he had learned at school not to have a “critical eye.” He learned that he shouldn’t be critical of the music that was played, because the important thing is to “have a heart for God” and to be “edified” even if the music is questionable.

I believe this gets at the heart of the philosophy that is taught in many Independent Baptist churches and schools and that is breaking down the walls of spiritual discernment and opening people to wrong influences.

A critical eye can be good or bad, depending on how it is defined.

A critical eye is wrong if it is a product of a carnal attitude and an ungodly spirit. It is wrong if it is a judgment according to personal opinion rather than the clear teaching of God’s Word.

To judge things in the churches by one’s opinion and tradition and background and to set up one’s own conscience as a law for others is the sin that is condemned in Romans 14. Paul said, “Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand” (Rom. 14:4). He was talking about judging others in matters in which the Bible is silent. This is clear from the context, which is diet and holy days (Rom. 14:1-6).

The New Testament establishes no laws about diet and holy days, so it is wrong to judge others in such

matters. There is personal liberty. To set up my conscience as a law for others, when I do not have clear Scripture to back me up, is legalism.

In those two ways, it is wrong to have a “critical eye” (judging with a wrong attitude and judging from my own opinions).

But to judge godly judgment is not wrong. In fact, we are commanded to “judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). We are to “prove all things” (1 Th. 5:21). We are to imitate the Bereans who tested everything by Scripture (Acts 17:11). We are to esteem God’s Word to be right in every point and to hate every false way (Psalm 119:128). The Scripture is given for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Paul had a “critical eye” toward false teachers and worldlings like Demas.

I remember when I went to Bible School at Tennessee Temple in the mid-1970s. I was only one year old in the Lord, but I had experienced a powerful dose of salvation, and I had devoured the Bible during that year and I knew that God wanted me to test everything by it.

The following Scriptures were as precious and real to me then as today.

“Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and* I hate every false way” (Psa. 119:128).

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Th. 5:21).

I saw some things that I believed to be wrong, particularly the shallow, unscriptural soul winning technique (which I have since labeled Quick Prayerism), the man-centeredness, the carnal over-exaltation of man, the big numbersism, and the refusal on the part of the leaders and visiting speakers to speak out plainly on many important issues.

I had a “critical eye” toward these things, and insofar as I might have had a wrong attitude and lack of mercy and “balance,” I was wrong, but insofar as I was identifying things that were unscriptural and wrong, I was right.

By God's grace, I believe and hope that I am wiser and more gracious than I was when I was a new Christian, but I also thank the Lord that I have not given up my “critical eye” in a biblical discernment

sense. I still reject the things I rejected 40 years ago, because they are still unscriptural.

If ever there were a time to have a critical eye in a right sense, it is today. It will keep you protected spiritually. It is the devil who wants everyone to give up criticism. If we buy into that, we have no shield of protection.

I am concerned that many Independent Baptist churches and schools are putting humanistic eye wash in the biblical critical eye.

At the same time, I have often emphasized the importance of not having a carnal critical spirit, of always giving church leaders the benefit of the doubt, etc. Consider, for example, the sermons “Keys to Fruitful Church Membership” and “I Am Not Your Pastor,” which can be found via the search engine at the Way of Life web site.

When I was a young preacher, missionary Mel Rutter, vice president of Maranatha Baptist Mission, exhorted me, “Be as firm as a rock in your position and as sweet as the honey from the rock in your disposition.”

Believer's Bible Dictionary

New - April 2015

This volume, the product of forty years of study, is based upon the King James Bible and is written from a dispensational, Baptist perspective. The studies are thorough, practical, devotional, and designed to be used by preachers, teachers, and homeschoolers.

The Believer's Bible Dictionary is designed to be more affordable and transportable than the [Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible &](#)

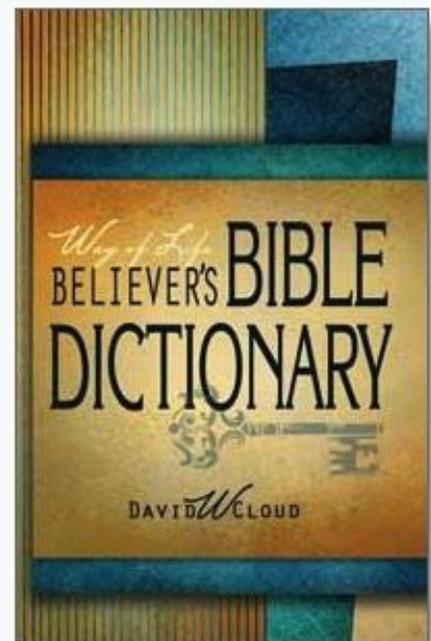
[Christianity](#). We encourage every believer, young and old, to have his own Bible dictionary and to have it right beside his Bible as he studies, and we are convinced that in many ways this is the best Bible dictionary available today.

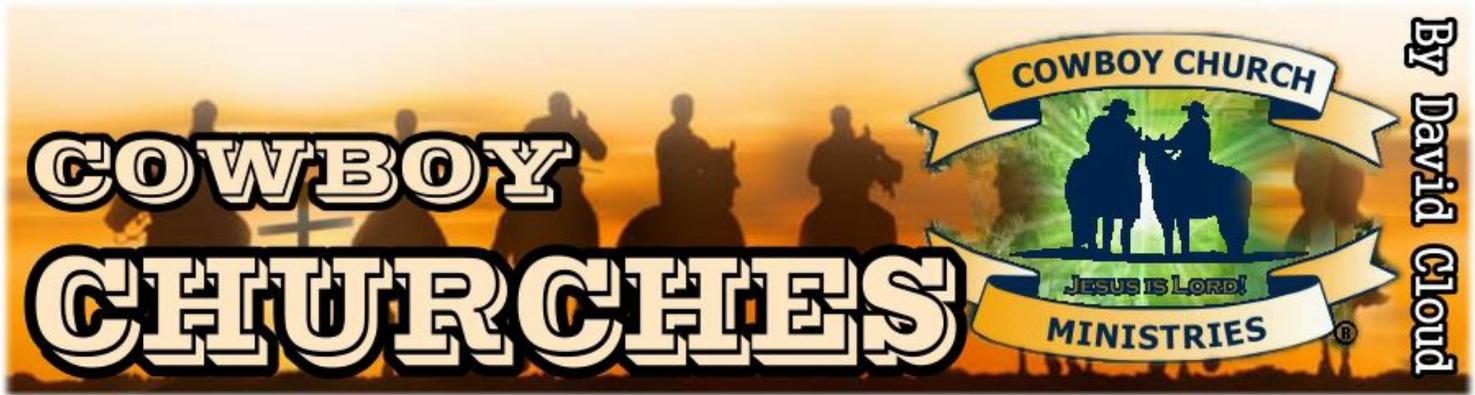
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The past couple of decades has seen significant growth in the cowboy church, with an estimated 750 in the United States. CowboyChurch.net, founded in 2001, is the largest directory of cowboy churches, the roots of the movement being traced back to ministries targeting rodeo events.

There is nothing wrong with meeting in a barn or having a friendly, relaxed atmosphere or welcoming people who need to come to church directly from work or wearing a bolo tie or baptizing in a stock tank or collecting the offering in a boot hanging at the back of the building.

If that were the essence of cowboy church, we would say nothing about it. But in researching this phenomenon, it appears that cowboy churches are big on cowboy and little on the whole counsel of God.

Though there are probably exceptions, they tend to promote a short Sunday service with a brief “message” and a lot of sensual, heavy-bass backbeat music. It’s the same sound heard at a Saturday night hoedown, where the liquor flows and you “grab your girl and do-si-do.”

This is a cheap, fleshly, worldly music to offer as worship to a thrice holy God, and adding some words about “Jesus” doesn’t change the music’s fundamental sensual character and doesn’t convert it from being profane to being spiritual.

The non-denominational Wabash Valley Cowboy Church in Terre Haute, Indiana, has a Sunday “program that is 75 percent music, with a brief sermonette and no altar call.” The Ridin’ For the Brand Cowboy Church in Sanger, Texas, satisfies deep spiritual appetites with Andy Griffith and John Wayne Bible studies. Last

Christmas, the “professional country-western musicians” at the cowboy church in Cortez, Colorado, told the congregation, “We’re gonna sing about Santa Claus tonight, hope you don’t mind that too much” (“Saddle Up,” *Cortez Journal*, Jan. 6, 2012). In January the Cortez cowboy church hosted a live comedy and Western music show.

I’m sure there are exceptions, but cowboy church seems to appeal to those looking for a bit of Christianity to salve their conscience, a type of church that won’t put obligations on them and interfere much with their chosen lifestyle. This is the “Jesus” that is still very popular in America. Typical is the local rancher who attends the cowboy church in Cortez, Colorado, who says, “I pray on a regular basis, but I’m no Bible thumper by any means.”

The doctrinal statements tend to be extremely brief, facilitating an unscriptural big tent approach to fellowship and association.

Some, like Cowboy Church Ministries, are charismatic.

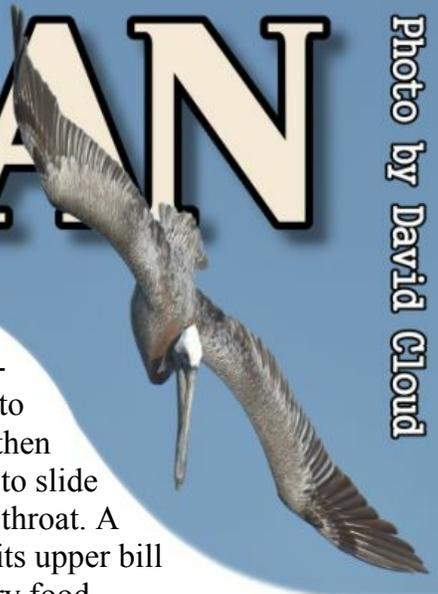
The American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT). The BGCT, in turn, partners with the New Evangelical Southern Baptist Convention *and* with the theologically liberal Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, where Jimmy Carter, who denies the infallible inspiration of Scripture and believes that men can be saved apart from believing in Christ, has found a home.

It is obvious that most cowboy churches are outlaws when it comes to not conforming to the world, to contending earnestly for the faith, and to obeying the doctrine of biblical separation.

The

PELICAN

Photo by David Cloude



The pelican is another one of God's amazing creatures. It is a large waterfowl that comes in seven or eight varieties. It has webbed feet, large wings, a long bill, and a bag of skin below its beak called a gular pouch. It varies in size from about six pounds to 30. Its wonderfully-designed skeleton weighs less than 10% of its body weight.

The pelican cannot straighten its neck, because its eighth vertebra is joined with the seventh and ninth.

Pelicans live in every continent except Antarctica and build their nests in colonies.

The brown pelican fishes by plunge-diving headfirst into the water. The accompanying photo taken from a bridge in Florida captures a brown pelican in a dive. Its sharp eyes can see the fish from 60-70 feet in the air, in spite of the glare of the water, and it has the amazing ability to time its plunge and judge its angle perfectly to capture prey. It hits the water with such force that fish under the surface are momentarily stunned, and when its bill touches the water, the pelican pushes its legs and wings back to create more force (Elise Willitt, "The Biogeography of the California Brown Pelican," San Francisco State University, 2001).

There are air sacs under the bird's skin to cushion the impact, to help it swim back to the surface, and to help keep it afloat. The pelican's bill is sensitive and helps the bird locate fish in murky water.

The most distinctive feature is its pouch. A famous limerick says, "A wonderful bird is the pelican, his bill can hold more than his 'belican,'" referring to the fact that its pouch holds about three gallons of water, whereas its stomach can hold only one gallon. The amazing bird uses the pouch as a net to catch fish.

After scooping up its prey, it contracts the pouch to empty the water, then jerks its head back to slide the prey down its throat. A hook at the end of its upper bill helps it grip slippery food.

The opening and closing of the pouch is controlled by a complex set of tongue muscles. By contracting and relaxing the muscles, the bird can flutter its pouch at a rate of 200 times a minute as a cooling mechanism.

The pelican has a gland at the base of its tail that produces waterproof oil that it uses to coat its feathers to keep them from becoming waterlogged.

The pelican is a great flier and can float beautifully on thermals that rise from the water.

To fly from a sitting position on the water, the bird must flap its large wings and literally pound the surface of the water with both its feet in unison to gain enough speed to lift off.

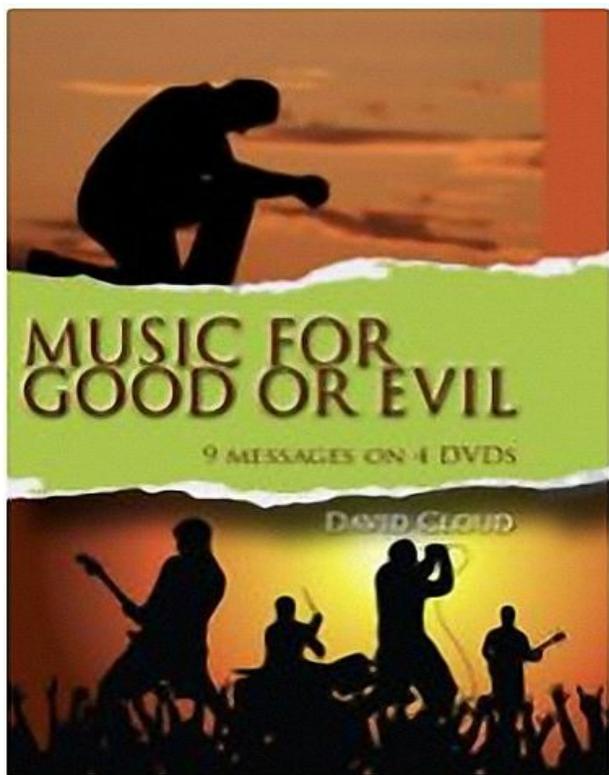
A group of flying pelicans is called a "squadron."

The pelican sleeps by turning its head backwards and laying the long beak on its back.

During courtship, the pelican's bill and pouch becomes multi-colored, part bright salmon pink, part yellow, part cobalt blue, with a black diagonal strip appearing from base to tip of the bill.

The eggs are incubated on the parents' feet, and the unborn chicks communicate with their mothers as to whether they are too hot or cold.

MARKS OF GOOD SONG LEADING PRESENTATION - by David Cloud



We have made our complete video series *Music for Good or Evil* available for free as eVideo downloads.

This series, which is packed with photos, video and audio clips, has 12 segments, including one on “Marks of Good Song Leading.” This would be a good training tool (or refresher) for song leaders.

I. Biblical Principles of Good Christian Music (two parts).

II. Why We Reject Contemporary Christian Music. We cover the following reasons: It is worldly, addictive, ecumenical, charismatic, shallow and man-centered, opposed to preaching, experience-oriented, and it weakens the strong biblicist stance of a church.

III. The Sound of Contemporary Christian Music. In this section we give the believer simple tools that he can use to discern the difference between sensual and sacred music. We deal with syncopated dance styles, sensual vocal styles, relativistic styles, and overly soft styles that do not fit the message. Audio clips illustrate each point.

IV. The Transformational Power of Contemporary Worship Music. We show why CCM is able to transform a “traditional” Bible-believing church into a contemporary one. Its transformational power resides in its enticing

philosophy of “liberty” and in its sensual, addictive music. We use audio and video clips to illustrate the sound of contemporary worship.

V. Southern Gospel. We deal with the history of Southern Gospel and its current character and influence and the role of the Gaithers in the renaissance of Southern Gospel. This section is packed with audio, video, and photos.

VI. Marks of Good Song Leading. There is a great need for proper training of song leaders today, and in this segment we deal with the following eight principles: Leadership, preparation, edification, spirituality, spiritual discernment, wisdom in song selection, diversity. One thing we emphasize is the need to sing worship songs that turn the people’s focus directly to God. We give dozens of examples of worship songs that are found in standard hymnals used by Bible-believing churches, but typically these are not sung properly as “unto God.”

VII. Questions Answered on Contemporary Christian Music (2 parts). We answer 15 of the most common questions on this subject, such as the following: Is rhythm wrong? Isn’t this issue just a matter of different taste? Isn’t the sincerity of the musicians the important thing? Isn’t some CCM acceptable? Didn’t Luther and the Wesleys use tavern music? What is the difference between using contemporary worship hymns and using old Protestant hymns?

VIII. The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music. This presentation documents the frightful spiritual compromise, heresy, and apostasy that permeates the field of contemporary praise music. Through extensive documentation, we demonstrate that contemporary worship music is controlled by “another spirit” (2 Cor. 11:4). It is the spirit of charismaticism, the spirit of the “latter rain,” the spirit of Roman Catholicism and the one-world “church,” the spirit of the world that is condemned by 1 John 2:16, the spirit of homosexuality, and the spirit of the false god of *The Shack*. The presentation looks carefully at the origin of contemporary worship in the Jesus Movement of the 1970s, examining the lives and testimonies of some of the most influential people.

The download page for these video presentation is as follows:

http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/video/music_for_good_or_evil.php

Music for Good or Evil can also be purchased on DVD from www.wayoflife.org.

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



WEST COAST STAFF MEMBER BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE CONTEMPORARY SBC

POSITION (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The compromise at West Coast Baptist College and Lancaster Baptist Church is evidenced by the affiliations of its staff members, some of whom are comfortable straddling the fence between a fundamentalist and a contemporary position. This is dangerous, unscriptural bridge-building. Jim Schettler is an example. He was the pastor of the campus church at Pensacola Christian College for many years, then moved to California to pastor First Baptist Church of Santa Maria and to be the Vice President of Student Affairs at West Coast Baptist College. Pastor Schettler's son, Ben, is founder of Ask or Think Ministries and a teen ministry called Pure Truth Conferences. He is also a member of and preaches at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, a rock & roll Southern Baptist congregation that uses modern versions (NIV, NASV, The Message) and despises "separatism." Olive Baptist's pastor, Ted Traylor, was First Vice-President of the SBC in 2000 and President of the SBC's 2004 Pastors' Conference. Olive

Baptist rocked out in both services on June 28 with the Jason Lovins Band. At his blog, Ben Schettler currently recommends a book by John Piper's son, Barnabas, that glorifies doubt, which is an emerging principle, as we have documented in *What Is the Emerging Church?* [See "[Glorifying Doubt](#)" under the Emerging Church section of the Articles Database at www.wayoflife.org.] West Coast's Jim Schettler is partnering with Ben in ministry. He is a prominent speaker at Ben's conferences, most recently in April 2015 in Cincinnati. Rand Hummel, director of the Wilds of New England, is also a speaker at Ben's conferences. We believe that a man should love his son no matter what he believes and should show it and seek to win his heart to the truth, but fellowship with a son on a personal basis is one thing, while joining hands in ministry with a son committed to the contemporary, anti-separatist, rock & roll SBC philosophy is an entirely different one. Many Lancaster members and West Coast students will walk across the bridges that are being built by its teachers and staff members. (See also "Next Generation Rocking at Lancaster Baptist Church," Apr. 23, 2015.) Following are sites that document the things stated in this report:

<http://www.puretruthmovement.com/speakers>

<https://www.facebook.com/puretruthconference>

<http://wcbc.edu/welcome-dr-jim-schettler>

FANTASY SPORTS A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

(Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Fantasy Sports, not long ago the



province of a few die-hard fans, is now a multi-billion dollar a year industry that attracts more than 51 million American participants. Fantasy players spend an average of \$465 a year on their fantasies, more than four times what it was just three years ago. Two leading fantasy companies, DraftKings and FanDuel, are worth an estimated \$1 billion each. "In fantasy sports a participant creates his own team, selecting players from a real-world sports league like the NBA, National Football League, or England's Premier League football. As real games are played, a fantasy team competes and is ranked against others based on the actual-game performance of its players" ("Like the real game, fantasy sports now worth billions," AFP, Jun. 28, 2015). I don't preach against sports in general, as there is some value to it at a certain level, but it is a dangerous thing that seems to easily capture the heart and become an idol. As for professional sports, there is no doubt that it is one of the chief gods of these end times. Professional sports are characterized by the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life, which is the exact definition we find in God's Word of "the world" that we are *not* to love (1 John 2:15-17). There is a tremendous amount of misplaced enthusiasm, money, and time spent on the vanities of this life by those who profess the name of Christ.

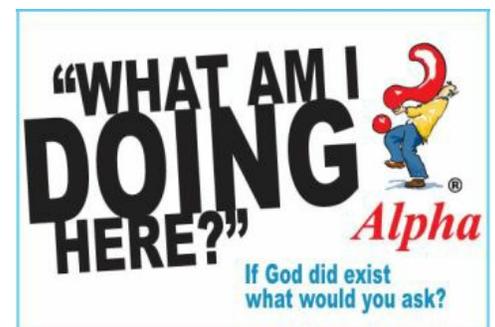
INDIAN LEADER PROMOTING YOGA (Friday Church News Notes,

July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a massive yoga session in New Delhi on International Yoga Day, June 21, a day he has pushed for since coming to power last year. He sat in front of tens of thousands of other Indians posed in yoga positions and chanting "Om." Yoga is one of India's most successful exports, said to be a \$27 billion industry in America. In a speech beforehand, Modi said, "This program is only about human welfare, about freeing the universe from stress and about spreading the message of love, peace, unity, and goodwill" ("Yoga Day," ReligionNews.com, June 22, 2015). If that were true, India would be an entirely different country, for the birthplace of yoga is anything but filled with love, peace, unity, and goodwill! As for love and peace and unity, consider the way that Modi's Hindu friends in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have treated Christians and Muslims in murderous rampages! Yoga is a Hindu concept of attuning oneself with one's own godhood; and when tested by the Bible, it is found to be a dangerous spiritual practice that can connect the individual with demons masquerading as angels of light. Before I was saved in 1973, I was a member of the Self-Realization Fellowship Society, a Hindu



organization based in Los Angeles, and I practiced meditation. I also practiced hypnotic techniques that are alleged to take one back to his past lives. We agree with Laurette Willis, who practiced yoga for 22 years before she came to the truth in Jesus Christ. She told the Religious News Service that yoga left her vulnerable to psychic influences that she believed to be demonic. She said, "Yoga led me down a false rosy path. It opened the door to 20 years of involvement in the New Age movement."

ALPHA BUILDING THE ONE-WORLD "CHURCH" (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- Alpha is an interdenominational evangelistic program that has grown phenomenally since its inception in the early 1990s. More than 18 million people have participated in the program in 169 countries, and its materials have been translated into 112 languages. It was birthed at the charismatic Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican church in London, England, and the developer, Nicky Gumbel, said that he experienced "massive electricity going through" his body in 1994 when the charismatic "revival" broke out at the parish. The May 2015 Alpha Leadership conference at Holy Trinity Brompton featured Catholic priest Raniero Cantalamessa (household preacher to the pope),

Archbishop Justin Welby, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Female preacher Joyce Meyer also spoke. Nicky Gumbel opened the conference with a speech entitled “A Vision for a United Church,” saying: “Unity doesn’t mean we have to agree on everything--disagreement is healthy. ... I have come to love the Catholic Church--if God has given them the same Spirit, who are we to oppose God? ... The same Spirit lives in the Catholics, and the Orthodox, and the Pentecostals and the Protestants, even the Anglicans have the same Holy Spirit living within them. That’s what makes us one!” (“Letter to the Editor: Alpha Course Founder, Nicky Gumbel, Asks for Ecumenical Unity with Catholic Church,” Lighthouse Trails, May 28, 2015). Alpha is promoted by influential contemporary musicians such as Stuart Townend, Tim Hughes, Matt Redman, and Chris Tomlin, because Alpha and Contemporary Christian Music share the same enthusiasm for ecumenicism.

BRITISH EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL ACKNOWLEDGES CHRISTIAN’S RIGHT TO BELIEVE THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- In ruling against a company that fired an employee for saying that homosexuality is sinful, a London employment tribunal says that Christians have a right to believe this. The tribunal ruled that Sarah Mbuyi was wrongly discriminated against when she was fired for telling a lesbian co-worker that her lifestyle is condemned by the Bible. The co-worker instigated the discussion when she asked Miss Mbuyi “whether she would be welcomed at church and whether God would approve of her civil partnership and allow her to marry in church” (“Woman fired for answering lesbian’s church question,” *WorldNetDaily*, June 10, 2015). The intolerant attitude against biblical Christianity that is leavening British society is evident in the fact that Mbuyi’s company fired her. But in his ruling, Judge Broughton stated, “The issues in this case arose out of the claimant’s belief that homosexuality is a sin. Such a belief has effectively already been accepted by the higher courts ... as capable of amounting to one that attracts the protection of the Equality Act 2010. It was a genuinely held belief that was more than an opinion or viewpoint and had attained a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance. **It is a belief worthy of respect in a democratic society, is not incompatible with human dignity and is not in conflict with the fundamental rights of others.**” As they say in Australia, “Good on you, Judge Broughton, for ruling honestly on the law.”

NOT RELIGION, JESUS! (Friday Church News Notes, July 3, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Recently I witnessed to two people while taking photographs of wildlife. One was a young man who had just graduated from high school. The other was a folk singer about my age who was performing for offerings at a pier near Seattle. When I mentioned my faith in Jesus Christ, both said they didn’t like religion. I replied, “I am not talking about religion; I’m talking about a personal relationship with the Creator through His Son.” The young man is from the Philippines, and I explained that men have corrupted the Bible’s gospel with human religion and tradition, and I gave the example of Roman Catholicism. I explained to him that the New Testament says nothing about masses and priests and infant baptisms and confirmations and prayers to Mary. That is vain religion. Salvation is not religion. It is to be born again through personal faith in Jesus Christ and then to walk with Him as Saviour, Lord, Father, and Friend. When I told him that I get to travel extensively and take photographs and teach and research and write books, he said that was his dream job. Many people have told me that. I urged him to read Psalm 37:4, because that verse describes the essence of the true Christian life. I am living my dream, because I surrendered my life to Christ and pursued Him; He has given me the right desires and then has fulfilled them. I urged this young man to surrender to Jesus Christ and to seek His will and never to be afraid of His will. “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psa. 37:4).

DARLENE ZSCHECH OF HILLSONG JOINS HANDS WITH THE POPE (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015,



Darlene Zschech & Pope

www.wayoflife.org
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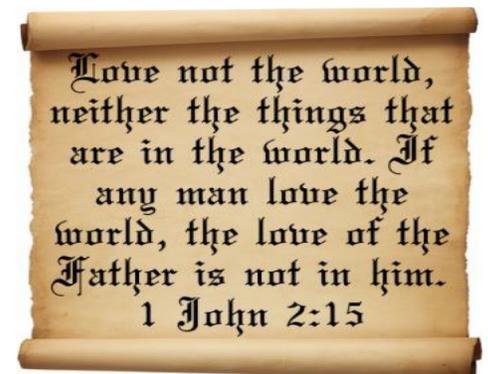
- On July 3-4, 2015, Darlene Zschech of Hillsong music joined hands with the pope at the Convocation of the Renewal of the Holy Spirit at the Vatican. On her Facebook page, Zschech said: "Honoured to be singing this week, with Andrea Bocelli, Don Moen, Noa [Israeli singer], with Pope Francis and thousands of worshippers gathering in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. This is a celebration of unity and peace in the Renewal of the Holy Spirit. Amazing days for the Body of Christ." The Catholic mass was celebrated at the event led by Cardinal Angelo Comastri. According to blasphemous Catholic dogma, the priest has the power to turn the bread into the actual body and blood of Jesus, and it is then worshiped in the form of the consecrated host. We wonder if Darlene addressed some of her enthusiastic worship to Rome's Host-Jesus? Pope Francis praised the charismatic movement's zeal for unity, and said that Christian unity is "rooted in a common baptism" ("Pope Greets Members of the Renewal," July 4, 2015, FullyCatholic.com). According to Roman Catholic dogma, baptism is

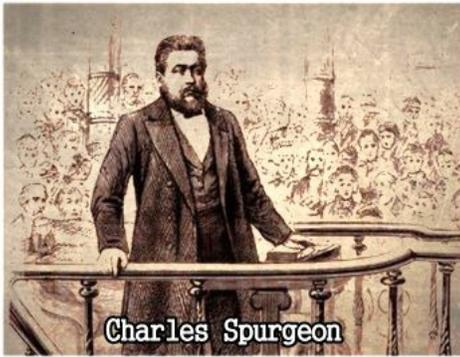
the new birth and the entrance into the Christian life which is then nurtured by the sacraments. It is a cursed "grace plus works" gospel (Galatians 1:8-9) which the Catholic Church in recent times has cleverly rebranded as "grace only." Since she was already in Rome, we wonder if Darlene took some time to visit the Santa Maria Maggoire (Saint Mary Major) basilica to pray to the Queen of Heaven and to meditate on the statue of Mary hanging on the cross with Jesus just outside the church? Nothing is more effective at building the one-world "church" than the charismatic movement and its contemporary worship music.

CCM A JUNGLE OF END-TIME APOSTASY (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015, www.wayoflife.org
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- That Contemporary Christian Music is a jungle of end-time apostasy is documented irrefutably in the 550-page [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), which we have made available as a free eBook at the Way of Life web site. When you look at the fact that CCM has an illicit relationship with the world, which the apostle John plainly stated is "not of God" (1 John 5:15-17), that CCM represents the charismatic movement in all of its dangerous heretical weirdness (e.g., gibberish speaking, spirit slaying, holy laughter, holy drunkenness, Word Faith name-it-and-claim-it, latter rain miracle revival, fourth dimension prayer, end-time prophets and apostles), that CCM is thoroughly ecumenical and closely affiliated with Rome, that most CCMers love Dietrich Bonhoeffer and C.S. Lewis and a galaxy of other rank heretics, that CCM is permeated

with Roman Catholic contemplative prayer mysticism, that most CCMers love wretchedly corrupt "Bibles" such as *The Message*, and that large numbers of CCMers love *The Shack* and its idolatrous god -- it is obvious that we are dealing with "another spirit" rather than the Spirit of God who is the Spirit of Truth and Righteousness. It is easy to see that CCM has *no place whatsoever* in a Bible-believing church and home. God has commanded that His people "touch not the unclean thing" (2 Corinthians 6:17). The contemporary praise movement represents end-time Babylon, and God says, "Come out!" (Revelation 18:4). You say that you don't believe that the contemporary praise music is end-time Babylon? If you are born again and love the truth and live by the absolute standard of God's Word, I challenge you to download the [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#) and read through it carefully, asking God to show you the truth. Check the facts for yourself. All we ask of our readers is to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good." But if you are one of those many preachers who admit to being ill-informed about contemporary music and yet aren't interested in getting educated, there is no hope that you and your church will be protected from the onslaught of compromise and end-time apostasy.





SPEAKING BOLDLY AGAINST ROME (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Following is an excerpt from Charles Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening* devotionals. Spurgeon's zeal against "popery" is not found anywhere among prominent contemporary Christian musicians. "Since he was cursed who rebuilt Jericho, much more the man who labours to restore Popery among us. In our fathers' days the gigantic walls of Popery fell by the power of their faith, the perseverance of their efforts, and the blast of their gospel trumpets; and now there are some who would rebuild that accursed system upon its old foundation. O Lord, be pleased to thwart their unrighteous endeavours, and pull down every stone which they build. It should be a serious business with us to be thoroughly purged of every error which may have a tendency to foster the spirit of Popery, and when we have made a clean sweep at home we should seek in every way to oppose its all too rapid spread abroad in the church and in the world. This last can be done in secret by fervent prayer, and in public by decided testimony. We must warn with judicious boldness those who are inclined towards the errors of Rome; we must instruct the young in gospel truth, and tell them of the black doings of Popery in the olden times.

We must aid in spreading the light more thoroughly through the land, for priests, like owls, hate daylight. Are we doing all we can for Jesus and the gospel? If not, our negligence plays into the hands of the priestcraft. What are we doing to spread the Bible, which is the Pope's bane and poison? Are we casting abroad good, sound gospel writings? Luther once said, 'The devil hates goose quills' and, doubtless, he has good reason, for ready writers, by the Holy Spirit's blessing, have done his kingdom much damage. If the thousands who will read this short word this night will do all they can to hinder the rebuilding of this accursed Jericho, the Lord's glory shall speed among the sons of men. Reader, what can you do? What will you do?"

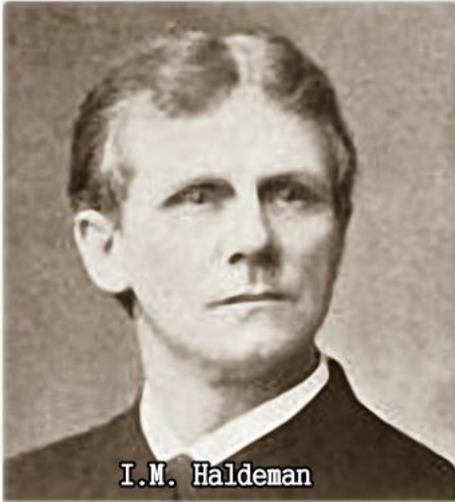
DRUNKEN WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration" (Rev. 17:6). The Roman Catholic Church has murdered millions of believers. In the Netherlands alone, multitudes were tormented and destroyed. "The history of the Low Countries from this time is so full of martyrdoms, that it is like a gradual extermination of the population. ... The fires were now kindled all over the country, and edict following edict, with increasing severity, kept them burning. It was death to read a page of the scriptures; death to discuss any article of the faith; death to have in one's possession any of the writings of Luther, Zwingle, or OEcolumpadius; death to express a doubt respecting the efficacy of the sacraments, or the authority of the pope. In the year 1536, that good and faithful servant of the Lord, William Tyndale, was strangled and burnt at Vilvordi, near Brussels, for

translating the New Testament into English, and printing it in 1535. ... About four hundred churches were plundered and defaced in a few days. ... The troops were ordered to be distributed over the distracted country, that the persecuting edicts might be enforced. The Protestants were reduced to great straits; many were put to death, and many fled the country ... In the year 1567 the cruel duke of Alva was sent into the Netherlands with an army of fifteen thousand Spaniards and Italians; and the Inquisition was to put forth all its energies. The wooden churches were pulled down, and, in some places the beams were formed into a great gallows on which to hang the minister and his flock. [These atrocities were] to be witnessed almost daily in the country for nearly forty years. ... In the year 1567 'the council of blood,' as it was called, held its first sitting. ... Blood now flowed in torrents. ... A new edict was issued, affixing a heavy penalty upon all waggoners, carriers, and ship-masters, who should aid in the emigration of 'heretics.' They had resolved that none should escape. ... Upon the 19th of February 1568 a sentence of the Holy Office condemned all the inhabitants of the Netherlands to death as heretics. ... A proclamation of the king, dated ten days later, confirmed this decree of the inquisition, and ordered it to be carried into instant execution, without regard to age, sex, condition. This is probably the most concise death-warrant that was ever framed. Three millions of people--men, women, and children, were sentenced to the scaffold in three lines. Under this universal condemnation the reader will



see the real spirit of popery, and what all had to expect who did not yield an absolute, though blind submission, to all her idolatries, and superstitions (*Miller's Church History*, pp. 1002-1008).

THE CRAWLING, CREEPING MOVEMENT OF SURRENDER (Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The following was written in 1929 by I.M. Haldeman, *A King's Penknife, or, Why I am Opposed to Modernism*: "Another word flung cheaply at those who stand for the integrity of the Bible, not only as a rule of faith, but practice, is the easy epithet: 'Narrow.' There are Christians, even in the pulpit, good enough and wanting to be faithful to their calling, who shiver whenever the word is uttered in their neighborhood. ... But as I recall the preaching of the Son of God, I find it was along the line of a NARROW positivism: It was he who said: 'Narrow is the way that leadeth unto life.' ... To raise a hue and cry against this as 'divisive;' to appeal to compromise for the sake of 'brotherhood' and 'Christian charity' and to talk about LOVE BEING MORE IMPORTANT IN THE

CHURCH THAN CORRECTNESS OF DOCTRINE, IS EMOTIONAL WEAKNESS AND FALLACIOUS FOLLY. ... The word 'toleration' must be cut out of the church vocabulary. You cannot find it in the Bible. It is not a nice word. It is not to be found in good company. It is a word much used by middle-of-the-road men. It has in it, no matter how much dissimulated, the crawling, creeping movement of surrender. ... Why should the Church tolerate men who no longer tolerate the Bible as God gave it to us?"

JIMMY CARTER SAYS JESUS WOULD APPROVE GAY "MARRIAGE" (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a July 7 interview with *HuffPost Live*, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said: "I think Jesus would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else, and I don't see that gay marriage damages anyone else. I believe Jesus would approve gay marriage. That's just my own personal opinion." Jimmy Carter is a longtime Sunday School teacher at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, though he doesn't believe the Bible. In 1997, Carter rebuked the Southern Baptist Convention for targeting Mormons with the gospel. Carter loves modernistic theologians such as Barth and Brunner who denied the infallible inspiration of Holy Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, and other cardinal doctrines. After his election to the presidency, Carter appointed pro-abortion activist Sarah Weddington to the position of assistant to the president. He has been promoting homosexual rights since the early 1990s. To say that



Jesus would approve of gay marriage is ridiculous, since Jesus defined marriage as one man and one woman as "at the beginning," referring to Genesis 2. "Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Jesus Christ, Matthew 19:4-5).

WORLD'S SMALLEST BIBLE IS IN ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "World's Smallest," *Christian Headlines*, Jul. 8, 2015: "Scientists in Israel have created the world's smallest Bible, a text so small that it could fit on the tip of a pen. CNN reports the *Nano Bible* includes 1.2 million letters of the Old Testament etched onto a minuscule disc. To read the Scrip-



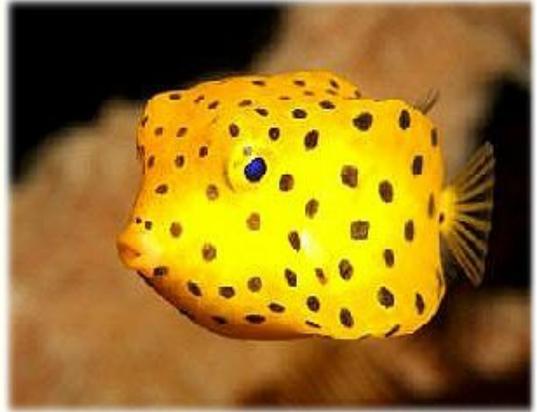
ture, it would have to be magnified about 10,000 times. To create the Bible, scientists from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology used silicon that was 100 atoms thick and plated it with gold. The characters were engraved with a focused ion beam. The *Nano Bible* is now being displayed at the Israel Museum's 50th anniversary exhibit."

BELGIUM'S CULTURE OF DEATH (Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Thousands of people in Belgium," *Business Insider*, Jul. 3, 2015: "A healthy 24-year-old woman in Belgium made headlines recently when she announced that she was going to die by assisted suicide, not because of chronic pain or a terminal ailment, but because of her persistent suicidal thoughts. The woman, who gave only her first name, Laura, to the press is one of 50 people per year in Belgium who are allowed to get assisted suicides for psychiatric reasons alone. Belgium made history in 2002 when it legalized assisted suicide for people with unbearable pain, physical or psychological. Proponents of the law say it humanizes people with debilitating conditions by giving them the autonomy to end it all. Op-



ENGINEERING A CAR FROM A FISH

(Friday Church News Notes, July 10, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Biomimicry, human engineering based on nature's designs, is a rapidly growing field. Mercedes-Benz even built a concept car from its research into the tropical boxfish (*Ostracion cubicus*). They found that there is nothing clunky about the clunky-looking fish. It has a drag coefficient of just 0.06, "startlingly close to the ideal 0.04 of a water droplet" ("Fish-inspired Car," *Popular Science*, Aug. 16, 2005). "Like the droplet, the boxfish's face is small in proportion to its overall length, and its streamlined surfaces encourage air to move over it without creating the turbulence that robs aerodynamic efficiency." John McMasters, an aeronautics engineer with Boeing, says that lessons learned from nature will play an



increasing role in new aircraft ("Flying Creatures May Help Create Aviation of Future," *USA Today*, Feb. 13, 2007). The very existence of this scientific field is a powerful witness to the fact that there is nothing "blind" about "nature." The fact that so many scientists reject "intelligent design" is not evidence against design; it is evidence of willful blindness. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

ponents of the law argue Belgian doctors often prescribe assisted suicide when the patient is not entirely out of other options. Since the law went into effect, about 10,600 people have taken their lives in Belgium via assisted suicide, about half of them between the ages of 70 and 90. But of the 1,924 people who were euthanized in 2014, about two to three percent were people suffering from psychiatric conditions, and many of them were younger, Professor Wim Distelmans, chairman of the federal commission for euthanasia, told Belgian publication *Humo*."

CANADA COURT UPHOLDS HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA OVER RELIGIOUS FAITH

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The Ontario Superior Court has upheld the decision to deny accreditation to a Christian law school because of its stance against homosexuality. When the 4,000-student Trinity Western University in Vancouver, British Columbia, wanted to open a law school a couple of years ago, the Law Society of Upper Canada barred accreditation. The Ontario Court “found that the denial of accreditation did violate Trinity’s freedom of religion, but that this violation was acceptable because of the greater good of protecting equality” (“Canada Court Denies Christian Law School Accreditation Due to University’s Rule against Gay Sex,” *The Stream*, July 5, 2015). This is the latest in a series of attacks on religious liberty in Canada. Ken Ham rightly observes: “[We] have been warning that legalizing gay ‘marriage’ is only the beginning of an agenda. From what we’ve seen and know about the LGBT movement, the leaders don’t just want legalization of their immoral behavior, but also want to force acceptance of this on everyone. They want everyone not just to tolerate their position, but to accept it while they themselves show intolerance for those who do not hold to their views” (*Around the World with Ken Ham*, July 7, 2015).

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY DROPS BAN ON HOMOSEXUALITY

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Baylor University Drops Ban,” *Houston Chronicle*, Jul. 7, 2015: “The world’s largest Baptist university has dropped a ban on ‘homosexual acts’ in its sexual conduct policy. After years of appeals from students,



alumni and others, Baylor University revised its policy, dropping the ban on gay sex to ‘state more plainly the expectations of the university,’ a Baylor spokeswoman said Tuesday. ‘These changes were made because we didn’t believe the language reflected Baylor’s caring community,’ spokeswoman Lori Fogleman said in an email. ... Baylor’s previous policy called ‘homosexual acts’ a misuse of ‘God’s gift,’ along with sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest and adultery. ... The school’s updated policy, approved by Baylor’s board in May, is far more vague than its last one. It says the university will be guided by ‘the biblical understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God.’ Sex, the policy says, ‘is to be expressed in the context of marital fidelity.’”

Concluding Comment: It is not an act of “care” or compassion to authorize something that God plainly forbids. Furthermore, it is impossible for homosexuals to express their sexuality “in the context of marital fidelity” when the Bible only endorses such a context for a man and a woman.

NEW ZEALAND PASSES ONEROUS BILL LIMITING FREEDOM OF SPEECH

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - New Zealand has passed legislation on “cyber-bullying” that has the

potential to destroy freedom of speech and religion in that country. The Harmful Digital Communications Bill “will censor posts deemed offensive, racist, abusive or show religious intolerance” (“Mind Your Manners: New Zealand Criminalises Online Trolling to Prevent ‘Hurt Feelings,’” *Breitbart*, Jul. 2, 2015). That covers almost everything! All that is necessary for action to be taken is for an individual to claim that he has suffered “serious emotional distress” by something published on the Internet. Further, the (allegedly) aggrieved party can remain anonymous. Laws designed to protect people’s feelings can do nothing but destroy every semblance of freedom of speech and religion. We have no doubt that there will be a line of aggrieved queued up to take advantage of this new law, and the real bullying will be the nanny state’s bullying of those who don’t kowtow to political correctness. Last week, a Christian couple in Oregon, Aaron



and Melissa Klein, were ordered to pay \$135,000 to two lesbians for “emotional suffering” because they refused to make them a wedding cake in 2013.

THE LOCATION OF SODOM

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Dr. Leen Ritmeyer, architect and



archaeologist, has made three reconstructive drawings of the ancient city of Sodom and its gate based on research done over the past two decades by Dr. Steven Collins, Dean of the College of Archaeology and Biblical History at Trinity Southwest University, Albuquerque, New Mexico. I understand that Ritmeyer has assisted some in the excavation. They believe that Sodom was located at Tel el-Hammam, almost due east of Jericho on the eastern side of the Jordan. This is in the plain of Jordan, which is the area where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea. It fits the Bible's description of Sodom's location in Genesis 13:10-11. Lot lifted up his eyes from Bethel, which is west of Jericho, and saw the region to the east, describing it as "the plain of Jordan." From Bethel, Lot journeyed east to Sodom. The Hebrew word for "plain" in Genesis 13 is "kikkar," which refers to a circle, a perfect description of the plain of Jordan. Ritmeyer reports, "During the excavations of Tall el-Hammam in 2013, a large gatehouse with pillars was found behind the main entrance to the Middle Bronze Age city. This reconstruction drawing shows what the main gate of Tall el-Hammam would have looked like. The drawing shows a right angled pathway through the gatehouse with a space at the side where the elders and judges of the city would have congregated. Many other exciting finds were made, such as melted

potsherds and burnt skeletons, that testify to a terrible and fiery destruction, reminiscent of that described in Genesis 19." Whether or not Tel el-Hammam is Sodom, there is no doubt that Sodom and its sister cities were located somewhere in that area. Dr. Ritmeyer's reconstructive drawings are based on actual archaeological research and are beautifully done, bringing ancient Bible history to life. I have licensed some of them for my PowerPoint presentations. Dr. Ritmeyer also has an excellent new book *Jerusalem: The Temple Mount*. See <http://www.ritmeyer.com/2015/05/04/the-search-for-sodom/>

HOW MANY SMELLS CAN YOU SMELL (Friday Church News Notes, June 26, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 31, 2015: "Psalm 45:8: 'All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.' Until recently it was commonly thought that humans can smell approximately 10,000 different odors. But that's no longer thought to be true. So how many different odors can that nose in the middle of your face detect? Scientists at Rockefeller University in New York set out to test the idea of 10,000 different odors. The number dates back to 1927, but it was never scientifically investigated. So they asked 26 people to identify a scent from three samples containing 128 molecules – two that were the same and one that was different. From this, they were able to tell how many different scents the average person would be able to distinguish if they were presented with all the possible mixtures that could be made from the 128 molecules. So what was the



official number? One trillion different odors--and even this, they say, is most likely an underestimate! Now, why would our Creator endow us with such an amazing sense of smell? Could He have been showing us how much He loves us? After all, the sense of smell enables us to appreciate the delightful aroma of flowers and food. In fact, we couldn't enjoy the food we eat if it weren't for our ability to smell. Our sense of smell is one example of what is called God's common grace. He has given this gift to everyone, believers and unbelievers alike. But only believers can appreciate this as a gift from God and not an evolutionary accident of nature."

ANOTHER ALLEGED DINO-BIRD (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The University of Edinburgh and the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences have announced the discovery of the latest candidate for the missing link in bird evolution. *Zhenyuanlong* (*zhenyuan's dragon*) is the name of a fossilized "winged dinosaur." The 6-foot creature is said to have looked "exactly like a turkey



or a vulture.” It had “real wings” with vaned feathers on its short arms and tail, but didn’t fly. The interpretation of the artifact is given an evolutionary twist, not because of the evidence itself, but because that is the presumption in the minds of the scientists. Lead researcher Dr. Steve Brusatte says, “So maybe [wings] did not evolve for flight--perhaps they evolved as a display structure, or to protect eggs in the nest. Or maybe this animal was starting to move around in the trees and was able to glide” (“Dinosaur find: Velociraptor ancestor was ‘winged dragon,’” *BBC News*, July 17, 2015). This is pure presumption. It is nothing but guesswork. There is zero evidence that wings and flight “evolved.” For a “dinosaur” to evolve into a bird would require massive additions of perfectly-ordered information in the DNA to create new, breathtakingly-complex structures, and evolution has never proposed a creative mechanism that could produce such change. “Natural selection,” at best, can only select within the framework of existing genetic information. As for mutations, they are genetic errors. They are neutral at best and are often highly destructive. Mutations do not build layer upon layer of complex, perfectly-ordered genetic code. Whatever “Zhenyuanlong” was, it was not something that evolved. There are a bewildering variety of flying creatures (birds, mammals, reptiles, and insects) as well as winged creatures that don’t fly (e.g., emu, ostrich), and Zhenyuanlong fit somewhere within these categories.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD DIRECTOR DESCRIBES SALE OF BABY BODY PARTS IN UNDERCOVER VIDEO (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015,

THE AMAZING SEA URCHIN SPINES

(Friday Church News Notes, July 17, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from Jonathan Sarfati, “Sea Urchin,” *Creation Magazine*, Jan. 2014: “[R]ecently



biologists and engineers from Australian universities have analyzed the sea urchin spine’s ingenious structure under a powerful tool called micro-computed tomography (microCT). Each spine is a single crystal of calcite (CaCO₃). This is normally a soft and brittle mineral, but it is highly strengthened in several ways. It is a hollow tapered cylinder, which saves weight and materials without sacrificing much strength. Some magnesium ions replace calcium ions, which produce an irregularity that impedes cracks from propagating (the same principle explains the greater strength of metal alloys). So any fractures are more like in glass, a non-crystalline solid, than a crystal. This fracturing absorbs energy and protects the main spherical shell (called a *test*) of the animal. There is also a small amount of organic material

(glycoprotein) with the mineral crystal, which makes a huge difference to toughness. The strength is further enhanced by its very fine structure. The crystal contains finely spaced radial wedges connected by bridges. The thin edges direct stresses to the outside, and the spaces stop fractures from spreading through the whole spine. The researchers say, ‘Overall, the spine is highly porous with an intricate structural hierarchy.’ However, in a popular report, the researchers paid the obligatory fact-free homage to evolution. They called this amazing structure an ‘evolutionary feature’ that was ‘optimized’ and ‘survived hundreds of millions of years.’ Yet they also say ‘the finding could offer clues for creating new bio-inspired materials and more efficient engineering designs.’ This should have been a clue that the original was designed as well!”

www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Exposed: Planned Parenthood,” *Christian News Network*, July 14, 2015, and “Planned Parenthood Downplays Video,” *Christian News Network*, July 15, 2015: “A video released Tuesday by the Center for Medical Progress shows a top Planned Parenthood director

explaining in graphic detail how the abortion giant harvests and sells baby body parts and organs nationwide--a practice that is a felony under federal law. The Center for Medical Progress released the video as the next in its ‘Human Capital’ investigative series, as it researches the organization’s illegal sales of fetal body parts in America. ‘Planned Parenthood’s criminal conspiracy to make money

off of aborted baby parts reaches to the very highest levels of their organization,' director David Daleiden remarked in a statement. 'Elected officials must listen to the public outcry for Planned Parenthood to be held accountable to the law and for our tax dollars to stop underwriting this barbaric abortion business.' The video features abortionist Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's senior director of medical services, who oversees the practices of all the 700-plus Planned Parenthood locations nationwide. Nucatola thinks she's having a business dinner with representatives of a fetal tissue procurement company, but what she doesn't know is that the man and woman that she is speaking with are undercover investigators and are recording her conversation. During the discussion, as she munches nonchalantly on salad, Nucatola explains in detail how the organs and extremities of the aborted babies are decidedly removed intact so that they can be sold to buyers. She outlines that the organization is paid between \$30 to \$100 per 'specimen.' ... [Nucatola says,] 'I'd say a lot of people want liver. And for that reason, most providers will do this case under ultrasound guidance, so they'll know where they're putting their forceps. ... We've been very good at getting the heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so "I'm not gonna crush that part. I'm gonna

basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact.'" ... She mentions a 'list' that she refers to in supplying the body parts that are in demand. ... Planned Parenthood released a statement on Tuesday following public disgust over the video, downplaying the matter by stating that the organization gives women the option of having their baby's bodies donated to medical research. ... The Center for Medical Progress likewise released a statement after Planned Parenthood downplayed the undercover video footage. 'Planned Parenthood makes two key admissions in their statement today: 1) aborted fetal parts are harvested at their clinics, and 2) money is exchanged in connection with this,' it wrote. 'They also tell several lies: 1) That proper consent is obtained from patients, 2) That Planned Parenthood does not make money off the body parts, and 3) that everything is legal.'"

RICK WARREN TO JOIN HANDS WITH THE POPE (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church (Southern Baptist), author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, is scheduled to speak at Pope Francis' Festival of Families in Philadelphia in September. Other speakers include three Catholic cardinals and a Jewish rabbi ("Papal Mass in Philadelphia," *Catholic Herald*, Jun. 26, 2015). I would ask Pastor Warren the following question: If a man prays to Mary, trusts her intercession and help, and considers baptism the new birth, and believes that a piece of bread is the very body and blood of Jesus (as the pope does), is he a saved



man or is he following "another gospel" and "another spirit"? Rick Warren is one of the most influential preachers in the world, and he is the blind leading the blind. The fact that the Southern Baptist Convention has not publicly reprimanded his error and compromise and removed his church from its rolls is proof of that convention's rebellion to God's Word.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN BAKERY (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- About \$450,000 has been given to help the owners of the Oregon bakery Sweet Cakes who are being persecuted for their Christian faith by lesbians and the state government. After Melissa and Aaron Klein refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, they were found guilty of "violated the civil rights of a same-sex couple" ("Oregon Rules Bakery Violated Couple's Civil



Rights,” *CBS Seattle*, Jan. 21, 2014). Under the Oregon Equality Act of 2007, citizens may not be denied service “based on sexual orientation or gender identity.” In July, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) ordered the Kleins to pay \$135,000 in damages to the lesbians for “emotional suffering.” The ruling states that citizens should have “the ability to enter public places, to shop and dine, to move about unfettered by BIGOTRY,” thus labeling the Kleins’ Christian faith bigotry. The Kleins are appealing the ruling. In the meantime, a flood of help has been given through the crowd funding organization Continue to Give and through Samaritan’s Purse. The Kleins have stood their ground in spite of an outpouring of filthy remarks and death threats by homosexuals. Of BOLI Commissioner Brad Avakian, Aaron Klein said, “This man has no power over me. He seems to think he can tell me to be quiet. That doesn’t sit well with me and I refuse to comply.” Mr. Klein accused the BOLI of ordering him not to speak publicly about the case--an order he said is unconstitutional. “When my constitutional freedoms have been violated by the state I’m going to speak out” (“Christian bakers fined \$135,000,” *Fox News*, July 3, 2015).

THREE STAGES OF JIHAD

(Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Gene Gurganus, former missionary to Muslims, explains that there are three stages of Islamic jihad (*Peril of Islam*, pp. 114-115). First there is **the weakened stage**, which applies to Muslims living as a minority in a non-Muslim country. “At this stage, Muslims follow the word given to

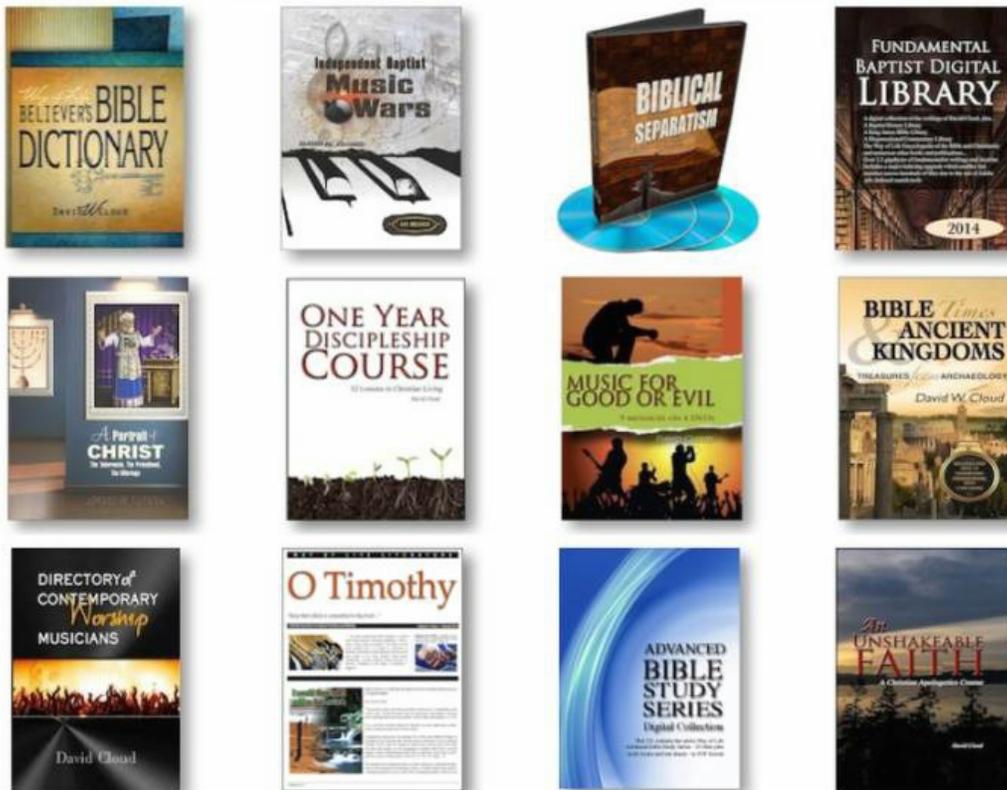


Mohammed in Mecca: ‘There is no compulsion in religion’ (Surah 2:256).” **Second, there is the preparation stage**, which is reached when Muslims are a reasonably influential minority. At this stage they make preparations in every possible area--financial, physical, military, mental and any other. Surah 8:59-60 says, “Against them [unbelievers] make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts) of the enemies of Allah and your enemies, and others besides whom you may not know, but whom Allah knows.” **The third stage is the jihad stage**, which commences “when Muslims are a minority with strength, influence and power.” At this stage “every Muslim’s duty is to actively fight the enemy, overturning the system of the non-Muslim country and establishing Islamic authority.” This stage is based on the final revelation Mohammed received concerning jihad, which is Surah 9:5 -- “Fight and slay the Pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem [of war].” Thus, “Muslims are commanded to kill everyone who chooses not to convert to Islam. The verse says wherever you find them. There are no geographical limits” (*Peril of Islam*, p. 114).

WHY DID GOD GIVE US FINGERPRINTS? (Friday Church News Notes, July 24, 2015,

www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 14, 2015: “Criminals who have been linked to a crime through their fingerprints may not be happy that they were born with a unique pattern of ‘wrinkles’ on their fingertips. But we can all be glad that God gave us fingerprints because they greatly improve our sense of touch. Scientists in France performed a series of experiments with artificial fingertips made of rubber-like sensors. They then compared the sensitivity between these grooved artificial fingertips and a smooth skin-like material to see if the grooved fingertips made a difference in the sense of touch. What they discovered surprised them. The grooved fingertips produced vibrations up to 100 times stronger than the smooth material when sliding against a slightly rough surface. The researchers concluded that these increased vibrations provide us with a greater ability to detect textures. When rubbing your fingers across a textured surface, your fingerprints amplify vibrations that stimulate the nerve endings in your skin. This then allows us to identify objects by touch. Knowing that we need our sense of touch to work from every direction, our Creator designed our fingerprints to appear in elliptical swirls. This loop design ensures that some ridges are always brushing perpendicular to a surface, no matter the orientation of our fingertips. Such research may help scientists design prosthetic hands with enhanced tactile feedback. Once again, when science copies designs found in living things, it is copying the designs put in living things by their Creator, whether they recognize that fact or not!”

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- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
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- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



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