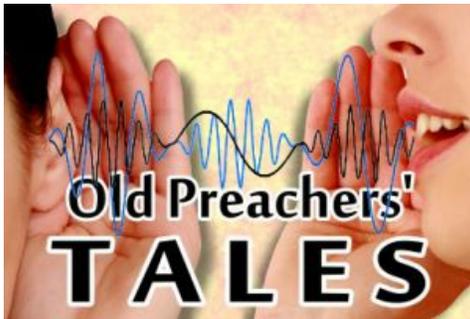


O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 32- Issue 10 - October 2015



“Most... ‘old preachers’ tales’ are geared to support and defend the popular principle that preachers should focus on the positive and avoid the negative, that a ‘warning ministry’ is unnecessary at best. This has been the heart and soul of New Evangelicalism since the 1950s, and it has been accepted by a large number of fundamental Baptist preachers who would strongly disavow New Evangelicalism. Page 4.

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



PASTOR DEMANDS THAT I REMOVE HIS MEMBERS FROM MY MAILING LIST - *By David Cloud*

Recently I received the following email from a pastor:

“There are church members here that have developed a critical mindset from various sources, including your website and subscription to your emails with Way of Life.

I respectfully ask that you take members of ----- Baptist Church from ----- off your subscription list without bashing me and by keeping out of this local New Testament issue. ----- and ----- do not need critical influence because they are babes in Christ and their Pastor (that’s me), sees spiritually fit for you to take your estamails off their sending list.

If you do not then I will take this further. This is not up for debate! God hates discord and that is final.



Thank you for respecting the authority of this local N. T. Church.”

REPLY FROM BROTHER CLOUD

Hello, Pastor -----.

I am sorry to hear from you under these circumstances.

It would not be ethical for me to remove the names. These men subscribed of their own free will, and it is up to them to unsubscribe. To remove them on your request would be like going to the post office and demanding that a stop be placed on someone else's mail without their knowledge and approval.

As for a critical mindset, if the church members you mentioned have a truly critical mindset and are causing carnal divisions in the church and are not showing proper respect to the pastor, they did not learn that from me and I would reprove them for such a thing. I warn about that frequently. See my reports such as "[Keys to Fruitful Church Membership](#)," "[I Am Not Your Pastor](#)," "[A Critical Eye](#)," and "[The Pastor's Authority and the Church Member's Responsibility](#)." All of these are freely available at the Way of Life web site.

But testing things by the Word of God is not a "critical mindset." No preacher is above being proved by God's Word and being reprovved by God's Word if he is found to be in error. Jack Hyles, one of the most influential independent Baptist preachers, believed that he was above such "criticism" and demanded unquestioning

loyalty, and that type of thinking has spread widely among some pastors, but he was wrong and he doubtless knows that now.

As for protecting the church from error, you certainly have that responsibility, and I understand this very well.

I was a pastor in Tennessee in the 1970s, and since 1979 I have held a position similar to a pastor as a missionary church planter.

The pastor has the authority and responsibility to build up his people in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God and to protect them from error.

But the way he protects the sheep from error is not to bully them and demand unquestioning submission to his authority and to treat their challenges as carnal divisiveness. That is the way of an emperor, not a pastor (1 Peter 5:1-3). The way that a biblical pastor protects the sheep is to train them in the truth so they have good spiritual discernment. This is how the pastor "shuts the mouths" of heretics (Titus. 1:9-11).

If one of our church members starts reading Reformed theology or something else that I consider to be in error, I am not going to contact the preacher or the author and demand that he remove our church members from his mailing list or try to force him to stop publishing his material.

I am first going to make the effort to find out exactly what is being taught by reading the material or listening to the sermons for myself. I am not going to depend on second-hand information or what someone else says about that preacher or author.

Then I am going to teach that church member why I believe that particular author is wrong and why he should not follow him, and if I believe that the wrong doctrine is dangerous, I am going to urge him to stop listening to it.

The pastor has the authority and responsibility to do this.

He does not, though, have the authority to keep his people from hearing other preachers that speak the truth, even if he doesn't appreciate who they are.

That is what Diotrophes was guilty of, and the apostle John described his sin in very strong terms (3 John 9-11).

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 David W. Cloud, Editor
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Copyright 2011 by D.W.Cloud
 Way of Life Literature
 PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
 48061
 866-295-4143 (toll free)
fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

Bethel Baptist Church
 4212 Campbell St. N.
 London, Ontario, N6P 1A6 Canada
 519-652-2619

Diotrophes tried to forbid his people to hear the truth spoken by other preachers. It wasn't a matter of protecting them from heresy; it was an issue of maintaining *his* authority over people's lives.

In my long experience, most pastors that get upset at me for supposedly interfering in their "local church affairs" and for supposedly stirring up their people "to criticism" have *not* made the effort to carefully and prayerfully read what I had said (or to watch the music videos, etc.) and have not proven that I am actually in error.

Often the problem has to do with something I have said about one of their preacher heroes like Jack Hyles or Paul Chappell or Clarence Sexton or whoever. They react knee-jerk fashion without carefully checking out what I have said and why I am concerned, and they automatically charge me with causing division.

The truth causes division, just as surely as error does. The prophets of old caused great discord and division. Jesus caused tremendous discord among the Jews, and He continues to cause discord in this sin-cursed, error-afflicted world. He said He did not come to bring peace but division (Lk. 12:51). Paul stirred up discord throughout his ministry.

God does not hate "discord" that is the product of truth.

If I have spoken the truth about the compromise of some well-known preacher, or if I have spoken the truth about the music issue or the evangelism issue or whatever issue it might be, and that truth causes division among some independent Baptists, that is not sin. It only exposes the fact that there are a lot of independent Baptist compromisers and heretics.

It would be a good thing and not a bad thing, a godly thing and not a carnal thing, for independent Baptists who are faithful to the truth of God's Word to divide from those who are following pragmatic human thinking rather than God's Word and who are compromising the truth by moving in a worldly, contemporary path, etc.

The real problem lies in the fact that so many independent Baptists are men followers more than Christ followers and are committed to many errors that they have learned from their misguided heroes. Instead of testing everything by God's Word as a true Berean (Acts 17:11), they test things by their tradition (all the while giving lip service to being Biblicists).

It is frightful that so many independent Baptist preachers are so shockingly ignorant of these fundamental and basic biblical truths.

In Christ,
Brother Cloud.

MOBILE PHONES AND TABLETS IN CHURCH SERVICES - *By David Cloud*

Each church should have a policy on the use of mobile phones and tablets during the services and should explain the policy clear each week.

Some pastors do not believe in using electronic devices in the services, even for reading the Bible. If that is a pastor's conviction and if he thinks he should enforce it, that should be the policy. It should be made clear each service with the biblical reasons.

For those who allow devices to be used in the services for Bible study, as we do, we advise making an announcement such as the following each week:

(1) Please put your phone into airplane mode so that you and the rest of the church are not distracted by ringers and phone calls. Silent mode is not enough. This service is God's. Honor Him by giving Him your *full* attention. When it's time for God's business, it's time to forget my business. An exception is if you are on emergency call for your work, such as law enforcement or medical. If that is the case, you should inform the pastor and you

should sit in the back of the room so that you don't disturb the service if you have to leave.

(2) If you use a phone or tablet for Bible study during the service, you are welcome to do so, but do not use it for anything else, such as email, texting, social media, surfing the web, or games. Do not give your children electronic devices to play with during the services. You are most welcome to be here with us, but if you want to do anything other than listen to God's Word, please go out of the service so you will not be a distraction to others.





You have heard of “old wives’ tales,” but what about “old preachers’ tales”?

In my experience, the minds of many independent Baptist preachers contain many vain tales and folklore that are taken as “gospel.” These “old preachers’ tales” are passed on from generation to generation and are trotted out frequently in conversation and sermon to the enthusiastic acclaim of the brethren.

In fact, these “old preachers’ tales” are fundamental principles by which many preachers conduct their ministries.

Yet they fall to pieces the moment they are tested by the Word of God.

Any principle that fails the test of God’s Word is wrong-headed and humanistic, no matter how popular.

Most of the following “old preachers’ tales” are geared to support and defend the popular principle that preachers should focus on the positive and avoid the negative, that a “warning ministry” is unnecessary at best. This has been the heart and soul of New Evangelicalism since the 1950s, and it has been accepted by a large number of fundamental Baptist preachers who would strongly disavow New Evangelicalism.

My earnest prayer, a prayer I have prayed with tears, is that fundamental Baptist preachers will stop the mindless commitment to Baptist tradition and the blind loyalty to some “hero,” and be more committed to God’s Word than tradition and more loyal to the infallible Christ than some fallible man.

We all give lip service to the commitment to the Bible as “the sole authority for faith and practice,” but how true is that commitment when it comes to our pet theories, vain folklore, and “old preachers’ tales”?

OLD PREACHERS’ TALES

- Counterfeit Currency Detection Focuses on True Currency, Not False
- I Don’t Need to Know What’s Happening
- We Should Major on the Majors
- You Attract More Bees with Honey Than Vinegar
- It’s a Local Church Matter
- Touch Not Mine Anointed
- Don’t Shoot the Wounded

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY DETECTION FOCUSES ON TRUE CURRENCY, NOT FALSE

I have heard this choice bit of folklore since my student days at Tennessee Temple in the mid-1970s.

It goes like this: The Secret Service trains its agents to recognize fake currency by studying the genuine article, not by examining counterfeits.

This is supposed to support the principle that preachers don’t need to study error and don’t need to train their people about error, that it is sufficient to preach the truth, that if we know the truth thoroughly, we don’t need to deal with falsehood.

While it is essential to know the truth as thoroughly as possible, and while we certainly major on learning the Word of God as the most fundamental aspect of the Christian life and ministry, this folklore is wrongheaded on two counts.

First, it misrepresents Secret Service training. The Secret Service trains its agents to recognize counterfeit currency BOTH by studying genuine currency AND by studying the methods of counterfeiting.

If you are not familiar with the subtle errors of the counterfeit, you can easily overlook them.

This is proven by the following links which describe Secret Service training:

- http://www.secretservice.gov/money_detect.shtml
- http://www.secretservice.gov/money_technologies.shtml
- http://www.secretservice.gov/money_altered_checks.shtml
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW5qnGIRlJE>

Second, it is unscriptural. If it were sufficient to preach “positive truth” and not to study and understand false teaching and to train the people how to avoid it, the New Testament epistles would not be filled with plain warnings.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul not only preached “positive truth” about the resurrection, he warned sharply about false teachers and he stated and refuted their errors.

In Galatians, Paul not only preached the positive truths of the gospel, he plainly warned about the heretics that were perverting the gospel and he stated and refuted their errors.

Jude says the preacher’s job is not only to preach truth but also to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

We see this across the entire canon of the New Testament.

Preachers are tasked with protecting the Lord’s flock from wolves, no matter what clothing those wolves adapt to avoid detection. The devil’s wolves are clever. Their error is subtle. It can consist in the mere redefinition of a biblical term, such as atonement. It can consist in a simple subtraction from a theological truth, such as the difference between “salvation is by grace,” which is the heresy that the Roman Catholic Church believes, and “salvation is by grace *alone without works*,” which is the truth that Paul taught. Error can consist of something as subtle as the difference between “the Father, Son, and Spirit are *manifestations*” and “the Father, Son, and Spirit are *persons*.” Error can consist in the truth that is neglected rather than the heresy that is taught, which is a fundamental problem with New Evangelicalism.

The subtlety of error necessitates that preachers have some basic understanding of it so they can educate and protect the people.

A preacher who is devoted to preaching truth and who tends to avoid warning plainly about error and tends to dislike “warning ministries” is a preacher who is not obeying God and who is not protecting the flock.

I DON’T NEED TO KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING

I have often heard preachers say something to the effect, “I am glad that I minister in this little place, and I don’t need to know what’s happening in other places,” or, “I’m glad that I am off the beaten path, so I don’t know about and don’t need to know about what is happening elsewhere.”

It is common that such preachers are not interested in warning information such as that provided in *O Timothy* magazine, *Friday Church News Notes*, *Berean Call*, or *The Fundamentalist Digest*.

As a result, these preachers tend to be ignorant of many things about which they should be informed, and their flocks are uneducated in many important matters. Thus, they are susceptible to being led astray in ignorance of things such as New Evangelicalism, Christian hedonism, cultural liberalism, contemporary worship, charismaticism, even secular evolution, theistic evolution, and the new atheism.

I had a conversation recently with an older independent Baptist missionary who expressed surprise when I informed him of the history of compromise in the Baptist Bible Fellowship, Tennessee Temple, Southwide Baptist Fellowship, and other independent Baptist institutions and “camps” going back to the 1990s. He had only a vague idea about these things, yet if the preacher is not properly informed, he and his people are not prepared to face the compromise that has corrupted these preachers, churches, schools, missions, and “camps.”

We need to be informed, not for the sake of gossip, but for the sake of wisdom and protection.

In the Internet generation, people in any part of the world have access to every sort of compromise and error, even in rural parts of America and Canada and in towns and villages in South America, Africa, and South Asia.

The corrupting principles of New Evangelicalism, for instance, have spread throughout the world. There is no

place you can go where you can entirely avoid its influence. The same is true for contemporary worship, Reformed theology, theistic evolution, charismaticism, Chuck Swindoll-type “grace,” heresies about repentance, the modern Bible versions, etc.

Preachers need to be well educated today as never before, so they can protect themselves, their families, their friends, and their flocks.

WE SHOULD MAJOR ON THE MAJORS

Another “old preachers’ tale” is that “we should major on the majors,” which usually means that so-called “minor” issues should be avoided or extremely downplayed.

Like all of the “old preachers’ tales,” there is an essence of truth here. It is true that the Bible majors on some things more than others. It is true that there are “fundamental” doctrines and less “fundamental” ones.

If the Bible deals with something like hair one time (1 Corinthians 11:1-17), the preacher would not be wise to major on hair.

But this is not to say that the issue of hair is of *no* consequence and can therefore be avoided in the pursuit of focusing on the “majors.”

The less major things in God’s Word are there for a reason and are not things that can be neglected.

The preacher is tasked with teaching his people to “observe *all* things whatsoever I have taught you” (Matthew 28:20).

The preacher is tasked with keeping the truth “without spot,” which refers to the small things as well as the large (1 Timothy 6:13-14).

The preacher is tasked with proclaiming the “*whole* counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

The preacher is tasked with teaching apostolic truth “in *all* things” (1 Corinthians 11:2).

Further, it is a *little* leaven that leavens the whole lump,” both in regard to sin (1 Cor. 5:6) and doctrine (Gal. 5:9),

so the wise preacher will deal with *all* leaven, even the smallest.

The preacher must deal with whatever error might harm his people, regardless of how “minor.”

YOU ATTRACT MORE BEES WITH HONEY THAN VINEGAR

Another “old preachers’ tale” is “you attract more bees with honey than vinegar.”

Again, the objective of this tale is to support a more positive approach to the ministry and to defend a neglect of warning. This principle has been at the heart of New Evangelicalism since the 1950s.

While it is true that you attract more bees with honey than vinegar, people aren’t bees and the ministry isn’t bee keeping.

The Bible is literally filled with the “vinegar” of reproof and warning.

The preacher is specifically and solemnly tasked by God with reproofing and rebuking and warning about sin and error (2 Timothy 4:1-2; Titus 1:13; 2:15).

The Lord Jesus didn’t treat the churches only to honey. He said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:19).

God knows more about human psychology than man knows, and God prescribes the rod and reproof even in child training (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15).

IT’S A LOCAL CHURCH MATTER

Another “old preachers’ tale” is the idea that it is wrong to expose error when it is perpetrated by a pastor of another church. Those who expose the error are charged with interfering with “the autonomy of the local church.”

This folktale falls apart when we consider the fact that many pastors have far-reaching influence beyond their own congregations. They publish newsletters, sermons, books, training materials, and music; they broadcast their services online; they maintain blogs; they use Facebook and Twitter.

When this happens, that pastor's ministry ceases to be merely a local church affair. It becomes a public affair.

Private ministry must be judged privately, but public ministry should and must be judged publicly. It should be judged in the same forum where it occurs. Otherwise it is impossible to correct the error and help those who are in danger of being led astray.

Further, though I have heard this particularly "old preachers' tale" many times, I have never seen anyone who can support it from Scripture. In fact, I have never seen anyone even try to support it.

Where does the Scripture limit the scope of a preacher's reproof and warning?

The preacher is instructed to preach the word, "reprove, rebuke, exhort," to "speak, exhort, and rebuke with all authority," and "to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints" (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15; Jude 3).

Where does the Bible say that this ministry can only be performed by a pastor of a church and only to his own congregation?

The inconsistent thing is that those who make the accusation that "the autonomy of the local church" is being undermined when some prominent leader is reprovved, express no such concern about that leader's influence beyond his own congregation and *his* alleged undermining of the autonomy of other churches.

TOUCH NOT MINE ANOINTED

A major "old preachers' tale" is "touch not mine anointed," which is used to place preachers, especially prominent ones, above reproof and correction.

It is based on a misapplication of 1 Samuel 24:10, where David said, "Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed." See also 1 Samuel 26:11, 23.

The context has to do with killing an anointed king of Israel.

The late Jack Hyles, who continues to have a vast influence on many independent Baptist preachers, acted like a king and put himself above reproof and discipline.

But even an Israelite king was not above reproof. Neither David nor Samuel lifted their hand against King Saul, but they both reprovved him (1 Sam. 13:13-14; 15:17-23). And when David was king, the prophet Nathan did not draw back from reprovving him (2 Sam. 12:7-12), and we could give many other examples.

Even kings could be reprovved by God's Word, and so can pastors.

"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:15).

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Timothy 5:20).

DON'T SHOOT THE WOUNDED

I have frequently heard the accusation that preachers who give warnings about Christian leaders, especially about prominent Baptist leaders, are guilty of "shooting their own wounded."

For example, I received the following e-mail that charged me with doing this in regard to an exhortation I published about Clarence Sexton's Friendship Conferences.

"I am deeply upset at the private letter you posted on your website to Dr. Sexton. Thanks for shooting your own and not calling Pastor Sexton personally to get all of the facts."

The fact is that I sent that letter to Dr. Sexton via his own website months before I published it, and I received no reply. I found out later that he says that he doesn't use e-mail, and that is fine, but he could have dictated a reply to one of his many co-workers or secretaries.

Another example of the accusation of "shooting the wounded" is contained in the following e-mail that I received a few years ago:

"I grew up in Murfreesboro, TN and was and am still associated with the Sword of the Lord and the Bill Rice Ranch. I hated it then and still do when a Christian brother bashes another Christian brother over things instead of preaching and trying to win souls to Christ. It is said that the Christian Army is the only army that stabs its wounded and kills off its own. I have to say it is very true."

I would observe in passing that the *Sword of the Lord* has long been guilty of promoting "old preachers' tales" such as "don't shoot the wounded."

What does "shooting their own wounded" mean?

If it means that Christians sometimes fail to be patient with the weak, we can all probably say that we have been guilty. If it means that Christians sometimes are too quick to criticize a fellow believer instead of trying to help him, it happens too often, and it is wrong.

If, on the other hand, "shooting the wounded" means that it is unacceptable for a preacher to warn about influential men who are teaching error or walking in compromise, this is an unscriptural folklore.

In my public warnings, I have never injured a wounded person and I have never shot anyone in any sense whatsoever. To charge me with doing so is to confuse biblical warning, reproof, and correction with harmful personal assault.

I was in the army and I have studied the military and I understand the military, and what I am doing has absolutely nothing to do with shooting one's own wounded.

The leaders that I warn about are not wounded! They are willfully and steadfastly committed to error or compromise in spite of having been warned, and they are influencing others.

By the way, they don't mind "shooting" back! And usually they do so in a "halfcocked" manner without making the effort to know exactly what the reprover is saying.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught His people to beware of false prophets (Mat. 7:15). When a preacher obeys this command, is he "shooting the wounded"? Of course not,

but those he warns about and those who are sympathetic to them will charge him with doing so.

In 1 and 2 Timothy, the apostle Paul names the names of false teachers and compromisers 10 times in his warnings (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2:17; 3:8; 4:10, 14).

All of the men that Paul warned about claimed to be Christians, and it is likely that they felt that Paul was being unfair and mean-spirited in singling them out.

When Paul warned Timothy that Demas had abandoned him because he loved this present world (2 Tim. 4:10), Paul was not shooting at a wounded man. Demas had been a minister of the gospel, a co-worker with Paul, but he made a willful choice to cast his lot toward the world. He had no excuse, and he was influencing others.

Doubtless he had been warned, but he remained steadfast in his compromise. Note that Paul didn't say that Demas had left Christianity; he had only left Paul. This probably means that Demas was compromising his ministry with the world after the fashion of the doctrine of Balaam (Rev. 2:14) and the teaching of Jezebel (Rev. 2:20).

It appears that he was one of the early proponents of an "emerging church," arguing that Paul's Christianity was too strict, too separatistic, too ineffective, and that we need to adapt ourselves to the world "a bit" to reach people.

The Lord has commanded the assemblies to exercise discipline toward unrepentant church members who are committed to sin and error (1 Corinthians 5; Titus 3:10, 11). Is that shooting the wounded? It is oftentimes considered to be so by those who are the objects of the discipline and by those who are sympathetic to them; but proper church discipline, though severe, is not destructive. It has the three-fold goal of glorifying the holy Christ in His church, purifying the congregation, and bringing the sinner to repentance.

The Lord has instructed us to separate from those who are saved but are walking in disobedience (2 Thess. 3:6). Is that shooting the wounded?

It often happens that those who are disobedient mistake biblical correction for persecution and confuse biblical reproof with personal assault.

Paul rebuked sin in the churches in letters that were anything but private. His epistles to the individual churches, as well as those to Timothy and Titus, were distributed among all the churches (Colossians 4:16). Therefore, when Paul told of how that Demas had left him, having loved this present world, it was a public matter. When he rebuked the believers at Corinth for their sin and compromise and error, it was a public matter. When he warned of Alexander the Coppersmith, it was a public warning.

Some matters are private and they should be dealt with privately, but other matters are public and should be dealt with publicly.

If a man has a public ministry that influences others, that ministry should be critiqued publicly, and that is *not* “shooting the wounded.”

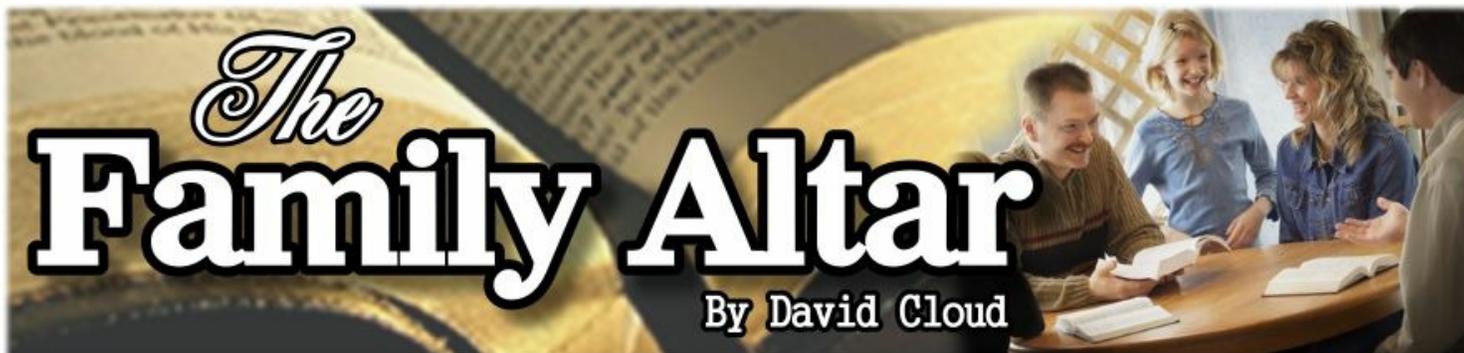
Evangelist Chuck Cofty is a highly decorated United States Marine officer who survived shocking battlefield experiences. Since he understands these matters, both from the side of the physical and the spiritual, I asked him to reply to this issue. Following is his reply:

“Dear Brother Cloud: To my knowledge you have not struck anyone violently or injured them by striking. He no doubt is referring to the many truths that appear in your writings as well as the writings of others concerning contemporary theology that you quote. Some, per-

haps even this man, are so timid that when truth is revealed they find it difficult to accept and wind up tolerating error or ignorance for fear of offending someone. When men are named, places identified and error revealed, it is upsetting to those that are ‘moderate’ in their position. Brother Cloud, it is true that marines never leave their dead on the field of battle and will on occasion render aid to a wounded enemy. This however is situational and conditional as we will not allow such aid to encumber us, slow us down, deter us from our mission or jeopardize our success. Our desire to serve our dear Lord must be the same.”

Pastor Wilbert Unger of Bethel Baptist Church, London, Ontario, observes:

“Was our Lord shooting the first century churches in Revelation 2 and 3 when He walked in their midst and exposed their sins and failures, and commanded them to repent? The kindest and most biblical thing a faithful servant of God can do is expose unscriptural conduct to lead to repentance, lest God step in and judge severely and chasten in a most severe manner. I think the worst chastening that we Independent Baptists could receive from the hand of God is if He would just leave us alone and let us go on in our compromise. We are so bent on exalting man and lightly esteeming the Word of God. One day, we will be like Samson when it is said, ‘he wist not that the Lord had departed from him’ (Judges 16:20). May God be gracious and wake us up to listen to the rebuke of those who see the error in our faith and practice. No man is above rebuke. May we come to see the love and grace in those who would be so kind as to rebuke us.”



The following is from the new youth discipleship course [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church](#), available from Way of Life Literature.

It is a time to read the Bible and discuss it. It is a time to memorize Scripture. It is a time to pray together.

The daily family altar is very important. It is a time when the family can meet to worship God and study His Word.

Pastor Gene Haymaker says, “The day of family altars is disappearing as quickly as our youth. Families have relegated the teaching of biblical truth to their church and to their Christian schools. It is my belief that the number of homes having a family altar, where the entire family

is involved, would directly correspond to the percentage of young people leaving the church. The primary agency for teaching children biblical truth is the home.”

Following are some suggestions:

- Find the best time. This will vary according to each family’s situation. The best time might be morning or afternoon or evening. It might be right after a meal. Be ready to change the time of the family altar if the family’s situation and schedule changes.
- Read a passage from the Bible. Perhaps read through a book of the Bible, reading a few verses each day. Pastor David Sorenson says, “One method we have used over the years, particularly in teaching godliness and righteousness, is to take one chapter of Proverbs a day according to the days of the month. For example, if the day of the month is the 29th, I would go to Proverbs 29. There I would seek out a verse or two which stood out and go over it very briefly. Once we had gone through Proverbs, we might then go to Psalms and look for an appropriate verse in a three chapter sequence. For example, if the day of the month was the 15th, I might peruse Psalm 45-47 for a verse to dwell upon. There are 150 Psalms and seeking a good verse over three chapters was simple and always worked” (*Training Your Children to Turn Out Right*). If the family is dealing with specific issues or problems, choose passages that deal with that issue.
- If the children are old enough to read, perhaps let them take turns reading.
- Perhaps let each family member try to explain the passage in his or her own words. You will never understand the Bible until you try to understand it.
- The father or mother should then explain the basic meaning of the passage to help the children understand better.
- Let the children ask questions. If the parents don’t know the answer, they should make an effort to find it. This is why a family Christian library with some good commentaries is important.
- Use the family altar to teach important biblical principles. Pastor Ken Shaver says, “As our children grew older, we would spend a few weeks on issues like modesty, biblical principles for entertainment, and other relevant things.”
- Memorize verses together. Missionary Bob Nichols says, “I try to lead my family to memorize 14 verses a month. We’ll go over the verses as a family, and what a tremendous help that’s been.”
- Sing a song together. Perhaps let the children choose and lead the song, by turns.
- Pray together. Praying together as a family is powerful. The Lord made the family, and He wants His children to approach Him as families. He delights in hearing and answering His people’s prayers. My wife and youngest daughter choose a specific thing or two to pray for together, and we pray for those specific things until the Lord answers or He shows us that it isn’t His will. We have seen many wonderful answers to prayer in this way.
- Train the children to sit still and listen and give respect to their parents and to God and His Word. Parents, if your children will not sit still and listen to God’s Word, you haven’t disciplined them properly. It is not their fault; it is your fault.
- Make the family altar time an interesting, happy time. While parents must teach the children to sit still and listen and be respectful, learning God’s Word and worshiping Him should not be a boring, harsh time that the children learn to dread. Pastor Ken Shaver says, “We would work very hard at keeping it light, and upbeat.”
- There are many things beyond Bible study that can be done during family devotions when time permits. The family can read biographies together and discuss them. They can read material pertaining to creation science.

The book *A Closer Look at the Evidence* by Richard and Tina Kleiss contains 365 interesting brief studies on fascinating facts of life that support creation.

It is available in a KJV edition from Bethel Baptist Print Ministry, 4212 Campbell St. N., London, Ontario N6P 1A6, info@bethelbaptist.ca. Nothing, though, should take the place of studying the Bible itself.

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?



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING PROMOTES THE GODDESS KALI

(Friday Church News Notes, August 28, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The Empire State building in New York City was recently used as a screen for the projection of the image of the Hindu goddess Kali. This was part of a light show entitled *Projecting Change* that was intended to raise awareness about wildlife extinction. The image of Kali was interspersed with images of animals. Kali, a gruesome, black goddess who is depicted with a lolling, blood-drenched tongue, a necklace of skulls and a loin cloth of severed arms, is supposed to be both a wild, insatiable devourer and a tender mother. Sacrifices are made to appease the goddess and to obtain various objectives, such as general good fortune, health, wealth, revenge on an enemy, a male offspring, or deliverance from demons. Until 200 years ago, a male child was sacrificed daily in the Kali temple in Calcutta (Alex Perry, "Killing for 'Mother' Kali," *Time magazine*, Jul. 22, 2002). Though driven underground by laws against human sacrifice, the practice continues in India and Nepal. One commentator observed that Kali is a fitting image for New York City with

its wholesale murder of unborn black babies. "New York City is the only city in America where more black babies are murdered than are born. They are not as fortunate as the snow leopard, snake or bird whose images were projected across 33 floors of the Empire State Building. Black New Yorkers didn't receive \$33 million in funding to protect their survival and weren't even on the 'Black Lives Matter' campaign's radar. (In fact, the very organizations claiming to aid minorities, including blacks, under the guise of 'health' programs, are primarily committed to advancing eugenics-based population control among the poorest communities worldwide--in order to reduce them.) Disturbing as the plight of chained elephants is, nothing is more disturbing than the U.S. government legalizing and funding half of an organization's \$1 billion budget to dismember living human beings. ... Like Kali, Planned Parenthood's knives drip with blood from the tissue and parts of babies' feet, hands, livers, eyes, skin and other organs--in exchange for \$23 million in 'financial donations.' (Fetal liver cell prices, for example, range from \$488 to \$24,250.) Rather than wield a sword to chop off heads, Planned Parenthood suctions off heads of living babies, after they have writhed in excruciating pain" ("Planned Parenthood's Goddess Projected," *Charisma News*, Aug. 20, 2015).

TENNESSEE WANTS TO REPLACE "MOTHER" AND "FATHER" WITH "PARENT 1" AND "PARENT 2" (Friday Church News Notes, August 28, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Last week, the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts



said that it was replacing “mother” and “father” with “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” on official documents. After a public outcry, the office reversed the decision, at least for now, saying that it was consulting with the Domestic Committee of the Tennessee Judicial Conference (Todd Starnes, “Tennessee Courts Reverse Ban,” *Fox News*, Aug. 19, 2015). This is the latest in a stream of nutty laws and regulations pandering to homosexual rights and thus destroying the rights of others. In 2008, California replaced “bride” and “groom” with “First Person” and “Second Person” on new marriage licenses. The parties have the option of further identifying themselves as “bride and groom,” “bride and bride,” or “groom and groom.” In 2007, Scotland’s National Health Service approved a policy for hospital workers forbidding the use of historic and biblical terms such as “mother,” “father,” “husband,” and “wife,” labeling this “homophobic language” (Ed Vitagliano, “There is only one acceptable way to talk about homosexuality -- SILENCE!” *OneNewsNow.com*, May 31, 2007). Since 2008, teachers in some major cities in Scotland have banned Father’s Day cards so as not to offend students who live with single mothers and lesbians (“Father’s Day Cards Banned,” *London Telegraph*, June 20, 2008). In 2011, the U.S. State Department removed the words

“mother” and “father” from passport applications. In 2013, the words “mother” and “father” were dropped in favor of “parent” from Scottish matrimonial law under First Minister Alex Salmond’s plans to redefine marriage (“‘Mother’ and ‘Father’ to Be Scrapped,” *christian.org.uk*, Feb. 11, 2013). In 2013, the U.S. Department of Education redesigned student loan applications to replace “mother” and “father” with “parent 1” and “parent 2.” In 2014, a public school system in Lincoln, Nebraska, asked teachers to avoid the words “boys” and “girls” to make their classrooms more gender-inclusive (*ChristianHeadlines.com*, Oct. 13, 2014). In June 2015, a corporate note to employees of Goldman Sachs investment firm informed them that they must “help create an environment for open and honest dialogue” by using inclusive language and avoiding descriptors such as “wife,” which should be replaced with “partner” (“Goldman Sachs Tells Employees ‘Wife’ Insults Gays and Transgenders,” *Breitbart*, Jun. 21, 2015). Todd Starnes observes that the true motive behind the gay marriage activists is to deconstruct the traditional American family, concluding, “I reckon it’s only a matter of time before Tennessee completely conforms to the demands of the gender-neutral crowd and begins referring to children as ‘Thing One’ and ‘Thing Two.’”

DANISH POLITICIAN CONVICTED OF “RACISM” FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH ABOUT ISLAM (Friday Church News Notes, August 28, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from

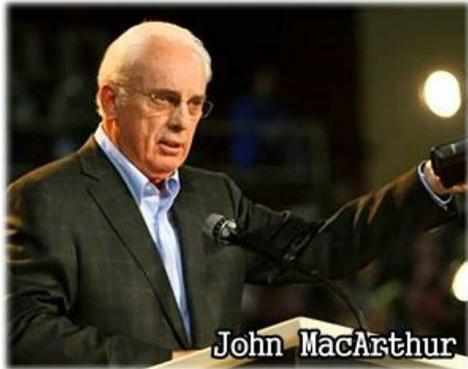
“Danish Politician Convicted,” *Infowars.com*, Aug. 18, 2015: “A Danish politician has been convicted of ‘racism’ and ordered to pay a fine for offending Muslims under a law which makes insulting someone’s religion a criminal offense. Former European Parliament member Mogens Camre, who currently serves as a Danish People’s Party councilor in Gladsaxe, was hit with a fine of 8,000 DKK (1186 USD), for a tweet in which he compared radical Islam to Nazism. ‘Muslims continue where Hitler stopped. Only the same treatment that Hitler got will change the situation,’ Camre tweeted last July. ... After the tweet was reported, Camre was charged under the Criminal Code racism clause 266 b paragraph 1, which makes it a crime to offend, ‘a group of people (who) were threatened, insulted or degraded on account of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion or sexual orientation.’ The law is based on a United Nations directive. ... 79-year-old Camre refused to comment after



the verdict but has indicated that he will appeal the conviction via the Danish High Court. The politician is a long term critic of Islam, remarking previously that the religion cannot be allowed to dominate Europe because it is, ‘incompatible with our values.’”

MACARTHUR PROMOTES CULTURAL LIBERALISM (Friday Church News Notes, August

28, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The influential John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in southern California is facing two ways in regard to the heresy of “cultural liberalism.” On one hand he has



reproved the emerging “new Calvinists” for their worldliness, while on the other hand he is engaging in that very thing. In an interview with Alex Crain of Christianity.com, which was posted on YouTube, Aug. 18, 2011, MacArthur said, “The fear is that the power of the world’s attraction is going to suck these guys and every generation after them, more and more into the culture, and we’re going to see a reversal of the Reformed revival. ... My fear is that the further this thing goes in trying to accommodate the culture, the less it’s going to be able to hang on to that core doctrine” (“MacArthur Predicts Reversal of the Reformed Revival - Part 1,” <http://youtu.be/xYhmo5gabQU>). MacArthur was warning about what Mark Driscoll called being “theologically conservative and culturally liberal.” It is not a new thing, as it has long been a major element of New Evangelicalism. It entails such things as Christian rock, drinking, champagne dance parties, beer brewing lessons, gambling nights, hula “worship,” analyzing R-rated movies for “edification,” and performing secular rock in the context

of “worship.” What MacArthur says about the danger of cultural liberalism is true, but his condemnation of it is grossly ineffective and hypocritical because he is guilty of it. Camp Regeneration, a youth camp hosted by MacArthur for “churches throughout the nation each July,” is rife with cultural liberalism. High school boys and girls dress immodestly, engage in questionable activities (such as girls getting covered with wet mud in the presence of boys), and rock out to rap music performed by ear-ringed, tattooed hip-hop artists in an atmosphere of darkened auditoriums, flashing lights, and smoke. The Master’s College, which is headed by MacArthur, hosted a hip-hop concert in December 2011 featuring Lecrae, Trip Lee, Tadashii, Sho Baraka, DJ Official, and THI’S L. Master’s College students produce pop/rap/country rock videos with full blown dance routines and covers of secular rock songs. They host a Fall Thing event that is extremely worldly. In 2011 the theme was “Unrestricted Reality,” with the students donning costumes imitating characters from Star Wars, sci-fi fantasy, super heroes, and the pop culture in general. This plays right into the hands of the culture’s fascination with fantasy and the devil’s use of it to corrupt men’s minds. The young people wouldn’t want to dress this way unless their minds and hearts were already in love with Hollywood. The Master’s College’s annual Week of Welcome features beach activities and pool parties complete with girls in tight and very skimpy bathing suits. (All of this is evident from the photos placed at the Flickr pages owned by the camp and school and from YouTube clips. See

<http://www.pccmonroe.org/2011/10/10.htm>.) MacArthur is correct in observing that cultural liberalism will ruin the youth and eventually destroy sound doctrine, and his own flock will be the proof of it, as will the flocks of every foolish pastor that follows in his footsteps. Many fundamental Baptists are on the same destructive path, as we have documented in the free eBook “[Biblical Separatism and Its Collapse among Fundamental Baptists](#).” See www.wayoflife.org/freebooks.

MORE JEWS VISITING THE TEMPLE MOUNT AND CALLING FOR THE THIRD TEMPLE (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - An increasing number of Jews are visiting the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and calling for the building of the Third Temple. Elhanan Miller reports, “More and more religious Jews are visiting the holy site, part of a movement defying a centuries-old rabbinic ban and stoking tension with Muslims who also lay claim to the esplanade” (“On Temple Mount, some see a dome and imagine an altar, *Times of Israel*, Aug. 31, 2015). Visits



by Jews to the Temple Mount have nearly doubled since 2009. It is called “a new revival movement sweeping Israel’s national religious community.” Yehudah Glick, a member of Benjamin Netanyahu’s

INSECT GPS (Friday Church News Notes, August 28, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following by William Pelletier, Ph.D., is from *Bible Science* Guy, BibleScienceGuy.WordPress.com, Jan. 1, 2010: "Imagine finding a tiny GPS unit that could navigate 3,000 miles with a destination accuracy of ten feet. Would you believe someone who claimed it had developed itself by random changes over millions of years? What if this GPS was found, not on a street, but



inside the pinhead-sized brain of a monarch butterfly? Does the place where the unit was found, whether street or butterfly brain, alter the obvious conclusion that such an instrument must have been designed by a master intelligence?"

Likud party, just published *Arise and Ascend*, a guidebook for Jewish visitors to the Temple Mount. (Glick survived an attempt made on his life last October.) The book is endorsed by Minister of Jerusalem Affairs Ze'ev Elkin and mainstream orthodox rabbi Shlomo Riskin. The Temple Institute is preparing the articles for the temple, including a menorah constructed of \$2 million worth of gold, and is training priests in animal sacrifices. When asked, "What about the Dome of the Rock?" Temple Mount activist Elishama Sandman replies, "If a burglar entered your home and told you that you don't own it, you wouldn't think about getting along with him. You'd remove him and take the place. It's the same here: The people of Israel own this place and it's not our duty to consider those who stole it from us" (*Times of Israel*, Aug. 31, 2015). Aviya Fraenkel, a doctoral student in Assyriology and Bible, says she can't completely explain her attraction to the Temple Mount. "Part of it has to do with the belief that there's a next stage, that our ideals aren't limited to a state--which is a lot--but that the state must

manifest our religious yearnings of the past 2,000 years." She doesn't know it, but the "yearning" is God's Spirit which is drawing the Jews into the fulfillment of Bible prophecy and the return of Christ Jesus, but first will come the Antichrist, who will probably make the building of the next temple possible and will then occupy it, setting himself up as God. "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

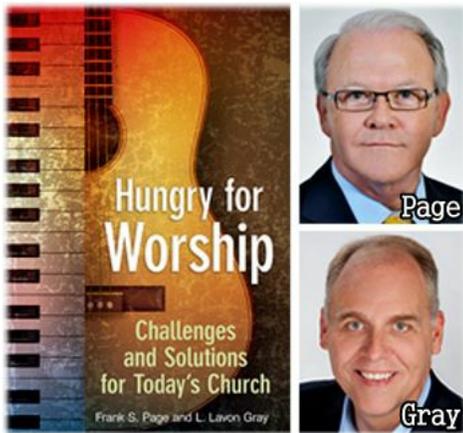
MORAL DANGER ON THE INTERNET (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



- The Internet is a communication system like the world has never seen, and it is a tool both for good and for evil. The moral dangers are great and must not be discounted, and the danger is not only for youth; it is for all ages. Recently the "cheating" web site Ashley Madison was hacked and 32 million names were exposed. One was Josh Duggar, the oldest of the 19 children of the Duggar family whose television program on The Learning Channel made them famous representatives of the Christian faith. After R.C. Sproul, Jr., son of the famous Reformed theologian and author, admitted that he visited the site, he was placed under a one-year suspension from the ministry. He is a father and grandfather. Southern Baptist leader Ed Stetzer said as many as 400 pastors and church workers could resign because of the exposure ("400 Church Leaders," *Relevant*, Aug. 27, 2015). The elderly father of a pastor friend recently committed adultery with a younger member of the pastor's church. The two met when the father visited his son's church and developed the relationship and planned their alliance on Facebook. The father was caught when the son borrowed his cell phone and found the illicit communication. In our new course [*The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church*](#), we give many suggestions for how to protect ourselves and our children in the smartphone age. This book will be published in a couple of weeks, the Lord willing, and it will also be a part of the *Youth Discipleship Library* we are preparing to publish.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADER SAYS CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DOESN'T AFFECT QUALITY OF CHRISTIAN LIVING (Friday Church News

Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Southern Baptist leader Frank Page warns that contemporary worship doesn't affect the quality of Christian lives. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, wrote the following in the introduction to *Hungry for Worship: Challenges and Solutions for Today's Church*: "[Worship] has become a big claim in the twenty-first century church; but, based on the



reality of people's lives, the worship that we claim to be experiencing is not truly affecting the quality of our lives, our families, and our witness." Though Page identifies a major reality and problem in regard to contemporary worship, he and the authors of this new book don't have an inkling about the true cause or solution. The reason that contemporary worship produces such poor fruit is that it is worldly and fleshly. Though maintaining a "form of godliness," it is fundamentally of the world. Unlike "traditional" or sacred worship, contemporary worship, even in its most conservative form with biblical lyrics, sounds like the world, looks like the world, and smells like the world. Further, it is experience oriented, being a product, largely, of

touchy-feely charismaticism. Evangelicalism has been invaded by the charismatics since the 1960s, and the charismatic's unscriptural, sensual experience orientation has permeated even the most staunchly Calvinistic evangelicals, such as John Piper's Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis and John MacArthur's youth ministry. Any church that wants to avoid the slippery slope of spiritual compromise will reject contemporary worship as the exceedingly dangerous thing that it is, which is a bridge to the world and the one-world "church." The popular position that says you can safely mess around with contemporary worship in its more "conservative" aspects is unscriptural and will bring spiritual destruction to the next generation.

8,000 MEMBERS OF CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN NIGERIA KILLED BY BOKO HARAM (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Boko Haram Has Killed 8,000," *The Christian Post*, Aug. 24, 2015: "According to Nijaj.com, Samuel Dali, president of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, said, 'Seventy percent of our churches have been destroyed in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states by Boko Haram; over 8,000 of our members were killed; one hundred and seventy-six of the girls kidnapped in Chibok are our members.' While Dali kept up hopes that the Nigerian military will be able to finally defeat the terror group, which has waged war on the government and the country's Christians since 2009, he noted that many church facilities across Adamawa, Yobe and Borno states



have been destroyed in various raids. With the wide-spread destruction of churches and slaughter of church members, he added that most of the pastors under his care have lost their jobs. Boko Haram's fighters have been struggling for control of towns with the Nigerian military in the northeast, and continue carrying out deadly acts of terror on villages where they slaughter dozens, sometimes hundreds of people, and kidnap women and children."

MTV: 34 YEARS OF SPEWING MORAL FILTH INTO SOCIETY (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - MTV, which launched in August 1981, is a window into the filthy Western pop culture that has spread



across the world through the electronic media to become a global culture. I have visited 36 countries, and young people everywhere, from New York City or London to a village in Nepal or South Africa, love the same music, movies, attitude,

fashion, video games, etc. There is the same “generation gap,” a foolish and ungodly thing that rock & roll created in the 1950s. Youth in Bible-believing churches everywhere face the same enticements. When measured by eternal biblical values, the MTV world is empty and foolish in the extreme, but when measured by fleshly appetites it is enticing. MTV has promoted and acclaimed every vile, anti-Christ thing that has come on the music scene, including Madonna and her blasphemous “Like a Prayer,” Marilyn Manson (an androgynous reprobate who rips up Bibles, burns Bibles, and spits on pictures of Jesus), and Kurt Cobain (who spray-painted his neighborhood with the words “Abort Christ” and “God is Gay” and later blew his brains out with a shotgun). Cobain was honored with an MTV tribute in 1994. MTV has championed homosexual rights. It basically created the annual orgy called “Spring Break.” MTV has made a mockery of holy things, while justifying and glorifying every sin against God’s holy law, particularly fornication, lasciviousness, adultery, homosexuality, divorce, lying, cursing, and blasphemy. “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20).

THE ENTICING HOLLYWOOD PHILOSOPHY (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There is spiritual and moral danger even in G- and PG-rated movies and television programs that don’t have open sex and filthy language, because the following false, godless things are



emphasized continually and in the most subtle, enticing manner: Christians are depicted as self-righteous, hypocritical, ungracious, selfish, lacking in practical wisdom, weird, foolish, and fearful. Immoral people, agnostics, and atheists are depicted as sympathetic, kind, understanding, reasonable, and wise. Christianity is depicted as a religion that teaches salvation by good works and self-righteousness. (Sadly, the vast majority of Christianity today fits that description because it is false, but the difference between false and true Christianity is never made clear by Hollywood.) According to Hollywood, the purpose of life is self-fulfillment and fun (“eat, drink, and be merry”). The pursuit of self-fulfillment justifies anything. Death is the end. If death is not the end, heaven is for everyone. Hell, if there is such a thing, is only for the most despicable. Salvation, if there is a need for such a thing, is by good works, “sincerity,” and a “good heart.” No one can know for sure about God, the true meaning of life, or what lies beyond death, so one shouldn’t worry about it (agnosticism). Live in the present and don’t worry about the future. A God of judgment is not a good God. The Bible is not always true, and the wisest people don’t believe it is.

Morality is relative and situational. Man is basically good and deserves a good life. Wishing is powerful. Vengeance is good. There is such a thing as good magic. Evolution is true. “Love” purifies and justifies any sexual relationship. This is the Hollywood philosophy, and a major part of effectively disciplining young people is for Christian families to unplug from Hollywood. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

WOMAN’S HIDDEN LIFE SAVINGS CRUMBLED INTO PIECES (Friday Church News Notes, September 4, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - When an elderly woman in eastern China recently dug up her buried 100,000 yuan (US \$15,600) life savings, she found that the banknotes



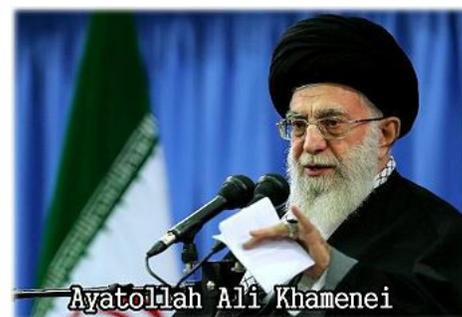
crumbled into pieces when they were handled (*South China Morning Post*, Aug. 31, 2015). Four years ago, she placed the money in a plastic bag, put it in a metal box, and buried it under her kitchen floor, but when she dug it up to help pay for her son’s wedding, it was in a clumped mess. A banknote expert at the People’s Bank of China said there is little chance to redeem the ruined banknotes. This reminds us of Jesus’ words: “Lay not up for yourselves

treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

RICK WARREN AGAIN JOINING 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’ World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia this month. Warren announced this to his church on Sunday, August 30, saying, “I’m not a Catholic, and we have many differences with Catholics. But they love the Lord and we have much in common with that--we believe in the Bible, and the Trinity, and in Jesus and the resurrection. There are probably going to be a million people in Philadelphia at this final event with Pope Francis, and he’s asked me to be the final speaker” (“Pontiff Invites Rick Warren,” *The Gospel Herald*, Sep. 1, 2015). As a demonstration of their biblical ignorance and spiritual blindness, the Baptist congregation cheered and applauded. I would ask Pastor Warren and Saddleback Church two questions: First, if a man prays to Mary, trusts her intercession and help, considers baptism the new birth, and

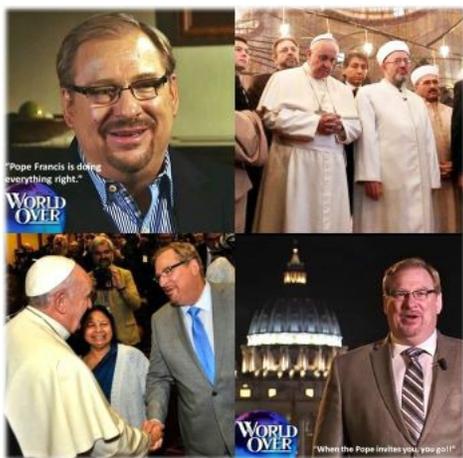
believes that a piece of bread is the very body and blood of Jesus (as the pope does), does he “love the Lord,” or is he following another gospel, another christ, and another spirit? Second, why did Paul say the Galatian heretics were cursed even though they believed in the Bible, the Trinity, Jesus, and the resurrection (Galatians 1:6-8)? Last November, Rick Warren spoke at a Vatican interfaith conference on marriage and the family. You can be sure that he did not reprove Rome’s enforced “celibacy, which 1 Timothy 4 identifies as a doctrine of devils. Rick Warren is one of the most influential preachers in the world, yet he is the blind leading the blind. The fact that the Southern Baptist Convention has not publicly reproved his error and compromise and removed his church from its rolls is irrefutable proof of that Convention’s rebellion to God’s Word.

IRAN’S SUPREME LEADER SAYS ISRAEL WILL BE DEAD WITHIN 25 YEARS (Friday Church News Notes, September 11, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said this week that Israel will not survive another 25 years (“Iran Deal,” *Breitbart*, Sept. 9, 2015). On Twitter, Khamenei said, “God willing, there will be nothing as Zionist regime by next 25 years.” Khamenei is a big user of Twitter. In November 8, 2014, he tweeted, “This barbaric, wolflike & infanticidal regime of Israel which spares no crime has no cure but to be annihilated.” In an address to an assembly of tens of thousands of Basij militiamen in November 2013, Khamenei declared that Israel was doomed to fail and characterized the “Zionist regime” as the “sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.” He said Israelis “cannot be called human beings.” Footage of the event showed the crowd shouting “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.” In an address in Tehran in September of this year, General Moshen Kazzemeinni said, “The Islamic Revolution will continue enhancing its preparedness until it overthrows Israel



and liberates Palestine” (“Commander: Iran Continues Military Enhancement until Collapse of Israel,” *Fars News Agency*, Sep. 2, 2015). This is the outfit with whom the Obama administration has made a life or death treaty. The Bible tells us exactly what is going to happen, both to Iran and to Israel. Israel will be deceived by the Antichrist and one-third of the Jews will be converted during the Tribulation and enter Christ’s kingdom when He returns. A converted Israel will be at the heart of that kingdom. Iran, which is ancient Persia, is going to join the Gog/Magog military coalition described in Ezekiel 38 and be destroyed on Israel’s mountains. “And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet. ... And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” (Ezekiel 38:3-5, 22).

EGYPTIAN CHRISTIAN IMPRISONED FOR HANDING OUT BIBLES (Friday Church News Notes, September 11, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Egyptian Christian,” *ChristianHeadlines.com*, Aug. 28, 2015: “A 35-year-old Egyptian Christian is



likely to remain in jail for one to five years for handing out Bibles in a shopping mall. The Christian Post reports Medhat Ishak was caught handing out Bibles in Oct. 6 last year. He was sentenced to 15 days in jail for ‘inciting sectarian strife’ and ‘harming national security.’ However, a judge has now slapped Ishak with a heftier charge—blasphemy. The Christian man now faces a sentence between one and five years in prison for ‘insulting religion,’ though his lawyers argue Ishak did not commit the offense. According to attorney Rafik Rafaat, Ishak did encounter a Muslim man at the mall, though he did not know he was Muslim at first. Ishak offered him a Bible and when the man refused and explained that the man was a Muslim, Ishak apologized and left.”

NAVY CHAPLAIN EXONERATED OF CHARGE OF BEING “ANTI-GAY” (Friday Church News Notes, September 11, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Todd Starnes, Fox News, Sept. 4, 2015: “A Navy chaplain accused of failing to show ‘tolerance and respect’ toward gay sailors has been cleared of all wrongdoing and will not be removed from the military. ‘I am relieved the Navy sided with me,’ Lt. Cmdr. Wes Modder told me. Modder, a highly decorated veteran who once ministered to an elite Navy SEAL unit, had been given a ‘detachment for cause’ letter in February. He was removed from his job after his commander accused him of being intolerant and unable to ‘function in the diverse and pluralistic



environment’ of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Goose Creek, S.C. ‘On multiple occasions he discriminated against students who were of different faiths and backgrounds,’ wrote Capt. Jon R. Fahs, the chaplain’s commanding officer, in a memorandum obtained by Fox News. Navy Personnel Command rejected the commander’s recommendation to fire Modder, *Military Times* reported. ‘There is no documentation of poor performance in his personnel record,’ one unnamed officer told the newspaper. Instead, the chaplain, who is endorsed by the Assemblies of God, was cleared of all wrongdoing and will be allowed to retire—marking the end of nearly 20 years of military service. ‘This is not only a great day for Chaplain Modder, but for every American who supports religious freedom in our military,’ said Michael Berry, the chaplain’s attorney. ... Earlier this year, a gay married officer was assigned to be Modder’s assistant. The assistant initiated the complaint against the chaplain because of his views on homosexuality and same-sex relationships. ‘I believe some of what the lieutenant has alleged could constitute a military crime—false statements, taking what the chaplain said and twisting or misconstruing it in an attempt to get the chaplain punished,’ Berry told me.” **CONCLUDING NOTE:** Modder was the victim of a set up. He was lied about by a homosexual serviceman in an attempt to destroy his career, which shows the fearful atmosphere that has been created by “gay rights” and Obama’s military policies.

PRIVATE PHOTO APP (Friday Church News Notes, September 11, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - There is an app called *Private Photo* that allows people to hide photos under a seemingly innocent app, such as a calculator. The calculator works as a calculator, but you can punch in a secret code to see a hidden photo collection. Attorney Pamela Casey of Alabama says, “Look at your child’s phone. If you



see Calculator%, you’re going to want to talk to your child about what their secret code is. They have that code there to hide photos” (“District Attorney Warns Parents,” Sept. 5, 2015, Petapixel.com). Private Photo is only one of many such apps. As we warn in the new course [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church](#), young people can be very adept at finding ways around parental rules. One parent wrote, “They are amazingly capable of turning simple devices into tools of communication. My oldest daughter had a Nook reading device when she was 13. We didn’t think it was capable of being used as a device to communicate. Teens, however, from all over the world began leaving comments on the ‘book review’ section of the web site it links to (Barnes & Noble, I believe), and those comments became give and take communication. They described themselves to each other, gave out addresses and phone numbers, discussed things that make me blush.” Another parent said, “Children can turn simple game systems like a Nintendo Wii video console into an Internet communication device. Mine have. We even had one hack into our home wifi to allow Internet-based gaming on a personal computer though I had expressly disallowed that. These kids can figure that stuff out; no one should think they are protected if the child has access to a computer or game system; they WILL find a way to communicate with their friends.” Another wrote, “Young people can use their phone for code to fool their parents. Recently a parent had their daughter get involved with a young boy and did not know about it for months. The girl ran off with the boy. The parents found her, separated her from the boy,

and limited her cell phone for use only with family members. The girl had set up a way for her sisters to give her boyfriend messages through her text messages to her sisters. They had a code for each one of the emotion signs, such as ‘the smiley face means ____.’ Again, the parents did not know; they just thought she was texting her sisters!” Parents today must know enough about technology to help and protect the children.

ROCKERS SING “LOVE SONG TO THE EARTH” (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org,



866-295-4143) - Paul McCartney recently led a group of rockers in singing “Love Song to the Earth” in support of the United Nations Climate Change Conference that is scheduled for this December. Joining McCartney were Jon Bon Jovi, Sheryl Crow, and others. The proceeds to the song go to “the work of the U.N. Foundation to inspire international action on climate change” (“Artists Release ‘Love Song to the Earth,” Breitbart, Sep. 9, 2015). The United Nations cares nothing about climate change. It is a hypocritical and greedy institution that cares preeminently about power and money, and that is what the climate change movement is all about at the higher echelons. It is hypocritically driven by evolutionists who supposedly care about saving the earth while believing that everything is the product of blind chance, that there is no ultimate meaning to life, and that the universe is destined to die as the effect of the second law of thermodynamics works out to its

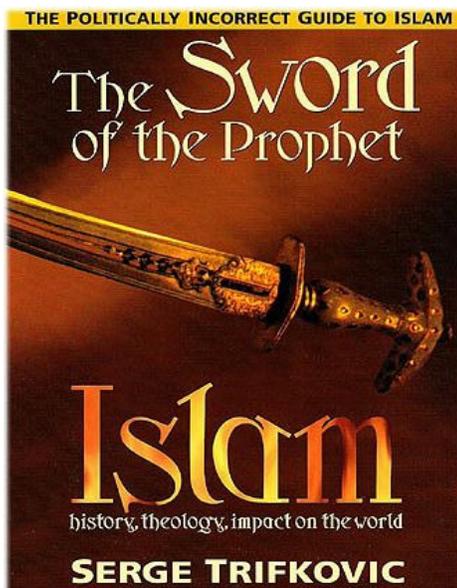
ultimate conclusion. How can such people with any reasonable conviction care about saving the earth? According to their own humanistic philosophy, Paul McCartney, Jon Bob Jovi, Sheryl Crow, the leaders of the U.N. Foundation, *et al*, are meaningless products of blind chance. They will soon die, and when they are dead they are dead. They came from nothing; there is no ultimate meaning to their lives; and they return to nothing. This isn’t a philosophy or a cause to get excited about. I thank the Lord for that wonderful day 42 years ago when the Lord shined light into my hippie-ized, Beatles-loving, spiritually-darkened heart and my blinded eyes were opened to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This lovely gospel teaches that life was made by an almighty, compassionate and holy Father God who loves man even in his rebellion and has provided salvation for His creatures through the sacrifice of His own Son on Calvary. I’m not talking about Christianity or religious tradition; I’m talking about the truth of an infallible Bible and new life in the resurrected Jesus Christ. This gospel is rejected and mocked by the rocker-U.N. crowd, but it is as vastly superior to their philosophy as light is to darkness and as life is to death, and I will not be intimidated by them.

FEMALE SOLDIERS TRAIN TO FIGHT ISIS (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - An Israel battalion with 70% female soldiers is training to face ISIS in the Sinai Peninsula. The Caracal Battalion, named after a cat species whose sexes appear the same, is “renowned for fielding both male and female combatants” (“IDF Prepares to Fight ISIS Invaders,” *Israel Today*, Sept. 8 2015). Caracal is training to keep ISIS from entering Israel from the south. The number of ISIS forces in Sinai is estimated at 2,000-3,000. The battalion commander, Capt. Ksusha Levin, said, “We are preparing for worst case and



extreme scenarios.” It is said that ISIS is not happy about this, as being killed by a female disqualifies jihadists from entering the terrorists’ heaven to enjoy 72 “black eyed” virgins. In Iran, many Kurdish women are also fighting against ISIS after undergoing grueling training. Some of them are former ISIS captives and “sex slaves” who have the courage and conviction to face these thugs in battle.

ENGLAND’S MPs REJECT ASSISTED SUICIDE (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - By a margin of 74% (330 to 118), England’s MPs rejected an assisted dying bill. This week’s vote reflects a wider margin of opposition than the last one in 1997, in spite of an aggressive, very noisy, and emotional push by euthanasia proponents. Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, is representative of the opponents of the bill, warning that the bill lacks safeguards for the vulnerable. “We are here to protect the most vulnerable in our society, not legislate to kill them. This bill is not merely flawed, it is legally and ethically totally unacceptable” (“Assisted Dying Bill,” *BBC News*, Sep. 11, 2015). MP Caroline Spelman rightly warned that “the right to die can so easily become the duty to die.” Dr. Philippa Whitford, breast cancer surgeon, observing that modern palliative care is sufficient for pain control, argued, “We should support letting people live every day of their lives till the end.” She urged the MPs to vote for “life and dignity, not death.” The British Medical Association opposes all forms of assisted dying.

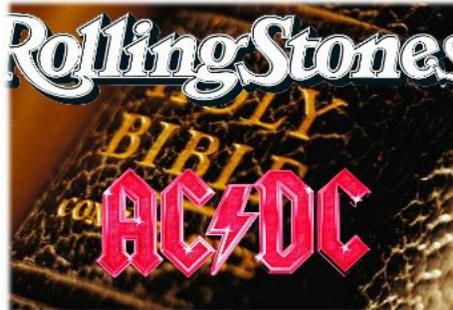


ISLAM'S VIOLENT HISTORY (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - "Muhammed's practice and constant encouragement of bloodshed are unique in the history of religions. Murder, pillage, rape, and more murder in the Quran and in the Traditions 'seem to have impressed his followers with a profound belief in the value of bloodshed as opening the gates of Paradise' and prompted countless Muslim governors, caliphs, and viziers to refer to Muhammed's example to justify their mass killings, looting, and destruction. 'Kill, kill the unbelievers wherever you find them' is an injunction both unambiguous and powerful" (Serge Trifkovic, *The Sword of the Prophet*, p. 51).

ROMAN CATHOLICS IN AMERICA SUPPORT "GAY MARRIAGE" AS MUCH AS GENERAL POPULATION (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A new study by the Public Religion Research Institute finds that Roman Catholics in America support same-sex "marriage" and abortion as much as the general population. When asked whether "same-sex marriage" should be legal, 55% of all Americans and 60% of

Catholics express favor. When asked whether abortion should be legal in all or most cases, 53% of all Americans and 51% of Catholics express favor. The report is entitled "The Francis Effect: U.S. Catholic Attitudes on Pope Francis, the Catholic Church, and American Politics." Homosexual "marriage" and abortion are contrary to official Catholic teaching, but the Catholic Church has never produced a high degree of morality. This is evident by examining the most heavily Catholic parts of the world, such as Italy, Mexico, Quebec, and the American northeast. One reason is that Rome's official morality is undermined by the examples of its priests, bishops, and popes. Rome's moral history is wretched. Even the *Catholic Encyclopedia* is forced to document the reprobation of many of its popes. The Catholic Church in America suffered a serious financial hit in recent decades because of the filthiness of its priests.

IN LOVE WITH ROCK & ROLL (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



The Contemporary Christian Music crowd loves rock & roll, and there is no biblical principle or godly argument that will pry it from their ears. CCM artists listen to secular rock in their private lives; they perform it in their concerts and record it for their albums. They don't care who they offend. In fact, they seem as eager to offend the "old-fashioned Christian" as I was in my unsaved hippie-rebel days. They become so drunk on rock and so spiritually stupid that they even use secular rock in the worship of God. Consider some

examples from the past few years. Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. They advertised it as "Let it Be...Christmas--A Story Told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, George and Ringo." NewSpring Church in Florence, South Carolina, performed "Highway to Hell" by the vile rock band AC/DC for Easter service 2009. NewSpring performed Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train" in November 2011. Northpoint Church of Springfield, Missouri, performed "Sympathy for the Devil" by the Rolling Stones for Easter service 2011 and Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in November 2011. The Church by the Glades in Miramar, Florida, performed "Calling All the Monsters" in October 2011. The theme of the song is "magic and fantasy" and the sensual dance moves were inspired by Michael Jackson's "Thriller." (For many more examples, see the book [Baptist Music Wars](#), available from Way of Life in print and free eBook editions.)

THOSE PARROTS AREN'T JUST PARROTING (Friday Church News Notes, September 18, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, Sep. 11, 2015: "Researchers at Purdue University are demonstrating that parrots are capable of intelligent communication. Their carefully designed experiments have convinced even skeptics that the two parrots under study are not just giving conditioned responses. Their results are challenging the accepted scientific knowledge about animal intelligence and the evolutionary claim that intelligence is one of the traits that separate us from animals. The parrots' names are Griffin and Alex. Researchers can show Alex two triangles, one red and one green. They ask what's different about them. Alex will answer, 'Color.' When asked what's similar about them, he will answer, 'Shape.' If there is nothing similar, Alex even understands the concept of nothing. Asked what's similar

about the shapes, he will answer, ‘None.’ Researchers say that about five percent of the time someone will mistakenly tell Alex that he has given a wrong answer when he has not. Alex, however, insists that his answer is right until the questioner discovers the mistake. Both parrots can identify a wide range of objects. Both parrots are even picking up words they have not been systematically taught and are using them correctly. Once, when Griffin was having trouble pronouncing a new word, Alex turned to him and said, ‘Speak clearly.’ Evolutionists are now having to rethink the idea that intelligence separates us from animals. The fact that we were created in God’s image to have a relationship with Him is what really separates us from the animals.”

UNITED NATIONS TO RAISE PAPAL AND PALESTINIAN FLAGS

(Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The United Nations has announced that it will raise both the Vatican flag and the Palestinian flag (“Holy See Flag to Be Raised,” Zenit.org, Sep. 21, 2015). The Vatican flag will be raised this morning in honor of Pope Francis’ arrival to address the General Assembly, and the Palestinian flag will be raised on September 30 when President Mahmoud Abbas addresses the Assembly. This is an appropriate action, in our estimation, since both entities are enemies of God’s plan for Israel. In May, the Vatican officially recognized “the state of Palestine,” and in a papal audience on May 16, Pope Francis called Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas “an angel of peace,” which is nonsense. In March 2014, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, part



of Abbas’s Fatah organization, launched deadly rocket attacks against Israel. Any “peace” plan proposed by the Palestinian leaders is a lie to cover their longterm objective of destroying Israel. In 2013, Palestinian Authority Minister of Religious Affairs Mahmoud Al-Habbash, in an on-camera sermon at Friday prayers, likened their “peace deals” to Muhammed’s Treaty of Hudaibiyyah with the Arab Quraish tribe in Mecca. The “10 year truce” was merely intended to gain time, and was broken two years later when Muhammed conquered Mecca at the point of the sword. Muhammed taught that it is acceptable to lie to one’s enemies. The antichrist will make the ultimate deal with Israel, and in the midst of a seven-year peace program he will sit in Israel’s temple declaring himself as “God” and will unleash persecution against the Jews (Daniel 9:26-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12). “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Th. 2:3-4).

ROME’S OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL

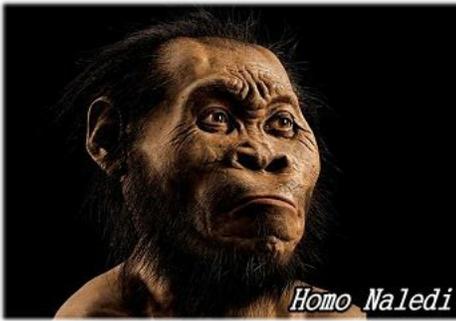
(Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Roman Catholic Church has long been opposed to Israel. Jews were slaughtered during the Catholic crusades and placed in ghettos in Catholic cities. The heresy of Replacement Theology, which replaces Israel with the Church, was fathered by Rome and borrowed from her by Protestants. In 1922, Cardinal Gasparri, Vatican Secretary of State, voiced concern that the British Mandate on Palestine might “give Israel a privileged position and might compromise the rights of the Catholic Church regarding the protection of the Holy Places” (“The Holy See and the Postwar Palestine Issue,” *International Affairs*, Spring 1984). In 1950, the



Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported that the Vatican was “intensifying its campaign for the internationalization of Jerusalem” (JTA, Nov. 21, 1950). In the 1980s, the Vatican began to support the PLO and its goal of making East Jerusalem its capital. In 1982, Yasser Arafat was received at the Vatican “with all the honor and dignity accorded a head of state.” With the 2015 treaty, the Vatican’s support shifts from the PLO to the Palestinian State. The Vatican is comfortable making treaties with Muslim terrorist organizations that hate Israel, vow her destruction, and persecute professing Christians because the Vatican is one of the devil’s chief instruments in human affairs. One day, Mystery Babylon will yoke together with the very Antichrist himself, according to Revelation 17, and Rome doubtless is at the heart of this end-time phenomenon. “And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zec. 12:3).

SOUTH AFRICANS SEE RACISM IN NEW EVOLUTIONARY FIND

(Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Anti-apartheid activists in South Africa are criticizing those who are using the discovery of an allegedly new human ancestor (*Homo Naledi*) for racial jokes. African National Congress politician Zwelinzima Vavi twittered, “I am no grandchild of any ape, monkey or baboon.” He described being called a baboon by white racists during apartheid. As with all of the ape-men drawings since the days of Charles Darwin, *Homo*



Naledi is depicted as half ape, half black man. Racism was an integral part of Darwinianism until the racial aspect became politically incorrect well into the twentieth century. Darwin's prominent German disciple Ernst Haeckel said the tribes of Africa "have remained, down to the present day, at the lowest stage of human development, and made the smallest advance beyond the ape" (Mario Gregorio, *From Here to Eternity*, p. 247). Some of Haeckel's charts depicted the supposed evolution of modern man from the lower "race" (Negroid) to the higher (Caucasians, and especially, of course, Germans). Haeckel made a drawing of a tree populated by a gorilla, an orangutan, a chimpanzee, and a Negro. He strongly believed in racial superiority, considering it a natural product of evolution. Henry Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History and discoverer of "Nebraska Man," said, "The standard intelligence of the average adult Negro is similar to that of the eleven-year-old youth of the species *Homo sapiens*" ("The Evolution of Human Races," *Natural History*, Jan.-Feb. 1926). Osborn was one of the "experts" who presented evidence in favor of evolution at the Scopes Trial. For more on this see "Darwinian Racism" at the Way of Life web site.

DON'T ROCK THE BOAT FELLOWSHIP (Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from "*The Vanishing Ethics of the Ministry*" by Buddy Smith, *Heads Up!* Sept. 18, 2015: "Closer home, we observe pastors in Australia

assisting other pastors in taking their brethren to court, or projecting one image at pastors' conferences and another at their youth rallies, or calling themselves fundamentalists and then contradicting their profession by sitting admiringly at the feet of Emergent and charismatic CEO/pastors, discipled by charlatans on how to build a larger empire. ... Or maybe you've met the reverend gentlemen who fiercely reprove their reprovers arguing that reproofs are unloving? ... Oh, I know these things leave most of the brethren cowed and fearful, afraid not to hew to the party line, fearful of making an enemy, but they ought to cause every true-hearted and valiant man to lie awake at night, asking over and over, 'Why do so many men in ministry have very poor Christian ethics?' We ought to do this to the point that we determine, by God's grace, to find, to embrace, and to defend the ethics of the Son of God. Any day now I expect to receive in the mail an invitation to join the Aussie branch of the IBDRTB. It is the new name for the Old Boys Club. It stands for **Independent Baptist Don't Rock The Boat Fellowship**. It is for those anaemic preachers with timid souls. You know, the ones with bobble heads, always nodding yes to everything a reverend Doctor says."

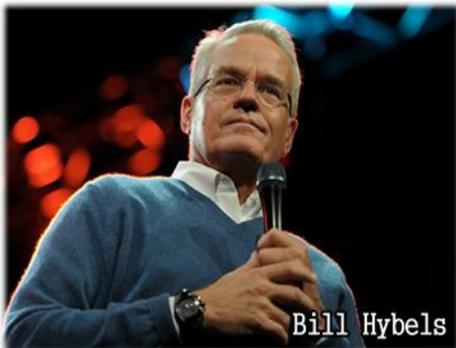
THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE SOFT ROCK ITSELF (Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The problem with what is happening at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California, and *many* other places is not a few songs in soft rock style. If that were the issue, and if that would be the end of it, I would not waste my time and endanger my reputation warning about it. I would simply write it off to "style" differences. The issue is far more serious than that, though. The fundamental problem is two-fold. **First, soft rock is addictive and creates an appetite for sensual music.** History teaches us that soft rock leads to hard rock. That's not debatable. It is why former contemporary worship leader Dan

Lucarini, when he converted churches from traditional to contemporary, started with soft rock. It was a plan. He knew that the change had to be incremental. The contemporary music had to start out soft so as not to shock the traditionalists. He describes this in chapter 17 of his 2002 book *Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Music Movement*. **Second, the contemporary songs they are using are bridges to the one-world church that is represented by the large majority of the contemporary worship musicians.** It is not possible in this day and time for a church to use contemporary worship



songs without people going online to find out more about the songs and the musicians and thus to come into contact with the full-blown ecumenical rockers and the "real" renditions of the music. (For more on this see the free eBooks *Baptist Music Wars* and *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, available from www.wayoflife.org.)

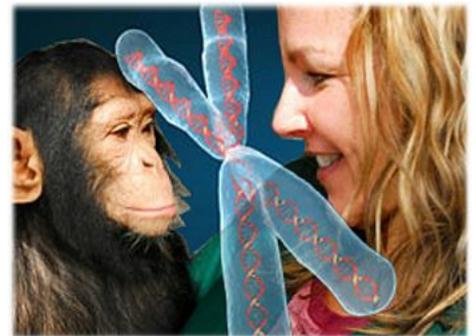
WILLOW CREEK ACCEPTING HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES AS MEMBERS (Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A friend sent me the following information about Willow Creek Community Church, located west of Chicago and led by Bill Hybels. Not only is Willow Creek one of the largest and most influential churches in the country, but it is also an association of more than 14,000 churches that are committed to the same philosophy. My friend wrote: "I called Willow Creek Community Church last fall (2014) and asked if a celibate homosexual could be a member. The



person that answered didn't know, so they directed me to one of their staff pastors--Chris Hurta. I asked him numerous questions about where Willow Creek stood. Until recently, they have been against gay marriage, but he said that celibate homosexuals and gay couples could be members. I asked if they could serve in the church. He said yes, but none could be in a leadership position. He also said same-sex attraction 'is a beautiful thing.' Needless to say, Bro. Cloud, I was floored. But they have been a leader in redefining Biblical issues. They consider most movies part of God's general revelation, hence OK to watch. They have compromised in the area of music, ordination of women, and now, marriage." CONCLUDING NOTE: This is not surprising, but like many others, Willow Creek still wants to stand two ways on this issue, with a public face and a private face.

CHIMPANZEE Y CHROMOSOME RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM HUMAN (Friday Church News Notes, September 25, 2015, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is by Dr. Robert Carter, "The Chimpanzee Y Chromosome Is Radically Different from Human," Dec. 16, 2010, creation.com: "A new study published on the Y chromosome of chimpanzees has surprised many. After a lot of work, the chimpanzee Y chromosome has finally been finished. This may come as a surprise to many who thought the chimpanzee genome was completed way back in 2005. Actually, the original chimpanzee genome construction was less than optimal as they did not sequence it to the same standards of the human genome. ... Half of the chimpanzee ampliconic sequence, and 30% of the entire MSY, has no counterpart in the human MSY, and vice versa. These are sizable differences.... The 30% difference among human and chimp MSY regions was a shock. ... Finding this much difference in one of the sex chromosomes was huge. The 30% difference among human and chimp MSY regions was a shock. ... For the creationist, we now know that the old 'humans and chimps are 99% identical' canard is passé. Interestingly, a significant paper appeared in 2007 calling the 99% rule 'a myth,' and claiming that

we have known for decades that humans and chimps were much more different.⁹ But this has been a significant and powerful evolutionary argument. How many people had their faith wrecked on



those 'mythical' rocks? Now we have half of the chimpanzee Y chromosome and learn that it is only 70% identical to human. This is evidence that humans and chimpanzees are very different. How different? To quote the famous geneticist, Svante Pääbo, 'I don't think there's any way to calculate a number ... In the end, it's a political and social and cultural thing about how we see our differences.' This statement was made before the chimp Y chromosome data became available. If the number is incalculable, can we not jettison every evolutionary story of chimp-human common ancestry based on genetics? The new data on the chimp Y chromosome makes the case for common ancestry that much worse."

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- 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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