

Friday Church News Notes

A Warning About Calvinistic Homeschool Materials

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One of the ways that Reformed Calvinist theology is spreading through independent Baptist circles is home schooling curriculums. Consider three examples. These organizations hold to TULIP theology and reject the literal interpretation of prophecy and the pretribulational return of Jesus Christ. They hold to a heretical replacement position which sees the church as the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. **VISION FORUM's** statement of faith includes the following: "All who were chosen in Christ from eternity past are born again by the Holy Spirit, respond from their new hearts with repentance and faith in Jesus, are justified on the basis of the shed blood of Christ, become children of God, and are indwelt, sanctified, and sealed by the Holy Spirit until they are glorified at Christ's return." Vision Forum's books include the following: *John Calvin: Man of the Millennium*, *The Story of the English Puritans*, *The World's Greatest Reformation History Library*, *The Geneva Bible Calvin Legacy Edition*, *Children's Stories of the Reformation*, *Stories of the Covenanters in Scotland*, *Reformation Heroes*, *Famous Women of the Reformed Church*, *Puritan Fathers Classics Library*, and *Gill's Body of Doctrinal Divinity*
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TONY BLAIR SAYS YOUNG EVANGELICALS ARE MORE RELAXED ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

In an interview with the British homosexual magazine *Attitude*, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair observed that "younger evangelicals" are more relaxed in their position on homosexuality. He said, "I think, increasingly in America amongst the younger generation, even if they're on the Republican right, even if they're evangelical, I just don't think the attitude of being anti-gay is of the same force as it was the previous generation" (ReligiousIntelligence.co.uk, April 8, 2009). Blair, who converted to the Roman Catholic Church in 2007, is doubtless correct in this observation. Since evangelicals in general renounced separatism a half century ago, the movement has gone from bad to worse. Since evangelicalism tends not to be separated from "culture," it is influenced by culture and reflects the thinking of modern society rather than the teaching of the Bible. The emerging church element within evangelicalism

has definitely renounced an "anti-gay" stance. For example, Brian McLaren says, "Frankly, many of us don't know what we should think about homosexuality. ... We aren't sure if or where lines are to be drawn, nor do we know how to enforce with fairness whatever lines are drawn. ... Perhaps we need a five-year moratorium on making pronouncements" ("Brian McLaren on the Homosexual Question," Jan. 23, 2006, http://blog.christianitytoday.com/outofur/archives/2006/01/brian_mclaren_o.html).



OBAMA'S EASTER MESSAGE: AMERICA ARROGANT, DERISIVE, DIVISIVE, AND NOT CHRISTIAN



The following is excerpted from *Christian News Wire*, April 10, 2009: "During his recent trip to Europe and the Muslim nation of Turkey, President Barack Obama told the Europeans that the U.S. has been 'arrogant, derisive and divisive.' During an address to the Turkish Parliament, President Obama also said, 'We [Americans] do not consider ourselves a Christian nation.' Jesse Lee Peterson, Founder and President of BOND Action, Inc., released the following statement responding to the President's remarks: 'President Obama is mischaracterizing America's great history as a force for good which is a direct result of our nation's Judeo-Christian values. ... Mr. President, your apology tour will not deter al-Qaeda. You are weakening this country and inviting our enemies to attack. ... It's now clearly apparent that Obama's mentors Jeremiah Wright, Saul Olinsky, and other godless American haters have profoundly influenced his opinion of this country. ... Barack Obama's recent remarks coupled with his actions over the past two months leave no doubt that it is he who is arrogant and derisive, not the American people.'"

Twenty years of listening to the anti-American ravings of Jeremiah Wright is bound to shape your views.

CALVINISTIC HOMESCHOOL MATERIALS, Cont.

(hyper, hyper Calvinism). **VERITAS PRESS** heavily promotes the writings of Douglas Wilson and R.C. Sproul. One lady wrote to me recently and said, “My husband has a cousin who now believes in infant baptism because they are using a curriculum [Veritas] based on classical education including Latin and Reform theology/doctrine that leans on the ‘early church fathers.’” **CHRISTIAN LIBERTY PRESS** is a ministry of the Church of Christian Liberty in Arlington Heights, Illinois, which subscribes to the Presbyterian Westminster Confession of Faith. They believe in the five points of TULIP, including “the sovereign unconditional election of God, the particular redemption wrought by the death of Jesus Christ, and the irresistible grace of God.” Christian Liberty supports the Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Middle East Reformed Fellowship. They also promote the writings of Reconstructionists/Dominionists Gary North and Gary DeMar. One reader wrote, “When we started homeschooling we used Christian Liberty Press. They have some good material, but they also come from a Reformed perspective.”



RICK WARREN SAYS HE IS NOT “ANTI-GAY OR ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE ACTIVIST”

In his appearance on *Larry King Live*, April 6, 2009, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church said he is not an “anti-gay marriage activist.” He told King: “During the whole Proposition 8 thing, I never once went to a meeting, never once issued a statement, never--never once even gave an endorsement in the two years Prop 8 was going. The week before the vote, somebody in my church said, Pastor Rick, what do you think about this? And I sent a note to my own members that said, I actually believe that marriage is--really should be defined, that that definition should be--say between a man and a woman. And then all of a sudden out of it, they made me, you know, something that I really wasn't. ... I wrote to all my gay friends--the leaders that I knew--and actually apologized to them.” The pastor apologized to the homosexuals who are dead set on destroying America's moral foundation! He should, rather, have rebuked them for their attempt to pervert the God-given institution of marriage. In an interview with Beliefnet in December 2008, Warren said divorce is a greater threat to the family than homosexual marriage and claimed that homosexuality is no worse than other sins, such as gossip. While it is true that every sin is wicked before God, and while it is true that any sin can be forgiven through repentance and faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Bible does not say that all sin is the same in its effect in this world. God did not pour out fire and brimstone upon Sodom because of its jealousy or covetousness or gossip or divorce. It was judged specifically because of homosexuality (Jude 1:7). Homosexuality is in a special category because it is a sin against nature itself. It destroys the very fabric of society, which is the family as defined biblically--a man and a woman united in holy matrimony. Homosexuality is “vile,” “against nature,” “unseemly,” and the product of a “reprobate mind” (Romans 1:26-28). When homosexual “marriage” is accepted, the institution of marriage will be destroyed, and preachers should be outspoken against all such things. In the same *Larry King Live* interview, Warren said that spoke at the memorial service of the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death, that he keeps a picture of King and Gandhi in his office, and that King has “been a hero all of my life.” He forgot to mention that King was a multiple adulterer and a theological modernist who denied the faith that Warren claims to believe.

Much video evidence is readily available on the internet that shows Warren actively campaigning for the passage of Proposition 8. Why is he ashamed of that now?

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ATHEISM SPREADING IN CANADA

According to a new religious poll, the number of Canadians who believe in God decreased from 84% in 2000 to 71% in 2008 (*All Headline News*, April 10, 2009). The poll by Ipsos Reid is based on a survey of 1,000 respondents last

December. The percentage among males is only 63%, while among females it is 79%. According to the same poll, only 20% of Canadians believe in an afterlife.

Beware of the Anti-Fundamentalist Message of CCM

One of the messages that permeates Contemporary Christian Music is its dislike of fundamentalist separatism and biblical preaching. This is a powerful warning to strong Bible-believing churches. When fundamentalist churches bring CCM into their midst, they are associating with people who are their avowed enemies and who will undermine a separatist position. Consider a few of quotes from our book *Contemporary Christian Music under the Spotlight* (the source of the quotes can be found in the book): The Chinese CCM group For You advertises their music as “spiritual but not preachy.” Steven Curtis Chapman says he tries to communicate a biblical world view in a way that will not be “abrasively preachy.” Morgan Cryar says his “songs deal with youth issues and situations without being preachy.” The lyrics to Donna Summer’s music is described as being “unpreachily as possible, the approach most likely to win the attention of an

intelligent non-Christian audience.” Randy Stonehill says: “I don’t want to preach at people.” Michael W. Smith, one of the most popular Contemporary Christian Musicians, says. “My songs are not preachy -- at all.” In reviewing Steve Taylor’s music, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* noted that “there is little preaching in his songs.” CCM writer/performer Wayne Watson says: “I won’t write a song that says, ‘You better get right with God.’ From my own experience I find that way sometimes makes people defensive.” A reviewer observed that P.O.D. doesn’t “preach or try to ram their spirituality down anyone’s throat.” *MusicLine Magazine* describes Steve Camp’s music in these terms: “Though potent, the message never overwhelms or becomes preachy.” The group U2 is described by the *Boston Globe* as representing a “non-dogmatic Christianity.” The Chinese CCM group For You advertises their music as “spiritual but not preachy.”

THE MOST IMPROBABLE HONEYBEE

The following is from Creation Moments, <http://www.creationmoments.net/radio/transcript.php?t=2282>: “One reason many scientists reject evolution is that it’s impossible to explain even the simplest of the incredible designs we find in creation as the work of a mindless, impersonal force. Imagine the challenge of explaining the many specialized features of the honeybee as the work of no one! The honeybee has compound eyes that enable it to navigate by the sun even on cloudy days because it has a built-in polarized light filter. The honeybee’s antennae contain both their sense of smell and sense of touch. For this reason they must be carefully cleaned. So the honeybees have special grooves in their front

legs that are perfectly designed to clean them. The honeybees also have hairs on their body to collect pollen and baskets on their rear legs to carry it. And they have special glands for producing, shaping and cleaning off wax. When one returns home with news of a good pollen source, the honeybee has a language that it can use to tell the others about it! Not only is the honeybee a huge collection of special features united together, but they also live in a hive that unites thousands of individuals so that they all work together like a single organism! It simply goes against everything we know from science to suppose that millions of years of unplanned accidents could design and build the honeybee!”



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Who Was Right?

by Brian Snider

I ran across a wonderful example recently that demonstrated so clearly how you'll always be on good ground when you believe the Bible.

Almost 200 years ago in Germany, there was a move afoot to reform Judaism to make it more palatable to liberal Jews who had accommodated themselves to science and other modern philosophies of the day. According to Paul Johnson in his "History of the Jews", the Jewish Temple in Hamburg, Germany, introduced a new prayer book that eliminated 'embarrassing' references to the Messiah and a return to the Holy Land. One of the leaders of this movement was a Rabbi Abraham Geiger (1810-1874) who led the charge to create a Judaism that was more in tune with the thought of the day. In his writings, he eliminated all references "to the return to Zion and other references to what he regarded as outdated historical conditions."

Thus in the mid-1800s, unbelieving Jews were willing to drop doctrines that their unbelieving eyes refused to let them see.

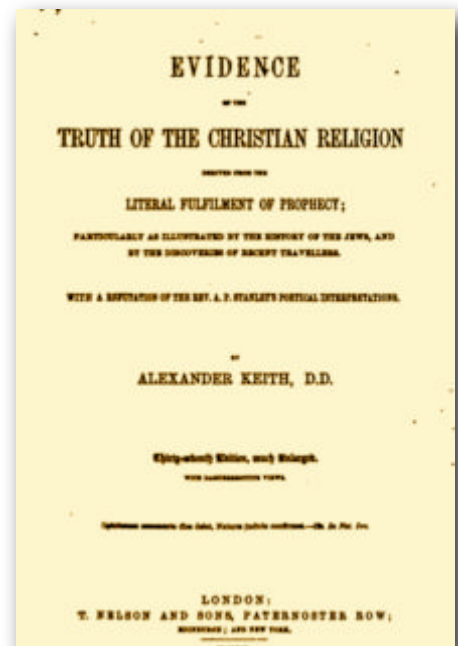
But, at about the same time, we have a Bible-believing Christian by the name of Alexander Keith who could read the blessed texts for himself and see that God was still at work in this world and would fulfill all his promises - he believed nothing could prevent Bible prophecy from being fulfilled.

In his "Evidence of the Christian Religion" published in 1858, he writes about the land of Palestine and how the Jews had not been at home there for almost two millennia. After quoting many scriptures which discuss the return of the Jews to their land, he writes; "These prophecies, exclusive of many others, need no comment. They declare, as clearly as language can, that the Jews shall return to Judea, and be at last permanently re-established in the land of their fathers." How this would come to pass, he could not be certain as it seemed impossible in his day, yet he wrote, "it is enough for Christians to know that (the last 2,000 years) cannot render extinct the title, nor prevent the heaven-charted right of the seed of Abraham to the final and everlasting possession of the Land of Canaan."

What a comparison and defense of what we believe. The Jews, blinded and unable to see that God still had them in His eye. A Christian, who took God at His word, able to clearly see what God would do a century after his day.

You'll always be on the right side if you believe the Bible.

(Keith's book is available as a free download from Google Books.)



CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.