
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ROB BELL SAYS “THE CHURCH” IS ONLY MOMENTS AWAY FROM ACCEPTING “GAY MARRIAGE”

Rob Bell, former pastor of the emerging Mars Hill Bible Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, said recently about “gay marriage” that “we think it’s inevitable and we are moments away from the church accepting it” (“Former Megachurch Pastor Rob Bell,” *Christian Post*, Feb. 17, 2015). Bell made the comment when he and his wife Kristen appeared on Oprah Winfrey’s *Super Soul Sunday* television program to discuss their new book *The ZimZum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage*. Having rejected the Bible as the infallible Word of God, the Bells have lurched from one heresy to another. Their final authority is their own thinking and the pop culture of which they have deeply partaken in their zeal to be “relevant.” Bell said, “I think culture is already there and the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defense...” We would say, first, that “the church” that Bell is talking about is a hodgepodge of professing Christians that is no church at all in a Scriptural sense. As for being irrelevant, the churches that

stand on the testimony of Scripture are the most relevant institutions on earth. They alone are standing on the rock of God’s eternal Word rather than the shifting sand of human thinking and feeling. They alone are giving a prophetic voice into the darkness of this present world. Bell is right about one thing, though. He is right that many churches will accept “gay marriage” and that we are on the cusp of a great turning point in church history. Many “churches” have already accepted homosexual marriage, and others are caving on the issue daily. The apostle John had a different message from Bell’s: “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. ... *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness*” (1 John 2:15-17; 5:19).



JUDGE RULES AGAINST CHRISTIAN FLORIST FOR REFUSING TO DECORATE HOMOSEXUAL WEDDING

The following is excerpted from “Judge tells Christian florist she is entitled to her beliefs, but not to act on them,” *OneNewsNow*, Feb. 19, 2015: “A Christian florist in Washington State who refused to provide flowers to two homosexuals for their wedding violated state consumer protection and anti-discrimination law, a judge ruled Wednesday. Benton County Superior Court Judge Alex Ekstrom rejected arguments from the owner of Arlene’s Flowers in Richland that her

actions were protected by her freedoms of speech and religion. While religious beliefs are protected by the First Amendment, actions based on those beliefs aren’t necessarily protected, he said. ‘For over 135 years, the Supreme Court has held that laws may prohibit religiously motivated action, as opposed to belief,’ Ekstrom wrote. ... Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene’s Flowers, sold flowers for years to customer Robert Ingersoll. She knew he was homosexual and that the flowers were for his

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partner, Curt Freed. After Washington State adopted homosexual marriage in 2012, Ingersoll went to the shop the following spring to ask Stutzman to do the flowers for his wedding. ... She placed her hands on Ahis and told him she couldn't, 'because of my relationship with Jesus Christ,' she said in a deposition. As a Southern Baptist, she believed only in opposite-sex marriages. Ingersoll and Freed sued, as did Washington State, alleging violations of Washington's Law Against Discrimination and Consumer Protection Act. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the American Civil

Liberties Union of Washington, which represented the couple, welcomed the ruling. ... The law allows for penalties of up to \$2,000 per violation, as well as legal fees. The state will likely seek those against Stutzman individually as well as her business, said Peter Lavallee, a spokesman for the attorney general's office. Kristen Waggoner is a lawyer with the Alliance Defending Freedom and represented Stutzman in court. She says, 'The message from this ruling is clear: the government will bring about your personal and professional ruin if you don't help celebrate same-sex marriage.'"

PASTOR SEES IMPORTANCE OF WARNINGS ABOUT WEST COAST

I received the following email recently from a pastor:
"I just wanted to say thanks for your warning ministry. I've always despised CCM, but I thought you were going overboard a few years ago when you started taking shots at West Coast. Now I'm seeing all of my friends who went to West Coast cave on the CCM issue. You were right. I'm an author and teacher in a Bible Institute, and this year I'm teaching Galatians-Colossians. When I reach Ephesians 5:19, I'm looking forward to using much of your material. ... I want my students either to be inoculated to the stuff or to be so ashamed of it that they keep it to themselves and out of my church which has been traditional for 25 years. Thanks and God bless you. The 7,000 are still out there."

CHURCH DISCIPLINE: TOO STRICT OR TOO LOOSE

Michael Faraday, one of the fathers of modern science, was a devout Christian in a strict group of churches called Sandemanians, who tried to follow the New Testament pattern for churches in a way similar to the Brethren. Consider just how strict they were. When Faraday received an invitation in 1844 to meet with Queen Victoria on a Sunday, he accepted, though it would entail missing church services. Two weeks later he was forced to forfeit his position as elder since he refused to repent of what he had done. He was restored to church fellowship after a few weeks, but it was 14 years before he was restored to eldership. The church's position was that he should have put Christ before Queen. They had a point, but they enforced it too strictly, in our estimation, especially since Faraday delighted in church attendance all his life and almost never missed services, following in the footsteps of his godly parents. At the same time, most churches today are frightfully loose in regard to church membership and its obligations. The members of the first church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). If that biblical standard were

applied to church members today, most congregations would find their "membership" numbers decreased in a most dramatic way, and in our way of thinking, that would be a good thing. Like most of the fathers of modern science, Michael Faraday believed in divine creation and accepted the Bible as divine revelation. He said: "The Christian religion is a revelation, and that revelation is the Word of God." Of his scientific research he said, "The book of nature which we have to read is written by the finger of God." When reporters inquired about his "speculations" as to life after death, he replied, "Speculations! I know nothing about speculations. I'm resting on certainties. 'I know that my Redeemer liveth,' and because He lives I shall live also" (Charles Ludwig, *Michael Faraday: Father of Electronics*). The Sandemanians did not obey the Great Commission, being inward looking rather than evangelistic, and the last Sandemanian church closed in 1984. Though one of the founders taught that saving faith is mere mental belief in Christ, in Faraday's case, he made a public profession of faith at age 29, even though he had "believed" from his earliest years.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

The following is from David Levy, *The Tabernacle*: "William W. Walford was a blind English preacher of lowly birth. Although he did not possess a formal education, people called him 'the walking Bible' because of his ability to quote Scripture with great preciseness. Although he was unable to see the beauty of this world, the glories of heaven were opened to him through the privilege of prayer. Spending many sweet hours in the throne room of intercessory prayer, he was moved to pen these words in 1842:



"Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer."



One of the “theories” proposed as an evolutionary explanation for the universe is the concept of a multiverse, which derives from “quantum cosmology.” It is a metaphysical abuse of quantum physics, but it has become a convenient hiding place for some 21st century evolutionists, including Richard Dawkins, when they need to explain how the amazing universe could come from nothing. Quantum physics has given us such mind-numbing and incomprehensible concepts as “quantum fuzziness,” “maybe-space-maybe-time fuzziness,” “eternal inflation,” and “the bubble bath universe.” Quantum physicists are the modern Gnostics, delving into mysteries they cannot understand and pretending knowledge they don’t possess. Asking foolish questions and making foolish assumptions, they arrive at foolish answers. Dr. David Berlinski, who is not a biblical creationist but who is brave enough to say publicly that Emperor Darwinianism has no clothes, gives a humorous critique of quantum cosmology in his book *The Devil’s Delusion*. “The details may be found in [Stephen] Hawking’s best-selling *A Brief History of Time*, a book that was widely considered fascinating by

those who did not read it, and incomprehensible by those who did. Their work will seem remarkably familiar to readers who grasp the principle behind pyramid schemes or magical acts in which women disappear into a box only to emerge as tigers shortly thereafter. The wave function of the universe cannot be seen, measured, assessed, or tested. It is purely a theoretical artifact. Physicists have found it remarkably easy to pass from speculation about the wave function of the universe to the conviction that there is a wave function of the universe. ... the doctrines of quantum cosmology are what they seem: biased, partial, inconclusive, and largely in the service of passionate but unexamined conviction. ... Quantum cosmology is a branch of mathematical metaphysics. It provides no cause for the emergence of the universe, and so does not answer the first cosmological question, and it offers no reason for the existence of the universe. ... [The string theory] was an idea that possessed every advantage except clarity, elegance, and a demonstrated connection to reality (David Berlinski, *The Devil’s Delusion*, pp. 98-107, 119).

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, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click “Manage My Subscription.” Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.