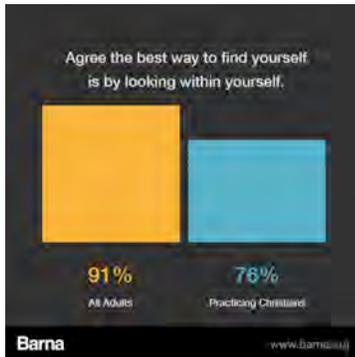


FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES



AMERICA'S RELATIVISTIC MORAL PHILOSOPHY

The following is excerpted from "Barna Study: America Has a New Moral Code," Answers In Genesis,

June 12, 2016: "Barna recently conducted a general population survey to determine current American views on morality. ... Over half of Americans think that 'whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know.' ... Barna's president David Kinnaman argues that the formerly, nominally Christian ethic that used to characterize this nation is being replaced with 'a new moral code.'

He says this morality can be characterized by self-fulfillment and has six guiding principles. These principles, listed below, are troubling. 1. 'The best way to find yourself is by looking within yourself.' An incredible 91% of US adults and 76% of practicing Christians agreed 'completely' or 'somewhat' with this statement. 2. 'People should not criticize someone else's life choices.' Overall 89% of adults and 76% of Christians agree. 3. 'To be fulfilled in life, you should pursue the things you desire most.' 86% of American adults and 72% of Christians said, 'Yes.' 4. 'The highest goal of life is to enjoy it as much as possible.' 84% of adults and 67% of Christians agreed that this was the highest goal of life. 5. 'People can

...continued on next page

THE NEW CAMPUS GESTAPO

The following is from "Meet the New Campus Gestapo," *New York Post*, June 26, 2016: "On campuses across America, the Thought Police have a new tool: Bias Response Teams, administrators who crack down on classroom insensitivity. More than 100 US colleges have set up BRTs. The newshounds at Heat Street last week dug up a taste of how it works. A professor at the University of Northern Colorado got visited by the school's Bias Response Team--for imploring his students to think about opposing viewpoints. Heat Street's Freedom of Information Act request revealed that the professor 1) had students read an Atlantic article about rising sensitivity of college students, and 2) asked them to consider un-PC views on topics like global warming and transgender issues. A trans student finked to the BRT that the professor mentioned the idea that 'transgender is not a real thing, and no one can truly feel like they are born in the wrong body.' She wrote

she 'was very offended and hurt by this.' The BRT told the professor to never talk about transgender issues again, or even mention un-PC opinions on the topic, whether his or someone else's. If professors can't ask students to engage in critical thinking, we might as well close down the universities now."



EUROPEAN COMMISSION WANTS TO CONTROL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS

The following is excerpted from “The European Commission,” Breitbart, June 2, 2016: “The European Commission plans to attack citizens’ right to online privacy, insisting that state-issued ID cards should be used to log into platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, and even Uber. The Vice President for the Digital Single Market on the European Commission, former Communist Andrus Ansip, is behind the next European Union (EU) raid on personal freedoms, promoting the idea of using national ID cards to log in to online services. Leaked documents from within

the European Commission revealed a call for the roll out of a more extensive use of national ID cards across the EU. The documents have since been uploaded to the Commission’s own website. Mr. Ansip is from Estonia, a small Baltic country and former Communist state which has the most highly-developed national ID card system in the world. The Estonian state website boasts: ‘Much more than simply a legal picture ID, the mandatory national card serves as the digital access card for all of Estonia’s secure e-services.’”

AMERICA’S RELATIVISTIC MORAL PHILOSOPHY ...continued from previous page

believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don’t affect society.’ Those who agreed with this statement consisted of 79% of American adults and 61% of practicing Christians. 6. ‘Any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable.’ Incredibly, nearly 69% of American adults and an astonishing 40% of Christians agreed with this. These statistics should provide a wake-up call to every Christian. Though you will not find any of these ideas in Scripture, the majority of Christians accept five out of six of them! ... David Kinnaman has some sobering thoughts on this new morality, our culture, and the church. ‘The highest good, according to our society is “finding yourself” and then living by “what’s right for you.” ... There is a tremendous amount of individualism in today’s society, and that’s reflected in the church too. Millions of Christians have grafted New Age dogma onto their spiritual person. When we peel back the layers, we find that many Christians are using the way of Jesus to pursue the way of self. ... While we wring our hands about secularism spreading through the culture, a majority of churchgoing Christians have embraced corrupt, me-centered theology.’ CONCLUDING NOTE: America’s churches are indeed to blame for this mess. New Evangelicalism, for example, has been preaching non-judgmental moral relativism for more than a half century. For documentation see *New Evangelicalism: Its History, Characteristics, and Fruit*, available in print and eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.

ROME’S WHISTLING SLING STONES

Whistling sling projectiles have been discovered in southwestern Scotland dating to the second century AD. They were used by Romans in an attack against a hilltop fort. The cast lead bullets were drilled with a 0.2-inch (5mm) hole that caused them to make a sharp buzzing or whistling noise. Archaeologist John

Reid calls them a “terror weapon” (“Whistling Sling Bullets,” *Archaeological News*, June 13, 2016). “In Old Testament times, slingers were regular components of an army and were often used together with archers; during siege warfare their role was to pick off the enemy from the besieged city’s ramparts. Such

...continued on next page

ROME'S WHISTLING SLING STONES ...continued from previous page

slingers were capable of hurling a projectile at over one hundred miles an hour and their effective range was well in excess of one hundred yards” (Alfred Hoerth, *Archaeology and the Old Testament*). Skilled slingers are mentioned in the Bible (2 Kings 3:25). Ancient projectiles discovered at Hamoukar (in northeastern Syria) were actually egg-shaped, but more pointed, and made out of clay. More than 2,000 of these sling bullets were found in 2005 in excavations co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Syrian Department of Antiquities. One of the stones had pierced into a mud brick wall (“Evidence of battle at Hamoukar,” *University of Chicago Chronicle*, Jan. 18, 2007). “[The pointed shape of the Hamoukar projectiles] tells us two things: that they could be armour-piercing; and that the slingers must have had a technique for sending them off with a spin, like a rifle bullet, so as to keep them properly oriented



during their flight to the target” (Paul Kriwaczek, *Babylon: Mesopotamia and the Birth of Civilization*, Kindle location 1633). Of course, the most famous slinger in history is David. “And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. ... And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David” (1 Samuel 17:40, 49, 50). (The Way of Life Literature course *Bible Times & Ancient Kingdoms* includes an illustrated study of sling stones and other ancient weapons in the PowerPoint presentation on Assyria.)

THE SOLDIERS WE LEFT BEHIND

The following is excerpted from “The Soldiers We Left Behind: Special Operators in an Afghanistan Meat Grinder,” Daniel Horowitz, *Conservative Review*, June 21, 2016: “The worst aspect of Obama’s foreign policy is not that he pulled our troops out of the endless and aimless wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In fact, contra his promise, Obama has kept troops in those countries. **The most deplorable aspect of his policy is that he has re-shifted the burden of an entire military force onto the backs of several thousand special operators and placed them in untenable predicaments with egregious rules of engagement in pursuit of undefined and conflicting goals.** I want to direct your attention to a *Wall Street Journal* article, which encapsulates this theme I’ve written about for quite some time and have discussed on my podcasts. The article, titled ‘Afghan War Rules Leave U.S. Troops Wondering When It’s OK to Shoot,’ vividly demonstrates how our special operators are placed in

the most dangerous and vulnerable positions defending the flagrant Afghani military against the Taliban, but must place a call to a lawyer before taking a shot at the enemy or calling in an air strike when their lives are in danger. What Obama is doing to the SOCOM community in Afghanistan is likely a bigger scandal than Benghazi. Here is the game Obama plays: In order to maintain the illusion that he is pulling out of an unpopular and endless war, Obama announces that most troops are leaving the theater of war. He has the media tell the public that there are merely 9,800 troops in Afghanistan just to train the Afghani army or a few thousand ‘advisors’ in Iraq to help with the effort against the Islamic State, but most combat operations have ceased. What he doesn’t say is that most of those few thousand soldiers are special operators who are sent on endless missions with the full intensity of special operations, yet are responsible for holding the entire region together--a task that

...continued on next page

THE SOLDIERS WE LEFT BEHIND ...continued from previous page

typically requires a force of over 100,000 conventional soldiers. This is while their comrades are deployed to over 135 other countries. ... During Obama's first term, casualties almost tripled in Afghanistan from the previous seven years combined despite the supposed end of combat. Over 90 percent of the wounded in action were incurred during Obama's presidency. That is because he placed our warriors in the most precarious position possible. The military had already withdrawn in large numbers, there was no longer any strategic mission with a definitive outcome, yet our special operators were sent out on endless deployments and dangerous missions. To make matters worse, they couldn't even fight the enemy and are now governed by worse rules of engagement than even

conventional forces were ever bound by. Even worse, the Afghani government is aware of every special operations mission before it is carried out. It is no secret that many personnel in the government and military are double agents for the Taliban. Many believe double crossing Afghans were the source of the Extortion 17 tragedy--the group of over two dozen special operators, including 15 members of SEAL Team 6, being shot out of the sky in August 2011. They were also likely killed as a result of the egregious orders from the top not to bomb the known Taliban fighters spotted in the landing zone. That was clearly a more tragic, impactful, and consequential scandal than Benghazi, yet nobody in congressional leadership seemed interested in pursuing it."



THE FISH WITH THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

The following is from CreationMoments.com, March 17, 2015: "To hear evolutionists tell it, millions of years of chance mutations, combined with natural selection, produced all manner of living creatures. Now, let's look at just one creature--the porcupinefish--and see how the theory of evolution works out in real life. If the theory fails the test, it's a

strong indicator that the theory lacks the power to explain the existence of any living creature. 'The porcupinefish is blessed with not one, not two, but three lines of defense. The first comes into play when a predator is near. The porcupinefish quickly swallows a large amount of water, practically doubling its size. This makes the fish too large for some predators to swallow. The second line of defense comes into play as the fish transforms itself into a football-sized balloon covered with menacing barbs. Its scales stand on end, turning it into an aquatic version of the land-dwelling porcupine. The very sight of these sharp scales protruding in every direction scares off many predators. The third line of defense for some porcupinefish species is the neurotoxin in their internal organs--a toxin that's at least twelve-hundred times more potent than cyanide.' As Wikipedia points out, 'As a result of these three defenses, porcupinefish have few predators.' Now, can evolutionists explain how this unique fish came to have these three lines of defense? No, they can't. Not even Darwin tried to explain it when he wrote about the porcupinefish in his book *The Voyage of the Beagle*."

INFORMATION

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.