
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH CHRISTIAN BAKER



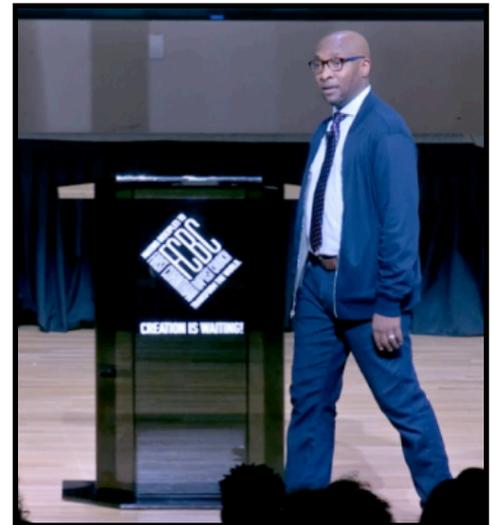
Jack Phillips, owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop, celebrates in his Colorado store after the US Supreme Court voted 7-2 in his favor in a dispute with a gay couple, June 4, 2018. (Joe Amon/The Denver Post via Getty Images, JTA)

The following is excerpted from *Christian Headlines*, Jun. 4, 2018: “The U.S. Supreme Court handed religious liberty advocates a major victory Monday when it sided with a Christian baker who refused to design a wedding cake celebrating a same-sex marriage. In a 7-2 ruling in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission demonstrated hostility toward religion and violated the First Amendment’s guarantee of religious liberty when it ordered the baker, Jack Phillips, to design wedding cakes for same-sex couples. Phillips owns a

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MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS JESUS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

The following is excerpted from “Why Jesus Is No Longer the Only Way for Many American Christians,” *Christian Post*, May 19, 2018: “Just over two months ago, as winter landed its final blows of snow in New York City, Michael A. Walrond Jr., of Harlem’s 10,000-member First Corinthian Baptist Church landed an ideological blow of his own in traditional Christendom. Walrond, who was named ‘One of the Lord’s Foot Soldiers’ by *Newsweek* magazine, told his congregants that the belief that anyone who doesn’t believe in Jesus is going to hell is ‘insanity.’ ... People take many paths to God, he argued, noting that he personally celebrates the paths others take in finding Him--even if that path does not involve faith in Jesus. ‘And so the key is you believe in God. And whatever your path is to God I celebrate that. Personally, I celebrate that,’ Walrond said. The New York City preacher’s message drew criticism in traditional Christian circles. Bishop Robert



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Michael A. Walrond Jr.

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Colorado bakery, Masterpiece Cakeshop. ‘The Civil Rights Commission’s treatment of his case has some elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs that motivated his objection,’ Kennedy wrote. ‘... The Commission’s hostility was inconsistent with the First Amendment’s guarantee that our laws be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion.’ Religious liberty groups applauded the ruling. ‘Jack serves all customers; he simply declines to express messages or celebrate events that violate his deeply held beliefs,’ said Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel Kristen Waggoner, who defended Phillips before the Supreme Court. ‘Creative professionals who serve all people should be free to create art consistent with their convictions without the threat of government punishment.’ Waggoner added, ‘Tolerance and respect for good-faith differences of opinion are essential in a society like ours. This decision makes clear that the government must respect Jack’s beliefs about marriage.’ In a conference call with media members, Waggoner disagreed with other legal experts who were calling the ruling ‘narrow.’ ‘This case will affect a number of cases for years to come,’ she said.”

ENGLAND’S TOP FAMILY JUDGE APPLAUDS END OF THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY

Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division of England’s High Court of Justice, says society should “welcome and applaud” the collapse of the traditional family. At a lecture at the University of Liverpool, Munby said, “In contemporary Britain the family takes an almost infinite variety of forms. Many marry according to the rites of non-Christian faiths. People live together as couples, married or not, and with partners who may not always be of the other sex. Children live in households where their parents may be married or unmarried. They may be brought up by a single parent, by two parents or even by three parents. Their parents may or may not be their natural parents. They may be children of parents with very different religious, ethnic or national backgrounds, [and they] may be the children of polygamous marriages. ... This, I stress, is not merely the reality; it is, I believe, a reality which we should welcome and applaud” (“England’s Top Family Judge,” Breitbart.com, Jun. 3, 2018). This reminds us of what the prophet Isaiah said 2,700 years ago: “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! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isa 5:20-21).



Lord Wilson said the traditional nuclear family is being replaced by a blended family

MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS JESUS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

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E. Smith, Sr., founder of Total Outreach for Christ Ministries, said, “The preacher on this video is both right and wrong: he’s right in that all roads do lead to God; but this God is both love and a consuming fire. If you meet Him on the Christ road of His love, you live, but any other road, be it religion, philosophy, or a miscalculation of the Person of Christ, the lake of fire is waiting!” While Walrond’s openness as a Christian to the idea that there are many paths to God beyond Christianity may have been shocking to some, new research shows a widespread departure among Christians from traditional Bible teaching such as Jesus being the only way to God.” “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT PAINTS GRIM PICTURE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN NORTH KOREA

The following is excerpted from “Report: ‘Praying, Singing Hymns, and Reading the Bible’ Can Lead to Prison Camp,” CNSNews.com, May 30, 2018: “Weeks before President Trump is expected to meet with Kim Jong Un, a State Department report issued Tuesday painted a grim picture of religious freedom abuses at the hands of the Stalinist regime--including ‘executions, torture, beatings, and arrests’ of people of faith. The report said that some of the up to 120,000 North Koreans being held in prison camps ‘under horrific conditions’ were incarcerated for religious reasons. It cited North Korean defectors and international non-governmental organizations as reporting that ‘any religious activities conducted outside of those that were state-sanctioned, including praying, singing hymns, and reading the Bible, could lead to severe punishment, including imprisonment in political prison camps.’ A South Korean NGO had recorded 1,304 cases of religious freedom violations carried out by North Korean authorities during the year in review, including 119 killings and 87 disappearances. Detentions accounted for another 770 of the incidents. ... ‘An estimated 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners, some imprisoned for religious reasons, were believed to be

held in the political prison camp system in remote areas under horrific conditions.’ It cited a religious freedom advocacy group, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, as saying the regime often applies a policy of ‘guilt by association,’ targeting not just Christians but detaining their relatives as well, irrespective of their own beliefs. The envisaged Trump-Kim summit in Singapore is focused on the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons programs and related security concerns. But rights campaigners are urging the president to put human rights on the agenda too. ... State Department ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom Sam Brownback said, ‘The president is right on point on North Korea. He’s very engaged on this, as you know. The Secretary [of State Mike Pompeo] is very engaged on this. And I think they’re raising all of these issues,’ he said. ... Brownback recalled that during his days in the Senate--he was a Republican senator from Kansas from 1996-2011 before serving as governor of Kansas--he raised concerns about North Korea, ‘but you couldn’t get anybody to act.’ ‘Well, this president is acting and he’s taking this issue on, even though it’s threatened us for years, if not decades.’”

CALIFORNIA BANS TRAVEL TO NINE U.S. STATES

The government of California, which has lost its mind in the pursuit of homosexual rights, has banned state-funded and state-sponsored travel to nine other U.S. states. The latest target is Oklahoma, because of its new legislation allowing private adoption agencies to deny same-sex couples from their adoption services “on the basis of religious or moral convictions or policies” (“California Bans,” *USA Today*, Jun. 4, 2018). A 2017 California law requires a travel ban to states that have legislation that “discriminates

on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.” California Attorney General Xavier Becarra, who is strictly enforcing the ban, said, “California taxpayers are taking a stand against bigotry and in support of those who would be harmed by this prejudiced policy.” He cares nothing, of course, for those whose rights are destroyed by the homosexual agenda. Other states targeted by the California travel ban are Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas.

DNA RESEARCH POKING HOLES IN DARWIN

The following is excerpted from “When your DNA research pokes holes in Darwin,” OneNewsNow.com, May 31, 2018: “Researchers are announcing they have made a game-changing discovery in evolutionary biology and it could bring science one step closer to biblical truth. According to the researchers, an American and a Swiss scientist, their study of DNA suggests that 100,000 animals first appeared at roughly the same time--not gradually over millions of years. Likely realizing how that damages the evolutionary model, one of the scientists publicly stated they were hesitant to release their findings. ‘There’s a great danger to the evolutionary model in this study in ways they don’t quite realize yet,’ comments Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson, a research biologist for Answers in Genesis. Jeanson,

who holds a PhD in cell development from Harvard, tells OneNewsNow that it’s true the researchers concluded that animals and humans arrived on earth at roughly the same time. The same study, he says, also found there is no cross-over species. A robin may evolve into a better robin, for example, but it didn’t become a lizard. The researchers aren’t admitting that Genesis 1:1 is true, of course, and the May 28 story headline describes ‘new facets of evolution’ in a study published in a journal entitled *Human Evolution*. But the story describes the ‘startling result’ that nine out of 10 species on earth today, including humans, ‘came into being’ 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. ... ‘The conclusion is very surprising,’ one of the researchers said, ‘and I fought against it as hard as I could.’”

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 no 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.