“Paul Chappell’s youngest son, Matt, has started a contemporary church called Rock Hill Church in Fontana, California ... Rockhill Church uses contemporary music; and in typical emerging fashion, everything is dark. The room is dark for the worship service and it is dark for the preaching. It would be nearly impossible to actually look at your Bible and ‘search the Scriptures.’ Matt’s Instagram post for Feb. 18, 2017, featured a photo of his praise team singing Hillsong’s “Love So Great.”’

JOHN RICE, LESTER ROLLOFF, REPENTANCE, AND SLOPPY SOUL WINNING - By David Cloud

In the 1980s, Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson changed the historic Baptist definition of repentance. I suspect that the motive was to justify the cheap, numbers-oriented soul winning methodology that was popular in that day. This was the methodology that was foundational to Big-ism with its emphasis on “the largest ... the fastest growing... the greatest.”

I call the numbers-oriented soul winning methodology “Quick Prayerrism,” because it is quick to run people through “the Romans Road,” quick to “get a decision,” quick to lead them in a sinner’s prayer, quick to give them “assurance,” and quick to pronounce them “saved” and record them as a statistic.

“At least the gospel is being preached; what’s the harm?” some say.

The harm is that countless people have been given a false hope of heaven. It has inoculated multitudes of people to true salvation. In some parts of Chattanooga, Hammond,
Longview, and many other places where this methodology has been pushed, a frightful number of people claim to be saved even though they live like the very devil himself. If you knock on their doors and try to talk to them about Christ, they respond, “I’ve done that,” and then shut the door and return to their Christless lifestyles. Or at least that was true 30 years ago during the heyday of Quick Prayerism.

In the past, The Sword of the Lord was at the forefront of promoting the theology of bigness and exalting the kings of Quick Prayerism. I know. I was there. In the 1970s, I read practically everything the Sword published. Though never a John Rice disciple, I loved John Rice and appreciated many things that he stood for. I was a student at Highland Park Baptist Church in the mid-70s. I worked in the bus ministry and the chapel ministry, and I experienced the rat race of the push for “decisions” and the frenzy to report big numbers. I attended Sword conferences. I heard Hyles and Hutson preach. I witnessed the unabashed promotion of bigness. For conferences. I heard Hyles and Hutson preach. I attended Sword conferences. I heard Hyles and Hutson preach. I witnessed the unabashed promotion of bigness. For evangelism class, we used Jack Hyles’ Let’s Go Soulwinning, published by The Sword of the Lord.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jack Hyles and Curtis Hutson changed the historic, biblical definition of repentance, and I deeply suspect it was for the purpose of justifying the Quick Prayerism methodology and the theology of Bigness. Consider the following quotes:

**John R. Rice, 1940** - “To repent literally means to have a change of mind or spirit toward God and toward sin. IT MEANS TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS, earnestly, with all your heart, and trust in Jesus Christ to save you. You can see, then, how the man who believes in Christ repents and the man who repents believes in Christ. The jailer repented when he turned from sin to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ” (What Must I Do to Be Saved? 1940).

**Harold Sightler, 1963** - “Recognizing his guilt, there is a TURNING FROM SIN. There is a turning to God. The actual word ‘repentance’ means a turning completely around: a change of course; a change of mind. … TO THINK OF REPENTANCE THAT DOES NOT CAUSE THE SINNER TO TURN GLADLY FROM HIS SINS IS IMPOSSIBLE. … I know that we have a shallow religious movement in our times that will allow men to profess faith in Christ and at the same time continue to live in the world. Such a shallow religious faith is not real. These are mere professors and have no part with God in salvation” (Chastening and Repentance, 1963).

**B.R. Lakin, 1964** - “Repentance toward God -- that’s TURNING AWAY FROM ALL YOUR SIN and everything you know to be wrong, and TURNING RIGHT ABOUT FACE, then trusting Jesus Christ as your complete Redeemer” (Prepare to Meet Thy God, 1964).

**Lester Roloff, 1965** - “Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin. REPENTANCE IS A FORSAKING OF SIN. Real repentance is putting your trust in Jesus Christ so you will not
live like that anymore. Repentance is permanent. It is a lifelong and an eternity-long experience. You will never love the devil again once you repent. You will never flirt with the devil as the habit of your life again once you get saved. You will never be happy living in sin; it will never satisfy; and the husks of the world will never fill your longing and hungering in your soul. Repentance is something a lot bigger than a lot of people think. It is absolutely essential if you go to heaven” (Repent or Perish, 1965).

Oliver B. Green, 1969 - “True repentance is sorrow for sin committed against a holy God and not only sorrow for sin, but TURNING FROM SIN, FORSAKING SIN AND TURNING TO GOD. Sin nailed the Savior to the cross and certainly that fact alone is sufficient reason why ALL WHO HAVE GENU-INELY REPENTED HATE SIN AND FORSAKE SINFUL WAYS” (Commentary of Acts of the Apostles, Acts 2:37-38, 1969).

SLOPPY SOUL WINNING

Shelton Smith, the current editor of The Sword of the Lord, will not own up to the confusion caused by the fact that his own paper has faced two opposite ways on the issue of repentance, but this cannot be shoved under the carpet. It is an important issue, a doctrinal issue, a fundamental issue that will doubtless be dealt with at the judgment seat of Christ.

When pushed into a corner, Smith says he is opposed to “sloppy soul winning.” I was amazed when I first heard him say that. The editor of The Sword of the Lord is opposed to “sloppy soul winning”? What could this possibly mean?

It is The Sword of the Lord that published the most influential books on “sloppy soul winning” techniques: Let’s Go Soul Winning by Jack Hyles, 1962; Let’s Build an Evangelistic Church, 1962; Winning Souls and Getting Them Down the Aisle by Curtis Hutson, 1978; etc.

These are the books that taught soul winners to be brief in giving the gospel so as to get right to the point of “getting the prayer.”

These are the books that taught soul winners to avoid answering questions.

These are the books that taught shameless methods of psychological manipulation, such as leading with questions that require a positive response (“you want to go to heaven when you die, don’t you?”) or pretending that you are going to pray for an individual when in reality you are going to try to get him to pray a sinner’s prayer.

Carl Hatch, who was called one of the world’s greatest soul winners by Hyles and Hutson and the Sword crowd, invented the “Carl Hatch squeeze” as a slight improvement on the standard methodology. Instead of merely asking the individual to pray the sinner’s prayer and hoping he would do it (after having manipulated him into bowing his head), Hatch actually squeezed the man’s shoulder to give him a neat little psychological shove. Of his technique, Hatch exclaimed, “It works! It works!”

If that’s not “sloppy soul winning,” I can’t imagine what sloppy soul winning possibly could be.

Repentance and Soul-Winning

By David W. Cloud

This is an in-depth study on biblical repentance and a timely warning about unscriptural methods of presenting the gospel.

The opening chapter, entitled “Fundamental Baptists and Quick Prayerism: A Faulty Method of Evangelism Has Produced a Change in the Doctrine of Repentance,” traces the change in the doctrine of repentance among fundamental Baptists during the past 50 years.

Chapter Two is an extensive study on biblical repentance and includes what repentance is not, a study of every Bible passage dealing with repentance, repentance defined by preachers of old, illustrations of repentance, and God’s repentance.

Available From Way of Life Online Store
Paul Chappell's youngest son, Matt, has started a contemporary church called Rock Hill Church in Fontana, California.

Paul ordained him for this work on April 25 last year and is tweeting praise for the new work. When Paul tweets or blogs about Matt for his conservative preacher crowd, he shows the young man wearing a tie, but the real Matt is not a tie guy. He is a scruffy beard, skinny jeans guy that would be right at home at an emerging youth pastor's conference. (Of course, we all know that clothing means nothing; it couldn't possibly be a language.)

Paul also announced that Matt is starting Rock Hill Baptist Church, but in the church's online material (rockhill.church), it is called Rock Hill Church everywhere except one time, as far as I can see. All of their material is "copyright Rock Hill Church." The church sign says "RH Rockhill Church." They are positioning themselves as a generic church.

Rockhill Church uses contemporary music; and in typical emerging fashion, everything is dark. The room is dark for the worship service and it is dark for the preaching. It would be nearly impossible to actually look at your Bible and "search the Scriptures." Matt’s Instagram post for Feb. 18, 2017, featured a photo of his praise team singing Hillsong's “Love So Great.”

Matt’s messages are littered with motivational, positive thinking language such as "leveraging a new beginning." They are very light on sin and holiness and very heavy on grace, and it is not a Titus 2:11-15 grace. It is an emerging grace. Matt's preaching is filled with non-critical references to the pop culture. In his first message at Rock Hill, Matt cited and non-critically referenced a basketball star, rocker Taylor Swift, Steve Jobs, the Los Angeles Lakers, and a professional fisherman. What signal does that send to his listeners?

On February 5, Matt tweeted, “What a day! Huge shout out to our amazing Team Members who absolutely killed it today!” It is impossible to imagine the apostle Paul tweeting such a man-centered message about church services.

Paul Chappell retains an impressive appearance of old-time conservatism, and this is the flag he flies at his conferences and presents to his “old time” supporters, but his students have heard the pragmatist side of his ministry loud and clear.

West Coast grads are starting contemporary churches in many places, and they are being prepared for that at Lancaster. They are not falling far from the tree.

When Paul ordained Matt last year, he reminisced online about how that Matt surrendered to preach in the 7th grade and that he is the product of Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College, and that is exactly right. Matt Chappell was prepared by Lancaster and West Coast. Any man can have a son or student that goes off the rails philosophically, but that is not the case here.

Matt Chappell spent the last few years as youth pastor at his uncle Steve’s church, Coastline Baptist in Oceanside, Calif. Robert Bakss, a rock & roll pastor with an emerging philosophy who has caused a lot of confusion in Australian IFB churches, spoke there on February 5. (See Baptist Church on a Slippery Slope, available in print or as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org.)

A discerning pastor friend commented: "At his heart, Chappell himself doesn't see anything wrong with this. He has produced this kind of legacy. This is the fruit of his labor to embrace pragmatism and soften the lines of Independent Baptists. I would guess that 75% of WCBC grads end up this way within 10 years of graduating. Some sooner."
According to Calvinist TULIP theology, God unconditionally and “sovereignly” elects who will be saved, and this election has nothing to do with anything the sinner does, including exercising faith in the gospel.

Consider the words of the Westminster Confession: “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished. ... The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as he pleaseth, for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of his glorious justice.”

John Calvin expressed the doctrine of unconditional election in these words: “Predestination we call the decree of God, by which He has determined in Himself, what He would have to become of every individual of mankind. For they are not all created with a similar destiny: but eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others” (Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book III, chap. 21).

Calvin emphasized his belief in sovereign reprobation as follows: “[God] devotes to destruction whom he pleases … they are predestinated to eternal death without any demerit of their own, merely by his sovereign will. … he orders all things by his counsel and decree in such a manner, that some men are born devoted from the womb to certain death, that his name be glorified in their destruction. ... God chooses whom he will as his children … while he rejects and reprobates others” (Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book III, chap. 23).

In light of this theology, we believe it is fair to say that a Calvinist Standard Version would read as follows:

Psalm 78:41 - Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and tried to limit the Holy One of Israel, though we know that this is not possible.

Isaiah 45:22 - Look unto me, and be ye saved, mine elect in all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Isaiah 53:6 - All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of the elect.

Isaiah 55:1-3 - Ho, every one that thirsteth among mine elect, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and hear, and your soul shall delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.
Matthew 11:28 - Come unto me, all ye elect that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 23:37 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye were not mine elect.

Mark 16:15-16 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth of the elect and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned, knowing that they are not the elect.

John 1:11-12 - He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many of the elect as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 3:14-16 - And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever of the elect believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved some of the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever of the elect who believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 12:46 - I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me of the elect should not abide in darkness.

John 12:32-33 - And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw some men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Acts 10:43 - To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him of the elect shall receive remission of sins.

Romans 9:33 - As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him of the elect shall not be ashamed.

Romans 10:11 - For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him of the elect shall not be ashamed.

Romans 10:13 - For whosoever of the elect shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:21 - But to Israel he saith, All day long I would have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people had you been of mine elect.

Romans 11:32 - For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon some.

1 Corinthians 10:33 - Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that the elect may be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world of the elect unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

1 Timothy 1:15 - This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save some sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Timothy 2:3-8 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have some men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Who gave himself a ransom for some, to be testified in due time.

Hebrews 2:9 - But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for some men.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any of the elect should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 John 2:2 - And he is the propitiation for our sins: and for ours only, but not for the sins of the whole world.

Revelation 22:17 - And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will of the elect, let him take the water of life freely.
A few of the more radical skeptics deny that Jesus was an historical person. This is called “the Jesus myth.” In 2012, for example, Timothy Freke published The Jesus Mysteries: Was the ‘Original Jesus’ a Pagan God?

Following is a refutation of the myth of the Jesus myth:

1. The historicity of Jesus was not disputed until recent times.

Had there been any question whatsoever about the actual existence of Jesus, the opponents of Christianity in the early centuries would have used this to refute Christianity’s legitimacy, but this was never done.

The Encyclopedia Britannica says:

“These independent accounts prove that in ancient times even the opponents of Christianity never doubted the historicity of Jesus, which was disputed for the first time and on inadequate grounds by several authors at the end of the 18th, during the 19th, and at the beginning of the 20th centuries” ("Jesus Christ," Encyclopedia Britannica, 1974).

Historian Jaroslav Pelikan observes:

“Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries” (Jesus Through the Centuries, p. 1).

2. The New Testament, which is the major witness of Jesus, is an historical record of the highest authority, even from a secular standpoint.

The evidence that the New Testament was written soon after Christ’s death is irrefutable. We have already examined this evidence in the section on “The Bible’s Nature.”

In his book Redating the New Testament, John A.T. Robinson concluded that the whole of the New Testament was written before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

William Ramsay, one of the most renowned archaeologists, wrote:

“We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after about A.D. 80, two full generations before the date between 130 and 150 given by the more radical New Testament critics of today” (Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands, 1955, p. 136).

“In my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the forties and the eighties of the first century A.D.” (Christianity Today, Jan. 18, 1963).

William Albright, another influential archaeologist, stated:

“Thanks to the Qumran discoveries, the New Testament proves to be in fact what it was formerly believed to be: the teaching of Christ and his immediate followers between cir. 25 and cir. 80 A.D.” (From Stone Age to Christianity, p. 23).

Beginning with the first century itself, we have solid historical evidence that the New Testament existed and was commonly recognized as Scripture by the believers. We have the extant writings of men who knew the apostles personally. These include Clement of Rome, Ignatius, and Polycarp. Thus there is no gap between the writing of the New Testament and the historical record that exists of it.

Portions of the New Testament exist dating to the late first and early second centuries, only a few decades after the books were written. No other ancient book comes close to having such clear manuscript authority.

Consider some of the early historical evidences witnessing to the authenticity of the New Testament:

Clement of Rome was taught directly by some of the apostles. He was an elder in the church at Rome beginning in AD 88, only 30 years after Paul wrote his epistle to Rome. “Clement of Rome, whose first letter to the Corinthians is usually dated about A.D. 96, made liberal use of Scripture, appealing to its authority, and
used New Testament material right alongside Old Testament material. He clearly quotes from Hebrews, 1 Corinthians and Romans and possibly from Matthew, Acts, Titus, James and 1 Peter. Here is the bishop [pastor] of Rome, before the close of the first century, writing an official letter to the church at Corinth wherein a selection of New Testament books are recognized and declared by episcopal authority to be Scripture, including Hebrews” (Wilbur Pickering, *The Identity of the New Testament Text*).

**Ignatius** (c. A.D. 110) referred to “all the epistles of Paul.”

**Polycarp** personally knew the apostle John and other believers who were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ resurrection. In his letter to the Philippian church in about 115 A.D., Polycarp “weaves an almost continuous string of clear quotations and allusions to New Testament writings. ... There are perhaps fifty clear quotations taken from Matthew, Luke, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, 1 and 2 Peter, and 1 John, and many allusions including to Mark, Hebrews, James, and 2 and 3 John. (The only NT writer not included is Jude!)” (Pickering).

**Justin Martyr** (died 165 A.D.) testified that the churches of his day met on Sundays and “read the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets” (*Apology*, I, 67).

**Irenaeus** (died in 202 A.D.) left many works which are still extant. Their translation into English covers between 600-700 pages in the *Ante-Nicene Library*. “Irenaeus stated that the apostles taught that God is the Author of both Testaments (*Against Heretics* IV, 32.2) and evidently considered the New Testament writings to form a second Canon. He quoted from every chapter of Matthew, 1 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians and Philippians, from all but one or two chapters of Luke, John, Romans, 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus, from most chapters of Mark (including the last twelve verses), Acts, 2 Corinthians, and Revelation, and from every other book except Philemon and 3 John. These two books are so short that Irenaeus may not have had occasion to refer to them in his extant works—it does not necessarily follow that he was ignorant of them or rejected them. Evidently the dimensions of the New Testament Canon recognized by Irenaeus are very close to what we hold today” (Pickering). Irenaeus heard Polycarp preach and relate accounts from his time with John and other first century Christians. In his letter to Florinus, Irenaeus wrote the following: “I could tell you the place where the blessed Polycarp sat to preach the Word of God. It is yet present to my mind with what gravity he everywhere came in and went out; what was the sanctity of his deportment, the majesty of his countenance; and what were his holy exhortations to the people. I seem to hear him now relate how he conversed with John and many others who had seen Jesus Christ, the words he had heard from their mouths.”

Thus we have the extant writings of men who knew the apostles and first century Christians personally and who quoted from the New Testament books.

This is irrefutable evidence that the New Testament existed then and that it was the same as the New Testament that we have today.


From the second century we have evidence that it was customary for each church to have its own copy of the writings of the apostles that they might read and preach from them. “And on the day called Sunday there is a meeting in one place of those who live in cities or the country, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read as long as time permits. When the reader has finished, the president in a discourse urges and invites us to the imitation of these noble things” (*Justin Martyr, Apology*).

Dr. Wilbur Pickering observes: “Both Justin Martyr and Irenaeus claimed that the Church was spread throughout the whole earth, in their day ... IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF COPIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS IN USE BY 200 A.D.” (*The Identity of the New Testament Text*).

In about the year 208, Tertullian mentioned churches founded by the apostles and indicated that the “authentic writings” were still extant and were the absolute standard by which the truth was measured in the believing churches. He urged heretics to “run to the apostolic
churches, in which the very thrones of the apostles are still pre-eminent in their places, IN WHICH THEIR OWN AUTHENTIC WRITINGS ARE READ, UTTERING THE VOICE AND REPRESENTING THE FACE OF EACH OF THEM SEVERALLY. Achaia is very near you, (in which) you find CORINTH. Since you are not far from Macedonia, you have PHILIPPI; (and there too) you have the THESSALONIANS. Since you are able to cross to Asia, you get EPHESUS. Since, moreover, you are close upon Italy, you have ROME, from which there comes even into our own hands the very authority (of the apostles themselves)” (Tertullian, Prescription against Heretics, 36, cited from Pickering).

Pickering observes: “Some have thought that Tertullian was claiming that Paul’s Autographs were still being read in his day (208), but at the very least he must mean they were using faithful copies. Was anything else to be expected? for example, when the Ephesian Christians saw the Autograph of Paul’s letter to them getting tattered, would they not carefully execute an identical copy for their continued use? Would they let the Autograph perish without making such a copy? (There must have been a constant stream of people coming either to make copies of their letter or to verify the correct reading.) I believe we are obliged to conclude that in the year 200 the Ephesian Church was still in a position to attest the original wording of her letter (and so for the others)...”

Compare this wealth of ancient evidence for the Bible with that of other famous books of antiquity:

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<th>Author</th>
<th>Date Written</th>
<th>Earliest Copy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>350 B.C.</td>
<td>900 A.D.</td>
<td>1250 years</td>
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<td>Herodotus</td>
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<td>Euripides</td>
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<td>Caesar</td>
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<td>1100 A.D.</td>
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<td>Aristotle</td>
<td>350 B.C.</td>
<td>1100 A.D.</td>
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<td>Sophocles</td>
<td>450 B.C.</td>
<td>1000 A.D.</td>
<td>1550 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homer (Iliad)</td>
<td>900 B.C.</td>
<td>400 B.C.</td>
<td>500 years</td>
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Consider Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey. They were composed in the eighth century BC, but the oldest fragments date to at least 500 years later. And the oldest entire manuscripts of Homer’s writings are from the 10th and 11th centuries AD, at least 1,800 years after their writing. There are different editions of the stories, and it is impossible to know what the original said in any detail.

Consider the writings of Confucius, China’s most famous ancient philosopher. The main book containing his teaching is Analects, but it took shape over a period of hundreds of years, from about 470 BC to AD 200. The oldest extant portion dates to about 50 BC, which is more than 400 years after Confucius’ death.

The same is true for the Hindu scriptures. The Vedic texts, such as the Upanishads, were transmitted orally for hundreds of years before being committed to writing, and there is absolutely no way to know if the extant texts are accurate representations of the original statements. It isn’t even known for sure who created them, when, where, and under what circumstances.

J. Harold Greenlee observes:

“Since scholars accept as generally trustworthy the writings of the ancient classics even though the earliest MSS were written so long after the original writings and the number of extant MSS is in many instances so small, it is clear that the reliability of the text of the N.T. is likewise assured” (Introduction to New Testament Textual Criticism, p. 16).

Liberal Bible critics apply standards to the Bible that they do not apply to other ancient writings.

(For more on canonization and preservation see Faith vs. the Modern Bible Versions, which is available from Way of Life Literature.)

3. There is evidence for the existence of Jesus from extra-biblical, secular sources.

The following examples are from Josh McDowell, The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict:

Cornelius Tacitus (AD 59-117), an early second century Roman historian -

“Christus, from whom the name [Christianity] had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus...” (Annals XV.44, c. 115 A.D.).

Suetonius, chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian (who reigned from A.D. 117-138) -

“As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome” (Life of Claudius, 25.4).
Werner Keller observes:

“The writer Orosius mentions that this expulsion took place in the ninth year of Claudius’ reign, i.e., A.D. 49. That means that a Christian community is attested in Rome not more than fifteen to twenty years after the Crucifixion. There is, in the Acts of the Apostles, an amazing corroboration of this Roman evidence. When Paul came from Athens to Corinth he found there a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla: because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome’ (Acts 18:2) (“The Bible as History, pp. 390, 391)."

Josephus (A.D. 37-100). Josephus was a Jewish leader who served under Roman emperors and wrote two histories about the Jews: Jewish Wars and Antiquities of the Jews. In the following passages he acknowledges the existence of Jesus, of John the Baptist and his baptism, and of Jesus’ brother James and his martyrdom. These statements are widely accepted as genuine:

“But the younger Ananus who, as we said, received the high priesthood, was of a bold disposition and exceptionally daring; he followed the party of the Sadducees, who are severe in judgment above all the Jews, as we have already shown. As therefore Ananus was of such a disposition, he thought he had now a good opportunity, as Festus was now dead, and Albinus was still on the road; so he assembled a council of judges, and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ, whose name was James, together with some others, and having accused them as law-breakers, he delivered them over to be stoned” (Antiquities, 20.9.1).

“Now, some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod’s army came from God, and very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, who was called the Baptist; for Herod slew him, who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism” (Antiquities, 28.5.2).

There is another statement about Jesus in Josephus’ Antiquities, as follows, but there is some question about its authenticity:

“But there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day” (Antiquities, 18.3.3.).

 “[V]ery few scholars hold that the entirety of the passage is genuine. It is doubtful, however, that the entire passage was ‘made up,’ but rather that interpolations were added at a later stage” (“Did Jesus Exist?” knowwhatyoubelieve.com).

Mara Bar-Serapion. He was a Syrian philosopher who wrote about A.D. 70. In a letter to his son he said:

“‘What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king? It was just after that their kingdom was abolished” (Robert Van Voorst, Jesus Outside the New Testament, pp. 53-55).

Pliny the Younger (A.D. 61-113). He was a Roman author and administrator. In a letter to the Emperor Trajan in about A.D. 106 he mentions Christ and the worship practices of early Christians.

“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. … You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains their contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawyer that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property” (Lucian, The Passing of Peregrinus).

The Talmud. The Jewish Talmudic writings dating from A.D. 70 to 200 mention Jesus. If there were any doubt about Jesus’ existence, we can be sure that the Jewish rabbinical writers would have said so!

“When Paul came from Athens to Corinth he found there a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla: because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome’ (Acts 18:2) (“The Bible as History, pp. 390, 391)."

Lucian of Samosata (b. AD 120). Lucian was a second-century Greek writer who ridiculed Christians as follows:

“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account. … You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains their contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their original lawyer that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws. All this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all worldly goods alike, regarding them merely as common property” (Lucian, The Passing of Peregrinus).

Norman Geisler summarizes the evidence as follows:

The primary sources for the life of Christ are the four Gospels. However there are considerable reports from non Christian sources that supplement and conform to the Gos-
pel accounts. These come largely from Greek, Roman, Jewish, and Samaritan sources of the first century. In brief they inform us that:

- Jesus was an historical man from Nazareth.
- He lived a wise and virtuous life.
- He was crucified in Palestine under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius Caesar at Passover time, being considered the Jewish King.
- He was believed by his disciples to have been raised from the dead three days later.
- His enemies acknowledged that he performed unusual feats they called ‘sorcery.’
- His small band of disciples multiplied rapidly, spreading even as far as Rome.
- His disciples denied polytheism, lived moral lives, and worshiped Christ as Divine.

This picture confirms the view of Christ presented in the New Testament Gospels (Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics).

Edwin Yamauchi, professor of history at Miami University, says that we have more and better historical documentation for Jesus than for any other religious founder (e.g., Zoroaster, Buddha, or Mohammed) (“Jesus Outside the New Testament: What Is the Evidence?” Jesus Under Fire, edited by Michael Wilkins and J.P. Moreland, 1995).

There are scoffers who reject all of this evidence, but this is the result of self-willed blindness. The human heart is so corrupt that it is possible to persist in unbelief in the face of a mountain of evidence. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

On the other hand, many men and women who set out to discredit the Bible and to disprove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God have ended up accepting the evidence as irrefutable and have bowed before Christ as Lord and Saviour. We have given some examples of this in the report “Men Who Were Converted Trying to Disprove the Bible,” available at www.wayoflife.org.

4. Even most liberal theologians acknowledge Jesus’ existence.

The “Jesus myth” view is a cranky, extreme minority view. Two of the men who have written refutations of Timothy Freke’s book The Jesus Mysteries are Bart Ehrman and John Dominic Crossan, who are among the most liberal of theologians.

“The debate over Jesus’ existence has led to a curious role reversal. Two of the New Testament scholars who are leading the way arguing for Jesus’ existence have a reputation for attacking, not defending, traditional Christianity. Ehrman, for example, is an agnostic who has written books that argue that virtually half of the New Testament is forged. Another defender of Jesus’ existence is John Dominic Crossan, a New Testament scholar who has been called a heretic because his books challenge some traditional Christian teachings. But as to the existence of Jesus, Crossan says, he’s certain” (“The Jesus Debate: Man vs. Myth,” CNN Belief Blog, April 7, 2012).

Ehrman says most Jesus deniers are Internet kooks, comparing them to Holocaust deniers.

5. Jesus Christ is alive and can be known personally.

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

The apostle Paul, who penned these words, was a staunch opponent of Jesus and of Christianity. Humanly speaking, he had nothing to gain by confessing Jesus as Christ and Lord. The fact that he did so is evidence of Christ’s resurrection.

Down through the centuries, multitudes of others have joined their voices with Paul in saying, “I know whom I have believed.”

True Christianity is not a mere religion. It is a personal relationship with the eternal God through Jesus Christ.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (Joh 17:3).

For more on this subject see the following:

Norman Geisler -- Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, When Critics Ask, When Skeptics Ask

Gary Habermas -- The Historical Jesus

Josh McDowell - The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict
D I G G I N G I N T H E W A L L S

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?

A M E R I C A : A L O T O F C H A N G E A N D N O C H A N G E (Friday Church News Notes, February 3, 2017, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g , fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Donald Trump’s actions in his first days as U.S. President are breathtaking. He has filled his cabinet with capable and largely conservative people. He is blessing Jacob’s seed. He has signed multiple orders to strengthen border security and immigration, including denying federal money to sanctuary cities, hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents, ending “catch-and-release” policies for illegal immigrants, and building a wall on America’s southern border to protect the nation from scofflaws. He has issued an order to rebuild the U.S. military, which has been devastated by eight years of the Obama administration. He has issued an order to deny federal funds to international organizations that perform or even lobby for the legalization of abortion. He has halted the nation’s refugee program for 120 days so that it can be re-evaluated and potentially dangerous refugees can be properly vetted. His short list of nominees to the vacant U.S. Supreme Court seat are constitutionalists. He has issued an order to defeat ISIS. There is much to applaud. Of course, the courts and opposition politics have only begun to fight the Trump agenda, and the fight will be exceedingly fierce. All of this aside, our biblical worldview does not allow us to see things as secular or even religious conservatives do. We can’t join Judge Jeanine or Hannity or Rush, et al, in proclaiming this a new day for America. It’s not a new day or a good day, and a Trump presidency is probably not going to turn out well. Spiritually and morally, which are the most important principles by far, absolutely nothing changed with the November election. Nothing has changed in the public schools and the universities, which continue to indoctrinate the minds and hearts of American citizens with godless humanism, moral relativism, socialism, and globalism. Nothing has changed with the Muslim agenda to establish sharia law, and it doesn’t appear that Trump even understands the plan. Nothing has changed with the LGBT agenda which is already firmly embedded throughout society, industry, and government. In fact, Trump refuses to overturn Obama’s 2014 executive order protecting federal workers from “anti-LGBTQ discrimination,” saying that he “is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community” and “continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights” (“Trump leaves intact,” Fox News, Jan. 31, 2017). Nothing has changed in the pop culture, which continues to morally pollute the nation’s very heart and soul. It is pop culture moral relativism that has given us a Donald Trump, with his adulteries, narcissism, boastings, pomposity, lyings, and petty vindictiveness. The fearful destruction of the black family, for example, is not only the result of the welfare state; it is the product of a vile pop culture. Nothing has changed with the global culture, as indicated
by the incredible outrage expressed by world leaders and the world media at the Trump presidency. The nonsensical outrage at such perfectly reasonable acts as trying to keep scofflaws and terrorists out of America is clear evidence of demonic blindness. And above all, nothing has changed in the churches. America was only great when it was good, and it can never be great again unless it is good again by biblical standards which can issue only from God-fearing churches. What we have said all along is that Bible-believing churches need to focus like a laser on “first love for Christ” revival, serious education in God’s Word, serious obedience to God’s Word, serious prayer, serious building of godly homes, serious discipleship, serious separation from the world, and serious zeal in fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission. This will do more to help America than flag-waving conservative political zeal. Most of the best churches are shockingly weak, shallow, biblically ignorant, worldly, and unfruitful.

JIHADIS IN SUITS AT TRUMP’S NATIONAL PRAYER SERVICE
(Friday Church News Notes, February 3, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from Clare Lopez, “Jihadis in Suits,” CNSNews.com, Jan. 25, 2017: “Not even a full 24 hours after the inauguration of the new Trump administration, ‘jihadis in suits’ have already made an appearance at an inaugural event. On the morning of Saturday 21 January, President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and their families attended the traditional prayer service at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Billed as an interfaith service which began with a Navajo blessing, the event featured Baha’i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Mormon, Muslim and Sikh clerics, each of whom was supposed to intone prayers asking protection and wisdom for the new Trump administration. Unfortunately, the two Muslims--Imam Mohamed Magid and Mr. Sajid Tarar--are what might best be described as ‘jihadis in suits.’ Magid is the outgoing president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the largest Muslim Brotherhood front group in the U.S. Magid also remains the head of the ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Center in Northern Virginia. The ADAMS Center is an openly shariah-adherent facility, whose website states that it collects zakat (annual obligatory tax for Muslims and firms doing shariah-compliant business), one-eighth of which must be donated to jihad, as per Islamic Law (shariah), as stipulated in Reliance of the Traveler (see pg. 272, Section h8.17) and the Qur’an itself. (See Q 9:60) Worse yet, Magid was named to President Obama’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘Countering Violent Extremism’ Working Group in 2010 and from that position helped persuade DHS to erase from its ‘Countering Violent Extremism’ curriculum any suggestion that Muslim terrorism draws its inspiration from the laws and doctrines of Islam. ... The other Muslim at the service to offer a prayer in Arabic was Mr. Sajid Tarar, a Pakistani native and naturalized U.S. citizen, who has made himself popular among Republican ranks and gave the closing prayer at the Republican National Convention in July 2016. He was an adviser to the National Diversity Coalition for Trump and founded a group called American Muslims for Trump. ... The Qur’anic verse Tarar chose for the National Cathedral service is known as Al-Fatihah and is both the first and the shortest verse in the Qur’an. Al-Fatihah includes an invocation to Allah that is directly critical of both Christians and Jews in a way that subtly evokes Islamic supremacism. ‘Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.’ As all observant Muslims, Tarar included, know very well, the reference to ‘those who have evoked your anger’ means those whom Muslims believe heard and know the truth of Islam but refuse to accept or follow it. This line is a very specific reference to the Jews. ‘Those who are astray’ means Christians, whom Muslims believe also have wantonly taken a pathway away from Allah. Muslims know exactly what these verses mean and they recite them repeatedly every time they participate in Islamic prayer services at a mosque. In this instance, at the National Cathedral prayer service for the Trump inauguration, Tarar was literally throwing an insult--as well as a warning--in the face of every Christian and Jew in the Cathedral, confident in the knowledge that not one of them knew what he was saying.”
MARIJUANA WEDDINGS ON THE RISE (Friday Church News Notes, February 3, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- With recreational marijuana use now legal in America in eight states and the District of Columbia, marijuana weddings are increasing in popularity.

“With recreational marijuana use becoming less stigmatized, pot-friendly wedding planners, florists and venues are cashing in on the high” (“Weed weddings,” Fox News, Jan. 26, 2017). The legal cannabis industry in the U.S., which is currently about $8 billion, is expected to grow to over $20 billion within five years. Denver is called the new Amsterdam. Israel, too, is nearing the decriminalization of marijuana (“Marijuana on way,” Times of Israel, Jan. 26, 2017). But the legalization of recreational marijuana is a foolish experiment that will have serious repercussions. I know this all too well, having been a drinker and drug user before I was saved. Stationed in Vietnam in the Army in 1970-71, I became a marijuana user. After I was discharged, I was immersed in the hippy rock & roll drug culture, joining many of my generation on the Beatles’ very stupid Magical Mystery Tour. Alcohol is a powerful, transformational drug, but marijuana changed my thinking more than alcohol. It is a psychoactive drug with hallucinogenic properties. It is not an innocent play thing. It can mess with the depths of a man’s soul. Not everyone has bad experiences with the drug, but a lot do. It affects people differently, but depression, intense anxiety, and paranoid fear are common side effects, and acute psychosis is not infrequent. It has often been labeled a “gateway” drug, and it was definitely that for me. The American Medical Association has warned that “cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern. ... Heavy cannabis use in adolescence causes persistent impairments in neuro-cognitive performance and IQ, and use is associated with increased rates of anxiety, mood, and psychotic-thought disorders.” The rush to legalize marijuana is driven by the pop culture, the entertainment industry, an educational system devoted to moral relativism, a society that celebrates scofflaws, and the gross lack of wisdom typically reflected in mainstream media reporting. “The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall” (Proverbs 10:8).

HEIMLICH AND HIS MANEUVER (Friday Church News Notes, February 3, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from “Henry Heimlick,” Israel Today, Feb. 2017: “Henry Judah Heimlich (1920-2016) was born in Wilmington, Delaware to Jewish parents. The family later moved to New York where he spent most of his childhood. In 1943, at just 23 years of age, Heimlich received his M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. He went on to become a thoracic surgeon and medical researcher. In addition to the Heimlich Maneuver, he also invented the MicroTrach device which enables direct delivery of oxygen to the lungs via a tube that is inserted through the throat. Another invention, the Heimlich valve, allows air and blood to drain from the chest cavity in order to re-expand a collapsed lung. ... Heimlich’s fame remains tied to that well-known rescue technique first described by him in 1974. At the age of 96, just months before he died, Henry Heimlich used for the second and last time in his life the medical procedure, saving the life of 87-year-old Patty Ris who lived in the same senior citizens’ facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2001, Heimlich performed the procedure on a diner at the Bankers’ Club in Cincinnati.”

THE SYRIAN KURDISH DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- The following is excerpted from Macer Gifford, “The Unknown American Heroes of Syria’s Civil War,” National Review, Feb. 6, 2017: “There is no better way to describe the impact that the March 2015 victory in Kobani had on the war against the Islamic State. ISIS’s defeat in this north Syrian city will go down in history as the moment the group began to decline. ... The liberation of Kobani wouldn’t have been possible without the intervention of the
**THIS SHRIMP PACKS A PUNCH!** (Friday Church News Notes, February 3, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 4, 2017: “If you enjoy keeping tropical fish, the Mantis shrimp is one creature you may not want to keep in your aquarium. While this creature is related to common shrimp, it has a very unusual and specialized feature. In the wild, if the Mantis shrimp finds a tasty snail, it cocks its spring-loaded forearm and shatters the snail's shell. The forearm has moved through the water at 50 miles per hour—so fast that it causes cavitation as well as heat and a flash of light as the bubbles collapse. And, yes, the Mantis shrimp can break the glass walls of an aquarium! To do this, the shrimp must generate over two-hundred thousand watts of power per pound of muscle, something no other muscle can do. The shrimp accomplishes this seemingly impossible task by storing the energy generated by the muscles. The shrimp first locks the arm and then contracts its muscles. The energy stored in this way would damage the arm if it weren't for a very clever spring design. This saddle-shaped spring can accumulate enormous quantities of energy without breaking as it compresses. When the shrimp is ready to strike, it simply releases the spring. The Mantis shrimp's forearm is only an effective working unit when all of its specialized parts are working together. It is difficult to imagine how it could have evolved. (Notes: USAToday.com, Jan. 9, 2016, “Shrimp spring into shattering action.”)

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**American military. High in the sky, U.S. Air Force pilots killed hundreds of jihadists and annihilated their heavy equipment. ... The Kurdish fighters were surrounded, outgunned, and short on supplies. Refusing to surrender to the jihadists, many used up their bullets and ran at the enemy with their last grenade, dying in one final act of defiance. ... What few in the West realize is that from the very beginning of this war, young Americans have been fighting against the Islamic State in support of the fledgling democratic movement in Rojava, the unofficially autonomous region that is home to Kobani. ... It’s not just Americans who have flocked to aid the Rojava Revolution; hundreds of volunteers from around the world have joined the fight, too. ... What the International Volunteers are supporting is truly remarkable. The Syrian Kurds believe in secular democracy, societal equality, and the rule of law. They want devolved power so each community has control over its own affairs. There is no law in the land that can tell you who to worship, when to worship, how your children should be educated, or how you should lead your life. ... While the rest of Syria slips into anarchy, as the Assad regime barrel-bombs people from the sky and the Free Syrian Army rips itself apart, the entire northern part of the country has children in school, police on the street, and a functioning democracy.”

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**TEMPLE TAX REINSTATED BY THE JEWISH SANHEDRIN** (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Half-Shekel Tithe for Building Temple Reinstated,” BreakingIsraelNews.com, Jan. 30, 2017: “After a 2,000 year moratorium, it is now possible for a Jew anywhere in the world to perform the mitzvah (commandment) of
paying the half-shekel, a Biblically-mandated tax incumbent on every Jew to finance the day-to-day operations of the Temple. There are now two ways to perform this commandment: one method for people who can hand-deliver their offering, and another for those who can’t. While the Temple was standing, every Jewish man was required to give one half-shekel weight of silver, approximately eight grams of silver (worth about $4 today), as a mandatory tax to support the Temple. Each man was obligated to give the same amount, regardless of his economic condition. The coins, once deposited in the Temple courtyard, were hekedesh (sanctified) and not permitted to be used for any other purpose. The nation of Israel continued to observe the commandment even after the First Temple was destroyed until the practice was outlawed by Roman Emperor Hadrian in the year 135 CE.

Twenty years ago, Reuven Prager revived this mitzvah. He began minting silver coins that adhered to the Biblical requirements, producing a new and unique design every year. Those who wish to perform the mitzvah buy the silver coins from Prager, and then deposit them with Otzar Hamikdash (Treasury of the Temple), an organization set up to collect these coins. Prager has also arranged a method of sending the silver coins from the US. The nascent Sanhedrin has instituted a way to revive the mitzvah by scuttling a draft executive order that would have overturned Obama-era enforcements of LGBT rights in the workplace, multiple sources with knowledge of the situation told POLITICO. A draft executive order on LGBT rights that outlines how to roll back former President Barack Obama’s protections and expand legal exemptions based on religious beliefs has been circulating among journalists and worried progressive groups this week. But two sources close to Kushner and Ivanka Trump, who have a record of supporting gay rights, said the couple favored putting out a clear statement from the president, promising to uphold the 2014 Obama executive order and stopping the momentum for the turnaround in its tracks. On Tuesday night, the White House released a statement saying that ‘President Donald J. Trump is determined to protect the rights of all Americans, including the LGBTQ community. President Trump continues to be respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights, just as he was throughout the election.’

TRUMP’S DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW STRONGLY SUPPORT LGBT RIGHTS (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner worked to sink LGBT order,” POLITICO, Feb. 3, 2017: “Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump helped lead the charge to scuttle a draft executive order that would have overturned Obama-era enforcements of LGBT rights in the workplace, multiple sources with knowledge of the situation told POLITICO. A draft executive order on LGBT rights that outlines how to roll back former

HISTORIC HEBREW COLLECTION PURCHASED BY ISRAEL’S NATIONAL LIBRARY (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Israel’s National Library has announced the purchase of a collection of some 8,000 Hebrew manuscripts and books from the Valmadonna Trust Library through a Sotheby’s auction (“National Library makes historic acquisition,” The Times of Israel, Jan. 18, 2017). The Trust Library was collected by Jack V. Lunzer, who died in December at age 92. It has been described as “the finest private library of Hebrew books and manuscripts in the world.” The holdings span 1,000 years and come from all parts of the globe. There is a 1492 printed Pentateuch printed in
Lisbon, and the Plantin Polyglot “King’s Bible” (Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Aramaic, and Syriac) printed between 1568-1573. Another treasure is a Passover Hebrew language Haggadah printed in Prague in 1556. The Haggadah is the text that sets forth the order of the Passover Seder, which is the Jewish tradition that has replaced the biblical Passover since the destruction of the Second Temple. It was probably written about one hundred years later. The Seder celebrates God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt. It enumerates the Ten Plagues and describes the Passover. Various Psalms and prayers are said, including the Hallel (praise), which consists of Psalm 113-118. Psalm 116:19 mentions the house of the Lord, which does not currently exist. Psalm 118 is a Messianic Psalm which foretold the rejection of Jesus as Christ and His exaltation (Psa. 118:22; Mat. 21:42-44; Acts 4:10-12). Psalm 118:25-26 was sung by the crowd when Jesus entered Jerusalem on an ass before His crucifixion (Mat. 21:9-10). That is a foreview of the day when Israel will repent and receive Jesus as Messiah. In many traditions, the Cup of Elijah is drunk during the Seder, pointing to the coming of Elijah to prepare the way for the Messiah. The Seder ends with a prayer, “Next year in Jerusalem!” The newly purchased library reminds us of the miracle of God’s preservation of Israel during her 2,000+ years of global dispersion. This is one of history’s most amazing stories, and it was the fulfillment of precise prophecies written by Moses in Deuteronomy 28 before Joshua conquered the Promised Land.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Animal Welfare,” Pulpit & Pen, Jan. 6, 2017: “Pulpit & Pen has been reporting for months about the socially progressive agenda of Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) fellow Karen Swallow Prior. With the publishing of Every Living Thing: How Pope Francis, Evangelicals, and Other Christian Leaders Are Inspiring All of Us to Care for Animals, Southern Baptists have a whole new reason to be embarrassed of Prior and incensed about funding Dr. Russell Moore’s ERLC. JD Hall covers more of the story at the Polemics Report in his piece ‘Southern Baptists’ Secret Animal Rights Agenda’: ‘Southern Baptists divert approximately four million dollars from missions every year to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. Since the inauguration of ERLC president Russell Moore, that four million dollars has given Southern Baptists the return of a strong advocacy for a Mosque to be built in New Jersey, a softening tone on homosexuality, a partnership with George Soros’ amnesty-focused Evangelical Immigration Table, and an incoming United States President who thinks the ERLC president is a “very nasty guy.””

ANCIENT HUMMINGBIRDS WERE QUITE MODERN (Friday Church News Notes, February 10, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, December 13, 2016: “Today, hummingbirds are found only in North, Central and South America. Of course, since Noah’s Ark landed in the mountains of Ararat, they had to cross Europe and the Atlantic or Asia to get there. However, until now, there was no evidence for this migration. Scientists have now discovered two hummingbird fossils in a clay pit in southwestern Germany (“Ancient Buzzing,” Science News, May 8, 2004). These tiny fossils are remarkable in many ways. Until now, evolutionists claimed the earliest hummingbird fossils to be one million years old. The new fossils are said to be 30 to 34 million years old. While we would not agree with the evolutionary dating, we would expect the hummingbird fossils in Europe or
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1 Timothy 6:20, 21

Asia to predate those in the New World. Even more interesting is that the fossils suggest that these older birds are fully functional hummingbirds. Their wing bones are like those of modern hummingbirds, which suggest that they could hover and fly backward just like the hummingbirds we know today. Their beaks were twice as long as their skulls, suggesting that they drank nectar just like modern hummingbirds. In other words, there is no sign of any evolutionary development, another fact we would expect. While the evidence for the history of hummingbirds is what we would expect, we do not need scientific evidence to uphold scriptural truth. We have God’s Word on it.”

NEW STUDY FINDS THAT STAYING IN MARRIAGE USUALLY BRINGS HAPPINESS

(1 Timothy 6:20, 21) - The following is excerpted from “Staying in an unhappy marriage could be the best thing you do,” The Telegraph, Feb. 8, 2017: “Researchers found the majority of couples who are unhappy when their first child is born feel fulfilled a decade later. Research commissioned by the Marriage Foundation found that 68 per cent of the couples who stay together following the birth of their first child report being happy 10 years on. Moreover 27 per cent said they were ‘extremely happy,’ giving their relationship a score of seven out of seven. Harry Benson, from the Marriage Foundation, said: ‘Contrary to popular belief, staying in an unhappy marriage could be the best thing you ever do. Most marriages have their unhappy moments, but apart from the fortunately extremely rare cases where the relationship involves abuse, most couples can work through the difficulties to be happy later on.’ Relationship experts confirm the findings of previous studies that suggested that couples who regularly had a night out with their partner were less likely to suffer from a relationship breakdown. Sir Paul Coleridge, a former High Court Judge and the founder of Marriage Foundation said: ‘With family breakdown--especially in the first ten years--at peak levels, this is really important, myth-busting research. ... Talk to anyone who has a satisfying relationship 20 years on and they will tell you that it has had to be forged by sensitive, hard work by both sides over time. Keeping your relationship working and going forward is by far and away the best and most important ingredient in your child’s development.’”

YOU CAN READ 200 BOOKS A YEAR

(1 Timothy 6:20, 21) - I am constantly urging God’s people in Bible-believing churches to read more. It has been said that the man who doesn’t read is no better off than the man who can’t read. To study the Bible as you should and to be as properly educated as you should be in your Christian life and ministry you need to do a lot of reading. Paul was a reader to the end of his life. From prison during his final incarceration, he said to Timothy, “Bring ... the books, but especially the parchments” (2 Timothy 4:13). A recent article by Charles Chu, “The Simple Truth Behind Reading 200 Books a Year” on betterhumans.coach.me, gives the following advice: “Somebody once asked Warren Buffett about his secret to success. Buffett pointed to a stack of books and said, ‘Read 500 pages like this every day. That’s how knowledge works. It builds up, like compound interest. All of you can do it, but I guarantee not many of you will...’ ... [I]n these last two years I’ve read over 400 books cover to cover. That decision to start reading was one of the most important decisions in my life. ... Reading 200 books a year isn’t hard at all. ... The average American reads 200-400 words per minute. Typical non-fiction books have 50,000 words. ... 200 books [requires] 417 hours. ... a single American spends 608 hours on social media and 1642 hours on TV. That’s 2250 hours a year on TRASH. If those hours were spent reading instead, you could be reading over 1,000 books a year! ... If you want to read, make sure (1) you remove all distractions from your environment and (2) you make books as easy to access as possible. ... If your goal is to read more, you can’t be
picky about where you read or what mediums you use. I read paper books. I read on my phone. I listen to audiobooks. And I do these things everywhere—on park benches, in buses, in the toilet. Wherever I can. Make your reading opportunistic. If you have a chance, take it. If you don’t have a chance, find one.”

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST ROCKING OUT IN SINGAPORE (Friday Church News Notes, February 17, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)
- As we reported in May 2014, Crosslight Church of Singapore is one of the new rock & roll independent Baptist church plants that are proliferating across the world led by a batch of young, very cool preachers. Crosslight was founded by Chantha Chhim, a Cambodian missionary recommended by David Gibbs III, Eric Capaci, Bradley Edmonson, Josh Cox, Jeremy Kobernat, and others. See http://chantachhim.com/recommendations/ In 2014, Chhim was recommended by Jack Trieber and Don Sisk, but since then their names have inexplicably disappeared. Chhim is a graduate of Trieber’s Golden State Baptist College in California. The last we looked, Crosslight had a full-blown contemporary worship band, complete with a long-haired guitar player and a female praise singer in tights. From conversations with people who know the Chhims and their church, they still rock, but they are more careful about what they put online. They play songs by groups beloved by Lancaster Baptist Church of Lancaster, California, such as Casting Crowns, but Crosslight isn’t just dabbling with the stuff like Lancaster. For this we commend them. If you want to use CCM, don’t mess around; embrace it and don’t try to tame it. Plug in the guitars; pull out the stops; raise those hands; close your eyes, and sway! (By the way, the only reference to lifting up holy hands in the New Testament epistles instructs men to do it, not women, 1 Timothy 2:8.) Paul Chappell and other “old-guard” independent Baptist leaders have given a green light for this by their unrepentant use of CCM and their shallow justification of this practice. Chhim’s vision is to use Singapore as a base for ministry across Asia. He is “passionate about revival in Asia” and plans to “partner with like-minded leaders for global Gospel impact.” I, for one, am sad that he is spreading his contemporary philosophy.

- The following is excerpted from Marjorie Dannenfelser, “Pro-Life Feminists Are Old-School,” National Review, Jan. 20, 2017: “Susan B. Anthony campaigned, above all, for women’s right to equal economic and political opportunity. But the newspaper she owned and ran with Elizabeth Cady Stanton refused to carry ads for abortifacients, and published numerous articles from feminist leaders denouncing abortion as evil. Anthony said in her famous, oft-repeated temperance speech, that ‘the newspaper reports every day of every year of scandals and outrages, of wife murders and paramour shooting, of abortions and infanticides, are perpetual reminders of men’s incapacity to cope successfully with this monster evil of society.’ ... Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was the very first woman to become a medical doctor in the United States ... The National Women’s History Museum honors Dr. Blackwell as our first woman physician, while editing out of her history one of her major passions: opposing the cruelty of abortion. She wrote in her diary: ‘The gross perversion and destruction of motherhood by the abortionist filled with me indignation’ This sentiment motivated her lifelong efforts, as it did those of other early feminist physicians, including Dr. Charlotte Lozier. Sarah F. Norton, who, with Susan B. Anthony, successfully persuaded Cornell University to
admit women in 1870, wrote that ‘perhaps there will come a time when an unmarried mother will not be despised because of her motherhood ... and when the right of the unborn to be born will not be denied or interfered with.’”

HYPNOTIZING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS (Friday Church News Notes, February 17, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Hypnosis Takes on New Focus,” newyork.cbslocal.com, Jan. 18, 2017: “Hypnosis has taken on a new focus. More and more parents are now putting their kids under a hypnotic trance, but some say the practice may be going too far. Eric Ferrer-Alfaro, 10, has HDHD. His mother doesn’t want to medicate him, and nothing else has worked. She’s turned to hypnotism. ‘We’ve tried meditation, relaxation, things like that,’ Silvana Ferrer said. She said he has trouble focusing in school, and she’s optimistic this will help. ‘I’m hoping for the teachers not to call me anymore, or at least call me less,’ Ferrer said. Hypnotherapist Lisa Machenberg said she’s hypnotized close to a thousand children, including her own. ‘I started hypnotizing the children at seven months to sleep quickly, calmly, soundly, and deeply all through the night,’ she said. She later hypnotized them to improve their performance in sports and at school. She said she is essentially teaching Eric to hypnotize himself, which will help when facing a challenging task. ‘Whenever you want to focus you breathe in on the word focus, exhale on the word powerful,’ he said. As Machenberg explained, the hypnosis allows him to complete homework assignments. ‘When he wants to sit and do his homework, when he needs to listen to the teacher, when he needs to curb his impulses—all he needs to do is breathe in that power word and it resets the neutrons,’ she said.”

THE YOUNG LIZARD’S CANTEEN (Friday Church News Notes, February 17, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, January 25, 2017: “When you go into the desert, it’s always a good idea to take a canteen of water with you. Our Creator applied that same simple wisdom when he designed the Yarrow’s spiny lizard. Like many desert dwellers, Yarrow’s spiny lizards are well designed to conserve water in the dry desert climate. For example, they don’t even have a urinary bladder. Their bodies are designed to remove water from their waste before it is released. The water is recycled within the body, since water is a precious resource in the desert. Unlike many reptiles, Yarrow’s spiny lizard bears live young. The two-inch-long newborn lizards can dry out quickly in the desert. To increase their ability to survive, the Creator gave the newborns a built-in canteen of water. At birth, a full canteen makes up 10% of the lizard’s weight. After the first month of life, the canteen shrivels and is no longer used. This, too, is a wise design, since the growing lizard has learned the ways of the desert and now has a greater need for speed than it has for a bulky water reservoir. None of us can fully appreciate God’s limitless imagination and creativity that we see in the living world around us. However, we can appreciate the fact that He is willing and able to provide practical and workable solutions to every problem that we face. His solutions—beginning with our greatest need, the forgiveness of sins—are found in the Bible. The trust to apply His solutions to our lives is found in faith, worked by His Holy Spirit.”

PROMINENT BBFI CHURCH JOINS THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In the latest example of the changing of the times and the breathtaking
collapse of whatever spiritual zeal once existed among Independent Baptists, High Street Baptist Church of Springfield, Missouri, is in the process of joining the Southern Baptist Convention. The 81-year-old church is pastored by Eddie Lyons, who is also the president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI). The church will be dually aligned with the BBFI and the SBC. Pastor Lyons says, “We have the same heart, the same calling” (“Independent church aligns with Missouri Baptists/SBC,” Baptist Press, Feb. 15, 2017). We have no doubt that Lyons is right about that, for the BBFI has long been moving toward the weak SBC stance. For some time I have been saying that the average Independent Baptist church today is no different in character from the SBC church I grew up in. BBFI leader Jerry Falwell led the way when Thomas Road Baptist Church joined the SBC in 1996. By 2002, the host church for the BBFI’s annual conference, Bethlehem Baptist of Fairfax, Virginia, had “no rule with regard to dress and modesty issues,” used the New Living Bible, and had an earring-attired youth pastor who promoted secular rock bands. The BBFI is not the only group of Independent Baptists beating a path to the SBC. The same thing has happened, for example, in the Southwide Baptist Fellowship. In 2007, the number of Southern Baptist speakers at the Southwide conference equaled the number of Independent Baptists, and in 2008, Southwide’s founding church, Highland Park Baptist of Chattanooga, Tennessee, went back into the SBC. But why would a fundamental Baptist pastor want to align his church with a spiritually powerless, pragmatic, worldly, ecumenical thing like the Southern Baptist Convention? And it has been in this condition as long as I have known anything about it, which goes back to the 1950s. It is, we would remind you, the convention of the pope-praising Billy Graham. In the SBC church in which I grew up there was probably not one born again young person, not if there is such a thing as evidence of the new birth. We all went through the motions of professing Christ, getting baptized, and joining the church, but most of us were gone by our late teens, following our hearts into the world. Those who stayed were nominal Christians who professed Christ but showed no real evidence of discipleship. Someone might respond, “Yes, but that is just one church.” No, that church was typical, and things have only gotten worse. In 2005, SBC evangelist Jim Elliff said, “Our denomination, as much as we love it, is on the main, unregenerate” (www.ccwonline.org/sbc.html). After presenting the fact that 10% or less of the members of the typical SBC church show up on a given Sunday evening service, Elliff concluded, “[T]hese figures suggest that nearly 90% of Southern Baptist church members appear to be little different from the ‘cultural Christians’ who populate other mainline denominations.” The shocking fact is that large numbers of fundamental Baptist pastors are too ill informed to know what the SBC is and why it should be avoided, and too spiritually weak to care.

GETTYS TO LEAD WORSHIP AT SBC PASTOR’S CONFERENCE (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Keith and Kristyn Getty are scheduled to lead worship at the June 2017 Southern Baptist Pastor’s Conference in Phoenix. The Gettys are the perfect fit for Southern Baptists. Neither of them believe in biblical separation and have no effectual boundaries. The fact that so many Independent Baptists love the Gettys is a loud warning. The Gettys’ ecumenical, one-world-church goal is to “bring everyone together musically” (www.keithgetty.com). They want to “bridge the gap between the traditional and contemporary” (http://www.gettymusic.com/about-us/). In July 2012, the Gettys joined their close friend and ministry partner Stuart Townend and Roman Catholic Matt Maher on NewsongCafe on WorshipTogether.com. They played and discussed “The Power of the Cross,” which was co-written by Getty-Townend. The 10-minute program promoted ecumenical unity, with Maher/Townend/Getty entirely one in the spirit through the music. Keith Getty collaborated with Catholic Margaret Becker in the song “Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer” and Catholic Máire [pronounced Moya] Brennan in writing “With the Early Morning.” Brennan says, “Christians fighting Christians, Catholics and Protestants! It breaks my heart, because we're all stemming from the same rock” (“Back to the Rock of Ages: Máire Brennan Talks to Christina Rodden,” rootsworld.com).
This is the ecumenical Christianity of the Gettys. Any bridge that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys is a bridge beyond them to the world of radical ecumenism. Yet at least eight Getty/Townend songs are included in Majesty Music’s *Rejoice Hymns*. Twenty-nine of their songs are featured in *Hymns Modern and Ancient*, compiled by Fred Coleman who heads up Bob Jones University’s Department of Church Music. Both Crown Baptist College and West Coast Baptist College, the two largest independent Baptist Bible colleges, use Getty material. “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

**ISRAEL POPULAR WITH AMERICANS** (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - According to a new Gallop Poll, 71% of Americans view Israel favorably. That percentage has remained steady for the last four years. Six times between 1989 and 2004, Israel’s favorable score was below 60%. There is a significant difference between age groups. While 77% of those 65 and older view Israel favorably, only 63% of those 18-29 hold this view. There is a significant difference, too, among party lines, with 81% of Republicans viewing Israel favorably but only 61% of Democrats holding that view.

**ROMAN BAAL ARCH ERECTED FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT** (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A replica of a Roman arch devoted to Baal was erected for the World Government Summit in Dubai last week. The original arch was built in the second century AD in Palmyra, Syria, as a gate to a Roman temple of Bel, which is known in the Bible as Baal. The 28 meter (91 feet) tall arch was destroyed by ISIS in October 2015 and reconstructed by the Institute for Digital Archaeology, a joint project of Oxford and Harvard (“New World Order forming under pagan temple of Ba’al arch?” BreakingIsraelNews, Feb. 16, 2017). The combination of end-time globalism and ancient idolatry is telling. According to the great prophecy of Daniel 2, the Roman Empire has not died and will be reformed as the Antichrist’s kingdom. Revelation 17-18 teaches us this same kingdom will be the culmination of ancient Babylon, which was the beginning of idolatry. The Antichrist kingdom is an aspect both of ancient Babylon and ancient Rome. No sign awaits fulfillment before the rise of the Antichrist as the (deceptive) deal maker *par excellence*. He will make a seven-year covenant with Israel, and the world will rejoice at his wisdom and power and rejoice in “peace on earth,” but it will all be a lie. He will break the covenant after three and a half years and set himself up in the Third Temple as God. “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 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

**SELFIES** (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, w w w . w a y o f l i f e . o r g, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - We live in the selfie age, and it is a weird age. In 2013, the third most popular Instagram hashtag was #me. A 2014 study found that young people today are “more narcissistic than during the 1980s and 1990s” (“Research Says,” abc.net.au, May 16, 2014). In 2015, 24 billion selfies were posted to Google photo, and that is only one forum. The average Millennial is expected to take 24,000 selfies in his or her lifetime. In some places selfies are called “ego-portraits.” Kim Karshashian captured the spirit of the age by publishing a book of selfies appropriately titled “Me.” Last year I sat in a restaurant drinking a cup of coffee and doing some work when a young man sat down at a table near me and began taking selfies. I couldn’t help but watch in amazement as he took perhaps 50 photos of himself in various poses from various angles. It was a breathtaking act of narcissism. I have the privilege of traveling
widely and seeing some of the world’s most beautiful scenery, but when I am taking photos of the scenery, many people are taking photos of themselves in front of the scenery. Many people have become so absorbed in their selfie world that they have fallen off of cliffs and been smashed by trains. I have often wondered if anyone really likes to look at other people’s selfies, and a recent small survey from Europe found that they don’t. While 77% said they took a selfie at least once a month, 90% said they viewed other peoples’ selfies as “self-promotion” (“Study Finds People Like Taking selfies But Not Looking at Them,” PetaPixel, Feb. 10, 2017). A 2013 study found that “flooding your social media with too many self-portraits could alienate your friends” and caused people to feel less intimate with the selfie enthusiast (“How Your Friends Really Feel about Your Selfies,” Women’s Health).

THE BAT’S SPECIAL RADAR DESIGN (Friday Church News Notes, February 24, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, February 8, 2017: “If you wake up when it’s still dark, you know how overwhelming it can be to turn on the light. Your eyes may even hurt at first. If you've had this experience, you can understand one of the problems that had to be solved when radar was developed. Basically, radar is made up of two parts. The transmitter sends out a powerful beam of radar waves. But the other part of the radar system is a very sensitive receiver that cannot stand the powerful outgoing signal. One of the major technical problems to be overcome in developing modern radar involved sending out this powerful signal without overwhelming the sensitive receiver. What scientists finally developed was a fast switch that turns the sensitive receiver off every time a radar pulse is sent out. Bats, who have their own sonic radar, had this problem solved from the beginning. They have muscles in their ears that are the receivers for the echoes. These muscles close the ears for split seconds when the bats are sending out their high pitched signals. Without this feature, the bat's navigational system would be useless. How could a bat figure out that it needed this ability and then decide to grow the muscles and related tissue to do the job? When one decides to say that creatures, instead of the Creator, have made themselves, one can end up with some very silly conclusions!”

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)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
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