

O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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“Salvation is the fundamental of fundamentals. Disciples can be made only of born again saints. A “nominal” Christian who has “prayed the prayer” but is not born again cannot be disciplined...It is not possible to experience the salvation described in the Bible without some clear evidence of it appearing in the individual’s life...Every salvation recorded in the New Testament involves a life-changing, born again, spiritual resurrection, conversion experience” Page 2.

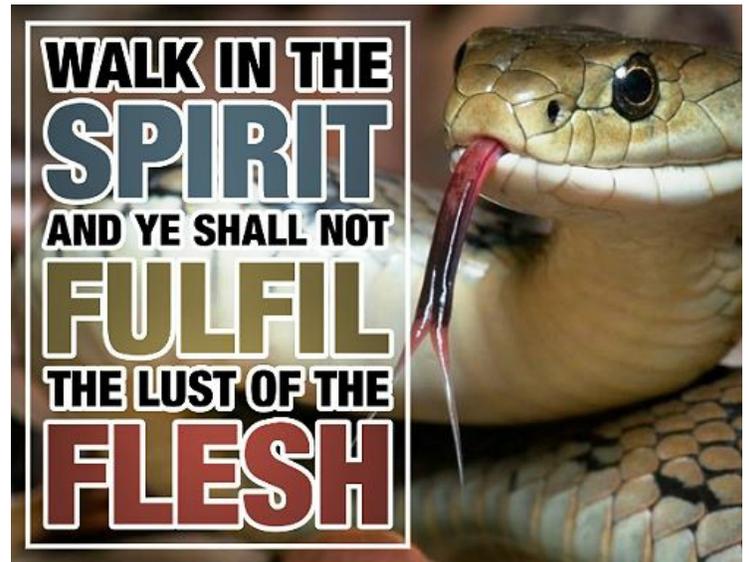
Digging in the Walls: A month’s worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 15.**



A REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND EVIDENCE OF SALVATION

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from [THE DISCIPLING CHURCH: THE CHURCH THAT WILL STAND UNTIL JESUS COMES](#). This church planting manual aims to establish churches on a solid biblical foundation of a regenerate church membership, one mind in doctrine and practice, serious discipleship, thorough-going discipline, and a large vision for world evangelism. We examine the New Testament pattern of a discipling church, and we trace the history of Baptist churches over the past 200 years to document the apostasy away from the biblical pattern to a mixed multitude philosophy. We also document the history of “sinner’s prayer” evangelism which has affected the reality of a regenerate church membership. The book deals with biblical salvation with evidence, care in receiving church members, the church’s essential first love for Christ, the right kind of church leaders, the right kind of preaching, training church members to be Bible students, the



many facets of church discipline, building strong families, youth ministry, training preachers, charity, reproof, educating the church for spiritual protection, maintaining standards for workers, the church’s prayer life, the church’s separation, spiritual revival, the church’s music, and many other things. The last chapter documents some of the cultural factors that have weakened churches over the past 100 years, including the

theological liberalism, public school system, materialism and working mothers, the rock & roll pop culture, pop psychology, the feminist movement, New Evangelicalism, television, and the Internet. There is also a list of recommended materials for a discipling church. 550 pages.

Salvation is the fundamental of fundamentals. Disciples can be made only of born again saints. A “nominal” Christian who has “prayed the prayer” but is not born again cannot be discipled.

Salvation is the thing that is often missing in young people who grow up in Christian homes and churches. They go through the motions of professing Christ. They know how to give the right answers and to act right when necessary, but the reality of the kind of supernatural salvation that we see in Scripture is foreign to their daily lives.

Consider the following testimony which is typical of hundreds we have received through the years:

“Having taught in my church’s Christian school, I truly believe that out of an enrollment of 40-50 kids, most likely more than 95% were lost. It breaks my heart to see so many young people have a head knowledge of Christ, but they have never truly believed from the heart. What concerns me even more than that is that many parents and even church leaders seem to not want to acknowledge the reality of the situation. We comfort ourselves with the fact that our kids memorize Bible verses and come to church, when in reality most of them come because Mom or Dad make them, and then during the services most of them are sleeping, laughing and talking to their friends, or checking their cell phones. Most youth groups in Independent Baptist Churches are an absolute joke. My wife and I spent 20 months on deputation visiting Independent Baptist Churches, and we could not believe

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some of the things we were seeing from the youth groups. It is high time that Independent Baptist churches face the issue of our unconverted youth, because if we don’t our churches are headed for disaster.”

I know this by experience. I grew up in a Baptist church and professed Christ at about age 10 or 11, but I wasn’t saved. I had no inner motive and compulsion to do right. I had zero personal love for the Bible. I broke my parents’ rules, snuck around, lied, pursued every worldly thing, and found a way to do what I wanted to do. As soon as I could, I left home and “followed my heart,” eventually to a Hindu/New Age faith.

Biblical Salvation Has Evidence

The church that wants to build a solid biblical foundation must look for biblical evidence as described in Scripture. We are warned about those who “profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16).

Consider nine biblical evidences of salvation:

A born again conversion experience that changes the life.

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Jesus described salvation as being born again (John 3:3) and being converted (Mat. 18:3). Paul said the saved person is a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Salvation is a spiritual resurrection; it is life from the dead (Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:12). It is Christ living in me (Gal. 2:20).

The Spirit ministers *to* the unsaved in various ways, but the Spirit does not indwell the unsaved.

It is not possible to experience the salvation described in the Bible without some clear evidence of it appearing in the individual’s life.

Every salvation recorded in the New Testament involves a life-changing, born again, spiritual resurrection, conversion experience (e.g., the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the Jews on day of Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch, Lydia, the Philippian jailer).

The Great Awakenings in America focused on salvation with evidence. The churches had grown lukewarm and

nominal. In a great many cases, even the preachers were not born again. The members were trusting in baptism and church attendance and good works.

“[T]he most important practical idea which then received increased prominence and power ... was the idea of the ‘new birth’ ... **[This is] the doctrine, that in order to be saved, a man must undergo a change in his principles of moral action, which will be either accompanied or succeeded by exercises of which he is conscious, and can give an account; so that those who have been thus changed, may ordinarily be distinguished from those who have not; from which it follows that all who exhibit no evidence of such a change, ought to be considered and treated as unregenerate, and on the road to perdition, and therefore not admitted to the communion of the churches.** ... The history of the ‘Great Awakening’ is the history of this idea, making its way through some communities where it had fallen into comparative neglect, and through others where it was nearly or quite unknown; overturning theories and habits and forms of organization inconsistent with it, where it could prevail, and repelled by them, where it could not...” (Joseph Tracy, *The Great Awakening*).

An interesting example of a biblical conversion from that era is that of Noah Webster, author of *The Blue-Back Speller* and the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

His conversion occurred during the Second Great Awakening, which began in Kentucky and soon spread to all parts of the young nation. In 1807, the revival came to Webster’s church, First Congregational Church of New Haven, Connecticut, pastored by Moses Stuart.

Webster made a public profession of faith in April 1808, together with his two oldest daughters.

It was a life-changing conversion experience. Following is a description by Alan Snyder, Webster’s biographer:

“Webster’s conversion was the intellectual and moral watershed of his life. As such, it provided him with a spiritual and intellectual framework which extended into every sphere of life, including perceptions of and judgments about man, morality, government, education, and the very purpose of being. ...

“Internal conversion results in a profound alteration of an individual’s conception of the nature of God, man, sin, and brings a transformation in both thought and action. ... conversion is a return to God, a restoration of the relationship God originally had intended to have with man, through a turning away from sin (i.e., rebellion against God’s commands) and a turning to the mercies of a forgiving Father. ...

“Having once read it [Webster’s testimony], one can have no doubt that Webster’s conversion was authentic and **produced a basic reorganization of his entire life. In Webster’s world, God moved from the periphery to the center, providing him a new purpose and focus**” (Snyder, *Defining Noah Webster: Mind and Morals in the Early Republic*, pp. 221, 222).

Consider some details of Webster’s life prior to his conversion:

- He was an active church member.
- From age 20 he had resolved “to pursue a course of virtue through life, and to perform all moral and social duties with scrupulous exactness.”
- He believed in God and was thankful to God. “... for some years past, I have rarely cast my eyes to heaven or plucked the fruit of my garden without feeling emotions of gratitude and adoration.”
- He believed that Christ died for man’s sins.
- He doubted some doctrines of the Bible, believing that religion should conform to man’s reason and if something wasn’t “reasonable,” it could be rejected. His ultimate authority, then, was his own mind.
- He believed that one should not be passionate about religion. When the Second Great Awakening first came to his town, he was opposed. “I felt some opposition to these meetings, being apprehensive that they would by affecting the passions too strongly, introduce an enthusiasm or fanaticism which might be considered as real religion.”

Following is Webster’s own fascinating account of his spiritual conversion, written in response to a letter from his brother-in-law, Judge Thomas Dawes of Boston, who had written to Noah to oppose the revival:

“My wife [Rebecca], however, was friendly to these meetings and she was joined by my two eldest daughters [Emily and Frances] who were among the first subjects of serious impressions. I did not forbid but rather discouraged their attendance on conferences. Finding their feelings rather wounded by this opposition, and believing that I could not conscientiously unite with them in a profession of the Calvinistic faith, I made some attempts to persuade them to join me in attending the Episcopal service and ordinances. To this they were opposed. At some times I almost determined to separate from my family, leaving them with the Congregational Society and joining myself to the Episcopal. ...

“During this time, my mind continued to be more and more agitated, and in a manner wholly unusual and to me unaccountable. I had indeed short composure, but at all times of the day and in the midst of other occupations, I was suddenly seized with impressions, which called my

mind irresistibly to religious concerns and to the awakening. These impressions induced a degree of remorse for my conduct, not of that distressing kind which often attends convictions, but something which appeared to be reproof.

“These impressions I attempted to remove by reasoning with myself, and endeavoring to quiet my mind, by a persuasion, that my opposition to my family, and the awakening was not a real opposition to a rational religion, but to enthusiasm or false religion. I continued some weeks in this situation, utterly unable to quiet my own mind, and without resorting to the only source of peace and consolation. The impressions grew ever stronger till at length I could not pursue my studies without frequent interruptions. My mind was suddenly arrested, without any previous circumstance of the time to draw it to this subject and as it were fastened to the awakening and upon my own conduct. I closed my books, yielded to the influence, which could not be resisted or mistaken and was led by a spontaneous impulse to repentance, prayer and entire submission and surrender of myself to my maker and redeemer. My submission appeared to be cheerful and was soon followed by that peace of mind which the world can neither give nor take away. ...

“I now began to understand and relish many parts of the scriptures, which before appeared mysterious and unintelligible, or repugnant to my natural pride. ... **In short my view of the scriptures, of religion, of the whole Christian scheme of salvation, and of God’s moral government, are very much changed, and my heart yields with delight and confidence to the divine will. ...**

“**I am taught now the utter insufficiency of our own powers to effect a change of the heart and am persuaded that a reliance on our own talents or powers, is a fatal error, springing from natural pride and opposition to God, by which multitudes of men, especially of the more intelligent and moral part of society, are deluded into ruin.** I now look, my dear friend, with regret on the largest portion of the ordinary life of man, spent ‘without hope, and without God in the world.’ I am particularly affected by a sense of my ingratitude to that Being who made me, and without whose constant agency, I cannot draw a breath, who has showered upon me a profusion of temporal blessings and provided a Savior for my immortal soul. To have so long neglected the duties of piety to that Being on whom I am entirely dependent, to love whom supremely is the first duty, as well as the highest happiness of rational souls, proves a degree of baseness in my heart on which I cannot reflect without the deepest contrition and remorse. And I cannot think without trembling on what my condition would have been had God withdrawn the blessed influences of his Spirit, the moment I manifested opposition to it, as he justly might have done, and given me over to hardness of heart and blindness of mind. I now see in full evidence, the enormous crime, the greatest, man can commit against his God, of resisting the influence of his holy Spirit. Every sting of conscience must be considered as a direct call from God to obey his commands; how much more then ought man to yield to those pungent and powerful convictions of sin which are unequivocally sent to chastize his disobedience and compel him to return to his Heavenly Father.”

This type of dramatic, worldview-changing, life-changing conversion experience is the first evidence of salvation.

Personal knowledge of the Lord

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

“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 Tim. 1:12).

The essence of salvation is a personal relationship with and walk with God in Jesus Christ. Salvation is not a reformation or a new religion. It is to know the Lord personally, to walk and talk with Him as Lord and Saviour, Father and Friend. It is to cry, “Abba, Father” (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6). Heartfelt prayer to a God who is personally known is an evidence of salvation. Salvation is to love God (Deut. 30:6; 1 Jn. 4:19). The apostle Paul said, “I know whom I have believed ...” (1 Tim. 1:12).

When people express doubts about their salvation, I ask them if they *know* the Lord and when and how it was that they came to *know* Him.

Many young church people are like Samuel who knew *about* the Lord but did not *know* the Lord (1 Sam. 3:7).

Jesus warned about those who profess Him as Lord, but to them He will say, “I never *knew* you” (Mat. 7:21-23). See also Mat. 25:12, “Verily I say unto you, I know you not.”

Believing the gospel

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16).

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Salvation is believing and receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Salvation is not “receiving Jesus into my heart.” That concept is never found in the Bible. Christ does come into the life of the person who is saved, but he must first be cleansed by Christ’s blood through believing the gospel.

Salvation is not surrendering my life to God. Surrendering to God’s authority is the essence of repentance, but repentance alone is not salvation. God does not accept my life until I have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, and that happens through believing the gospel.

You don’t have to be a theologian to be saved, but you must know the gospel. There is a certain doctrine that must be believed from the heart (Rom. 6:17), and that is the doctrine of the gospel.

A great many Christians we meet don’t know the gospel. A church-going taxi driver in South Africa is typical. He told me that the gospel is “obeying Jesus.”

Consider some lessons about the gospel from 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

Believing the gospel means that I know who “Christ” is.

- I can’t believe that Christ died for my sins in a saving way unless I know who He is. I must understand that *Christ* means *Messiah*, *Christ* being Greek and *Messiah* being Hebrew. Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. He is the Son of God and the Son of David. The prophets said that Messiah would come to earth the first time to be cut off or die for man’s sins (Dan. 9:25-26) and He would come again to rule on the throne of David and to establish the kingdom of God on earth (Isaiah 9:6-7). These prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus. He is the Christ.
- Believing the gospel requires that I not believe in a false christ. A false christ, such as the Roman Catholic host-christ, does not save.

Believing the gospel means that I admit I am the sinner that the Bible says I am (“Christ died for our sin”).

- To be saved, the individual must see himself as a wicked sinner before God who is deserving of eternal condemnation. I must understand and acknowledge that I am not good (Rom. 3:12). There is no

righteousness that I have that is acceptable to God (Isa. 64:6). In contrast, we think of a man in California who prayed a sinner’s prayer but still believed his good works would get him to heaven. It is obvious that he was not saved.

- It is the Holy Spirit who shows me my sin and impresses this to my heart so that I am convicted and found guilty before God (John 16:8). The soul winner must look to the Holy Spirit to do this supernatural work, and must look for evidence of this work in the sinner’s life.

Believing the gospel means that I believe that Jesus died for my sins.

- I deserve eternal judgment, and that judgment fell upon Christ. Salvation is an exchange (2 Cor. 5:21).
- The Bible emphasizes that Christ’s atonement was sacrificial, vicarious. This is repeated 12 times in Isaiah 53 (vv. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12). See also Rom. 4:25; 5:6; 1 Cor. 5:7; 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4; 3:13; Eph. 1:7; 5:2; Col. 1:14; 1 Tim. 2:6; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:12, 26; 10:12; 1 Pet. 2:24-25; 3:18; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10; Rev. 5:9.
- This means I must believe that Christ was the virgin born, sinless Son of God, for only the sinless Son of God could die in the place of sinners. In contrast, we think of a Southern Baptist seminary student who told us that believing in the virgin birth is not necessary for salvation.
- Believing the gospel means that I will not trust in anything other than Christ’s atonement for salvation. If I am still trusting in baptism or sacraments or the church or my good works, I am not believing the gospel and am not saved. I think of John and Charles Wesley, who were so zealous for Christianity that they formed a “holy club” at Oxford University, were mockingly called “Methodists” for their methodical habits of prayer and fasting and Bible reading, were ordained as Anglican priests, and hazarded the dangerous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to America in order to preach to the natives. But the Wesleys were trusting in their good works rather than the grace found in the gospel of Christ. They knew *about* the Lord, but they didn’t know Him personally. When a Moravian preacher asked John if he had a hope to be saved, he replied, “I do.” But when the preacher asked him the reason of his hope, he said, “Because I have used my best endeavours to serve God.”

Believing the gospel means that I believe that Christ died for my sins according to the Scripture.

- This refers to the amazing prophecies that described His death in great detail. These were written down hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Following are just a few of these prophecies from Psalm 22: *The Scripture prophesied that Jesus would die by crucifixion* (Psa. 22:14-16; Jn. 19:16-18). This is a perfect description of death by crucifixion, and when the prophet David wrote it 1,000 years before Christ came, crucifixion was not yet practiced! It began to be practiced in the days of the Roman Empire not long before Jesus was born. To punish murderers and robbers, the Roman government would nail their hands and feet to a wooden cross and leave them there to die. *The Scripture prophesied that the soldiers would gamble for Jesus' robe at the foot of the cross* (Psalm 22:18). The cruel soldiers did this while Jesus was suffering (Mat. 27:35). *The Scripture prophesied the very words that Jesus spoke from the cross* (Psa. 22:1; Mat. 27:46). *The Scripture prophesied that Jesus would thirst* (Psa. 22:15; Jn. 19:28). *The Scripture prophesied that the people would mock Jesus* (Psa. 22:6-8; Mat. 27:39, 41-43). *The Scripture prophesied that the people would sit and stare at Jesus* (Psa. 22:17; Mat. 27:36).

Believing the gospel means that I believe that Christ was buried.

- His burial proved that He really died. He did not merely faint or merely appear to die as some have claimed. The reason the soldiers did not break Jesus' legs is because He was already dead (Jn. 19:31-34).
- His burial fulfilled prophecy. It was "*according to the Scriptures.*" *The Bible prophesied that Jesus would be buried in the tomb of a rich man* (Isaiah 53:9). This prophecy, written about 710 years before Jesus was born, was fulfilled when Jesus was taken down off the cross by a wealthy disciple and buried in that disciple's own tomb (Mat. 27:57-60).

Believing the gospel means that I believe that Jesus rose from the dead the third day according to the Scripture.

- To be saved, I must believe that Jesus Christ is alive, having proven that He is the Son of God, and that He is ready to receive me when I call upon Him.

- The evidence of the resurrection is the eyewitnesses and the changed lives, such as Saul who was converted after meeting the risen Christ.
- His resurrection was according to the Scripture in that it was prophesied in Psalm 16:10. This was written about 1,000 years before Jesus came. His resurrection proved that He is the Son of God (Rom. 1:4). Jesus prophesied that He would rise again the third day (Mat. 16:21), and if he had not done so it would have proven that he was a deluded man or a false prophet and not the Son of God that He claimed to be.

Continuing in the gospel

"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (1 Cor. 15:1-2).

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col. 1:21-23).

Salvation is evident by continuing in the gospel. Those who profess the gospel and then renounce it are not saved and never were saved.

Paul had doubt about the salvation of the churches in Galatia because they had left the gospel of grace (Gal. 1:6-8; 4:20).

I have seen many examples of this through the years. This is one of the many reasons why I know that I did not get saved when I professed Christ as a boy. Not only did I abandon church, but I abandoned the gospel and turned to a Hindu/New Age faith that there are many paths to God. This is a complete rejection of the gospel and of Jesus Christ as only Lord and Saviour.

A born again child of God will not become an atheist. I think of a man I knew when I was a young Christian in the 1970s. He and his wife helped disciple me, and I spent a lot of time in their home. After I went off to Bible School I heard that they had quit church and divorced, so on a visit back to my home town I looked him up. He told me, "David, I don't even believe in God anymore."

I think of a pastor's son who had a testimony of salvation and was looked up to by the other church youth, but he rejected the Bible and became an atheist.

Adoniram Judson, the famous missionary to Burma, grew up in a strong Christian home and made a profession of faith in Christ, but he became associated with worldly friends in college and became a Deist, believing that God is not involved with the creation and has no plan of salvation. This proved that he had never been saved.

I think of Hindus who have attended our services and Bible studies in Nepal and professed to "believe in Jesus" but who turned back to Hinduism and idolatry.

Rejecting the gospel proves that the individual is not saved and never has been saved.

Love of God's Word

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47).

A person's attitude toward the Bible is one of the clearest evidences of his spiritual condition. It is impossible that an individual could be saved if he doesn't love God's Word. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). Words could not be plainer.

A saved person will be interested in the Bible, will want to study the Bible, will respond to the Bible's teaching.

After I made a profession of faith at about age 11, I had zero interest in the Bible. I had a Bible, but I never read it. I wasn't interested in preaching and teaching. Everything pertaining to the Bible was boring. I was at church because my parents took me, not because I had an interest in spiritual things. That is not the condition of a saved person.

But as soon as I repented and trusted Christ as my Lord and Saviour at age 23, I *loved* the Bible and everything about the Bible.

A born again child of God can backslide and become disobedient and his spiritual life might grow dim, but there will still be something of a love of the Bible in his heart, and he will not forget the Master's voice (John 10:27).

Peter backslid terribly but He was restored by the Master's words (John 21:6-19).

Love of righteousness

"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4).

It is impossible for a born again child of God to continue in his old rebellious attitude toward God's commandments. He still has "the old man" and can still sin, but there is going to be a great change in his attitude toward righteousness and unrighteousness.

Consider the testimony of David Sorenson, a pastor's son. He made a profession of faith at age five in an evangelistic meeting. He was coached to tell others that he was saved, and he did that for 15 years. But he says, "I had no interest in the things of God. I only went to church because my dad was the pastor, and I had to go. I could not have cared less about the Bible."

At age 20 he was saved in Bible College and his life changed because he began to love the things he used to hate and to hate the things he used to love.

One thing that will always change is the individual's attitude toward authority. If a child is saved, there will be a change in his attitude toward the authority of his parents and teachers and church leaders.

Led by the Spirit

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:9-16).

The true believer has the indwelling Spirit, communes with the Spirit, and is led by the Spirit.

The believer can grieve the Spirit by sin (Eph. 4:20), but the believer has an entirely new orientation in life. He is oriented toward the Spirit of God as opposed to prior to conversion when he was oriented toward the flesh.

Looking for Christ's return

"For since the beginning of the world *men* have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, *what* he hath prepared **for him that waiteth for him**" (Isa. 64:4).

"And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting for the adoption, to wit**, the redemption of our body" (Ro. 8:23).

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing**" (2 Ti. 4:8).

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him** shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

These passages make it clear that the saved are those who are anticipating Christ's coming.

Divine chastisement

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons" (Heb. 12:6-8).

A child of God can and does sin, but there is an indwelling, loving Disciplinarian who chastens him. There is even a sin unto death (1 Jn. 5:16-17).

The saved person will have a sensitivity to sin and a conviction about sin.

I think of a young teen who got saved and afterwards became concerned about sins she had committed when she was younger and had "gotten away with." Before salvation, if her parents were not watching, she would do things behind their backs. For example, she took her father's socks and stuffed them down a hole in the back hallway. The disappearance of the socks was an unsolved mystery in the home, but after she got saved she came weeping to her mother and confessed that sin, though no one had ever caught her. That is an evidence that

something real was happening in her life. She stopped being "sneaky." She started being trustworthy to obey even if no one was watching.

Those are simple, but profound, evidences of a spiritually-converted life in a child.

Jerry was my best buddy growing up. We went through school together, graduated together, went to Vietnam in the Army about the same time, and came back to America and became drug-using "hippies" together. I came to Christ at age 23, but Jerry never did. He mocked my faith in Christ and refused to listen to me when I tried to talk to him from the Bible. Eventually he got involved in "Native America" spirituality, which is demonism. He died a few years ago at about age 62, and I visited his mother. His mother and father were faithful church goers, and the mom had been a Baptist Sunday School teacher. She told me that she had hope of Jerry's salvation because he went to church when he was a boy, but there was zero evidence that he was ever saved.

What about carnality?

The born again child of God can be carnal. We see this in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. The carnal Christian is a born again saint who has fleshly elements in his life.

But the carnal Christian is not a person who merely professes Christ with the mouth and does not show evidence in his life.

The Corinthian believers were passionate Christians.

- They gave clear evidence of salvation (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- They were zealous for spiritual things (1 Cor. 14:12).
- They abounded in "faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence, and love" (2 Cor. 8:7).

That is not the description of a nominal Christian who has is not zealous for the things of Christ, but rather loves the world while merely professing Christ.

What about backsliding?

The born again child of God can also backslide. This is evident in Christ's messages to the seven churches of Asia. For example, Ephesus had backslidden from its first love and was exhorted to repent (Rev. 2:4-5).

What about Lot?

Lot was a carnal believer who made unwise decisions that resulted in sorrow and destruction, but Lot was “vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked” (2 Pe. 2:7), and unlike his wife and married children, he obeyed the angel and fled Sodom. His feet were in Sodom, but his heart was not there.

Lot is not an example of a worldly teenager that professes Christ but secretly loves the filthy conversation of the wicked.

Beware of looking for perfection

We look for a change, but we don’t look for any kind of perfection, because there is no such thing. The “old man” remains after salvation and must be dealt with. The Christian life is a progression of putting off the old man and putting on the new, and it involves a lot of real “struggle” with the flesh.

The believer’s level of surrender is never absolute in any area of his life. The presenting of oneself to Christ is not a once-for-all thing; it is a daily thing (Rom. 12:1). There is the potential for carnality and backsliding.

When “testing” others, the child of God must not forget how imperfect *he* is! We are simply looking for a regenerated heart and a changed direction in life.

I have known of a few churches that require a “lordship” conversion, meaning that in practice they look for the individual to make “Jesus completely Lord.” If there are areas of holdout in that individual’s life and if there is still a struggle with sin, doubting, carnality, they tend to believe that the individual is unsaved. The mark of such churches is that an inordinate number of people “get saved” when no one around them doubted their salvation previously. I think of a missionary in Singapore whose ministry was characterized by this type of thing. Most of the Christians who visited his church began to doubt their salvation and eventually “got saved.” A group of missionaries we knew visited his work, and they all “got saved.”

This type of thing can be devastating. It causes the individual to look at himself too much rather than keeping his eyes on Christ. In fact, this missionary’s own son took

over that church and later got out of the ministry when he doubted his salvation and “got saved.”

Beware of looking for a certain type of emotional experience

We don’t look for any certain type of emotional experience. Emotional reactions differ from person to person. Some will feel elated; some will feel nothing.

Beware of looking for one kind of experience

Some conversions are more dramatic than others. In some the change is quicker and more dynamic. I had a very dramatic conversion experience. Literally I hated the Bible one minute and loved it the next. I was a New Ager in my heart one minute and a staunch Bible believer the next.

Not everyone has exactly that type of experience. No one is saved without a life-changing conversion experience, but the details and timing are not always the same.

Beware of looking for a certain pattern of experience

In the Great Awakenings there was often an attempt to trace a certain pattern of experience (e.g., conviction of sin, feelings of guilt, a sense of helplessness and hopelessness, settled peace and joy). Jonathan Edwards explained that this is an error.

“It is to be feared that some have gone too far towards directing the Spirit of the Lord, and marking out his footsteps for him, and limiting him to certain steps and methods. Experience plainly shows, that God’s Spirit is unsearchable and untraceable, in some of the best of Christians, in the method of his operations, in their conversion. Nor does the Spirit of God proceed discernibly in the steps of a particular established scheme, one half so often as is imagined” (A Treatise on Religious Affections).

Man’s part is not to try to trace the steps of conversion. Man’s part is to observe the effect of the conversion. “As to the steps which the Spirit of God took to bring that effect to pass, we may leave that to him.”

Beware of requiring knowledge of an exact time in every case

The new birth does happen at a certain time, and usually the time and place will be clear in the individual's mind, as we have noted.

“Paul knew the time of his conversion (Acts 26:13). Men are frequently at a loss whether their conversion were true or not; but surely men that are converted must take some notice of the time when God made a change in them: conversion is a great change, from darkness to light, from death to life, from the borders of despair to a spirit of faith in Christ. As for the outward conversion, there is sometimes little difference men might carry very well before; but as to the frame of men's hearts, there is a very great difference. ... Conversion is the greatest change that men undergo in this world, surely it falls under observation. The Prodigal knew well enough the time of his return to his Father's House. The children of Israel knew the time of their passing over Jordan” (Solomon Stoddard, *Defects of Preachers Reproved*, 1723).

But in some cases, particularly when the individual was younger when it occurred, he might not be able to pinpoint it.

If a person does not know the exact time of his conversion, that does not mean he or she is not converted. The most important thing is whether the individual knows Christ as personal Lord and Saviour and has a changed life to back it up.

With children growing up in a Christian homes and churches, it is not uncommon for them to make two professions of faith, one when they are young and another when they are older. Usually this means that they weren't saved earlier, but not always.

Repentance is not complicated

Repentance is absolutely necessary for salvation. Paul preached repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

Repentance was the missing element in my life as a boy who professed Christ as Saviour, and this is what is missing in the lives and hearts of many church members. I “believed in Jesus,” but so do the devils (Jam. 2:19). In fact, the devils tremble, which is far more than the average church member today does!

But repentance is not complicated or difficult.

Repentance is to surrender to God's authority. It is to acknowledge that I have wickedly sinned against God's

holy law and have not honored Him as God by loving Him with all my being, and it is to be ready to live in a different way.

Repentance is a change of direction *in the heart*. It is *not* a change of life (as some have slanderously claimed that we teach); it is a charge of mind that *results in* a change of life.

Repentance is turning *to God from* one's false ways, like the idolators at Thessalonica (1 Th. 1:9). It means to turn around and go another way. It is something that happens in the heart and has consequences in the life.

Repentance is the Prodigal Son turning his face toward the Father and away from the hog pen and saying, “I have sinned against heaven and before thee” (Lk. 15:18).

Those who argue that our doctrine of repentance is complicated or difficult are those who have made repentance into NOTHING! We explain this later in this chapter.

Salvation is not difficult and it is not for the future

Recently I heard of some young women who are in “limbo” about salvation. They made professions of faith when they were younger and believed they were saved and gave some evidence thereof, but they have begun to doubt that, believing that their salvation was based only on “a mental assent” to the gospel.

I replied to this situation as follows:

I don't understand why the girls don't just go to Christ and settle the matter. Being in a limbo land of not knowing you are saved is a very dangerous place where the devil could work overtime.

The Bible presents salvation as something that the sinner can receive right now:

- It is receiving a gift that is offered (Eph. 2:8-9).
- It is coming to Christ for salvation rest (Mat. 11:28).
- It is drinking the living water (John 4).
- It is believing on Christ with all the heart (John 3:16; Acts 8:37; 16:30-31).
- It is calling on Christ (Romans 10).
- It is believing the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

- It is gladly receiving the gospel (Acts 2:41).
- It is repenting toward God and exercising faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).
- It is fleeing for refuge and taking hold of Christ (Heb. 6:18).
- It is receiving salvation today (2 Cor. 6:2).

Salvation can be rejected as in the case of the rich young ruler. It can be falsified by believing on a false christ or a false gospel (John 2:23-25; Mat. 7:21-23). But salvation is never described as something that is difficult or complicated, that I can see. That would defeat the purpose of it as a free gift.

Salvation is described as a transaction between the sinner and the living Christ, a transaction that changes the life, but the transaction itself is simply coming to Christ as a needy, repentant sinner and receiving Him as Lord and Saviour.

The Bible never presents salvation as something that should be put off until later. God's Word gives no promise of tomorrow. "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)" (2 Cor. 6:2).

If someone is having doubts, he should settle it right then and there. He should simply come to Christ as a needy sinner who wants to be saved. He should take Christ at His word:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden *is* light" (Mat. 11:28-30).

He should say, "Lord, I have been laboring and am heavy laden. I want to be saved, but I have doubts about my salvation. I am now coming to you for the free salvation that you offer and that you purchased on the cross for needy sinners. I am that needy sinner, and I want to receive you as my Lord and Saviour."

If you do that sincerely, you can trust Christ's promise that He will receive you and give you the gift of salvation rest. Once you have come to Christ for salvation rest, you should obey Him and take His yoke and begin learning about Him and from Him and learning how to

serve Him in your daily life. Salvation is no more complicated than this.

The necessity of spiritual discernment

Keen spiritual discernment is required when dealing with souls about salvation. This is the discernment that is essential for pastors and teachers and evangelists.

We're not talking about perfect discernment, for there is no perfection in the Christian life and ministry, but we're talking about good spiritual discernment that comes by knowing and walking with God.

Discerning salvation in others requires that one has experienced salvation himself.

"Now, will anyone pretend, that persons who have been through this process themselves, cannot, by examination, form a reasonable judgment whether others have been through it or not? What teacher, what school committee man, cannot ascertain whether a boy has seen for himself and understands the nature and reason of the rule for working simple addition, or whether he has only learned it by rote? Cannot pretenders in any branch of science be detected? ... If discrimination is possible in such cases as these, it must also, on the same principle, be possible for those who are qualified, to judge whether a man has made those discoveries of religious truth ... which are essential to Christian experience" (Joseph Tracy, *The Great Awakening*).

God has promised wisdom to those who seek it (Prov. 3:5-6; James 1:5).

The necessity of patience

We would also note that patience is very important in this matter. The tare looks like wheat until the fruit appears (Mat. 13:25-26). It is better to err on the side of caution, because to pronounce someone saved and to baptize them is very harmful to the individual as well as to the church if they are brought into membership.

The importance of unanimity

Unanimity is a helpful protection in discerning salvation. Before we baptize an individual, he or she must appear before the church leaders and their wives and give account of his salvation. If something isn't clear, the leaders ask appropriate questions. We look for unanimity in these decisions, believing it is better to err on the side of caution. In the last session we interviewed four and baptized three. In the session before that, we interviewed 15 individuals and baptized 13. There were doubts about three of the individuals, and we kindly asked them to wait until things were more clear in their minds and lives and so we can have more time to teach them and work with them.

STEVEN ANDERSON'S HOLOCAUST DENIAL

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from the new book [*WHAT ABOUT STEVEN ANDERSON?*](#), which is available in print or as a free eBook from [Way of Life Online Store](#).

Anderson is an Independent Baptist preacher who has growing influence through his YouTube videos and movies. This review of his teaching deals with the following errors:

- Holocaust denial
- Replacement Theology
- Rejection of biblical Repentance
- The heresy that salvation doesn't have evidence
- Cursing of homosexuals
- Christ suffering in hell as an atonement for sin
- The denial of the imminency of the Rapture

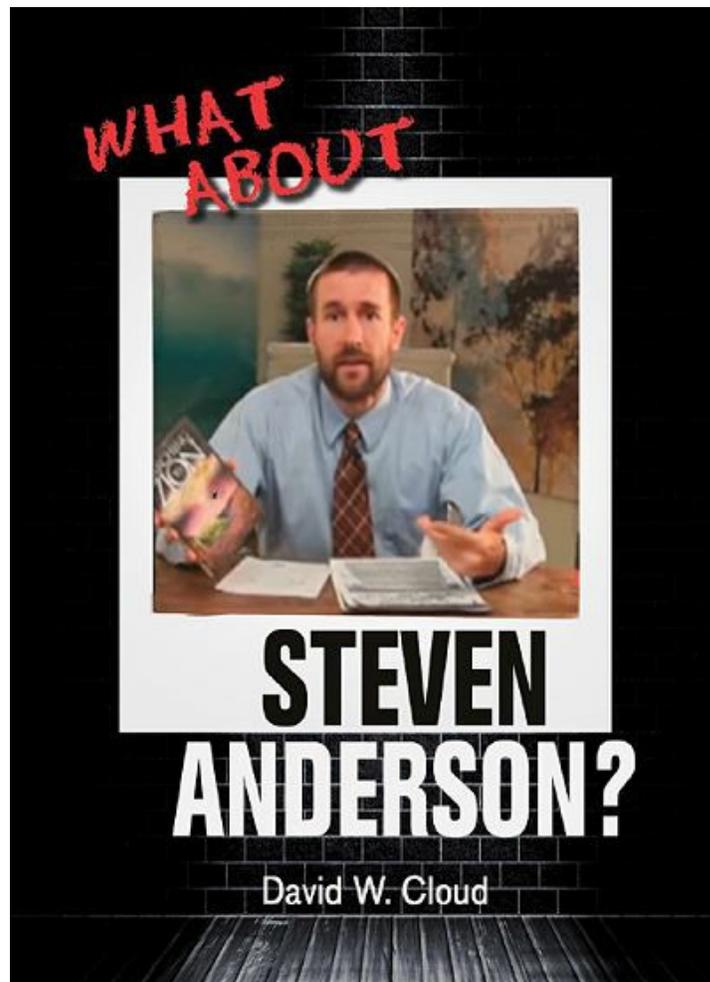
We give extensive proof that God is not finished with Israel and that the church is not Israel and defend the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

In his YouTube video “The Holocaust Hoax Exposed,” Steven Anderson says the Holocaust is a “fantastic story that has no basis in reality” and that it is believed because “most people have just not looked at the details.” He says, “There is a mountain of evidence on why this never could have taken place.”

He does admit that a lot of Jews died of harsh conditions and a lot were murdered, but he does not believe that the Jews were systematically exterminated by the Nazis in World War II.

“The fact that people were rounded up and placed in forced labor camps does not mean that they were exterminated and cremated to the tune of six million. ... Honestly, these camps--Auschwitz, Treblinka, and others--were probably forced labor camps, not death camps or execution camps. You see, the Germans wanted the Jews working to fuel their war machine” (Anderson, “The Holocaust Hoax Exposed”).

While admitting that Hitler hated Jews, Anderson would have us believe that the Nazi Führer simply wanted them



out of Germany. “He offered them incentives to emigrate somewhere else.” And that is why he persecuted them, “to make their lives miserable because he wanted them to leave.” His “goal was to get them out of Germany.”

It makes me wonder why Hitler didn't just transport all of the Jews to the German border before the war and say, “Good bye and good riddance”?

Anderson says it was the Jewish Zionists themselves who invented the “myth of the Holocaust” so that the Jews would go to Palestine to form the nation of Israel. They had to invent this story, because before the war most Jews in Europe weren't interested in going to Palestine.

He says that the Zionists and the Nazis were working together toward a common goal until the start of the war. Then Hitler stopped wanting the Jews to leave, but only because he needed their labor. That's when “he started rounding them up and putting them into these forced labor camps.” He didn't want to exterminate them and

didn't try to exterminate them. He just wanted them to fuel his war machine.

Anderson says the Zionists used the “myth of the Holocaust” to create the modern nation of Israel.

“That was the justification for going in and stealing land from the Arabs who lived there, and going in there and killing a bunch of Palestinians and kicking them out and putting them into a giant concentration camp known as Gaza, you know, or the West Bank. So we can see the motive to lie about it ... the modern nation of Israel is completely Satanic and it was something that Rothschild was behind and the nations and the world government, etc., which is all proven in my film *Marching to Zion*” (Anderson, “*The Holocaust Hoax Exposed*,” 31:32f).

Anderson says that there are not “the thousands and thousands of Holocaust survivors” who were eyewitnesses of the Holocaust. He says that there are very few who were eyewitnesses of the cremations and the gas chambers, and that “they were lying; it is that simple.”

He says it is not surprising that the Jews would lie about the Holocaust since they are rejecters of Jesus as the Christ.

He says “those pictures of emaciated people and emaciated corpses in mass graves” is not evidence of the Holocaust; it is just evidence that a lot of people starved to death, including a lot of non-Jews.

Anderson is a pretty good manipulator of facts. He isn't a master at it; but he is good enough to deceive a lot of people. Following are some of the techniques he uses in “*The Holocaust Hoax Exposed*.”

First, he doesn't give clear documentation for his statements. He says, “They say...” and, “They all say...” and, “This is the standard story,” but his listeners are not told who says the things that he is refuting and when they said it and where and in what context.

Second, Anderson sets up straw men and then knocks them down with enthusiasm, but in the end, they are only straw men.

Consider this statement:

“The emaciated corpses don't prove the Holocaust, because the story of the Holocaust is that the Jews were just rounded up and brought straight to a death camp and straight to their death.”

I have read probably a hundred books about the Jews in WWII and I have visited major Holocaust museums in the United States, Germany, and Israel, and I have never heard such a “story.” The real story is that the Jews were killed by the Nazis in a thousand ways, and the death camps themselves were *also* labor camps where Jews were *both* worked to death and outright murdered. It wasn't either/or; it was all of the above! There were times and places when groups of Jews went straight to their deaths; there were times and places when they didn't. The Holocaust was not limited to poison gas and crematoriums, and it was not limited to death camps.

Third, he uses the bait and switch tactic. For example, he points out alleged problems with the math of how the official number of Jews could have been cremated in certain places and then uses that to discount the entire account of the Holocaust.

Fourth, he produces red herrings to make people think he is proving his point, when in reality he is proving nothing. The artifacts that Anderson produces to support his thesis, such as currency from Auschwitz, do nothing to prove his thesis that the Holocaust didn't happen or even that Auschwitz wasn't a death camp. They are cheap “red herrings,” interesting but meaningless and distracting from the real issue.

Fifth, he uses exceptions to overthrow the rule. For example, he talks about professed Holocaust survivors who were proven to be bogus, such as Herman Rosenblat who appeared on Oprah Winfrey, and would have his listeners believe that this is characteristic of all of them and that all of the Holocaust survivor accounts are what he calls “wild eyed stories.”

He says, “There aren't thousands of eyewitnesses to the things we are talking about here. There are a handful of paid liars.”

Was There a Jewish Holocaust in World War II?

That there was a massive destruction of Jews that was the product of Hitler's “Final Solution” is a fact of history. It was not invented by the Jews. It is not a figment of Jewish Kabbalah mysticism.

Millions upon millions of Jews died in World War II, and not after the same fashion as Germans and Italians and

British and Americans died. A total of 70 million people died in that horrible war, but others didn't die like the Jews died. They died in an attempt at a Hitlarian "Final Solution." Hitler had no "Final Solution" for the British or the French, not even for the Russians or the Polish (except Jewish Russians and Jewish Poles). The Holocaust was an organized attempt to destroy the Jews *as a people* from Europe, and had Hitler taken over the world, he would have carried out the plan globally. It is not a myth. It was a massive demonic pogrom.

The Holocaust museums worldwide contain more than sufficient evidence that the Holocaust occurred. The one in Jerusalem alone, the Yad Vashem, has collected millions of documents confirming this fact. The nine galleries in the main museum are devoted to different chapters of the Holocaust, from the rise of Hitler to his death. There are hundreds of photos and artifacts. Arrests in the middle of the night. Destroyed synagogues. Jews marked with armbands. Jews mocked, beaten, spit on,

shot, butchered, poisoned. Heaps of corpses. Pathetic faces peering out of cattle cars. Starved men and women.

The museum maintains a 74-million-page database of the names and biographical details of half of the six million Jews that died at the hands of the Nazis. They have 350,000 photographs and 46,000 audio, video, and written testimonies.

If Yad Vashem is documenting a lie, it is a mega-whopper! Thousands upon thousands of surviving Jews stumbled out of Europe after the war and testified that their entire families had been slaughtered. Most of the Jews of Europe were gone.

It's all a lie and a massive conspiracy, Anderson and his associates claim.

But that, my friends, is pure, unadulterated nonsense, and this no small thing.

POLLINATION (Friday Church News Notes, July 14, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The pollination system is a finely-tuned symbiotic process that involves countless different types of flowers, insects, and birds, all perfectly integrated to maintain life. The yucca plant depends on the yucca moth for fertilization, and the moth's larva depend on that particular plant for food. The voodoo lily raises its temperature by 25 degrees and releases a scent that smells like rotting meat to attract a certain beetle. As it crawls around inside the flower looking for food, it is covered with pollen, which it spreads from flower to flower. Consider the orchid. "In many cases the development is such that the flower and insect fit each other like glove and hand. In some cases the device is so ingenious that the bee or other insect is attracted by the fragrance and nectar into a chamber from

which there is only one way of escape, and in escaping the insect must first touch the stigma and then the stamen, and as it passes to the next flower it carries the pollen to the next stigma. But the devices are almost endless. There are over seven thousand different species known..." (Robert Broom, *The Coming of Man: Was It Accident or Design?*). Bucket orchids, for example, attract two kinds of bees that are drawn to its liquid because it attracts female bees for mating. Since the surface of the orchid is slimy, the bee slips into a tunnel that collapses, trapping the bee and attaching pollen sacs to it, before releasing it. The same bee falls into the same trap in a second orchid, but instead of attaching more pollen sacs, this orchid unhooks the sacs, thus completing the pollination process (Geoff Chapman, "Orchids ... a Witness to the Creator," *Creation Ex Nihilo*, Dec. 1996-Feb. 1997). Blind evolution had to "create" the DNA for each one of these amazing devices; and not only



that, it had to "create" the perfect interrelatedness between the plant and pollinating insect. How did this happen when there was no designer, when the flower was incapable of studying the insect and the insect was incapable of studying the flower, yet each is dependent upon the other for survival and each is perfectly fitted for its role in the intricate process? "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

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?

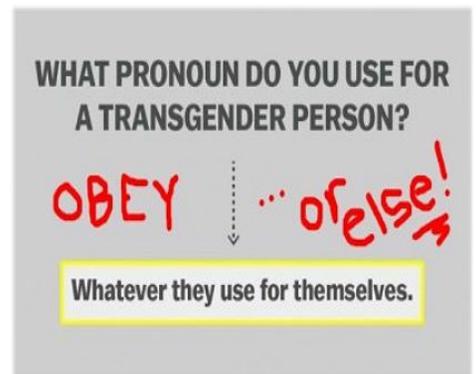


U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF OFFENSIVE SPEECH

(Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In an important decision for freedom of speech, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Americans could trademark names even if they are "offensive" to some. It is yet to be seen, though, if the same liberty will be given for offending homosexuals. "The Court ruled unanimously in favor of an all-Asian rock band that wanted to call itself "The Slants." The case came before the Court because the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied the band the right to trademark its name because 'slant' was an 'offensive' term. In *Lee v Tam*, the band said that America's First Amendment rights should allow the trademarking of words or phrases that some might find offensive. Indeed, the lead singer of the band insisted that his use of "slant" was an effort to 'reclaim' the word for his ethnicity. ... In its unanimous ruling, the Court decided that the members of the rock band were correct, the *Washington Times* reported. 'Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend,' Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. said in the ruling" ("Supreme Court Ruling," Breitbart, Jun. 19, 2017).

U.S. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE WRONG PRONOUN USE FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS (Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Trump Admin. Says Schools Can Be Investigated," *Christian Post*, Jun. 19, 2017: "The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights has issued an internal memo explaining that refusal by public schools or teachers to refer to a transgender student by his or her preferred pronoun or name could be grounds for an investigation. It was reported Friday that the acting assistant secretary for civil rights, Candice Jackson, issued a memo on June 6 calling on the department's lawyers and investigators to consider complaints of discrimination by transgender students on a case-by-case basis. ... The memo lists a number of valid reasons why OCR investigators would be legally able to assert 'subject matter jurisdiction over and open for investigation,' such as a school's failure to quickly and equitably resolve a transgender student's complaint of sex discrimination or treating a student different because of his or her failure to conform to 'stereotyped notions of masculinity or femininity.' Additionally, an investigation could be had if there is failure to assess whether sexual harassment or gender-based harassment of a 'transgender student created a hostile environment.' The memo lists certain actions that might be construed as



'gender-based harassment.' That list includes: 'refusing to use a transgender student's preferred name or pronouns when the school uses preferred names for gender-conforming students or when the refusal is motivated by animus toward people who do not conform to sex stereotypes.'"



WHEN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT UNDERMINES THE PRESIDENT (Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The U.S. government is built on the brilliant concept of “separation of powers” (brilliant, that is, for this present fallen world), and this implies division and contention in its most fundamental makeup. Even within the individual branches of the government there is contention. The U.S. Department of State is part of the executive branch and is tasked with advising the President in foreign policy issues and carrying out his decisions, but it has often gone its own way. The year 1948 is a prime example. President Harry Truman intended to recognize the state of Israel on the basis of ethical and biblical reasons, but he was resisted on pragmatic grounds by most of the influential figures in government, including George Marshall, Secretary of State, Robert Lovett, Undersecretary of State, and James Forrestal, Secretary of Defense. Forrestal said, “It is clear that in any contest, the Arabs are going to overwhelm the Jews.” Clark Clifford, Truman’s special council, later wrote, “Officials in the State Department had done everything in their power to prevent, thwart, or delay the President’s Palestine policy in 1947 and 1948. Watching them find various ways to avoid carrying out White House instructions, I sometimes felt they preferred to follow the views of the British Foreign Office rather than those of their President” (*Counsel to the President*, memoirs of Clark Clifford, 1991). On March 18, 1948, the State

Department permitted the American delegation to the United Nations to reverse its support for partition of Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states. This was strictly against President Truman’s wishes and was contrary to a promise that he had personally made to Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann. Truman wrote on his calendar, “The State Dept. pulled the rug from under me today. ... The first I know about it is what I see in the papers! ... I am now in the position of a liar and a double-crosser. I’ve never felt so low in my life. There are people on the third and fourth level of the State Dept. who have always wanted to cut my throat. They’ve succeeded in doing it.” Two months later Truman officially recognized the new state of Israel, but the State Department enforced a strict embargo against shipment of arms to Israel.

BLACK-MARKET BABY TRADE IN INDIA (Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Black-market Baby,” UPI, Jun. 20, 2017: Kanon Sarkar, 27, gave birth to her second daughter in July 2014 at a nursing home in rural West Bengal, a state in eastern India. But six hours after delivery at the home, which functions as a small health clinic, the doctor told Sarkar her baby had an unexplained heart problem and had to be taken to Kolkata, the bustling capital, for urgent treatment. The mother and child went to Kolkata as instructed, but the next day, without proper explanation, the baby was declared dead. The staff at the hospital gave Sarkar a corpse, wrapped in white with only the eyes visible, so the family could submerge the body in a river that runs through their village, in accordance with Hindu tradition. ... Despite a lack of evidence that medical tests had been carried out, the family ‘had to accept what the doctor said was the truth,’ Sarkar’s husband, Ashish, said. But when a major baby-trafficking racket was uncovered last November in North-24 Paraganas--where the family



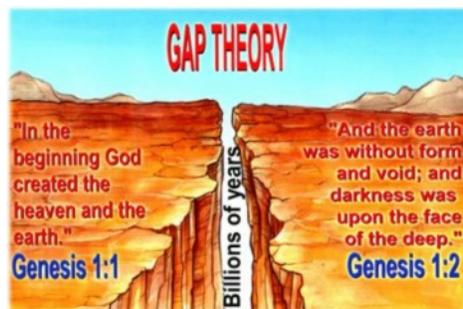
lives--Ashish Sarkar recognized the name of one of the doctors who had been arrested when he read about it in a local newspaper. It was the same man who had delivered his baby daughter. He suspected his baby had not, in fact, died of a heart condition; he guessed she’d been trafficked for adoption and they’d put the wrong body in the river. ... West Bengal, with its porous border with Bangladesh and Nepal, records the highest number of women and children trafficked compared to other states across the country. Last year, government data indicate, 19,223 women and children were trafficked, compared with 15,448 in 2015. But the real number is unknown.”

TEXAS COUPLE FOUND INNOCENT OF OPERATING A SATANIC CULT (Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A Texas couple who was convicted of operating a satanic cult at a day care center and spent 21 years in prison were declared innocent this month. Dan and Fran Keller were convicted in 1992 of performing subversive sexual acts and satanic rituals on children, including dismembering babies, videotaping orgies, and torturing pets, and sentenced to 48 years each. The “evidence” was testimony provided by therapists who helped children recover “repressed memories” with no corroborating evidence by law enforcement agencies. An inexperienced emergency room physician who thought he saw internal lacerations on one child recanted his testimony in 2013 and the Kellers were released from prison on bond, but by then, Dan was 72 and in poor health and they were destitute. Finally, this month



they were fully exonerated, but their lives were ruined by bogus pop psychology. They are not alone. Many others have been wrongly imprisoned, reputations have been destroyed, victims have committed suicide, and families have been ripped apart by this therapy which has been called “the most dangerous idea in mental health” (*Pacific Standard*, Nov. 3, 2014). Recovered memory therapy (RMT) is based on the concept that memories of tragic events can be buried in the “subconscious” and recovered through techniques such as hypnosis, guided imagery, and drugs. Its heyday was in the 1990s, but it has not been sufficiently renounced and the repercussions continue. Some victims have successfully sued RMT practitioners. *O Timothy* magazine, volume 13, issue 3, 1996 was devoted to the recovered memory phenomenon. The lead article was “Witch Hunt in Wenatchee,” which described false accusations against Robert and Connie Roberson, a Pentecostal pastor and his wife, in Wenatchee, Washington. We lived in Washington at the time, and I followed the case closely and discussed the matter personally with Roberson. They were charged with operating a child-swapping sex ring and conducting orgies in their church, but there was never any evidence. After being abused by out-of-control state agencies, jailed, separated from their children, and suffering a terrible blight on their reputation for over a year and a half, they were finally acquitted of all charges by a jury in December 1995. Part of the “evidence” against the Robersons was obtained by RMT.

MIND THE GAP (Friday Church News Notes, June 30, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, June 8, 2017: “‘Mind the gap’ is the refrain constantly heard on the London Underground, warning people to be careful not to step into the gap between the platform and the train. But ‘mind the gap’ would also be a good refrain for students of the Bible! There are some who suggest that there was a gap between Genesis chapter 1 verses 1 and 2. Some even suggest that this gap could have lasted for millions, or billions of years, during which Lucifer fell from heaven, pre-Adamic hominids lived, alongside other animals, including dinosaurs. And eventually, God destroyed the world in a so-called Luciferian Flood, leading into verse 2. This idea dates back, before the theory of evolution, to the early deep-time geologists, such as James Hutton. Some theologians became convinced that a long age for the Earth had been proven, so they tried to accommodate the supposed millions of years by this idea. There is neither Scriptural nor scientific



warrant for this so-called Gap Theory. Indeed, the Bible states the opposite. In Exodus 20:11, God states, as a reason for the Fourth Commandment, that He created the heavens and the earth in six days. This means that Genesis 1:1--the creation of the heavens and the earth--is part of the six days. Therefore, there can

ZUCKERBERG SAYS FACEBOOK THE NEW CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg says



that his social network can offer the same sense of community as church. His new mission statement is “Bring the world closer together.” And the method is networks of online groups that create a sense of community. Currently 100 million people participate in Facebook networks. Community building is one of the many tools that New Age gurus employ to accomplish the goals of finding spiritual enlightenment, achieving personal transformation, and building a new world. Community building is a process of breaking down the divisions between people and emphasizing unity and group thinking as opposed to individualism. It requires a non-judgmental attitude and a willingness to accept different views and practices as legitimate. Other New Age tools are meditation, positive confession, guided imagery, visualization, positive thinking, and interfaith dialogue. Zuckerberg ended his recent commencement speech at Harvard University with a Hebrew prayer that he sings to his daughter each night at bedtime. It is a Jewish prayer of healing (*Mi Shebeirach*), that is used like a positive confession mantra rather than a biblical prayer. Zuckerberg told the graduating class at Harvard that he believes that “religion is very important,” but he would probably not include the “religion” of one God, one truth as taught in one Holy Book, and one way of salvation in Jesus Christ.

INFRASTRUCTURE TO BRING MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS TO TEMPLE MOUNT BEING CONSTRUCTED (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Infrastructure to Bring Millions of Pilgrims," *breakingisraelnews.com*, Jun. 27, 2017: "For the first time in approximately 2,000 years, since the time of the Second Temple, plans are being formed by the Israeli government to build an effective infrastructure for Jews to make their obligatory pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. God commands in the Bible that all Jews make their way to the Temple three times a year. Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before *Hashem* thy God in the place which He shall choose; on the feast of unleavened bread, and on the Shavuot, and on the Sukkot; and they shall not appear before *Hashem* empty (Deuteronomy 16:16). The Third Temple will require a functional infrastructure that could facilitate the transportation of millions of Jews to Jerusalem during and after these festivals. Israel's Minister of Transportation, Yisroel Katz, has publicly stated that facilitating this was his intention when planning the line of the fast train currently under construction between the airport in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In a meeting with Temple Movement representatives in February, the minister explained, 'As a *Kohen* (Jew of the priestly caste) I have a special connection to the holy site. In front of my eyes I constantly see the words "Prepare the way, prepare the way..."' Katz is planning on extending the line of the fast train to transport people from Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem directly to the Western Wall. The final stop will be the 'Kotel/Har Habayit Stop' (Western Wall/Temple Mount Stop). Yaakov

Hayman, Chairman of the Friends of the the Temple Organization, noted that the Ministry of Transportation's involvement was a necessary first step. 'We expect millions of Jews coming to the Temple Mount even before the Temple is built, so transportation is a potential bottleneck,' Hayman explained to *Breaking Israel News*. 'We need to open up more entrances to the Temple Mount, since there is currently only one entrance available to the Jews.'"

ROBOT PRIEST CAN RECITE BLESSINGS IN FIVE LANGUAGES (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A Protestant church in Germany has developed a robot that can recite "blessings" in five languages while beaming light from its hands" ("Robot Priest Introduced," *WorldReligionNews.com*, May 31, 2017). The ridiculous robot priest was built by the Nassau and Hesse Evangelical Church for the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses by Martin Luther on the door of the Catholic church in Wittenberg. The blessing is invoked via a touchscreen on the robot's chest, and the supplicant can choose a male or female voice. "The electronic machine flashes light, raises arms and recites a suitable biblical verse. It concludes any meeting with the exaltation that God protect and bless the supplicant." According to a representative of the Nassau and Hesse Protestant Church, "[T]he idea is to make people consider if it is possible to accept that a machine can give blessings, or a human is compulsory for such a task." Our answer is that a robot can



doubtless give a blessing as effectively as an apostate Protestant preacher. In fact, the only one who can "give blessings" is Almighty God, and His blessing was purchased by His Son on Calvary and is offered to every sinner who believes the gospel in a saving manner.

HACKERS COULD TAP INTO BRAINWAVES TO STEAL PASSWORDS (Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



The following is excerpted from "Hackers could tap EEGs," UPI, Jul. 3, 2017: "Hackers could tap into your brainwaves to steal sensitive passwords, warn researchers at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. A new study suggests EEG headsets, the set of electrodes that records brain activity, are hackable. By observing a person's brainwaves as they surf the internet, hackers could glean neural patterns and successfully guess a user's password. Though EEG headsets are mostly used in research, there are now several models on the open market, mostly advertised to video and computer game players. EEGs can tap into a person's brain power to remotely control robotic toys and video games. ... 'We do believe that this is going to be a real problem in the future as more and more of these BCI [brain-computer interface] devices get deployed for gaming and other day to day applications,' Nitesh Saxena, an associate professor of computer and information sciences at UAB, told UPI via email. 'The hacking scenario could involve such a switching between the gaming application and a website login.'"



US AMBASSADOR BLASTS THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from "Ambassador Haley: UNHRC Must Stop Wrongly Singling out Israel or We'll Quit," BreakingIsraelNews.com, Jun. 4, 2017: "US envoy to the UN Nikki Haley on Friday wrote in a Washington Post op-ed the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is singling out Israel for relentless condemnations, while truly heinous regimes such as Venezuela and Cuba go scot-free because they are members of the Council. 'When the council passes more than 708 resolutions against Israel, a country with a strong human rights record, and just seven resolutions against Iran, a country with an abysmal human rights records, you know something is seriously wrong,' the ambassador wrote. In fact, Haley reminded her readers, 'In 2014, Russia invaded Ukraine and took over Crimea. This illegal occupation resulted in thousands of civilian deaths and injuries, as well as arbitrary detentions. No special meeting of the Human Rights Council was called, and the abuses continue to mount.' Haley will visit Israel for the first time as UN ambassador next week, presumably to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War. But on her way over she will stop in Geneva, Switzerland, to address the UNHRC. It's a crucial visit for the vehemently anti-Israel world body, because President Trump has threatened to leave. In fact, Haley has stated that she plans to make her recommendations to the President on staying in or quitting the UNHRC based

on her discussion in Geneva. ... Haley detailed her plans for next week's Geneva visit: 'I will outline changes that must be made. Among other things, membership on the council must be determined through competitive voting to keep the worst human rights abusers from obtaining seats.'"

A WARNING ABOUT BOB JONES UNIVERSITY AND IMMODESTY

(Friday Church News Notes, July 14, 2017, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is slightly edited from information I received recently, which is confirmed from other sources: "Bob Jones is changing for the worse in the matter of dress. The girls are allowed to wear pants after 5pm now, so a large percentage of the girls on campus in the evenings are wearing skinny jeans or worse--just tights. I don't think that leggings are technically allowed, but no one really enforces the rules anymore. The school publishes pictures in their promotionals of the girls volleyball team in short shorts, so I don't think that they are really taking it seriously. The Getty music is used consistently in the chapel services now, and lots of textual criticism is being taught." **NOTE FROM BROTHER CLOUD:** Pants on women in Western society is contrary to the biblical teaching on clothing in two major ways. First, it was clearly designed in modern history as a unisex fashion. The pantsuit was created by homosexual fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent in 1966 as part of the rebellious rock & roll culture. Feminist Linda Grant observed that the pantsuit "put women on an equal sartorial footing with men" and "is what fashion gave to feminism" ("Feminism Was Built on the Trouser Suit," *The Guardian*, June 3, 2008). Second, pants are immodest, highlighting the woman's figure in a sensual way, and the tighter the pants the greater the sensuality or "hot" factor. Tight pants were created by Calvin Klein, a bisexual fashion designer. When his pants appeared in 1974, they sold 200,000 pairs *in the first week*. Tights worn as pants (leggings)



were created by Gianni Versace, a homosexual fashion designer who was murdered by a homosexual in 1997. Godly pilgrim women who have set their affection on things above refuse to be conformed to this world and do not follow its sensual fashions.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST MILITARY CHAPLAIN CONDUCTS "TRANSGENDER POLICY BRIEFING"

(Friday Church News Notes, July 14, 2017, www.wayoflife.org

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from "Southern Baptist Military Chaplain," Sonny Hernandez, *barbwire.com*, Jul. 1, 2017: "The US military is unequivocally constructing and implementing change. Same-sex marriages, and policies on gender identity (confusion) is a recurrent trajectory for the Department of Defense (DOD) that will certainly cause contemporary challenges to Christians in the Armed Forces. While homosexual advocates are lauding this as diversity, many Christians are loathing this as diabolical--since same-sex matrimony and the DOD's policy on transgenderism are contrary to God's indissoluble design for marriage, and creation. Recently, *World Net Daily* (WND) published my article about an Army soldier who filed



DINOSAUR TAIL FEATHER IN AMBER?

(Friday Church News Notes, July 7, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 9, 2017: “Evolutionary scientists have recently claimed strong evidence to support the evolution of birds from dinosaurs. Paleontologist Lida Xing was visiting a market in Myanmar, when he saw a piece of amber, containing a tiny feather, along with the more usual insects. He claimed that the feather had to belong to a dinosaur, rather than a bird, because the vertebrae present in the specimen were all separate. This, he claimed, contrasted with the tail of archaeopteryx, the tip of whose tail has vertebrae which are fused at the terminus. Archaeopteryx is widely accepted

to be a bird, although the article on Wikipedia classifies it as a feathered dinosaur. Creation scientist Dr. David Menton has shown that the feather could not have belonged to a dinosaur. Theropod dinosaurs would have been bipedal, and their long tails balance their bodies as they walk, like other bipeds, from their hips. But birds do not walk from their hips. Their femurs and knees are within their body walls. The part of the bird’s leg, often assumed to be a “wrong-facing” knee, is, in fact, equivalent to the ankle in other vertebrates. The amber feathered tail shows that it would have had insufficient weight to provide balance for a bipedal dinosaur. It is much more likely, therefore, that the



feathered tail belonged to a bird. Evolutionists have an a priori commitment to finding feathered dinosaurs, as evidence of evolution. Once again, it is seen that they have jumped the gun, if not the shark, in their enthusiasm. (Reports cited: BBC, ‘Beautiful dinosaur tail found preserved in amber,’ December 2016; Menton, D., 2016, ‘Did a Dinosaur Get Its Feathered Tail Caught in Amber?’ *Answers in Genesis*, 2016.)”

a religious accommodation request, so that he could avoid attending a ‘transgender policy briefing.’ Despite this soldier’s plea to avoid being subjected to a transgender briefing that he felt would violate his religious tenets--the request was denied by his commanding officer, LTC Kim Wilson, 304 MP BN Commander. The most vexing news is not that this soldier was forced to attend an Army mandated transgender briefing; instead, the most troubling news is about the one who facilitated the training. Who conducted the transgender policy briefing? It was not the commander, public affairs, or equal opportunity personnel. Sadly, it was an ecclesiastical endorsed Southern Baptist military chaplain who conducted the training--who told the soldier that he did not believe the ‘transgender policy brief’ would violate his sincerely held beliefs, per the soldier. ... Chaplain (Capt.) Erick Barrett, 304 MP BN, is a

confirmed representative of The North American Mission Board, or NAMB--which is an ecclesiastical endorsing agency of military chaplains for the Southern Baptist Convention. ... Chaplain Barrett’s ‘transgender policy briefing’ was godless. There was no reference of Scripture, God, Jesus, repentance, or faith, which would be expected of an ecclesiastically endorsed evangelical who claims to be a Christian. For almost an hour, Chaplain Barrett pontificated about the Army’s policy on transitioning from male to female, or female to male, and reiterated innumerable times how soldiers’ gender is determined--while God was not included in this determination. Despite Chaplain Barrett’s exposition on the US Army’s policy on gender confusion, there are two notable quotes that he made which would not be expected from someone who professes to affirm Holy Scripture—but homosexual sin. First,

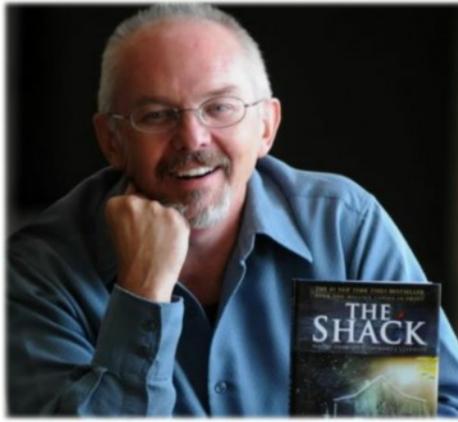
‘How many gender identities are there in the world today? There are 42 genders (9:25-9:45).’ Second, ‘Ladies and gentlemen, we live in a world where truth is defined by the individual. That’s a reality. It’s not something that’s up for discussion. That’s just the world we live in’ (9:47-10:10).”

ANGLICAN CHURCH TO OFFER SPECIAL SERVICES FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (Friday Church News Notes, July 14, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org,



866-295-4143) - The Anglican Church's General Synod has voted in favor of "offering special services to welcome transgender people to the Anglican faith" ("Anglican Church set to offer," *The Guardian*, Jul. 9, 2017). The motion passed by a margin of 284 to 78. Proposing the motion, Chris Newlands, from Blackburn, Lancashire, said: "I hope that we can make a powerful statement to say that we believe that trans people are cherished and loved by God, who created them, and is present through all the twists and turns of their lives." The God who created man created him male and female, so a transgender person is rebelling against God's created order. Gender is not an accident of nature. Psalm 139 says God creates the individual in the mother's womb according to His plan. The Anglican Church has never been a biblical church, and in recent times it has grown ever more doctrinally apostate and morally reprobate. Already in 1953, Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple, in his book *Nature and God*, said, "... there is no such thing as revealed truth." (For more on this see the report "Fifty Years of Anglican Liberalism" at the Way of Life web site.) Paul Bayes, the Bishop of Liverpool, said, "LGBT orientation and identity is not a sickness. And LGBT orientation and identity is not a sin" ("Church of England votes to explore transgender services," *BBC News*, Jul. 9, 2017). On the other hand, the apostle Paul described homosexuality as "vile affections" (Ro. 1:26), "against nature" (Ro. 1:26), "unseemly" (Ro. 1:27), "error" (Ro. 1:27), and "a reprobate mind" (Ro. 1:28)."

WILLIAM PAUL YOUNG'S CHRISTLESS "SHACK" (Friday Church News Notes, July 14, 2017, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "William Paul Young's Christless 'Shack,'" by Warren Smith, Lighthouse Trails, Jun. 12, 2017: "The Holy Bible makes it clear that Jesus Christ is the one and only Christ. He is the anointed one.



He is the Messiah. He is the Savior. There is no other. This one and only Jesus Christ is referred to as Christ more than 500 times in the New Testament. In fact, the name Jesus Christ bookends the whole New Testament. The Bible's Jesus is clearly identified as Christ in the first line of the first chapter of the Book of Matthew and in the last line of the last chapter of the Book of Revelation. But *The Shack's* 'Jesus' is never identified as Christ. In fact, the word 'Christ' cannot be found anywhere in the whole *Shack* story. William P. Young's 'Jesus' is not ever described--not even once--as the Jesus who has 'a name which is above every name'--the full and complete name of Jesus Christ: 'Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father' (Philippians 2: 9-11). Excluding the name of Christ from *The Shack* is pretty much what you would expect from a self-professed universalist like William P. Young. If Young had clearly identified *The Shack's* 'Jesus' as Christ, his universal 'Jesus' would have lost his universal appeal. And that is because the 'Jesus' of other religions and New Age teachings is 'another Jesus' who is not Jesus Christ. In one example alone, Young's 'Jesus' proves himself to be 'another Jesus' when he teaches *Shack* readers the New Age lie that God is 'in' all things. Using *The Shack's* 'Jesus' as

his mouthpiece, Young falsely teaches, 'God, who is the ground of all being, dwells in, around, and through all things.' But God is not *in* all things. This is pantheism. This is universalism. This is heresy. It totally contradicts the teachings of the true Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul warned the Corinthians--and all of us--to beware of men like William Paul Young who come preaching and teaching about 'another Jesus' who is not Christ. Paul said we might just go along with him--we 'might well bear with him.' 'But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him' (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).

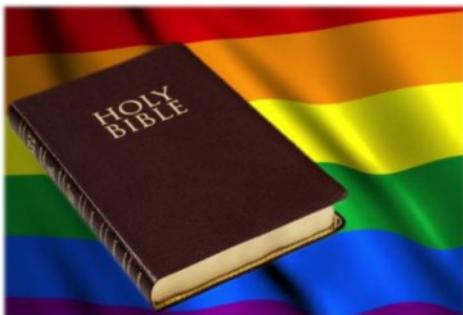
AMERICA'S MORAL INSANITY CONTINUES APACE (Friday Church News Notes, July 21, 2017, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Last week, 23 Republicans joined all of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives to defeat an amendment that would have ended Barack Obama's policy of funding "gender-reassignment" surgery for soldiers. The amendment was offered by Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R, Mo.), who said during debate on the bill, "Military members undergoing transition surgery are non-deployable for up to 267 days. Similarly, regular hormone treatments renders individuals non-deployable into the future. It makes no sense to create soldiers who are unable



to fight and win our nation's wars and unfair to non-transitioning individuals who must leave their families and deploy in their place" ("House rejects attempt to ban transgender surgery for troops," AP, Jul. 13, 2017). Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, a Marine veteran, said, "Figure out whether you're man or a woman before you join. U.S. taxpayers shouldn't have to foot the bill." This is a moral issue as well as a military readiness issue, and the fact that the Republicans can't pass something as common-sense and widely supported as this is evidence that the nation is under God's curse for its wickedness. (According to a Rasmussen poll, only 23% of Americans believe that opening the military to transgenders is right.) "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE (Friday Church News Notes, July 21, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is excerpted from Dr. Peter Saunders, Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) Chief Executive, CMFblog.org.uk: "So how should Christians respond to the phenomenon of transgender? **First, we need to see it through the lens of creation.** The Bible is unashamedly binary. Genesis 1:27 tells us that God created man in his own image--male and female. This is perfectly consistent with what we see in nature--male and female are different--genetically, hormonally and physically.



Researchers have identified 6,500 genes that are expressed differently in men and women. **Next, we must appreciate that we live in a fallen world** where our collective rejection of God (Genesis 3) has affected the human race at all levels--physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual--so we should expect to find conditions like intersex and transgender. People affected by these conditions are often deeply hurting and we need to treat them with the love and respect we should show to any human being made in God's image. We are all tainted by the consequences of the fall and we are all sinners in need of God's forgiveness. **Third, we must not capitulate to transgender ideology.** Loving people does not mean affirming their false beliefs, using their chosen names, admitting them to their chosen facilities, allowing them to compete as the opposite sex in sports events and offering them hormones and gender reassignment surgery. That is not love--it's actually a form of abuse. You might get called a transphobic bigot or worse. But the Bible, science and common sense are on your side. God created us male and female. It's really that simple. **Fourth, we must grasp the gospel opportunity transgender presents.** Jesus welcomed everyone but in so doing he did not endorse all their beliefs and behaviour. Rather he called them to repentance and faith--to a life of obedience enabled by the Spirit, to be transformed by the renewal of their minds (Romans 12:1-2). And he called them to find their identity not in their chosen gender, or anything else, but in him."

EUGENE PETERSON COMES OUT IN SUPPORT OF HOMOSEXUAL CHRISTIANS (Friday Church News Notes, July 21, 2017, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

In an interview with Religion News Service on July 12, Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*, said that he does not believe that homosexuality is sinful. He said, "I know a lot of people who are gay and lesbian and they seem to have as good a spiritual life as I do. I think that kind of



debate about lesbians and gays might be over. People who disapprove of it, they'll probably just go to another church. So we're in a transition and I think it's a transition for the best, for the good." Peterson told the RNS that the church he pastored hired a homosexual minister of music and that in churches where he served as associate pastor, "There were several women who were lesbians." In the interview, Peterson also said that if asked to do so he would preside over a same sex marriage, but he later retracted that, leaving the rest of his comments to stand. In light of Peterson's statements, it is not surprising that in *The Message* every passage condemning homosexuality is tampered with. For example, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 in the KJV speaks of "effeminate" and "abusers themselves with mankind." In *The Message* this becomes the vapid and almost meaningless "those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex." In 1 Timothy 1:10, "them that defile themselves with mankind" is changed to "the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever." *The Message* is extremely popular and influential among "evangelicals." It is one of the versions most frequently used by Rick Warren and has been recommended by Jack Hayford, J.I. Packer, Michael Card, Joni Earckson Tada, Bill Hybels, Bill Gaither, Chuck Swindoll, John Maxwell, Max Lucado, Michael W. Smith, to name a few. It is called a "translational-paraphrase" and is said to "unfold like a gripping novel." In fact, it IS a novel! (For more on this see the report "Eugene Peterson and The Message" at the Way of Life web site.)



BEWARE OF BETHEL CHURCH, REDDING (Friday Church News Notes, July 21, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Getting Wasted with the Holy Spirit at Bethel Redding," <http://www.spiritoferror.org>: "When I recently attended the Firestarters adult Sunday School class at Bethel Church in Redding, California, I was shocked by the teacher's announcement at the start of the class. 'There are only three rules in this class. Rule 1: Get drunk. Rule 2: Stay drunk. Rule 3: Get other people drunk.' Those are not exactly words you expect to hear at a church. Yet the encouragement to 'get drunk' was a theme that ran through the entire two-hour class. 'Let's get drunk. Let's enjoy ourselves,' the teacher said. He also told the students, who were standing at the time, to hold out their hands in the air in front of their bodies to form the outline of imaginary, huge bottles of 'heavenly

wine,' then pretend to chug from them. Many of the students responded gleefully to the teacher's directions. They acted as if they were actually drunk--laughing uncontrollably, staggering, and some even falling down. One middle-aged woman, at a table near mine, lay back in her chair, as if passed out, for much of the class. At a point later during the class--between the testimony sharing time and instruction on learning to prophesy--the teacher sensed it was time for another drink. He told the students, who were now seated, 'Pick up a pitcher off the table and drink it down'-to which many laughed again, and dutifully responded by forming more 'air pitchers' with their hands and pretending to drink from them. Participants in the class would describe their actions as 'drinking from the Holy Spirit'--as would other participants in the New Apostolic Reformation."

SCIENTISTS BREED GOATS TO PRODUCE SPIDER SILK (Friday Church News Notes, July 21, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Scientists Breed Goats," PhysOrg.com, May 31, 2010: "Researchers from the University of Wyoming have developed a way to incorporate spiders' silk-spinning genes into goats, allowing the



researchers to harvest the silk protein from the goats' milk for a variety of applications. For instance, due to its strength and elasticity, spider silk fiber could have several medical uses, such as for making artificial ligaments and tendons, for eye sutures, and for jaw repair. The silk could also have applications in bulletproof vests and improved car airbags. Normally, getting enough spider silk for these applications requires large numbers of spiders. However, spiders tend to be territorial, so when the researchers tried to set up spider farms, the spiders killed each other. To solve this problem, Randy Lewis, a professor of molecular biology at the University of Wyoming, and other researchers decided to put the spiders' dragline silk gene into goats in such a way that the goats would only make the protein in their milk. ... In the future, the scientists plan to incorporate the silk genes into alfalfa plants, which they say could produce even larger quantities of silk."

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)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



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